

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Company B, Platoon 1023 is inspected while filing in and getting alinged to begin initial drill as the sun was coming up over the arcade. Platoon 1023 was the first platoon to perform Saturday morning.

Co. B reaches initial drill

BY PFC. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

As the sun rose over the horizon of the arcade aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Saturday morning, drill instructors of Company B sat in the reviewing booth waiting for initial drill to begin. The air was so bitter

cold the drill instructors rubbed their hands together vigorously, hoping to generate heat and keep them from going stiff. Initial drill, held on training day 17, wraps up the third week of recruit training. This is an important day for both the recruits and drill instructors. Initial

drill showcases the drill instructors’ dedication and the recruits’ newfound discipline. “The junior drill instructor teaches the recruits everything pertaining to drill, the newest drill instructor calls cadence for initial drill.

see DRILL ▶ 2

San Diego veterans get surprise visit

BY LANCE CPL. MICHAEL ITO
Chevron staff

When the idea of military service comes to mind, the recalled images are usually of gallant dashes to capture a hill, massive assaults on foreign beaches or the legendary flag raising on Mount Suribachi. While it’s true that these moments capture the themes and emotions of selfless service to country, they do not tell the whole story. These war heroes complete their service and go on to a new mission-successful citizenship.

Tens of millions of Americans have honorably served in the armed forces and moved on to lead successful lives in the civilian world. Living the military life induces stressors on a person that require care later on in life. This is where the Veterans’ Affairs Department becomes involved.

The VA health system takes care of more than 22 million American veterans throughout 784 community clinics and 152 health centers or hospitals. The San Diego VA healthcare network is comprised of seven community-based clinics and one major health center.

Filling that health center are hundreds of former service members and their families, and unfortunately time spent in

the hospital is not encouraging or exhilarating. The Single Marine Program from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, however, is there to help.

Ten depot Marines from SMP were sent to the San Deigo VA medical center in La Jolla, Calif. April 6. The trip was organized by depot SMP director Michelle Diamond.

Their mission was to raise morale of the veterans at the hospital as well as connect the depot and its Marines to retired military and the community at large.

The Marines toured several areas of the health center, starting with the mental health ward. They spoke to patients suffering from several mental health issues ranging from combat-related stress injuries, to conditions developed after leaving the service.

They then made their way to visit with veterans in the Spine Injury Clinic and then the therapy wing.

“It was a hugely different perspective,” said Lance Cpl. Calvin Garrett, Basic Marine Platoon. “These are the guys who have been where we are. It was humbling to speak to veterans that were a part of the old stories we hear and learn about.”

see VISIT ▶ 2

Commandant cracks down on body composition

BY LANCE CPL. KATALYNN THOMAS
Chevron Staff

Recently the Commandant of the Marine Corps has decided to crack down on body composition in the Marine Corps because he has discovered an unsatisfactory amount of Marines who are overweight.

The order itself, Marine Corps Order P1600.12, has been in effect since 2002. The order focuses mainly on the physical fitness of a Marine and their height and weight standards.

If a Marine fails their Physical Fitness Test, or is put on a Body Composition Program, they will be placed on a Remedial Physical Conditioning Program.

This program uses a combination of aerobic and resistance conditioning to get that Marine back to standards after a weight issue, injury, illness, pregnancy or a period that lacked a structured physical fitness program.

According to Marine Administrative Message 157/11 released March 11, the Commandant and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps are continually observing Marines of all ranks that lack the military appearance they believe America

expects from the Marine Corps.

They think there is a lack of compliance and equality of enforcement among the ranks. The Commandant has directed the Inspector General of the Marine Corps to ensure immediate compliance to the Body Composition Program and Military Appearance Program.

“Admittedly, decisions to assign Marines to the Body Composition and Military Appearance Programs are difficult and sometimes involve Marines who are otherwise solid performers. It is, however, the right thing to do,” said Gen. James Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, during an interview with “The Marine Corps Times.”

According to Marine Administrative Message 0190/09, if Marines do not meet established Body Composition Program standards, they will be notified of their deficiencies and processed for BCP assignment.

The MARADMIN also states that the Inspector General of the Marine Corps will provide an unbiased and objective analysis of the Body Composition and Marine Appearance Programs across the Marine Corps. The results will be submitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for review and future guidance.

“All of the commands aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot have been notified of this,” said Staff Sgt. Jose Navarette, inspector general chief, depot inspector. “Last year we proactively included the Physical Fitness Test and the Combat Fitness Test and inspected 25 percent of personnel aboard the depot during the Commanding General’s Inspection Program. With this crackdown we have ‘upped’ it to 50 percent.”

The MCRD inspector general says the depot is going to adhere to exactly what the new MARADMIN states.

“We are Marines; we have a physical training standard,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Brian C. Paradis, band master, Marine Band San Diego. “We are simply doing our job as leaders and holding Marines accountable to that standard. We, as leaders, can’t be reactionary when it comes to individual physical readiness. The standards need to be enforced at all times. It shouldn’t come as a surprise to an individual Marine when they are identified as being out of shape.”

For more information, refer to Marine Administrative Message 0190/09, Marine Administrative Message 157/11 and Marine Corps Order P1600.12.



Takin’ care of business

San Diego’s Coast Guardsmen protect international waters | p. 4



Gitty up – Go

The Corps makes family readiness a team sport | p. 8



Lance Cpl. Eric Quintanilla

Military children aboard the depot lined up to meet Lance Cpl. Belleau Wood, the depot mascot, during a Month of the Military Child event April 4. The children were invited to interactive classes throughout spring break to recognize them for their part in the success of their parents.

Depot celebrates Month of the Military Child

BY LANCE CPL. ERIC QUINTANILLA
Chevron staff

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is celebrating the Month of the Military Child by hosting classes available to all children aboard the depot throughout April.

Marine Corps Family Team Building prepared a total of eight classes, which help children understand the challenges associated with military life. Five of these took place the first week of April during spring break.

“We want to bring them into the forefront and give them credit for all they do and what they live through,” said Tracy Genica, Marine Corps Family Team Building trainer.

The first week of events included an interactive story time with parents, classes that help children understand the changing environments associated

with the military, and a workshop that focuses on feelings and how to make good choices.

