



Drill instructors make Boot Camp Challenge real

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Bravo recruits take the 12-stall

Pg. 8

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CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

CG throws first pitch for Padres

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, throws the ceremonial first pitch to Bud Black, San Diego Padres manager, during their game against the Cincinnati Reds at PETCO Park, Sept. 25. "There is a very special relationship between the military and the San Diego Padres," said Maj. Gen. Bailey. "There have been numerous occasions of Marines and recruits cheering on the Padres in the stands. The Padres show a genuine concern about the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Marines." The Padres defeated the Reds 4-3.

Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron



Portland recruiters assist police, apprehend suspect

BY SGT. STEVE CUSHMAN
RS Portland

What started as an ordinary day for two Recruiting Station Portland, Ore., recruiters took an exciting turn after they chased down and apprehended a suspected hit-and-run driver.

Sgt. Nate Hess, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Substation Oregon City, and Sgt. Daniel Florez, a recruiter with RSS Oregon City, were on their way to a local hot spot to find qualified young adults interested in joining the Marines when they witnessed a car crash.

Hess pointed out the incident to Florez on Southeast 82nd Ave., at the on-ramp to Interstate 205. They saw the suspect, 26-year-old Christopher Lee Cox, slam into a car, get out of his car, then quickly return to his car and drive off. Cox proceeded to turn his vehicle around by crossing a grassy median and then driving into oncoming traffic.

Hess told Florez to "flip the car around." The Marines pursued the suspect a short distance before he drove off the road and tried to escape on foot. Florez jumped out of his vehicle in pursuit.

While Florez pursued the suspect, Hess returned

to the scene of the accident, where he set out road hazard markers and checked on the victim, a 52-year-old man from Woodburn, Ore.

"I walked up to the car and started talking to the victim," said Hess, a Brookings, Ore., native. "When he came to, I told him I was Marine, that he'd been in an accident, and that I was there to help. He told me he was retired Navy, and said, 'I'm glad the Marines are here.'"

Hess made sure the victim was stable and waited for the ambulance to arrive. Then he went to provide support to Florez, a military policeman by trade.

"I kept yelling at the guy to stop," said Florez, a Willits, Calif., native. "Eventually he came to a place where he either had to run onto the (interstate) or turn around and face me."

Cox turned around to face Florez and put up his hands in a fighting posture. Florez told Cox to think twice before fighting. Cox relented, and Florez was able to grab him by the wrist and elbow and force him to the ground.

"When he was on the ground, I searched him for weapons and asked him if he had been drinking," said

see Recruiters, page 2

DoD defines civilian employee, servicemember political rights

BY SETH COWELL
Electronic Systems Center Legal Office
Hanscom AFB

With the 2010 elections coming up, television newscasts and newspaper articles are filled with the latest news about the candidates running for various offices.

While exercising a right to vote is the duty of all Americans, military and civilian federal employees should understand the laws and regulations that outline what constitutes appropriate participation in the political process.

Although the rules for civilian employees are slightly less restrictive, there are common provisions that apply to both civilian employees and military members. The provisions for federal employees are published in the 5 U.S.C. 7321, "The Hatch Act", DODD 1344.10, Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force, and Marine Corps Order 5370.7B, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Federal employees are encouraged to participate in the political process. However, these rules are established to ensure that partisan politics and government service are properly and reasonably attenuated to avoid even the appearance of official endorsement of candidates or issues.

The Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance program website, www.vfap.gov, offers servicemembers voting information, including state-by-state absentee voting instructions and registration deadlines.

Civilian federal employees may:

- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- Register and vote as they choose
- Assist in voter registration drives
- Express opinions about candidates and issues
- Contribute money to political organizations
- Attend political fund raising functions
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings

- Sign nominating petitions
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments and municipal ordinances
- Join and be an active member of a political party or club
- Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- Hold office in political clubs or parties, including serving as a delegate to a convention

Civilian federal employees may not:

- Use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- Solicit, accept or receive political contributions, unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization, and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee
- Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency
- Engage in political activity while on duty
- Engage in political activity in any government office
- Engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
- Engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- Be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- Wear political buttons on duty

Servicemembers may:

- Register, vote and express opinions on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the U.S. armed forces
- Attend partisan or nonpartisan political meetings, rallies or conventions as a spectator and not in uniform

see Campaign, page 2

Depot Marines train with UFC fighters

BY LANCE CPL. KATALYNN THOMAS
Chevron Staff

Mixed martial artists and the Ultimate Fighting Championship fighters from the Victory Fitness Center, Point Loma, came to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's martial arts satellite school, Oct. 1, to teach servicemembers additional martial arts techniques.

"There are many military members that come to Victory Fitness Center," said Elias Gallagos, an MMA instructor at the Victory Fitness Center. "I feel that by coming here we are giving back to them."

Military members and their families who took time to go to the dojo learned different techniques from three different categories: striking from standing, take downs, and submissions.

"This is an awesome experience," said Staff Sgt. James McFaline, martial arts instructor, Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion. "It's a little extra knowledge for our 'tool belt.' It builds on what we already know and teaches us additional moves."

It expands on the Marine Corps' training, according to Gunnery Sgt. Francisco Galvan, martial arts instructor, ITC, Support Bn. "It sparks interest outside of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, and gives participants a chance to grow as a martial artist. We get a chance to see where the MCMAP techniques originate."

The instructors and fighters were interested to see each other's commonalities.

"It's good to learn martial arts and to constantly be a learner," said Shannon Gugerty, a UFC fighter from the Victory Fitness Center. "It's awesome to see that the Marines train the same as we do."

While the Marines were happy to see the instructors and fighters, some guests were excited that they got to spend time here with servicemembers.

The guests were allowed to use the dojo's training equipment before their class started during a mini-lesson from the Marines, according to Palafox.

The techniques that they taught seemed pretty effective, even in the practice stages, according to Sgt. Charles Roche, a MCMAP Instructor Trainer with ITC.

"The best part about coming here is the after affects," said Gallegos. "Showing attendees that they learned something,

and that they have the satisfaction of knowing that they know it and can use it to save their lives."

When the session was over attendees had more tools for their tool belts, and the instructors and fighters were able to see the results of their training.

"We are honored to come out here and help out our servicemembers," said Palafox. "There is no speech I can make for it, we are just honored that you let us come here. With the military members being out there protecting us, we like to give back. It makes us feel like we are."



