

2nd QUARTER VOL.6 NO.2 2013

**HABIT OF HUMANITY**

MARINES AND POOLEES VOLUNTEER TO HELP  
THOSE IN NEED OF ADEQUATE HOUSING

**RAISING THE BAR**

RS COLUMBIA POOLEE READIES  
HERSELF FOR BOOTCAMP

**HONOR  
GRADUATES**

# PACESETTER

**MAGAZINE**





# PACESETTER

## MAGAZINE

# PACESETTER

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

### COL W.J. BOWERS



Dear Marines, Families, and Friends of 6th Marine Corps District,

Thank you for your continued hard work and sustained excellence in making our Marine Corps better! As a lead-in to this issue of the Pacesetter, I want to talk to all of you about something you do every day that is critical to the future of our Marine Corps: and that is reinforcing and expanding upon the trust and respect of the American people. We talk a lot about “making mission” out here on recruiting duty, and our collective staffs and leadership constantly emphasize all of the hard work and daily prospecting activities that must go into making our weekly and monthly objectives. This is all very important, and must always remain so. But let us never lose sight of the big “M” of why we’re really out here in the communities of America – to daily exemplify to the American people by the power of our example, appearance and adherence to our core values “Who We Are” as our Nation’s “Ethical Warriors,” as U.S. Marines. Reinforcing and expanding upon the trust and respect of the American people is our most important “Mission” out here.

As a District, we will ship approximately 7,000 young men and women to recruit training and officer candidates school this fiscal year, representing a significant contribution to shaping the

future of our Marine Corps. You all are contributing daily to this major bestowment to our national security, and I thank you and your families for this. But in our communities, high schools, colleges, civic centers, restaurants and on the streets of the Southeastern United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, you are making an even larger contribution by positively influencing the more than 57 million people living in our area on “Who We Are” and “Why We Matter” as U.S. Marines! This is an awesome responsibility and one that we must all keep foremost in our souls as we continue to execute our daily responsibilities.

Many of you have heard me talk about the importance and complexities of communication and how Marines on recruiting duty will learn one of the most valuable skills that anyone can ever learn in life – how to be a “Great Communicator.” As I’ve discussed, communication is an inherently complex activity that occurs in four dimensions: 1) Messenger; this is you, and the most important part, 2) Message; “Who We Are” as our Nation’s “Ethical Warriors”, 3) Medium; these keep expanding with technology, but must always be kept consistent with “Who We Are” as Marines and 4)

Audience; as you all know, we have multiple audiences, often simultaneously, who we are in daily communication with. Your task as an aspiring “Great Communicator” is to always ensure the alignment of our message of “Who We Are” as U.S. Marines across all four dimensions – no small task – to reinforce and expand upon the trust and respect of the American people.

Now, I want you all to lift your gaze up to the level of the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and consider how they communicate “Who We Are” and “Why We Matter” to the American people. They have our advertising campaign, testimony before the U.S. Congress, articles in journals (see the CMC’s “Who We Are” article if you have not already done so), engagement with the media on our countless Marine success stories, in combat and in response to crises and the many other “mediums” available to them. But by far the medium with the most range, reach and impact is you – the Marine Recruiter – helping to change young lives for the better while showing by the power of your personal example the more than 57 million people in the Southeastern United States what it means to be a U.S. Marine. Everything you do is a form of communication with

the American people.

This Pacesetter highlights some examples of those many outstanding Marines in the 6th Marine Corps District who are achieving highest performance with the highest ethics and, by doing so, reinforcing and expanding upon the trust and respect of the American people. So I ask you all to be proud of “Who You Are” and “Why You Matter.” I also ask that if you are having a tough month and things have not been going your way out there with the many things that can and will go wrong on recruiting duty – parental consents, problems on deck, future Marines who are questioning their true potential, etc. – remember this: by being the physically fit, ethical, squared-away U.S. Marine you are, and being seen in your communities, you are accomplishing the big “M” of reinforcing and expanding upon the trust and respect of the American people. Take care of yourselves, take care of your families, take care of each other and thank you all for “Who You Are!”

*William J. Bowers*  
W.J. BOWERS  
COLONEL, USMC  
COMMANDING OFFICER, 6MCD

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## GREEN MACHINE

→ Pfc. Stanley Cao



## MARINE HONORED

→ Sgt. Scott Schmidt



## NO DUTY TOO TOUGH

→ Sgt. Shawn Coolman



## Honor Grads

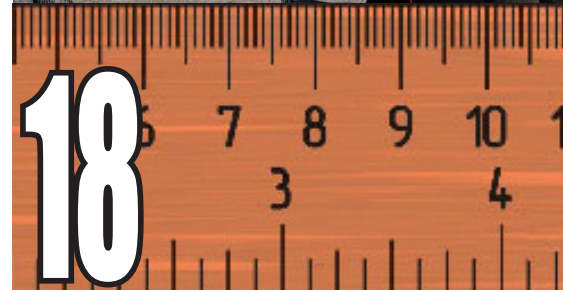
Congratulations!

→ LCpl John-Paul Imbody



## Top Performers

→ Operations



The Pacesetter Magazine is compiled and produced by 6MCD Marines for 6MCD Marines. It is a quarterly publication filed electronically and made available specifically for recruiters and their families. All content is reviewed for accuracy, brevity and style before publication. All questions should be forwarded to the 6MCD Public Affairs Office. Semper Fidelis.





Pacesetters, I would like to thank you for what you are doing in the District to mold and shape the Corps. Most times your job may seem thankless and your efforts unappreciated. Rest assured though, from the Commandant on down, they know how important your job is.

Other than deployments and finances, Congress’ main concern is knowing we have the Marines available to accomplish our mission. This responsibility is carried on your shoulders and in today’s world that’s no easy task.

I just wanted to quickly touch on a couple subjects because I know you Marines are busy. First and foremost, if you haven’t taken a PFT get it done before it gets too hot! If you waited until May to get into shape you’re too late and with the high summer temperatures, waiting until June to take the PFT is an equally bad idea.

As you’re running the RSS PT program, ensure you are exercising proper Operational Risk Management in every aspect of day-to-day physical activities. This means that as a SNCO-IC, supervise PT yourself or assign a responsible recruiter to maintain the program. Stay involved, make a schedule and stay on top of it so you and all Marines know well in advance when and where PT will be taking place.

Keep in mind; however, some future Marines prefer not to leave their house when it’s hot and would much rather exercise their thumbs in front of the TV rather than pound the pavement with their feet. For the summer months, develop a plan to PT in the early morn-

ing or later evening hours when the heat is a bit more tolerable. Food for thought: what would you do if a poolee went down for heat? Would you be able to answer the mail two levels up on the who, what, when and where you did PT if a future Marine goes to the hospital? The safety of the pool is resting on your shoulders so you better think long and hard before any strenuous activities.