“It’s important to give positive recognition to what they do,” said Genica “They are the key to their parent’s success.”

This month is a sample of all the classes offered to children aboard the depot, said Patricia L. Kalaye, Marine Corps Family Readiness Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills trainer.

“Getting [the classes] will help them in the long run,” said Genica. “It puts valuable tools in their tool boxes.”

At each event, toys donated by Operation Homefront, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors, were raffled off to the children.

The activity mornings are held regularly on the depot for children under five years old, allowing them to participate in crafts and tell stories. This gives parents and children an opportunity to socialize.

The last event this month will be a L.I.N.K.S. class for children ages six through 12 held at the building 6E classroom April 23.

L.I.N.K.S. is a volunteer, team-mentoring program that offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle, helping new spouses and children adapt to the unique challenges military life often presents.

This is the first year the depot has put together a set of events to celebrate this month and each had about 30 participants.

“Military children get missed a lot,” said Genica. “Their opinions are just as valuable as the spouse’s.”

DRILL ◀ 1

and the senior drill instructor calls cadence for final drill,” said senior drill instructor Staff Sgt. Scott Chromy of Platoon 1026, First Recruit Battalion, a Fremont, Calif., native.

In the first phase of training, the recruits are tasked with learning the basic commands and movements of close-order drill. Close-order drill is the art of marching, maneuvering and handling weapons in precision formations.

The drill instructors help the recruits remember the timing of the drill movements by teaching them “ditties,” or short phrases spoken during drill movements. This helps the recruits keep in sync with the rest of the platoon.

The recruits develop muscle memory over a short time due to constant practice and repetition, making each recruit capable of executing any drill movement they’ve been taught without hesitation.

Various drill movements are worked into the recruits’

daily routine to aid muscle memory since they have a limited time to practice drill due to the abundant amount of knowledge and physical training the recruits are required to fit in such a short time frame.

After countless hours of drill and memorizing ditties, the recruits and drill instructors are evaluated on the parade deck by their battalion drill master and the company chief drill instructors. The drill master is a drill instructor put in a position where he specializes in teaching and evaluating close order drill.

Each individual evaluating the platoon finds discrepancies and subtracts points on a 100 point scale. Their points are then totaled, and the winning platoon is determined based off who earned the highest points. This allows each platoon displaying who has the best basic understanding of close order drill at this point of training. The platoons have a chance to redeem themselves if they weren’t the winner of initial drill when each platoon is reevaluated third phase in final drill.

VISIT ◀ 1

The visit also gave the Marines a unique look at the often under-recognized process of military life after leaving the service.

“It’s not something we usually think about,” said Pvt. Nicholas Polichio, Basic Marine Platoon. “We spend a lot of time concentrating on what we’re doing now, and what we have to do for today or tomorrow.

Forty or 50 years out is not something you think about on a daily basis.”

Even after those 40 or 50 years, the enjoyment of socializing with fellow service members was evident by the smiles on the patients’ faces. The same could be said of the Marines who laughed with WWII and Korea veterans while they were completing their physical therapy.

As the Marines left the health center,

they were sent off with warm thanks and salutes from veterans, visitors and staff alike.

“It was an amazingly positive experience,” said Pfc. Rodrigo Barba, Basic Marine Platoon. “I felt like I was doing good, but I came out with just as much, if not more, than I put in. Those vets served our country and it’s a great opportunity that I got to share some time with them.”

BRIEFS

Happiest baby on the block class

Learn how to soothe your infant and help your baby sleep longer. The happiest baby on the block class is taught by certified educators in the New Parent Support Program. This workshop, scheduled for Apr. 20, is for parents and infants up to six months old. Expectant parents are also welcome.

Registration is required. For information and to register, call (619) 524-0805.

Self-defense class for women

A self-defense class for women is offered Apr. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 5E.

The class promotes personal safety for women including awareness, assertiveness, verbal confrontational skills, safety strategies, and physical techniques that enable a person to successfully avoid, prevent, escape and survive violent assaults.

Space is limited and registration is required. For information and to register, call Family Advocacy at (619) 524-0465.

Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. Join us as we celebrate and recognize the importance of our military children. Your child will be entered in a raffle for each event attended! All events will be held at Bldg. 6E.

The last event is:

- April 23 - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. L.I.N.K.S. for kids (6 to 12 years old) “Our Children, Our Future, Our Responsibility”

Introduction to special education

Karen Taylor, attorney for the Exceptional Family Member Program at MCRD San Diego, will host a work-shop to help parents understand the world of special education.

The event is scheduled to be held in the MCRD family readiness classroom April 26, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.

Topics include:

- Special education law
- Special education process
- Parental rights
- Tips & strategies

For more information or to RSVP, contact Anna Nguyen at (619) 524-8031 or nguyena@usmc-mccs.org

Marketing yourself for a second career

The Career Resource Center will host a “Marketing Yourself for a Second career,” seminar on May 5 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lifelong Learning Center, Bldg. 111. This free event is open to all, and is a value added benefit for servicemembers who plan to retire or leave the military in the next 12 to 18 months.

Spouses are encouraged to attend. In the seminar learn how to:

- Create a plan for your job search
- Write standout résumés and cover letters
- Successfully interview and network
- Penetrate the hidden job market
- Negotiate salary and benefits
- Manage rejection

For reservations call Mina Threat at (619) 524-1283/5728 or e-mail mina.threat@usmc.mil

Send briefs to:

mcrdsdpao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks:
“How do you feel about women in combat?”