Capt. Craig Schnappinger, right, series commander, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, blocks his face as Staff Sgt. David Gonzalez, martial arts instructor, Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Bn., prepares to use one of the new strikes they were taught by Victory Fitness Center's instructors here, Oct. 1. Lance Cpl. Katalynn Thomas/

Recruiters, from Pg. 1

Florez. "After that, I escorted him back to the accident site and to where the police were."

According to the Marines, the suspect was coherent when apprehended. When Cox realized he was going to be turned over to the police, he began acting like he didn't know where he was and complained about being "light headed and going to pass out."

During the chase, Florez continually wondered, "Why is this guy running off?"

The Marines turned Cox over to the Oregon State Police, gave their statements and returned to work. Later, police reports stated Cox had several warrants out for his arrest and had a knife on the passenger seat of his car.

Initial news reports stated that there were two Marines involved in the chase, but Hess and Florez hadn't been identified. When their names were publicly released, they were considered heroes.

Florez and Hess said they weren't heroes and that they were just doing their jobs.

Cox now faces charges of Driving

Under the Influence, felony hit-and-run with injury, assault in the fourth degree and recklessly endangering another person.



Sgts. Daniel Florez, left, and Nate Hess, assigned to Recruiting Substation Oregon City, Ore., assisted police by apprehending a hit-and-run suspect.

Sgt. Steve Cushman/RS Portland

Campaign, from Pg. 1

- Join a political club and attend meetings as a spectator
- Display bumper stickers on a personally owned vehicle or wear campaign buttons on civilian clothes
- Write a letter to the editor regarding public issues, but cannot promote a partisan political cause or candidate
- Make a political contribution to an organization supporting a particular candidate, but cannot contribute to the candidate personally

Servicemembers may not:

- Participate in partisan political campaigns, except as a spectator, or make public speeches related to such activity

- Solicit votes or contributions for a particular candidate or issue
- Use official government authority or influence to interfere with or affect the outcome of an election
- Publish articles or opinions promoting or discouraging partisan political issues or candidates
- Run for or hold civil office
- Take an active role in partisan political activity, including:
- Serve in an official capacity
- Advocate in media
- Conduct opinion polls or other clerical duties during a campaign
- March in a parade
- Actively promote fund raising activities

BRIEFS

Vehicle Registration closure

The MCRD Vehicle Registration/Traffic Court Liaison Office in Bldg. 230, will be closed Monday for the observance of Columbus Day and will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. For information, please contact Staff Sgt. Biggers, PMO Services Chief, at (619) 524-4201.

Make a Difference Day

Make a difference on Make a Difference Day 2010 at the MCRD San Diego Walk & Wellness Expo on the MCRD Exchange Mall Oct. 16. The Expo honors those who have been affected by breast cancer and domestic violence.

The event begins with check-in at 8 a.m. The walk starts at 9, and the Expo continues until noon with food, music, activities and community representatives.

Participants can register online at mccsmcrd.com. For information, contact MCRD Health Promotions Coordinator Andrea Callahan at (619) 524-8913.

MMOA visit Oct. 26

The MMOA monitor team will visit the depot on Oct. 26. There will be one briefing from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by interviews/counseling from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the IPAC classroom 100, Bldg. 622. All officers assigned to the depot (HQSVCBN, RTR, and 12th MCD), as well as officers assigned to ETWCGPAC, Coronado, are encouraged to attend the briefing. Officers assigned to the depot are required to attend the briefing. The briefing will include items of general interest to all officers, including professional military education on manpower, command screening, PME opportunities, and career development. Officers desiring to see their monitor/counselor should schedule an interview through their respective unit adjutants. Walk-in appointments are highly discouraged. Interviews are restricted to FY11 movers followed by FY12, FY13. The point of contact is Ms. Edwards, G-1/Manpower Office at (619) 524-8733.

Library on-line tutor

The depot library is offering free resources and on-line tutors to active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD and their guests. Professional tutors are available to help with math, science, social studies and English from elementary to advanced levels. Each session is anonymous and one-on-one in a secure online classroom. Help with writing resumes and cover letters is also available. A personal username and password are needed to access this service. Visit the depot library to create an account. For more information, go to www.usmc-mccs.org or call (619) 524-1849.

Personalized fitness assessment

The Fitness Center now offers Micro-Fit to all eligible patrons aboard the depot. Patrons receive a free, personalized fitness/lifestyle assessment, to include results and printed report of: weight, body fat, heart rate, blood pressure, flexibility, strength and cardio conditioning. A clearance form signed by a physician is mandatory for those with heart problems, chest pain, history of stroke, men over age 45 and women over age 55, and those who have had surgery within the past year. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (619) 524-4427.

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.

Strong wills make for strong water survival instructors

BY CPL. FRANCES CANDELARIA
Chevron staff

Approximately 19 Marines and sailors earned their Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival qualification at the Combat Training Tank, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

A MCIWS is the second highest water survival qualification in the Marine Corps, behind Marine Combat Instructor Trainer of Water Survival.

The instructor students must retain academic knowledge in order to fully understand every aspect of aquatic environments, survival techniques, physics, physiology and even the mental details that factor into teaching swim qualifications to Marines and sailors who must meet the Marine Corps' annual requirement.

Upon completion of the course, students will be certified to administer swim qualifications for their units. For the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego drill instructors participating in the course, they will be able to help each of their respective companies with recruits swim qualifications.

Instructor students increase their conditioning each day by adding 100 meters to their morning and afternoon lap swims.

Their endurance and technique are continually tested during practical application training events that add uniform items and extra gear each time. "Full gear helps the students focus on technique," said Sgt. Adam Creel, MCIWS course instructor trainer. "No matter how much muscle you have, if you don't apply the fundamentals you'll drown."

The only way students can focus on the fundamentals to perfect their technique and retain their confidence as an instructor is to constantly keep a clear mind.

"We have to overcome our mental fears," said Staff Sgt. Duane Commiato, drill instructor, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment. "It's pretty tough, but you have to keep pushing for everyone else."

While the instructor students continually encourage one another, the instructor trainers are also there to motivate the students and remind them to stay calm even when fatigue sets in and they feel like quitting.

"They need to relax in the water," said Creel. "We teach them to relax and focus, even when they think they are being pushed past their limit."

Every training event is designed to improve skill in multiple subjects and while each instructor student performs events individually, the class may only move onto the next task once the entire class has accomplished the mission.

"It is an individual task, but they all go through the same (suffering) and it makes them come together as a team, to push one another to complete the task," said Creel.

