

HEADQUARTERS, 8TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2012

ROUNDUP

F O R T W O R T H , T E X A S

Hispanic Marines
share their story

| Pg. 3

Colorado Marine creates
poolee gym workout | Pg. 5

ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 2012

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departments // features

Hispanic Story Pg. 3

Football team hikes with Marines to build camaraderie Pg. 5

VIDEO: Giving back and getting dirty Pg. 6

Local recruiters visit to Victoria college students Pg. 7

District's man behind the marketing vehicle Pg. 11

ON OUR COVER

District Marines celebrated diversity in the ranks of the Marine Corps this month, highlighted by the stories of three Hispanic Marines. September is also known as Hispanic Heritage Month, where Hispanic Americans can show their pride for their roots. (Photo by Pfc. D.I. Fugate)



Pg. 6



Pg. 7



Pg. 5



vol. 55 | no. 5

inside >>

[Commander's Corner]

COL. TED STUDDARD // COMMANDING OFFICER



Marines,

The month of September is recognized as "Hispanic Heritage Month" throughout the Department of Defense and our Marine Corps. In this issue of the Roundup, we highlight a few of our District Marines who discuss their Hispanic heritage and their Marine Corps heritage. Specifically, this month gives us an opportunity to reflect on our nation as a melting pot of different cultures, and remember our nation's motto - E Pluribus Unum, "out of many, one" - and how it continues to hold true to this day.

Despite where our ancestors may have originated, we are all Americans who hold in common the values of liberty, justice, and freedom for all. It is this shared value system that compels us to support freedom and justice in all that we do as Marines. Thank you all for continuing to serve this great nation and providing us the liberties we hold so dear.

Semper Fi,

S.T. Studdard

District Marines celebrate their Hispanic heritage

STORY BY PFC. D.I. FUGATE //
ROUNDUP STAFF

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. RYAN SMITH //
ROUNDUP STAFF



(Left to right) Cpl. Rolando Noriega, Sgt. Lory Macias, and Sgt. Karen Rodriguez are three of Headquarters, 8th Marine Corps District's Hispanic-American Marines. They all had different paths to success in their lives.

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JOINT RESERVE BASE, Texas – Seeing them day to day, they just look like normal Marines, but behind their cammies and hard faces are individuals who had to overcome adversity to get where they are today.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to show pride in

their heritage and these Marines from Headquarters, 8th Marine Corps District are a model to follow.

They have risen above expectations and stand as role models in the eyes of Americans they interact with.

Here are their stories.



NORIEGA: *Through hardships came knowledge*

Corporal Rolando Noriega, adjutant clerk and martial arts instructor, is originally from Merced,

Texas, a predominantly Hispanic, low-income community rife with crime and single parent homes. He experienced the struggles of the society first hand.

Because Noriega grew up in a predominantly Hispanic community, he did not have the opportunity to meet citizens of varying ethnic backgrounds. He said when he left the area it was a culture shock, between food, diversity, and how people treated each other.

“I was surprised,” said Noriega. “When I was in Chicago, some Hispanic groups disliked and even hated other Hispanic groups. For what reasons, I’m not sure... other than my heritage isn’t from the same country as theirs. I remember working one day and I was loading concrete for a (white) man. He asked me where my manager was (because) a (expletive) didn’t have the knowledge to help him. I was just in awe when he said this. It made me a little angry.”

When he joined the Marine Corps, the experiences opened him up to

meet people with multiple backgrounds besides his.

“When I joined the Marines, I didn’t really expect to experience racism and didn’t for the most part,” said Noriega. “After boot camp and (job training), I went to the fleet. Some people would relate my name with drug cartels. This demoralized me, but I was able to swallow my pride and move on.”

Noriega believes he can pass down knowledge he has acquired over the years to younger generations and give them a chance to make their lives easier. He visits his wife’s elementary school class to try and inspire them often.

“The biggest thing I do is try to make the kids realize that hard times are going to come and you just have to keep pushing through,” said Noriega. “I also try to push them to stay in school because it is hard to be successful without an education. Normally when I leave there, there is a decent portion of the class that wants to join the Marine Corps.”

After he is no longer an active duty Marine, he plans on continuing his time helping children by becoming a youth probation officer and a youth pastor. He wants to influence children in a positive way and pass on the same words he shares with his wife’s elementary class.

“I would like to take what I have discovered throughout my life, and help alter the lives of the youth for the better,” said Noriega.



