

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



Former recruit returns to see platoon, Page 3

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Living Marine to be presented Medal of Honor

Cpl. Reece Lodder
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - Removed from an ambushed platoon of Marines and soldiers in a remote Afghan village on Sept. 8, 2009, his reality viciously shaken by an onslaught of enemy fighters, Cpl. Dakota Meyer simply reacted as he knew best — tackling what he called “extraordinary circumstances” by “doing the right thing — whatever it takes.”

Nearly two years later, the White House announced Aug. 12, the 23-year-old Marine scout sniper from Columbia, Ky., who has since left the Corps, will become one of the few Marines to live through the heroic actions that earned him the Medal of Honor.

The last was Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg Jr. received the medal in 1973 for gallantry in Vietnam three years earlier. Although, two other living Marines were presented the nation’s highest award for valor in 1998 and 1980 for actions in World War II.

Meyer is the second Marine to receive the medal for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. Cpl. Jason Dunham was awarded the medal posthumously for covering a grenade with his body to save two Marines in Iraq in 2004. President Barack Obama will present the award to Meyer at the White House Sept. 15.

“The award honors the men who gave their lives that day, and the men who were in that fight,” Meyer said. “I didn’t do anything more than any other Marine would. I was put in an extraordinary circumstance, and I just did my job.”

Though bleeding from shrapnel wounds in his right arm, Meyer, aided by fellow Marines and Army advisors from Embedded Training Team 2-8, braved a vicious hail of enemy machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the village of Ganjgal to help rescue and evacuate more

than 15 wounded Afghan soldiers, and recover the bodies of four fallen fighters — 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgts. Aaron Kenefick and Edwin Johnson Jr., and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Layton.

ETT advisor Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington Oct. 7, 2009, from wounds sustained in the firefight.

Meyer charged through the battle zone five times to recover the dead Marines and injured Afghan soldiers, risking his life even when a medical evacuation helicopter wouldn’t land because of the blazing gunfire.

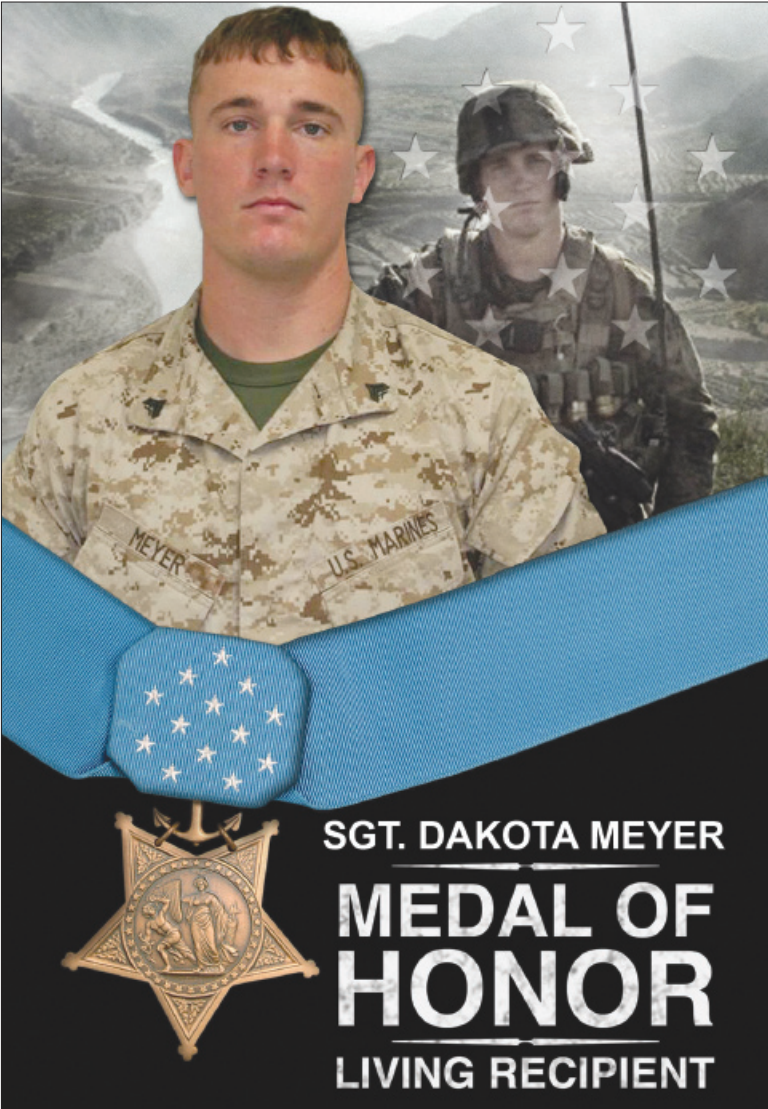
“There’s not a day — not a second that goes by where I don’t think about what happened that day,” Meyer said. “I didn’t just lose four Marines that day; I lost four brothers.”