I'm not sure it's a good idea because males might get attached to a female Marine they are working alongside, resulting in the male possibly jeopardizing the well being of fellow male Marines to save a female Marine first. *Lance Cpl. Katie Snell, administrative clerk, Consolidated Personnel Administrative Center*



I believe we are all Marines regardless of sex, religion or race. Female Marines go to recruit training as well and are trained the same as a male Marine. This is just one more step towards furthering equality in the Marine Corps. *Sgt. Kadari I. Shortridge, Recruiters School*



As long as the women Marines get the job done, and they're doing everything right, what's wrong with it? *Recruit Victor O. Yvellez, Co. C, Platoon 1054, 1st Battalion*



Capt. Caleb Eames/31st MEU

Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, sailors with Amphibious Squadron 11, Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces and local citizens unload food and water from a U.S. Navy landing craft, March 27. The 31st MEU and PHIBRON 11 picked up Japanese utility repair vehicles from the port in Kessenuma and delivered food, water, comfort items and the vehicles to residents on this isolated island. The island of Oshima has been cut off from the mainland since the earthquake and tsunami March 11. The operation demonstrated the MEU's expeditionary capabilities in ship-to-shore amphibious operations. Marines and Sailors of the 31st MEU are conducting humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions in northeast Japan, assisting the Japanese Self-Defense Forces in their ongoing operations.

Maritime Contingency Force proves ready for all missions

BY CPL. MICHAEL A. BIANCO
 31st MEU

USS ESSEX, AT SEA — Most associate service members with combat and training to fight our nation's wars. However, as the Asia-Pacific region's force-in-readiness, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is always prepared to support any operation including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The 31st MEU completed its participation in Operation Tomodachi on April 7, after nearly three weeks of conducting relief operations with the Japan Maritime and Ground Self-Defense Forces in support of Operation Tomodachi.

Operation Tomodachi, which means 'friendship' in Japanese, included U.S. forces adding assistance to Japanese efforts to respond to the massive devastation which occurred after a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan, March 11.

The 31st MEU was split into three separate parts on the day of the disaster. The largest ship, USS Essex (LHD 2), with most of the Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU aboard, had just completed an exercise in Cambodia and had arrived in Malaysia for a port visit. When 31st MEU leadership received news of the tsunami, they initiated an immediate recall of all personnel who were away from the ship on liberty. The ship quickly took on some supplies, and in less than 24 hours was underway to Japan where it would meet up with USS Germantown (LSD 42) and USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49).

Germantown and Harpers Ferry were both in Indonesia with elements of the 31st MEU embarked, and Marines and sailors aboard the USS Harpers Ferry were scheduled to participate in a large humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise starting March 12. Both ships were immediately alerted upon news of the disaster in Japan and headed north for the stricken country.

The Essex Amphibious Ready Group and the 31st MEU first arrived off

the coast of Akita, Japan, March 17 and began flying coastal surveillance flights. Then, on March 22, the ARG repositioned off the east coast of Japan, near Hachinohe, and the 31st MEU immediately began delivering relief supplies ashore via helicopters of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced). Supplies delivered included water, blankets, and other health and comfort items. HMM-262 (Rein) conducted a total of 15 survey missions and 204 supply delivery missions with nearly 300 hours of flight time.

"We train for this, we're good at this, and in fact, in the last 3 years, the MEU has conducted five different humanitarian assistance missions," said Col. Andrew MacMannis, 31st MEU commanding officer. "Most of the Marines aboard have executed a mission or have trained and been evaluated on it."

On March 27, the MEU and Essex ARG's priority became to support the isolated island of Oshima. The units began by transporting relief supplies, which included moving commercial electric utility vehicles, a fuel truck, a water re-supply vehicle and civilian workers from the Tohoku Power Company by U.S. Navy landing craft to restore partial power to the cut-off island.

During the Oshima operation, two pallets of clothes, blankets, food and toys donated by Marines and sailors were flown to the JMSDF helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181) by Marine helicopters, where they were distributed to displaced residents of the island who were temporarily embarked aboard the ship.

Working alongside the JGSDF, the 31st MEU delivered 15,000 pounds of supplies to the island and cleared tons of debris from harbors, roads and beaches. Marines also created temporary shower facilities allowing residents to bathe. For some it was the first time they had been able to take a shower since the tsunami struck.

"When I first heard about the mission it was a little bit of a surreal feeling

because the MEU trains for missions like this," said Capt. Bradley Gibson, CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot with HMM-262. "Although it is a devastating time for the people of Japan, it is also exciting to be able to execute the mission and use the training. There is an immediate sense of pride when you know you're going to be part of something that is going to help so many people."

In total, the 31st MEU and the Essex ARG moved more than 160,000 pounds of relief supplies to those affected by the disaster.

"It's great to have this sort of opportunity," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Emilio Casenave, a corpsman with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st MEU. "I've never seen anything like this. These people are in a horrible situation, but it's a great feeling knowing something we did actually impacted someone's life and helped make it better."

Lt. Hiroaki Tanaka, Japanese Marine Self Defense Force member who served as a liaison officer between Japanese and U.S. forces in the area, expressed appreciation on behalf of the people of Japan. "Thank you," said Tanaka. "We are extremely thankful for your help and cooperation. I will never forget everything you have done for us."

As it currently stands, the 31st MEU does not have any other relief missions planned. The MEU remains available for tasking, but does not expect the Japanese government will require more assistance.

The Japanese government has a large relief operation underway, which the 31st MEU supported over the past few weeks. Now it appears 31st MEU support may no longer be needed, which shows that the Japanese government and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force are able to stand on their own to recover from the disaster. The Marines have helped their friends in their time of need, and stand ready to support further if called upon.

The 31st MEU is the nation's only continually forward-deployed MEU and remains ready to respond to a wide range of crisis and contingency operations.

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Coast Guard’s presence crucial to maritime s

BY CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
Chevron staff

Since 1933, the Coast Guard has been an essential part of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Without the Coast Guard Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team, composed of eight different law enforcement detachments, the coastline would be left unprotected and waters unsecured.

Their main mission is to deploy aboard U.S. and allied naval vessels to conduct and support maritime law enforcement, such as counter narcotics and terrorism, alien migrant interdiction, maritime interception, counter piracy and homeland security.

With only approximately 115 servicemembers and the only other tactical law enforcement team more than 2,600 miles away, that leaves one of the largest areas of responsibility in the Coast Guard in the PACTACLET’s more-than-capable hands.

They cover everything from the Northern Arabian Gulf to the territory of Guam and the Caribbean, but their area of responsibility doesn’t stop there.

“Since PACTACLET is a deployable force, we can be sent anywhere,” said Lt. j.g. Michael Holt, Law Enforcement Detachment 103 officer-in-charge. “Our typical patrols are in the [U.S. Southern Command] area of responsibility, but we’ve also deployed overseas to Greece and Bahrain. We can potentially go wherever there’s a need.”

