



**Company L
learns
combat
moves
with
pugil
sticks**

Pg 2

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Vol. 75 – Issue 12

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015



Private Stephen M. O'Connell, Platoon 2145, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, poses in front of his squad bay at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, May 4. O'Connell joined the Marine Corps after he witnessed the Boston Marathon attack in 2103. He is on the path to pursue a career in the intelligence field and plans on the Marine Corps as a career.

Boston bombing leads to enlistment

STORY & PHOTO BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Many things in one's life can change in an instance and one day can completely change a life.

One Marine answered the call of duty when tragedy struck.

Private Stephen M. O'Connell, Platoon 2145, Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, explained how his eyes suddenly opened after the terrorist attack during the Boston Marathon in 2013.

O'Connell grew up in Boston and had dreams of becoming a body builder with no interest in joining the military.

"I was at a point in my life where I was only concerned about myself and getting to where I wanted to be," said 27-year-old O'Connell. "Not necessarily long term but kind of chasing a short-term gratification. I wanted to do something that only made me happy really."

On April 15, a well-known holiday in Massachusetts, Patriots day, tragedy struck the city and the world. Two terrorists placed two pressure-cookers in differ-

ent areas close to the marathon's finish line. Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined Boylston Street for the final stretch of the 26.2-mile run. The two blasts killed three individuals and injured approximately 260.

After the bombings, O'Connell recalled what was going through his mind that day.

"So many thoughts went through my head when I first found out," said O'Connell. "I was at work when it happened, and I got a text from a friend asking me if I was all right. I had no idea what had happened at first. After I made sure everyone I knew was okay, my relief turned into anger. All I thought was how dare you take that special day away from us."

At that point in his life, O'Connell explained he realized it wasn't about himself anymore and he wanted to do anything he could do to help.

He applied and got hired with the volunteer division of the Somerville Auxiliary Police Department. The following year, he was able to work the Boston Marathon and "watch the city heal" he said.

Soon after, O'Connell and his mother moved to Arizona to live with his grandmother. After repeated attempts to join a

police force, he made the decision to join the Marine Corps.

"I wanted more," said O'Connell. "I originally wanted to go officer, but my chances were slim. I was actually surprised on how much the recruiters welcomed me and helped get the job I wanted."

O'Connell explained he knew the Marine Corps would be the best way he could do his part in protecting this country from any harm. He wanted to be closest to stopping things such as what happened to his city.

The future Marine plans on staying in the Marine Corps as long as he can and pursuing his military occupational specialty as an intelligence specialist. Following recruit training, he will report to Marine Combat Training in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and then to his MOS school at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

"After everything that has happened in these last few years, I don't want to care about myself anymore," said O'Connell. "I want to be the one that assists in protecting my country from any possible harm, and I am confident that is what the Marine Corps offers."

BRIEFS

Safety stand down

The Summer Safety Stand Down will be held May 20 at McDougal Hall (the depot theater).

There will be two sessions, one from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and one from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Those attending should arrive 30 minutes early to sign-in and be seated.

For information contact the depot safety office at (619) 524-8770 or 8764.

Brown bag lunch seminar

The Personal & Professional Development team will host a Brown Bag Lunch Financial Seminar in the P&PD classroom, Building 14, May 20 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The seminar will address: "Personal & Financial Goals for Marines and Families – Are they Important?"

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

Interview Skills

The Personal & Professional Development team offers an Interview Skills Workshop May 21 from 9 to 11 a.m., in Building 14.

This event will help reduce the stress of job interviews by ensuring preparedness.

Learn winning interview techniques that will give an edge over the competition including how to market yourself and your skills, dressing for success and how the interview process works.

For information and to register call Mina Threat at (619) 524-1283 or James Stewart at (619) 524-0035.

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.

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.



A recruit from Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, hits his opponent with a simulated killing blow during a pugil sticks bout at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, April 23. During each bout, recruits are expected to apply the techniques they were just taught. A fighter is victorious if he delivers a strike to his opponent's head or forces him off of the bridge. Before the battles begin, recruits double checked their protective gear because once in the arena, they used full force. Helmets, groin protector, flak jackets, gloves and mouthpieces are used in each bout. Lima Company graduates from recruit training on June 19.

Recruits learn confidence through contact

Story & Photos
by Cpl. Tyler Viglione
Chevron staff

In the early stages of training, recruits are taught to adapt and overcome in situations they may not be used to facing. Sometimes that means gaining the confidence to go toe-to-toe with one another.

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, battled each other and tested that confidence using pugil sticks and newly learned bayonet techniques at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, April 23.

This pugil stick event was the company's second iteration of pugil sticks and it was unique in many different aspects. Recruits faced two opponents while fighting on a bridge where falling off or getting hit signaled a loss of the fight.

Prior to beginning the event, recruits learned a second set of techniques they were required to apply during each of their bouts.

"Before the recruits begin, an instructor teaches them new techniques," said Sgt. Thaddaeus I. Haney, drill instructor, Lima Company. "We want them to understand the techniques before they begin the physical contact with other recruits."

