



Midwestern educators visit depot

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Company D endures final test

Pg. 4

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CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Vol. 70 – No. 6 – COMPANY D

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

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Sgt. Carson Clover, combat water survival instructor, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, identifies his team's six targets before firing at the 200-yard line during the Depot Competition in Arms Program at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., Feb. 10. Shooters who do well at this competition join MCRD San Diego's shooting team and can fire at the division level to potentially compete at the Marine Corps shooting competition. See story, pictures on page 8. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron

Montford Point Marines share history with depot

BY PVT. LAUREN N. STEHWIEN
Chevron staff

It's not every day a person gets so fortunate as to having the ability to speak with someone who saw first hand what is only read in history books. For Black History Month, ten Montford Point Marines made their annual visit to the depot, Feb. 19, to inform others about their time in the military and the racial barriers they overcame.

The Montford Point Marines are the first black United States Marines. They earned the title Montford Point Marines because Montford Point, N.C., is the place where they attended boot camp. Montford Point was an all-black boot camp which was created because of racial segregation.

Before the presentation, the men sat in the depot theater allowing others to ask questions. Robert S. Hammond served as a Navy corpsman, and was one of the first black corpsman. He enlisted in 1943, and served with the Montford Point Marines until 1946. Hammond was the first president and founder of the Los Angeles chapter for the Montford Point Marines.

"Not many people know about the Montford Point Marines," said Hammond. "But I feel their story should be told. The charisma they projected on the American society at the time made people know we were citizens and willing to serve our country."

Once the presentation started, they each stood up and introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their time spent in the military and the history of Montford Point. After their introductions, a movie which told the stories of blacks in Marine Corps history was shown. The movie depicted the roles which blacks

played, the tribulations they overcame, and present-day blacks in the Marine Corps.

Following the movie, the guest speaker, retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert J. Reed, spoke about some of his first-hand experiences in the Marine Corps. In boot camp, Reed's senior drill instructor was the renowned Staff Sgt. Gilbert H. "Hashmark" Johnson, who was one of the first black Marines, and later accelerated to the rank of sergeant major. Montford Point, now named Camp Johnson, was named after him. During Reed's time in the Marine Corps, things were different for blacks. They were not able to choose their military occupational specialty and often given jobs no one else wanted.

Reed told of a time when he was questioned by a Vietnam veteran about where he went to boot camp. When Reed said Montford Point, the veteran gave him a look of disbelief because of how little the public was aware of the Montford Point Marines.

"At first I didn't know about the Montford Point Marines," said Lance Cpl. Janeisha D. Taylor, administrative clerk, recruit training regiment. "This was new to me. I feel like this should have been an all-hands presentation. The stories of these Marines should be taught in history books, at the very least taught during boot camp. This is a part of not only black history, but Marine Corps history."

After the guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding officer Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, awarded Reed with a letter of commendation for speaking on behalf of the Montford Point Marines that day.

"I am you, and you are me," he said to Reed. "If it wasn't for your sacrifices, I wouldn't be here."

Depot Marines recognized in national awards ceremony

BY LANCE CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

Three Marines from the Western Recruiting Region were recognized during the Commandant of the Marine Corps Combined Awards Ceremony at Harry Lee Hall, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Jan. 29.

Staff Sgt. Bryan J. Robbins, drill master, 1st Battalion Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, was named Drill Instructor of the Year. Gunnery Sgt. Joshua M. Shaffer, from Recruiting Station Indianapolis, 9th Marine Corps District, was named Recruiter of the Year. And Staff Sgt. Tyler A. Davis, from Recruiting Station Phoenix, 8th Marine Corps District, was runner-up for Recruiter of the Year.

The purpose of the CMC combined awards program is to provide CMC recognition for outstanding performance by recruiters, prior service recruiters, drill instructors, Marine combat instructors, Marine security guards and career retention specialists, according to Marine Corps Order 1650.39B.

The recognized Marines received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from the CMC and were meritoriously promoted to the next higher grade by Major Gen. Robert E. Milstead Jr., commanding general for Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Staff Sgt. Bryan J. Robbins, drill master, 1st Battalion Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego,

was named Drill Instructor of the Year.

Drill Instructor of the Year is determined through selection boards. A nominee from each recruit depot is screened by a selection board convened by the commanding general from Training and Education Command.

Shaffer competed against more than 3,000 recruiters nationwide to earn Recruiter of the Year from every district competed.

"I didn't expect to win," said Shaffer, from Recruiting Station Indianapolis, 9th Marine Corps District, who was named recruiter of the year. "I expected to be the underdog and it was a pleasant surprise to learn I had won."

There was very good competition, all of us are very good recruiters as well as Marines, said Shaffer, who was meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant.

"I am very passionate about my job and the Marine Corps," said Shaffer. "It shows in my work."

Staff Sgt. Tyler A. Davis, from Recruiting Station Phoenix, 8th Marine Corps District, was runner-up for recruiter of the year.

"It was an honor to make it that high," said Davis. "I never thought I was doing so well on a national level."

Recruiter of the Year and runner-up is determined through selection boards. A nominee from each recruiting district is screened by a selection board convened by Maj. Gen. Milstead.

"All too often we forget just how special our Corps is," said Maj. Gen. Milstead, "Wars are fought by weapons, but won by people. It's the people who are important."



Marine Corps recruiters, prior service recruiters, drill instructors, and career retention specialists, receive awards during the Commandant of the Marine Corps Combined Award Ceremony at Harry Lee Hall, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Jan. 29. The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Robert E. Milstead, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Lance Cpl. Derek Meitzer/Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.



Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, third from right, poses with the Marines and sailors of the quarter in the CG's conference room Feb. 12. The awardees are, from left to right, Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Sgt. Patrick McGrath; Senior Sailor of the Quarter, Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Fitzwater; Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Petty Officer 2nd Class Larry Ramos; Marine of the Quarter, Lance Cpl. Devin Farley; and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Seaman Albert Mayoyo. *Sgt. Carrie C. Booze/Chevron*

SMP Marines get extreme in Aspen

BY CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

The Single Marine Program board members spent three days on a team building event at the Winter X Games in Aspen Colo., Jan. 28-31. The trip served as a way for the board members to get together and brainstorm ideas for future SMP events while enjoying time in the mountains.

