

Vol. 75 – Issue 27

**Private First** Class, Juan Valenzuela, Fox Company, is this week's Honor **Graduate** Pg 2





AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

"Where Marines Are Made"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

TOP STORY LAND NAVIGATION



# Recruits get oriented at the Crucible seeing how much ground we had

**STORY & PHOTO BY** CPL. JERICHO CRUTCHER Chevron staff

In today's age of technology, many people don't know how to use a compass or read a map. For a Marine, this knowledge must be second nature.

To hone this skill and armed with compasses and maps, recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, maneuvered through the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oct. 1.

During Field Week, or week seven of recruit training, recruits spent time in the hilly terrain of learning the basic fundamentals of combat. Subjects taught ranged from combat formations to land navigation. The course is buried deep in the mountains covered with cacti, bushes and brimming

with wildlife.

"We received classes before we went out to practice the basic skills of land navigation," sais Recruit Isaiah J. Thomas. "It's a lot of knowledge to take in, but it is all broken down step by step."

The recruits learned how to measure ground distance using pace count, which is how many steps it takes a person to walk a known distance. It allowed them to keep track of how far they had traveled from their starting points.

"We were placed in groups of four at the starting point," said Thomas. "We were then given six points to plot on our maps to locate."

Each navigation point is marked with a numbered ammunition can. Each group of recruits was given a different route to trek.

"We were given plenty of time to find all the points and after

to cover, I see why," said Recruit Sean R. Riehle. "Once we found all of the points, we returned back to the beginning to have our work reviewed by a drill instructor."

Land navigation was an important skill to master, but conducting the course had much more significance than just finding required points.

"This is the first time, since the beginning of training, we have went out on our own to accomplish a mission without the drill instructors," said Riehle. "It gives us the chance to exercise our small unit leadership and to take initiative." During recruit training, recruits learn how to take charge and lead each other both using confidence and leadership traits they learned in various events.

Land navigation is an important event that allows recruits to practice those skills.

see COMPASS 2

#### **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 buffet dinner. Dinner service starts at 6 p.m.

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

#### **CG's Welcome Aboard Brief**

The CG's Welcome aboard brief is scheduled to take place Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. 14, Personal and Professional Development. The brief is mandatory for all newly joined active duty personnel. Families are encourage to attend. Contact Perlita Rodriguez at (619) 524-5732 to register for the event.

#### Navy Birthday Lunch

The Navy will be celebrating their 240th Birthday with a lunch at Duncan Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 14. A cake cutting ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10:45 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11 to 1 p.m. The cost is \$9.05 for all active duty, retirees and DoD employees and \$6.80 for E-4 and below family members.

#### College 101 Brief

The Education Center is scheduled to hold a College 101 brief on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Education Building, Bldg. 111. Active duty members must attend the brief before applying for tuition assistance. Contact James Brooks at (619) 524-1275 to register.

### **EFMP Info Hour**

Marine and Family Programs will be hosting a brief discussing the Exceptional Family Member Program on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from noon to 1 p.m. The brief will cover how the program can help families, how to enroll and where to find support. Contact Allison Newcomer at (619) 524-3764 to register.

#### 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.

Company Feature PFC Juan Valenzuela



## Reserve Marine pursues military and academic goals

Story & Photos by LANCE CPL. ANGELICA ANNASTAS Chevron staff

While many recruits find opportunities for growth in recruit training, one recruit found it through a healthy lifestyle and furthering his education even before he arrived at the depot. He had his mind set on what he wanted to do, and all he had left was to make it happen.

Private First Class Juan Valenzuela, a native of Tracy, Calif., wanted to change his life for the better, and he pursued certain goals that would get him to where he wanted to be.

After living in the small town of Tracy for four years, Valenzuela and his family moved north to Stockton in 2001. He grew up as the middle sibling between four older sisters and two younger brothers, and fondly remembers home being a family-oriented place.