Depending on the operation tempo, various law enforcement detachments can deploy at once.

“We ultimately take over the vessel we’re deployed on,” said Chief Petty Officer Mark Enzo-Rodriguez, maritime enforcement specialist chief and detachment chief. “Sometimes the crew is experienced enough and knows what we do, but we always brief them on what the unit will do on ship and the authority we have.”

When not deploying for missions, their daily routine revolves around mission readiness.

“New people that come in have to go through a really

arduous qualification process that takes about a year to reach full qualification at this unit,” said Holt. “It’s definitely one of the hardest qualification processes



I have ever been through, and everyone else here says the same thing.”

Because they don’t deal with any specific scenario on a daily

basis, training is a vital part of ensuring mission readiness. Without continuous training, the units here might not be able to complete what is necessary.

However, being at MCRD San Diego puts PACTACLET at a slight advantage. It allows PACTACLET to utilize resources that normally wouldn’t be available to Coast Guard units, such as the range, rappel tower and swim tank equipped with a 10-foot platform.

Holt said PACTACLET gets to train in assault forces that Marines use, like room and house clearing and close movement with weapons. They go out much more geared than most Coast Guard teams and only about five percent of the Coast Guard will ever experience what they’re able to do on a Marine Corps base.

PACTACLET has recently qualified five TACLET deployable team leaders, eight boarding officers and 45 boarding team members. They have also made a port-of-call to

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A member of the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team completes a vertical insertion drill, fast roping from the HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter to the deck of t Cutter Petrel.



A law enforcement boarding team member displays two bricks of cocaine found during a counter-narcotics interception operation.



Law Enforcement Detachment 106 captures a cocaine-laden Self-Propelled Semi-Submer Ocean. LEDET 106 recovered 6 tons of cocaine and 4 drug smugglers during the mission

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U.S. Coast Guard photo
the 87-foot Coast Guard



U.S. Coast Guard photo
possible in the Eastern Pacific



Lance Cpl. Michael Ito
Lt. j.g. Michael Holt, Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team, Law Enforcement Detachment 103 officer-in-charge, completes a recertification exercise on Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's rappel tower April 11. The fast-rope exercise simulates the de-boarding of helicopters during an actual mission. The members of PACTACLET complete this certification semiannually.



U.S. Coast Guard photo
A precision marksman-aerial with the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team, home based at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, prepares to engage a target in a required training exercise on his Barrett .50 sniper rifle. The marksmen follow the aerial use of force when trying to stop a go-fast vessel during a mission. Aerial use of force consists of first firing warning rounds then escalating to shooting out the engine if the vessel refuses to cooperate.

Band NCO puts ‘kill foot’ forward, goes Recon

BY LANCE CPL. KATALYNN THOMAS
Chevron Staff

“Be more convincing with that ‘kill,’” bellowed the 6’ 3”, 195-pound sergeant as he instructed his Marines on the proper smash technique during a Marine Corps Martial Arts lesson. “All I’m hearing right now are, ‘children’s books,’ and ‘lollipops.’”

Sgt. Ryan Jones turned sideways to his students, performing the smash with ferocity coming to an abrupt stop in front of his simulated opponent, keeping intense, straight-forward eye contact with them.

To look at this Marine, hear him speak and watch his routine, not many would think that he belongs to Marine Band San Diego. Jones plays the French horn in the band, is a black belt MCMAP instructor but he said he wants more out of his career. So he decided to switch his military occupational specialty to Reconnaissance.

“If you have to imagine someone you despise in front of you to really follow through with your move, then do it,” he said, with a demon’s grin. “I have to do it sometimes.”

“When I was a kid I was a total band geek.

My family was very musical,” said Jones. “I would do stuff like play in a traveling youth symphony. I was first chair in my section since sixth grade.”

Jones didn’t really play sports while he was in school, so he said he didn’t get to feel the brotherhood of a sports team. He called himself a nerd because he constantly got good grades. Eventually, he started to think differently.

“I wanted to do something beyond myself, something that would challenge me, because I wanted to be the best at everything,” said Jones, “I wanted it to be something that mattered.”

example,” said Jones. “It’s actually exciting to stay motivated all the time. It seems like everyone looks to you, like you make them want to be better. Also, don’t put yourself in the limelight, none of that, ‘Hey, look what I can do’ stuff.”

Jones has his own view on what being an NCO means. He feels Marines should take care of their Marines and adjust to the way they learn. If they learn to understand that, then they can guide them easier. Jones even spent his personal time to conduct remedial MCMAP training for Marines who need help with certain moves.. He wants to be able to motivate and inspire his Marines to better themselves.



Lance Cpl. Katalynn Thomas

Sgt. Ryan Jones, a native of Penfield, N.Y., practices playing his French horn in one of the rehearsal rooms at the band hall aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Jones has been playing the French horn for 12 years, but is turning in his horn to re-enlist and change his current military occupational specialty to Reconnaissance.

Jones was only 17 when he decided he wanted to enlist in the Marines. To enlist he needed his parent’s signature, but they would only sign if he enlisted in the band. Jones was okay with that. He could explore the paid-musician aspect of the corps.

“To top that off, my family all went to the same college, and I was expected to go to it, too,” said Jones, “Enlisting really broke the mold and angered a few people, but it allowed me to make my own footsteps.”

As far as Jones knows, he is the first Marine in his family, but other members have served in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Jones, a native of Penfield, N.Y., shipped to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on Aug. 20, 2007, after graduating from Penfield High School.

“Amazingly enough, I didn’t really get picked on for being in the band while I was in boot camp,” said Jones. “I was squad leader from the beginning of second phase until graduation, so they tended to leave me alone.”

Upon completing boot camp and Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, N.C., Jones attended his military occupational specialty school at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Va.

Jones was then assigned to Marine Band San Diego as a lance corporal, and after 9 months, he picked up corporal. He was promoted to sergeant at the age of 19.

“Initially, my goal as a corporal was to be my absolute best,” said Jones. “I worked my butt off, and I stayed extremely motivated. I wanted to set the example for my fellow Marines and maybe even outdo a few sergeants.” Jones said.