Secondly, just as important as physical fitness are your fitness reports. As you do your monthly planning, I suggest you view your MRO worksheet from time-to-time to ensure all of your billet accomplishments are on there. We typically only get one fitness report per year, so keeping track of your accomplishments can mean the difference between a ‘ho-hum’ fitrep and an outstanding one. Bear in mind, your commanding officer reviews over 100 fitreps per year. The more you can help the CO remember what you have done, the easier it will be for them and the better it will be for you.

Stay Motivated and stay in the 36 Lap/ Month race and finish strong!!

Semper Fidelis!

James M. Thetford  
SgtMaj USMC  
District Sergeant Major



Marines,  
SY13-14 is upon us. The HS/CC program is the foundation or, “Bedrock”, of Marine Corps recruiting success. Those new High School Seniors must be shown what opportunities are out there for them in addition to going off to college.

Be a “PACESETTER,” get into those new lists, and tell the Marine Corps story. Get your First Seniors early (in all your Priority Schools) and they will help you find more quality future Marines.  
Semper Fi, 3

# Cultivating Leadership

Visible and Cultivating Leadership,  
For centuries there has been a debate about whether leaders must be born into their leadership capacities or whether leadership can be developed in all of us. Findings from history, psychology, business and neuroscience are now clear about this: leaders grow over time, and leadership can be thoughtfully and intentionally nurtured. As leaders grow, particularly as they become better able to face the complex and longer term challenges of our times, leaders can change themselves, their organizations, and their world, for the better.

Great leaders support their fellow Marines and sailors to be their best selves, to work well with one another in order to accomplish the mission, and to be creative and resilient in the face of challenges, uncertainty and change. They craft and mold an environment where leadership can emerge where it needs to be, and they support others to hone and develop their skills. While leading can feel very lonely at times, it requires deep connection with others. It means working with people on vision and tasks, and paying close attention to settings. It also means understanding the interaction between all these parts and being able to notice and shape them even in fluctuating and often times, trying circumstances.

Vision – Leadership is about the future. Leadership involves setting a direction and gaining commitment of others to follow. This vision could be described by an individual, a team, an organization, or a whole community.

Tasks: thinking, deciding, and acting – Leadership is generative. Leadership involves adding value to the work of others by helping to think through the issues and decide on actions. Leadership often means making decisions, clarifying the tasks needed to make the vision more of a reality, and supporting others so that these tasks can be accomplished.

People – Leadership is relational. Leadership involves leading people, enabling them to work together better. This includes addressing situations where people are not working well, surfacing important conflicts and dealing openly with difficult conversations, and supporting people to develop their abilities to do this. It involves leaders and followers and works best when it is mutually supportive. It can come from one leader to many or it can develop from among a number of people.

Settings – Leadership is contextual. Leadership takes place in a setting, a set of circumstances that is often organizational as well as inter-personal, and that setting can be organized to better support leadership and positive changes. Leadership can be enabled or obstructed by organizational systems and processes.

Food for thought, Good Leaders...

• Provide vision and core values	• Are strong and decisive
• Display competency and professionalism	• Communicate effectively
• Treat people with dignity and respect	• Emphasize teamwork
• Stand for honor, truthfulness, fairness and respect	• Put the interests of others before his own
• Possess self-confidence and optimism	• Lead by example – lead from the front



## HEADQUARTERS

In the Marine Corps, advancing through the ranks quickly and achieving the status of staff non-commissioned officer is a goal set by many. It's rarely an easy task for any Marine, but for 23 year old Staff Sgt. Ricardo Lee Santos, an administrative specialist here at the 6th Marine Corps District, he has achieved that goal in a little over six years.

Santos, a native from Reading, Pa., enlisted in the Marine Corps February 19, 2007. Since that time, has set many personal goals for himself always keeping in mind his need to achieve excellence in all that he does.

"My motive when I became a Marine, was to always be ahead of the game," said Santos. "I never wanted to be considered "GP," or general population." Regardless of the task, Santos' mindset drove to do complete every task given him by doing it better and faster than the next Marine.

"That was my mindset. Whether, it was getting promoted to lance corporal and being the honor graduate at Marine Combat Training, or class leader at Personnel Administration School, I always wanted to be better."

"I don't think I'm average and I don't like being average and you should never be average. Shoot to go above and beyond."

His high level of performance has seen a high level of reward come back to him. Among some of his latest stats are being the third youngest staff sergeant in the Marine Corps currently as well as being the only administrative specialist to be meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant for fiscal year 2013.

"Those statistics make me proud and I take pride in that," said Santos. "It shows that I separated myself from the pack and the only administrator to be meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant."

What helped him achieve these accomplishments was his motivation to keep pushing. His wife, and kids are what motivates him every day. His main drive to success has always been his family he explained, citing his largest source of motivation was his daughter. Santos knew he needed to get off the streets and support his newly born daughter.

"She was my main source of motivation and the only thing I had to live for at that point," said Staff Sgt. Santos. Sincerity was born just a couple days before he left for recruit training.

Santos hasn't forgotten his fellow Marines though. Helping push his own Marines to success brings as much pride to achievements as getting promoted.

"Marines that I've led, been their NCO, noncommissioned officer-officer in charge or their administrative chief, email me saying I got promoted to sergeant, I got meritorious corporal and saying that something I did to helped them to succeed and thanking me. That makes me proud," he said.

Santos said he looks forward to the future and has set up goals for himself. "Next step is to become a successful recruiter and hopefully win Recruiter of the Year, or maybe even get a meritorious gunnery sergeant promotion", said Santos.

"I hope to become a warrant officer in the administrative field, retire from the Marine Corps; I don't plan on getting out or be a staff sergeant for the next six years either. Continue to progress and eventually retire, while maintaining a happy home," he concluded.

# Green Machine

Story and photo by:

Pfc Stanley Cao

6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT STAFF



## MARINE HONORED BY MEXICAN AMERICAN COUNCIL

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – The Mexican American Council and City of Homestead honored Marine Sgt. Simon Gonzalez, a recruiter with Marine Corps Recruiting Substation Perrine, for his military service and dedication April 27, 2013.

Gonzalez, who grew up in the migrant farmer community of South Florida, received the Hometown Heroes award as a tribute to not only his three combat tours to Afghanistan and Iraq, but as a symbol of his dedication as a role model for the migrant community.

“He’s a prime example of what we hope every young man would become,” said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Tony Stout, a board member of the Mexican American Council and teacher with Miami-Dade County’s Migrant Education Program.

Stout mentored Gonzalez as a student and was his scout master when he joined the Boy Scouts of America at the age of nine. Watching Gonzalez grow throughout the years was uplifting said Stout.

Gonzalez, like many children of migrant workers, had a testing childhood. While his peers were moving toward crime and gangs, Gonzalez went the opposite direction and embraced the role of mentor, explained Stout. Gonzalez went to school, was active in the scouts and worked throughout middle and high school to support his younger siblings all the while mentoring younger migrant children when he could.

“He’s really earned this award his whole life,” Stout said. “Others where in gangs, but he was a leader from the start. He doesn’t sit back on his heels. He takes charge. He’s got leadership written all over him.”

