



Receiving
Co. provides
warm
welcome

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CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Company
H overcomes
obstacles

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Vol. 72 – Issue 12

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012

Co. L learns Corps’ history

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

“Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty...” read Sgt. Joel Moreno, drill instructor, Platoon 3254, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, to recruits while on the Crucible April 24 aboard Edson Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Moreno read Pvt. Dale M. Hansen’s Medal of Honor citation before Co. L recruits fought with pugil sticks. Citations are read before each Crucible event

to show recruits how the skills they’re applying now might save their life or fellow comrades, as shown in history.

“Citations prove to recruits what we’re teaching them is used by actual Marines, who have taken these skills and applied them to save their lives and others while in combat,” said Sgt. Joel Moreno, drill instructor, Platoon 3254, Co. L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

Hansen killed two Japanese soldiers with his butt stock when his rifle jammed in Okinawa Shima, Japan May 7, 1945. This was a combat situation where close-combat techniques were used. This is now taught to

recruits through Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training.

Co. L earned their MCMAP tan belt prior to reaching the Crucible, a 54-hour test of food and sleep deprivation, while recruits over come various team building obstacles using skills they have acquired in recruit training. Tan belt teaches close-combat training skills, armed and unarmed, that may apply if the situation arises.

“Pugil sticks has taught us how to fight without a weapon or with our rifle while keeping our distance with the enemy,” said Recruit Joel Koesterer, Plt. 3254,

see HISTORY ▶2



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Sgt. Joshua P. McGee, drill instructor, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, inspects recruits during their Senior Drill Instructor Inspection April 20 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. This was Co. D’s first inspection since they arrived aboard the depot three weeks prior. Various drill instructors from Co. D inspected all of the platoons, creating a stressful environment for the recruits.

Co. D passes inspection, prepares for 2nd Phase

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

With one event on their mind, a group of yelling drill instructors ran through Company D Platoons before one of their first big tests April 20 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

“This is their first Marine Corps inspection,” said 1st Sgt. Lucas Harold, Co. D first sergeant, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, about the impending Senior Drill Instructor Inspection. “It helps the seniors gauge the progress of their recruits and identify their faults.”

Various drill instructors stopped in front of the recruits, demanding answers to Marine Corps knowledge questions, and for the recruits to perform “inspection arms,” a drill movement that shows the weapon is clear of ammunition and safe to inspect. Recruits are required to perform it properly.

“All of the drill instructors try to create a stressful environment during this inspection,” said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Williamson, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1074, Co. D, 1st RTBn. “This tests

the recruit’s military bearing and simulates performing under pressure.”

As the drill instructors ran around inspecting recruits, the senior drill instructor observed to see which recruits needed extra attention. He also inspected recruits himself.

The senior drill instructor is the recruit’s acting father figure, providing a helping, yet stern hand. The recruits know their seniors have high expectations of them. Performing in front of their seniors helps prepare the recruits when being inspected by other senior Marines.

“Good morning sir!” one of the recruits yelled before performing “inspection arms.” The drill instructors would then test the recruit’s knowledge by asking a Marine Corps related question. Many recruits cracked under pressure and would answer the question while performing the drill movement, which isn’t allowed in drill.

“I think this helps show us we can still focus on what we’re suppose to do even in a stressful environment,” said Recruit Justin Larson, Plt.

see INSPECTION ▶2



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company L recruits fight with pugil sticks during the Crucible April 24, aboard Weapons and Field Training Battalion Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. This was their final training event with pugil sticks, giving them one last chance to apply their close-combat skills they have gained through Marine Corps Martial Arts while at recruit training. Once Marines, they might be faced without ammunition or their weapon jams, causing them to apply these skills later on during their careers.

Senior drill instructors’ mentorship critical in transformation process

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

The vigorous training cycle that recruits endure while aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego can be repetitive and tiring. This can make it easy for recruits to lose sight of their goals and the reason they enlisted in the Marine Corps.

“Recruits can forget why they came here,” said Staff Sgt. Zachary Curran, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2110, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. “We provide them with the guidance they need to reconfirm the commitment they’ve made.”

Every platoon has a senior drill instructor. This drill instructor is seen by recruits as a mentor, guiding them in the right direction by being tough but fair. When introduced to his platoon, he recites the Drill Instructor Creed that states his promise to train each recruit to the best of his ability, by developing them into disciplined, physically-fit, basically-trained Marine.

Above the physical demands of recruit training,

the main role of a senior is to mold each recruit into a Marine that holds high morals and ethics.

“We have guided discussions throughout training that allow us to talk about Marine Corps ethics and how they apply to everyday life,” said Curran. “Recruits come from diverse backgrounds, so they all have a different idea of what is important to them.”

Each discussion deals with different scenarios that junior Marines will face throughout the first few years of their career and how their actions can affect the image of the Marine Corps.

Topics from financial responsibility and marriage to substance abuse are addressed and discussed in a relaxed environment.

“This allows the recruits to see their drill instructors in a different light,” explained Curran, a 25-year-old Brentwood, Calif. native. “The hat comes off and the recruits are able to have a conversation and voice their own opinions.”

see DEVELOPMENT ▶3



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Sgt. Joshua McGee, drill instructor, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, yells at a recruit during Co. D's Senior Drill Instructor Inspection April 20 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot. This was Co. D's first inspection since they arrived aboard the depot three weeks prior. Various drill instructors from Co. D inspect all of the platoons, creating a stressful environment for the recruits.