Jones was on several boards as a corporal where he faced three other senior corporals. He was also on a Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board at both the battalion and the depot, and won. About three months later, he won a meritorious sergeant board.

“The biggest key to succeeding is believing in what you do and setting the

“Being a sergeant is setting an example of what Marines should be,” said Jones. “Unspeakable strength and valor -- you want to be that shining star to young Marines who come under your charge and are scared. It’s not about bettering yourself, it’s about bettering others.”

After being in the Marines for three-and-a-half years Jones said it’s time for him to start thinking about career changing decisions.

“The band has been fun,” said Jones, “but I really want to get my boots on the ground.”

Jones joined the Marines to be the best and feels that with recon being considered as the “elite brotherhood,” it would be more his speed. He wants to deploy and is looking forward to the training he will receive with deployment. Jones said he is expecting, and looking forward to being miserable as he trains in his new MOS.

“When I first joined, I wasn’t really into it,” said Jones. “Later, I was encouraged to become a martial arts instructor. During that training I got mud and blood on my fingers. After that, it was over. I had fallen in love with the combat mindset of the Marines. I knew there had to be something better.”

Given time to reflect on his decision to go recon, Jones said that he will miss the friends he has made in the band. He also believes that it will be a tremendous change after playing the French horn for a little more than half of his life. He said that he will be gaining much more than he will be giving up though.

Jones has led a motivated career with plenty of Marines. Even those not in his shop have gone to him for inspiration. When he gets to his next duty station he is determined to be just as motivated and try to be that shining star for a new batch of Marines.

“Cling onto your mentors, good NCOs and your fellow Marines,” said Jones, “When you find the ‘right one,’ pick their brains and try to emulate them. Find your own motivation, your own Zen. Above all, stay motivated.”

Sgt. Maj. Donald L. Jones II

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major Donald L. Jones II enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 27, 1981. Upon completion of recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, he attended Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was designated a rifleman. He was then assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Weapons Station Concord, Calif.

Following promotions to lance corporal and corporal, Jones was transferred to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in May 1983. While a member of this unit, he served as a fire team leader, squad leader and as a platoon guide. During this tour his unit was rotated to Camp Hansen, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan.

Upon his return, Jones reenlisted and in 1984 and was transferred to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Air Group 16 at Marine Corps Air Station, Tustin, Calif. His squadron deployed to MCAS Futenma, Okinawa in 1985. Jones was promoted to sergeant and transferred in July 1986, reporting to Sea School, MCRD San Diego, for sea duty. Upon completion of sea school, he reported to the Marine detachment on board the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, based

at Naval Station North Island, Coronado, Calif. While in this assignment, Jones was the supply noncommissioned officer in charge, and commander of the guard.

In October 1988, Jones was transferred to MACS-4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on Okinawa. After completing that tour in August 1989, he received orders as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

When he completed drill instructor school, Jones was assigned to Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor until February 1992. Jones was the 2nd Battalion Drill Instructor of the Quarter and was selected for meritorious promotion to staff sergeant in November 1991.

Following his promotion, Jones was sent back to Okinawa, assigned to Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing for duty until March 1993 when he was reassigned to Inspector-Instructor Staff, 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division in Alameda, Calif.

Jones completed his duties and was promoted to gunnery sergeant in May 1996. He was assigned back to the Fleet Marine Force with Supply Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton. While there, Jones was hand picked by the battalion commander and sergeant major to assume the

responsibilities and billet as first sergeant for Supply Company.

In July 1997, he was transferred to Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13, 13th MEU (Special Operations Capable), as the supply detachment supply chief. Jones was promoted to first sergeant in September 1999, and assigned to 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st FSSG, 1st MEF. Later, in May 2000, he was transferred to Marine Corps Security Force Company, London. There he trained with the British Royal Marines.

Jones was the last first sergeant of MCSFCO London, before its deactivation on June 28, 2002. Upon the unit deactivation, Jones was reassigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. His battalion was assigned to the 13th MEU (SOC), and the first Battalion Landing Team designated to be a part of Expeditionary Strike Group-One for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning to the United States in March 2004, his battalion was reassigned in June 2004 to be the Ground Combat Element for the 15th MEU (SOC), Expeditionary Strike Group 5.

Promoted to sergeant major on Dec. 1, 2004, Jones was reassigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 372, MWSG-37, 3rd Marine Air Wing, Camp Pendleton, which had returned from deployment from OIF 04-06.2 in March 2006. The unit, redesignated as Marine Wing Security Battalion 372, deployed to Al Asad Air Base

for OIF 06-08.2, and returned in March 2008. Jones was reassigned to his current duties as sergeant major of Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCRD San Diego on July 31, 2008.

His personal decorations include the Bronze Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.





Platoon 2153
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. B. T. Randall
Shorewood, Wis.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. G. Hazleton



Platoon 2150
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. H. R. Carreon
Bakersfield, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. B. K. Karlsson



Platoon 2149
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. K. M. Livingston
Tyler, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. B. S. Laird



Platoon 2151
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. C. E. Juarez
Austin, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. B. Spencer



Platoon 2154
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. M. S. Morshed
Orangevale, Calif.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. J. Myers



Platoon 2155
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. P. L. Todd
Roseville, Calif.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. T. Alexandra



Platoon 2149
HIGH SHOOTER (336)
Pvt. J. A. Islava-Guerrero
Amado, Ariz.
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. F. J. Chavez



Platoon 2151
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. C. L. Gray
Dallas
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. A. Walters