Author Bing West, a retired Marine infantry officer and combat veteran of Vietnam, detailed Meyer’s actions in the battle in “The Wrong War,” and praised Meyer for taking command of the battle as a corporal — the most junior advisor in this firefight.

West said Meyer should have been killed, but he dominated the battlefield by fearlessly exposing himself to danger and pumping rifle and machine gun rounds into the enemy fighters.

“When you leave the perimeter, you don’t know what’s going to happen, regardless of what war you’re fighting in,” said Kellogg, who lives in Kailua, Hawaii. “Once you get to a point where you make the decision — ‘I’m probably going to die, so let the party begin’ — once you say in your mind you aren’t getting out of there, you fight harder and harder.”

Beginning his career with the same regiment from which Kellogg retired in 1990, Meyer deployed with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2007, and earned a



SGT. DAKOTA MEYER
MEDAL OF HONOR
LIVING RECIPIENT

Photo special to The Boot

Sgt. Dakota Meyer will be receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor, from President Barack Obama in Washington Sept. 15, making him the first living Marine recipient since the Vietnam War.

SEE MEDAL PAGE 2

Service limitations to change for sergeants



Lance Cpl. Erin M. Ross

The service limitations for sergeants have changed after the release of Marine Administrative Message 433/11. Sergeants can now only serve up to 10 years or until they have been passed up for promotion twice.

Lance Cpl. Erin M. Ross
Staff Writer

According to the newly released Marine Administrative Message 433/11, new service limitations have been placed on sergeants, cutting their maximum service time to 10 years.

The change will reshape the force on the enlisted side and make the career Marines more competitive, said Master Sgt. Carlos Zuniga, depot career planner.

The Enlisted Career Force Control Program, started in 1985 to manage the amount of Marines looking at a career in the service, actively shapes the enlisted side of the Marine Corps by grade and occupational specialty.

Previously, sergeants had a service limit of 13 years before they were forced to separate from the Corps.

These limitations were put into place to enforce more restrictive limits on sergeants passed for promotion in order to retain more competitive Marines, according to the message.

Now, if a sergeant has not been selected for staff sergeant after the second promotion board or 10 years, Marines will be processed for separation.

The annual staff sergeant promotion

SEE SERGEANTS PAGE 6



Photo special to The Boot

Marine Corps Message 429/11 restates that basic allowance for housing requests, unless otherwise stated in the order, will be denied for sergeants and below if there is adequate space in the barracks.

Corps freezes BAH for sergeants and below

Lance Cpl. Erin M. Ross
Staff Writer

Basic allowance for housing requests for single sergeants and below have been frozen with the release of Marine Administrative Message 429/11.

Previously, limited space in the barracks was a problem across the Marine Corps and resulted in the need for some Marines to find residency elsewhere, said Lt. Col. Robert Friedman, with the Headquarters Marine Corps installations and logistics department. This increased the number of unmarried Marines living off base with BAH.

