



Company I recruits earn MCMAP tan belt

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL J. DRUERY
Chevron staff

Recruits must pass a variety of important tests while aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in order to earn the title Marine.

Company I came one step closer to that title May 23, by completing their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program tan belt test. This consisted of a combination of MCMAP skills they learned over the past seven weeks prior to the test.

“Marines I know have had to use these basic moves to take down an enemy,” said Sgt. Michael Birch, drill instructor, Platoon 3214, Co. I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

Though tan belt consists of the basic fundamentals of MCMAP, recruits may find themselves resorting to the basics. Recruits

can’t advance if they don’t know the fundamentals, said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Carter, Martial Arts Instructor, Satellite School of Martial Arts, Support Battalion.

There are six stations for the final tan belt test. At each station a drill instructor grades the recruits based on proper form and effectiveness of each technique. If a recruit isn’t able to remember a move they fail that portion. To help ensure recruits can remember and properly demonstrate the moves, drill instructors remediate the moves constantly throughout recruit training.

“We have reviewed the moves multiple times during downtime,” said Recruit Alex Schnell, Plt. 3210, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. “Our senior drill instructor helped us last night by going over the moves we weren’t sure of.”

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Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Sgt. Christian Hutson, drill instructor, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion tests recruits in Marine Corps Martial Arts Program tan belt moves May 23 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The test consisted of six stations, each with various MCMAP moves Co. I recruits have learned over the nine weeks prior to their test. Co. I will graduate June 15 with tan belts and the title Marine.

Recruit training Team Week helps create quality citizens

BY CPL. ERIC QUINTANILLA
Chevron staff

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is helping to make quality citizens of the recruits arriving to recruit training.

On May 21, Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, began Week Eight of recruit training also known as Team Week.

“It gets them away from the platoon, it’s the first time they are expected to be recruits on their own unsupervised,” said Sgt. Jeffery Walke, drill instructor Platoon 1074, Co. D, 1st RTBn.

Team Week allows recruits to spend time

volunteering with various organizations and Marines aboard MCRD. It gives recruits the ability to show they are able to remain disciplined without a drill instructor nearby.

“Some are put into more of a billet to supervise others to make sure they get the job done,” said Walke. “They are given more leadership responsibilities.”

The recruits help with tasks such as cleaning, organizing and preparing supplies for the next line of recruits to arrive to the depot.

“It’s a continuous learning experience, they

see TEAM ▶ 2

Top recruit graduates earn Chesty Puller Award



Chesty Puller Award

CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

Recruits at both Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Parris Island received an upgrade to the company honor graduate award, high shooter and high physical fitness test award.

Honor graduates now receive ‘The Chesty Puller Award,’ a small bronze sculpture of the late Marine hero Lt. Gen. Lewis “Chesty” Burwell Puller. The high shooter and PFT award are now larger improved plaques with polished black glass.

The three awards have been sponsored by the Marine Corps Association and Foundation since 1976 and the association is continuing their funding with the enhanced awards as well. The MCAF has funded over 10,000 awards Marine Corps wide in

2011.

President and CEO of the MCAF, Ed Usher, explained the change occurred in the fall of 2011 when the MCAF learned the recruit depots wished to upgrade their recruit awards.

“Our staff proposed a small sculpture of Chesty Puller for the honor graduates and redesigned high shooter and high PFT plaques,” explained Usher, a retired major general.

Simply saying the name Chesty sparks an image through many Marines minds of a broad chested, brave, and incredible leader.

Puller is a veteran of the Korean War, four World War II campaigns, expeditionary service in China, Nicaragua, and Haiti. He is one of the most decorated Marines in history and

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Change of Command



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Sgt. Maj. Terrence Whitcomb, right, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion sergeant major, Recruit Training Regiment, salutes Lt. Col. Reginald Hairston, middle, as he passes the colors to relinquish his post to Lt. Col. Daren Erickson, 2nd RTBns incoming commanding officer, aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 1. The passing of the colors symbolizes the passing of responsibility and authority.

Retiree Fair



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Jack Lester, left, retired submariner and volunteer with San Diego Hospice Care, and Dale Bemson, Army retiree, discuss benefits that can be provided for retired veterans June 2 at the 2012 Marine Corps Community Services Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Military Retiree Fair at the depot theater aboard MCRD San Diego. The fair is an annual event that provides a variety of resources and updated information to retired military members as well as soon to be retirees. “This event will help guide retirees to the resources that will benefit them the most when transitioning out of the military,” said Dawn Williams, director, personal and professional development, MCCA. “This will set them up for success.” More than 40 local agencies were available to assist retirees and answer questions about housing, medical benefits and education.