GOLF COMPANY



| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 2nd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION <i>Commanding Officer</i> Lt. Col. R. L. Hairston <i>Sergeant Major</i> Sgt. Maj. P. A. Siaw <i>Battalion Drill Master</i> Staff Sgt. K. J. Consiglio <i>Chaplain</i> Lt. Cmdr. G. B. Younger COMPANY G <i>Commanding Officer</i> Capt. R. C. Higgins <i>Company First Sergeant</i> 1st Sgt. R. C. Ixtlahuac | SERIES 2149 <i>Series Commander</i> Capt. E. Juarez <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. L. F. Medina | PLATOON 2149 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. C. D. Willis <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. J. A. Arellano Staff Sgt. R. E. Jackson Sgt. J. A. Felix | PLATOON 2150 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. R. M. Garcialopez <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. C. W. Battaglia Sgt. D. C. Downing Sgt. D. Hernandez Jr. | PLATOON 2151 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. P. L. Castanon <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. W. S. Crespin Sgt. J. P. LeBlanc Sgt. D. E. Trujillo |
| | SERIES 2153 <i>Series Commander</i> Capt. F. L. Sandoval <i>Chief Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. C. M. Weiss | PLATOON 2153 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. G. C. Guevarra <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. D. P. Chavez Sgt. V. A. Black | PLATOON 2154 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Sgt. M. J. Tabarracci <i>Drill Instructors</i> Sgt. J. A. Greidanus Sgt. C. J. Marcus Sgt. C. R. Sandness | PLATOON 2155 <i>Senior Drill Instructor</i> Staff Sgt. B. E. Price <i>Drill Instructors</i> Staff Sgt. C. O. Harris Staff Sgt. M. P. Kollhoff Sgt. C. A. Sanchez |

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 2149
Pvt. C. O. Alcalá
Pvt. L. Alvarez
Pvt. C. P. Bacchi
Pfc. P. J. Barnes
Pfc. R. M. Brown
Pvt. N. L. Bruno
Pvt. L. A. Bushur
Pfc. M. G. Calegari
*Pfc. J. A. Campbell
Pvt. M. D. Carpenter
Pvt. R. P. Chaboya
Pvt. C. C. Chapman
*Pfc. A. Chavarria
*Pfc. J. D. Closterman
Pvt. S. T. Collins
Pvt. S. M. Corcoran
Pvt. J. J. Cornell
Pfc. P. A. Coyac
Pvt. J. A. Dance
Pvt. J. A. Davis
Pvt. R. P. Davis
Pvt. J. Delatorre
Pvt. C. M. Ditch
Pvt. M. S. Dougherty
Pfc. B. F. Drew
Pfc. C. M. Dunn
Pfc. T. S. Durham
Pvt. N. D. Eads III
*Pfc. Z. R. Everett
Pvt. J. J. Fortney
Pvt. K. M. French II
Pfc. J. M. Galloway
Pvt. D. D. Gazzo
Pvt. E. A. Gerhards
Pvt. T. D. Giboney
Pvt. A. B. Gomez
Pvt. M. A. Gonzales
Pvt. B. A. Gulino
Pvt. B. U. Hall II
Pvt. D. L. Hand II
Pvt. R. D. Handson
Pvt. W. E. Hayes IV
Pfc. S. D. Hoge
Pfc. S. T. Hynes
Pvt. J. A. Islava-Guerrero
Pvt. C. W. Jackson
Pfc. J. N. Jackson
Pfc. C. L. Johnson
Pvt. T. W. Jones Jr.
Pvt. W. M. Jordan
Pvt. C. A. Kilmer
Pvt. R. M. Kircher
Pvt. L. M. Klein
Pfc. K. C. Kohnke
Pvt. A. M. Kressley
Pvt. M. J. Launius
Pvt. C. A. Levi
Pfc. C. A. Life
Pfc. B. R. Linney
Pfc. K. M. Livingston
Pvt. J. M. Lozano
Pvt. J. L. McGee
Pfc. D. M. Moody
Pvt. C. V. Moreno
Pfc. B. R. Sandoval
Pvt. S. T. Strachan
Pvt. J. Trujillo-Rodriguez

PLATOON 2150
*Pfc. P. L. Ale
Pvt. H. E. Aparicio
Pvt. B. S. Arias
Pvt. M. A. Avila
Pvt. G. Avila
Pvt. H. Ayala
Pvt. S. E. Barrios
Pvt. E. C. Blocker
Pvt. M. Bohorquez
Pvt. T. J. Boley
Pvt. J. D. Brown
Pfc. M. R. Bujorian
Pvt. R. J. Bunyard
Pvt. H. E. Burciaga-Uribe
Pvt. C. V. Callies
Pfc. A. A. Cantu
Pvt. K. A. Carlsen
*Pfc. H. R. Carreon
Pvt. H. A. Chamroeun
Pvt. J. M. Chapla
Pvt. V. Chen
Pvt. A. J. Christensen
Pfc. F. J. Cianciarulo
*Pfc. J. B. Collins
Pvt. W. H. Cook
Pvt. Z. N. Coombs
Pvt. M. R. Couch
Pvt. G. L. Dalmasso
Pvt. S. J. Dalrymple
Pvt. B. D. DeGroote
Pvt. C. E. Eberhardt
Pvt. P. O. Elder
Pvt. J. L. Faulks
Pvt. Z. E. Frazier
Pfc. J. L. Galloway
Pvt. F. Gonzalez
Pvt. N. L. Graves
Pfc. C. D. Hawk
Pvt. M. D. Hefley
Pvt. E. D. Hill
*Pfc. C. R. Huff
Pvt. D. W. Hypolite
Pfc. B. S. Johnson
Pfc. J. C. Johnson Jr.
Pvt. C. J. Jung V
Pfc. B. A. Lawrence
Pvt. W. A. Leestma
Pvt. M. J. Lehman
Pvt. Z. S. Logan
Pvt. S. A. Long
Pfc. M. W. Love
Pvt. J. R. Lowman
Pfc. B. D. Lubben
Pvt. A. J. Manor
Pvt. I. J. Marin
Pfc. C. R. Martin
Pvt. E. Martinez
Pvt. B. R. Matthai
Pfc. R. L. McClane
Pfc. B. E. Muhlenkamp
Pvt. J. G. Rocha
Pfc. K. M. Schulte