"I had a big family and a big household," said Valenzuela. "I guess you could say that my family life was pretty good for me."

When Valenzuela began high school, it wasn't that much of a change for him. He had a lot of friends and school was easy for him.

"I had good grades," Valenzuela said. "I didn't struggle at all in school; I even participated in (the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps)."

The program prepares high school students for leadership and good citizenship. Valenzuela saw JROTC as an opportunity to better himself and he took advantage of it.

During his junior year of high school, Valenzuela realized he wanted to join the United States Marine Corps, and that was a goal he held onto through high school.

"It was just something I wanted to try," said Valenzuela. "I learned about it, and I wanted to join."

While walking through the mall one day, Valenzuela met a Marine Corps recruiter, and that moment changed his life.

"I remember him telling me to be at (the office for physical training with the other poolees) that Thursday," said Valenzuela with a smile.

There was one thing though, that held Valenzuela back from heading to recruit training- his weight. The Marine Corps has physical standards Marines are expected to follow and Valenzuela knew he didn't meet them.

"I was a little bigger than I wanted to be, so I made the decision to make a change," said Valenzuela. "I ran with my cousin, and I went to PT at the office with the other poolees, too."

Valenzuela dedicated himself not only to losing 50 pounds, but to furthering his education as well.

To pursue that goal, Valenzuela began attending San Joaquin Delta College. When he was physically ready for training, he left for the depot.

"Before joining I managed to get my basic business associates degree," said Valenzuela.

The recruit life was tough for Valenzuela, and his senior drill instructor saw that within the first couple of weeks.

"I noticed it was a little hard for him during the individual runs," said Sgt. Bernard Gooden, senior drill instructor, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. "I remember he fell out during one of the runs with a temperature of 103 degrees."

Valenzuela pushed himself throughout recruit training, and he kept improving as the weeks went on. He used the progress he saw as motivation to not quit.

"He went from the slowest runner to running in the middle of groups," said Gooden. "The week before the Crucible he fell out of [the physical fitness test], so I kept my eye on him and I saw that he kept putting out."

He noticed his physical strength improved along with his mental endurance. Arriving at the depot, he could only complete eight pullups and was able to complete 19 by the end of training. Through all the hardships and setbacks, Valenzuela made it through the Crucible and will be graduating with Fox Company.

"He did well," said Gooden. "He had a good work ethic."

Valenzuela graduated Oct. 9 and will attend Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton for further training and knowledge. When he graduates from there, he will attend school for his military occupational specialty where he will learn about being motor transportation operator.

Valenzuela is a Reserve Marine and he intends on continuing his education in California. He plans to study medical administration and also continue with business administration. Valenzuela takes pride in who the Corps has helped him become, and he wants to continue to set goals to accomplish in his future.



Private First Class Juan Valenzuela, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, receives his new rank of private first class from Staff Sgt. Michael T. Ambrose, drill instructor, at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 1. Some Marines get promoted meritoriously during recruit training for assisting the recruiting efforts or for accruing college credits.

#### COMPASS 1

It is important the foundation of land navigation is built safely here. They will be using their new found skills again once they are Marines and move on to the School of Infantry.

"When technology fails and we have to break out the old school map and compass skills, that could be the difference between life or death," said Thomas. "Now that we have the basic knowledge of land navigation, it is our job to always exercise what we've learned and constantly learn more knowledge on the subject."

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, make their way through the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 1. After determining their pace count, recruits were paired up, given a set of coordinates that identified where their ammunition cans were located and sent out into the course to find them.