TEAM 1

seem to enjoy what they do -- putting the war bags together for future recruits,” said Lena Buckles, material handler, recruit exchange.

Many of the organizations are grateful for the help they receive from the recruits, enjoying the company they receive on an almost weekly basis. Recruits help about 10 different organizations a day during team week.

“I’ve been working here for 22 years and it’s been a blessing. I love the recruits,” said Buckles.

For recruits who do not get paired with a specific organization, the day is often spent assisting with cleaning buildings and collecting trash.

“A lot of the job they do is policing the area,” said Walker. “When you come on base it looks pristine and that’s the way it should be.”

Many tasks on base are completed with recruit assistance, allowing them to use various skills they have learned in recruit training.

“The skills in boot camp have helped us to complete these tasks,” said Denzel Carson, Plt. 1075, Co. D, 1st RTBn. “Since there is not a drill instructor guiding us we can put our discipline and bearing to the test without fooling around.”

The Marine Corps encourages volunteer work after recruit training as well by awarding the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal to any Marine who is continuously involved in volunteer work with civilian communities.

“It feels like we are making this base a better and cleaner environment,” said Carson, 19, a California native.

Team week marks the first week of Phase Three for the recruits of Co. D, who are scheduled to graduate June 22.



Recruits of Company D, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, work with the Depot Chapel to move furniture during Team Week aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego May 23. During Team Week recruits help, on average, 10 different organizations a day.

BELT 1

The stations consist of falls, punches, bayonet techniques, upper and lower body strikes, chokes, throws and much more. Many recruits have the most trouble with

leg sweeps and the falls. “A lot of recruits seem to be scared of falling, so they end up messing up the falls,” said Birch. By the end of the 12-weeks, recruits have a good understanding of tan belt moves.

This will ensure they are prepared if they ever encounter close-combat. To become more prepared for combat, Marines earn advanced belts once they reach their duty station. There are five different MCMAP belts Marines can achieve.

BRIEFS

New depot Web site

The Public Affairs Office has unveiled a new Depot Web site. The new web address is <http://www.mcrdsd.marines.mil>. While similar to the old site, the new site has a new look and offers visitors a variety of news stories, pictures and information about the depot and its units. Website visitors are invited to forward recommendations or corrections for the new site to rdsd_pao@usmc.mil.

MCRD Museum Historical Society Globe and Anchor Gala

The MCRD Museum Historical Society will host its annual Globe and Anchor gala June 30, at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel. Vietnam era veterans will be honored at the event. Gen. Peter Pace, himself a Vietnam vet and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is scheduled as the keynote speaker. There will be dinner, dancing, and live and silent auctions. All proceeds benefit the Command Museum. For further information, visit the Web site at www.mcrdmuseumhistoricalsociety.org, or call Heather at the Society at (619) 524-4426.

‘My Body Belongs to Me’ Class

This is a three part series for children. Classes for children 5 to 7 years old will be held from 4 to 4:45 on June 19, 21 and 26. Class of children 8 to 9 years old will be held from 5 to 5:45 on the same dates.

Topics will include respect, personal space, setting boundaries, and help seeking skills. The classes also promote self-respect and respect for the rights of others while teaching children to be assertive.

There will be Simultaneous classes for Parents that include topics such as daily vulnerabilities, minimizing risk, and identifying and reporting abuse.

Registration is required. Contact Behavioral Health Services at (619) 524-0465 for questions or registration. Registration may also be accomplished online at <http://protectingourmilitarychildren.eventbrite.com/>.

Volunteer opportunities

Isabel Gonzalez, the new director of the depot’s Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, has instituted new hours. The Society is now open from 9 a.m., until 4 p.m.

Because many current volunteers have new employment opportunities, and others have PCS orders, the Society is short staffed and looking for new volunteers.

No experience is necessary. Volunteers will serve Sailors, Marines and families in need, develop new skills, expand professional experience and qualifications, build new friendships, be part of something special and make a difference for others.

Volunteers can share their talents by serving in such areas as financial education, client services, caseworkers, public speaking, volunteer management and administration, publicity, and more.

Mileage and child care reimbursement is available.

For more information contact Isabel Gonzalez at (619) 524-5734 or via E-mail at Isabel.gonzalez@nmcrs.org.

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:
"Father's Day is June 17: What is your most memorable moment of your father?"