As a leader of Marines and in his community, Gonzalez’s humility is unwavering.

“I really am honored today with this,” Gonzalez told a crowd representing the Mexican American Council. “You don’t go through life helping others and serving for the recognition, but because there’s people that need it.”

United States Representative Joe Garcia from Florida’s 26th Congressional District, along with the mayors of Homestead and Florida City presented Gonzalez with the Hometown Heroes Award.

On behalf of the State of Florida, State Representative Kionne L. McGhee and school board member Lawrence Feldman presented Gonzalez with a letter officially entering his service into the congressional record.



**Story and photo by:**  
**SGT Scott Schmidt**

RS FT LAUDERDALE MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



A young man with red hair is swimming through a man-made ditch filled with thick, yellowish-brown mud. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and is looking forward with a determined expression. His right arm is extended back, pushing through the mud. The background is a blur of mud and water, suggesting movement.

# IN IT TO WIN IT...

## SNAPSHOT

Garrett Beau Guess, a 17-year-old poolee with Recruiting Substation Montgomery, Recruiting Station Montgomery, Ala., swims through a man-made ditch during the Auburn mud run April 6. Guess, who is scheduled to ship to Parris Island in August, ran in the event as part of RSS Montgomery's pool training that day. Guess was recruited by Staff Sgt. Matthew Cullum, with Permanent Contact Station Auburn, Ala.

**Photo by:**  
**SGT JON HOLMES**

RS MONTGOMERY MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



# MARINES SHOW HABIT OF HUMANITY

Marines always defend those who cannot defend themselves. For Marines, that's an ethos that applies as much to the three block war as it does to the neighborhood blocks of "Anytown USA."

Giving back to the community and helping those in need, Marines and poolees of Recruiting Station Nashville rallied in true Marine Corps fashion to participate in a house building project with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that has helped build or repair more than 600,000 homes for needy families throughout the world.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Craig S. Stout, recruiter instructor with RS Nashville, says volunteering helps the Marines get to know people better and establish relationships in the area.

"Community service is a great way to get connected and impact your local Community," he said.

"Our local area has given so much support for the military that it only seems right to do any and everything we can in return," said Sgt. Daniel B. Tidwell, a canvassing recruiter assigned to Permanent Contact Station Dickson, Recruiting Substation Clarksville. "Volunteering in the community also helps the RS by allowing the people to see that we are just as much a humanitarian force, as we are an elite fighting force."

Tidwell, from Hickman County, Tenn., went on to explain that aside from just the Marines, he also tries to get his poolees involved with volunteering as well.

"This shows a positive mental, spiritual and physical change it can have on someone," said Tidwell. "It raises morale and motivation in the pool by the satisfaction they receive by selflessly sacrificing their time for the benefit of others. It can also inspire others in the community by showing them the happiness it brings to oneself by performing these selfless acts even though nothing is expected in return."

The idea of the Marine Corps giving back to the community paints a powerful picture of the humanity Marines show to those in need.

"Marines should always be aware of opportunities to serve their communities and if they find a way that a large group of Marines can serve, then they should forward that up the chain-of-command in order to get maximum participation for the event," said Stout. "As Marines we are already prone to serve our Country, so community service should come naturally to most Marines."



Marines and poolees from Recruiting Station Nashville pose in front of the house they spent numerous hours working on during their Habitat for Humanity Build. During the build they put up siding, installed insulation and various other tasks requested.

Sgt Tommy D. Dunn, supply clerk assigned to RS Nashville, measures a wall before nailing a piece of siding during an ongoing effort with Habitat for Humanity in Nashville, Tenn.



**Story and photos by:**  
**SSgt Roger Nelson**

RS NASHVILLE. MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



# No duty too tough

Marine Receives College Degree On Recruiting Duty

Story and photo by:  
Sgt Shawn Coolman

RS FT LAUDERDALE, MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tampa, Fla.-- Balancing the Marine Corps with college is never an easy task. Balancing college with arguably one of the toughest duties in the Marine Corps is an education in determination.

Sergeant Kyle Ekblom, from Helena Mont., enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2001 and like so many others chose to get out in 2005 and pursue college full time.

After attending University of South Florida for three years he found he missed the camaraderie and after his junior year was complete he returned to the Marine Corps.

In the summer of 2011 while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Ekblom started again where he left off at USF taking online classes. He continued pursuing his degree in Criminology as he was selected and completed his Basic Recruiter Course in San Diego, Calif.

After arriving to Recruiting Station Orlando in March of 2012 Ekblom, a combat engineer, has achieved a 1.90 APR with 71 percent alphas all while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.09

Ekblom, 30, who recruits out of Recruiting Substation Clearwater echoes time management is the most important thing. "Time management and stress management are key to juggling this job, being a new father and doing well in school. Don't give up."

Ekblom is able to use his experience attending college while conducting interviews to his advantage. He is able to show first-hand as a proof source his college being paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He says, "that piece of paper is an amazing thing to show the young men and women who want to become Marines, and also to their parents, they can also pursue their education while in the Marine Corps, and its paid for."

"I couldn't ask for a better Marine. He has found that balance between work and education. Sgt Ekblom is a true professional," explained Sgt. Robert Garafolo Jr., SNCOIC of RSS Clearwater.

"He's not only a new father, excelling in his studies, has an insatiable work ethic but he is also involved in the community," said Garafalo, from Cooper City, Fla. "During the last Toys 4 Tots campaign we collected more than 30,000 dollars in donations. Sgt. Ekblom volunteered his time just because he wanted to give back to his community."

Ekblom has balanced both being a Marine recruiter and exceling as an undergraduate student at USF. He graduated May 1.

"If I can influence and inspire even one young individual to make a stronger Marine Corps and country then it's well worth it," said Ekblom.



## SNAPSHOT

Corporal Gabrielle Bustos a combat correspondent with 6th Marine Corps District headquarters, reads "Smooch Your Pooch," by Teddy Slater and Arthur Howard to Tye, a fifth grade student at Robert Smalls Middle School who is participating in the Reading Buddies Program, in Beaufort, S.C., April 24, 2013.

Marines from throughout the Depot are participating in Reading Buddies to provide guidance and motivation for students who are currently enrolled in English as a Second Language classes.

Volunteers spend time with the students reading books during normal school hours.

Photo by:  
Pfc. Stanley Cao

6TH MCD PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF WRITER





# Mini-OCS Offers Many Challenges

Candidates are put to the test during the mini officer's candidate school aboard MCRD PI

**MCRD/ERR PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.** -- One hundred and seventy-eight Marine Corps officer candidates recently traveled to Parris Island to participate in a mini officer candidates school.

Since OCS is often considered one of the toughest schools Marine officers will attend, every opportunity is taken to get the candidates ready for the physical and mental challenges that await them.

