



Home on the range
Company G recruits hone marksmanship
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Grenade training
A real blast!
Pg. 8

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CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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Depot, UCSD team up for Corps firing range exhibit

BY CHEVRON STAFF

The depot museum and the University of California San Diego's library staffs teamed up to assemble an exhibit featuring San Diego's Marine Corps Rifle Range Detachment before it was transformed into the UCSD Campus.

The exhibit, located at UCSD's Geisel Library, "From Riflemen to Freshmen," running Oct. 28 to Jan. 3, showcases the 1,200-acre rifle range previously located where UCSD is today. The exhibit summarizes Camp Calvin B. Matthews, formally the Marine Rifle Range Detachment at Marine Rifle Range, located in La Jolla, Calif., from 1918 to 1942, which was then later relocated to Weapons Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 1964.

The exhibit includes historic photographs of Marine barracks, training exercises and personnel, said Chuck Archuleta, exhibit specialist, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Command Museum.

Highlights from the exhibit included a number of historic artifacts from the military training that took place at Camp Matthews, including a pre-World War II shooting jacket, a first aid pouch, an M1 helmet, an M-1903 Springfield .30 rifle, and a rifle scorecard, said Archuleta.

Retired 1st Sgt. Arthur Barbosa, 79, a docent at

the command museum, who trained at the camp, said he most enjoyed reading excerpts of a prisoner of war's diary from World War II.

Marine Rifle Range, La Jolla, was established in the later part of 1918 for training purposes. Up to World War II the camp had no name and was known simply as the Marine Rifle Range, La Jolla, and fell under the command of Marine Corps Base, San Diego. The camp was officially designated Camp Matthews on March 23, 1942, in honor of Lt. Col. (later Brigadier General) Calvin B. Matthews, a distinguished Marine marksman of the 1930s, according to militarymuseum.org.

Camp Matthews continued to serve as the firing range for the Marines with a permanent garrison of 700 men. During the peak of the war, 9,000 men trained on the range every three weeks. The range was also used by Marine aviation units, as well as Army and Navy units.

Camp Matthews continued to function through the Korean War and into the 1960s. The camp and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot's weapons training was relocated to WFTBn on Aug. 21, 1964.

A transition ceremony to honor the U.S. Marine Corps transfer of Camp Matthews to the University of California occurred in 1964. The same day, the ranges officially opened at WFTBn, said Archuleta.



Lance Cpl. Stephanie Zak, 19, the youngest Marine of Wounded Warrior Battalion west, Naval Medical Center San Diego detachment, takes a bite of one of the first slices of Marine Corps Birthday cake cut by guest of honor, Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region. The Marine Corps Birthday Cake-Cutting Ceremony was held at the medical center Nov. 4. It is Marine Corps tradition that the guest of honor and the youngest and the oldest Marine present receive the first slices of the celebratory cake. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron

Cracking codes with the Navajos: America's secret weapons

BY PFC. LAUREN STEHWIEN
Chevron staff

They started off as 29 young Navajo men, recruited to assist the Marine Corps in a time in which secrecy was key, and a new form of code talking needed to be born. They are the Navajo Code Talkers.

"The unbreakable code these men provided played an imperative role in the success of the United States in every major battle in the Pacific, and assisted in saving countless lives during World War II," said Ellen Guillemette, archivist at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Command Museum.

In the beginning of World War II the Japanese were able to decipher every code the U.S. devised. The Japanese were equipped with several men who were fluent in English, which made it possible to break codes and confuse America's military by sabotaging messages and issuing false commands to U.S. troops. To resolve this, the U.S. military initially created a new code system, which was increasingly difficult to decipher, some times taking up to two and a half hours to fully break. The military then came to an agreement stating that we needed a better way to communicate.

"(Phillip) Johnston, a man living in California at the time heard of the crisis, which immediately brought to mind the Navajo tribe with whom he lived growing up," said Guillemette. "Johnston was one of fewer than 30 men outside of the Navajo tribe to be fluent in their language."

The Navajo language has no alphabet, making it difficult for anybody not raised with the language to learn. The language also remained pure without any European or Spanish lingual influences, making it even more difficult to interpret. Also, any one term in the language can be translated into many different things, depending on the

pronunciation and the voice inflections used, said Guillemette.

These aspects made Navajo one of the best languages to be used for the military. Johnston then took his idea up to top commanders of the U.S. military and gave an impressive demonstration of the language. The commanders then decided to give Johnston permission to begin the Navajo Code Talker test program.

The program began in early 1942 when Johnston recruited 29 Navajo men. These men were aged from 15 to 35 years old, who had adapted easily to the rigorous Marine Corps basic training because of their upbringing in the harsh southwestern desert.

The arrival of the Navajo men aboard the depot on May 5, 1942, was a highly publicized event. They were sent to the first "All-Indian" platoon in the history of the Marine Corps for seven weeks of training. From the beginning, their drill instructors said these men were far above average in their ability to adapt to the military regimen, and were said to be one of the most outstanding platoons in Marine Corps history. The men were told they could obey orders better than any previous recruits, and even better than some of the "saltiest Marines."

Following boot camp, they went on to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., where they conceived the basic code talking system and became recognized as the Navajo Code Talkers.

Originally, the code consisted of approximately 200 words, but by the end of the war the code had grown to be more than 600 words. The Navajo Code Talkers were able to break codes in 20 seconds, as opposed to the 30 minutes it took code breaking machines. Their code was said to be one of the easiest to use, and the hardest to crack. The codes they created were native terms that resembled military terms, such as the native word for "turtle," equaled

"tank," for military purposes, and the term "dive-bomber," was the military equal to the native term "chicken hawk."

They also created their own phonetic alphabet. The Navajo word "Wo-La-Chee," meaning "ant," represented the letter "A," making it difficult for even other Navajo tribe members to decipher. Of the 29 Navajo men who completed this training, 27 went on to combat training, while two remained at Camp Pendleton as instructors for the following classes of Navajo Code Talkers.

Once they completed both code and combat training, they went on to their first mission, which used the code system, at Guadalcanal, where the Navajo Code Talkers' worth was proven to the U.S. military.

After Guadalcanal, members of the Navajo Code Talkers were sent to Iwo Jima where they played an instrumental role in saving Marines as well as transmitting messages across the battlefield. The Japanese were never able to decipher the codes.

They remained faithful in their service throughout the war. Once the war was complete, they went back home and continued their lives, still withholding the secrets of their code system.

Finally, in 1969, the Code Talkers became unclassified and their stories trickled through the media, eventually making them widely recognized heroes. It wasn't until 2001 when they would be formally awarded for their actions. That July, the remaining of the "Original 29" were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the remaining 421 Code Talkers were awarded the Congressional Silver Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded to individuals, by Congress, who perform an outstanding service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States. The Congressional Silver Medal is also awarded by Congress to recognize citizens for noteworthy actions.

Veteran's Day marks service and sacrifice

LT. CMDR. RONALD R. RINGO
MCRD Chaplain, H&S Battalion

This month we took a moment and remember those who serve or have served our country in our military services. We hopefully remembered the great dedication, time and sacrifice they freely have given their fellow man to enjoy the freedoms and liberties we do today.

It is taught in the scriptures that: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend." Does that sound familiar? Well, I know that I was taught this belief throughout the time I was a young enlisted infantry Marine. Now, my Marine son has actually lived it serving two combat tours in Iraq and seeing several of his friends pay that price.

History suggests that actually few people ever are called to give this ultimate love and sacrifice. We have seen the courageous in the military give their all in the battlefield because of this love of country, devotion to duty, and commitment to their fellow serviceman.

But, we also see devoted mothers sacrificing their lives to protect a child. As well as, political, organizational, and religious leaders who have been martyred for their cause or beliefs. Yet, what about you and me in our daily walk and routines?

Most likely, our sacrifices are many smaller ones that will become expressions of that greater love. Most of us lay our lives down every time we think of another and put their interests and needs ahead of ours.

Even though we may not be killed as a martyr, or in combat, or give our life for a loved one's safety, we are given many opportunities each day to lay down our lives for another. Not in death, but in service and sacrifice, be it one day, one hour, or one moment at a time, you are giving the mark of a true friend. No greater love can be given than to lose ourselves in service to others. It has been said that; "When we are in the service of our fellow beings, we are only in the service of our God." (Mosiah 2:17)

With so many of our friends and family going through this time of uncertainty, may we look evermore for those opportunities to give of ourselves to lift another. A quote by an unknown author expresses it this way, "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."



Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region, kicks off the first lap of the 234-mile marathon commemorating the birthday of the Marine Corps, while Sgt. Robert Boyles carries the depot colors alongside Sgt. Miguel Grijalua, Nov. 8.

Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron

Depot Marines run 234-mile marathon relay for birthday

BY CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

As evening colors sounded and Old Glory was put to rest for the night, another flag was just beginning to be flown around the depot. The small flag, mounted on a hand-held baton, signified something just as important to those who carried it, as the national ensign that is raised and lowered with honors everyday.

As the sun set on Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 8, Marines stationed here took turns consecutively carrying the flag around Shepherd Memorial Drill Field in commemoration of the birth of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10, 1775. The 234-mile marathon symbolized one mile for each year the Marine Corps has been in existence.

The run started with Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general, MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, carrying the Corps colors for the first lap. The flag was then passed on like the traditions of our Corps from one generation of Marines to the next.

"While I ran with the baton holder, I couldn't help but think of all the people over the years that have made huge sacrifices for the Marine Corps," said Cpl. Zach Griffith, 12th Marine Corps

District. "For those who have earned the title Marine, the Marine Corps flag stands for a brotherhood, a way of life so running with my fellow Marines was motivating."

For over 48 hours, individual depot Marines and small formations took turns carrying the flag. As runners neared the 230-mile mark, depot personnel gathered in a formation near building 31 to run the final three miles together around the depot, ending on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field.

"Witnessing the way Marines come together to accomplish a goal firsthand like this marathon just made me reflect on the Marines who did great things like those during the battle for Iwo Jima," said Griffith. "No matter what the goal we are tasked with, from taking an enemy position in combat to something as simple as participating in this birthday run, we will go above and beyond to ensure the mission is accomplished."

After the run, depot Marines gathered for the Cake-Cutting Ceremony and then sat down together for a birthday meal at Duncan Hall.

"Running alongside my fellow Marines was a rewarding experience," said Griffith. "But the best part of the day was the steak and lobster."

BRIEFS

Cardiac risk screening

Cardiac risk screenings will be held for active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD members and their guests Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the depot Fieldhouse. Participants can learn their heart disease risk factors, have their cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, and body fat measured. Appointment times are every 15 minutes. Refreshments will be provided. Register online at www.mccssd.com. For information, contact Andrea Callahan, Health Promotions coordinator, at (619) 524-8913 or at callahanal@usmc-mccs.org.

Turkey Trot

The depot's annual Turkey Trot 3-mile Fun Run and Walk will start at 1 p.m. Tuesday between the depot's Fieldhouse and the Recreation Center. The event is free and open to authorized depot personnel and their families. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each age category. Finishers will receive a T-shirt. Free food and prize giveaways will be featured. Register online at mccsmcrd.com or at 10:30 a.m. race day.

For information, call (619) 524-8083.

Great MCRD Smoke Out

During registration for the Turkey Trot Tuesday at 11 a.m., between the depot's Fieldhouse and the Recreation Center, patrons who turn in their cigarettes or smokeless tobacco receive a candy kiss at the kissing booth. The event is open to all eligible patrons and their guests. For information, call (619) 524-8913.

Gamers' Grub Video Release Lunch

The video release lunch will be held Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the depot Recreation Center, Bldg. 590. Newly-released video games of the month and free food will be offered. To register, call (619) 524-8083.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

The next Personal Financial Brown Bag Lunch Seminar will be "How to become a military millionaire," Nov. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Marine & Family Services' Classroom, Bldg. 14. Seminars are free and open to authorized depot personnel and their families: active duty; reservists; retired military members; civil service and contract personnel. A free light lunch will be served, but attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. To register, call (619) 524-5728.

Thanksgiving buffet

The depot's Bay View Restaurant will host a Thanksgiving buffet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 26 for active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD personnel and their guests. The price is \$24.95 for adults and \$12.50 for children ages 3 to 11. Children under 3 eat free. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes and trimmings will be served. For information and reservations, call (619) 725-6388.

Santa at the Exchange Mall

Santa Claus will be at the depot's Exchange Mall Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided. The event is open to active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD and their guests.

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.



From left, Sgt. Christopher D. Schiff; Lance Cpl. Jeremy N. Mendoza; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Tomas B. Diaz; Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jason M. Walker; and Desiree Bobie, administrative support assistant, operations; receive their respective awards from Sgt. Maj. Brian K. Jackson, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region sergeant major, and Col. Carl F. Huenefeld, chief of staff, during the Morning Colors Ceremony here, Nov. 4. The awardees' respective commendations include Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Marine of the Quarter, Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Blue Jacket Sailor of the Quarter and Employee of the Quarter. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron



A Company G recruit sights in on his target from the 200 yard-line and takes a well-aimed shot. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

Condition

Company G recruits make ready for rifle qualification



Company G recruits organize the targets after the recruits have completed firing for the day. During the rifle range, half the recruits on the range pull targets for the recruits firing. With one or two recruits behind each target, the recruits firing can ensure accuracy when recording their shots in their data books.

Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



Recruit Marco A. Lizarraga, Platoon 2154, Company G, aims down range in the prone position at 500 yards on Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30. Recruits are careful with their firing positions because a millimeter movement on the firing line can shift a round off target. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

BY LANCE CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

In the younger days of the Marine Corps, Marines would be armed aboard U.S. Navy vessels to eliminate the enemy during ship-to-ship battles. This tradition of skilled marksmen still stands strong, as all Marines, regardless of military occupational specialty, are trained marksmen. The honing of this skill begins in recruit training.

Company G recruits took two weeks, beginning on Sept. 21, at Weapons Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., to learn the fundamentals of marksmanship with the M-16A2 service rifle.

“Everything that the Marine Corps is, starts here,” said Sgt. Michael A. Trevino, line staff non-commissioned officer, Charlie Range, WFTB. “This is what separates us from other branches because all Marines need to be certified rifleman. We are all riflemen.”

The first week of training is called Grass Week, where the primary marksmanship instructor introduces recruits

to the fundamentals of Marine Corps marksmanship including how to fire, adjust sights on rifle and factor in weather conditions. PMIs also introduce snapping-in, the four shooting positions of standing, kneeling, sitting and prone.

“Snapping-in helped me with discipline and getting used to the uncomfortable positions,” said Recruit David J. Myers, Platoon 2155, Company G. “And the classes helped me with the techniques.”

Although many recruits anticipate the second week of actual firing, Grass Week is crucial for qualifying.

“This is important because recruits need to know how to manipulate a rifle safely, and this week gives them an opportunity to perfect basic skills to take that precision shot,” said Trevino.

During the second week, recruits fire a known-distance course with distances of 200, 300, and 500 yards. Recruits shoot all week and qualify on Friday.

Ultimately, there is a 97 percent pass rate, said Trevino.

“This is the first time recruits have a sense of belonging to the Corps,” said

Trevino. “If they qualify, they’re confident and feel more connected to the Marines because this is the first event

they’re doing in which Marines do every year, including their very own drill instructors.”



Sgt. Lorenzo Espinoza, range coach, Charlie Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion, adjusts the front sight tip for Recruit Jason S. Pady, Platoon 2155, Company G, during initial firing. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

CHEVRON

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In a pageant of Marine Corps history, selected depot Marines dressed in uniforms of the previous centuries during the 234th Marine Corps Cake-Cutting Ceremony. The uniforms modeled ranged from the 1700s until today. *Lance Cpl. Rebecca Lamont/Chevron*



Recruits take a break from the rigorous training in boot camp to celebrate the Marine Corps' 234th birthday. These recruits exercise their precise salute during the presentation of colors. *Lance Cpl. Rebecca Lamont/Chevron*



Marines enjoy a steak and lobster dinner at Duncan Hall during the traditional Marine Corps birthday meal. *Pfc. Lauren Stehwien/Chevron*



Lance Cpl. Marcelles Q. Williams, left, administrative clerk, Recruit Training Platoon, and Pfc. Ochoa, Ceremonial Platoon, Service Company, stand at attention before the cake during the 234th Marine Corps Cake-Cutting Ceremony Nov. 10. *Pfc. Lauren Stehwien/Chevron*

Happy 234th Birthday Marines!

BY CPL. MATTHEW BROWN
CHEVRON STAFF

In celebration of the Marine Corps' 234th birthday, Marines, sailors, civilian Marines and recruits gathered on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field, Nov. 10, for the annual Cake Cutting Ceremony and Uniform Pageant, as well as the change of command ceremony for Cpl. Molly Marine and Pvt. Belleau Wood, respectively the former and new depot Mascots.

Traditionally, all Marine Corps units worldwide have participated in the observance of the Marine Corps birthday since 1921 when Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder be published to all Marines on the birthday of the Corps, and over the years the celebration grew.

It wasn't until 1952 when Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, formalized the directive. He is responsible for the cake cutting ceremony Marines know today.

The event began with pre-ceremony

music played by Marine Band San Diego followed closely by the Mascot Post and Relief Ceremony, which consisted of the new and old mascot, Belleau and Molly, walking to the center of the parade deck and receiving instruction from their Commanding General.

Once the changeover was complete, the traditional ceremony continued as it had done for so many years before; with the benediction, the pageant, the birthday message and the cake cutting.

Depot Marines walked out and stood in formation, their fellow Marines participated in the uniform pageant displaying the historic uniforms of the Corps – from modern digital camouflage to the leather-necked style of the revolutionary war.

After the reading of 13th commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John A. Lejeune and the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway's birthday messages, Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Western Recruiting Region, spoke to the crowd about the importance of reflect-

ing on Corps' history and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. He concluded by wishing all Marines a happy birthday before cutting the ceremonial cake.

The first piece of cake was presented to the guest of honor, Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, was also in attendance.

The next piece was given to the oldest Marine present, Col. Carl Huenefeld, chief of staff, MCRD San Diego and WRR. After taking a bite of cake, Huenefeld passed the piece to the youngest Marine present, Pfc. Nicholas Phillipowsky, personnel clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion. The passing of cake from the oldest Marine to the youngest Marine symbolizes the passing of Marine Corps traditions from generation to generation.

After the ceremony, the Marines, sailors, civilian Marines and families headed to Duncan Hall to enjoy the traditional Marine Corps birthday meal. Guests feasted on steak and lobster and wrapped up the meal with patriotic birthday cake.



Pvt. Belleau Wood, right, escorted by Cpl. Shawn Dickens, combat correspondent, Public Affairs Office, relieves Cpl. Molly Marine, escorted by Cpl. Matthew Brown, combat correspondent, PAO, of her official mascot duties during the Marine Corps 234th birthday celebration. Lance Cpl. Rebecca Lamont/Chevron



Lance Cpl. Adrian A. Rico-Valle, administrative clerk, depot adjutant, presents a uniform from 1812 during the pageant of Marine Corps history.

Lance Cpl. Rebecca Lamont/Chevron

Regiment, and Lance Cpl. Richard
cake during the 234th Marine Corps

Recruit brings ambition, success to boot camp

BY LANCE CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

From successful entrepreneur to Marine, Recruit Paul S. Wellman, Platoon 2154, Company G, temporarily stepped away from a thriving import business he co-founded to proudly serving his country as a United States Marine.

After three years of studying history at Chapman University in Irvine, Calif., Wellman wanted to get out of the classroom and do something different.

"My father would always preach to me, 'If you're not in school, get a trade,'" said Wellman.

And that's just what he did.

It all began for Wellman when he began working for a company that laid marble. After six months, his boss promoted him to a position with more responsibility. This opened the doors for Wellman to an idea that brought him in a similar, yet different direction.

"I went to Mexico and began looking for high quality onyx and granite slabs for good prices," he said.

And this is when International Stone Imports, LLC., was born.

"I was able to buy land easily in Mexico because I have dual-citizenship with Mexico," said Wellman.

With the success of ISI, Wellman said he sold 80 percent of the business and decided to expand his success with a different approach.

"I started Paul-Martinez Imports in Mexico City, Mexico, and connected businesses in Mexico with other countries, and vice versa," said Wellman.

Despite all of Wellman's accomplishments, there was still one thing lingering on his to-do list.

"I wanted to join the Marine Corps right after high school," said Wellman. "But my dad told me to go to school first."

After attending school and establishing two successful businesses, 27-year-old Wellman felt joining the Corps was now or never.

"I was approaching the cutoff age for enlisting and I knew if I didn't do it, I would be disappointed in myself," he said.

A week after walking into a Marine recruiter's office, Wellman found himself on a bus headed for boot camp.

"Wellman doesn't waste time," said Sgt. Carlos G. Garcia, drill instructor, Platoon 2154, Company G. "He can get a point across very quickly and is very outspoken. He is also very reliable. If I ask him to do something he gets it done."

Wellman understands the concept of accepting the responsibility and consequences of his actions.

"In this country, anyone can make money, anyone can do anything," said Wellman. "Just take it and grab hold of it and don't let it go. We live in a country where we can succeed at anything."



Recruit Paul S. Wellman, Platoon 2154, Company G, stands proud in front of the Skyscraper, an obstacle that is part of the Crucible, at Weapons Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 3. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

Company G drill instructor reaches new heights

BY SGT. CARRIE C. BOOZE
Chevron staff

As a young child, his eyes stayed glued to the television as he watched Maverick strap himself into an

F-14 Tomcat to fly by instinct and break all the rules in the movie Top Gun. From that moment on, Sgt. Jonathan Williams, drill instructor, Platoon 2149, Company G, knew that he wanted to fly planes.

While growing up in the tiny city of Batesville, Ark., population 9,556, Williams was fascinated by aviation. He said that sometimes his grandfather would put him into his small Cessna plane and fly him over their town.

"There is a small municipal airport in my hometown that we always had to drive by," said Williams. "Every time we passed it, I would beg my parents to stop so I could watch the planes take off."

After graduating from high school, Williams attended Longview Community College, Kansas City, Missouri.

"I had already been in college for more than a year when the Twin Towers were attacked on September 11," said Williams. "So I put my degree on the back burner and enlisted in the Marine Corps with an open contract."

Williams was given the military occupational specialty of motor transportation, and soon he deployed to Iraq. During his deployment, Williams reenlisted and was granted orders to Drill Instructor

School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Although Williams stayed busy making Marines, his dreams of becoming a pilot never waned. Once Williams served his time as a green belt drill instructor, and was given the title of senior drill instructor, he had more time to dedicate to his goal of flying. So he signed up for flight classes at Palomar Airport, Carlsbad, Calif.

"I go once a week for a 30-minute class and about an hour and a half of flying time," said Williams. "We fly small single-engine Cessnas."

Williams said his biggest fear was of the unknown. The higher you go in such a small aircraft, the more the wind affects your flight, said Williams.

"The first time I landed the plane was pretty intense and nerve-racking," said Williams. "I just kept thinking that I hope I don't crash and kill us both."

These negative feelings subsided not long into Williams schooling.

"It's a whole different world up there," said Williams. "It is amaz-

ing seeing everything from so high up."

Although hearing of small planes crashing is not rare, Williams said that those incidents would not deter him from flying.

"There are car wrecks all the time and I still get into my vehicle and drive to work everyday," said Williams. "It's no different with flying. I'm still going to do it."

Williams said he plans on continuing his flying lessons for as long as he can. His next step is to earn his multi-engine plane license and has the ultimate goal of earning his instructor's license.

"It takes about 40 hours to obtain your initial license," he said. "I can have my instructor's license in about 2 years if I keep going at the rate I am now."

Another, and perhaps more fantasized goal of Williams, is to fly the high-end planes made by Ferrari. In the meanwhile, Williams will put his import dreams aside to focus on getting licensed, but with this drill instructor's ambition, the sky is the limit.



In addition to making America's finest warriors, Sgt. Jonathan Williams, drill instructor, Platoon 2149, Company G, finds time to chase his dream of becoming a pilot. Sgt. Carrie C. Booze/Chevron

Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Morin

Parade Reviewing Officer

Master Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas J. Morin was born in 1960 in Billings, Mont. He reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego for recruit training in June 1978.

Upon completion of recruit training, Morin reported to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., for field radio operator training. Upon completion, he reported to 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 1st Marine Division, where he attended the basic airborne course at Fort Benning, Ga.

From 1979 to 1985, Morin participated in Exercise Team Spirit, the Republic of Korea; Exercise Cobra Gold, Thailand; Operation Bright Star, Egypt; and Operation Balakatan, the Philippines. He also attended the Tactical Air Control Party School in Coronado, Calif.; Noncommissioned Officer Course, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Naval Gunfire School in Coronado; Army Ranger School at Fort Benning; Jumpmasters School at Fort Benning; and the SPIE/Rappel Master Course at Fort Bragg, N.C.

In July 1985, Morin reported to Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Okinawa, Japan, for duty as a radio supervisor.

In July 1986, Morin reported to the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, Camp Pendleton, for duty as the company radio supervisor. He attended the Basic Reconnaissance Course, Coronado; the Navy Scuba Divers School, Ford Island, Hawaii; the Breachers Course and the Close Quarter Battle Course with the Special Operations Training Group. In July 1990, Morin deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit where he participated in real-world maritime interdiction operations and Enemy Prisoner of War Collection operations as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Following combat operations, Morin reported to the 5th Force Reconnaissance Detachment in Okinawa, for duty as the detachment communications chief in July 1991. While at 5th Force Recon Company, Morin served as the first company commander of the newly-formed detachment.

In July 1992, Morin reported for drill instructor duty at MCRD San Diego, where he was assigned to Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion and served as a drill instructor and later as the chief instructor, Combat Water Survival Branch.

Upon completion of drill instructor duty, Morin reported to the 9th Communications Battalion and was subsequently assigned to the 13th MEU as the radio chief for two Western Pacific deployments. Upon his return

from deployment, he was reassigned to 9th Communications Battalion as the radio chief, and Company A's administrative and training company gunnery sergeant. He completed his tour as the MEU coordinator for the battalion operations section.

In December 1997, Morin was transferred to the Amphibious Group Three at 32nd Street Naval Base San Diego, as the communications chief for Amphibious Squadron 1. He was responsible for providing field expedient long-range communications connectivity between U.S. landing craft, utility platforms, Amphibious Ready Group shipping, and the Red Cross relief agencies conducting humanitarian efforts during Operation Stabilize and Interfet on the island nation of East Timor.

In December 1999, Morin was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, and served as the battalion communications chief and as the senior jumpmaster. Morin completed the Combatant Divers Course in Panama City, Fla.

In January 2003, Morin deployed with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the battalion communications chief until August 2003. Using mobility and field expedient long-range communication expertise, they were able to maintain uninterrupted communications with 1st Marine Division and I MEF headquarters for the duration of offensive operations during OIF.

Morin returned to Iraq, where he devised and maintained vital communication links with 1st Marine Division headquarters, units within the MEF, and other sister service forces operating in and around Fallujah.

Upon returning to the United States, Morin was assigned to the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific where he currently serves as the communications chief and chief instructor for the Expeditionary Communications Branch.





Platoon 2151 COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. J. L. McAfee II Kansas City, Mo. Recruited by Sgt. T. D. Ring	Platoon 2155 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. D. J. Myers Vallejo, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. T. Yesaman	Platoon 2149 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. A. Alexander Dallas Recruited by Staff Sgt. C. Myers	Platoon 2150 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. A. Balian Whittier, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. L. A. Anguiare	Platoon 2153 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. C. H. Shaver Deephaven, Minn. Recruited by Sgt. C. B. Jackson	Platoon 2154 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. M. A. Loyd Selma, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. N. Guillen	Platoon 2153 HIGH SHOOTER (334) Pfc. S. L. Hendrickson Salt Lake City Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. T. Daniels	Platoon 2151 HIGH PFT (300) Lance Cpl. J. L. McAfee II Kansas City, Mo. Recruited by Sgt. T. D. Ring
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GOLF COMPANY

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. G. G. Malkasian
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. M. J. O'Loughlin
Chaplain
Lt. W. T. Tomasek, USN
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. E. O. Hidalgo

COMPANY G

Commanding Officer
Capt. G. D. Ostrin
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. J. P. Doring

SERIES 2149

Series Commander
Capt. R. C. Higgins
Series Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. W. C. Carter

PLATOON 2149

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. J. S. Williams
Drill Instructors
Sgt. E. Forcillo
Sgt. J. A. Martinez
Sgt. L. F. Medina-Hernandez

Pvt. T. S. Alesandrini
Pfc. J. A. Alexander
*Pfc. D. R. Anderson
Pfc. A. M. Atkins
Pfc. F. Y. Aviles
Pfc. Q. E. Barrios-Lopez
*Pfc. D. N. Beckum
Pvt. A. A. Bello
Pvt. D. W. Borges
*Pfc. S. P. Bradley
Pvt. T. J. Brookshear
Pfc. A. E. Brown
Pvt. A. D. Buchheit
Pvt. A. R. Carlson
Pvt. J. A. Carsley
Pvt. J. H. Charley
Pvt. G. S. Clark
Pvt. N. S. Contreras
Pvt. J. M. Coogler
Pvt. T. B. Craven
Pfc. V. C. Creswell-McDermott
Pvt. S. P. Downey
*Pfc. E. L. Duarte
Pvt. B. M. Edelman
Pfc. R. A. Eggen
Pvt. M. X. Escamilla
Pvt. J. T. Eull
Pvt. K. W. Fetters
Pfc. P. Fierro
Pvt. A. H. Finley
Pvt. R. L. Fisher
Pfc. R. W. Ford-Norris
Pvt. J. R. Frickie
Pvt. T. W. Fruit
Pvt. O. Gabriel
Pvt. N. L. Gnewuch
*Pfc. F. Gomez
Pvt. D. D. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. C. Gordon Jr.
Pvt. G. D. Gutierrez
Pvt. M. J. Hanley
Pvt. C. J. Hannon
Pvt. B. J. Henderson
Pvt. G. J. Henderson
Pvt. R. A. Henderson
Pvt. J. E. Herman
Pfc. J. M. Howard
Pfc. R. I. Huff
Pvt. J. B. Jensen
Pfc. C. J. Johnson
Pfc. J. R. Johnson
Pfc. J. R. Marshall
Pvt. M. J. Marshall
Pvt. C. J. Mathias
Pvt. N. D. Miller
Pvt. Z. R. Neff
Pvt. B. J. Norris
Pvt. T. T. Palmer
Pvt. K. N. Peterson
Pfc. S. M. Purdue

Pvt. J. A. Rangel
Pvt. I. K. Robertson
Pfc. M. W. Sandlin
Pvt. J. G. Shawver
Pvt. Z. S. Smith
Pfc. C. A. Spinhirne
Pvt. R. A. Stevenson
Pvt. P. V. Tran
Pvt. R. T. Wiedeman
Pfc. L. C. Wood

PLATOON 2150

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. R. Conwill
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. D. White
Sgt. R. M. Garcia-Lopez
Sgt. J. A. Onello

Pvt. D. A. Aguayo
Pvt. Z. L. Allred
Pvt. B. L. Anderson
Pvt. L. A. Anderson
Pvt. A. J. Arguello Jr.
Pfc. A. A. Balian
Pvt. C. G. Beck
*Pfc. N. E. Beranek
Pvt. I. Bernal
*Pfc. D. M. Bowman
Pfc. N. A. Braman
Pvt. S. M. Braun Jr.
Pvt. J. R. Brenner
Pvt. J. M. Breshears
Pfc. T. N. Brown
Pvt. C. J. Bryant
Pvt. J. J. Calderon
Pvt. D. E. Callahan
Pvt. R. W. Camou
Pvt. A. S. Campbell
Pvt. L. A. Campbell
Pvt. T. B. Campbell
Pfc. A. M. Carranza
Pvt. D. J. Cicerone
Pvt. J. L. Collman
Pfc. S. D. Culhane
Pvt. C. J. Davis
Pfc. J. Davis III
Pvt. S. P. Del Monte
Pfc. S. Z. Derosa
Pfc. P. B. Dorn
Pfc. N. T. Ellis
*Pfc. T. S. Ferrell
Pvt. B. M. Finical
*Pfc. J. E. Garcia
Pvt. B. E. Geffe
Pfc. J. R. Geis
Pfc. M. R. Gerry
Pfc. J. A. Goeddel
Pvt. M. A. Gonzalez
Pfc. O. N. Good
Pvt. E. L. Groves
Pvt. T. H. Hackworth
Pvt. A. S. Hasegawa
Pvt. C. Hernandez
Pvt. B. E. Hoffman
Pvt. M. A. Hoffeld
Pvt. C. C. Howard
Pvt. M. P. Huffman
Pvt. J. S. Huston
Pvt. W. P. James
Pfc. J. R. Johnson
Pvt. E. Johnson-Escalante
Pvt. J. T. Johnston
Pvt. A. H. Jung
Pvt. C. D. Kazinsky
Pvt. T. A. Kelley
*Pfc. V. S. Ledbetter
Pvt. A. R. Lee
Pfc. J. Manzano
Pvt. D. E. Prado
Pvt. J. T. Price
Pvt. E. Z. Schneider
Pfc. J. E. Stinson
Pvt. B. R. Stricker
Pvt. C. R. Sullivan
Pvt. W. J. Thomas
Pfc. G. C. Whyte
Pvt. G. E. Williams

PLATOON 2151

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. Ramirez

Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. N. C. Stocking
Sgt. S. C. Fox
Sgt. J. L. Russell
Sgt. L. B. Soderbery

Pfc. J. A. Adams
Pvt. D. A. Baca-Alarcon
Pvt. A. R. Bales
Pvt. K. D. Barker
Pvt. C. B. Bergman
Pfc. J. D. Blaske
Pvt. S. M. Braden
Pvt. M. S. Brester
*Pfc. D. M. Bugni
*Pfc. J. L. Cantu
Pvt. M. T. Carter
Pvt. E. K. Chin
Pvt. M. Chorba
Pvt. W. J. Coffin
Pfc. S. R. Colbry
Pfc. V. J. Colombo
Pfc. B. Comer
Pvt. D. A. Contreras
Pfc. S. Cooper
Pfc. D. B. Curtis
Pvt. J. G. Diaz
Pvt. D. A. Din
Pvt. C. N. Egan
Pvt. J. A. Espinosa
Pfc. J. F. Farias
Pfc. N. Fletcher
*Pfc. D. W. Gallagher
Pfc. L. N. Garrison
Pvt. J. Gomez
Pvt. L. Gomez
*Pfc. F. C. Gonzalez
Pfc. J. M. Gortsema
Pvt. J. R. Griffith
Pvt. C. J. Hall
Pvt. M. T. Haus
Pfc. M. A. Hernandez
Pfc. W. A. Hudson
Pvt. D. L. Hunsaker
Pvt. M. Hunt
Pvt. S. J. Ickes
Pfc. D. M. Jimenez
Pvt. B. Jones
Pvt. D. Jones
Pfc. P. D. Jungles
Pvt. J. Kitelinger
Pvt. H. D. Kramer
Pvt. S. A. Lampi
Pvt. J. L. Linkinhoker
Pfc. J. A. Lofy
Pvt. J. Lowe
Pvt. P. W. Lowry
Pvt. L. J. Madison
Pvt. N. M. Martinez
*Lance Cpl. J. L. McAfee II
Pvt. P. J. McCrindle
Pvt. J. C. Medina
Pvt. M. J. Mistretta
Pfc. G. M. Morales
Pvt. R. Morehead
Pvt. B. A. Nott
Pvt. C. R. Richard-Nuñez
Pvt. J. J. Russell
Pvt. L. E. Scott
Pvt. Z. M. Skidmore
Pfc. T. Z. Spitzer
Pvt. M. A. Stein
Pfc. G. D. Tays
Pvt. S. A. Toll

SERIES 2153

Series Commander
1st Lt. E. B. Eagon
Series Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. T. W. Fairfield

PLATOON 2153

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. S. Khan
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. P. L. Castanon
Staff Sgt. S. Guzman
Sgt. J. W. Grundbacher
Sgt. C. J. Marcus

Pvt. A. J. Argiroudis
Pfc. D. A. Armstrong

Pfc. B. J. Berray
Pfc. J. M. Betzler
Pvt. J. D. Booker
Pvt. M. L. Brawn
Pvt. E. P. Brown
Pvt. G. F. Dunham
Pvt. C. J. Dunne
*Pfc. K. A. Easley
Pvt. G. P. Eaves
Pvt. J. R. Foster
Pfc. J. V. Fragale
Pvt. G. S. Garces-Barahona
Pvt. J. L. Golaszewski
*Pfc. S. L. Hendrickson
Pvt. D. S. Kellogg
Pvt. B. A. Kern
Pvt. D. S. Kierstead III
Pvt. B. V. Konency
Pfc. R. Kurokawa
Pfc. J. A. Lawson
Pvt. R. I. Leach
Pvt. P. S. Loa
Pfc. E. K. Manner
Pvt. R. McKy
Pvt. J. A. Messner
Pvt. R. A. Miller
Pvt. T. J. Milligan
Pvt. A. R. Mitchell-Silva
Pvt. T. R. Naylor
Pvt. M. A. Olivera Jr.
Pvt. S. E. Pennington
Pvt. A. Perez
Pfc. P. Pollman
Pvt. K. S. Popps
*Pfc. T. J. Pugh
Pfc. N. P. Radean
Pvt. A. M. Resseguie
Pvt. A. J. Robles
Pvt. K. R. Roe
Pvt. T. P. Ruhl
Pfc. H. R. Saloff
Pfc. J. A. Sanchez-Rubio
Pvt. K. J. Santos
Pfc. J. J. Saterstad
Pvt. R. L. Schippa
Pfc. S. A. Semple
Pvt. I. P. Shankland
*Pfc. C. H. Shaver
Pvt. D. Sierra
Pfc. J. M. Skiba
Pfc. D. M. Smith
*Pfc. A. R. Solivais
Pvt. M. S. Stutzke
Pvt. J. M. Tango
Pfc. E. B. Tendero
Pvt. M. A. Tocco
Pfc. K. A. Tribble
Pvt. E. C. Tripp
Pvt. B. V. Tuong
Pvt. S. M. Turmel
Pfc. G. Ugalde Jr.
Pfc. H. Vang
Pfc. T. Vang
Pvt. M. J. Vega
Pvt. A. J. Wald
Pvt. J. D. Waller
Pvt. C. D. Ward
Pvt. J. R. Welch
Pfc. T. N. Wheat
Pvt. J. T. Yoder

PLATOON 2154

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. C. Baker
Drill Instructors
Sgt. C. G. Garcia
Sgt. J. K. Spray
Sgt. M. J. Tabarracci
Sgt. R. A. Velasquez

Pfc. V. T. Castillo
Pvt. A. D. Cunhs
Pvt. B. S. Gillis
Pvt. E. P. Harvey
Pfc. S. H. Jung
Pvt. M. B. Kearnelly
*Pfc. M. C. Little
Pfc. M. A. Lizarraga
Pfc. T. Lomeli
Pvt. R. K. Long Jr.
Pvt. D. M. Loughin
Pfc. M. A. Loyd

Pfc. J. S. Lundin
*Pfc. C. S. Maddy
Pvt. L. A. Madruga
Pvt. J. G. Marshall
Pvt. J. L. Marshall
Pvt. V. A. Mata
Pfc. J. A. McGlone
Pvt. K. A. McHugh
Pfc. M. L. Medellin
Pvt. M. M. Melzer
Pvt. J. G. Meredith-Ball
Pfc. J. F. Meza
Pvt. D. A. Miller
Pfc. K. C. Mitchell
Pvt. L. Mondragon
Pvt. W. A. Oakman
Pvt. J. S. Plouffe
Pvt. R. D. Pubols
Pvt. P. C. Radowick
Pvt. D. C. Rael
Pvt. K. A. Raidl
Pvt. B. C. Roberts
Pvt. J. J. Rodriguez III
Pfc. W. T. Rollins
Pvt. L. G. Rosas
Pvt. J. M. Rowe
*Pfc. M. Ruiz
Pfc. D. Saephanh
Pvt. K. A. Sanchez
Pvt. C. J. Sandbeck
Pvt. D. J. Scholl
Pfc. S. P. Schwenka
Pvt. B. K. Segura
Pvt. C. M. Selen
Pvt. M. A. Talbot
Pfc. K. R. Teats
*Pfc. J. C. Terpening
Pfc. J. M. Toro
Pvt. D. A. Treadwell
Pfc. J. V. Trujillo
Pfc. M. C. Tyrrell
Pvt. E. M. Vargass-Pulveda
*Pfc. M. A. Villa
Pfc. R. A. Vinson
Pvt. D. D. Vogel
Pvt. W. R. Waggoner
Pfc. P. S. Wellman
Pvt. K. A. Werner
Pvt. A. Wilhelm
Pfc. J. M. Wilkins
Pfc. T. O. Wilson
Pvt. V. F. C. Wittlake
Pvt. T. J. Wood
Pvt. H. A. Zacarias-Aguilar

PLATOON 2155

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. L. D. Brown
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. R. Kollhoff
Staff Sgt. R. R. Ramirez
Sgt. Y. S. Sesay

Pvt. A. J. Collaso
Pfc. K. M. Flores Jr.
Pvt. L. R. Jarmongigetts
Pvt. A. E. Johnson
Pfc. S. L. Johnson
Pfc. C. M. Koehnke
Pvt. J. R. Kramer
Pvt. D. T. Laffoon
Pvt. S. E. Lawrence
*Pfc. C. R. Lundgren
Pfc. C. S. Madrid
Pvt. M. J. Mahoney
Pvt. J. A. Martinez
Pfc. P. P. Martinez
Pvt. A. B. McDonald
*Pfc. J. R. McKnight III
Pfc. P. G. Melgarejo
Pvt. J. A. Monroe
Pfc. A. R. Mortel
Pfc. D. J. Myers
Pfc. C. A. Myrick
Pvt. E. F. Nabayan
Pfc. V. B. Nevarez
Pvt. Z. D. Oftedal
Pvt. S. Oneal Jr.
Pfc. B. E. Orellana
Pfc. J. S. Pady
*Pfc. J. T. Painter
Pvt. T. A. Pinson
Pvt. F. J. Price-Garcia

Pvt. T. M. Priest
Pvt. J. M. Purchase
Pfc. B. A. Qualls
Pfc. H. I. Rabideau
Pvt. J. L. Ramirez
Pvt. A. J. Reece
Pvt. C. L. Reed
Pfc. C. L. Renner
Pvt. D. J. Riedel
Pvt. J. F. Rivera
Pvt. J. J. Rivers
Pvt. J. L. Robbins
Pvt. D. A. Miller
Pvt. L. J. Rodriguez
Pvt. S. M. Rodriguez-Black
Pvt. R. R. Rogers
Pvt. R. C. Schaber
Pfc. M. T. Schoonover
Pvt. T. A. Schuster
Pvt. A. Segura
Pvt. J. Silver Jr.
Pvt. M. T. Slattery
Pvt. T. N. Smith
Pvt. H. H. Snodgrass
Pvt. L. M. Sotomayor
Pfc. C. R. Stork
Pvt. S. F. Steigleder
Pvt. A. C. Sumner
Pvt. W. L. Swearingen Jr.
Pfc. J. B. Thomas
Pvt. C. J. Thompson
*Pfc. C. J. Tillet
Pvt. D. T. Wells
Pvt. B. R. Wheatley
Pvt. D. C. Williams
Pvt. N. D. Williams
Pfc. J. W. Wroughton

* Denotes meritorious promotion



An instructor with Marine Combat Training Battalion Instructor Group, School of Infantry West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., ensures that a student properly throws a training grenade. During the exercise, Marines practice with training grenades before they throw live ones. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*

BY SGT. CARRIE C. BOOZE
Chevron staff

"In boot camp, recruits are taught to be Marines. Here, they are trained to be war fighters," said Staff Sgt. Gerald Hooee Jr., Marine Combat Training Battalion Instructor Group, School of Infantry West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The new Marines mastered their M16-A2 service rifle during the range, but for the majority of them, the only knowledge they have of grenades is throwing them in a video game. The art of throwing a grenade is much more complex than slamming the button on a game controller; therefore, the Marines attend MCT to receive real life training.

Marines with combat support occupations will attend MCT while the Marines who are in infantry will train in the Infantry Training Battalion at SOI.

MCT is a 29-day course in which entry-level Marines are taught the common skills needed in combat. Upon completion of Marine Combat Training every Marine will have the knowledge and ability to successfully operate in a combat environment as a basic rifleman.

During MCT, Marines must successfully complete three hikes equipped with 50 to 80 pounds of full combat gear. The hikes take place at different times throughout training and are intended to build and test their endurance.

Marines begin with a five-kilometer hike to the grenade range on training day one, where they are given the chance to test and adjust their gear in preparation for more intense hikes.

After storming a final steep hill, the Marines reach a plateau where their grenade training will commence. They then receive numerous classes on how to throw a grenade from the standing, kneeling, and prone position. After applying their techniques with a practice hand grenade, the Marines get the chance to throw a live hand grenade down range from the standing position. The live grenade is a M67 fragmentation grenade, which has a kill radius of five meters and a casualty

radius of 15 meters.

"It is extremely important for them to know how to throw grenades," said Humphrey, a native of Slippery Rock, Penn. "Whether you're an infantryman or radio operator, multiple occupations will find they will be using grenades in combat."

Sgt. Brent Humphrey, combat instructor, MCT, said that many of the Marines are nervous holding a grenade, but after it is out of their hands, he can see the adrenaline running through them and a smile on their faces.

After the Marines throw their live grenades, they are given the chance to go into a tower, and watch the other Marines grenade impacts.

"The average Marine can throw a grenade 30 to 40 meters," said Humphrey. "But some of the Marines who play sports can throw a grenade more than 50 meters, and accurately hit their targets."

During the grenade training, combat instructors take many safety precautions to ensure the new Marines go unharmed. The Marines wear flak jackets, SAPI plates, Kevlar, neck and groin protectors, ear protection and eye protection. If a Marine doesn't throw his grenade out of the pit, the instructors are ready to act immediately.

"Having live grenades keep the instructors on their toes and in a combat mindset," said Humphrey. "We are watching every little movement they make to ensure the safety of the Marines."

Humphrey said that in the past year, two Marines haven't gotten their grenade out of the throwing pit. Therefore, the instructors had to tackle them out of harm's way, and shield their bodies from fragmentation.

"Despite these two incidents, the likelihood of injury is very low," said Humphrey. "Repetition helps them out a lot. We go over the drills so many times that it's hard for them to mess up."

With this training under their belts, the Marines are one step closer to being fully combat trained. For more information on MCT, visit www.marines.mil/units/hqmc/tecom/soiwest/Pages/MCTBn/MarineCombat-TrainingBattalion.aspx.



During grenade training, students work one-on-one with instructors to not only ensure they apply the proper techniques for throwing the M67 fragmentation grenade, but also for safety reasons. Should a student fail to deploy the grenade properly, the instructor must act swiftly to prevent injury of himself and his student. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



As an MCT student throws a grenade downrange he begins to cover the back of his head. After throwing, students are required to kneel behind the safety of the concrete bunker and cover exposed vital areas. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



Training grenades, also referred to as "blue bodies," are used by SOI students to practice the throwing positions. The reusable grenade bodies are collected after being thrown and a new fuse mechanism is inserted. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*