"A memory of me and my dad is when he taught me how to replace the alternator of an engine. He used to time me." *Lance Cpl. Amanda Bentz, musician, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion*



"My dad's sense of humor. It's where I got mine from." *Gunnery Sgt. Ivan Castellanos, Support Battalion adjutant, Recruit Training Regiment*



"A memory that I remember most is all the traveling me and my dad did. We always traveled to exotic places like Asia, I've actually traveled more with him than I have in my Marine Corps career." *Sgt. Japeth Ledesma, student, Recruiter's School*

Change of Command



Cpl. Eric Quintanilla

1st Sgt. Harrelson, Support Battalion sergeant major, Recruit Training Regiment, left, passes the organizational colors to Lt. Col. William A. Gallardo, outgoing Support Bn. commanding officer, center, on the Shepherd Field Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego June 8. Gallardo relinquished command to Lt. Col. Michael R. Hodson, right, by presenting him with the colors, symbolizing the transfer of responsibility.

Marines help develop, dedicate middle school learning environment

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

The cutting of a green garden hose celebrated the grand opening of a garden learning environment during a dedication ceremony May 31 at Taft Middle School, San Diego.

Mike George, Taft principal, proudly explained to his students that the garden was ready for them to discover and learn.

"It feels great to have finally finished," said George. "This garden is just the start of something great for our school and the students here."

The school's garden project started in October 2011, when it was selected to be this year's Legacy Project, a community-based project that involves schools that the American Society of Landscape Architects commit to in order to provide active learning environments for students.

"It was a pile of dirt in the corner of the playground," said George. "I saw it as more than just a pile of dirt, I saw it being transformed into a learning center for our students."

George's vision of the garden was to have an outdoor learning environment where students can interact with the soil and learn about life

through plants. The ultimate goal of creating the garden is to eventually have students grow their own vegetables that will be served in the school's cafeteria.

"Students learn a lot better through practical application," explained George. "I want the teachers to use this garden to come up with creative ways of teaching their students."

During the last seven months, volunteers and students came out every weekend to Taft Middle School to help reconstruct the pile of dirt into something worthwhile, explained Monica Fuentes, a volunteer with Friend's of Ruffin Canyon.

"The students and volunteers put a lot of hard work and effort into making this possible," said Fuentes.

Among the volunteers that dedicated themselves to the project were Marines stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Lance Cpl. Kristian Simonis, musician, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, and other fellow service members came out during the weekend to help out with the garden.

"It's an awesome feeling knowing that I contributed to this project," said Simonis. "It's going to be a great environment for the children."

Service members aboard MCRD are given the opportunity to volunteer with schools in the community through a program called Partners in Education. PIE allows individuals a chance to support schools in order to help provide better education and experiences for students.

Maj. Anthony Goode, operations officer, H&S Bn, handles the PIE program aboard MCRD and volunteered his time, the day of the dedication, to be principal for a day at Taft.

"I've always been interested in pursuing a career in education," said Goode. "Being principal for the day gave me an idea of what to expect."

Goode viewed the opportunity as an advantage to develop his personal goals. Throughout the day, he realized the impact he had on the children while he perused the hallways and visited the different grades in their classrooms.

"There is a large military presence in this community," explained George, who escorted and introduced Goode to each class. "Most of the children only experience their family members being in the service; it's good for them to see someone else other than their parents in uniform."

AWARD ♦ 1

is the only Marine to be awarded the Navy Cross five times for gallantry and heroism in action.

After the proposed ideas were approved by the depots, the MCAF had Mark Austin Byrd, a sculptor and former Marine, design the statue. Before the new awards debuted, the MCAF contacted the Puller family and obtained approval of the sculpture and permission to name the

recruit honor graduate award after Puller.

"The Chesty Puller Award' is a bust of the most decorated Marine, Lt. Gen Lewis B. Puller, well known as 'the Marine's Marine,' Usher said. "A Parris Island graduate, Chesty Puller went on to retire as a three star Marine icon. It's my understanding that many drill instructors teach their recruits to end the day, when recruits hit the rack, with the old saying, 'good night

Chesty, wherever you are.'"

The first newly-designed and approved recruit awards were presented this year, March 30, at Parris Island.

"The Chesty Puller Award' is one of three recruit awards that the Marine Corps Association and Foundation sponsors at each of the recruit depots in support of the Marine Corps efforts in recognizing and rewarding excellence and honoring its commitment to encouraging profes-

sionalism," said Usher.

It appears fitting that the honor graduate Marine who's leadership and potential stood out more so than hundreds of other recruits, be awarded with a sculpture of Chesty Puller.

"The intent was to create a family heirloom that an honor graduate's descendants can look upon and understand the value of their ancestor's hard work," said John Keenan, professional development director for the MCAF.