One tool used to

ease the learning curve is the Mini-OCS. This helps prepare candidates on the social and emotional plane, according to Capt. Nicole Bastian, the OSO for Officer Selection Team Tallahassee, Fla., and the coordinator for this year's Mini-OCS held aboard the Depot March 21-23.

"The purpose of the Mini-OCS was to place the officer candidates in a stressful environment and introduce them to physical and

leadership challenges to see how they react," Bastian explained.

"Observers were looking for candidates who were decisive under pressure, could communicate to their peers and could get their peers to execute the decision that he or she came up with.

Orchestrating an event of this magnitude took nearly an entire quarter of active planning and assistance from supply officers and supply chiefs throughout the 6th Marine Corps District and MCRD Parris Island, according to Staff Sgt Damien Gauthier, the supply chief for Marine Corps Recruiting Station Jacksonville. Coordinated logistics included the transportation, meals, medical, lodging, movement to, aboard and off Parris Island, stocking the heads, police calling, setting up the command post, gear issue and gear turn in, and establishment of a communications plan.

"It took a lot of combined effort and time to pull this off," Gauthier said.

"Networking with my counterparts throughout the district and working with the OSAs, who played an integral role as middle men between

us and the OSOs really made this happen."

"Coordinating programs such as this Mini-OCS is one of the highlights of my position within the RS. Just like any Marine, I do enjoy the challenges brought on by doing so, but the luxury of my role is that I have the opportunity to examine certain situations on a grander scale and utilize out of the box thought processes to achieve a bigger picture in support of the mission," Gauthier explained.

The challenges candidates had to overcome varied from nerves to physical discomfort, Bastian explained. With drill instructors maintaining an intense and demanding environment throughout the evolution coupled with tough and realistic training that challenged all of them. Even the most prepared candidates were exhausted.

The entirety of the Mini-OCS was planned to incorporate trials for the candidates to test their merit and dedication to becoming a Marine Corps officer, Bastian said.

A prime example of this was the physical fitness test which was intentionally placed on

the final training day so the candidates would be sore and tired from the day prior on the obstacle course. The ensuing fatigue was planned as a mental component for the PFT.

"Candidates can take a PFT in perfect conditions any day back home," Bastian expressed.

"At OCS during the morning of the PFT there will be unrest, stress, nerves and maybe even lethargy from having gone through several in-processing days. The bottom line is I wanted them to experience the most non-ideal PFT to give them a mental toughness to reach back to in the future. If the candidates hadn't done a gut check about whether being a Marine Officer was really for them, this culminating event tested that nerve. The scene of pouring rain, a muddy flooded training area, and cold, wet, miserable and motivated candidates was priceless."

In recruiting the intangibles are often highlighted and the results of this Mini-OCS are no different.

The event provided candidates an opportunity to improve morale and become more focused



on their goals. The female officer candidates have formed an online forum with Bastian making her directly available to all of them for mentorship.

The cross-OST bonds forged throughout the weekend and shared hardships may serve to strengthen the social component among 6th Marine Corps District candidates when they reconnect at OCS this summer.



**Story by:**  
**Sgt Jennifer Farr**

**Photos by:**  
**LCpl John-Paul Imbody**

RS JACKSONVILLE MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Story and photos by:  
**Sgt Aaron Rooks**

RS COLUMBIA MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Starting in January 2014, female Marines will be required to perform the same minimum of three pull-ups as required for male Marines. This new standard for female Marines does not concern poolee Paige C. Colburn of Monroe, N.C., because she is already performing nine dead-hang pull ups.

Paige, who joined the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program on Jan. 22, is scheduled to ship to recruit training on April 8. She is well aware of the new standard, but she plans to show others females are more than capable of meeting and exceeding the new standard.

"I am able to show what I have worked so hard for," Colburn said, referring to her progression from two pull ups when she joined the DEP. "I never thought I would do nine pull ups. Now my goal is to reach 10."

Colburn's recruiter, Sgt. Christopher A. Moberg, of Recruiting Substation Monroe, Recruiting Station Columbia, said accountability is crucial in preparing young enlistees for the rigors associated with recruit training. The rotary-wing aircraft mechanic and former CH-46 crew chief said he and his fellow Marines expect their poolees to give 100 percent effort throughout their time in the DEP. This means poolees attending physical training sessions held every week, to include monthly pool functions.

# RS Columbia Poolee Raises The Bar For Success

Colburn is an example of a poolee who exceeded Moberg's expectations. She not only attended every possible training event, which often included working out six days a week with a full-time job, but she also served as a leader among fellow poolees with less than three months in the program.

"She tends to downplay her own abilities, but she becomes unstoppable once she overcomes that," Moberg said. "A lot of people follow her. When someone falls out of a run, we don't have to tell her to go back to get that person. She doesn't quit, and she's not selfish at all. She leads by example."

He said he and his fellow recruiters take an invested interest in each poolee's development in the program. They want to ensure every poolee is mentally, morally and physically prepared for recruit training. Their training progression ensures poolees like Colburn are able to exceed standards. They also encourage poolees to take on leadership roles while in the DEP. This includes leading physical training sessions with the guidance and mentorship of their recruiters. This method draws out the leadership potential within each enlistee.

Colburn demonstrated her abilities during RS Columbia's annual Female Pool Function held on Feb. 23, which evaluated each female enlistee's ability to perform under intense stress. Drill instructors from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris

Island, S.C., attend the event each year to create an atmosphere similar to recruit training.

During the event, drill instructors demand speed, volume, and intensity from poolees.

This year's event served as an opportunity to test each female poolee's ability to perform pull-ups. Colburn performed seven dead-hang pull-ups during the event, two less than her current max.

"I was nervous because I did not know what to expect," Colburn said. "Everyone hears about drill instructors and sees them in YouTube videos, but it's difficult to understand without experiencing it firsthand. But weirdly enough, I wasn't scared. I knew I had to keep a straight face, but I was smiling on the inside. It was everything I hoped it would be."

Sgt. Alejandra Hernandez, a drill instructor with Company N, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, led the event and took the opportunity to inform the female enlistees about the future challenges they have to expect in recruit training.

The Chicago native, who has more than two years of experience as a drill instructor, said the Marine Corps is implementing more physical training focused on upper-body strength. She identified several activities, including the push press and clean press, in an effort to provide poolees with an idea of what to expect and how they can best prepare for the challenges to come.

"There are a lot of changes com-

ing," Hernandez said. "We will be conducting more combat conditioning. Recruits have to start preparing themselves before they ship to recruit training or else they will struggle even more."

Hernandez, who will serve as a senior drill instructor with her next platoon, said the majority of recruits in her previous platoon could not perform any dead-hang pull ups upon arrival to recruit training. The majority of those recruits were able to perform an average of three pull ups upon graduation.

She used Colburn as an example of a recruit who will not only be successful in meeting the physical demands of recruit training, but also as a recruit who will be able to take on leadership roles, such as that of a guide or squad leader.

"I will be looking for recruits who can do it," Hernandez said, noting the ability to perform above the physical fitness standard. "I will be looking for her to motivate other recruits. She could motivate recruits and help them to do more pull ups."