During the trip, they enjoyed two days of extreme snow sports at Aspen's Buttermilk Mountain Resort. The resort was the home of the 2010 Winter X Games, where athletes competed for the chance to take home the gold in skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling. Spectators packed into viewing areas to watch the competitions and see various concerts by rap artists 50 Cent, Snoop Dogg and DJ Sky, who performed during breaks in the events. This was the ninth consecutive Winter X Games held in Aspen.

Between watching the competitions and performances, the Marines found time to enjoy snowboarding on the mountain.

"We are up here enjoying the chance to snowboard in Aspen," said Lowell Muenchau, SMP coordinator, Marine

Corps Community Service. "But the trip hasn't been all play; we have discussed a lot of ways to make the Single Marine Program better."

The Single Marine Program is a group of Marines and sailors who plan on and off-base activities and community involvement opportunities for single Marines and sailors.

The program supports the overall quality of life of our Marines and sailors, and encourages them to plan recreational and social activities, which offers them the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their respective communities.

The trip was also a way for the board members to get together in a fun, casual environment and get to know each other said Muenchau.

"As board members, they are responsible for helping me come up with things the Single Marine Program does, as well as taking charge of the planning and coordinating of the events," said Muenchau. "They tell me what they would like to do, what the Marines would like to do, and my job is to try and make those things happen. They put in a lot of hard work and this trip is just a way to thank them."



Professional snowboarders hit the trails and show off their tricks during the 2010 Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo., Jan. 29. Single Marine Program board members spent three days on a team building event there.

Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron



Sgt. Maj. Karl D. Simburger, center, receives orders from Lt. Col. Melanie A. Mercan, commanding officer, Support Battalion, left, before passing the battalion noncommissioned officer sword to 1st Sgt. Spencer J. Beacham, right, during a post and relief ceremony on Sheperd Memorial Drill Field, Feb. 19. Upon leaving the depot, Simburger will report to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he will serve as the battalion sergeant major. *Pvt. Lauren Stehwien/Chevron*

BRIEFS

EFMP Activity & Resource Expo

There will be an Exceptional Family Member Program Activity & Resource Expo tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the depot Fieldhouse. This event is for all families enrolled in the EFM Program and will include activities, interactive demonstrations, over 40 agencies from local and national organizations providing information and resources and a fun zone.

Military Saves Financial Seminar

A Military Saves Financial Seminar will be offered to all eligible patrons Tuesday from 8 to 11 a.m. at the depot theater. Learn how to build wealth, develop a personal financial plan, establish good credit and take charge of your financial future. For information, call (619) 524-5728

CG's Cup horseshoe tournament

Registration for the CG horseshoe tournament is March 8, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Health Promotions Training Room at the Fitness Center. There will be a singles one-day event hosted at the MCRD Boathouse, March 16. Doubles will be on March 17. Open to MCRD active duty and MCCS DoD/NaFi employees aboard the depot. For information, call (619) 524-0548.

MCRD Surf Team

MCRD San Diego needs active duty team members aboard the depot to surf competitively. No experience is necessary, only dedication. For information, contact Capt. Borrelli, at (619) 524-4324 or at nicholas.borrelli@usmc.mil.

Semper Fit Strolling

Semper Fit Strolling classes are open to authorized depot personnel Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center. For information, call (619)524-4427 or (619) 524-8465.

Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program plans on and off base activities and community involvement for single Marines and sailors.

The program supports the overall quality of life of our Marines and sailors. It encourages the planning of recreational and social activities and offers them the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their communities.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, Bldg. 590. This meeting is for activity and event planning as well as addressing quality of life issues for all MCRD single Marines and sailors. Free pizza and soda will be provided for all attendees.

Volunteers needed for televised spots

Marine Corps Community Services televises "What's Happening at MCCS," a weekly segment on upcoming events throughout the depot and is looking for volunteers to narrate. Candidates can be active military, DoD civilians, or military dependants aboard the depot. Taping takes 30 minutes reading a prepared script. For information, contact Rachel Landolt, MCCS Coordinator, at landoltrr@usmc-mccs.org.

Send briefs to:

MCRDSDPAO@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.



Staff Sgt. Ismael Alicea, chief drill instructor, Company A, corrects an educator as she fumbles with her items after being instructed to face the opposite direction while on the depot's yellow footprints during an Educator Workshop Feb. 23. Drill instructors give the educators a sense of urgency receiving recruits feel when they first step foot on the depot and throughout recruit training. Sgt. Carrie C. Booze/Chevron

Midwestern educators taste life as Marine Corps recruits

BY LANCE CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

High school administrators, teachers and counselors from Recruiting Stations Milwaukee, Wis., and St. Louis, Mo., participated in a week-long synopsis of Marine Corps recruit training during the Educators Workshop Monday through today.

The educators began their first day aboard the depot by quickly getting greeted by the notorious Marine Corps drill instructors the same way every new recruit experiences the memorable introduction.

When the bus screeched to a halt in front of the famous yellow footprints, drill instructors quickly bombarded the vehicles and made their intimidating presence known to the seated educators.

After yelling for the educators to exit the bus and line up on the yellow footprints, the drill instructors paced up and down the rows, barking orders and ensuring the educators were snapping into the proper position of attention.

Following several minutes of organized chaos, the drill instructors stopped yelling and took a moment and congratulated the educators for surviving the first two minutes of recruit training.

The educators were then taken on a tour of the rest of the receiving process by their

drill instructor guides.

"Having drill instructors as guides make this experience have a greater sense of reality," said Dr. Rebecca Donna, criminal justice and forensics program director, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, Ill. "They share their personal experience with excitement and give us a feel for the environment."

But the drill instructors didn't glorify everything. The drill instructors explained the pleasant and less-than-pleasant aspects of training and made it clear how it could be a very positive experience for many individuals, said Donna.

The educators also attended classroom briefs describing the entire enlistment process, including recruiting, joining the Marine Corps, boot camp graduation, the Fleet Marine Force and Marines' lifestyles.