It is the commandant’s Bachelor Enlisted Quarters initiative to correct the situation by ensuring each base provides adequate living assignments for all enlisted Marines sergeant and below, according to the message.

Friedman said between 2006 and 2014, the Marine Corps allotted \$2.8 billion to build new barracks in order to improve the quality of life for Marines.

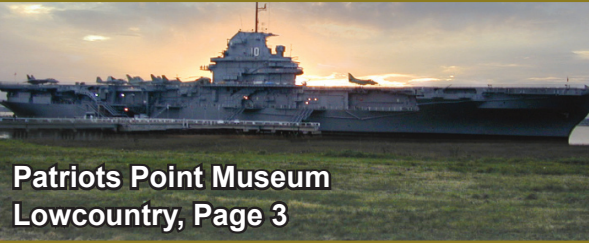
This expansion will have created 25,000 new barracks across the Marine Corps, to include the new barracks on

SEE BAH PAGE 4

This week in Parris Island history

Aug. 22, 1952, an article in The Boot announced the deactivation of the 5th and 6th Recruit Training Battalions. The battalions had been activated in the fall of 1950, about the time the Korean conflict began. During the summer of 1951, both battalions became special training battalions and transformed civilians into second lieutenants through the Platoon Leaders Course. After one cycle of training officer cadets, both battalions reverted back to training enlisted recruits.

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meritorious promotion to corporal in late 2008 after returning from the deployment.

Before leaving for Iraq, Meyer completed the Marine Corps’ 10-week Scout Sniper Basic Course, and committed himself to preparing himself and his snipers for combat. They attended lifesaving classes taught by Navy corpsmen and honed their skills with myriad weapons systems, such as light machine guns. Meyer also spent time in his battalion’s communications section learning how to call for mortar and artillery fire.

“I devoted my whole life to making the best snipers in the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “They’re a direct reflection of your leadership. If you fail them in training, it could get them killed on the battlefield.”

In February 2009, Meyer volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan’s dangerous Kunar province and mentor Afghan soldiers as part of an embedded training team, the type of role usually filled by U.S. Special Forces.

“A Marine who seeks the challenge of joining his unit’s scout sniper platoon has to have a lot of drive and determination,” said Col. Nathan Nastase, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment and formerly Meyer’s battalion commander at 3/3. “Being assigned to the ETT was a huge vote of confidence in his abilities.”

Meyer deployed to Afghanistan on the ETT in July 2009.

“Our mission was to help prepare the Afghans to take over their own country and provide security for themselves,” Meyer said. “ETTs make a huge impact on the outcome of the war.”

In Kunar province, Meyer and another ETT advisor would lead squads of 15 Afghan soldiers on patrols. Since he could speak Pashto, the local language, so well, Meyer often separated from the element with his Afghan trainees.

When his patrol fought to rescue another from an ambush Sept. 8, 2009, Meyer’s focus on advising gave way to surviving, and on what he had to do to keep himself and his men alive.

“I lost a lot of Afghans that day,” Meyer said. “And I’ll tell you right now — they were just as close to me as those Marines were. At the end of the day, I don’t care if they’re Afghans, Iraqis, Marines or Army; it didn’t matter. They’re in the same s - - - you are, and they want to go home and see their family just as bad as you do.”

Thrown into unimaginable circumstances, Meyer said the Afghan soldiers and his sniper training “saved my life” during the battle.

Jacody Downey is a close friend of Meyer’s from Kentucky. He’s seen his friend grow from a fun-loving “jokester” in high school to a driven Marine who deeply respected both elders and subordinates.

“Dakota has always cared more about others than he does himself,” Downey said. “Even if he’s not with his Marines now, he’s still constantly thinking about them, worrying about them and calling to check on them. He still considers them brothers.”

Cpl. David Hawkins grew as a Marine under Meyer’s leadership in 3/3’s Scout Sniper Platoon.

“Meyer was an ideal leader,” Hawkins, from Parker, Colo., said. “He knew everything about the Marines underneath him — how they’d respond to every situation, not only on a Marine Corps level but also on a personal level.”