Most students would agree that the mental and physical aspects may wear them down but they are all in it together.

"Quitting is contagious," added Commiato. "You see one guy go for the edge and you think it'd be nice and you should grab the wall too, but you can't because we're all here to graduate. You keep going for everyone else, not just yourself."



Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival students climb out of the Combat Training Tank after performing drills at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Sept. 22. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*



In an exercise demonstrating knowledge of life saving procedures, Lance Cpl. Aaron Chasse, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, right, buddy tows Cpl. Anthony Noble, infantryman, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, during a Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival course. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*



Staff Sgt. Jared Kiesow, drill instructor, Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment performs as a simulated victim during the Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival course. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*

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Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Fairfield, chief instructor, Drill Instructor School, instructs a crowd of runners to do push-ups and warm up for the ninth annual Boot Camp Challenge here, Sept. 25. The challenge is open to service members and civilians and allows them to take on many of the obstacles Marine recruits overcome during their training. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron Staff*



Participants of the ninth annual Boot Camp Challenge hurdle over obstacles as drill instructors encourage them. *Lance Corporal Katalynn Thomas/Chevron*



Gunnery Sgt. Tyler Plotz, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, motivates a participant as he negotiates jumping over a log on one of the obstacles featured during the Boot Camp Challenge. *Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin/Chevron*



Competitors negotiate bales of hay which were part of the 3-mile course of the ninth annual Boot Camp Challenge at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Sept. 25. 3,600 participants faced over 60 drill instructor obstacles during the challenge. *Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin/Chevron*

2010 Boot Camp Challenge: San Diegans invade the depot

BY CPL. JOSE NAVA
Chevron Staff

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego was flooded by San Diegans and depot personnel as the ninth annual Boot Camp Challenge kicked off Sept. 25.

More than 3,600 people attended the event which is the only time participants are allowed on the same obstacles that recruits use during boot camp.

"It was challenging and the obstacles were the hardest part," said Tiffany Chamberlain, student, University of California San Diego. "The drill instructors' constant yelling distracted me and there was no slowing down because they kept pushing me forward."

The route took participants on a winding 3-mile path around the depot and was dotted with 15 obstacles.

They climbed hay bales and navigated a section of the same obstacle course recruits use.

Aside from physical challenges, participants faced more than 60 drill instructors positioned throughout the course to help motivate those who looked like they weren't giving 100 percent effort. Along the way, drill instructors provided incentive training which required participants to complete multiple exercises such as push-ups and jumping jacks.

"It is almost the same thing as dealing with recruits because you have to be demanding and aggressive to make them move faster," said Staff Sgt. Miguel Turcios, drill instructor, 2nd

Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD San Diego.

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, commanding general, MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, gave his remarks before the race horn was sounded to officially begin the race.

Runners were broken up into different groups organized as elite, individual, three-man, three-woman, five-man and five-woman teams.

"It feels great to win and it is also motivating having the drill instructors out on the course keeping us going," said Bonnie Axman, personal trainer, Semper Fit, Marine Corps Community Services. "The drill instructors are a big help, especially when you are in the front and they see you slow down because of the obstacles. But they motivate you up and over them."

After the race, participants and spectators were able to grab refreshments and visit various vendor booths set up near the race's starting point. Some booths had T-shirts, food or drinks, and even laser tag for children.

"It was fantastic," said Mike Madigan, board member, Vietnam Veterans of San Diego. "I had a great time even though it was the first time I've run the obstacle course in 44 years and it definitely brought back memories," said Madigan.

With this year's turnout, MCCS event coordinators are happy their efforts were worthwhile.

"This year's event matched last year's proceeds," said

MCCS Semper Fit Director, Kelley Sitar.

"All the proceeds raised by the Boot Camp Challenge go to enhance the programs under MCCS to better the quality of life for depot personnel," said Sitar.

The individual and team

standings were: elite male, 16:52, Glenn Racz; elite female, 19:46, Bonnie Axman; three-man team, 20:44, Gut Check II; three-woman team, 22:10, Gut Check III; five-man team, 22:11, Gut Check V; and five-woman team, 24:27, Gut Check 6.

Camp Challenge their training.



Volunteers delivered water to the runners, and picked up thousands of paper cups scattered along the course of the Boot Camp Challenge. Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin/Chevron



The men's running group takes off from the start of Marine Corps Recruit Depot's ninth annual Boot Camp Challenge.

Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron Staff

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Kenyan finds opportunity in Marine Corps

BY CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

In a small jungle in Africa, a 10-year-old boy was on an adventure with a few of his friends. As they were crossing the river, he stepped on what he thought was a rock, but the rock was a crocodile. It swung its tail, causing him to lose balance and find himself in a life-threatening situation. The crocodile had the boy's legs in its mouth and was twisting and dragging him to the water.

"As the crocodile was trying to amputate my leg, one of my big friends held the reptile down and my other friends were beating it with sticks and stones," said Recruit Paul W. Wangai, Platoon 1026, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment. "He finally released me from his mouth and I got away. If they hadn't beaten him, I wouldn't have survived. They saved my life."

It was this life-threatening experience that gave Wangai, a Nairobi, Kenya, native, a drive to do more than others in his family did before him. He wanted to succeed and do something that would bring his family pride—especially his mother.

"My mom worked very hard to save a lot of money that would help me come here," said Wangai. "In Kenya most people don't work at night, but my mom did. She had two jobs and would work on weekends too."

His mother wanted to give Wangai, his older brother and his two cousins the opportunity

to be successful by paying their way through school. According to Wangai, in Kenya, pre-primary to secondary education is not free and must be paid for by the families of the students.

While in secondary school, Wangai's mother applied for a United States Permanent Resident Card for him.

It took him five years to obtain his resident card after submitting the required documents to the government, he said.

At age 17, after finishing school, Wangai came to the U.S.

"My brother came here two years before me to study medicine, but after I got here he went back to Kenya," said Wangai.

Wangai stayed with his father who was living in Bolingbrook, Ill., and had been in the U.S. for 13 years.

"It was difficult finding a job here," said Wangai. "When I thought of America before, I thought it was a free country and they live life large here. Most Kenyans think you make a lot of money here without struggling, but it's a lot harder succeeding in America than I thought."

After a couple years, Wangai got in touch with a friend, who knew a Kenyan in the Marines.

"The Kenyan had told my friend that when you join the Marines, it gives you a sense of belonging and pride. And at that moment, I felt something change in my heart," said Wangai.