The educators also visited various training sites aboard the depot. They watched demonstrations of water survival training at the depot Swim Tank; Marines tackling the confidence course; and also received a class and some brief training on the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Since Eric Rankin, assistant principal, Dakota Junior Senior High School, Dakota, Ill., didn't have any expectations before being introduced to MCMAP, he learned how important it was for Marines to know how to defend

themselves in various types of situations they may find themselves in.

Educators were also invited at the end of the first day to take part in the Bayonet Assault Course on the depot.

During this course, educators maneuvered through multiple obstacles; crawled through tunnels; and navigated a rope bridge, all suited in flak jackets and Kevlar

helmets, while carrying rubber M-16A2 service rifles with training bayonets attached to engage the training targets, completing the course.

"It was very difficult," said Catalina Hernandez, college advisor, Springfield Southeast High School, Springfield, Ill. "I underestimated the weight and responsibility of all the gear and the rifle."

The educators also visited

Edson Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness recruits firing weapons, field training and watch Company H participate in the Emblem Ceremony.

Educators leaving the depot today said that they now have a better understanding of the Marine Corps and the young men and women who embody it.



William Plant, social studies teacher, Mukwonago High School, Mukwonago, Wis., underestimates the height of his Kevlar helmet as his helmet flies off his head while finding his way through the depot's modified Bayonet Assault Course. Sgt. Carrie C. Booze/Chevron

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PFC. DUSTIN HAMBY
PVT. LAUREN STEHWIEN

EDITOR
ROGER EDWARDS
MAIL COMMENTS TO:
MCRDSDPAO@usmc.mil

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92140
(619) 524-8722

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JUDGMENT DAY

Company D undergoes final inspection, test

BY SGT. CARRIE C. BOOZE
Chevron staff

The new Marines of Company D stood still and poised in their Service "A" uniforms on the depot's Shepherd Memorial Drill Field, during the Battalion Commander's Inspection, Feb. 23.

After being endlessly tested both physically and mentally, the Battalion Commander's Inspection is the final assessment the recruit will go through before graduating from boot camp. During the inspection, they are tested on bearing, appearance and Marine Corps knowledge.

Marines pride themselves on immaculate uniforms and being detail-oriented, therefore, the new Marines began to prepare their uniforms and weapons for inspection the afternoon they returned from the Crucible.

"Inspection is important because it ensure the senior leadership that the new Marines are basically trained and can conduct themselves in a

confident manner," said Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Wood, chief drill instructor, Company D.

In addition to their uniforms looking top-notch, it is also important for the Marines to memorize Marine Corps knowledge, which they have been learning and building upon since they first stepped on the yellow footprints as recruits.

"They are asked questions about customs and courtesies, weapons handling, chain of command, rank structure, uniform regulations and Marine Corps history," Gunnery Sgt. Noel Dominquez, chief drill instructor, Co. D. "They are going to need to know this basic knowledge in the Marine Corps."

The Marines were also required to memorize their rifle serial numbers the first day they had them issued. They had to recite the number when they hand their rifle to their inspector.

"They have had this weapon for 3 months and they need to be responsible for their gear," said Dominquez. "We have preached accountabil-

ity since day one. If a Marine loses his rifle, the repercussions would be immense."

The inspection can last up to 3 hours, and can be very strenuous on the Marines as they stand under the beaming San Diego sun.

"Anytime we do anything that involves standing for hours on end I remind them to keep their knees slightly bent, to inconspicuously switch weight from left to right and to make sure they are sufficiently hydrated," said Wood. "But by this time in training, they are used to standing a lot."

There are always benches and jugs of cold water present behind the formation for Marines who become heat casualties.

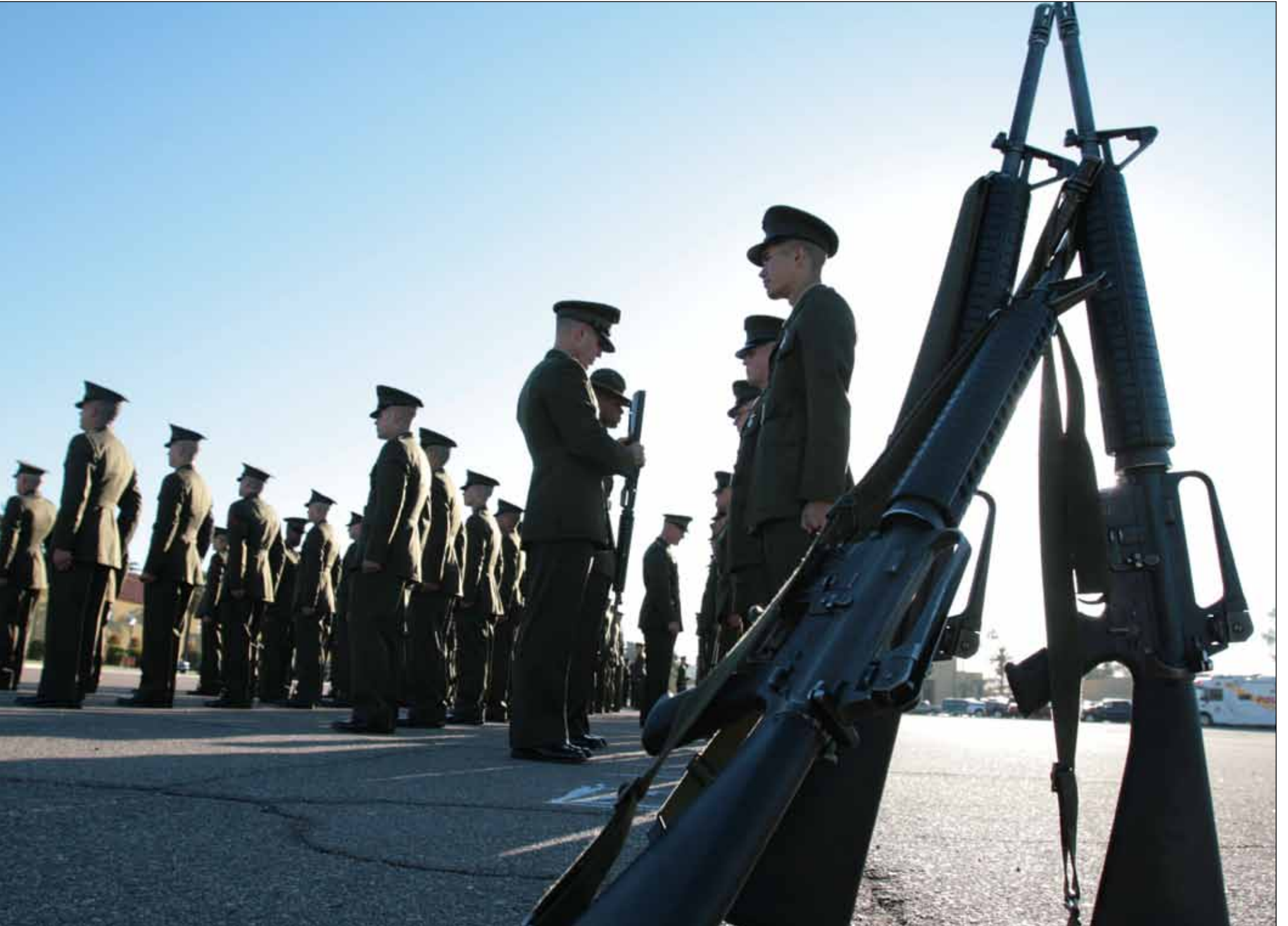
Once the inspection is over, the Marines return to their squad bays and prepare to inventory all of their gear in preparation for their departure from the depot later that week. The next time the recruits step foot on the parade deck they will be leaving as America's newest United States Marines.