Hawkins said he was deeply humbled by Meyer’s concern as a friend, especially after being injured in Afghanistan last year. Hawkins was severely wound-



Photos special to The Boot

Sgt. Dakota Meyer with Combat Roadie, his pet monkey, in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Meyer will be receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor, from President Barack Obama in Washington Sept. 15, making him the first living Marine to earn it for actions since the Vietnam War. Meyer was assigned to Embedded Training Team 2-8 advising the Afghan National Army in the eastern provinces bordering Pakistan.

ed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan Sept. 24, 2010. Four days later, he lay static in a stark hospital room, riddled with shrapnel. After groggily emerging from anesthesia into a blurry reality, Hawkins’ phone rang — the first call from a friend. Without fail, Meyer’s jovial drawl broke through the speaker.

“In the Marine Corps, you always hear that if something’s broke, you’ve got to work to fix it, but you never really see the Marine who does it,” Hawkins said. “Meyer is that Marine. If he had something to say, he’d say it, and he wasn’t really afraid of repercussions for what he said. If it needed to be changed, he changed it.”

Hearing his friend would receive the Medal of Honor didn’t surprise Hawkins. In light of the “character” and “country boy” Hawkins knows, Meyer’s actions were simply the manifestation of how he lived and led.

“Meyer was destined for the Medal of Honor,” Hawkins said. “If you got to work with him, you’d see it.”

Meyer completed his tour on active duty last June. He went home to Kentucky, where he’s found purpose working with his hands in a family business.

“Pouring concrete is kind of like the Marine Corps,” Meyer said. “When you wake up in the morning, you’ve got a job ... like a mission. There’s

no set standard on how to do things, but you just have to go out there, make decisions and get it done — and that’s like the challenge of the Marine Corps. Once you’re satisfied with what you’ve done, you stop getting better.”

Meyer is the 86th living Medal of Honor recipient, and he joins a small, elite group of heroes, a reality that will often require him to conjure up haunting reminders of the battles he has fought, the friends he has lost and the painful regret he bears.

“I’m not a hero, by any means — I’m a Marine, that’s what I am,” he said. “The heroes are the men and women still serving, and the guys who gave their lives for their country. At the end of the day, I went in there to do the right thing – and it all boils down to doing the right thing – whatever it takes. All those things we learn stick in your head, and when you live by it, that’s the Marine way.”

Though Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor for what he did in Ganjgal, he insists he will wear the five-pointed medallion and blue silk ribbon to honor his fallen brothers, their families and his fellow Marines.

“Being a Marine is a way of life,” Meyer said. “It isn’t just a word, and it’s not just about the uniform — it’s about brotherhood. Brotherhood means that when you turn around, they’re there, through thick and thin. If you can’t take care of your brothers, what can you do in life?”



Dakota Meyer watches Green County High School faculty and staff find their seats before he gives a speech to many of his old teachers, counselors and coaches Aug. 3 in Greensburg, Ky. Meyer will be receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor, from President Barack Obama in Washington, Sept. 15.



From left to right, Petty Officer 3rd Class James Layton, Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, 1st Lt. Michael Johnson and Sgt. Dakota Meyer with Afghan National Army members in Afghanistan. On the day of Meyer’s actions that would earn him the Medal of Honor, the other three Americans would fall in battle.

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Photos by Lance Cpl. Erin M. Ross

Staff Sgt. Herman Franklin and Xinggang Wang pose with the Alpha Company sign at the lead series barracks Aug. 12 at 1st Recruit Training Battalion. Wang was guide of Franklin's platoon from Day One until he was dropped less than a month shy of graduation.

Former recruit returns to see platoon graduate

Lance Cpl. Erin M. Ross
Staff Writer

Out of all the recruits that come to Parris Island for training, 10 percent never make the march across the parade deck—sometimes, even ones the drill instructors wanted to keep.

Such was the case for Xinggang Wang, a recruit from Platoon 1062, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, who was medically separated less than a month away from earning the title of Marine.