During the event, the recruits use pugil sticks, which are poles with pads on each end and hand protectors in the middle that resemble a rifle with a bayonet attachment, according to 25-year-

old Haney.

While waiting in the chute before their bouts, recruits double checked their protective gear because once in the arena, they used full force. Helmets, groin protector, flak jackets, gloves and mouthpieces were given to each fighter.

Once in the arena, the fighters were again checked by the Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor or a drill instructor to ensure their gear was properly worn and each recruit was safe to fight.

They all competed in three bouts. Each played the role of offense, defense and took part in a free for all. The offense and defense bouts were fought two-on-one, which posed high risk or a bigger challenge than the last matches.

While pugil sticks is one of the more popular events in recruit training, it serves a purpose beyond the physical training.

"It definitely made me feel more confident," said Recruit Paul O. Dykes, a native of Bonner Springs, Kansas. "Getting the time to practice the techniques with an opponent who can fight back definitely makes me feel better about them."

Recruits of Lima Company will endure Pugil Sticks two more times before they earn the title of Marine.

"Pugil Sticks is an important part of recruit training," said Haney. "It builds the confidence and the never quit attitude that every Marine should have."



Company L recruits sprint toward their opponent during a pugil sticks bout. Recruits competed in three bouts, offense and defense, and took part in a free for all. The offense and defense bouts were fought two-on-one.

CHEVRON

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Platoon 2145 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. Marroquin Paramount, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Cavallo
Platoon 2146 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. F. Prado Jr. Fontana, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. E. R. Amaya
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Platoon 2141 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. B. M. Menzies Moss Beach, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. McTague



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2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

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 Sergeant Major
 Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. W. Doctor Jr.
 Sgt. Maj. A. Osinowo
 Staff Sgt. J. W. Flesher



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 Pvt. C. C. Aguilar
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Recruits with Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, carry simulated supplies during the resupply hike at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 28. The entire company participated in the hike so recruits would learn how to work as a unit. Company G graduates from recruit training today.

Tired, hungry recruits hike to end the night

Story & Photos by
Cpl. Tyler Viglione
Chevron staff

Over the course of 13 weeks, recruits are transformed from civilian to Marine. It's during that time they learn numerous ways to strengthen their minds and their bodies. Prior to earning the title Marine, recruits must conduct the 54-hour challenge known as the Crucible, a training evolution that is the culminating event of everything they learned in the first 11 weeks of training.

Dirty, tired and hungry, Golf Company recruits waited in the evening's fading light for the last event of the first night of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, April 28.

The ammunition resupply hike is six kilometers, and recruits take turns carrying various size ammunition cans filled with dirt simulating the weight of the rounds.

The entire company participated in this resupply hike so recruits could learn to work as a unit during simulated combat. Recruits must maintain their composure during the resupply because it helps them complete their mission quickly, said Staff Sgt. Jasper C. Sicz, drill instructor, Golf Company.

Halfway through the maneu-

ver, the ammunition cans were handed over to the company's follow series to carry back.

During this training exercise the recruits must resupply under the cover of darkness. The ammunition can resupply is designed to teach the recruits how to be tactical at night while practicing light and noise discipline, said Sicz, a native of Virginia Beach, Va.

In the deathlike silence, the only noise heard was sound of rocks crushing underneath recruits' feet.

Every step was a test of their stamina and endurance while trying to stay together as a group. Along with the ammunition cans, recruits carried a load bearing vest, their M16-A4 Service Rifle, their day packs and two canteens full of water.

"This was our first day of the Crucible," said Recruit Broden M. Menzies, a native of Half Moon Bay, Calif. "I am the guide of my platoon, and I noticed how exhausted my recruits were when it came time for the hike. I tried to motivate them to the best of my abilities."

The Crucible pushes recruits to their limits. They hike more than 40 miles, while stopping at stations to read award citations from past Marines and also conduct team exercises under food and sleep deprivation.

After the hike ended, recruits seemed to be at their breaking points, tired and sweaty. They looked forward to a few hours of sleep they were allowed before tackling the second day of the Crucible and coming one step closer to the

final event – hiking the Reaper. Upon completion of the final hike, they received their Marine Corps eagle, globe and anchor, which signifies the completed transformation from civilian to Marine.

"This hike not only

strengthens their bodies but also prepares them for what they might see when it becomes real," said Sicz. "Depending on what their military occupational specialty is this is something that may become very familiar to them."



Company G recruits and drill instructors hike through Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The company started the hike at dusk and night fell quickly. During this exercise the recruits used the cover of darkness to conduct resupply missions. Ammunition can resupply is designed to teach recruits how to be tactical at night while practicing light and noise discipline.



Company G recruits begin their resupply hike during the Crucible, a 54-hour training exercise in which recruits are pushed to their limits. They hike more than 40 miles, stopping at stations to read award citations from past Marines, and conducting team exercises while experiencing food and sleep deprivation. The resupply hike is approximately six kilometers and recruits carried ammunition cans to simulate a combat mission. One of the objectives of the hike is to practice noise discipline and maneuverability in the dark.