INSPECTION ◀ 1

1074, Co. D, 1st RTBn. "I was able to keep my bearing and perform 'inspection arms' without messing up." Inspections at recruit training also help enforce confidence. If they can't perform under pressure confidently, it could cost them their own life or the life of a comrade. "If you're in combat and freak out, you won't be able to focus on what you need to do to complete the mission," said 19-year-old Larson.

Larson and the rest of Co. D have been in training for three weeks now, already overcoming many mental and physical obstacles. During this time, Co. D recruits have begun to grasp the basics of drill and absorbed basic Marine Corps knowledge through classes and re-enforcement from the drill instructors. "We've practiced 'inspection arms' every day. The repetitiveness helps drill become second nature," said Larson. They have also been taught to pay attention to detail and properly maintain

their Marine pattern desert uniform. "This is the first time they have had to put everything they've learned together," said Gunnery Sgt. Jody Clark, drill instructor, Co. D, 1st RTBn. "Causing them to pay attention to every detail will translate over in combat." While being inspected, their uniforms are examined to ensure the recruits are taking pride in their uniforms. Drill instructors want to ensure their recruits will go into the Marine Corps understanding what is expected of them, and to perform with confidence.

Best of the Best



Lance Cpl. Hayden K. Howard-Browne

Each recruit training battalion aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego selected one Marine to receive the battalion level Drill Instructor of the Year Award April 24 at the MCRD Command Museum. From left, Sgt. Maj. Peter Siaw, Recruit Training Regiment sergeant major, Lt. Col. William Gerst, operations officer, 12th Marine Corps District, guest speaker, Jim Guerim, president, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Historical Society, Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Richard, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion Drill Instructor of the Year, Gunnery Sgt. Scott Chromy, 1st RTBn Drill Instructor of the Year, Sgt. Maj. Edward Gonzalez, 3rd RTBn sergeant major, 1st Sgt. Terry Harrelson, Support Battalion first sergeant, Col. Michael Lee, Recruit Training Regiment commanding officer. Gonzalez accepted the award on behalf of the 3rd RTBn. Drill Instructor of the Year, Staff Sgt. Nikolas A. Solana. Harrelson accepted the award for the Support Bn. Drill Instructor of the Year, Staff Sgt. Francisco Reyes Jr. Richard was also named the Marine Corps-wide Drill Instructor of the Year, after competing against top drill instructors from MCRD San Diego and Parris Island.

HISTORY ◀ 1

Co. L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. During the past ten-weeks recruits practiced these new skills under the instruction of their drill instructors and martial arts instructors to ensure they are using the proper techniques. Their final pugil sticks match takes place on the Crucible. This is their fourth time doing pugil sticks. These bouts are meant to simulate close-combat with an M16-A4 service rifle. A pugil stick is a long stick with two hand placement spots. On each end there are pads, the red pad represents a bayonet, and the black pad

represents the butt stock. "This teaches the recruits the proper strikes without an actual weapon," said Sgt. Brendan O'Bryant, field instructor, Edson Range, MCB Camp Pendleton. "This gives them a chance to see these skills are actually useful." Recruits wear full protective gear while going up against fellow recruit in pugil stick bouts, ensuring they aren't injured in training. They run into the pit and listen for the whistle to blow to try and give the first fatal blow. Recruits are taught what constitutes a fatal blow prior to going into pugil sticks.

Since Marine's will have their rifle on them at all times, they are required to be trained in Marine Corps marksmanship skills. However when the weapon jams or a Marine is out of ammunition they must know how to defend themselves while still using their weapon. This is why pugil sticks is an essential part of recruit training. After completing all the events on the Crucible, recruits of Co. L will earn the title Marine. They will go on to Marine week and Battalion Commanders Inspection before graduating recruit training May 4.

BRIEFS

Activity Morning

Tuesday is May's Activity Morning. It is a fun opportunity for Active Duty parents, spouses, and young children (0-5 years old) to play and learn together! It is also a great chance for tots to socialize with their peers, and for parents to get support from other parents. The event is held in building 6 East from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. Each month's event has a different theme and children can choose to engage in a variety of activities such as: story time, arts & crafts, movement activities, snack making, ideas for games at home, and much more. Registration is not necessary and this monthly experience is free of charge. Call the New Parent Support Program at (619) 524-0805 or L.I.N.K.S. at (619) 524-8104 for more information.

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Celebrate Mother's Day May 13, with a magnificent champagne brunch at the Bay View Restaurant from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The price is \$26.95 for Active Duty, \$32.95 for Adults, \$16.95 for Children age 4-12, and FREE for children under age 4. Call (619) 725-6388 to reserve a spot.

Car Care Class

Those who want to learn basic auto care skills can do the job by joining the Auto Skills Center for their Car Care Class May 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at building 142. The class will include: • Oil and filter change with disposal fundamentals • Tires, air pressure and preventative maintenance • Batteries and air filters Those attending should dress comfortably for a hands-on garage classroom environment. No open-toes shoes. Lunch will be provided to all attendees.

There is no charge for the workshop. The event is open to all eligible patrons and their guests. For additional information or to register, call (619) 524-5240.

Depot Museum Survey

The depot museum is building a new exhibit covering Desert Storm to the present. The museum staff requests all permanent personnel take a five-question on-line survey about what they would like to see in the exhibit. The survey is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/f8ryrh>. Anyone who does not wish to use the link, may pick up a hard copy of the survey at the Museum.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Active Duty Fund Drive

The Active Duty Fund Drive in support of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society for 2012 is in process. Participation can be electronically via Marine OnLine. This new, streamlined method of contributing saves trees and protects Personal Identifiable Information since there are no hard copy paper trails of contribution forms passing from one Marine to another, or left unprotected on desks. Log into Marine Online and click on Resources and "Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS)" to donate. 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.

Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks:
“What is your best advice to junior Marines to excel in the Corps?”



“Find a goal and strive to achieve it, whatever that goal may be.” *Staff Sgt. Michael Melendez, warehouse chief, Property Control Office, Service Company*



“Remember the basics. If you remember what you were taught in boot camp, you can apply those basic skills to everyday life in the fleet.” *Sgt. Taylor Austin, student, Drill Instructor School*



“Always try to advance yourself to gain more knowledge in your MOS.” *Sgt. James Connely, student, Recruiter's School*

DEVELOPMENT ◀ 1

Guided discussions are used as a tool to build teamwork and camaraderie among the platoon. Each platoon has its own personality. These discussions allow the recruits to learn about each other and their individual values. The level of motivation and morale goes up after each discussion, explained Curran.

Recruits look forward to discussions with their senior because it breaks down the barrier of drill instructor and recruit and gives them a sense of being human again.

“It shows us that they’re (drill instructors) not just machines,” said Recruit Joseph T. Phillips, Plt. 2110, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. “They talk to us like they’re our big brothers.”

Through each discussion, recruits are encouraged to reflect Marine Corps traits and values by their senior drill instructor.

“He tells us of his experiences of being a Marine in the fleet,” said Recruit Robert A. McCusker, Plt. 2110, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. “He shares the way he’s felt and what he has seen throughout his career.”

Although the senior shares his experiences with his recruits, his main objective is to guide the discussion and stress the moral of his story and how core values were applied.

“The scenarios we give to the recruits are similar to situations that privates, (privates first class) and lance corporals go through,” said Curran. “These scenarios allow them to apply the values they’ve learned and to think like a Marine.”



Staff Sgt. Zachary Curran, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2110, Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, leads his recruits in a guided discussion May 1 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The role of the senior drill instructor throughout recruit training is to develop each recruit into disciplined, physically-fit Marines, but also mold them into Marines with strong moral values.

Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Once they graduate and become Marines they go onto Marine Combat Training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for a month, then move on to their designated military occupation specialty school which prepares them further for the fleet.

Every day, they will face a situation that will challenge them morally and will force them to

make a decision. With the values and ethics instilled through their time spent with their senior drill instructor, the recruits will be able to act accordingly and conduct themselves as Marines.

WFTBn. Change of Command



Sgt. Maj. Gregory Hall, sergeant major of Weapons and Field Training Battalion, left, delivers the colors to Col. Christopher S. Dowling, right, who relinquished his post to Lt. Col. Michael N. Castle, center, on the parade deck aboard Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton April 26. The passing of the colors symbolizes the passing of responsibility and authority.

Lance Cpl. Hayden K. Howard-Browne



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Yellow Footprints: The initial step into recruit training

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Every step recruits take during recruit training brings them closer to earning the title of United States Marine, but one of the first steps they take is upon the infamous yellow footprints at Receiving Company aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

“This is just a stepping stone into recruit training,” said Sgt. Cory Marcus, senior drill instructor, Receiving Co., Recruit Training Regiment. “This is where they’re transformed from civilian to recruit.”

The purpose of the receiving process is to collect the recruit’s paper work and make sure they’re ready for training. It also gives them an idea of how the rest of their time aboard the depot will be, said Sgt. Luis Alicea, drill instructor, Receiving Co., RTR.

“We teach them how to stand,

walk and talk properly here so their drill instructors can focus on their training,” said Alicea.

This metamorphosis begins when young men who arrive from states west of the Mississippi River are loaded onto buses at San Diego International Airport and are transported to the depot.

As a drill instructor yells at them to put their heads down and to not speak, the darkness and the roar of the bus engine fills a void that was once silence.

Who knows what imaginations are stirring in every recruit as they wonder what is in store for them.

Fear of the unknown is an emotion that many can relate to. The recruits only know of what they’ve heard, either from their recruiter, the media, or other Marines in their lives.

“I didn’t know what to expect when I stepped on those footprints, it finally hit me that this was real,” said Recruit Anthony Brownlee, Receiving

Co., RTR. “I’m nervous, but I joined to better myself and my career.”

Drill instructors eagerly wait as the bus pulls up to the curb outside of Receiving Co. This is only the beginning of a night that will seem endless to the new recruits.

“Sit up straight!” screams a drill instructor after he boarded the bus. “From this point forward you will only answer me with a ‘yes sir,’ ‘no sir’ and ‘aye-aye sir,’ do we understand?”

“Aye-aye sir,” the recruits reply in unison.

The recruits have their first taste of what is to be expected from their drill instructors at the depot. From the bus, they rush out on to the yellow footprints where they are instructed on how to properly stand at the position of attention.

Every component of receiving is significant to the processing of recruits. When the recruits move from one part to the next, the recruits

are given short speeches and lessons on how they will act while they’re aboard the depot, explained Alicea.

With their fists clenched and thumbs along their trouser seams, the recruits stand at the position of attention. They are then instructed to move to a next set of yellow footprints that face an illuminated sign.

The sign states articles from the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which are laws that all military members must follow. Certain articles, such as unauthorized absence and others that pertain to recruits while they are in recruit training, are read to them aloud. From there, they are rushed into the contraband room.

“In the contraband room, they are instructed to empty their pockets and go through their belongings to get rid of the items they won’t need while in recruit training,” said Alicea. “They also receive their first issue of gear, a war bag containing basic items they’ll need throughout training.”

The recruits then move to a wall of phones where they are told to make their only phone call home for three months. They read a script that states they’ve made it to recruit training safely.