Staff Sgt. Cyle Burton, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1066, Co. D, corrects Pfc. David Sichmeller's, Platoon 1066, Co. D, Service "A" uniform, during the Battalion Commander's Inspection. Inspection is the final assessment a recruit will go through before graduating b

Capt. Michael Green, series commander, Co. D, right, inspects Pvt. David Sichmeller's, Platoon 1066, Co. D, Service "A" uniform, during the Battalion Commander's Inspection. During the inspection, Marines are required to recite memorized Marine Corps knowledge and their rifle serial numbers. Cpl. Jennifer B. Poole/12th MCD

With son
Memoria



Some of their weapons neatly stacked, the new Marines of Company D stand at the position of attention, during the Battalion Commander's Inspection on the depot's Shepherd Hill Drill Field, Feb. 23. The inspection can last up to three hours and can be very strenuous on the Marines as they wait under the San Diego sun. *Cpl. Jennifer B. Poole/12th MCD*



Nicholas Temple, Platoon 1066, Co. D. The Battalion Commander's inspection. *Cpl. Jennifer B. Poole/12th MCD*



Pvt. William Smith, Platoon 1066, Co. D, completes inspection arms, a position in the manual of arms in which the rifle is held at port arms with the chamber open showing it is empty, before handing his weapon to his inspector. *Cpl. Jennifer B. Poole/12th MCD*

Recruit learns how to train effectively

BY PFC. DUSTIN R. HAMBY
Chevron staff

Tall, lanky and with a bright smile, Recruit Lucas J. Stalker, Platoon 1066, Company D, looks forward to going to the Fleet Marine Force after training and starting his career.

Stalker, 25, attended University of California, Berkley, with intent to get ahead and succeed.

"It was a great school, but, I started to lose focus," said Stalker.

Stalker, a native of Napa, Calif., said he grew bored of his classes because he thought they were too theoretical and often overtly critical of the United States. He said he found a better middle ground with the Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps offered solutions for how to solve problems that this country faces," he said. "Whereas, Berkley talked a lot about what was wrong with the U.S. without offering solutions on how to fix it. I saw the Marine Corps as a place for action and not talk."

During his time in college, Stalker said he began to gravitate towards cultural anthropology, Middle Eastern studies and military science.

"I joined the local Reserve Officer's Training Corps and began to focus on bettering myself," he said. "I was setting goals."

Promptly after graduating with a bachelor degree in anthropology, Stalker reported to the Officer Candidates School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in the winter of 2008 thanks to encouragement from his ROTC unit.

Stalker said he was encouraged to join the Army, but thought better of it because of how he saw how Marines hold honor, courage and commitment up as core values.

"I was very interested in becoming an officer," he said. "But, after a series of family issues came to light, I had to drop out of school."

However, Stalker did not let failure keep him down. Shortly thereafter he joined the police academy in Napa. For six months, Stalker trained to become a policeman.

"It was pretty similar to boot camp," he said. "However, it was more academic than physical."

After applying to position at the San Francisco Police Department, he was denied a job due to the lack of positions available, said Stalker.

Stalker said he had not forgotten about the Marine Corps and realized that becoming a Marine was what he wanted after all. He decided to enlist and left six months later.

Stalker said his biggest challenge in recruit training was dealing with young recruits.

"I loved how recruit training was a melting pot," said Stalker. "We had one recruit from Nebraska, one from Pakistan, and another from England. It showed how, even though we come from different backgrounds, we can work as one team."

Gunnery Sgt. Michael M. Freeman, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1066, Co. D, said Stalker brings maturity and experience into recruit training.

"He helps other recruits out when they were stuck," Freeman said. "He was able to help in an array of subjects, really kept the platoon together, and fostered a sense of teamwork."

Following graduation, Stalker will take ten days of leave before reporting to Marine Combat Training Battalion at the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. After MCT, Stalker will attend school to become a data systems network specialist.



Recruit Lucas J. Stalker, Platoon 1066, Company D, said that after four weeks of Officer Candidates School, six months of police academy, and three months of Marine Corps boot camp, he is ready to put to use all of his training. Pfc. Dustin R. Hamby/Chevron

Bronze Star recipient brings experience to the drill field



Staff Sgt. Cyle J. Burton, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1066, Company D, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal after enduring a four day battle with insurgents in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pfc. Dustin R. Hamby/Chevron

BY PFC. DUSTIN R. HAMBY
Chevron staff

To become a drill instructor, a Marine needs dedication, a sense of willpower and life experience. Staff Sgt. Cyle J. Burton, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1066, Company D, possessed all of these Marine-making characteristics.

