



Marines of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment conduct squad attack exercises

Pg 2

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015



Recruit Aaron W. Phillips, Platoon 3209, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, is a native of Hemet, Calif. He and his company graduate from recruit training today.

Fracture overcome in route to Marine Corps

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

When Recruit Aaron W. Phillips felt soreness in his right shin, he didn't give it much thought. But when that soreness increased into a pain that inhibited his ability to keep up with his platoon, he knew he had a problem.

“I was only able to move with about 60 percent strength. I was falling behind in runs and couldn't keep up with the training, so I decided I needed to go to medical,” said 23-year-old Phillips.

He explained he had never had a leg injury before, but estimated a very quick recovery with a couple days rest and medication.

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging revealed Phillips had a severe tibia plateau fracture, that would take between two and four months to recover.

“I was devastated, depressed and really sad because I'm a father,” said Phillips, a Hemet, Calif., native. “It meant more time away from my son and fiancé.”

Phillips said he had physical therapy every day, and during his off time he practiced drill and read Marine knowledge.

Just three months after his injury, Phillips recovered and was inserted back into recruit training.

“After being on the base for an additional three months, I had goals,” said Phillips. “I wanted to be a leader. I felt like I was more comfortable with

training and was more mature than the average recruit.”

On his first day back, Phillips took a leadership role as platoon guide.

“I was a shoe in for guide because I knew drill better than everyone else,” said Phillips. “But to keep the position, I just kept an open mind, listened and gave 100 percent in everything I did.”

He admitted getting back into the vigorous demands of recruit training was more difficult than anticipated, however slowly but surely he got back up to speed.

“At first my legs hurt badly from fatigue, but after about a month, they felt stronger than before the injury,” said Phillips. “There was always the fear that I could re-injure myself

but I was just careful with how (I conducted the events) made sure I wasn't reckless.”

After finishing the Crucible, Phillips is now a Marine, he doesn't feel like it will be official though until his son and fiancé see him in his uniform.

“Technically, I'm a Marine now. But to me it will be official on graduation. It will be the most rewarding thing in my life besides my son being born,” said Phillips.

India Company graduates today, and Phillips wanted to leave words of wisdom for recruits still in training and recovering from injuries. “Never give up. Never lose hope. You came here to get that Eagle, Globe and Anchor, and it's worth every sacrifice,” said Phillips.

BRIEFS

Gate 4 closure

Gate 4 is 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

Meet & Greet

The depot hosts a New Marine Family Meet and Greet each Wednesday prior to graduation from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Bay View Restaurant.

This is a chance for families to meet other new Marine families and depot drill instructors. The event price of \$21.95 per person entitles the purchaser to a steak or chicken dinner. Dinner service starts at 6 p.m.

For information and reservations go to www.mcrdmeetandgreet.eventbrite.com or call (619) 725-6388.

Back to school

The depot's Marine Corps Community Services, in partnership with Operation Homefront, is sponsoring an Operation Homefront event Aug. 8 in the Jerry Coleman Center, building 650, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature both depot and civilian vendor booths with information and interactive activities for students.

For information contact Patty Kalaye at (619) 524-8032 or via e-mail at kalayep@usmc-mccs.org; or Diana Vuong at (619) 725-6383 or via e-mail at vuongd@usmc-mccs.org.

Brown Bag Seminar

The team at Personal and Professional Development have scheduled another Brown Bag Lunch Financial Seminar for Aug. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the P&PD Classroom, Building 14.

The seminar, titled “Renal Property Ownership as an Investment,” examines the realities of owning and managing rental property.

Light refreshments will be provided, and those attending are welcome to bring their brown bag lunch. The event is open to all authorized patrons.

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

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.



Pfc. Dan Papa, a machine gunner with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, provides suppressing fire with an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon during a squad attack at Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 28. A squad of Marines maneuvered toward a target while two machine gunners provided fire to help clear the battlefield.

Marines conduct squad attack exercise

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. LUCAS HOPKINS
II Marine Expeditionary Force

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Marines with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, conducted a squad attack exercise on range L-5 aboard Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, July 28, 2015.

The training pushed three squads from the company's 1st and 2nd Platoons through the course. The Marines moved stealthily through the woods as two machine gunners helped suppress a make-shift enemy position on the range by providing suppressing fire.

"This training allows our squads to use support from Weapons Platoon and work on their fire and maneuver," said 1st Lt. Patrick Kolb, a platoon commander with the unit.

The Marines began the training by gathering at an assembly area before progressing toward the objective. As they approached the assault point, the machine gunners fired at the targets, aiding the other Marines in taking out the enemy.

Small unit leadership and interoperability between the different sections played a key role throughout the evolution.

"This really helps unit cohesion," said Sgt. Robert Davis, a squad leader with the unit. "It helps build the communication between the squad leader and fire team leaders while also allowing us to work with other elements."

By combining the skills of

riflemen, assault men, mortar men and machine gunners, and using the firepower from weapons like the Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the Marines feel confident in their ability to accomplish

any mission at hand.

"We all have specialized jobs, and when we come together, we can do those jobs better," said Davis.

The Marines of Golf Company are staying prepared for future training and potential real-world operations.

"This sets the conditions for us to conduct a night live-fire with machine gunners shifting fire toward a moving element," said Kolb. "It also helps us prepare for our upcoming deployment with the Unit Deployment Program." After the last rounds had

been shot, the Marines ran off the battlefield, sweaty, tired and ready for what's next to come.

"Like anything in the Marine Corps, you always have somewhere to improve," said Kolb. "This range allows everyone to leave feeling ac-



A U.S. Marine with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, fires a shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon during a squad attack range at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Approximately 50 Marines with the unit participated in the training, which helped build unit cohesion and fire and maneuver skills.

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Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. J. C. Voneida
Sgt. Maj. J. D. Ferriss
Gunnery Sgt. J. M. Pocaigue



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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Staff Sgt. Brandon J. Curry, Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor, Support Battalion, demonstrates the basic warrior stance during a MCMAP class at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 15. The basic warrior stance is the base point of every MCMAP technique and is instrumental for balance and power. Recruits receive multiple MCMAP classes throughout recruit training and are given a MCMAP test on training day 50 to verify their knowledge of MCMAP fundamentals.

MCMAP foundation starts early in recruit training

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

While some recruits come into basic training with little to no martial arts training, some come in with years of experience. Nevertheless, regardless of skill level, all recruits start with the basics.

Recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practiced punching, their basic warrior stance and their footwork during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 15. The class was designed to introduce recruits to the importance of the hand-to-hand combat skill as well as show them the basics of MCMAP.

The class began with recruits learning the basic warrior stance, a stance that requires shoulder width spacing of the legs and arms up, ready to block or strike. After the recruits mastered the stance, Staff Sgt. Brandon Curry, MCMAP instructor, Support Battalion, demonstrated how to shift right, left, forward and backward from the stance, ensuring recruits never cross their feet.

After his demonstration, he picked various recruits to perform the new skill and took the opportunity to correct mistakes.

Recruit Omar Ponce came to recruit training with four years of martial arts training and explained he believes MCMAP teaches discipline and focus just like his previous training.

"Martial arts teaches you discipline. When I've practiced in the past, I've always

had to think quickly because there is always a way to get out of a submission and a way to win. You just have to keep a clear mind and stay focused on what's happening," said Ponce, a National City, Calif., native. "I'm using that same mentality here, and I'm motivated to learn new fighting techniques and the Marine history that comes with it."

Although Ponce is a recruit

who comes in with a martial arts background, there are others with no fighting experience just as eager to learn.

"This is my first martial arts class. I have no formal background in fighting, but I do have three older brothers," said Recruit Aaron M. Willey, with a laugh. "I like this hands-on experience, I think that it is the most effective way to learn. It's like weights,

you can only get good form by practicing it. I just hope with this training I can take away techniques I can use in combat."

Although this is the company's first MCMAP class, many more are on the training schedule. Now that the basic fundamentals have been mastered, the recruits will have 8 weeks to work on techniques such as leg kicks,

chokes, knee strikes and counter to chokes.

On training day 50, they will be evaluated on their MCMAP techniques, and if they pass their exam, they will be MCMAP certified.

The tan belt they earn is the foundation upon which all higher MCMAP belts are built.

Company C is scheduled to graduate October 2.



A recruit demonstrates the basic warrior stance of Marine Corps Martial Arts during a MCMAP. Recruits were taught how to throw the lead and rear hand punch as well as the footwork and body position needed to execute the punches effectively.