Colburn said she lives to help others. She believes her experience in the DEP has helped her to realize her calling, and she has met every opportunity to help with enthusiasm and determination.

"I want to help others, to walk, to run, to lift, whatever the case may be," Colburn said. "It's all about being a leader in any way, shape or form."







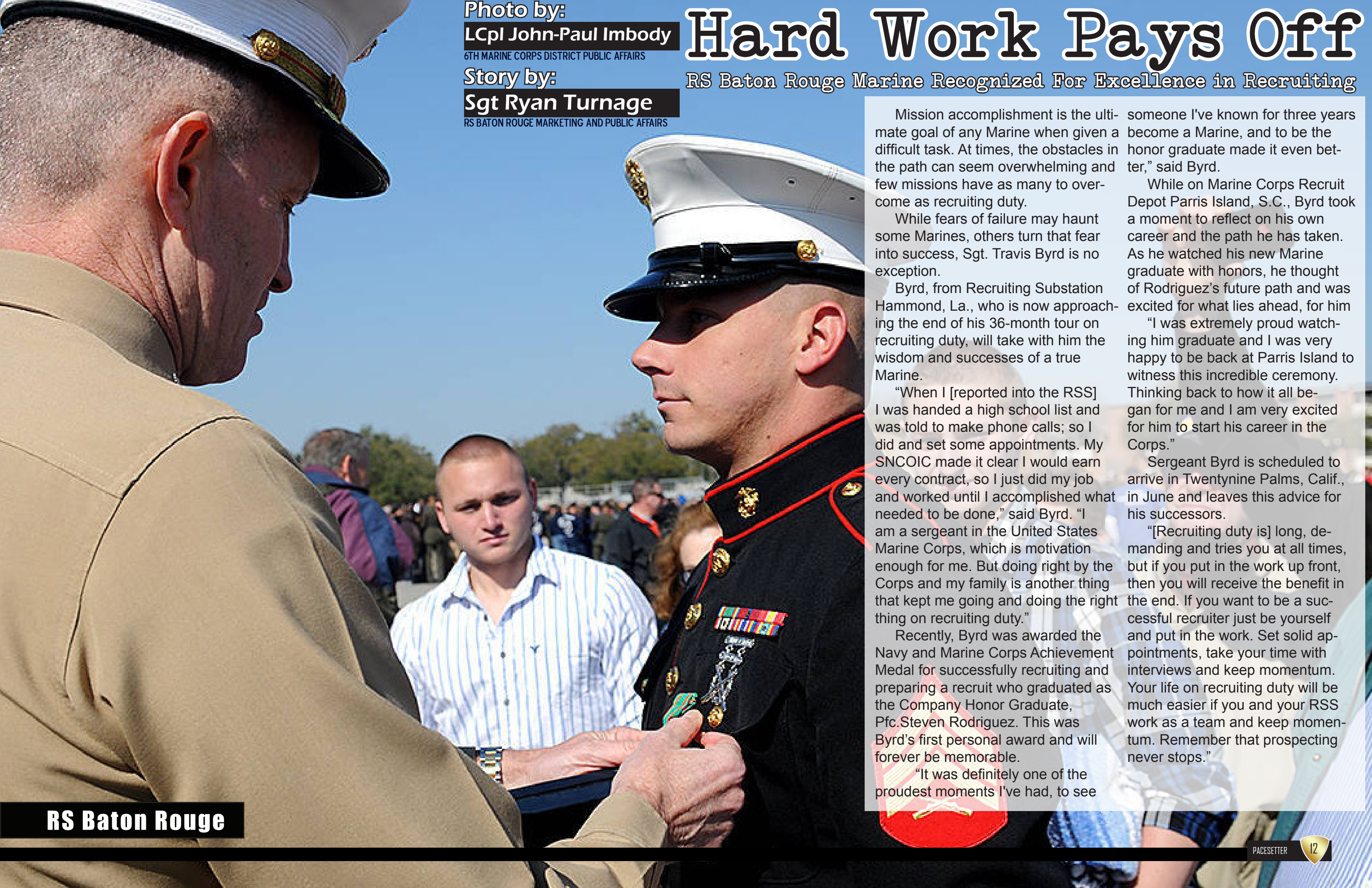
## SNAPSHOT

A group of Marine Corps officer candidates learn squad tactics during a three-day training evolution April 4 - 6, 2013. More than 100 potential Marine Corps officers from Recruiting Stations Orlando and Fort Lauderdale participated in the Mini OCS that was designed to give the candidates a small sample of Officer's Candidate School.

Photo courtesy of  
RS Ft. Lauderdale

6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT





**Photo by:**  
**LCpl John-Paul Imbody**

6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Story by:**  
**Sgt Ryan Turnage**

RS BATON ROUGE MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# Hard Work Pays Off

RS Baton Rouge Marine Recognized For Excellence in Recruiting

Mission accomplishment is the ultimate goal of any Marine when given a difficult task. At times, the obstacles in the path can seem overwhelming and few missions have as many to overcome as recruiting duty.

While fears of failure may haunt some Marines, others turn that fear into success, Sgt. Travis Byrd is no exception.

Byrd, from Recruiting Substation Hammond, La., who is now approaching the end of his 36-month tour on recruiting duty, will take with him the wisdom and successes of a true Marine.

"When I [reported into the RSS] I was handed a high school list and was told to make phone calls; so I did and set some appointments. My SNCOIC made it clear I would earn every contract, so I just did my job and worked until I accomplished what needed to be done," said Byrd. "I am a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, which is motivation enough for me. But doing right by the Corps and my family is another thing that kept me going and doing the right thing on recruiting duty."

Recently, Byrd was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for successfully recruiting and preparing a recruit who graduated as the Company Honor Graduate, Pfc. Steven Rodriguez. This was Byrd's first personal award and will forever be memorable.

"It was definitely one of the proudest moments I've had, to see

someone I've known for three years become a Marine, and to be the honor graduate made it even better," said Byrd.

While on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Byrd took a moment to reflect on his own career and the path he has taken. As he watched his new Marine graduate with honors, he thought of Rodriguez's future path and was excited for what lies ahead, for him

"I was extremely proud watching him graduate and I was very happy to be back at Parris Island to witness this incredible ceremony. Thinking back to how it all began for me and I am very excited for him to start his career in the Corps."

Sergeant Byrd is scheduled to arrive in Twentynine Palms, Calif., in June and leaves this advice for his successors.

"[Recruiting duty is] long, demanding and tries you at all times, but if you put in the work up front, then you will receive the benefit in the end. If you want to be a successful recruiter just be yourself and put in the work. Set solid appointments, take your time with interviews and keep momentum. Your life on recruiting duty will be much easier if you and your RSS work as a team and keep momentum. Remember that prospecting never stops."

**RS Baton Rouge**



**RS Montgomery**

# Marine Poolees Seize Armed Forces Cup

RS MONTGOMERY MARINES HOST  
ALL SERVICE POOLEE EVENT

One of the many missions of a Marine recruiter is to develop potential Marines into physically fit team members who are prepared for the challenges of recruit training.