Burton, a native of Haverhill, Mass., said he joined the Marine Corps because he wanted to travel and see the world. So he enlisted and become an infantryman, making one of the best decisions he ever made, he said.

Burton served a tour in Afghanistan from November 2001 to February 2002, and two in Iraq from 2006 to 2008.

It was during his first tour in Iraq that Burton had a life experience that he said he would never forget.

While serving as squad leader, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Burton protected an observation post against three separate attacks.

"The enemy was trying to force us out of position, but I would not let that happen," he said. "We managed to hold off the enemy for almost four days."

While under intense enemy small arms, machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire, and a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack, Burton managed to gain fire superiority. He highlighted the enemy with M-240G machine gun fire, which allowed air assets to drop a GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munition, successfully silencing the insurgents.

When Burton received a Bronze Star Medal for his gallant actions, he said he felt honored.

"It was difficult," he said. "Receiving the award proved that I had accomplished something important to not only me, but to my Marines as well."

Burton said this kind of life experience transferred well into recruit training. Since this is his first recruit training cycle as a senior drill instructor, he has had much more time to share his experiences on Marine Expeditionary Units, in the field and the fleet with his recruits.

"Before I was a drill instructor, I also served as a combat instructor at the School of Infantry," Burton said. "I am able to tell my recruits what to expect down the road in their training."

"It is important to show

recruits how to work through pressure and to understand pain," he said. "I always stress to worry about others before yourself. It is about selflessness."

Burton said he cannot wait to return to Afghanistan and get "back into the fight".

"This is why they train Marines," he said. "I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I love being in the midst of battle, where camaraderie and danger intermix."

In a personal letter from Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kerry, he said Burton's leadership and bravery saved many lives. Kerry said it was Burton's ability to think quickly and keep his composure that allowed him to excel under fire.

"You certainly make your family and all of Massachusetts proud," Kerry said. "You are a true American hero."

Col. R. L. Grabowski

Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. R. L. Grabowski was born in Shreveport, La. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1975 and after graduating from high school in Iowa, he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in 1976. Completing recruit training, Grabowski was directed to report to the Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for instruction as an antitank assault man for the 106 mm recoilless rifle. Upon completion of his training, he was directed to report for duty with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.

In August 1978, Grabowski was reassigned to MCRD San Diego for drill instructor duty. During this tour, he served as both assistant drill instructor and senior drill instructor for several training platoons.

In August 1980, Grabowski left the Marine Corps to pursue a college education. From 1980 to 1982, he worked as a correctional officer at the Iowa Maximum Security Prison in Fort Madison.

In June 1983, Grabowski was selected to participate in the Combined Platoon Leaders Course in Quantico, Va. In May 1984,

he graduated from Northeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and was commissioned a second lieutenant.

In 1984, Grabowski reported for duty to The Basic School in Quantico, Va. After graduation, he attended the Infantry Officer Course and was designated an infantry platoon commander.

Grabowski's first infantry assignment was with 3rd Bn., 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he served in billets ranging from weapons platoon commander; rifle company executive officer; weapons company executive officer; and Headquarters and Service Company commander.

In August 1989, Grabowski was assigned to the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, where he served as a training company commander in both Marine Combat Training Bn. and Infantry Training Bn. He also served as the school's chief instructor, and eventually as company commander for the Advanced Infantry Training Course which trained both infantry platoon sergeants and squad leaders.

In August 1992, Grabowski attended the U.S. Army's Advanced Infantry Officers Course in Fort Benning, Ga.

In March 1993, he was reassigned to 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines at Camp Lejeune,

where he served in various billets ranging from weapons company commander, battalion fire support coordinator, and battalion operations officer. During his tour as the operations officer, Grabowski participated in Operation Uphold Democracy as a member of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Caribbean in and around Cape Haitian, Haiti.

In July 1995, Grabowski was reassigned as the operations officer for the 2nd Marine Regiment.

In August 1996, Grabowski attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Va.

In August 1997, he was screened and selected to Recruiting Station Cleveland.

In September 2000, Grabowski was reassigned to Headquarters Bn., 2nd Marine Division where he served as the deputy assistant chief of staff for readiness, and as an assistant operations officer for the division.

In December 2001, Grabowski was assigned to the 2nd Marine Regiment, where he took command of 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, and participated in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon completion of his command tour, Grabowski was directed to attend top-level school at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Penn.

In September 2004, Grabowski was assigned to U.S. Joint Forces Command, Joint Warfighting Center, in Suffolk, Va., where he served as the accreditation and certification group chief.

Promoted to colonel in January 2006, Grabowski was selected to command the 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District, in Garden City, New York.

Grabowski is currently assigned as the chief of staff, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Eastern Recruiting Region Parris Island, S.C.





Platoon 1066 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. D. J. Sichmeller San Diego Recruited by Staff Sgt. V. Hernandez	Platoon 1062 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. G. J. Civin Des Moines, Iowa Recruited by Sgt. R. A. Chavez	Platoon 1061 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. G. Sasamoto San Jose, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. A. Cardoza	Platoon 1063 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. A. Abraham San Antonio Recruited by Sgt. J. P. Shumake	Platoon 1065 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. R. M. Guzman San Diego Recruited by Staff Sgt. N. B. Knight	Platoon 1067 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. A. Snyder Saginaw, Mich. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. L. Dees	Platoon 1067 HIGH SHOOTER (335) Pfc. D. W. Slovacek Victoria, Texas Marksanship Instructor Sgt. L. Morales	Platoon 1067 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. C. A. Snyder Saginaw, Mich. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. L. Dees
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DELTA COMPANY

1ST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. C. M. Cromwell
Executive Officer
Maj. P. M. Ghiozzi
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. K. Williams
Chaplain
Lt. j.g. D. J. Carlson
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. M. A. Harris

COMPANY D

Commanding Officer
Capt. G. T. Jensen
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. D. L. Rush

SERIES 1061

Series Commander
Capt. M. W. Green
Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. W. Wood

