



# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Vol. 75 – Issue 13

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015



Private First Class Jonathan A. Uitvlugt, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Platoon 3226, high crawls through a 12-Stalls obstacle to retrieve a simulated injured Marine during the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 20. The purpose of the 12-Stalls exercise is to encourage one recruit to step up and provide leadership to his team. This gives the recruits an opportunity to develop a leader's mindset when his team is looking up to him for the next set of orders.

## Fireman changes uniform, becomes Marine

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

A young man who grew up on eight acres of woodland on the out skirts of Grand Rapids, Mich., learned the meaning of hard work, dedication and brotherhood starting at six years old.

Since the day Private First Class Jonathan A. Uitvlugt, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Platoon 3226, began wrestling in the 2nd grade, he embraced the meaning of hard work.

“I enjoyed the physical challenge of wrestling,” said Uitvlugt. “When it's just me and one other person on the wrestling mat competing against each other, and I come out

victorious, that is most rewarding.”

Uitvlugt started wrestling in the 135-pound weight class his freshman year and ended up at the 160-pound weight class by his senior year. Wrestling not only kept him in physical shape, but it kept his mind in shape as well.

see FIREMAN ▶4

## Lima Company recruits undergo series commander inspection



A Lima Company recruit, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stands at attention as he is inspected by a drill instructor during the Series Commander Inspection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, May 18. Although the inspection was conducted by the series commander, other drill instructors swarmed the platoon creating chaos and testing the recruits' bearing, one of the Marine Corps leadership traits. Today all males recruited west of the Mississippi are trained at MCRD San Diego, which graduates more than 16,000 recruits annually. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate from recruit training on June 19.

### BRIEFS

#### Retiree Fair & Seminar

The depot will host the annual Retiree Fair and Seminar June 6 at the depot theater. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.

The fair and seminar is free and open to all active duty military and retirees, and their family members.

Get legislative updates on benefits and entitlements. Engage one-on-one with various agencies that specifically support veterans whether still on active duty or retired.

The Resource Fair is geared toward anyone who has retired, is looking to retire, or is simply seeking information to prepare themselves for the future. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

For information, contact Barbara Padilla at (619) 524-6780 or via email at [barbara.padilla@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:barbara.padilla@usmc-mccs.org).

#### Father's Day Barbecue

The depot's Bay View Restaurant is scheduled to host a Father's Day Barbecue Buffet June 21 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The menu features barbecue chicken, baby back ribs and gourmet hot dogs.

There will be potato salad, coleslaw and baked beans; a condiment table; and an ice cream sundae bar. Lemonade and fruit punch will be served.

Cost is \$15.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children 5 to 11. Children under 5 dine for free.

For reservations call (619) 725-6388.

#### Gate 4 Closure

The start date for renovation to the depot's Gate 4 has been moved to June 22 instead of June 1. The gate will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic until construction is completed in December.

During Gate 4 renovation, operating hours of Gates 2 and 5 will be as follows:

- Gate 2 open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week
- Gate 5 open 24 hours

#### Send briefs to:

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U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan (right), the Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office, and U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Jon Davis, Deputy Commandant Aviation, along with distinguished visitors from the U.S. Department of Defense and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence, watch as an F-35B lands on the flight deck of USS Wasp (LHD 1) off the coast of Virginia, May 20, 2015. Bogdan and Davis brought a delegation of UK and other distinguished visitors out to USS Wasp for the day to observe F-35B operational testing (OT-1), and to speak with the U.S. and UK service members participating in the test. Sixteen UK service personnel are embarked aboard USS Wasp, gaining hands-on experience as the UK re-generates its Carrier Strike capability.

## Marines join U.K. allies in shipboard F-35B operational test

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
MAJ. PAUL GREENBERG  
Headquarters Marine Corps

**USS WASP, At Sea** – As the first operational test (OT-1) of the F-35B Lightning II takes place aboard the USS Wasp (LHD 1) this week, service members from the United Kingdom are working alongside their U.S. Navy and Marine Corps counterparts to assess the integration of the F-35B into amphibious military operations.

“United Kingdom participation in the F-35 program has been absolutely critical to our success,” said Lt. Gen. Chris Bogdan, Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office. “Since the beginning, UK test pilots and engineers have been fully integrated and work shoulder-to-shoulder with us as we deliver the F-35 to the warfighter.”

Sixteen Royal Navy and Royal Air Force members embedded aboard the ship during the operational tests. They serve as F-35 operational assessors, ship integration team members, aircraft technicians and maintenance crews.

The Royal Navy’s vision for tactical integration of the F-35B into their current arsenal is similar to the Marine Corps’ plan to integrate the F-35 with legacy aircraft, such as the AV-8B Harrier and the F/A-18 Hornet, and gradually phase out legacy aircraft over the coming decades.