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Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Every recruit is required to jump into 12-foot deep water and swim 25 meters to pass water survival basic. Here a recruit of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, holds his breath as he jumps off the 10-foot diving board May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

An instructor supervises a recruit as he learns to tread water May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. It is important that every recruit learns how to swim with combat utility uniforms as well as combat boots so they can understand how difficult it is to swim under these conditions.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits learn to confidently float on their backs before learning five different swimming techniques they will use to swim 25 meters across the pool May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits learn the importance of combat water survival during Week Four of recruit training.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A recruit of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, uses his waterproof pack to swim 25 meters from the center of the pool May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits learn how to the basics of water survival and how to utilize the items around them in order to save their lives.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, anticipate the command to go underwater and strip their gear. Recruits are required to strip a flak jacket, Kevlar helmet and a simulated M16-A4 service rifle while submerged within 10 seconds to simulate what it is like to be wearing a combat load while being in the water.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Recruits of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, splash out of the water after stripping their gear off May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits are required to strip off a flak jacket, Kevlar helmet and a simulated M16-A4 service rifle while submerged within 10 seconds.

Company G recruits use depot pool, learn water survival

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, line up at the edge of the pool to take their initial step into Water Survival Basic May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

“Water survival gives recruits the basics on how to survive in the water,” said Sgt. Daniel Downing, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2155, Co. G, 2nd RTBn. “It also boosts their confidence since most recruits have never swam under these types of conditions.”

Water survival is a requirement that all recruits need to complete in their fourth week of recruit training. It teaches recruits how to use their bodies and items around them to survive in the unfortunate event that they were to go overboard on a ship.

“It’s important that every Marine knows how to survive in water,” said Sgt. Christopher Battaglia, Marine Combat Instructor Trainer, Support Battalion. “A large amount of our operations are in aquatic environments.” Recruits are required to wear a combat utility uniform and a pair of combat boots during the training. This adds difficulty and allows the recruits to get a feel for how it is to move in the water with camis on. They are also given a class on how to make their blouse into a flotation device, explained Battaglia.

Instructors give a safety brief and begin to demonstrate the different strokes and requirements recruits

need to learn in order to qualify. The course of qualification is to swim 25 meters in both shallow and deep water, tread water for four minutes in the deep end, utilize a waterproof-pack to swim 25 meters and do a 10-second gear strip while submerged.

The gear strip requires recruits to wear a flak jacket, Kevlar helmet and carry a simulated M16-A4 service rifle.

Recruits stand drenched, exhausted and relieved from the day’s events, but not every recruit qualifies the first day.

Recurit Albert Wagner, Plt. 2155, Co. G, 2nd RTBn, said he had never learned to swim. “I am definitely afraid of water,” he said, “and wearing the camis and boots made me even more nervous.”

The recruits that don’t qualify the first day are given remediation classes and a second chance to qualify. Instructors work one-on-one with the recruits to ensure that they will be safe and qualify.

“The hardest thing for recruits to do is to overcome their fear,” said Battaglia. “We can teach anyone how to swim but they need to be relaxed and willing.”

Water survival importance is stressed from the very first day of swim week. Recruits must learn not to panic because in a life or death situation there is no time to panic, explained Battaglia.

“I feel more confident after overcoming my fear,” said Wagner, a 21-year-old Harvard, Ill. native. “My



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

A recruit of Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, surfaces after jumping off a 10-foot platform into the water May 22 at the swim tank aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Every recruit must jump off the diving board in full combat utility uniform and boots and swim 25 meters in order to qualify for water survival basic.

motivation was to keep going and complete recruit training without failure.”

Co. G moved on to Weapons and Field Training Battalion aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for Grass Week, where recruits learn the basics in marksmanship.

They will then continue their journey in becoming a United States Marine.

Recruit uses name as inspiration to serve Corps, country

BY LANCE CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

It was a natural, child-like curiosity that drove a young Pfc. Marshal Wenong, Platoon 3210, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, to pick up a dictionary and look up the meaning of his name.

Wenong searched through the pages for the definition of the word that he answered

to on a daily basis. Marshal: a noun. “A high official in the household of a medieval king, prince, or noble originally having charge of the cavalry, but later usually in command of the military forces.”

“My father gave me my name,” said Wenong, 26. “When I looked up the definition, I saw it as a sign to serve in the armed forces.”

The oldest of seven children, Wenong and his brothers were raised by their father in

the trading town of Kumba, Cameroon located in West Africa. He graduated from the Presbyterian Comprehensive High School, Kumba, in 2005 and traveled to the United States on a student visa to go to college.

“The education is more interactive in America,” said Wenong. “In Africa, you can go to class and graduate without ever speaking with your professor.”

Wenong attended Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, for his associate’s degree in business technology. After receiving his associates, Wenong continued his education at OSU, pursuing his bachelor’s degree in computer forensic technology.

While Wenong continued to seek knowledge and sharpen his circular mind, his ultimate goal remained to be the desire to serve as an officer in the military.

“I went and spoke with the Army and Air Force recruiters, they didn’t motivate me,” explained Wenong. “There was something about the way they carried themselves.”