Others yelling louder than the next, recruits scream, “I love you and goodbye,” in hopes that their loved one will hear them before hanging up the phone and moving on to the next step of the receiving process - haircuts.

The buzz of hair clippers downed out the yelling of drill instructors outside of the barber’s room. The recruits take a seat and close their eyes. As their hair falls to the floor, their civilian identity falls with it.

“Every recruit’s head is shaved bald,” said Alicea. “This is to establish uniformity and also to instill the fact that they are no longer individuals.”

With freshly shaved heads, recruits are rushed to receive their clothing issue. By this time, the recruits seem

to have grown accustomed to the fast pace that has been forced on them throughout the night.

“It could be culture shock for most recruits,” said Alicea. “We keep it at a fast pace and give them that sense of urgency that they’ll need throughout training.”

As the night slowly turns into day, the recruits go through the “Moment of Truth”, which is when they can come clean or bring to light about anything that can cause them to not continue with their training.

The rest of the week is spent preparing the recruits for “pick up,” which is when they are sent to their platoons. This is the highly anticipated moment when they finally meet the drill instructors who will spend the next three months training, molding and eventually making them Marines.

The recruits expected to pick up with Company G and are scheduled to begin training May 1.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Staff Sgt. Justin L. Hansen, chief drill instructor, Receiving Company, Recruit Training Regiment, instructs new recruits how to stand at the position of attention April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The first step in recruit training is receiving, which is a 24-hour process that sets up the recruits for their training and the rest of their time aboard the depot.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits hold up green-money valuable bag that is issued to them in the contraband room during receiving April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits are issued a “war bag” which consist of basic gear that the recruits will utilize throughout recruit training.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druey

Recruits stand upon the yellow footprints outside of Receiving Company April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The moment the recruits step foot on the depot, they stand on the yellow footprints where they receive instructions on how to stand at the position of attention.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Sgt. Michael Bachicha, senior drill instructor, Receiving Company, Recruit Training Regiment, corrects a recruit in the contraband room during receiving April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Drill instructors of Receiving Co. give the recruits an idea of what the rest of their time aboard the depot will be like.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Staff Sgt. Justin L. Hansen, chief drill instructor, Receiving Company, Recruit Training Regiment, prepares to read aloud articles from the Uniform Code of Military Justice during receiving April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The UCMJ is the foundation of military law in the United States. The articles read to the recruits pertain to recruit training and their time aboard the depot.

Recruit learns meaning of responsibility

BY LANCE CPL BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Among the many qualities instilled throughout recruit training, self-reliance and responsibility are stressed from the very beginning. Responsibility is one step toward becoming a man and is a trait of being morally and mentally accountable, a characteristic that every Marine must possess.

PFC Brandon Espinosa, Platoon 3255, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, held his right hand up and swore into the Marine Corps Reserves Oct. 6. Reality hit Espinosa a few weeks later when he found out that his girlfriend was pregnant.

“I saw the baby as a blessing,” said Espinosa, a 19-year-old Chino Hills, Calif. native. “I didn’t want to be a kid raising a kid.”

With the passing of his father five years prior, Espinosa witnessed the difficulties of being a single parent. He knew that he must take responsibility of the situation.

“I had taken it over with my recruiter and my mother,” said Espinosa. “I needed to step up and be a man; I wanted to be a good father.”

Before he found out he was going to be a father, Espinosa graduated high school in 2010 and moved on to La Sierra University, Riverside, Calif. where he had a baseball scholarship, playing second basemen.

Espinosa pursued a degree in criminal justice, wanting to be a police officer like his older brother, Daniel Espinosa, who patrols for the Los Angeles Police Department. After spending a year at La Sierra, Espinosa felt the college life wasn’t for him.

“College athletes are kids at heart,” said Espinosa. He didn’t want to continue to rely on his



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pfc. Brandon Espinosa, Platoon 3255, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, maneuvers his way through the Weaver, an event at the Crucible, April 24 at Weapons and Field Training Battalion aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Espinosa joined the Marine Corps Reserves before he found out that his girlfriend was pregnant. With the responsibility and self-integrity instilled throughout recruit training, Espinosa hopes to apply these traits toward his career and to being a good father.

mother for support throughout college. He remembered back to high school when he left a class and ran into a Marine Corps recruiter in the hallway.

Espinosa was impressed by the Marine. He liked how the recruiter confidently presented himself in a professional way. He immediately held the Marine Corps to a higher standard and continued contact with the recruiter.

“I saw the Marines as being above everything else,” said Espinosa. “I wanted the discipline and confidence; I saw it being the drive I needed to be successful.”

Espinosa’s mother, Laura, was hesitant at first when she first heard that her middle

child wanted to join the Marine Corps.

“My mother didn’t want to lose her ‘baby’ to the Marine Corps,” said Espinosa. “But this was just a step in the right direction to the confidence I needed to feel like I can do anything.”

Espinosa stood his ground about the decision to enlist in the Marine Corps and was later shipped off to recruit training Feb. 6.

Timid at first, Espinosa eventually stepped up and excelled among his peers, said Sgt. Juan Huerta, senior drill instructor, Plt. 3255, Co. L, 3rd RTBn. Espinosa often received letters from his mother that stated how she has seen a

growth of maturity in him.

Espinosa took care of the tasks that were handed to him by his drill instructors. He held the billet of scribe, which is a job that is given to a recruit that has shown responsibility throughout the cycle. They handle the fire watch roster which is the rotation of recruits that stand duty during the night.

“He’s more serious now,” said Pvt. Chance Fitzgerald, Plt. 3255, L Co., 3rd RTBn. “He does what he’s asked, takes responsibility and takes care of everybody.”