PLATOON 1061

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. L. J. Poorman II
Drill Instructors
Sgt. J. J. Fields
Sgt. J. Nunez
Sgt. A. J. Moreno
Sgt. M. A. Saldana

Pvt. R. A. Alvarez
Pvt. B. R. Anderson
Pvt. B. L. Barnhart
Pvt. A. J. Beatty
Pvt. T. J. Bogatitus
Pfc. T. L. Bowman
Pfc. J. C. Brisky
Pvt. T. A. Bryson
Pvt. M. K. Campbell
Pvt. E. Carbajal
Pvt. W. J. Carrier Jr.
Pvt. J. R. Clark
Pvt. C. J. Cowan
*Pfc. G. J. Dean
Pvt. J. E. Delgado
Pfc. A. C. Desson
Pvt. G. Diaz
Pvt. D. J. Fitzgerald
Pvt. C. R. Francis
Pvt. M. A. Garcia
Pvt. V. M. Garcia
Pfc. R. R. Gardiner
Pvt. T. E. Garrett
Pvt. R. J. Geraghty
Pvt. A. J. Gomez
Pvt. T. L. Gotter
Pvt. C. Gutierrez Jr.
Pvt. D. L. Hamilton
Pvt. M. J. Hansen
Pfc. R. S. Hartz
Pfc. T. D. Hecht
Pvt. J. A. Hernandez
Pvt. G. L. Houser
Pvt. O. Huerta
Pvt. M. L. Jennings
Pvt. J. A. Johnston
Pvt. D. L. Jones
*Pfc. R. C. Klaus
Pvt. A. B. Kramvik
Pvt. G. S. La Barge
Pfc. K. D. Lassiter
Pvt. L. R. Laurita
Pfc. S. C. Link
Pfc. D. P. Lipka
Pfc. S. M. Loder
*Pfc. S. E. Loua
Pfc. M. R. Maese II
Pvt. S. P. McClure
Pfc. J. D. Merchant
Pvt. M. S. Nalevanko
Pvt. R. R. Neveau
Pvt. J. R. Newton
Pvt. T. Ngwenya
Pvt. C. C. Ogden
Pvt. T. J. Perez
*Pfc. J. G. Sasamoto
Pvt. C. A. Schroeder
Pfc. N. A. Scolari
Pvt. Z. N. Stevens
Pvt. D. B. Towne
*Pfc. M. J. Van Rite

PLATOON 1062

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. F. J. Turley Jr.

Drill Instructors

Staff Sgt. F. Lopez
Staff Sgt. J. D. Niemeyer
Sgt. D. Ferreira

Pvt. M. Acosta Jr.
Pvt. C. R. Baldwin
*Pfc. D. J. Bamba
*Pfc. A. D. Barber
Pfc. J. E. Bartels Jr.
Pvt. A. D. Bell
Pvt. C. J. Bell
Pvt. E. K. Berens
Pvt. E. A. Berg
Pvt. B. L. Blume
Pfc. C. D. Boyd
Pvt. Z. T. Boykin
Pfc. J. A. Brunk
Pvt. A. D. Burgess
Pvt. J. N. Buster
Pfc. T. A. Calhoun
Pvt. S. M. Castro
Pvt. S. J. Chacko
Pvt. B. M. Chironna
Pfc. G. J. Civin
Pfc. B. M. Conklin
Pvt. D. A. Covarrubias
Pvt. B. R. Cox
Pvt. T. J. Daly
Pvt. M. D. Darney
*Pfc. T. D. Davis Jr.
Pvt. S. M. Dessert
Pvt. M. E. Douglas
Pvt. T. M. Fisher
Pfc. D. M. Fletcher
Pvt. A. R. Friely Jr.
Pvt. J. C. Frum
Pvt. D. S. Fulton
Pvt. J. R. Fulton
Pfc. W. K. Gilliam Jr.
Pvt. J. P. Gitch
Pvt. J. A. Gossett
Pfc. J. A. Hilligiest
Pvt. S. A. Hoeke
Pfc. S. C. Hoffman
Pvt. J. C. Howard
Pvt. N. R. Jackson
Pfc. Z. S. Jennings
Pfc. B. T. Kieffer
Pvt. B. M. Knickerbocker
Pvt. T. T. Le Blanc
Pvt. N. J. Leisey
Pvt. G. E. Lilley IV
Pvt. A. W. Linkous
*Pfc. B. G. Lybrand
Pvt. D. J. Macias
Pvt. E. Manybeads
Pvt. B. S. McElhaney
Pfc. Z. N. Mei
Pvt. T. C. Moore
*Pfc. B. A. Mueller
Pvt. C. D. Myllykangas
Pvt. R. J. Ochoa Jr.
Pvt. V. Olivian Jr.
Pvt. J. P. Olson
Pfc. J. A. Oseguera
Pvt. N. X. Sklare

PLATOON 1063

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. Donatus
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. E. Bergeron
Staff Sgt. D. A. Sallase
Sgt. J. J. Hodges
Sgt. B. L. McBride

*Pfc. D. A. Abraham
Pvt. M. A. Alamo
Pvt. C. G. Arellano
Pvt. E. Argumedo
Pvt. M. M. Armolea
Pfc. J. R. Armstrong
Pvt. J. W. Browning
Pfc. N. S. Brykovski
Pvt. M. A. Carrillo Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Christiansen
Pvt. J. A. Cincoski
Pvt. D. A. Conley
Pfc. J. M. De Vivo
Pvt. S. L. Eckler
Pvt. R. W. Edwards
Pfc. G. E. Eifert III
Pvt. J. B. Elkins
*Pfc. J. A. Espinoza
Pvt. R. A. Ferreira III
Pvt. M. K. Fielding
Pvt. L. K. Fields