Typically, this is achieved through physical training events conducted on a regular basis. However, one Marine recruiter has taken a new approach – a competition to test and improve the physical abilities of his poolees and pit those abilities against enlistees from the other services.

One of the monthly priorities for recruiters is pool development, said Staff Sgt. Patrick Eversull, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Substation Tupelo, Miss.

“We decided we needed to change things up in order to accomplish more than just getting [initial strength test] scores and giving classes,” said Eversull.

To do this, Eversull combined his desire for change with a bit of creativity to create the “Armed Forces Cup,” an inter-service competition between the poolees of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps while also promoting service pride.

“The Armed Forces Cup was a great event to show-

case service pride while, at the same time, promoting the need to develop for recruit training,” said 1stLt. John Bailey, the executive officer of Recruiting Station Montgomery, Ala.

“The poolees of Tupelo are gaining a unique experience by having the opportunity to work with other services prior to recruit training.”

The challenge consisted of a 1.5 mile run for time, push-ups, pull-ups, crunches and ammunition-can lifts. There were also two team events – tug of war and a 4x400 meter relay.

“Competition seems to bring out the best effort in young men and women,” Eversull said.

Since the competition, Eversull said he has seen the poolees putting extra effort into their physical fitness.

“We’ve seen a huge increase in excitement to train, both physically and mentally,” Eversull said. “The poolees

now have a competition to train for, and it breaks up the monotony of typical pool functions.”

Eversull’s poolees agreed. “Staff Sergeant Eversull is a genius for coming up with it,” said Codie McMahan, an 18-year-old native of Tupelo. Bailey echoed his sentiment.

“Staff Sgt. Eversull did a great job in developing this event to build respect among the different services while promoting healthy competition,” Bailey said.

As for the competition, the Marine poolees did what Marines do best – they won.

“To see the hard work the poolees have put in pay off and see them get rewarded for their efforts is what makes this job special,” Eversull said.

**Story and photo by:**  
**Sgt Jon Holmes**

RS MONTGOMERY MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS





# Leadership the Enlisted Way

## OFFICER CANDIDATE TURNS TO MARINE SERGEANT FOR GUIDANCE



**Story and Photo by:**  
**Sgt Scott Schmidt**

RS FT LAUDERDALE MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sergeant Lesley Reed, a recruiter from Recruiting Substation Delray Beach, Fla., is helping a future Marine officer along her path by doing what sergeants do best – lead.

At least twice a week, Reed meets with Candice Heizmann, an officer candidate from Fort Myers, Fla., to prepare her for the rigors of Officer Candidates School.

A graduate of Florida Atlantic University, Heizmann has already completed half of OCS through the Platoon Leaders Course in 2010.

While doing what she can to help, Reed said her focus is not only on the role Heizmann will play as an officer, but the reality of “being a small part of the Marines as a female and the dynamic it may play in her leadership.”

A lot is changing in the Corps for women. The commandant recently approved adding pull ups to the female physical fitness test and as the Corps looks to evaluate the role of women in combat, having a mentor like Reed could prove beneficial to Heizmann.

“It’s nice to have another female that understands what the Marines will expect of me,” said Heizmann.

The Marine Corps has more than 21,000 active duty officers and with women only making up 6 percent of that total, Heizmann said having a female mentor with experience in the Fleet Marine Force has been something she couldn’t get anywhere else.

“I feel that being the only female canvassing recruiter in our RS, I have a rare opportunity to mentor our future female Marines,” said Reed. “Most females that join never get the chance to actually talk to a female Marine until they start their training. I want to be able to answer any questions that maybe a male Marine might not be able to answer about being a female in the Marines.”

Every situation is an opportunity to teach Reed said. By integrating Heizmann into the rest of the enlisted pool, Reed mentors future Marines on both the responsibilities of leaders to subordinates and subordinates to leaders.

Since starting the training sessions, Heizmann says she has significantly increased her mental, moral and physical stamina, something she knows she will need. As the Corps continues to downsize, officer selection and training is getting more competitive. She knows the stakes all too well.

“It’s been two years since I first went to OCS,” said Heizmann, who is recovering from a knee injury. “Most people really lose a lot of motivation as you wait and it’s so competitive now that I’ve seen people drop out. You have to push that much harder because if you let yourself fall, you’ll be chewed up by the competition.” Reed said training her future superior is a humbling responsibility.

“As Marines, we are all called to be leaders,” she said. “Rank is only an indicator of the authority we hold at a given time, so hopefully my guidance may reflect on candidate Heizmann and be present in her leadership.”



## SNAPSHOT

The beaches in Palm Beach County Florida will soon be cleaner thanks to local Marine recruiters and their future Marine recruits.

Beginning this May, Marines with Recruiting Substations West Palm Beach and Delray Beach will be a prominent sight as they clear and clean area beaches of trash and debris washed ashore by tides or left behind by beach goers.

Marines are using the clean ups as a way to teach young men and women who are currently waiting to go to boot camp Marines always give back to their communities.

While recruiters are charged with seeking out those highly qualified men and women to be Marines, their job is also to prepare them for a life as a Marine.

**Photo by:**  
**Sgt Scott Schmidt**

RS FT LAUDERDALE MARKETING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



# HONOR GRADS



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANIEL PHIPPS, HONOR GRADUATE OF PLATOON 3018, MARCHES ACROSS THE PARADE DECK DURING THE PASS AND REVIEW PORTION OF GRADUATION ABOARD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., MARCH 8, 2013. PHIPPS, A NATIVE OF AND RECRUITED FROM MEMPHIS, TEN., WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY SOME MUCH DESERVED LEAVE WITH HIS FAMILY UPON GRADUATION.



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LORENZO JACKSON III, OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLA., AND HONOR GRADUATE FOR PLATOON 3000, EMBRACES HIS FATHER AFTER GRADUATION ABOARD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., JAN. 11, 2013.

