



CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Private First Class Leo C. Menge, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, performs a one-handed push up during a physical fitness session at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Aug. 3. Following recruit training, Menge will move on to the School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he will go through Marine Combat Training, and pursue his military occupational specialty in the military police. He has plans to try out for the Marine Corps Mixed Martial Arts Fight Team and competing on it as long as he can. Delta Company graduates from recruit training today.

Fighter becomes Marine Corps warrior

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. JERICHO W. CRUTCHER
Chevron staff

“To achieve the mood of a warrior is not a simple matter. It is a revolution. To regard the lion and the water rats and our fellow men as equals is a magnificent act of a warrior’s spirit. It takes power to do that,” said Carlos Castaneda, an American author.

Private First Class Leo C. Menge, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, discovered a warrior’s mindset at an early age.

“I started wrestling in second grade, stuck with it all the way to high school and started as a varsity wrestler my freshman year,” said Menge. “When I first got to high school, I was 4 feet 8 inches tall and maybe 90 pounds soaking wet.”

The young Marine devoted himself to the gym and fully committed to the sport by wrestling year round, which began to quickly pay off.

During his sophomore year, he elevated his wrestling career to the state championship tournament and then became a captain of his team starting the next year.

“After becoming captain of the team my junior year, I went back to state where I finished first place,” said Menge.

“I was disqualified just before going to state my senior year due to aggressive wrestling, but I didn’t hang my shoes up. I started my fighting career and began practicing Jiu Jitsu.”

He opted for this style of fighting because it’s an aggressive, hands-on sport.

“One day leaving the gym I noticed a couple of guys practicing Jiu Jitsu,” said Menge. “As a wrestler, I was naturally curious. I sat down on a bench and just watched them for the next few days until one day they asked if I wanted to practice with them.”

Jiu Jitsu is one of the main bases of mixed martial arts. His prior wrestling experience gave him an edge in what he may have found to be his calling.

On the new student’s first day of practicing the martial art, he submitted a Naga Jiu Jitsu Champion using a leg lock.

“They seemed pretty shocked and asked me to come compete with them at the Naga Championship Tournament,” said Menge. “I entered at the intermediate level and after 33 matches, I won the tournament.”

During the tournament, Menge met Patrick Miletich, the first Ultimate Fighting

Championship welterweight champion, who showed him how to throw a simple jab punch.

“I felt comfortable fighting on the ground, but I needed to work on my stand-up fighting,” said Menge. “I had a few former world champions from Miletich [Miletich’s gym] and Team Round Kick help me hone my fighting techniques on my feet.”

Once Menge felt comfortable fighting on his feet, he started fighting for Quad City Fight Club in Iowa. His first official match was against a former Marine and it was decided by a judge’s decision.

The match was awarded to Menge after three five-minute rounds.

Menge went on to fight for another organization called Caged Aggression where he was the victor in two fights and then was placed into a professional fighting organization with Amsterdam Fighting.

Although the young fighter had a successful career of 18 wins and only one loss, he still wanted something more, a greater challenge.

“I have a lot of family in the military, so it’s always been one of my options,” said Menge. “Once my career took off as a fighter, they all wanted me to keep competing in the

cage, except my uncle. He told me if I decided to join the Marine Corps, I would never regret it.”

Menge soon found himself at a Marine Corps’ recruiting office.

“I loved fighting, but I needed a change,” said Menge. “I want to learn more about mental disciplined rather than the physical. I’ve always been able to do a lot of things others can’t physically, but mentally I’ve never really been able to accomplish most tasks.”

Menge explains that his single loss in his MMA career came from lack of bearing and not being able to stay calm in the fight.

“During my time at recruit training, I’ve noticed a significant improvement in my bearing and mental discipline,” said Menge. “My whole personality has changed. Being the guide of the platoon has humbled me as a leader.”

Following recruit training, Menge will move on to the School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he will go through Marine Combat Training. After MCT, he will pursue a military occupational specialty as a military police officer. He plans to try out for the Corps’ MMA Fight Team and compete with them as long as he can.

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

New Marine Family

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.

USAJOBS workshop

The depot’s Personal and Professional Development Team have scheduled a USAJOBS workshop for Aug. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m., in the Personal and Professional Development classroom, building 14.

Topics to be covered include: Writing an Effective Resume, Navigating USAJobs, and Veterans’ or Military Spouse Preference.

The event is open to all authorized patrons but space is limited to the first 20 people who register. For information and registration call (619) 524-5728.

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 “Rental 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.



Lance Cpl. Remington Hall

A sailor aboard the USS Wasp (LHD-1) signals to the pilot of an F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter to land as it arrives for the first phase of operational testing. The short take-off, vertical landing capabilities of the F-35B are crucial to the mission of the Marine Corps and necessary for operation aboard a Navy amphibious ship. The aircraft are stationed with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Beaufort, South Carolina and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Yuma, Arizona.

Marine Corps declares F-35B operational

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II aircraft reached initial operational capability today with a squadron of 10 F-35Bs ready for worldwide deployment.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121), based in Yuma, Arizona, is the first squadron in military history to become operational with an F-35 variant, following a five-day Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), which concluded July 17.

"I am pleased to announce that VMFA-121 has achieved initial operational capability in the F-35B, as defined by requirements outlined in the June 2014 Joint Report to Congressional Defense Committees," said Gen. Joseph Dunford, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"VMFA-121 has ten aircraft in the Block 2B configuration with the requisite performance envelope and weapons clearances, to include the training, sustainment capabilities, and infrastructure to deploy to an austere site or a ship.

"It is capable of conducting close air support, offensive and defensive counter air, air interdiction, assault support escort and armed reconnaissance," the general continued, "as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force, or in support of the Joint Force."

Dunford stated that he has his full confidence in the F-35B's ability to support Marines in

combat, predicated on years of concurrent developmental testing and operational flying.

"Prior to declaring IOC, we have conducted flight operations for seven weeks at sea aboard an L-Class carrier, participated in multiple large force exercises, and executed a recent operational evaluation which included multiple live ordnance sorties," said Dunford.

"The F-35B's ability to conduct

operations from expeditionary airstrips or sea-based carriers provides our Nation with its first 5th generation strike fighter, which will transform the way we fight and win."

As the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, the F-35 will eventually replace three legacy platforms: The AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet, and the EA-6B Prowler.

"The success of VMFA-121

is a reflection of the hard work and effort by the Marines in the squadron, those involved in the program over many years, and the support we have received from across the Department of the Navy, the Joint Program Office, our industry partners, and the Under Secretary of Defense. Achieving IOC has truly been a team effort," concluded Dunford.

The U.S. Marine Corps has trained and qualified more than

50 Marine F-35B pilots and certified about 500 maintenance personnel to assume autonomous, organic-level maintenance support for the F-35B.

VMFA-121's transition will be followed by Marine Attack Squadron 211 (VMA-211), an AV-8B squadron, which is scheduled to transition to the F-35B in fiscal year 2016. In 2018, VMA-311 will conduct its transition to the F-35B.



Lance Cpl. Remington Hall

An F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter idles on the flight deck of the USS Wasp (LHD-1) in preparation for take-off.

CHEVRON

ESTABLISHED 1942

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Platoon 1069 **PLATOON HONOR MAN** Pfc. A. P. Mariotti Geneva, Ill. Recruited by Gunnery Sgt. A. Richmond
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Platoon 1073 **PLATOON HONOR MAN** Pfc. J. Rodriguez-Gonzalez Chicago Recruited by Staff Sgt. C. Solis
Platoon 1074 **HIGH SHOOTER (341)** Pvt. J. G. Custer Bradley, Calif. Marksman Instructor Sgt. J. M. Hullinger
Platoon 1074 **HIGH PFT (300)** Pvt. I. Elizarraraz Brawley, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. J. Dugan



DELTA COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



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Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

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 Sgt. Maj. B. Clark III
 Staff Sgt. J. C. Hunt

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* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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 Pfc. M. C. Austin
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Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stand at parade rest and wait for their turn to be inspected during the Series Commander Inspection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Aug. 3. While being inspected, recruits were asked questions that pertained to things they learned while in recruit training. When the inspecting officer also asked recruits questions that were more personal in nature such as how recruit training was going or what the recruit's favorite part has been to that point.

Alpha Company recruits face their Series Commander's Inspection

STORY & PHOTOS BY
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE
Chevron staff

Bearing is defined as the way one conducts and carries

him or herself in a manner that reflects alertness, competence and control.

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, tested their bearing

during their Series Commander Inspection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Aug. 3.

The purpose of the series commander inspection is

to test the recruits on what they've learned in recruit training such as Marine Corps knowledge, uniforms and rifle manual, while having a confident conversation with an officer.

"The series commander inspection gives us an idea on how far the recruits have improved on their bearing, confidence and knowledge," said Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Ramsey, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1009. "It also prepares them for future inspections such as the Company Commander's Inspection and the Battalion Commander's Inspection."

The inspecting officer faced each recruit and snapped his heels together coming to the position of attention, which signaled the recruit to report to the officer by sounding off with his name, hometown and military occupation specialty. After reporting, the inspector asked each recruit Marine Corps knowledge questions and then inspected his uniform.

While being inspected, recruits were asked questions that pertained to things they learned while in recruit training. The inspecting officer also asked recruits questions that were of a more personal nature such as how recruit training was going or what the recruit's favorite part has been to that point.

"Drill instructors as well as

the series commander, looked for several things while inspecting each recruit," said Ramsey, a native of Houston. "We looked for how well their uniforms were prepared to how well their rifles were cleaned. We also tested the recruits to see if they knew what positions they were allowed to assume while the inspection was on going."

Ramsey explained that prior to the inspection, recruits were put through several mock inspections and when it came to knowledge, they were tested on a daily basis.

"Every day in recruit training we are tested," said Recruit Noah L. Barbieri, Alpha Company. "We practice inspection arms, go over our knowledge, clean our weapons and prepare our uniforms every day."

As training progresses and recruits endure more of the events that help them build confidence, they will continue to be more proficient at handling stressful situations and understanding how an official inspection is conducted.

Alpha Company displayed military bearing and showed that they are confident with what they have learned so far in recruit training. The series commander's inspection is just a small step to prepare them for bigger and more challenging tests they will face as they begin their Marine Corps careers.



Recruit Raul Hernandez, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, displays his bearing as Sgt. Andrew T. Deaveiro, drill instructor questions him during the Series Commander's Inspection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Aug. 3. As training progresses and recruits endure more of the events that help them build confidence, they will continue to become more proficient at handling stressful situations and understand how an official inspection is run.