Espinosa has taken the traits and moral ethics that are instilled in recruit training and applied it to his time here,

explained Huerta. He believes that Espinosa will also apply what he has learned in the past three months to being a father.

“What I mainly teach my recruits is self-integrity,” said Huerta. “Taking responsibility for your actions is the starting point on how to be a good leader.”

The responsibility learned and instilled throughout recruit training has given Espinosa a new found confidence that he will need throughout the rest of his life and career.

“I’ve become a man compared to the kid I was,” said Espinosa. “I am prepared to commit my life to being a good father for my child.”

Dr. James Wright

Parade Reviewing Officer

After serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve during his senior year in high school, James Wright joined the Marine Corps in 1957 at the age of 17. He served with Marine Air Group-13, First Marine Brigade at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and at Atsugi, Japan.

Wright was honorably discharged in 1960 at the rank of Lance Corporal. He then entered college and was the first member of his family to receive a college degree, earning a bachelor degree from Wisconsin State University, Platteville.

Wright went on to receive a masters degree and a doctoral degree in American History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1969. He joined the faculty at Dartmouth College that year.

Wright taught courses in recent American history, in American political history and the westward movement. He has written three books and edited two others, received a

Guggenheim Fellowship and was a Charles Warren Fellow at Harvard University.

Wright has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Beginning in 1998 Wright served as the 16th president of Dartmouth until stepping down from that position on June 30, 2009. He is President-Emeritus and Eleazar Wheelock Professor of History at Dartmouth.

In 2005 President Wright first visited with wounded Marines at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. He has now made more than two dozen visits to Bethesda, Walter Reed Hospital, and Balboa Naval Hospital, most recently in January 2012. In these trips he seeks to meet individually with wounded veterans and to encourage them to pursue their education, offering advice and counseling. He worked with the American Council on Education to establish in 2007 a college counseling service at Bethesda, Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center and later extended the program to Balboa Naval Hospital.

Wright raised a substantial

amount of seed money to start this counseling program and subsequently raised additional funds for the support of the program.

Wright worked with Senators Jim Webb, John Warner and Chuck Hagel on language for the GI Bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in June 2008. His interest, successfully met with the “Yellow Ribbon” program, was to provide a means for private institutions to partner with Veterans Affairs in supporting veterans who matriculated at these institutions.

Wright wrote the Spring 2008 cover story on veterans in higher education for The Presidency, a publication of the American Council on Education for college and university presidents. He spoke about some of this work on February 2, 2009 at the annual meeting of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. As of the fall of 2011, sixteen Iraq-Afghanistan veterans were enrolled as undergraduates at Dartmouth and six have already graduated.

In October 2009 Wright spoke at the McLean, Virginia Rotary about his work with veterans. On Veterans Day 2009, he was a featured speaker at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. at the invitation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. (This speech has subsequently been included in the booklet “Dreams Unfulfilled” which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, with a grant from General Electric, is sharing with 40,000 schools.)

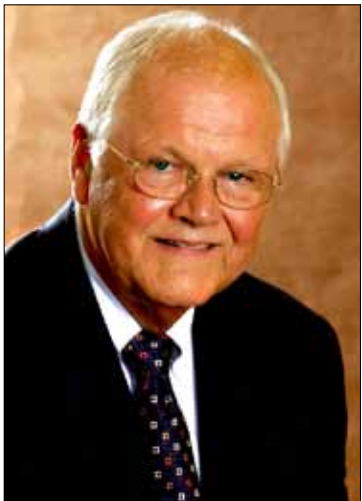
Wright met with veterans and delivered public remarks at Bunker Hill Community College in Charleston, Mass., in May 2010. He subsequently facilitated BHCC receiving a gift to provide a veteran’s center at the school and was a speaker at its opening in November 2010.

In November 2010 he was invited to Yonsei University’s Underwood International College in South Korea as the Shinhan Bank Distinguished Professor. Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in November 1950 and Wright met with them.

Wright serves on the Board

of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and is on the Campaign Leadership Committee for the Education Center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In March 2009 Wright received a commendation for his work from General James Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and in June 2009 the Boston Red Sox recognized his contributions to education and to supporting veterans by inviting him to throw out the “first pitch” at a Red Sox game.





Platoon 3255
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. I. W. Garcia
Whittier, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. M. Garcia



Platoon 3250
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. B. C. Reed
Meridian, Idaho
Recruited by
Sgt. C. M. Roach



Platoon 3249
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. J. R. Ortman
Washington, Mo.
Recruited by
Sgt. C. E. Thorpe



Platoon 3253
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. G. K. Rosario
Murrieta, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. C. K. Gilligan



Platoon 3254
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. S. I. Klingspor
Austin, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. Greene



Platoon 3250
HIGH SHOOTER (338)
Pvt. M. R. Villanueva
Los Angeles
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. C. J. Noid



Platoon 3253
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. B. C. Vardanian
Santa Clarita, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. A. D. Maldonado



LIMA COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. M. A. Reiley
Sgt. Maj. E. Gonzalez
Staff Sgt. J. A. Cargile



COMPANY L Commanding Officer Capt. C. M. Stahl Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. C. D. Thomas	SERIES 3249 Series Commander Capt. G. K. Reed Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. L. O. Arce	PLATOON 3249 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. L. Lazaro Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. M. Aguilera Staff Sgt. A. F. Formosa Staff Sgt. A. Rodriguez	PLATOON 3250 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. F. Velasquez Drill Instructors Sgt. E. H. Soto Sgt. L. A. Arteaga
	SERIES 3253 Series Commander Capt. M. B. Deal Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. C. M. Battiest	PLATOON 3253 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. R. Begaye Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. S. Morales-Solis Staff Sgt. P. S. Baughman Staff Sgt. D. B. Buenaventura	PLATOON 3254 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. A. Uruo Drill Instructors Sgt. S. A. Legaard Sgt. A. Cordero Sgt. J. Moreno-Martinez
			PLATOON 3255 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. C. Huerta Drill Instructors Sgt. D. Castro Sgt. M. D. Clark Sgt. M. W. Davidson