When Wenong met with a Marine Corps recruiter, he didn’t need much persuasion to enlist.

“The recruiter told me that

the Marines were the best,” laughed Wenong. “And I knew this because the Marine Corps is the only service that makes prior service members go through their basic training; I wanted a challenge and to test my strength.”Wenong enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves as infantry and began his journey aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 19.

Although Wenong struggled with certain terminology in the English language, he stayed motivated and pushed through the demanding training cycle that recruits endure for 12 weeks.

“You could tell he wanted to be here from day one,” explained Gunnery Sgt. Eric Ramirez, senior drill instructor, Plt. 3210, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. “He didn’t let the language barrier get in the way of his goals.”

Wenong completed the daily routine of recruit training, and he also made an impact on his fellow recruits by boosting morale throughout the platoon.

“He brings life back to the platoon,” said Pvt. Tyler Wilk, Plt. 3210, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. “He’ll re-enact hunting animals in the jungle; it’ll make us laugh and forget that

we’re in boot camp for a while.”

While Wenong’s antics gave the recruits a sense of being human again, he never lost sight of what was important to him.

Wenong came to America to achieve his personal goals and he eventually wants to move his family here in hopes that his siblings will take advantage of the opportunities he was given.

“I came to America to develop myself and learn responsibility,” said Wenong. “I want to be a role model for my younger brothers and I hope they follow in the same footsteps.”

Once Wenong graduates from recruit training and moves on to his military occupation specialty school at the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., he plans on becoming a citizen and becoming a permanent resident of the United States.

He then wants to attend Officer Candidates School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, with the goal of becoming an infantry officer.

“He’s going to be a smart and mature Marine,” said Ramirez. “The sky’s the limit for him; he’s definitely going to successful.”



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pfc. Marshal Wenong, reassembles his M16-A4 after cleaning in preparation for Tuesday’s Commanding Officer Inspection. Wenong and the other recruit trainees of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion have reached the end of training and will graduate in today’s ceremony.



Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane

Pfc. Marshal Wenong, center, Platoon 3210, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, came to the United States on a student visa to better his education and to pursue his life-long ambition to become an infantry officer. Since he was a child, Wenong felt that his first name was a sign to serve in the armed forces. Wenong plans on finishing his bachelor’s degree and moving on to Officers Candidates School, Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Sgt. Maj. William S. Skiles

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. William S. Skiles entered the Marine Corps in 1979 as an infantry assaultman. After the infantry school training in 1980, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

From 1980 to 1983, Skiles deployed three times to more than 27 countries. He was a part of the expeditionary force to rescue the hostages from Tehran, Iran. In 1983, Skiles left the Corps to pursue a college education.

In 1984, Skiles rejoined the Corps and was ordered to serve as an instructor with School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and in 1987 he received orders to Diego Garcia to work with the Security Forces.

In 1987, Skiles volunteered for

drill instructor duty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. After graduating as the honor graduate for class 03-88, he served two years with 2nd Battalion. From 1990, Skiles served the next three years in Quantico, Va., as a member of the Marine Corps Rifle Team, as a drill instructor at Officer Candidate School and then became the senior noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the Scout Sniper Instructor School.

In 1993, Skiles received orders to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines as a platoon sergeant. He followed up that tour as a reconnaissance platoon sergeant with the 1st Marine Division.

In 1997, Skiles was picked to represent the United States and the Marine Corps as a Marksmanship/Sniper Instructor for England’s Royal Marines.

After two years in England, Skiles was ordered back to assume the SNCOIC for the Scout

Sniper School in the 1st Marine Division. Upon selection to first sergeant, he received orders to Marine Combat Training Battalion at School of Infantry West in Camp Pendleton.

In 2003, the then first sergeant joined 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and deployed in 2004 to Fallujah, Iraq, with Echo Company. Skiles was selected to his present

rank later that year and was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron-267, Cobra and Huey Squadron at Camp Pendleton, California.

In 2007, Skiles was transferred to Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, and, in 2010, he assumed his post as the Sergeant Major of Marine Corps University.

The sergeant major’s personal decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat “V”, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V” with 1 Gold Star, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and Rifle and Pistol Distinguished Marksman Badges.

Marines....you have raised your right hand to join a NEW family. With this hand raised, you stated an oath. There is only one oath that all enlisted Marines recite. This oath is universal for everyone who claims the title “Marine.” I raised my hand 32 years ago and it’s an honor to share that same oath with you today. You will wear two nametapes on your uniform and as you get dressed, look at these names. One is your last name and the other is your NEW family; Wear both with pride. Congratulations to the families and your new Marine.