Since Wangai's life was far from easy, it is important to him to help

other people who may have been through what he experienced. He would love to get involved with humanitarian work, he said.

"It's my goal to make lives better for everyone who crosses my path," said 20-year-old Wangai. "I will do that by having a positive mental attitude and make them feel comfortable around me."

Wangai admires how the Marine Corps carries their values very deep and will strive to live his life everyday demonstrating Corps' values among everyone around him.

Since the beginning of recruit training, Wangai's feelings

toward American has increased. In addition, Wangai has noticed the Corps' values have a much deeper meaning now than they did at the beginning of training.

"When he first got here, he wasn't confident in himself," said Staff Sgt. Mateo A. Gordon, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1026, Company B. "He's improved in that aspect. He is also dependable. I know I can count on him if I want something done. He is very obedient and he takes orders and gives orders when needed."

Wangai has a heavy accent and is still learning English and his pronunciation has improved dramatically throughout recruit training. There were occasions

when he did not understand what the drill instructors were asking the recruits to do, but his peers helped Wangai through, Gordon said.

"My family has given me their full support," said Wangai. "My family will be proud of me for making it big in their eyes and for making a difference."

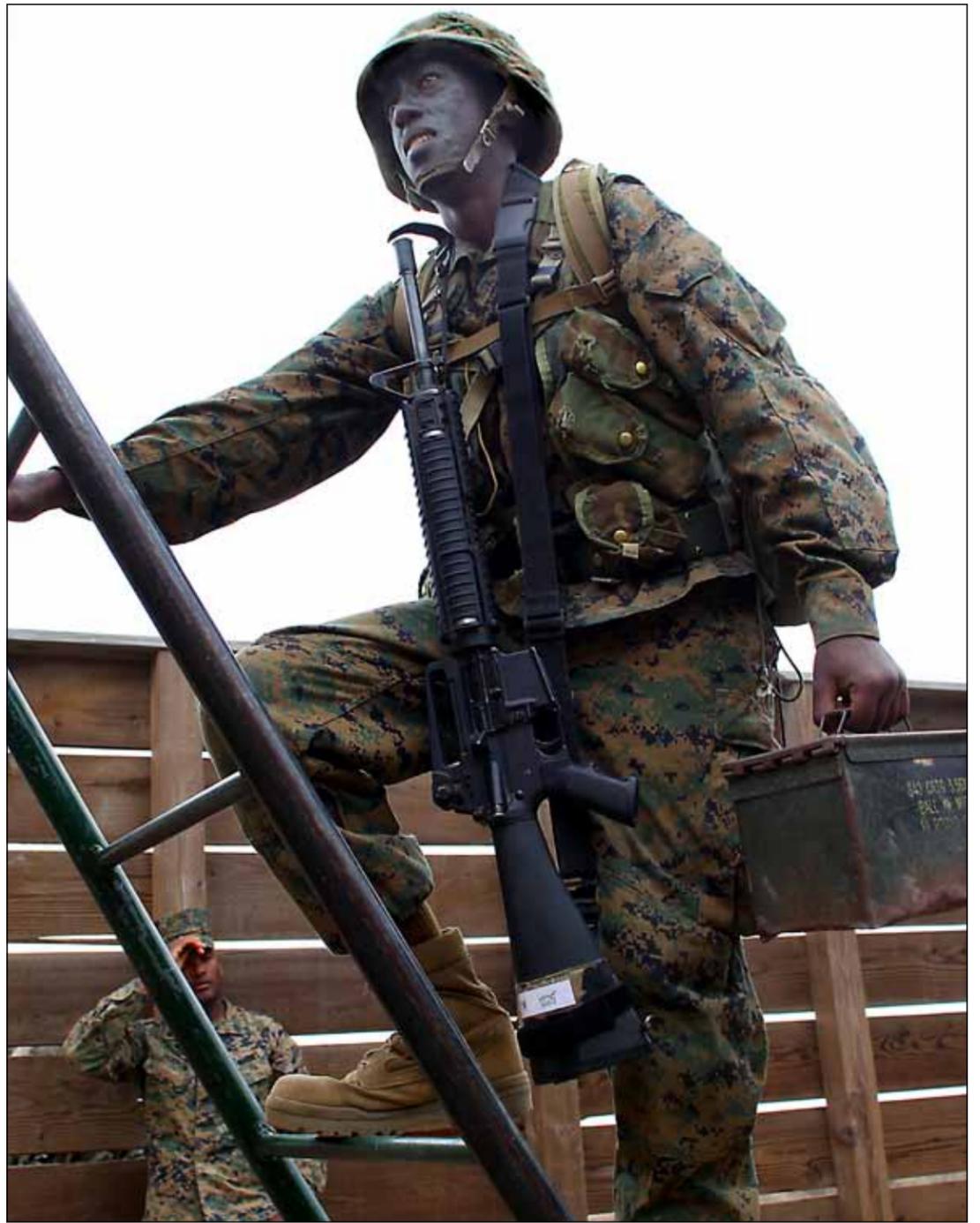
Wangai looks forward to his cousins and family members looking up to him as a Marine.

I owe America for this opportunity because even though I worked hard to get here, being a Marine is an opportunity I would not want to lose," said Wangai. "It's a chance not many others have."



Recruit Paul W. Wangai, Platoon 1026, Company B, waits his turn to negotiate an obstacle. Wangai graduates from recruit training today with the other members of his company.

Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



Recruit Paul W. Wangai, Platoon 1026, Company B, a Kenya native, carries an ammunition can gear up a ladder on a 12-Stall obstacle at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 28. Wangai left Kenya at the age of 17 and has since then sought the opportunity to become a Marine. *Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron*

John Pettitt

Parade Reviewing Officer

John Pettitt was commissioned in the U.S. Navy through the Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1970. Following flight training and his designation as a naval aviator, he flew single-seat light attack and strike fighter aircraft off numerous aircraft carriers, accruing more than 5,500 flight hours and 675 carrier landings.

After retiring from the Navy in 1994 as a captain, Pettitt joined Northrop Grumman through the Westinghouse Defense Electronics group. He worked as a field marketing representative, capturing programs in the aircraft fire control radar, electro-optical/infrared targeting systems, electronic warfare systems and weapon seeker systems areas.