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 3249
Pvt. L. J. Aguilar III
Pvt. G. S. Aleman
Pfc. B. A. Barry
Pfc. R. N. Beltran
Pvt. B. B. Benitez
Pvt. S. A. Bishop
Pvt. B. B. Braker
Pfc. M. R. Brown
Pvt. M. A. Campbell
*Pfc. P. J. Carr
Pfc. A. Cavazos Jr.
Pfc. J. J. Dansby
Pvt. M. L. Davenport Jr.
Pfc. R. A. Delariva
Pfc. M. N. Deleon
Pvt. J. W. Dipasquale
Pfc. G. M. Grogan
Pvt. D.D Hall
Pvt. J. D. Landeros
Pvt. A. J. Lucky
Pfc. J. L. Martinez
Pfc. M. Martinez
Pvt. J. P. McCone
Pvt. T. S. Meyer
Pvt. P. D. Mooney
Pvt. D. M. Moreland
*Pfc. H. A. Morgan
Pvt. R. A. Morgan
Pvt. N. A. Morris
Pfc. C. D. Mueller
Pvt. W. S. Nelson
Pvt. S. C. Oden
*Pfc. J. R. Ortmann
Pvt. S. D. Paulson
Pfc. M. S. Pellino
Pvt. H.E. Porras
Pvt. R. D. Prather
Pvt. J. A. Robison III
Pfc. J. T. Robison
Pvt. R. B. Royal
Pvt. D. Ruiz
Pfc. R. C. Scott
*Pfc. L. K. Sum
Pvt. S. M. Summers
Pvt. A. S. Tabares
Pfc. M. A. Taylor
Pvt. D. A. Thurow
Pvt. M. R. Toon
Pfc. O. Torres
Pvt. C. L. Travis
Pvt. E. Unzueta
Pvt. B. D. Vance
Pfc. C. M. Villarreal
Pvt. C. G. Walker
Pvt. J. J. West
Pvt. K E. Wilcox II
Pfc. J. J. Williams
Pvt. C. J. Womelsdorf
Pvt. A. J. Woolstenhulme
Pvt. J. P. Wooten

PLATOON 3250
Pfc. A. S. Adamson
Pfc. K. E. Aflatooni
Pvt. C. M. Anderson
Pvt. W. D. Ball
Pvt. W. W. Freeman
Pfc. T. B. Galicia
Pvt. J. G. Llanes
Pfc. C. Ma
Pvt. C. L. McManus
*Pfc. N. G. Milano
*Pfc. J. H. Miller
Pfc. A. J. Moran
*Pfc. J. P. Morrison
Pvt. A. R. Neill
Pvt. Z. P. North
Pvt. P. T. Painter
Pfc. A.E. Papageorgiou
Pfc. J. R. Paquette
Pvt. J. M. Pearson
Pfc. R. Pena Jr.
Pvt. J. M. Plath
Pvt. M. A. Ramirez
Pfc. B. C. Reed
Pvt. C. R. Richie
Pfc. B. R. Richter
Pvt. E. Robledo
Pvt. R. B. Rogers
Pvt. C. D. Romero
Pfc. J. A. Sanchez
*Pfc. E. A. Schmoldt
Pvt. B. L. Scoggins
Pfc. D. N. Scott
Pfc. J. L. Shipman
Pvt. R. E. Sidon
Pvt. L. D. Sinovic
Pvt. M. R. Smith
Pfc. A. J. Sobel
Pvt. A. J. Sperle
Pvt. A. J. Spiers
Pvt. G. J. Stenger III
Pfc. B. M. Stoflet
Pvt. D. P. Telehey
Pfc. A. W. Thomas
Pvt. K. J. Thompson
Pfc. J. E. Tillson
Pvt. C. A. Traut
Pvt. D. B. Tucker
Pvt. Y. Valdes
Pvt. J. W. Van Pelt
Pfc. J. O. Vasquez
Pfc. M. Villanueva Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Walker
Pvt. R. J. Walters
Pvt. A. N. Weeks
Pvt. J. G. Williams
Pfc. R. T. Yost

PLATOON 3253
Pfc. F. R. Hernandez
Pfc. M. E. Hinesley
Pfc. A. T. Ho
Pvt. T. G. Hoffman
Pvt. T. M. Hogue
Pvt. S. M. Hudgins
Pvt. A. M. Jaimes
Pvt. K. C. Jeremias
Pvt. O. N. Johnson
*Pfc. K. M. Kowal
Pvt. I. Labaran
Pfc. C. G. Landry
Pvt. A. J. Lasky
Pvt. E. R. Laureano
Pfc. C. Y. Lee
Pfc. J. J. Lighten
Pfc. N. Z. Lightner
Pvt. J. Lopez
Pvt. D. C. Lorber
Pvt. M. S. Magnano
Pvt. B. Mandicasas
Pfc. J. S. Marinovich
Pfc. J. L. Martin
Pvt. R. D. McGrane
Pvt. A. E. McLemore
Pfc. K. A. Medina
Pfc. L. A. Medina
Pfc. C. F. Merrell
Pvt. L. A. Murillo-Vargas
*Pfc. J. J. Ortega
Pvt. A. T. Pineda
*Pfc. D. A. Plaster
Pfc. M. B. Post
Pvt. S. W. Powers
Pfc. E. Z. Reeves
Pvt. J. R. Rivera
Pvt. C. J. Roebuck
Pfc. G. K. Rosario
Pvt. M. Rubio-Villegas
Pfc. M. A. Saenz
Pvt. M. A. Saint-Victor
Pvt. C. M. Santana-Saenz
Pfc. W. J. Scott
Pvt. J. M. Shelby
Pvt. A. A. Sheridan
Pfc. J. D. Sorrels
Pvt. A. Soto
Pvt. P. J. Sousa
Pfc. C. D. Stewart-Mattison
Pvt. D. A. Taylor
Pvt. N. J. Taylor
Pvt. D. Torres
Pfc. T. Tran
Pvt. R. A. Trussell
Pfc. E. C. Tucker
Pvt. L. G. Valdez
*Pfc. B. C. Vardanian
Pvt. A. Vongsouvanh
Pvt. C. L. Youngblood