PLATOON 2151
Pvt. N. A. Aguirre
Pvt. T. M. Alves
Pvt. R. Arias
Pvt. J. Badillo
Pvt. A. J. Barker
Pfc. A. M. Bennin
Pfc. D. N. Boone
Pvt. S. A. Botello
Pvt. C. A. Bryant
Pvt. A. J. Burdick-Frenna
Pvt. E. M. Burgess
Pvt. N. R. Burgi
Pvt. B. M. Campbell
Pvt. R. O. Carlson
Pfc. M. A. Chartier
Pvt. B. A. Clark
Pvt. T. Cole
*Pfc. J. K. Cortes
*Pfc. B. J. Crandell
Pvt. J. C. Cruz
Pfc. J. D. Edgin
Pvt. N. L. Eichorn
Pfc. J. E. Engle
Pvt. K. M. Eubank
*Pfc. M. O. Ezell
Pvt. S. R. Foley
Pvt. T. R. Fox
Pfc. E. F. Fuller
Pvt. D. E. Garcia-Velasquez
Pvt. M. A. Gerardo
Pvt. M. T. Gilbert-Malcom
Pvt. E. Gonzalez
Pfc. T. H. Gooch III
Pvt. M. L. Gorenflo
*Pfc. C. L. Gray
Pfc. B. J. Grover
Pvt. C. M. Helms
Pvt. M. D. Hertzog
Pvt. A. C. Herzig
Pvt. S. L. Hill
Pvt. N. M. Holmes
Pvt. M. P. Hopper
Pfc. C. S. Hull
Pvt. Z. M. Ingraham
Pvt. F. Irons
Pvt. M. T. Isbell
Pfc. J. A. Jeltema
Pvt. J. A. Jimenez
*Pfc. C. E. Juarez
Pvt. J. M. Koch
Pvt. J. M. Krumme
Pvt. C. P. Kubik
Pfc. J. Lee
Pfc. M. W. Longstreet
Pvt. M. R. Lopez
Pvt. T. W. Lynch
Pvt. T. L. Marshall
Pvt. J. S. Martin
Pfc. J. M. McAuley
Pvt. J. P. McConnell
Pvt. C. D. McKelvie
Pfc. D. D. Meier
Pvt. D. O. Messenger
Pvt. F. Meza-Cisneros
Pvt. H. H. Middaugh
Pvt. K. T. Moore
Pfc. A. W. Schuetz

PLATOON 2153
Pfc. M. B. Abarientos
Pfc. J. R. Acfalle
Pvt. C. D. Arana
Pfc. U. H. Barrows
Pvt. O. Benitez
Pvt. E. M. Bollard
Pfc. S. M. Buda Jr.
Pvt. C. E. Caldera
Pfc. T. G. Caporuscio Jr.
Pfc. G. R. Cooper
Pvt. H. J. Cosio
Pfc. F. M. Good IV
Pvt. J. Q. Innumerable
Pvt. A. H. Jemison
Pvt. S. Kantarevic
Pvt. T. R. Kirchner
Pfc. J. C. Lomibao
Pvt. S. M. Lytge
Pvt. J. B. McKenzie
Pvt. E. Medrano-Agundez
Pvt. D. R. Mills
Pvt. M. A. Moore
Pfc. J. E. Morales
Pvt. M. Olvera Jr.
*Pfc. A. M. Pacheco
Pvt. B. A. Pavlak
Pvt. B. D. Pruitt III
Pvt. J. D. Ramsey
*Lance Cpl. B. T. Randall
Pvt. D. D. Rice
Pvt. J. R. Peguero
Pvt. H. A. Pena
Pvt. B. T. Phillips
Pfc. R. A. Plock
Pvt. N. A. Polichio
Pvt. B. A. Richards Jr.
*Pfc. D. A. Rodine
*Pfc. A. A. Romero
*Pfc. C. L. Rubow
Pvt. E. M. Sailors
Pfc. B. J. Sampson
Pfc. J. G. Sanchez
Pfc. A. J. Schackman
Pvt. A. J. Schmerber
Pvt. G. E. Shultz
Pfc. K. M. Shean
Pvt. J. A. Siegel
Pvt. Z. L. Slay
Pvt. J. M. Soliz
Pvt. A. W. Stidham
Pvt. D. J. Stiening
Pvt. N. A. St. John
Pvt. C. S. Taylor
Pvt. G. T. Thompson
Pvt. M. T. Trus Jr
Pvt. B. C. Tucker
Pvt. T. M. Tucker
Pvt. N. J. Tyler
Pvt. P. A. Van Dyke
Pvt. C. S. Vaughn
Pvt. K. J. Wall
Pvt. C. W. Wheelis
Pvt. S. R. Wilkeninig
Pvt. J. T. Wyant
Pfc. D. W. York
Pvt. J. A. White
Pfc. D. T. Williams
Pfc. N. P. Williamson
Pfc. S. T. Worthington
Pvt. O. R. Zavala

PLATOON 2154
Pvt. K. A. Abbasi
Pfc. R. V. Antonio
Pvt. S. D. Atkisson Jr.
Pvt. N. M. Barker
Pvt. H. J. Chance
Pvt. M. C. Cottrell
Pvt. J. J. Danao
Pfc. G. Delemel
Pvt. K. G. Dorn
Pvt. S. D. Duncan
Pfc. M. A. Garcia
Pvt. A. J. Grantham
Pvt. O. M. Guerra
Pvt. B. Hernandez
Pvt. K. E. Herrera
Pvt. G. J. Lenard
Pvt. A. Lopez-Plaza
Pvt. L. J. Lucero
Pvt. J. J. Medina
Pvt. J. N. Medrano Jr.
Pfc. J. A. Mejia-Valverde
Pvt. T. A. Menter
Pvt. L. W. Mercer
Pvt. C. J. Miller
*Pfc. M. J. Miller
Pfc. R. E. Miller Jr.
Pfc. S. Min
Pvt. T. C. Monson
Pvt. R. Mora Jr.
Pvt. B. S. Moreno
*Pfc. M. S. Morshed
Pfc. C. M. Moura
Pvt. R. E. Munsterman
*Pfc. S. Y. Nakayama
Pvt. L. C. Nelsen
Pvt. H. H. Nguyen
Pvt. G. D. Nicodemus
Pvt. A. M. Nider
Pvt. S. D. Nielsen
Pfc. T. H. Nieman Jr.
Pvt. L. M. Norton
Pfc. J. T. Orsatt
*Pfc. B. A. Orta Jr.
Pvt. L. J. Park
Pvt. T. T. Parrone
Pvt. B. O. Peralta
Pvt. M. D. Perez
Pvt. J. J. Pilcher
Pfc. Z. C. Pohle
Pvt. M. S. Polanco
Pvt. E. Ramirez
*Pfc. J. D. Rasmussen
Pvt. J. E. Reuter
Pfc. B. R. Ringsdorf
Pvt. S. R. Ruppert
Pvt. K. K. Ryan
Pfc. G. E. Sabers
Pfc. H. R. Salazar
Pvt. Z. M. Staman
Pfc. B. S. Tampa