Pvt. T. A. Garber
Pfc. C. R. Garrett
Pvt. D. A. Gasca
Pfc. D. Gomez
Pvt. C. J. Ham
Pfc. C. B. Harwell
Pvt. P. E. Hernandez
Pvt. K. A. Holmes
*Pfc. M. D. Jaskolski
Pvt. I. N. Jones
Pfc. T. L. Keith Jr.
Pvt. J. A. Klacke
Pvt. T. C. Kuehl
Pfc. T. J. Kuplic
*Pfc. F. P. Lake
Pvt. M. A. Lawson
Pvt. G. A. Limon
Pvt. K. D. Manthey
Pvt. E. M. Martinez
Pfc. M. W. McKelvey
Pfc. J. L. Meade
Pvt. F. A. Mendoza
Pvt. E. T. Meyers
Pvt. R. A. Molina
Pvt. A. T. Negrete
Pvt. J. M. Novak
Pfc. M. M. Ouille
Pvt. J. H. Palomo
Pfc. J. C. Panora
Pfc. A. V. Pasierb
Pvt. V. S. Penev
Pvt. J. C. Rimel
Pvt. J. S. Rockey
Pvt. J. T. Slavens
*Pfc. K. W. Tuberville
Pvt. J. Vasquez
Pvt. J. M. Vian
Pvt. T. W. Vian
Pvt. L. J. Wehmeyer
Pvt. R. B. Wilson

SERIES 1065

Series Commander
Capt. D. E. Trafican
Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. N. S. Dominguez

PLATOON 1065

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. R. Virto
Drill Instructors
Sgt. S. D. Argueta
Sgt. C. Z. Cajas
Sgt. L. B. Fuentes
Sgt. J. G. Parada

Pvt. D. N. Ainsworth
*Pfc. A. A. Balthazor
Pvt. M. Barajas-Martinez
Pfc. R. E. Bascom
Pfc. C. R. Bennett
Pvt. C. D. Brown
Pvt. E. D. Buntain
Pfc. B. J. Cardin
Pvt. B. A. Carr
Pvt. A. L. Carrisoza
Pvt. B. K. Castille
Pvt. H. R. Contreras
Pvt. R. M. Cortes Jr.
Pvt. D. G. Criner
Pfc. G. L. Dahler
Pvt. R. L. Diaz II
Pfc. G. J. Dominguez
Pfc. B. K. Dyer
Pvt. C. J. Erickson
Pvt. A. Escamilla
*Pfc. J. Escandon
Pvt. D. A. Galindo
Pvt. E. Y. Gerson
Pvt. I. Y. Gerson
Pfc. R. M. Guzman
Pvt. J. M. Hall
Pvt. K. M. Hardesty
Pfc. A. Hernandez
Pvt. D. Hernandez
*Pfc. J. V. Hernandez III
Pvt. L. A. Herrera-Ortiz
Pfc. D. R. Horton
Pvt. C. N. Huerta
Pfc. T. A. Hulak
Pvt. N. L. Hutloff
Pvt. D. L. Karvonen
Pvt. M. R. Kendall
Pfc. J. M. Kevianne
Pvt. D. E. Killam
Pfc. J. Lara

Pfc. S. T. Likuqolo
Pvt. D. D. Mann
Pvt. A. H. Martinez
Pvt. C. Martinez
Pvt. V. Martinez-Villalobos
Pvt. V. T. Mayville
Pfc. R. Muniz
Pvt. J. Navarrete
Pvt. E. J. Olson
Pvt. C. J. Ordaz
Pvt. J. S. Parman
Pvt. S. M. Peltier
Pvt. D. A. Pena Jr.
Pfc. J. M. Peterson III
Pvt. I. A. Plummer
Pvt. B. A. Price
Pvt. S. S. Purcell
Pvt. C. R. Ranney
*Pfc. K. T. Reynolds
Pvt. B. L. Rhoades
Pvt. M. M. Rickey
Pvt. S. M. Teague

PLATOON 1066

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. C. J. Burton
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. Dan
Staff Sgt. B. A. Guild
Sgt. X. M. Castillo

Pfc. O. A. Ada
Pvt. J. I. Anzaldua
Pvt. A. J. Bills
Pfc. M. S. Borunda-Reyes
Pfc. S. P. Brown
Pfc. S. M. Dubose
Pfc. J. W. Fields
Pvt. E. B. Gajonera
Pvt. M. J. Horack
Pvt. C. A. Hudzik
Pvt. A. Johnson
Pvt. B. S. Kessinger
Pfc. J. T. Knoll
Pvt. L. R. Leiter
Pfc. B. M. Mack
Pvt. F. K. MacKenzie
Pfc. B. J. McCloskey
Pfc. J. B. McFeely
Pfc. G. V. Mester
Pvt. J. W. Morris
Pfc. T. A. Nguyen
Pvt. A. Penaloza
Pvt. C. C. Petrick
Pvt. B. A. Pooley
Pvt. K. W. Potts
Pfc. J. J. Ramirez
Pvt. C. J. Rathmann
Pvt. A. R. Redding
Pfc. P. Regalado
Pfc. J. Reyes
Pvt. W. B. Robertson
Pfc. J. O. Rocha
Pvt. K. P. Rodriguez
Pvt. R. D. Sanchez
Pvt. T. C. Seaver
*Pfc. F. Serna
*Pfc. D. J. Sichmeller
*Pfc. C. E. Slack
*Pfc. W. M. Smith
Pvt. V. H. Solis
Pvt. M. A. Sorto
Pvt. C. I. Stubbs
Pvt. D. Swick
Pvt. D. Y. Taylor
Pfc. N. J. Temple
Pvt. J. A. Thibodeaux
Pvt. N. Tirre
Pvt. R. A. Torres
Pvt. C. J. Trujillo
Pvt. J. S. Uber
Pvt. G. J. Underwood
Pvt. K. Vang
Pvt. R. C. Vargas
Pvt. M. Villa
Pfc. K. J. Voda
Pvt. W. R. Washburn
Pvt. G. W. Weamer-Lee
Pvt. E. F. Wesonig
Pvt. J. D. Williams
Pfc. E. J. Williams
Pfc. B. Yaw
Pvt. R. J. Zavrid

PLATOON 1067

Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. M. M. Freeman

Drill Instructors

Gunnery Sgt. J. A. Clarke
Staff Sgt. K. M. Avelar
Staff Sgt. R. M. Cheatham
Staff Sgt. H. S. Hernandez