Platoon 3210
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. I. P. Sewalt
Lewisville, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. A. Borja



Platoon 3215
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. K. S. Conway
Joliet, Ill.
Recruited by
Sgt. C. L. Reynolds



Platoon 3209
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. C. L. Harris
Fort Wayne South, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. M. E. Duval



Platoon 3213
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. T. A. Goudy
Fort Worth, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. P. E. Terry III



Platoon 3214
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. Z. A. Abdellatif
Fair Oaks, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. B. Grove



Platoon 3210
HIGH SHOOTER (338)
Pfc. J. F. Alefs
Wichita, Kansas
Marksmanship Instructor
Cpl. R. E. Mersino



Platoon 3209
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. C. L. Harris
Fort Wayne South, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. M. E. Duval



INDIA 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 I Commanding Officer Capt. P. J. Eickhoff Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. M. D. Wright	SERIES 3209 Series Commander Capt. C. A. Olson Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. O. S. Ornelas		PLATOON 3209 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. A. Sansoucie Drill Instructors Sgt. C. M. Hutson Sgt. A. R. Klco Sgt. J. A. Tarvis	PLATOON 3210 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. E. D. Ramirez Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. L. Fair Sgt. R. Funez Sgt. J. A. Salguero
	SERIES 3213 Series Commander Capt. S. A. Farrar Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. W. Anwar	PLATOON 3213 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. N. G. DeWeever Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. H. Jimenez Staff Sgt. J. Lerma Sgt. P. Montano III Sgt. A. Rihn	PLATOON 3214 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. C. S. Soto Drill Instructors Sgt. M. C. Birch Sgt. C. Q. Hye Sgt. K. G. West	PLATOON 3215 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. R. Rochefort Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. R. Borski Staff Sgt. M. C. Chavez Staff Sgt. R. G. Rivas-Chacon

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 3209

Pvt. G. E. Cardona
Pfc. J. B. Carranza
Pvt. C. R. Causbrook
Pfc. K. G. Chantry
Pfc. C. E. Chase
Pvt. C. D. Chelini
Pvt. J. W. Coelho
*Pfc. J. C. Cohen
Pfc. D. T. Colwell
Pvt. R. J. Cook
Pvt. G. R. Cooper
Pvt. J. A. Corman
Pvt. A. J. Cosico
Pvt. B. A. Cripe
Pvt. D. J. Cronsell
Pvt. A. M. Dayen
Pfc. M. I. Del Rosario
Pvt. B. G. Eagar
Pvt. D. A. Espinoza
Pvt. N. A. Fenrich
Pvt. D. M. Ferris
Pfc. A. M. Flores
Pvt. G. W. Forcum
Pfc. I. E. Forsyth
Pvt. C. D. Gaddis
Pfc. D. M. Garcia
Pvt. G. M. Garrison
Pvt. J. A. Gonzalez
Pfc. R. Gonzalez
Pvt. A. T. Gorton
Pfc. J. A. Gossling
Pvt. E. M. Gyving
*Pfc. C. L. Harris
Pvt. J. S. Haviland
Pvt. S. M. Henegar
*Pfc. C. R. Henman
Pfc. G. B. Herrera
Pvt. C. A. Hicks
Pfc. M. C. Jaime
Pfc. M. P. Jenks
Pfc. R. D. Johnson
Pvt. J. K. Jones
Pvt. A. S. Kieth
Pvt. D. T. Kenner III
Pfc. N. B. Kinzel
Pvt. J. A. Klahr
Pvt. A. J. Stout
Pvt. S. C. Thompson
Pfc. S. E. Timlick
Pvt. D. C. Walrath
Pvt. N. G. Walker
Pvt. C. M. Williams
Pfc. J. T. Williams
Pvt. A. M. Wolter
Pvt. T. B. York

PLATOON 3210

*Pfc. J. F. Alefs
Pvt. D. W. Baird Jr.
Pvt. B. J. Baker
Pvt. M. R. Barnett
*Pfc. J. W. Birdwell
Pvt. J. W. Braat
*Pfc. M. A. Bunch
Pvt. B. B. Byers
Pvt. V. A. Castillo
Pfc. T. A. Crizer
Pvt. H. J. Harvey
Pvt. S. J. Holland
Pfc. T. Q. Morrison
Pvt. R. E. Muir
Pvt. R. A. Nunez
Pvt. T. D. Ornduff
Pvt. N. E. Penaomeara
Pfc. D. M. Peshel
Pvt. C. J. Petrich
Pfc. J. A. Rash
Pvt. Z. L. Reitmeier
Pvt. C. S. Replogle
Pvt. C. S. Rodriguez-Ramos
Pvt. C. D. Rohr
Pvt. J. J. Saldana
Pfc. A. H. Schnell
Pvt. J. M. Schultz
Pvt. R. R. Schwarz
Pvt. B. T. Selleck
*Lance Cpl. I. P. Sewalt
Pvt. J. P. Shaw
Pvt. S. K. Sherrill
Pvt. R. A. Shuga
Pvt. C. S. Simmons
Pfc. K. O. Skotheim
Pvt. T. R. Smiley
Pvt. K. K. Smith
Pvt. S. M. Smith
Pvt. D. L. Soto
Pvt. L. H. Sparks
Pvt. T. R. Spates
Pvt. N. W. Spitzer
Pvt. C. J. Tacker
Pvt. D. L. Talsma
Pvt. D. M. Talty
*Pfc. J. R. Tatro
Pfc. A. L. Tremain
Pvt. D. R. Wagner
Pfc. J. A. Weishan Jr.
Pfc. M. A. Wenong
Pfc. T. A. Wilk
*Pfc. W. C. Wray