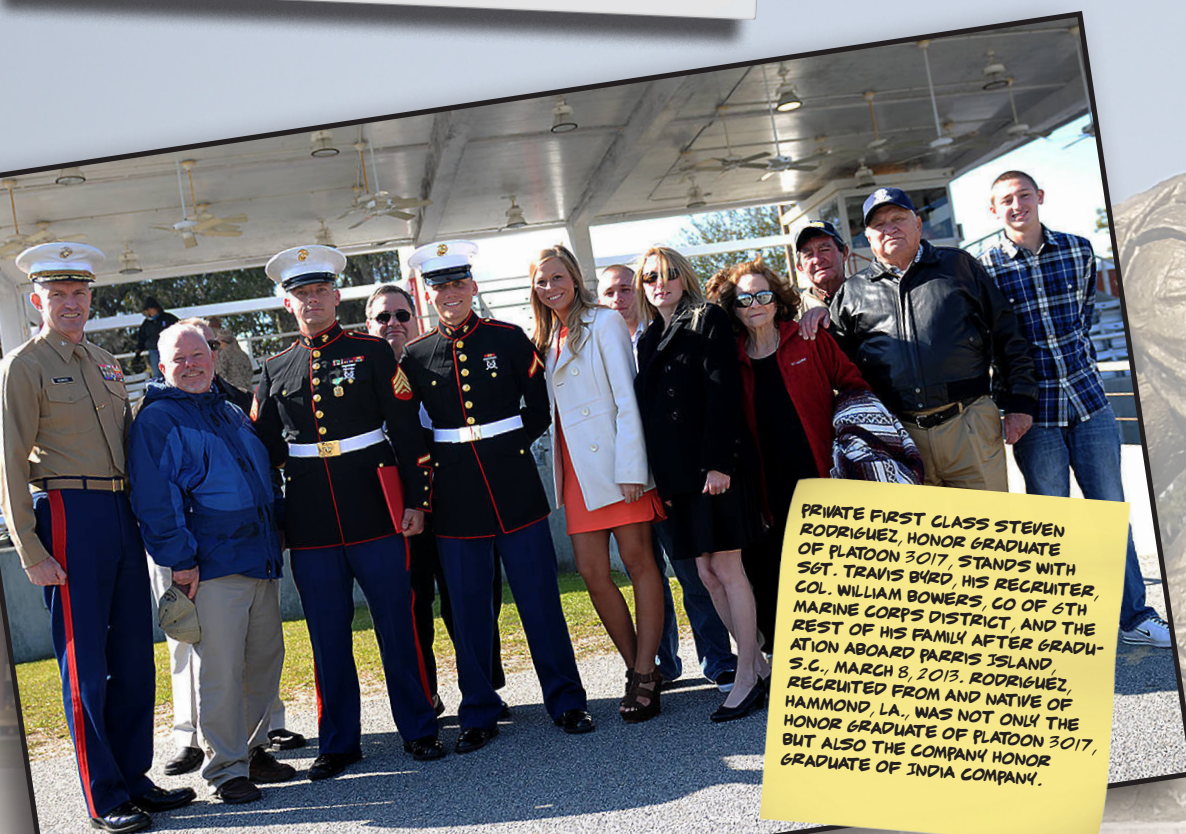


PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID ORLEY, HONOR GRADUATE OF PLATOON 2010, RECRUITED FROM AND A NATIVE OF NAPLES, FLA., STANDS AT PARADE REST BEFORE GRADUATION ABOARD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., FEB. 1, 2013.



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KHEANA BELL, HONOR GRADUATE OF PLATOON 4008, STANDS AT PARADE REST BEFORE GRADUATION ABOARD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., MARCH 15, 2013. BELL, NATIVE OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WAS RECRUITED BY SGT DEMETRIUS BENDOLPH FROM RSS VESTAVIA HILLS. BELL WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY SOME MUCH DESERVED LEAVE WITH HER FAMILY AFTER GRADUATION.

Photos by:  
PFC John-Paul Imbody  
6MCD Public Affairs staff photographer



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEVEN RODRIGUEZ, HONOR GRADUATE OF PLATOON 3017, STANDS WITH SGT. TRAVIS BYRD, HIS RECRUITER, COL. WILLIAM BOWERS, CO OF 6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT, AND THE REST OF HIS FAMILY AFTER GRADUATION ABOARD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., MARCH 8, 2013. RODRIGUEZ, RECRUITED FROM AND NATIVE OF HAMMOND, LA., WAS NOT ONLY THE HONOR GRADUATE OF PLATOON 3017, BUT ALSO THE COMPANY HONOR GRADUATE OF INDIA COMPANY.



HONOR GRADS

SEMPER FI!

The Commanding Officer of 6th Marine Corps District takes great pleasure in recognizing the below listed Marines on their achievement of graduating as their company or platoon Honor Grad!

NAME / HOMETOWN	RECRUITER
PFC. HEATH CROUCH/ TAMPA, FLA.	SSGT JULIO CARRASCO
PFC. BRANDON NOLL/ FLEETWOOD, PENN.	SGT JACKSON
PFC. JAY ASCENCIO/ MIAMI, FLA.	SGT CARLOS SANTOS
PFC. JOSE CARRILLO/ ORLANDO, FLA.	SGT DAVID BURGESS
PFC. CAMERON PIGOTT/ WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.	SGT RAMON MARTINEZ
PFC. NICHOLAS VILLEGAS/ GENEVA, FLA.	SSGT MARKUS WILEY
PFC. LORENZO JACKSON III/ PEMBROKE PINES, FLA.	SGT ZACHARY PRATZ
PFC. DAVID ORLEY/ NAPLES, FLA.	SSGT CHRISTOPHER GIANETTI
PFC. CARL HILL/ VALDOSTA, GA.	SGT MICHAEL ROENNEBECK
PFC. GUY KNIGHT/ MUNFORD, ALA.	SGT ROBERT ANDERSON
PFC. CASEY DODD/ ALTO, GA.	SSGT MITCHELL HAMILTON
PFC. GHANNON BURTON/ BELMONT, MISS.	SGT ROBERT ANDERSON
PFC. KHEANA BELL/ BIRMINGHAM, ALA.	SGT DEMETRIUS BENDOLPH
LCPL DANIEL HORVATH/ MEMPHIS, TENN.	SGT DARYL GREENWOOD
PFC. JOSEPH YODER/ JACKSONVILLE, FLA.	SGT DANIEL NOLL
PFC. GARRETT WELLS/ HARRISBURG, N.C.	SGT CHRSTOPHER STANTON
PFC. MCKINLEY WHITE/ ROARING RIVER, N.C.	SSGT BRIAN CHURCH
PFC. DOMINIQUE PRATER/ AUGUSTA, GA.	SSGT DONNELL PEARSON
PFC. ALEXANDER JERNIGAN/ MANCHESTER, TENN.	SSGT JAVIER GUERRA
PFC. DANIEL HARRIS/ HARVEST, ALA.	SGT ANDRE DAVIS
PFC. TAHARQA MORRIS/ MIAMI, FLA.	SGT RAYMOND GONZALEZ
PFC. SCOTT TAYLOR JR./	SSGT MARKUS WILEY
PFC. BRANDON LAYMAN/ ST. GABRIEL, LA.	GYSGT KEIL SHAW
PFC. BILLY TRAVIS JR./ CHAMPAIGN, LA.	SGT KENDRICK PEIRCE
PFC. STEVEN RODRIGUEZ/ HAMMOND, LA.	SGT TRAVIS BYRD

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS!