“We didn’t want him to leave when he got dropped,” said 1st Sgt. Jeremy Lirette, company first sergeant. “We wanted to keep him. He’s the type of Marine recruit drill instructors want.”

Even though he struggled learning the special drill movements for carrying a guidon, Wang was the platoon guide from the start, said Staff Sgt. Herman Franklin, the platoon’s senior drill instructor.

“He never gave up, and that’s what set him apart from everyone else,” Franklin said.

At the same time, he was the oldest recruit in the platoon at the age of 29—he turned 30 on the first official training day. Yet, during training, he forgot how old he really was after keeping up with the younger recruits in every physical training session.

“I knew I was old, so I didn’t want to be an [infantryman],” Wang said. “I knew that this was the best service in the world, but I joined to not just protect countries, but learn how to protect myself.”

Wang, born in Beijing, came to the United States on July 23, 2008, as a political reassignment from China. Before coming to the states, he had studied in South Korea and learned Korean and Japanese on top of his first language, Mandarin Chinese.

When he came to the states, he did not know how to speak English, he said.

He always wanted to join the Marine Corps, Wang added. He had played drums for a long time and had enlisted to become part of the Marine Corps band.

“He was well above average,” said

Staff Sgt. Christopher Jamison, drill instructor. “He gave up everything to be a Marine. He had a job that he quit to come here. He had a lot of motivation to be here, and we don’t get very many recruits like him.”

When Wang was dropped for medical reasons, Lirette said the entire platoon was affected—including the drill instructors.

“It was devastating. We didn’t expect it to happen,” Franklin said. “The platoon was really down but we pressed on.”

Before leaving his unit for the recruit separation platoon, Franklin gave Wang his personal Eagle, Globe and Anchor, congratulating him for being a great recruit and worthy of the title Marine.

Though he was no longer in training, Wang told his drill instructors and the chain of command at the company that he would return to see his platoon graduate.

True to his word, on Aug. 12, Wang sat in the reviewing stands as Plt. 1062 and the rest of A Co. marched across the Peatross Parade Deck as Marines.

“It meant everything to me and to the platoon that he would take time from his busy schedule to see his fellow Marines he would have graduated with walk across the parade deck,” Franklin said.

Wang’s dedication to the Marines in his platoon made him a better man than most, Lirette said.

He had been in touch with his drill instructors online and over the phone since he left, but his impact on the new Marines will go far beyond the military, Lirette said, who hopes they take away the pride, dedication and ability to stand up for beliefs like Wang.

After leaving Parris Island, Wang said he returned to New York City to work at the John F. Kennedy Airport, where he was promoted upon his return to his old job.

“I’m glad to see them all. I’m proud,” Wang said. “I have a lot of respect for the young American generation who joins the military.”



Xinggang Wang congratulates members from his former platoon at graduation Aug. 12, at the Peatross Parade Deck. Wang kept his promise and returned to Parris Island to see his company graduate from recruit training after being medically dropped.

DI helps 2nd Bn. get facelift



Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Sgt. Justin Carr, operations chief for Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, built wall placards and display frames, among other things, to give the company offices and buildings a facelift.

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Undoubtedly, drill instructors leave their mark on the Corps in many ways. The biggest of which, may be turning untrained civilians into members of one of the most storied organizations in the world. Should they graduate recruit training, they will become the Corps’ future leaders. But a drill instructor with 2nd Recruit Training Battalion is leaving his mark in a different way.

Staff Sgt. Justin Carr, Golf Company, 2nd RTBn., creates woodwork that could stay with Golf Company for as long as they occupy their current barracks.

“He takes pride in what he does,” said Gunnery Sgt. Colin Boyd, company first sergeant, “But in him doing this, it’s something that we as a company can take pride in.”

Boyd turned to other Marines in the battalion and asked who could undertake all sorts of handyman projects and was referred to Carr. After speaking with him, Carr showed Boyd possible designs and took it from there.