PLATOON 3213

Pvt. D. K. Bray
Pfc. A. Cano
Pvt. J. Cuevas
Pfc. C. D. DeWitt
Pvt. M. A. Dominguez
Pvt. W. T. Ellingham
*Pfc. G. L. Emert
Pvt. M. I. Estrada-Santoyo
Pvt. R. Flores
Pvt. R. D. Frederick
Pvt. J. W. Freeman
Pfc. A. F. Fua
Pvt. S. S. Garza Jr.
Pfc. T. A. Goudy
Pvt. Z. C. Grissom
Pvt. J. A. Groves
Pvt. R. J. Guindon
Pvt. S. P. Harris-Firestone
Pvt. B. J. Howard
Pfc. D. D. Jenkins
Pvt. D. P. Jones
Pvt. J. J. Lee
Pvt. G. G. Lima
Pvt. M. G. Lima
Pvt. A. V. Lubiano
Pvt. D. E. Malaga
Pfc. J. D. Mattox
Pfc. J. E. McElroy
Pvt. B. D. Mejia
Pvt. E. N. Melendez
Pvt. C. D. Moore
Pfc. M. Moreno Jr.
Pvt. R. M. Owens
Pfc. J. D. Perez
Pvt. T. W. Price
Pvt. C. J. Pullen
Pvt. A. Raggio
Pfc. C. A. Rath
*Pfc. B. L. Reeves
Pfc. D. P. Rios
*Pfc. J. P. Rios
Pvt. C. W. Robinson
Pvt. M. Rodriguez
Pfc. F. Rojas Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Salas
Pvt. A. Salazar
Pfc. T. W. Simon
Pfc. G. P. Syversen
Pfc. D. J. Taitingfong
Pvt. T. M. Vibbard
Pvt. A. M. Villa
Pvt. A. R. Wells
*Pfc. B. J. Wulff

PLATOON 3214

*Pfc. Z. A. Abdellatif
Pvt. E. Acevedo-Sanchez
Pfc. D. M. Albert
Pvt. D. R. Altman
Pvt. J. D. Alvarado
Pvt. J. A. Alvarez
Pvt. J. B. Anguiano
Pvt. S. A. Aquiningoc
Pfc. A. M. Armstrong
Pvt. J. P. Aubry
Pvt. C. Avila
*Pfc. T. A. Baker
Pfc. E. Ballesteros
Pvt. T. R. Beach
Pfc. J. M. Bechtold
Pvt. P. K. Begay
Pvt. S. A. Bergquist
Pvt. C. J. Bermea
Pfc. O. R. Blasramos II
Pvt. R. S. Bokum
Pvt. H. P. Boodram Jr.
Pfc. D. S. Borawski
Pfc. K. D. Boyd
Pfc. D. C. Dees
Pvt. J. I. Griego
Pvt. A. J. Kunesh
Pvt. J. M. Landon
*Pfc. D. J. Larkin
Pvt. W. D. Leitch
Pvt. A. M. Lenhart
Pfc. S. E. Lerch
Pfc. R. R. McAuliffe
Pvt. T. R. McMullen
Pvt. C. J. Milkey
Pvt. M. G. Miller
Pfc. C. D. Morrison
Pvt. J. Ong
Pfc. J. D. Owen
Pfc. M. H. Pak
Pfc. K. T. Quebe
Pvt. A. G. Ramirez
Pvt. W. J. Raverty
*Pfc. T. K. Richie
Pvt. M. Rivera
Pvt. J. R. Rouse
Pfc. O. Rubio Jr.
Pvt. J. C. Sam
Pvt. B. R. Sanglay
Pvt. S. R. Schiller
Pvt. B. J. Schroeder
Pvt. N. A. Shaw
Pvt. J. O. Sipin
Pvt. N. P. Siu
Pfc. J. A. Skaggs
Pvt. S. J. Spain