PLATOON 3254
Pfc. D. A. Alba-Tejeda
Pfc. J. L. Anderson Jr.
Pfc. E. A. Aranita
Pfc. D. J. Arroyo
Pvt. G. R. Avina
Pfc. J. T. Bader
Pvt. B. D. Bear
Pvt. A. M. Belle
Pfc. K. S. Benavidez
Pvt. D. J. Bendos
*Pfc. T. K. Black
Pfc. S. T. Blanding
Pfc. J. A. Bleisch
Pfc. Z. T. Bochanski
Pvt. J. R. Brothers
Pvt. J. D. Budnik
Pvt. C. R. Burgess
Pvt. L. H. Burke
Pvt. G. J. Campbell
Pvt. Z. N. Campbell
Pvt. C. J. Cepuran-Mooney
Pvt. R. M. Cipriano III
Pfc. J. P. Cooper
Pvt. A. L. Corl
Pfc. A. Cruz
Pvt. M. B. Cullen
Pvt. L. E. Dart
Pvt. C. S. Diaz
Pvt. B. L. Dollison
Pvt. B. P. Durr
Pfc. D. D. Edmundson
Pvt. D. J. Findell
Pvt. L. A. Flohrschutz
Pvt. R. K. Foster
Pfc. K. J. Frazier
Pvt. S. D. Gleaves
Pfc. G. R. Goldsmith
Pvt. C. M. Goodwin
Pfc. A. J. Gray
Pvt. B. M. Griffen
Pvt. W. I. Hannah
Pfc. B. J. Hanson
Pvt. J. S. Harman
Pvt. A. F. Hernandez
Pvt. A. J. Houser
Pfc. J. S. Huemoeller
Pfc. K. Ibanez
Pfc. M. C. Jemmett
Pvt. J. P. Johnson
*Pfc. J. B. Jones
*Pfc. B. L. Joseph
Pvt. R. D. Kinsman
Pfc. S. I. Klingspor
Pfc. J. P. Koesterer
Pvt. J. M. Kohrman
*Pfc. K. D. Koke
Pfc. A. D. Kutz
Pvt. J. T. Liu
Pvt. A. L. Moore
Pvt. C. M. Sell

PLATOON 3255
Pfc. C. R. Bowers
Pvt. D. R. Boyer
Pvt. A. G. Broering
Pvt. B. F. Brown
Pfc. N. S. Buffaloe
Pvt. R. E. Bustos
Pvt. E. A. Campero
Pvt. P. Carrillo-Orozco
*Pfc. P. M. Castaneda
Pfc. J. L. Cervantes Jr.
Pfc. G. Chavez
Pfc. J. S. Cohen
Pfc. M. Cuevas-Escobedo
Pfc. V. Q. Dang
Pvt. D. T. Dilego
Pfc. S. R. Dominguez
Pvt. Z. C. Drake
Pvt. M. N. Duarte
Pvt. B. R. Eastman
Pfc. O. S. Elnaggar
Pvt. R. Escobar
Pfc. B. M. Espinosa
Pvt. D. R. Filkins
Pfc. K. D. Fimbres
*Pfc. C. A. Fitzgerald
Pvt. M. N. Fletcher
Pvt. J. Flores
Pvt. M. W. Ford
Pfc. A. P. Forsten
Pvt. J. R. Fox
Pfc. J. L. Francuz
Pfc. Z. W. Friesen
Pvt. A. N. Funk
Pvt. S. R. Funk
Pvt. A. P. Gago
Pvt. J. M. Galvan Jr.
*Lance Cpl. I. W. Garcia
Pfc. L. J. Gilgien
Pvt. Z. L. Godfrey
Pfc. C. J. Godinich
Pvt. D. J. Gomez
Pfc. S. M. Gossman
Pvt. C. L. Grant
Pvt. I. M. Green
Pvt. T. J. Griffiths
*Pfc. T. D. Haffner
Pvt. A. L. Hafner
Pfc. C. D. Hanchett
Pfc. D. O. Harrison
Pvt. S. L. Harrison
Pfc. J. J. Heglund
Pfc. J. W. Heyman
Pfc. H. T. Holleman
Pvt. J. M. Hoppe
Pvt. A. J. Johnson
*Pfc. M. J. Johnsrud
Pvt. D. T. Kelly
Pvt. K. K. Knaup
Pvt. A. T. Knight
Pvt. B. W. Krueger
Pfc. A. D. Leifer



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company H recruits climb the cargo net April 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. This is one of 12 obstacles that recruits had to complete while doing the Confidence Course during week three. The cargo net helps recruits overcome a fear of heights while building their physical strength.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company H recruits use a rope to climb over a wall while on the depot's Confidence Course. The wall is one of 12 obstacles recruits must successfully negotiate while doing the Confidence Course during week three. The course not only helps the recruits physically, but also mentally. They will complete an advanced version in a week.