- SGT GONZALEZ/ RS NASHVILLE
- SGT RUDDICK/ RS ATLANTA
- SGT MARTINEZ/ RS NASHVILLE
- SGT AMBRIZ/ RS FT LAUDERDALE
- SGT BURGESS/ RS FT LAUDERDALE
- SGT FOTHERGILL/ RS COLUMBIA
- SGT TREVINO/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SGT JONES/ RS RS JACKSONVILLE
- SGT GOMEZ/ RS ORLANDO
- SGT ROENNEBECK/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SGT GIROIR/ RS NASHVILLE
- SGT GREENWOOD/ RS NASHVILLE
- SSGT FANDINO/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT SILVESTRO/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT ELUETT/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT PONCE/ RS ORLANDO
- SSGT KENNER/ RS ORLANDO
- SSGT LUDWIG/ RS NASHVILLE
- SSGT DIAZ/ RS FT LAUDERDALE
- SSGT WILEY/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT CHRISTIE/ RS FT LAUDERDALE
- SSGT SNOW/ RS NASHVILLE
- SSGT TOTZKE/ RS NASHVILLE
- SSGT MCCULOUGH/ RS ATLANTA
- SSGT RAMERS/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT LOPEZ/ RS ORLANDO
- SSGT FANDINO/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT SILVESTRO/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT ELUETT/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- SSGT PONCE/ RS ORLANDO
- SSGT KENNER/ RS ORLANDO

- GYSGT BLAIR/ RS NASHVILLE
- GYSGT TAYLOR/ RS JACKSONVILLE
- GYSGT WALTERS/ RS ORLANDO
- GYSGT ROBERTSON/ PSR

THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF 6TH MARINE CORPS TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IS PRESENTING THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL TO THE LISTED MARINES FOR THEIR OUT- STANDING PERFORMANCE WHILE SERVING AS CANAVASSING RE- CRUTIERS.



## STATISTICS

# TOP TEN RECRUITERS

- 1) SGT KAIAHUA / RS JACKSONVILLE
- 2) SGT HOPE / RS COLUMBIA
- 3) SSGT DIAZ / RS ORLANDO
- 4) SGT ENCARNACION / RS ORLANDO
- 5) SGT GIROIR / RS NASHVILLE
- 6) SGT JARBOE / RS NASHVILLE
- 7) SGT REINERT / RS ORLANDO
- 8) SGT WESTFIELD / RS NASHVILLE
- 9) SGT THOMPSON / RS ORLANDO
- 10) SGT WILSON / RS BATON ROUGE

\*ALL STATISTICS ARE COMPILED AND FORWARDED TO THE 6TH MCD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE BY THE DISTRICT OPERATIONS SECTION.

# 6TH DISTRICT'S TOP PERFORMERS

11. SGT JACKSON	BTR	26. SGT SLAYMAKER	FTL
12. SGT MADEIROS	ATL	27. SGT DUNN	ATL
13. SGT BARFIELD SMITH	MON	28. SGT ROSKOWSKI	NAS
14. SGT BROWN	ATL	29. SGT SMITH	MON
15. SSGT ROENNEBECK	JAX	30. SSGT SILVESTRO	BTR
16. SGT CORONA	NAS	31. SSGT SPIVEY	MON
17. SGT RUSSELL	MON	32. SSGT SANTIAGO	COL
18. SGT WEEKS	NAS	33. SSGT BRINEGAR	COL
19. SSGT GILCHRIST	COL	34. SGT GOODWIN	MON
20. SGT BENDOLF	MON	35. SGT KENT	NAS
21. SSGT REED	ATL	36. SGT FURY	ORL
22. SGT SALAZAR	NAS	37. SSGT SKOLASKY	BTR
23. SSGT MUNOZ	BTR	38. SGT DON DIEGO	BTR
24. SGT SMITH	FTL	39. GYSGT MORGAN	BTR
25. SSGT AGURICA	FTL	40. SSGT GRAY	BTR

## MEOP STANDINGS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) SGT HOPE / RS COLUMBIA<br>SAXAPHONE - SHIPPED 7 JAN 13     | 4) SSGT PARDEE / RS COLUMBIA<br>PERCUSSION - SHIPPED 1 APR 13    |
| 2) SGT PINIELLA /<br>TRUMPET - SHIPPED 14 JAN 13              | 5) SGT REINART / RS ORLANDO<br>TRUMPET - SHIPPED 1 APR 13        |
| 3) SGT MACON / RS ATLANTA<br>CONTRA BUGLE - SHIPPED 28 JAN 13 | 6) SSGT RAMERS / RS BATON ROUGE<br>PERCUSSION - SHIPPED 1 APR 13 |

\*based on information obtained from MEOP Specialist



## STATISTICS

# TOP TEN SNCOIC'S

- 1) SSGT SALTER / RSS ATHENS
- 2) SSGT MUNOZ / RSS NEW ORLEANS
- 3) SSGT LUNGERHAUSEN / RSS BUFORD
- 4) GYSGT WILLIAMS / RSS DULUTH
- 5) SSGT D'AVILAR / RSS DOUGLASVILLE
- 6) SSGT MCCARTNEY / RSS TUSCALOOSA
- 7) SGT HAMMAC / RSS ANNISTON
- 8) SSGT MESSMER / RSS SARASOTA
- 9) SSGT LEEYOW / RSS PEACHTREE CITY
- 10) SGT NISBETT / RSS GULFPORT

\*ALL STATISTICS ARE COMPILED AND FORWARDED TO THE 6TH MCD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE BY THE DISTRICT OPERATIONS SECTION.

## BOARD RESULTS

# 2nd Qtr. Board Results: SNCOIC of the Quarter

**Winner: SSgt Frazao RS Fort Lauderdale**

(100% Shipping, 85% Alphas, 100% T1, 7.7% Combined Attrition, 1.89 NAPR, 1 Special Rec, 0 PEDS, 0 IST Failures, 0 Missing Docs, 2 NROTC )

**2nd Place: SSgt Brown/ RS Columbia**

**GySgt Wilson/ RS Nashville**

**3rd Place: Sgt Hammac/ RS Montgomery**

# Recruiter of the Quarter

**Winner: Sgt Reinert/ RS Orlando**

(Contracted: 4.0 NAPR, 12 contracts, 83% Alphas, 100% T1, 67% Grads; Shipped: 9; 100% Alphas, 100% T1, 0% combined Attrition, 0 discrepancies)

**2nd Place: Sgt Giroir/ RS Nashville**

**3rd Place: Sgt Hope/ RS Columbia**

# RS of the QUARTER

**Winner: RS MONTGOMERY**

105 Enlited contracts / 25 Officer contracts / 20 Bonus points

# 6MCD MPA of the Year FY13

**Winner: Sgt. Scott Schmidt, RS Ft Lauderdale**



# 6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

## OBJECTIVES:

- 1) REINFORCE AND EXPAND UPON THE TRUST OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.
- 2) SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR MARINE CORPS.
- 3) SUPPORT AND ENABLE OUR MARINES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

## EXECUTION:

- 1) MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST PERFORMANCE WITH THE HIGHEST ETHICS.
- 2) STAY ACTIVE, VISIBLE, POSITIVE AND ENGAGED.
- 3) CREATE A CULTURE OF HUMILITY, AUTHENTICITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