Carr, currently serving as the company’s operations chief, constructed hatch plates, markers used to designate what platoon or office occupies a room, for every G Co. office and squad bay.

Carr also created a new guideon holder for the company as well as frames to house the drill instructor and senior drill instructor of the quarter board and the chain of command board.

“This is pretty much something where I said ‘Hey, this is what I want and I want to know if you’re capable of doing this,’” Boyd said. “I gave him the

ball and he took it and ran with it.”

On paper the task to create these things from scratch and still execute daily duties may seem daunting, but for Carr it wasn’t hard.

“With this, you get the satisfaction of completing something – especially with this job where everyone appreciates it,” Carr said.

Unlike Carr, many woodworkers become involved in their trade when they are young.

“Growing up, my dad, he was always the handyman,” Carr said. “I didn’t get into woodwork until I became a DI.”

While on quota, Carr would always find the time to create things. He said it assisted him in becoming patient and was a positive outlet when he wanted to relieve stress.

After the battalion provided the materials, Carr cut, painted and detailed the pieces at home.

Carr’s new hatch plates replaced the sheets of paper that had once adorned the front door of each squad bay and office.

“You have something that looks professional and that represents you – it’s something you can have pride in,” Boyd said.

Carr says he didn’t complete these extracurricular projects for medals or awards.

“Just the appreciation of the drill instructors alone – and the company staff – that’s good enough,” he said.

Carr’s creations have become a part of G Co.’s facelift and will add to the company’s identity, Boyd said.

“He put his time and effort into it,” Boyd said. “It shows attention to detail, pride and ingenuity. It’s a hell of a lot better than what we had before.”



Staff Sgt. Justin Carr, operations chief for Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, readies his power tools to work on the chain of command board Aug. 11. He will rebuild this particular project and it should take him approximately two more weeks to finish.

BAH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

The purpose of the re-iteration is to re-enforce the presence of noncom-missed officer leader-ship in the barracks and keep unit integrity

throughout the BEQ, Friedman said.

According to the mes-sages, the Marine Corps also has the responsi-bility of providing all personnel with a well-maintained suitable liv-ing environment aboard installations.

Currently, approxi-mately 10,000 single ser-geants and below that do not have children have been approved for BAH and 4,500 of them live in an area that can provide adequate space in the BEQs.

Hardship requests and other instances to in-clude joint custody will be looked at in a case-by-case light.

If a Marine has a need for housing, to include joint custody, visitation and other instances listed in the Marine Corps Order on housing (Marine Corps Order P11000.22), BAH will not be withheld, Fried-man added.

According to MAR-ADMIN 429/11, BAH requests for sergeants and below will continue to be denied until bar-racks across the base are operating at 95 percent capacity.

This will not affect the BAH status of already approved sergeants and below living off base.

For information on qualification for BAH, consult MCO P11000.22 or contact the Installation PersonnelAdministrative Center at 228-2739 for Parris Island or 228-8434 for Marine Corps Air Sta-tion Beaufort.



Lance Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

A Navy boat launched from USS New Orleans Aug. 12 carries maritime raid force members of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The force's assault element practiced boarding vessels from the ocean's surface miles from Southern California during the unit's first sea-based exercise since becoming a complete Marine air-ground task force in May.

Raid on mock pirated vessel planned, launched from sea base

Gunnery Sgt. Scott Dunn
11th MEU

PACIFIC OCEAN — Training to re-take a hijacked seagoing vessel, maritime raiders boarded their floating objective miles from Southern California's San Clemente Island Sunday, while overhead, helicopters flew unseen snipers and heavy guns.

The raid force's assault element – Marines and sailors serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit – launched from USS New Orleans on Navy rigid-hulled inflatable boats, executing counter-piracy and counter-terrorism tactics rehearsed days before – essentially visiting, boarding, searching and seizing an ocean vessel.

From USS Makin Island, the unit's aviation combat element launched four of its skid-landing helicopters: a pair of AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters and two

UH-1Y Venom utility helicopters, one carrying scout snipers with high-powered rifles.

The Marines apprehended a small group of actors portraying terrorists-cum-pirates, seized small-arms weapons and returned the vessel to its owner.

The 11th MEU embarked the amphibious assault ship Makin Island and the amphibious transport dock New Orleans Aug. 10 in San Diego, beginning a 12-day exercise with the Navy's Amphibious Squadron 5. Having sailed from San Diego four days ago, this Navy and Marine Corps team began working together at sea for the first time since the unit formed a complete Marine air-ground task force in May.

The team has planned and conducted its first few training missions from the sea, with more scheduled in the coming days, including an operation extending as far inland as Yuma, Ariz.



Lance Cpl. Justin R. Stein

A scout sniper serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's maritime raid force sights in from a helicopter during counter-piracy and counter-terrorism training Sunday.



Gunnery Sgt. Scott Dunn

A UH-1Y Venom piloted by Capt. Kyle Wilt and Joshua Gordon lifts from the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island Sunday to fly snipers supporting a counter-piracy training mission miles from Southern California's San Clemente Island. Wilt serves with a detachment of skid-landing helicopters attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

MSG TEAM BRIEFS ABOARD THE DEPOT

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

The Marine Security Guard recruiting, advertising and screening team visited Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Monday to brief all Marines interested in the program.

The team came to give Marines ranking from lance corporal to gunnery sergeant information regarding MSG duty directly from those who have a first-hand experience, and to iterate the career benefits of making the desicion to be an MSG.

“A lot of Marines just don't know what the MSG program has to offer,” said Staff Sgt. Cydney Rose, one of the team members. “We are here to spread the correct word about the MSG program.”

The brief was held at the depot theater.

“We’re looking for qualified Marines to fill the positions as detachment commanders for staff noncommissioned offi-

cers and for watch standers for sergeant and below,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Lappe, one of the team members.

“Marines hear the rumors about what qualifies them for the program,” Rose said.

The team members say they believe many Marines don’t apply because they think certain things such as tattoos or their military occupational specialties disqualify them from the duty.

Lappe said he made sure the Marines understood how well this duty could benefit them in their civilian or military careers.

“We give Marines their top secret clearance, educational opportunities, 100 points toward their cutting score, and other ways to be promoted on the program,” Rose said.

The primary mission of MSG is to provide internal security at 148 designated U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities in 133 countries and to provide protection for U.S. citizens and government property located within those facilities.



Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Staff Sgt. Anthony Lappe, a member of the Marine Security Guard recruiting, advertising and screening team, speaks with Marines Monday at the depot theater about the benefits of being a Marine Security Guard.



Special to The Boot

Marine Security Guard students learn handcuffing techniques at their school in Quantico, Va.

“We give Marines their top secret clearance, educational opportunities, 100 points toward their cutting score and other ways to be promoted on the program.”

Staff Sgt. Cydney Rose

SERGEANTS

continued from page 1

board will list eligible sergeants as “selected” or “not selected.”

Sergeants who were passed up the first time and have less than 10 years of service will

be allowed to extend for seven months until the next staff sergeant board to allow an additional chance for promotion.

However, if a Marine is passed up for staff sergeant twice and his EAS date allows less than 10 years of service, the sergeant will still be processed for administrative separation.

The ultimate goal is to have sergeants promoted to staff sergeant by eight and a half years, Zuniga explained. Staying up to date on proper military education, basic training and holding a special duty assignment can help in looking more competitive for the selection board.

Now, if a sergeant has more

than 10 years of service and an EAS date allowing for 13 years, he will be grandfathered and allowed to continue his service until their assigned date.

“The most important thing is to make sure your [official military personnel files] are up to date and correct,” Zuniga said. “If you have any questions left,

talk to your career planner.”

To contact your command career planner: for Headquarters and Service Battalion planner call 228-3269, Weapons and Field Training Battalion call 228-3316, Recruit Training Regiment call 228-2264 or 6th Marine Corps District call 228-2092.