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HIGH PFT (300) Pvt. D. A. Caswell Las Vegas Recruited by Sgt. F. Valli



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#### **PLATOON 2127**

Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. B. Gooden Drill Instructors Sgt. M. T. Ambrose

#### **PLATOON 2127**

Senior Drill Instructor Sqt. B. Gooden **Drill Instructors** Sgt. M. T. Ambrose Sgt. J. F. Kenney

Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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Pvt. M. A	A. Wilkes	Pvt.	A. A. Garcia	DI A	TOON 2127		A. Olivares		M. A. Ayondiaz	Pfc.	G. E. Lopez
Pvt. D. M	M. Wright	Pvt.	J. R. Garciaadame II		ATOON 2127		J. S. Ortiz		A. M. Baltunis	Pfc.	A. Lunacastillo
Pvt. R. T.	T. Zakariasen	Pvt.	J. C. Gonzales		A. T. Ballard	Pvt.	K. A. Palacios		J. M. Bartley	Pfc.	D. D. Mann
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Pfc. G. P.	P. Amos		K. M. Leach		J. S. Cannon	Pvt.	M. K. Quinn Jr.	Pvt.	N. M. Clark	Pvt.	K. J. Pope
Pvt. J. W	I Androws		S. R. Lett	Pfc.	C. A. Chicas		M. E. Quintanilla	Pvt.	J. A. Coronado		L. E. Rasaphangthong
Pvt. K. F.	7 A 1.		M. C. Longo	Pvt.	J. Cisneros Jr.		J. Reilley	Pvt.	T. W. Cross		A. A. Reach
Pvt. M. A	A ** a a a a a		L. A. Lopez	Pfc.	C. L. Clark		L. A. Rodas	Pvt.	J. Cruz		B. R. Reno
Pvt. N. K	Z Archulata		L. C. Low	Pfc.	A. B. Completodelgado		D. J. Rodriguez	Pfc.	E. Cuencalopez		E. J. Reynolds
Pvt. E.P.	Atlanton		A. Lukso	Pvt.	I. J. Corichi		E. Rodriguezfigueroa	Pvt.	F. M. Donovan		A. R. Romero III
Pfc. G. R	Doobordsi		E. V. Lunavillasana	Pvt.	G. K. Crawford		D. M. Roehrborn	Pvt.	J. E. Duarte		M. Salido
Pvt. F. C.	Doilor III		S. A. Lynn	Pvt.	J. J. Cruz		B. J. Rohrig	Pfc.	J. L. Duran		J. M. Santos
*Pfc. C. Ba	oltozor		J. G. Macumber	Pvt.	T. J. Dalton		J. A. Samaniego	Pvt.	L. W. Ewing		J. A. Santos
Pvt. F. Ba	arrera			Pfc.	C. A. Davis		J. G. Sanders	Pvt.	S. M. Farouk		E. S. Schuldt
Pfc. J. A.	Rarron Ir		E. V. Magana T. M. Marlow	Pvt.	C. M. Delarosa		I. Santisteban	*Pfc.	K. D. Faulkner		W. J. Sipes
	A Donz			Pvt.	A. J. Duenas	Pfc.	S. C. Schoolfield Jr.	Pvt.	T. O. Foster	Pvt.	R. D. Slater
	Davida		C. J. Martin		S. M. Ealey	Pvt.	D. I. Somilleda		C. B. Franklandsearby		I. Sosa
	Dlask		S. J. Martin		J. Escobedo		A. N. Soto		A. M. Friend		
	Blaving		D. Martinez				D. A. Stolte		H. K. Frost		J. A. Sotodelgado
	D. Danda Ir		S. A. Martinez		J. Fleming		J. S. Swindall		C. R. Frovarp		D. J. Spangler
	Dardalla		M. H. Mckay		J. H. Flores II		R. Torresvasquez		J. Gaytan		D. A. Stillwagon
Pvt. H. B	D Doulein		C. C. Mckenzie		S. I. Gandara		-		C. L. Gill		A. L. Stryker
	Daylein		R. J. Mclain		J. M. Gange	_	M. A. Trujillo		L. E. Gocong		H. T. Tran
	Rrady		E. Merazcruz		M. S. Ghukasyan	Pfc.	V. L. Urickbrokus		M. Gomezpinedo		Q. G. Tran
Pvt. C. R	Dronum		T. S. Moore		D. A. Harr	Pvt.	E. S. Valdivieso		C. A. Gomoll		L. G. Urriza
	Decel Callen		D. L. Morgan		A. D. Hernandez		J. Valenzuela		J. T. Gray		R. Valencia
	Castallanama		J. Moua		S. T. Hobson		J. A. Vela		W. E. Hacker		N. A. Washburn
	Castillojimanaz		T. D. Mulvhill				O. T. Villagomez		Z. K. Harlow		M. E. Weiler
	Cogwell		F. Munguiaandrade		C. D. Hubble		A. J. Vizurraga		W. O. Hatley	Ptc.	Z. E. Zabawa
	A Championflores		D. Pinagomez		J. E. Johnson		D. L. Warren		J. D. Heikes	_	
	1.011		E. Romantiburcio		C. Kedjejian		B. J. Westfall			Se	emper Fi,
Pvt. A. S			M. Ron				T. J. Westhoff		B. L. Herrington		•
	C - 1 - 4		C. R. Sandoval		W. D. King		A. J. Weston		T. D. Holscher	1	Marines!
Pvt. B. D	). Coistoii	Pvt.	D. A. Sands	ΓVl.	J. E. Lampani Jr.	Pvt.	H. S. Willis	ΓVl.	T. L. Irvine		