As the corporate lead executive for Northrop Grumman's San Diego region, John Pettitt serves

as a focal point between the corporation, local Department of Defense commands and the San Diego community. His key customer interfaces include the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, Naval Special Warfare Command Pacific, Naval Surface Forces, Naval Air Forces, Third Fleet, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Pettitt holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Oregon as well as a master's degree in international relations from Salve Regina University. He also attended the Naval War College and earned a master's degree in national security and strategic studies. He is president of the board of the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation, an executive board member of the San Diego Military Advisory Council and a board member of the Tail Hook Education Foundation. He also chairs the California State University-San Marcos Foundation and is a national director for the Navy League of the United States.





Platoon 1021 COMPANY AND SERIES HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. J. M. Krausen Van Buren, Ind. Recruited by Staff Sgt. D. C. Holdorf	Platoon 1022 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. M. K. Hiyakumoto Elk Grove, Calif. Recruited by Staff Sgt. T. Enoch	Platoon 1023 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. J. T. Boykins Mesquite, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. D. Caruso	Platoon 1025 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. L. A. Orta Harlingen, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. M. Hernandez	Platoon 1026 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. K. W. Powdrill Ablene, Texas Recruited by Sgt. R. T. Hunter	Platoon 1027 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. I. Castro Jr. Queen Creek, Ariz. Recruited by Sgt. D. Leach	Platoon 1028 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. E. Quintero Downers Grove, Ill. Recruited by Sgt. C. A. Visaya	Platoon 1023 HIGH SHOOTER (334) Pvt. D. A. DeGroot Keenesburg, Colo. Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. K. Parker	Platoon 1022 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. F. A. Divins II Colmesneil, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. R. Stokes
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BRAVO COMPANY

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Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. K. Williams
Chaplain
Lt. D. Felton
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. B. J. Robbins

COMPANY B

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Executive Officer
Capt. G. A. Ankrah
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. S. P. Farrow

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Staff Sgt. R. L. Raines

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Staff Sgt. J. R. Mogollon
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Staff Sgt. H. J. Angulo
Sgt. K. V. Bobbio
Sgt. C. Flores

Pvt. C. Arcadia
Pvt. H. S. Athwal
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Pvt. D. Baldwin
Pvt. C. J. Barajas
Pvt. S. A. Bassen
Pfc. S. P. Bay
*Pfc. R. C. Bloxson
Pvt. R. P. Boorujy
Pfc. D. S. Buchanan
Pvt. M. B. Buck
Pfc. S. Campbell
Pvt. K. J. Carmon
Pvt. J. M. Chavez
Pvt. C. J. Cigelske
Pvt. D. A. Cooney
Pvt. B. C. Coplin
Pvt. E. Correa
Pvt. R. M. Crum
*Pfc. C. A. Cruz
Pvt. L. N. Davies
Pvt. J. D. Dehan
Pvt. A. S. Drury
Pfc. P. D. Durk
Pvt. J. M. Englert
*Pfc. B. Z. Espinoza
Pfc. B. D. Ewbank
Pvt. M. J. Fernandez
Pvt. C. R. Fletcher
Pfc. N. J. Fremstad
Pfc. G. G. Frye
Pvt. J. W. Gadberry
Pvt. P. C. Gilyard
Pvt. R. V. Groenke
Pfc. S. D. Gueli
Pfc. T. E. Haldeman
Pvt. Z. J. Hall
*Pfc. J. E. Harris
Pvt. M. K. Harrison
Pvt. T. A. Hathaway
Pfc. J. L. Hayden
Pfc. R. S. Heagney
Pfc. P. M. Hernandez
Pfc. D. R. Hickey
Pfc. B. W. Hickok
Pfc. D. J. Holcomb
Pvt. W. T. Howell
Pvt. A. M. Hughes
*Pfc. D. J. Hungerford
Pfc. J. H. Jefferies
Pvt. C. E. Johnson
Pfc. C. L. Knecht
Pvt. B. M. Knowles
*Lance Cpl. J. M. Krausen
Pvt. M. A. Maaninen
Pvt. A. J. Maddox
Pvt. A. P. Malovich
Pvt. K. C. Martinez
Pvt. A. J. McMinn
Pvt. T. R. McRea
Pfc. M. R. Meske
Pvt. A. M. Millikan
Pvt. M. D. Mindham
Pfc. R. R. Minor
Pvt. D. K. Mitchell
Pvt. R. A. Mitobe
Pfc. A. L. Morris
Pvt. J. M. Morris

Pvt. J. C. Morrison
Pfc. K. R. Moser
Pvt. G. R. Newman
Pfc. S. L. Nichols
Pvt. A. Ortiz
Pfc. H. A. Otto
Pvt. Z. T. Owens
Pvt. M. G. Pacheco
Pvt. L. M. Ploesser
Pfc. A. Rodriguez
Pfc. C. A. Zubiata

PLATOON 1022
Senior Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. T. Leverett
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. G. A. Patten
Sgt. C. S. Serpa

*Pfc. J. A. Alvarez
Pvt. A. Amador
Pfc. B. D. Beniak
*Pfc. K. D. Blackmon
Pvt. J. R. Bowers
Pvt. T. R. Brandt
Pvt. Z. M. Brandt
Pvt. A. M. Bravo
Pvt. D. W. Brickman
Pvt. C. D. Brown
Pvt. W. C. Bryant
Pvt. K. R. Burris
Pfc. S. W. Butler
Pvt. A. C. Cain
Pvt. W. A. Casper
Pfc. A. Castaneda
Pvt. N. E. Cervantes
Pvt. M. B. Champ
Pfc. J. L. Cidrian
Pvt. M. A. Corona
Pvt. O. Cortes
Pvt. A. Crandell
Pvt. P. M. Curtis
Pvt. A. J. DeBinder
Pfc. M. D. DeCock
Pvt. M. A. De La Cruz
Pvt. K. E. Dimes
Pvt. F. A. Divins II
Pfc. S. G. Doliver
Pvt. H. M. Doney
Pvt. D. A. Dunn
Pvt. B. D. Durant
Pvt. J. T. Elrod
Pvt. M. A. Espinoza
Pvt. G. W. Fillmore Jr.
Pvt. J. K. Ford
Pvt. A. R. Frank
*Pfc. D. D. Freburg
Pvt. V. C. Fuller
Pvt. A. Garcia Jr.
Pvt. N. E. Godfrey
Pfc. J. E. Gomez
Pfc. S. E. Gossinger
Pvt. T. A. Graham
Pvt. E. Guajardo
Pvt. S. L. Hanson
Pvt. T. L. Hardtke
Pvt. X. D. Harris
Pvt. D. L. Hasty
*Pfc. M. K. Hiyakumoto
Pvt. T. J. Horner
Pfc. C. D. Huckabay
Pvt. N. T. Izu
Pvt. R. M. Jantz
Pvt. Z. C. Keenan
Pfc. T. P. Le
Pvt. A. J. Lewis
Pfc. M. B. Lingenfelter
Pfc. L. Lo
Pfc. T. P. Loughlin
Pvt. J. D. Luedeke
Pfc. M. J. Malinen
Pvt. C. A. Markham
Pfc. J. M. Martin
Pfc. L. A. Martinez
Pfc. A. D. Masis
Pvt. B. E. McDowra
Pvt. S. R. McMenamin
Pvt. P. K. Meinzer
Pvt. I. Niangoran
Pvt. C. C. Ojard
Pvt. S. C. Olmedo
Pvt. T. R. McRea
Pfc. A. J. Peterson
Pfc. A. Reyes Jr.
Pvt. D. J. Tucker
Pvt. G. A. Winfrey
*Pfc. D. G. Woods
Pvt. D. M. Woods
Pfc. C. N. Zaw
Pvt. N. M. Zuniga