Co. H prepares to reach new heights

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

When recruits step on the yellow foot prints, they're not sure of what challenges they'll face. Recruit training requires them to overcome various mental and physical obstacles with fellow comrades.

Week three aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Company H recruits took on low obstacles during the Confidence Course April 23. This course can be both a psychological and physical challenge for some recruits.

The 12 obstacles during this

course are meant to help recruits in various ways. While it gives confidence to recruits that have a fear of heights, it also builds up their physical endurance.

"Doing the lower obstacles on the Confidence Course makes them realize they can get through things they never thought they could," said Sgt. Lorenzo Hernandez, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2169, Co. H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

Many recruits that come to the depot haven't trained as

often or as hard as they do while at recruit training, which pushes them out of their comfort zone.

"I was a little nervous because I was unsure of what task would be at hand," said Recruit Paul Patino, Plt. 2174, Co. H, 2nd RTBn.

While Patino isn't afraid of heights, he was nervous when taking on the tower, a wooden three-stories-high obstacle that requires recruits to pull themselves up to each story using their upper-body strength.

"I'm vertically challenged, making it more difficult to get from one level to the next," said Patino.

"I had to jump to grab each level then pull my weight up so I could swing my leg up."

While the recruits took on these challenges, drill instructors supervised and motivated recruits to finish each obstacle.

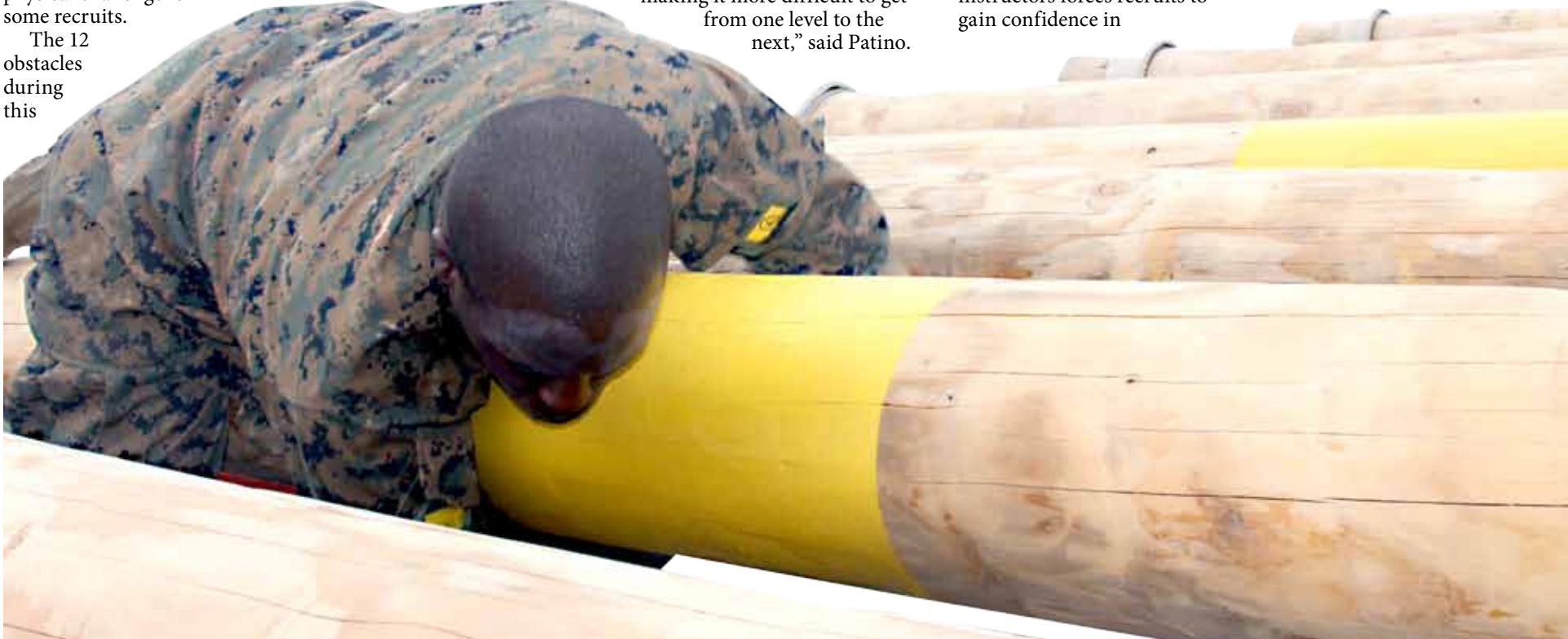
"Our motivation is the drill instructors demanding recruits to get over their fears so they can complete the Confidence Course," said Hernandez. "The higher obstacles on this course are the ones we have to push the recruits the most on."

This push from the drill instructors forces recruits to gain confidence in

themselves, something they will use throughout their entire Marine Corps career.

The following week Co. H will complete the entire Confidence Course, which is made up of three additional obstacles that require recruits to use their new gained confidence from the week prior, to take on these much higher challenges.

"There are always new obstacles to get over," said Patino, "In recruit training and once we become Marines."



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company H recruits weave through logs April 23, while challenging the 12-obstacle Confidence Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company H recruits negotiated the course during their third week of recruit training. Next week they will take on three additional obstacles that are much higher. This will force recruits with a fear of heights to overcome their fear and gain confidence.