# 1/8 conducts training in preparation for SPMAGTF-LCE Africa deployment

**STORY & PHOTO BY** CPL. MICHAEL DYE II Marine Expeditionary Staff Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, conducted scenario-based training at the Infantry Immersion Trainer in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Africa, aboard Camp Lejeune, Sept 28-Oct 1, 2015.

The Infantry Immersion Trainer is a scenario-based Military Operation in Urban Terrain training center. With actual buildings and walls built up, the warehouse is transformed into a life-like village similar to what a Marine would encounter in an African village.

"The training is being conducted to better train these Marines and sailors with embassy reinforcement and tactical recovery of personnel," said Vince Soto, the Infantry Immersion Trainer site lead.

When the scenario started, the Marines entered a small entryway and met with roleplayers acting as a foreign army. The Marines made their way into the village after a few minutes of conversing, where they set up a safety perimeter and engaged the mock army with various classes and demonstrations on Marine Corps tactics.

"I think the training that the Marines are going through is priceless," Soto said. "The feedback I get from the units that come through the IIT is that this training can't be replicated by training anywhere else with such life-like scenarios."

The IIT is just one way these Marines are able to better train and equip themselves with the skills needed for their

upcoming deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Logistical Command Element Africa.

"This is great training," said 1st Lt. Justin

Klein, a platoon commander with the unit. "[The unit] got a lot out of it. Working with interpreters and dealing with a military that does not speak the same language in a scenario-based training situation prior to arriving in country is a huge step in the right direction for us. This will allow

us to better pre-



Marines with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment meet with role players acting as an African army at the Infantry Immersion Trainer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 30, 2015. The training is designed to better prepare them for their upcoming deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Logistical Command Element

pare and understand what we need to do and how we can interact with the military prior to us arriving."

The training allowed the unit to understand what they can expect when they arrive in Africa.

"Another huge benefit we got from this training was [practicing] how to deal with key leader engagements," Klein said.

The Marines said they walked away from the training with a better understanding of what to expect during their deployment and more confidence in their upcoming mission.

"The Marines did great," Klein said. "I was most impressed with how well the Marines knew the individual skills they have been taught. We wanted to conduct an improvised explosive device-training lane to instruct the foreign military on things to look for when encountering IEDs. My guys were able to make mock IEDs and place them on the ground in very little time and executed the training in such a timely manner that I was really impressed."



A Marine holds security while other personnel assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment interact with role players acting as key African leaders at the Infantry Immersion Trainer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 30, 2015. The training is designed to better prepare them for their upcoming deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Logistical Command Element Africa.