PLATOON 1023

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. L. E. Colon
Drill Instructors
Sgt. E. E. Toppen
Sgt. F. U. Valle

*Pfc. M. W. Aldridge
Pfc. B. T. Amen
Pfc. T. J. Anderson
Pvt. G. T. Arellano
*Pfc. A. R. Armer
Pvt. J. P. Askew
Pfc. D. W. Backe
Pfc. N. A. Banta
Pfc. J. D. Barber
Pvt. C. M. Barrera
Pfc. R. Barrera III
Pvt. M. H. Benson
Pvt. N. C. Beurmann
Pvt. M. B. Bingham
Pfc. J. W. Black
Pvt. J. D. Blackburn
Pvt. W. D. Blan
Pfc. J. T. Boykins
Pvt. C. D. Bradley
Pfc. M. H. Brause
Pvt. J. D. Browder
Pvt. J. K. Brown
Pfc. T. B. Burton
Pvt. E. J. Cardoso
Pfc. M. P. Cervantes Jr.
Pvt. M. S. Chafin
Pvt. C. J. Clifton
Pvt. D. E. Cornella
Pvt. M. H. Covey
Pvt. K. J. Coyle
Pvt. M. G. Dakesian
Pvt. D. A. Degroot
Pvt. N. J. Dossett
Pvt. D. L. Featherston
Pvt. M. G. Fleek
Pfc. J. D. Freeman
Pvt. C. J. Fuqua
Pvt. B. D. Gary
Pvt. J. Gomez
Pvt. T. R. Gooch
Pvt. D. A. Gross
Pvt. L. G. Gutierrez
Pvt. D. K. Hainsworth
Pvt. J. T. Harris
Pvt. T. Hart
Pfc. J. E. Heaton
Pfc. T. L. Hedden
Pfc. J. S. Hicks
Pvt. G. D. Hunter
Pfc. D. M. Johnson
*Pfc. B. J. Kesler
Pvt. K. J. Kim
Pfc. J. M. King
Pvt. D. J. Kovach
Pvt. J. J. Laraortiz Jr.
Pvt. G. C. Lightfoot
Pvt. A. C. Luedke
Pvt. E. M. Luz
Pvt. J. E. Martindale
Pfc. J. C. Mason
*Pfc. J. C. McCoy
Pfc. T. J. McManus
Pfc. M. G. Miller
Pvt. J. D. Mischloney
Pvt. S. A. Monroe
Pvt. K. A. Motesbosques
Pvt. L. A. Nagelkerk
Pvt. L. A. Nealey III
Pfc. K. A. Nemeck
Pfc. B. C. O'Connor
Pvt. M. Olson
Pvt. C. J. Orrison
Pvt. J. D. Palmer
Pfc. E. A. Pena
Pvt. D. A. Pierson Jr.
Pvt. D. K. Polcyn Jr.
Pvt. L. D. Pozzi Jr.
*Pfc. Z. F. Schoning
Pfc. E. J. Snyder
Pvt. J. M. Wolfert

SERIES 1025

Series Commander
Capt. C. S. Edwards
Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. R. Barrientes

PLATOON 1025

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. D. Chacon
Drill Instructors
Sgt. M. L. Harmon
Sgt. A. L. Langley
Sgt. E. Munoz

Pfc. A. M. Arellano
Pvt. L. J. Aufvaicall
Pfc. V. S. Arzadon
Pfc. E. R. Barahona
Pfc. B. D. Bates
Pvt. C. A. Bennett
Pfc. C. J. Birdt
Pfc. J. D. Blanton
Pvt. A. Bravo
Pfc. J. T. Byers
Pfc. A. Carkisian
Pfc. M. G. Carroll
Pfc. J. S. Charles
Pvt. C. W. Coleman
Pvt. J. A. Concetti
Pvt. J. G. Copleman
Pvt. B. M. Currie
Pfc. J. J. Deleon
Pfc. C. J. Dominguez-Luna
Pfc. J. C. Dudley
Pvt. M. J. Ede
Pfc. R. Estrada
*Pfc. B. H. Fecher
Pfc. A. R. Feeney
Pfc. J. H. Fonseca
Pfc. T. W. Fudge
Pfc. C. D. Gallardo
Pvt. J. Galvan
Pfc. G. L. Galvez
Pfc. J. C. Garza
Pvt. J. K. Gillespie
Pvt. J. S. Gilligan
Pvt. J. Gonzales
Pvt. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. C. J. Graham
Pfc. B. C. Grindle
Pvt. I. D. Guerrero
Pfc. J. M. Hamilton
Pvt. G. W. Hartley
Pvt. A. Herrera
Pvt. E. G. Houghtaling
Pvt. J. W. Hurst
Pvt. S. D. Jeffrey
Pvt. W. T. Johnson
Pvt. S. S. Kang
Pvt. A. D. Kelly
Pvt. D. Kim
Pfc. S. D. Kirby
Pvt. H. C. Knipprath
Pfc. F. J. Leyva
Pvt. E. L. Lopez
Pvt. L. E. Lozada
Pfc. M. Lu
*Pfc. R. A. Marquez
Pfc. A. L. Marshall
Pvt. O. T. Martinez
Pvt. J. R. May
Pfc. J. M. McHale
Pvt. G. S. McKinney
Pfc. M. S. Mejia
*Pfc. R. A. Minden
Pvt. C. S. Miramontes
Pvt. O. J. Moore
Pvt. H. T. Morgan
Pvt. K. G. Munyer
Pvt. D. H. Neely
Pvt. C. L. Niccum
Pfc. M. H. Nordstrom
*Pfc. K. A. Nottingham
Pvt. S. D. Orr
Pfc. L. A. Orta
Pvt. C. A. Patterson
Pfc. C. Pena
Pvt. F. G. Perez
Pvt. J. B. Perez
Pvt. B. Z. Phillips
Pfc. N. S. Piercy
*Pfc. E. J. Pillow
Pvt. S. M. Sotoaragon
Pvt. M. W. Stewart
Pvt. J. C. Wilkins

PLATOON 1026

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. A. Gordon
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. Griffith
Staff Sgt. J. A. Mireles
Staff Sgt. B. S. Rivas

Pvt. A. Aispuro
Pvt. M. D. Baker
Pvt. A. J. Beach
Pfc. F. Bojorguez
Pvt. L. A. Brewer
Pvt. C. J. Browne
Pvt. K. S. Cadengo
Pfc. H. H. Contreras
Pfc. L. A. Farias
Pvt. A. T. Irvin
Pvt. C. M. Lopez

Pvt. J. M. Lopez-Salazar
Pvt. D. J. Martinez III
Pvt. C. F. Marukot
Pfc. J. B. Mazon
*Pfc. J. Mendez
Pvt. R. R. Munoz
Pfc. R. Noriega
Pvt. G. Nunez
Pvt. J. A. Ordonez
Pvt. N. M. Padilla
Pfc. C. D. Pedraza
Pvt. S. D. Pena
Pfc. M. E. Perez
Pvt. B. J. Phillips
*Pfc. C. M. Pierce
*Pfc. K. W. Powdrill
Pvt. T. M. Powell Jr.
Pfc. M. E. Pudimott
Pvt. J. C. Pudiwitr
Pvt. R. K. Ramirez
Pvt. A. D. Retel
Pfc. E. A. Reynolds
*Pfc. C. L. Richardson
Pfc. A. A. Riego
Pfc. J. A. Rios Jr.
Pvt. L. C. Roberts
Pfc. T. R. Roberts
Pvt. J. S. Rodriguez
Pvt. L. R. Rowden
Pvt. T. A. Rugg
Pvt. J. A. Sackman
Pfc. R. L. Schrankler
Pvt. K. S. Sepeda
Pvt. H. D. Shelton
Pvt. J. A. Sheneman
Pvt. J. F. Slaney
Pvt. A. M. Smith
Pvt. L. L. Smith II
Pvt. O. Sotomeza
Pfc. C. J. Stevens
Pvt. M. A. Stevenson
Pfc. C. M. Stout
Pvt. S. D. Striegel
Pfc. G. J. Sturdivant
Pvt. R. C. Swanson
Pvt. A. R. Sweet
Pfc. J. M. Syler
Pvt. K. J. Tan
Pfc. E. Tellez
Pvt. R. D. Tenney
Pfc. N. A. Thompson
Pvt. M. J. Torres
Pvt. J. L. Trammell
Pvt. D. Q. Tran
Pvt. J. M. Trout
Pvt. A. D. Tuchscherer
Pvt. J. F. Uri
Pfc. T. M. Vandam
Pvt. E. W. Vanklei
Pvt. D. Vasquez
Pvt. F. J. Vasquez
Pfc. P. W. Wangai
Pfc. B. B. Wick
Pvt. A. S. Williams
*Pfc. C. A. Woodward
Pfc. J. N. Wyant
Pvt. S. J. Yaeger
Pvt. S. M. Yarbrough

PLATOON 1027

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. F. Reyes
Drill Instructors
Sgt. J. W. Greeley
Sgt. D. P. Oliver

Pfc. A. T. Adams
Pvt. B. J. Allen
Pfc. E. J. Anderson
Pfc. J. Aragon
Pvt. J. D. Becker
Pvt. T. J. Bessinger
Pvt. M. D. Bieker
Pvt. J. R. Blatter
Pvt. J. L. Bracy
Pfc. J. C. Burton
Pfc. J. L. Burton
Pvt. R. W. Butler
Pvt. S. G. Cabrera
*Pfc. I. Castro Jr.
Pfc. J. S. Cepeda
Pvt. D. F. Chandler Jr.
Pfc. L. M. Comstock
Pvt. M. A. Corns III
Pfc. J. D. Davis
Pvt. M. S. Davis
Pfc. D. R. DeClue
Pvt. T. L. DeClue
Pfc. E. L. Dobey
Pvt. G. K. Dow
Pvt. J. M. Edwards

Pvt. A. I. El-Nakib
Pvt. L. C. Federico
Pvt. S. M. French
Pvt. M. A. Gannon
Pfc. C. F. Gonzalez-Estrella
Pfc. K. L. Harper
Pfc. J. Hernandez
*Pfc. B. E. Hobbs
Pfc. M. A. Horvath
Pvt. J. J. Irish
Pvt. J. M. Janicke
Pfc. S. R. Jenkins
Pfc. W. D. Kaser
Pvt. S. M. Ketchum
Pvt. J. A. Kneifel
Pfc. R. Kolb
Pfc. M. A. Krolik
Pvt. R. S. Landa
Pvt. S. A. Landis
Pvt. D. Lee
Pfc. W. C. Lewis Jr.
Pvt. M. D. Maloney
Pvt. D. Manuel
Pvt. J. O. Martinez
Pvt. J. J. Marstaeller
Pvt. F. Martinez
Pfc. T. M. Mayorga Jr.
Pvt. E. H. Melton
Pvt. T. H. Nakagawa
*Pfc. N. W. Novosad
Pfc. J. V. Olson
Pvt. B. S. Page
Pfc. J. J. Palacios
Pfc. B. R. Peasley
Pvt. R. A. Polson
Pfc. I. J. Radusinovic
Pvt. N. W. Rhanor
Pfc. J. M. Riegler
Pvt. J. E. Robinson
Pfc. J. A. Roman
Pvt. K. Sankar
Pvt. R. L. Scott
Pvt. M. D. Sears
Pvt. R. B. Smith
Pvt. D. J. Stredwick
Pvt. K. R. Tyler
*Pfc. C. P. Vang
Pvt. F. J. Vonfriedland
Pvt. A. D. Weaver
Pvt. D. C. White
*Pfc. B. A. Wilhite
Pvt. M. C. Wilkerson
Pvt. C. A. Wilkins
Pfc. H. G. Yacapin
Pvt. C. G. Yu