PLATOON 3215

Pvt. E. H. Aceret
Pvt. B. J. Arias
Pvt. J. V. Banjany
Pvt. A. A. Barron
Pvt. E. Camacho
Pfc. M. M. Clark
*Pfc. K. S. Conway
*Pfc. P. L. Couch
Pfc. E. Cruz
Pvt. J. E. Cruz-Villareal
Pvt. A. J. Dalum
Pvt. M. P. Demel
Pvt. R. Diaz
Pfc. D. J. Dirienzo
Pvt. A. Escobar
*Pfc. Z. M. Faith
Pvt. T. R. Farley
Pfc. G. D. Ferk
Pfc. B. N. Fitzhugh
Pvt. C. D. Florez
Pvt. K. S. Gamble
Pfc. G. B. Garcia IV
Pvt. J. R. Garza
Pvt. A. J. Gisler
Pvt. A. T. Green
Pvt. T. J. Griffard
Pfc. C. E. Gurke
Pfc. T. A. Hall
Pvt. A. K. Hallwachs
Pvt. D. T. Hansen
Pfc. N. J. Helterbrand
Pfc. S. M. Herzog
Pfc. W. H. Hickman IV
Pvt. A. M. Holcomb
Pvt. M. D. Hutson
Pvt. G. L. Hykel
Pvt. J. E. Jarosz
Pfc. A. S. Johnson
Pvt. C. L. Johnson
Pvt. Z. D. Johnson
*Pfc. J. J. Jones
Pvt. J. G. Jourdan
Pvt. A. I. Kingsley
Pfc. S. R. Klevgard
Pfc. S. E. Knapp II
Pvt. M. G. Langley
Pvt. D. G. Leal
Pvt. W. C. Lesneski
Pfc. T. M. Lewis
Pfc. B. R. Lieske II
Pvt. N. K. Lollock
Pfc. T. S. Matthews
Pfc. J. M. McGee
Pvt. J. E. McHugh
Pvt. C. J. Mikolas
Pvt. K. Moreno



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company K drill instructors inspect their recruits in the squad bays June 1 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The drill instructors create chaos to help simulate a combat environment to cause the recruits to think fast. This is only one of three inspections recruits go through aboard the depot.

Co. K drill instructors build confidence through inspections

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL J. DRUERY
Chevron staff

Company K drill instructors ran with intensity into squad bays to inspect their recruits standing in formation June 1 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

This began Co. K’s Senior Drill Instructor Inspection, a hectic environment where every drill instructor from the company inspects each platoon while the seniors observe.

“This inspection helps seniors see which recruits might be struggling or need extra attention,” said Sgt. Bryce Torrence, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3233, Co. K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

This is Co. K’s recruit’s first inspection since arriving to the depot. They are asked basic Marine Corps knowledge

questions, tested on bearing and their weapon cleanliness and their appearance is critiqued. The drill instructors tries to make the inspection stressful by creating a chaotic environment so the recruits have to react fast.

“This inspection makes you think on the fly and adapt and overcome,” said Recruit Timothy Hodapp, Platoon 3233, Co. K, 3rd RTBn. “You don’t have time to think when they ask you questions.”

This is meant to simulate a combat environment, where they won’t have much time to make decisions. Forcing the recruits to think and react fast builds on their confidence, preparing them for when they become Marines.

The recruits have a week to prepare their uniforms and weapons to help ensure they have confidence when a drill instructor steps in front of them. Over the past

three weeks recruits have had the chance to obtain Marine Corps knowledge and some confidence.

“Recruit training is always stressful,” said Hodapp, “But the drill instructors kicked it up a notch, which inspired us to be confident when they asked us questions.”

Hodapp was marked down for not remembering his tenth general order and his weapon wasn’t clean enough during the inspection. This teaches the recruits to pay attention to detail for future inspections.

“It’s their initial inspection, the first time they’ve been formally inspected,” said Torrence. “It shows recruits they have the confidence to move on to second phase.”

Co. K will have two more inspections while at recruit training, preparing them for inspections in the fleet with confidence and knowledge.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Company K drill instructors inspect their recruits weapons June 1 during Senior Drill Instructor Inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Recruits were also inspected on their uniforms and Marine Corps knowledge.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Recruits were inspected on their weapons, uniform and Marine Corps knowledge June 1 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company K’s Senior Drill Instructor Inspection was the recruits first inspection since they have arrived aboard the depot. This is only one of three they will have during training.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Sgt. Enrique Mendoza, drill instructor, Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, inspects a recruit with intensity during Senior Drill Instructor Inspection June 1 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Co. K has two more inspections while being aboard the depot.