“By 2020, U.K. combat air power will consist of Typhoon and F-35B Lightning II, a highly potent and capable mix of fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft. With Typhoon already established as one of the premier multi-role fighters in the world, the F-35 brings a complementary next-generation level of survivability and lethality. This will ultimately provide the UK with an unprecedented level of capability in a single platform,” said Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Neil Mathieson, the UK’s F-35B Ship Integration Lead.

A mechanical engineer by trade, Mathieson is working with the Marine Corps aboard USS Wasp for the duration of OT-1.

Mathieson explained that a range of advanced sensors, combined with increased processing power, enables the F-35B to fuse the vast array of information collected into a single picture. This equips the F-35 pilot with a level of situational awareness previously unavailable within a fighter cockpit and an ability to share this instantaneous, high-fidelity view of ongoing operations with other platforms at sea, in the air, or on the ground through advanced data links.

“The unique, low observable nature of the F-35 will also allow unprecedented access to very high-threat environments, allowing the U.K. to conduct operations across the full range of operational scenarios, day or night, in fair or inclement

weather,” said Mathieson.

During the two week operational test, the Marine Corps and U.K. counterparts are assessing the integration of the F-35B while operating across a wide array of flight and deck operations. Specific OT-1 objectives include demonstrating and assessing day and night flight operations in varying aircraft configurations; digital interoperability of aircraft and ship systems; F-35B landing signal officer’s launch and recovery software; day and night weapons loading; and all aspects of maintenance, logistics, and sustainment support of the F-35B while deployed at sea. Additionally, the joint and international team is working closely with Naval Sea Systems Command to assess specific modifications made to USS Wasp. This will be particularly beneficial for the U.K.’s future program, which will include integration of the F-35B with their new class of amphibious ships.

“Our Queen Elizabeth Class carriers are the largest and most powerful warships ever built in the U.K.,” said Mathieson. “They are capable of the widest range of roles, from defense diplomacy and humanitarian assistance to full combat operations, providing flexibility and choice throughout their 50-year life.”

In February, the United Kingdom stood up their first F-35 squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, California. The historic 17 (Reserve) Squadron

is now responsible for the entire operational test and evaluation of the UK’s F-35s. Personnel from 17 (R) Squadron, comprised of engineers and pilots from the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, fly and maintain the two UK F-35B jets independently from their U.S. colleagues.

“The U.K. team is involved in every facet of F-35B maintenance during OT-1,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Michael Dehner, the Department of the Navy F-35 Operational Test Director. “That includes avionics, air frames, power lines, quality assurance and flight equipment. They’re

going to glean valuable lessons that will be critically useful as they move from the developmental to the operational phase of F-35B integration.”

U.K. F-35B pilots will begin operating the next generation stealth fighter from home bases in England starting in 2018, and are on track to fly from Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers in 2020. The U.K. has played a major role in the program throughout the System Design and Demonstration phase, and has a program of record to procure the F-35B in the coming years.



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Jon Davis, Deputy Commandant for Aviation (right), talks with Royal Navy Cmdr. Mark Dellar and Lt. Cmdr. Jim Cobbert, while embarked aboard USS Wasp May 20, during the first phase of F-35B operational testing. Over a two-week period, OT-1 will evaluate the full spectrum of F-35B measures of suitability and effectiveness, as well as the aircraft’s readiness for initial operating capability. Data and lessons learned will lay the groundwork for future F-35B deployments aboard U.S. Navy amphibious carriers.

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Lansing, Mich.  
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Lansing, Mich.  
Marksman Instructor  
Sgt. R. P. Stauffer

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HIGH PFT (300)  
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Lansing, Mich.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. J. A. Clark



# KILO COMPANY

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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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# Company I takes on recruit training with rifle issue

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
CPL. JERICHO CRUTCHER  
Chevron staff

The Rifleman's Creed, a basic part of the Marine Corps doctrine, outlines the important relationship between a Marine and his rifle.

That relationship begins during the first day of recruit training.

Once recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, met their drill instructors, they were marched to the armory to have weapons issued, May 11.

Recruits receive rifles at the beginning of training and keep it with them, each guarding his weapon if were baby. They embrace the motto that without their rifles, they are nothing, and without them, their rifles are nothing. Regardless of their military occupation specialty, they will become fluent, knowledgeable and intimately familiar with their weapon. They will realize their proficiency as marksmen is a key attribute to being a Marine.

During the first phase of training, the recruits primarily focus on using their rifles for close order drill. The purpose of this kind of drill is to instill discipline, instant obedience to orders and unit cohesion as recruits begin to learn how to work together to perform as a single unit.

They will learn more advanced drill techniques as they progress through training.