PLATOON 1028

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. A. Saracay
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. C. Chromy
Staff Sgt. A. G. Librando
Staff Sgt. D. Perez

Pvt. C. W. Allison
Pfc. A. Alonzo
Pvt. G. R. Kuster
Pvt. M. H. Perdue
Pvt. A. V. Pham
Pvt. J. J. Pierce-Powell
Pfc. C. W. Pike
Pfc. J. R. Pinto
Pvt. C. K. Powell
Pfc. C. P. Provost
Pfc. P. R. Pugh
Pfc. A. E. Quintero
Pvt. G. R. Ramos-Quierrez
*Pfc. G. Retana-Ulcigrai
Pvt. F. D. Reyes
Pfc. J. W. Rhoades
*Pfc. D. D. Rieser
Pfc. J. S. Riley
Pfc. A. D. Rome
Pvt. C. D. Rountree
Pvt. C. W. Rowe
Pvt. S. M. Rowland
*Pfc. G. E. Rumley
Pvt. A. Salinas Jr.
Pvt. E. Sanchez
Pvt. C. P. Sand
Pvt. N. J. Santos
Pfc. J. C. Scott
Pvt. N. D. Senior
Pvt. C. Serna
Pfc. D. A. Sessum
Pfc. T. T. Shaw
Pvt. W. R. Simons
Pfc. J. G. Skoda
Pvt. J. L. Slinkard
Pfc. A. W. Smith
Pvt. D. R. Smith Jr.

Pfc. M. L. Smith
Pfc. P. J. Spanheimer
Pfc. C. L. Spears
Pvt. M. T. Staggs
Pvt. Z. B. Stanelle
Pfc. N. R. Stapp
Pvt. M. L. Steele
Pvt. Z. K. Steele
Pvt. J. J. Storey
Pfc. C. S. Stukenholtz
Pvt. J. M. Sweet
Pfc. J. E. Tabor
Pfc. M. R. Teske
Pvt. J. P. Thacker
Pvt. M. A. Thieman Jr.
Pfc. R. Tibble
Pvt. R. C. Tonking
Pfc. M. A. Torr
Pvt. M. Torrez
Pvt. A. Trevino Jr.
Pfc. S. K. Tupua
Pfc. G. C. Turner
Pfc. I. D. Turner
Pvt. M. C. Ulery
*Pfc. N. D. Valle
Pfc. S. A. Vance
Pfc. S. Vang
Pvt. W. M. Vanisi
Pvt. N. T. Van Norman
Pvt. O. Vega-Mendoza
Pvt. L. M. Venegas
Pvt. J. Vera-Gonzalez
Pfc. M. V. Vernon
Pvt. E. O. Villareal
Pvt. N. Vue
*Pfc. B. A. Walters
Pvt. S. H. Wheeler
Pvt. A. L. White
Pvt. J. A. Williams
Pfc. Z. K. Williams
Pvt. T. M. Wood
Pfc. X. M. Xiong
Pvt. Z. S. Zillion

* Indicates meritorious promotion

Crucible helps instill mission accomplishment

BY CPL. MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

There are many reasons well-rounded Marines make the Corps what it is today. However, all the traits that make effective warriors are useless unless they can be tied together to transform

For the Marines of Company B, these traits are first instilled during recruit training and then tested and hardened at the 12-stall event of the Crucible, Sept. 28.

"We aren't super men," said Staff Sgt. Leo Librando, drill instructor, Platoon 1028, Company B. "We have to work as a team to accomplish what we do."

The Crucible is a 54-hour training event conducted during Marine Corps Recruit Training at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Crucible requires Marine recruits to overcome mentally and physically-demanding obstacles as a team. They undergo simulated combat stress scenarios which consist of food and sleep deprivation in addition to the rigors of the many obstacles they are required to overcome.

During the Crucible, recruits continue to learn how to work as a team and accomplish whatever mission they are assigned.

"Communication and teamwork are everything," said Librando. "If they can't use teamwork and communicate while on the Crucible, how are they going to be able to use it when in combat?"

The course consists of 12 different stations in which recruits take turns as the squad leader and attempt.

"The whole mission of 12-stall is to introduce leadership traits so if you haven't been in a leadership position, now is your time to shine," said Cpl. Miguel Bautista, field instructor, Field Co., Weapons and Field Training Battalion. "Most of these recruits are straight out of high school and don't have any real leadership experience so we have to build from scratch."

On the variety of obstacles, there are areas painted red that, if touched by a recruit, means death. As a result, they must carry ammunition cans up and down the nearby road before they continue to participate with their squad.

"If the squad leader dies, then another recruit has to be able to take his position and know what's going on and what the plan was," said Bautista. "In actual combat, if something happens to a fire team leader or any leader, the next Marine needs to be able to take the position and each

Marine under him as well."

Bautista added that communication becomes less necessary during exercises if the team has communicated and planned properly before the event.

"If everybody understands what's going on, you really don't need to talk, you just do your part and see what others are doing and do what you know needs to get done," Bautista said. "If the first plan doesn't work though, communication and cooperation become key if the mission is to get accomplished."

According to Librando, the communication recruits had learned thus far turned out to be effective because mission failure was rare. These skills are only the beginning of what recruits will learn during their time in the Corps.

"It's a foundation that they will bring with them and build off of during additional training and eventually, when they join the fleet," said Librando. "It's the first step to them becoming well-rounded Marines."

Librando added that if new Marines keep developing their communication, following, leading and teamwork skills, then the Marine Corps will continue accomplishing missions around the world and remain the world's finest fighting force.



Platoon 1027 recruits complete their first mission objective by transporting a barrel over a steep ramp obstacle during the 12-stall portion of the Crucible. Each of the squad-based missions requires recruits to work together as a team and use effective communication to accomplish the mission.

Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron



A squad of Company B recruits uses teamwork and communication to quickly accomplish one of their missions during the 12-stall portion of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 28. One of the primary reasons recruits must do the 12-stall exercises during the Crucible is to improve their leadership, teamwork and communication abilities. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Recruits from Platoon 1026 maneuver a plank over a gap in an attempt to transport mission-essential equipment, an ammunition can and themselves, across a makeshift plank bridge during the 12-stall portion of the Crucible. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Platoon 1027 recruits provide security during one of the obstacles of the 12-stall event of the Crucible. Recruits learn that every member of a squad is needed in one way or another to complete their mission. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*