MACIAS: *A road to follow*

Sergeant Lory Macias, an adjutant clerk hailing from Fort Worth, Texas, also grew up in a Hispanic community, but her parents put her in a Catholic school to help shield her from some of the struggles in her community.

Macias’ parents gave her a model to follow. Before she was born, her parents came to the U.S. and became naturalized citizens. They eventually started their own small businesses, and were therefore able to provide a better start for their daughter and her other siblings.

Macias said while she has never personally faced racism, she assumes she is stereotyped, but does not let it bother her.

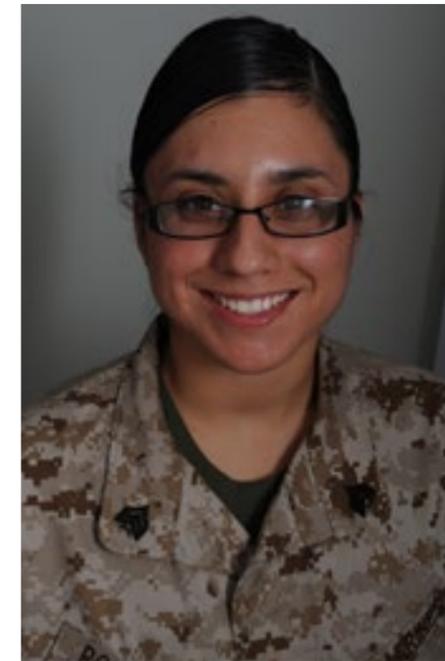
“My drill instructor told my platoon one day that ‘Many of you are

facing one obstacle because you are females, but some of you are facing multiple ones because you are a female and you are a minority,’” said Macias. “I will always hold this close to me because I have to remember the struggles (of being a female minority) I have conquered to get where I am at.”

She feels she can take what she has learned to help give her daughter a great start, just as her parents did for her.

“I have accomplished quite a bit compared to my friends from high school,” said Macias. “I see them and they have the same jobs as they did in high school. All the females have a couple of kids, are struggling with finances, and just struggling overall.”

While Macias is unsure about retiring from the Marine Corps, she plans to go to school and eventually receive a Legal degree.



RODRIGUEZ: *The path to citizenship*

Mexican-born and Texas-raised, Sgt. Karen Rodriguez, an administration clerk for 8th Marine Corps District, lived in a predominantly white community growing up. As time went on, more Hispanics moved in and Caucasians started moving out, turning the neighborhood to a more mixed ethnic com-

munity.

She said she dealt with the normal struggles growing up in a community with mainly minorities, but other than that she lived a normal childhood.

“The first issue I had to overcome when I came to America was communication,” said Rodriguez. “My first language was Spanish so I had to eventually learn English when I started school.”

When Rodriguez joined the Marines, she not only gained a career but received a chance to earn her citizenship. She filed to get the process started and had a meeting with agents to go over paperwork. After the meeting, she gained the approval. She had to complete tests, covering her knowledge on U.S. government, history, reading and writing skills. After she passed the tests, a ceremony was held where she gave an oath to the United States. Then she gained her citizenship.

“Receiving my citizenship means a lot to me,” said Rodriguez. “Especially because now I can vote; I can also better myself in the Marine Corps. Having my citizenship will ensure that I can advance in the Marine Corps, it also gives me more opportunities for different jobs. It makes me happy that I can claim this country as my own as I continue to serve it.”

Rodriguez plans on getting out of the Marine Corps after her enlistment, so she can make it easier to live with her husband, who is serving in the Army. She plans on pursuing a degree in business.

“I am proud of what I have accomplished,” said Rodriguez. “I have accomplished more than my peers when I was younger. I have completed college courses, I have my own place, and I can take care of my family.”

Marines teach teamwork to America's youth

Football team hikes with Marines to build camaraderie

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. BRYAN EBERLY // MPA RS ALBUQUERQUE

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- The Marines of Recruiting Substation Albuquerque South assisted the Highland High School varsity football team with a team-building exercise, Aug. 17, in the Sandia Mountains, outside of Albuquerque, N.M.

"I wanted to do this with the Marines, because they are the biggest organization to show the importance of teamwork," said James Crinion, assistant football coach at Highland. "I knew the team would learn a lot."

The Marines were there to provide motivation and give examples of how to power through the hike.

"We wanted to show these kids how to come together to overcome a challenge they all would face together," said Staff Sgt. Eduardo Flores, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for RSS Albuquerque South. "It went excellently, and the team did amazing, with nobody falling out once."

The recruiters with the station were intermixed with the platoon of football players, with each Marine helping a fire team-sized group. Together, the players and Marines completed a five-mile hike up to the Sandia Crest, overcoming fatigue and helping motivate each other through the 3,000-foot altitude change.

"My legs hurt, and it's hard to catch my breath, but it's nothing we weren't already prepared for," said Hever Romero, a 15-year-old wide receiver at Highland. "It was a great activity for the team. We were all in this together."

"We wanted to give them a rite of passage, and an opportunity to accept and defeat adversity," Flores said.

Crinion, a retired Marine captain, knew to call the Albuquerque Marines because he had worked with Flores as his platoon commander in Okinawa.

"It's a small Marine Corps, and I'm glad to be working with Flores again," Crinion said.



The Marines of Recruiting Substation Albuquerque South and the varsity football team of Highland High School step off in a patrol formation for a five-mile hike, Aug. 17, in the Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque, N.M. The hike was part of a team-building exercise and rite of passage to learn how to face challenges and overcome adversity together. The Marines were there to guide, motivate and help the team up the mountain, and give examples of how a brotherhood can defeat obstacles.

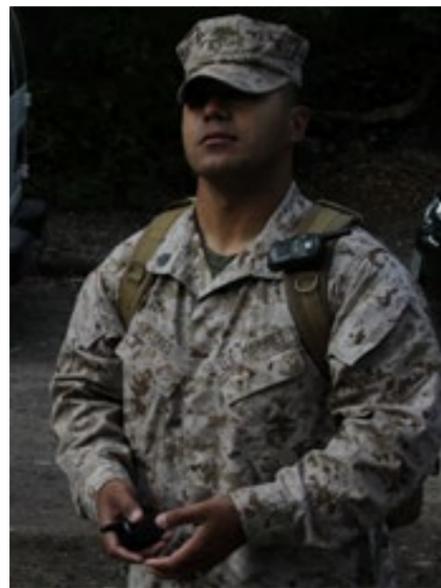
At the end of the hike, at the very top of the mountain, the team had a small ceremony to receive their numbers and jerseys for the upcoming season – a familiar scene for every Marine present.

"It's similar to how we received our Eagle, Globe and Anchors in boot camp," Flores said. "These kids came together as a brotherhood, just like in the Corps, and they earned their places on the team."

"I'm glad we did this," said Manuelito Lucero, a 17-year-old wing back at Highland. "It was exhausting, but I feel like we accomplished something awesome as a team."

Following the hike, the team was poised and ready to overcome their next challenge: the first game of the season. Crinion's outlook for the game and the rest of the season seemed to be a bright one as he congratulated his students for a job well done.

"If you could do this, you can do anything," Crinion told his team. "I'm proud of you, and here's to a good year."



Staff Sgt. Eduardo Flores, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Substation Albuquerque South, gives a safety brief before a team-building exercise August 17 in the Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque, N.M. The exercise was a five-mile hike, covering an altitude change of 3,000 feet, in order to show the Highland High School varsity football team how to face challenges and overcome adversity as a team. The Marines were there to assist and train the players during the hike, and provide an example of brotherhood overcoming obstacles.

Giving back and getting dirty

VIDEO BY SGT. DANIEL MALTA // MPA RS DENVER



District Marines prepare for the CFT

PHOTOS BY CPL. ALFREDO FERRER
// ROUNDUP STAFF

(Right photo) Corporal Rolando Noriega (right), administration clerk, 8th Marine Corps District, executes buddy squats with a mannequin while Gunnery Sgt. Warren Stevens, company gunnery sergeant, 8th Marine Corps District executes air squats here Sept. 10, 2012. Marines from the district are focusing their training sessions on their upcoming combat fitness test.



(Left photo) Sergeant Teresia Kamau (left), administration clerk, 8th Marine Corps District, executes barbell curls along with Cpl. Rolando Noriega, admin. clerk, 8th Marine Corps District here Sept. 10, 2012. Marines from the district are focusing their training sessions on their upcoming combat fitness test.

Marine Recruiters teach college athletes the importance of teamwork

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MATT EPRIGHT // MPA RS SAN ANTONIO



Xavier Callis, a Victoria College basketball player, drags one of his teammates during a buddy-drag competition at Victoria College Sept. 7, 2012. The Marines from Recruiting Substation Victoria, Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Antonio, were there to put the men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball teams through their paces as a team-building exercise.

VICTORIA, Texas – From the battlefield to the basketball court, the concept of teamwork is universal as a means for individuals to join forces with others to accomplish what they cannot on their own.

The Marines of Recruiting Substation Victoria, Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Antonio, recently took the time to translate their ideas of teamwork into a training session for the student-athletes of Victoria College.

"Teamwork is having that confidence in the individual to your left or right," said RSS Victoria Staff Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge Staff Sgt. Cesar Araujo. "As an individual, you can only accomplish so much."

The Marines put the men's and women's basketball teams and the women's volleyball team through their paces with various exercises such as an ammo-can lift, fireman's carry and a buddy-drag, as well as group calisthenics.

"This is both physically and mentally challenging,"

said Araujo. "In the Marine Corps, that's something we pride ourselves on; being able to surpass both mental and physical challenges."

Separated into groups of two or three, with even the individual events like the ammo-can lift adding points for their group, the athletes competed against each other to see who would come out on top.

"It teaches you about sacrificing for others and not just for yourself," said basketball player Xavier Callis. "It was very inspirational. They pushed us to the limit."

Going to that limit and beyond helped Callis and his group nab the top spot over the rest of the male groups. He said the lessons they learned with the Marines are easy to translate into success on the basketball court.

"It prepares us for the fourth quarter, when it comes to that last point in the last second," Callis said. "It pushes us to get that last shot in."

Kalyn Niemeyer, a basketball player whose group



Staff Sgt. Cesar Araujo, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Substation Victoria, Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Antonio, motivates student-athletes from the Victoria College women's basketball and volleyball teams as they compete in a wheelbarrow race Sept. 7, 2012.



Kalyn Niemeyer (white shirt), a Victoria College basketball player, drags one of her teammates during a buddy-drag competition at Victoria College Sept. 7, 2012.

took the top female spot, said the event was worth a lot of sweat because it helped solidify trust between members of the various teams; something she said is vital to success.

"If you can't trust your teammates, you aren't going anywhere," said Niemeyer. "I'm a little tired and bruised. But, I feel good."

Jonathan Anderson, the men's basketball coach, even got in on the action. He said it was a very different type of workout than what they are used to.

"This is a great opportunity for us to come out and see a side of life that these young men and young women don't normally see," said Anderson. "Along with that, we're looking at this as a great team-bonding exercise."

Along with helping bond the student-athletes of Victoria College to each other, the event also helped to bond the Marines a little closer with the community.

"These are the young men and women that make Victoria what Victoria is," said Araujo. "Being able to do this for the community, shows we're supporting the community."



Student-athletes from the Victoria College women's basketball and volleyball teams compete in a fireman's-carry race Sept. 7, 2012.

Family Readiness Coordinator encourages resilience in face of uncertainty



Marine Corps families arguably rank among the most resilient demographics in the nation. When adversity or stress enters our lives, we often experience appropriate reactions such as anger, grief, and pain. Most of us can deal with occasional change and routine disappointments. However, when the routine becomes change itself, we can spend less time developing and nurturing relationships than if we felt that those relationships would last.

After all, what is the point of investing energy into a friend or a job if it's lost in the end? If in the long run, all we'll know of someone is a name, but not the interesting layers? If in the long run, that job in New Mexico doesn't lead to the longed-for career in South Dakota.

When faced with stress, we all need resilience to steer through life's obstacles. Most of us at some point will face head-on what may seem like a major setback that rocks our focus. Do we rise up or do we shrink back when facing the unexpected? When we began our journey, we knew exactly which direction we were headed. We were meticulous about our plans and we knew what we believed. As life would have it, something unexpected happens. All those months of perfect planning no longer mean anything. Is it a failure? Is it a catastrophe? Am I flexible enough -- adaptable enough -- to overcome unexpected obstacles in my life? The point of choice now faces you.

From experience, I know that choice in the face of adversity can either keep you stuck in the comfort of routines or it can be a moment for you to challenge yourself and try something new. Building resilience can begin with a simple decision that helps you expand the scope of your world. I have always admired my husband's ability to go to a restaurant and order a different entrée every time. I was the type of person that found something I liked on the menu and ordered that same thing every time.

One day the restaurant was out of tilapia, my favorite meal there. Immediately, I had an internal reaction to such a simple task. I really wanted to find another restaurant where I had another favorite dish. I wanted to stick with what I had already experienced: the known, never disappointing taste of the tilapia meal. Even with all of the selections, the hardest part was figuring out what new dish to try. This was a moment that I broke free of routines, tried something new, and broadened my scope. If I had chosen to shrink back instead of rising to the occasion, I would have never experienced a delectable blackened salmon meal with bacon-wrapped asparagus. I would have missed all of that. I overcame a mindset that would have gotten in my way of a wonderful experience.

My menu decision might seem simplistic, but it serves as an example of how a set way of thinking can negatively affect resiliency and how overcoming negative thoughts can build resiliency and open our world to good things ... like grilled, bacon-wrapped asparagus. Build friendships on recruiting; explore careers. The more you push yourself, the more you'll develop skills that can lead to success and happiness throughout your tour on recruiting duty.

Strong families/Strong Corps,

Lisa

Resources: www.dstressline.com

Lisa Jackson is the District Family Readiness Coordinator and can be reached at lisa.jackson@marines.usmc.mil.

Family Readiness Resources



<http://msccn.org/>

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DRIVING FORCE

30,000 miles traveled; District Gunny inspires thousands along the way

STORY AND PHOTO BY PFC D.I. FUGATE // ROUNDUP STAFF

Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Jackson, driver for the 8th Marine Corps District's Enhanced Marketing Vehicle team, travels across the southwestern United States promoting the Marine Corps. Jackson had prior service in the U.S. Air Force before deciding that the Marines were a perfect fit for him.



FORT WORTH, Texas -- He challenges people to push themselves as hard as they can, but he can also talk with them about the Marines and spark ideas for their future.

Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Jackson, Enhanced Marketing Vehicle team driver for the 8th Marine Corps District in Fort Worth, Texas, wakes up every morning and radiates Marine Corps pride.

Jackson embraces the Marine lifestyle and receives inspiration from retired service members as he tries to spread his passion to America's youth.

Jackson has spent 14 years in the Marine Corps. He also completed three years of service in the Air Force and later realized the extreme differences between the two services.

"The difference between the Marines and Air Force was night and day," said Jackson. "The Air Force felt more like a job, but in the Marines you live what you are doing, and it doesn't feel like an ordinary job."

While living his career, he has had a chance to travel throughout the country.

Of all his assignments, Jackson lists Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. and his current duty station as his favorites.

"I can't pick my favorite between the two because I enjoy helping people," said Jackson. "In Quantico, I worked in a warfighting lab testing new equipment which will help out future service members in war. However, I really enjoy my current position because I am the face of my recruiting district. I get to meet with young men and women, and I have a chance to influence their future—possibly making it better."

Along with helping youth, Jackson gets to meet with veterans and community members. Their admiration motivates him to be a model citizen and execute his job to the best of his ability.

"I speak with veterans and it reminds me of the legacy and traditions that I have to follow," said Jackson. "Then, I get to meet with the general public and they humble me with all the appreciation they have for me and other service members. Being out in the public makes me want to improve myself and be the best Marine that I can."

Jackson continues to improve himself as a Marine. He makes sure he is physically pushing himself on the road or on base with a regular exercise regimen. Jackson has to remain in peak fitness because he is the face of the district. He might be the only Marine a person ever encounters, and he wants to leave a good impression on them.

Along with remaining physically fit, he also tries to better himself through education. Jackson is getting ready to take classes in social media, so he can connect better with younger generations.

Jackson has enjoyed his time in the Marine Corps and has another year left here. He plans on finishing his 20 years and retiring. Before he can do that he has a couple more duty stations to attend where he plans of furthering his education by earning his pilot's license in his free time.

"I enjoy what I am doing right now," said Jackson. "But when my time is over at this duty station I will move on and take my motivation somewhere else. I will always be trying to improve myself and challenge the Marines under me to be the best they can."



Staff Sgt. Daniel Brewster, a canvassing recruiter with Recruiting Substation East Mesa, spoke to the Poston Butte High School football team before their game during Military Appreciation Night, Sept. 21, in San Tan Valley, Ariz. Brewster spoke to the team about the importance of working together and that victories don't come from individuals, but through teamwork and support for one another. He ended his speech by saying "Pain is temporary, but pride is forever." The team wore jerseys sponsored by the Arizona National Guard printed with words such as "Honor, Integrity, Country and Service" to honor the memory of all who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Fredrick Coleman)

[Parting Shot]