Pvt. J. T. Homan
Pfc. C. E. Koontz
Pfc. H. Nadeem
Pvt. P. A. O'Neal
Pvt. B. G. Otlewski
*Pfc. D. D. Otterson
Pfc. D. R. Phariss
Pvt. S. H. Phelps Jr.
Pvt. B. J. Plehn
Pfc. Z. C. Resor
Pvt. J. A. Rivera
Pvt. J. A. Rodriguez
Pvt. J. H. Romero-Garcia
Pvt. W. R. Rosas
Pvt. M. A. Rubior
Pvt. R. J. Sagostroud
Pvt. R. Salas Jr.
Pvt. Z. A. Sales
Pvt. A. R. Sandoval
Pvt. A. J. Schap
Pvt. K. B. Schiemann
Pfc. J. J. Schlag
Pvt. D. L. Schoenborn
Pvt. J. A. Shaver
Pvt. R. B. Shilts
Pfc. N. B. Simmons
*Pfc. J. R. Skolek
*Pfc. D. W. Slovacek
Pvt. K. R. Smith
Pvt. D. R. Snow
*Pvt. B. E. Snyder
Pfc. C. A. Snyder
Pvt. B. F. Soden
Pfc. J. E. Solispasillas
Pvt. D. A. Solnak
Pvt. C. A. Somers
Pvt. A. L. Soria
Pvt. A. Soto
Pfc. L. J. Stalker
Pvt. S. F. Steffens
Pvt. M. T. Sternquist
Pvt. K. C. Stone
Pvt. W. G. Sullivan
Pvt. C. L. Swanguarim
Pvt. J. R. Thomas
Pvt. J. T. Tigertn
Pvt. N. L. Tsosie
Pvt. M. A. Turner
*Pfc. R. C. Turpin
Pvt. D. M. Van Der Kooy
Pvt. E. A. Vargas
Pvt. A. T. Vergara
Pvt. N. P. Virivong
Pvt. J. T. Wacasey
Pvt. B. K. Walker
Pvt. K. L. Ward
Pvt. K. S. Ward
Pvt. B. D. Whippo
Pvt. R. Xiao
Pfc. J. A. Youngbear
*Pfc. M. J. Zaharius III

* Denotes meritorious promotion

Straight Shooters

Depot Marines compete in DCIAP, aim for winning title

BY CPL. MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

The sun was hidden behind an array of morning clouds as the biting chill of the air filled the shooters' lungs. Only three types of sounds occupied that chilly air: the scratchy high pitch yell of out-door speakers, occasionally voicing instructions and rules; the low mumble of those waiting for their turn to fire their rifles; and finally a plethora of deafening cracks and pops from the riflemen on the firing line.

Twelve teams from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Western Recruiting Region gathered to participate in the Depot Competition in Arms Program where they could fight for the opportunity to be in the MCRD San Diego Shooting Team at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb., 10.

The two week DCIAP began Feb. 1, and consisted of advanced weapon manipulation classes and days of practice and competition firing.

"The first day was eight hours of in-depth classes on refining marksmanship," said Sgt. Victor Armenta, noncommissioned officer in charge of the MCRD San Diego Shooting Team. "They

really go farther into the science of shooting than the beginner classes recruits receive or that Marines go over annually."

After one day of classes, the 107 Marines participating in the event spent what was left of week one practice firing both rifles and pistols to refine what they had learned.

"I have learned a lot about marksmanship since I have been here," said Cpl. Nongkhane Sysaath, Ceremonial Detail, MCRD San Diego. "It's good to get so much trigger time. It has helped me more than the standard annual qualification shooting every other Marine does; plus we shoot at smaller targets."

The first two days of the second week consisted of match firing of the rifle and pistol. Cpl. Jeremy Henemyer, Field Company, won first place in the individual rifle while Sgt. Cameron Homburg, Headquarters Company, WFTBn., was the winner of the individual pistol competition.

Day three featured both the team rifle match and the gunner's competition. The team shoot consisted of four Marines per target. Each Marine on every team fired 10 rounds of slow-fire standing and 10 rounds of rapid-fire sitting at the 200-yard line; 10 rounds rapid-fire prone at

the 300-yard line and 10 rounds slow-fire prone at the 500-yard line.

Following the team shoot was the gunner's competition.

"The gunner's competition is supposed to simulate the conditions of combat: high heart rate, low time," said Armenta. "Although combat in Iraq is much more close quarters, Afghanistan on the other hand, is much more long distance and requires high speed movement over these distances."

The gunner's competition requires teams of four shooters to sprint down-range, starting at the 500-yard line, as they attempt to hit their six targets. Each yard-line is worth a different amount of points so shooters must fire their set number of rounds strategically to score the highest amount of points possible.

"This should be how we shoot the annual table two portions," said Sysaath. "It's like actual combat because of the high heart rate and it is more challenging."

Respectively, the winners of the two competitions were 8th Marine Corps District and 9th Marine Corps District.

The following day featured the team pistol shoot where 8th Marine Corps District walked away with the win.

"Shooters who do well are

given the opportunity to fire at the division level where, if they continue to do well, get to compete at the Marine Corps Championship and potentially shoot for the Marine Corps Shooting Team," said Armenta. "The entire thing can add up to about five months of temporary additional duty away from their units."

"It doesn't matter if you are the best shooter in the Marine Corps," Armenta said. "We only want good shooters if they have a better attitude and are willing to accept coaching and continue to learn."

For more information on how to compete in DCIAP next year, contact a battalion's primary marksmanship instructor.



Sgt. Donald Baker, range coach, Range Company, watches his team mate's shots through a spotter scope as he gives him instructions on how to adjust his rifle. During the team shoot, every group of four had at least one person firing and one person calling shots through a scope in order to get the most accurate groupings and adjustments. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron



Marines from the depot and Edson Range begin the gunner's shoot portion of the event by sprinting about 250-meters to their first firing area, the 500-yard line, where shots are worth more points than usual due to the distance of the targets.

Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron



A DCIAP competitor sights in down range after picking one of his teams six targets to riddle holes in. Of those 107 shooters, only one half were able to fire in the team shoot. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron