



Company K recruits learn basics of Marine Corps marksmanship

Pg 4

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

Son joins Corps to help mother, sister, niece

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

After his mother became ill, Pvt. Adam J. LaVine, Platoon 3263, Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, made the decision to work three jobs in order to take care of her, his sister and niece while she recover.

LaVine was 15 years old when his mother was diagnosed with chronic heart fatigue and diabetes. He explained not only did he have to work while attending high school, but he also had to get his sister ready for school, make sure his mother took her medication and take his niece to daycare.

Despite the heavy workload, he did not complain or blame anyone for his family's situation. In fact, he said he tried to make the best of the situation any way he could.

“I don't want to make it seem like it was too terrible. We made it, and we made a good time out of it,” said LaVine, a St. Louis, native. “What's life without a little bit of fun. No matter if it was just cooking something different like ramen noodles and grilled cheese. Just little stuff like that.”

Although LaVine stayed optimistic, the workload never decreased. He worked 80 hours per week as a janitor, line chef and waiter. He paid the bills, grocery shopped, budgeted and maintained his grades.

Despite the amount he was working, his family could only afford a one-bedroom apart-

ment, so until his senior year of high school, he slept on the living room floor.

“Senior year, I finally got a futon,” said LaVine with a laugh.

LaVine explained his mother had her first heart attack in 2013 and in 2014 had to have quadruple bypass surgery. He explained although she is recovering, he's still worried about her and wants to keep her and his family with him during his military career.

“The main reason I joined the Corps is for financial security,” said LaVine.

At the beginning of recruit

training, LaVine did not begin at the top of his platoon. He could only do four pull-ups and weighed 215 pounds. However, today LaVine can now do 19 pull-ups and has cut his weight to 165 pounds.

His improvement in recruit training has been noticed by his drill instructors as well.

“When we first got him, he was definitely an average recruit. But now he helps others on their fitness and continues to improve his own,” said Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Steinburg, drill instructor, Platoon 3263. “He defi-

nitely came to recruit training to improve, and he's gotten what he came for.”

Steinburg also said he felt that LaVine showed his true character by taking care of his family.

“There are a lot of young men who wouldn't have risen to the challenge. It's a good testimony to his character and what type of physical and mental strength he has,” said Steinburg. “Any time you have an individual that's willing to put others before self, that's a leadership trait and something good for the Marine Corps.”



Pvt. Adam J. LaVine, Platoon 3263, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, awaits instruction on how to descend the depot's 60-foot rappelling tower April 10. LaVine and the recruits of Company M graduate from recruit training today.

Depot dedicates sports facility to the late Jerry Coleman



Maggie Coleman takes a closer look at photos of her late husband, Jerry Coleman, during a ceremony renaming the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego field house April 3. The ceremony paid tribute to Coleman's military service, his work with the Padres and his impact to the San Diego community. Coleman was a U.S. Marine fighter pilot who flew more than 120 combat missions in World War II and Korea.

SGT. WALTER D. MARINO II

BRIEFS

Scholarship applications

The depot's MCRD Museum Foundation is now taking applications for the Colonel Nate Smith Memorial Scholarship program. The foundation will award three \$1,000 scholarships in July.

Scholarship applicants must be enlisted Marines, sailors or their dependents assigned to MCRD/WRR San Diego. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance, community and extracurricular activities, and future potential.

Application forms and eligibility details are available at www.mcrdmhs.org. Forms are also available at the Foundation's office in Building 26, the command museum. The deadline for applications is July 8. Call (619) 524-4426 for information.

Auto skills workshop

Tune up rusty auto skills tomorrow at the depot's auto skills workshop from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Auto Skills Center, Building 142.

Learn about spark plugs, fuel filters, fuel injection and air filters. Learn to select, install, clean and replace these items necessary to the smooth operation of a modern vehicle.

Call (619) 524-5240 for information.

Museum Foundation Quarterly Breakfast

Brig. Gen. Edward Banta will be the guest speaker Tuesday, at the depot's Museum Foundation's Quarterly Breakfast.

Banta is commanding general, Marine Corps Installations-West and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The breakfast will be held at Duncan Hall. The breakfast line opens at 7 a.m., and the general will begin at speaking at 7:30.

During this event the foundation will present its D.I. of the Year awards to four individuals. These drill instructors were chosen by the Recruit Training Regiment as the DIs of the Year from each battalion.

The breakfast is hosted by the Foundation and everyone is invited to attend and help recognize the Marines.

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.



Lance Cpl. Julian Temblador

Scout snipers assigned to Scout Sniper Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire downrange at Range 10 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, April 8, 2015. Marines improve their sniper proficiency by utilizing MCBH's natural resources to execute their training exercise.

Hawaii snipers train in high angle shooting

STORY BY SGT. SARAH DIETZ
Pacific Marines

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted high-angle, live-fire training April 8-9, on top of Ulupau Crater at Range 10

aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The platoon, mixed with scout snipers and scout sniper hopefuls, climbed the north side of the crater before setting up firing positions at the top.

The exercise was led by Cpls. Johnathon Solinsky and Eric Washa, scout snipers with the

platoon, who recently returned from Mountain Scout Snipers Course at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., while senior leaders supervised.

Only a handful of Marines in the platoon are qualified scout snipers, and the majority will be either attending the Scout Sniper School this year or other training this year.

“Cpl. Washa and Cpl. Solinsky are out here sharing their knowledge from the course with the other Marines,” said 1st Lt. Jeff Diprimio, Scout Sniper Platoon commander, Weapons Company, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines. “We are trying to get these guys comfortable shooting.”

Snipers are typically placed in an elevated position, look-

ing down at a target. The shoot proved more difficult for the Marines to calculate their shots, as opposed to the normal flat-level live-fire training they are accustomed to. Physics must be taken into consideration. For example, one factor is the wind speed and direction. The wind at the firing position is not the same as wind near the target.

“Getting correct formulas is absolutely critical,” Diprimio said. “If they don’t know how to do this, [they are ineffective shooters].”

Two Marines, with 60 rounds each, trained on the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System and the M40 Sniper Rifle and fired on targets as far as 850 yards away, while the rest of the platoon practiced

calculating their shots.

“We are always training,” said Washa, native of Ogallala, Neb. “There is rarely down time. We are constantly moving and working. This is really important that they have this knowledge.”

Unfortunately, the live-fire high angle training is a rare opportunity for the platoon. Due to limited availability and ranges on MCB Hawaii, the Marines took advantage of the short time they were allotted.

“This is valuable training I wish we could do more often,” said Solinsky, native of Tuscon, Ariz. “It helps a lot that we get to practice this before (the new Marines) get thrown into a situation and they don’t know what to do.”



Sgt. Sarah Dietz

Lance Cpl. Ivan Trujillo, a scout with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hikes up Ulupau Crater aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, April 8, 2015, before conducting high-angle firing with his platoon. The Marines trained with high angle shooting, which is anything 30 degrees or greater between them and their target.



Sgt. Sarah Dietz

Marine scout snipers with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conduct high angle shooting on Range 10 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii April 8, 2015. The training was different from their typical flat level or slight elevation ranges. The high angle is considered anything 30 degrees or greater.

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3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Pfc. A. Tran
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Pvt. T. L. Tulabut
Pvt. B. C. Turney
Pfc. B. M. Upchurch
Pvt. S. T. Valderas
Pfc. R. P. Vella Jr.
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Pvt. M. J. Verdick
Pvt. M. C. Wilson
Pvt. M. T. Winzer
Pvt. H. O. Wisniewski



Company K recruits aim in at targets from the 500-yard line in the prone position, at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 14. Recruits are required to fire from the 200, 300 and 500-yard lines in order to qualify. Today, all male recruited from west of the Mississippi are trained at MCRD San Diego. The depot is responsible for training more than 16,000 recruits annually. Company K is scheduled to graduate from recruit training on May 29.

Recruits learn Marine marksmanship fundamentals

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

Once recruits reach the second phase of training, they take on the challenge of becoming a rifleman at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Under constant supervision of Marines who specialize in marksmanship, recruits of Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were taught the basic fundamentals of firing the M16-A4 Service Rifle during Grass Week. These Marines are better known as primary marksmanship instructors.

The marksmanship instruc-

tors teach recruits the fundamental techniques of shooting such as breathing control, stability and how to properly squeeze the trigger.

“The Corps turns Marines into riflemen because every Marine is a trained rifleman,” said Recruit Trinity L. Tippy, Platoon 3221. “Regardless of a Marine’s job, we all learn to be effective with our rifles.”

Once PMIs completed the classroom instruction, recruits moved to a semi-circular area to “snap in.” This time allowed them to practice the fundamentals they had just learned. The semi-circular area surrounds a white barrel with different size targets painted on it. The targets

are different sizes simulating what they look like from distances of 200, 300 and 500 yards, the exact distances recruits use when firing.

Recruits spend several hours “snapping in,” which allows them to gain confidence in different shooting positions.

“We have to retain all of the knowledge we learned during grass week in order to be an effective shooter here on the range,” said Recruit Ulyses Lujano, Platoon 3221. “I’ve never fired a weapon before this, but the PMIs teach us trigger control, breathing techniques and a lot of other things that go together to fire an accurate shot.”

Once Grass Week is over, recruits move on to Firing Week when they apply the fundamental marksmanship principles they learned on a live fire range and qualify in order to move

forward with training. Some recruits prepare for Firing Week physically and mentally by going the extra mile.

“I practiced the different firing positions every chance I got during grass week, so I can be comfortable firing the weapon in those positions on qualification day,” said 18-year-old Lujano.

During rifle qualification, recruits fired the M16-A4 Service Rifle from the 200, 300 and 500-yard lines utilizing four different shooting positions: standing, kneeling, sitting and prone. During the 300-yard rapid fire, recruits are required to go from the standing to prone position and fire 10 rounds in a time limit of 60 seconds.

Firing Week is the first time recruits are able to fire their weapons in recruit training. They are given several days to polish their skills before record-

ing an official score.

Qualifying is not only important for recruits in order to continue with training as Marines are required to qualify annually to ensure they are combat-ready ensuring every Marine is required to be a basic rifleman.

Throughout Rifle Week, recruits plot all of their shots into a data book, which helps them keep track of where their shots impacted the target. This helps recruits make adjustments for a more accurate shot.

Lessons learned during grass week and firing week of recruit training are used throughout a Marine’s career. For that reason, it is important for recruits to retain all the knowledge PMIs teach. With the instruction and coaching, recruits are set up for success to move forward in becoming United States Marines.



A Company K recruit loads 15 rounds into a magazine before firing at his target from the 500-yard line at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., April 14. Recruits are required to fire from the 200, 300 and 500-yard lines in order to qualify.



Corporal Hector F. Deleon (left), primary marksmanship instructor, and Cpl. Tony Williams, range coach, Range Company, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, assist a Company K recruit in improving his next shot during rifle week at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., April 14. The PMIs spend every day for two weeks with the recruits making sure they are comfortable with their weapons and understand the fundamentals of marksmanship.