"Every Marine is first a rifleman," said Recruit Anthony M. Mazzola, Platoon 3210. "Our rifles will be at our sides for the



**Corporal Cesar Alvarado, armorer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, teaches recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, how to properly install weapon slings on the M16-A4 Service Rifle during rifle issue at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., May 11. During recruit training each recruit is issued a rifle he will be responsible for throughout training.**

rest of recruit training. We will become familiar with them, and we will become combat effective with the rifle."

Drill instructors have 17 training days to prepare their platoons for Initial Drill, which is their first test of conducting precise and smooth drill movements. Toward the end of training, recruits will undergo Final Drill, which is the overall evaluation of how the platoon

has progressed as a unit since their initial competition.

While the recruits concentrate efforts on drill during Phase I, it's during the second phase of training when recruits learn the techniques and fundamentals of firing the rifle and how to successfully qualify as a rifleman. At this point, the theory begins to come to life.

During Grass Week, recruits are taught the basics of handling

the weapon, fundamentals and shooting positions they will use the following week. They will then put what they learn to the test during Firing Week, when they are undergoing the challenge of the qualification course.

"I have shot this weapon before," said Omar A. Tellan, Platoon 3209. "I'm looking forward to learning the Marine Corps way of rifle fundamentals and how to properly engage the

M16-A4 Service Rifle."

From the beginning of training, recruits familiarize themselves with the weapon and will progressively learn more and more as they graduate recruit training and move on with their careers. The focus in recruit training is to make them as comfortable and familiar with the weapon as they can be so they can first and foremost be riflemen.

## FIREMAN ◀ 1

"When you're in the third period, which is the last period before the match ends, you're tired and they're tired, but you can't show any weakness and must be physically and mentally strong to complete the match," said Uitvlugt. "I enjoyed the hard effort of work that is demanded from wrestling as well as the brotherhood."

Uitvlugt explains that wrestling helped build his composure and mold him into a young man.

"It's a tough sport so most people quit within the first couple of weeks, but the ones who stay are the ones who work hard and put forth the effort for each other," said Uitvlugt. "It's not on the same level as the Marine Corps, but suffering together brings you close together. Shared misery creates a band of brothers. You get to know what each other is made of and learn to depend on each other."

Once Uitvlugt graduated, he bounced around from job to job and then realized it was time to put on another uniform.

"I've tried a lot of different jobs including plumbing, a worker at sheet metal factory, apprentice and personal trainer," said Uitvlugt. "After about a year, I decided to apply for a position at our township's fire department and was hired part time. They needed young men to come in because a lot of the firemen were retiring, so I immediately started training with them."

Being a fireman was like step-

ping into a bigger brotherhood, explained Uitvlugt.

"Each fireman depends on each other going into a fire," said Uitvlugt. "You can study different ways of approaching a fire, but until you get into that house you don't know what's going to be in there. There is nothing like being in a house that is fully involved with flames coming over the ceiling and having this massive adrenaline rush, knowing the guy next to you has your back because you've been through the training together."

Uitvlugt proudly spent two years fighting fires in the community where he grew up, but decided to make a transition into the Marine Corps to serve his country. He embraced the philosophy of no Marine left behind and left his hometown with a burning desire to serve in the Marine brotherhood.

"I love my community," said Uitvlugt. "Everyone takes care of one another, so I felt like it was my job to serve my community as a fireman to give back. I felt like that wasn't enough though. I wanted to give back to my country as well."

Uitvlugt explains his father instilled in him at an early age the military is the strongest breed.

"My father always said the strong take care of the weak," said Uitvlugt. "That is very honorable, and I want to fulfill that legacy."

At each different stage of his life, Uitvlugt transitioned from one uniform to the next, each uniform having great responsibility.

"Each uniform I put on

through each step of my life weighs a little more on my shoulders... metaphorically speaking," said Uitvlugt. "It has a lot to do with challenging myself, and the Marine Corps is the toughest service. We have the longest recruit training, the longest hikes and accomplish missions with fewer service members."

Uitvlugt utilized his leadership traits he learned though

past brotherhoods at recruit training, and was selected by his senior drill instructor to be the platoon guide.

Drill instructors select their guides by seeking out a recruit with leadership traits, the will to outwork other recruits and the capability to lead the platoon.

Uitvlugt is scheduled to graduate recruit training May 29. After graduation he will take a

well-deserved 10 days of leave before reporting into the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to train for his military occupational specialty as an infantry rifleman.

"You only have one thing when you die, and that is your honor," said Uitvlugt. "We should all put our best efforts out there and make our legacies the best they can possibly be."



**Private First Class Jonathan A. Uitvlugt, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Platoon 3226, performs rifle maintenance on his M16-A4 Service Rifle during the Crucible. Rifle maintenance is vitally important to ensure the operation of the weapon.**