PLATOON 2155
Pfc. J. A. Holt
Pvt. B. D. Lomonaco
Pvt. I. M. Marquez
Pvt. J. D. McDonald
Pvt. A. M. Melaga
Pfc. M. A. Mendoza
Pvt. N. Meyer
*Pfc. J. R. Millick
Pfc. J. G. Moallankamp
Pfc. J. A. Moore
Pvt. W. M. Nelson
Pvt. G. M. Olsen
Pvt. Z. M. Olsen
Pvt. E. P. Paluch
Pvt. J. M. Pasillas
Pvt. J. W. Patterson
Pvt. G. D. Permann
Pvt. C. M. Phillips
*Pfc. C. W. Piehler
Pvt. A. J. Plank
Pfc. M. P. Pon
Pvt. R. S. Puskas
*Pfc. C. R. Quaid
Pvt. C. J. Reed
Pvt. R. R. Ross III
Pfc. J. M. Santos
Pfc. D. Sarabia
Pvt. M. A. Schieler
Pvt. D. M. Seybold
Pfc. J. C. Silva-Castaneda
Pvt. A. F. Silveria
Pvt. S. P. Slattery
Pvt. R. E. Munsterman
Pvt. C. R. Smith
Pvt. J. W. Smith
Pfc. M. D. Smith
Pfc. A. N. Snyder
Pvt. C. D. Sorteberg
Pvt. J. R. Sperry
Pvt. B. B. Stephenson
Pvt. C. J. Stickler
*Pfc. W. G. Stover
Pfc. B. L. Stowell
Pvt. C. M. Strom
Pvt. K. J. Swain
Pvt. K. M. Taff
Pvt. O. Taylor
Pvt. A. A. Teferi
Pvt. Z. G. The
Pvt. J. V. Tidwell
Pfc. P. L. Todd
Pvt. A. J. Tucker
Pvt. A. X. Vagts
Pvt. D. Van Der Warf
Pfc. R. R. Wade
Pfc. Z. D. Wakeland
Pvt. B. C. Walker
*Pfc. C. J. Walker
Pvt. D. B. Weatherman
Pvt. M. J. Willet
Pfc. B. R. Wilson
Pvt. B. M. Wood
Pvt. J. H. Young
Pvt. C. K. Yudin
Pfc. L. J. Zimmerman

Marine families prepare for what the future may bring

BY LANCE CPL. ERIC QUINTANILLA
Chevron staff

Family readiness is defined by the Marine Corps as families who are prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle.

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego hosts classes that offer a wealth of resources to assist with family readiness.

To help achieve this goal, the Marine Corps has hired Family Readiness Officers for each unit and are the face of the commanding officer's vision for family readiness. The FRO is responsible for promoting classes and providing Marines with the information regarding the resources that are available to them.

The mission of the depot's family readiness division is to build strong "guardrails" for service members and their families. This helps to guide and strengthen families with the tools needed to succeed in a military environment. They also help prepare families for the unique challenges of a deployment in addition to maintaining a constant state of readiness.

Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills or L.I.N.K.S., is a volunteer, team-mentoring program that offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle. It's taught by military spouses to

help promote mentorship and help build trust within the community.

"It is important for families to know they are not alone in the challenges they face, and that there are free programs, such as LINKS, that offer the tools and support they need," said Rebecca M. Roman, FRO for Headquarters and Service Battalion at MCRD San Diego.

These classes assist with preparing for a separation, and also provide the opportunity to meet other spouses going through the same thing to lean and rely on for help.

Family readiness is not only for married Marines. The Marine Corps Community Service Website encourages this idea by stating that every Marine has three families, the one they are born into, sworn into and married into.

"Family readiness is an ongoing process that increases the tools and resources available to deal with challenges families are likely to face," said Roman.

Although not many Marines deploy from MCRD, the classes do see an influx of participants when there are Marines going on temporary additional duty, said Roman.

The classes also cover the normal cycle of emotions service members and spouses go through when preparing and going through a separation.

These emotions are not exclusive to deployments. Drill instructors go through a similar process when they are separated from their families, which can last for extended periods of time as well.

The next L.I.N.K.S. for spouses class is a two-day course scheduled for May 3 and 4 in the building 6E classroom.

For additional information on family readiness or upcoming classes, contact your unit family readiness officer or visit www.MCCSMCRD.com/MarineCorpsFamilyTeamBuilding/FamilyReadiness.



Lance Cpl. Joseph Marshall, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, waits for the sun to rise in Southern Marjah District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 23, the first day of Operation Watchtower. Marshall is from Glenallen, Alaska.

Sgt. Jesse Stence/ Regimental Combat Team 1



Claire Miller, 21 months old, waves an American flag to greet her father, a member of Patrol Squadron 9, as he returns to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, from a six-month deployment, Nov. 16. During the deployment, VP-9 detached throughout the Navy's 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility. A group of VP-9 P-3s supported 5th Fleet maritime operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom from Isa Air Base in Bahrain. From their hub at Kadena Air Base, the rest of the unit detached throughout the 7th Fleet AOR, working with a variety of coalition partners including Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder/ Marine Corps Base Hawaii



Five-year-old Caroline Law grips her father's hand following his return to Marine Corps Base Hawaii from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan on Dec. 7. After replacing 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Helmand province's Nawa district last May, 3/3 supported Regimental Combat Teams 1 and 7 as part of counterinsurgency operations during Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion's operations varied from securing elections and ensuring school openings to more traditional combat operations such as security patrols and clearing danger areas, said Maj. Jay Garcia, executive officer, 3/3, of Honolulu. The return of "America's Battalion" brought 925 Marines back to Hawaii.

Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder/ Marine Corps Base Hawaii