

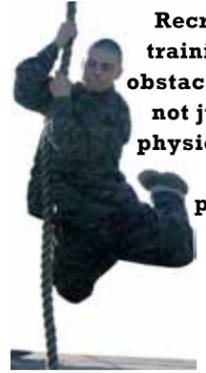
Depot holds annual "Turkey Trot" p. 8



CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Recruit training obstacles not just physical p. 4



Vol. 71 – Issue 35

"WHERE MARINES ARE MADE"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

MBSD band performs USO Holiday Concert

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

On Nov. 19 Marine Band San Diego and the Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band performed at the 20th annual United Services Organization Holiday Concert at Balboa Theater in downtown San Diego.

The free concert was open to the public and those who wished to support Toys for Tots were able to donate a new children's gift. The concert gave the San Diego community a chance to enjoy music while giving back and celebrating the holidays.

"We're a part of the San Diego community, so it's good that we give back to them," said Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region commanding general, who brought his family along to enjoy the concert.

0Gunnery Sgt. Christian Arellano,

Marine Band San Diego enlisted conductor, said this concert is an opportunity for the band to give back to the USO and the community for supporting the military.

"This concert really shows a bond between the USO and military," said Arellano.

Though Marine Band San Diego performs frequently in different venues, they were thrilled to participate in the holiday concert, giving them a chance to bond with their local community, said Arellano.

"I really enjoy getting to lead the Marines and help them communicate through music," said Arellano. "You can communicate a lot through music and these Marines get to do that in the most emotional, lifting way."

Many guests brought their children along just to experience

see USO ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego band performs at the 20th annual United Services Organization Holiday Concert at Balboa Theater in downtown San Diego. The free concert was open to the public for those who wished to support the USO's holiday program. The concert gave the San Diego community a chance to enjoy music while giving back to the community and celebrating the holidays.

New track, field project contributes to green initiative

BY CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
Chevron staff

A \$3.1 million project to upgrade and resurface the recruit running track and interior running field aboard Marine

Corps Recruit Depot San Diego began Nov. 15.

The Olympic-style, 16-foot-wide running track with a state-of-the-art synthetic cushion surface and interior track field covered in artificial Easy-Turf

grass is being installed to contribute to the depot's green initiatives.

The benefits of the synthetic grass installation include improved water conservation and storm water management, enhanced erosion control, and reduced need for field maintenance staffing as well as fertilizers and pesticides. EasyTurf is also 100 percent recyclable, hypoallergenic and antimicrobial.

The new track is one of many "green" changes to be implemented aboard the depot within the next year. Upcoming projects include the installation of solar power water heater systems, more efficient air conditioning systems and gray water recovery systems.

According to Richard Hatcher, depot energy manager, the goal is to reduce energy use by 30 percent over a 10-year period that started in 2003.

Recently, solar panels were installed

over the bleachers by the parade deck to produce energy and provide shelter for graduations, as well as panels installed behind medical and next to the running track which act as cover for parking. Additional energy-producing solar panels are anticipated to be installed in 2012.

Artificial EasyTurf grass is also currently being installed throughout the recruit training area.

"Areas that support recruit training are the most energy intense on the depot because these buildings operate twenty-four-seven, year-round," said Hatcher. "Projects that reduce energy in these areas have a greater affect on our base-wide energy use."

The project will have no immediate impact on recruit training and the training schedule will continue as normal.



Cpl. Kristin E. Moreno

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is currently undergoing a \$3.1 million project to upgrade and resurface the recruit running track and interior running field, as well as install artificial EasyTurf grass in several recruit training areas.

Depot Marines named Musicians of the Year

BY LANCE CPL. KATALYNN RODGERS
Chevron staff

Twenty-four Marines from across the Marine Corps competed to become the Corps' top enlisted musicians. They were measured by their proficiency as Marines, musicians and leaders. Only two, one staff noncommissioned officer and a noncommissioned officer, would come out on top and earn the title of Musician of the Year.

This year, two of Marine Band San Diego's members earned the title Musicians of the Year.

Sgt. Ryan C. Jones and Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Bley were selected and will be recognized at a ceremony during the annual

Marine Corps Music Leadership Symposium in Chicago, Ill. Dec. 13.

"I'm really excited to know that my Marines won this," said Master Sgt. Stephen Jeremiah, bandmaster, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "It lets you know your unit is doing something right. When you bring something like this home, everyone gets to celebrate, not just the individual."

This award is Marine Corps-wide, with an SNCO and NCO being nominated from each of the 12 Marine Corps bands. The musicians are then evaluated much in the same way as a board. The Marine's rifle qualification, physical fitness test, combat fitness test and swim qualification scores are looked

at along with other criteria.

They are also evaluated by their impact on their unit and going above and beyond their every day duties.

"Most people think being in the band is easy," said Jeremiah. "That couldn't be further from the truth."

Staff Sgt. Bley, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., has been the small ensemble leader for Marine Band San Diego since July 2009. The small ensemble executes approximately 65 percent of the unit's mission, and the leader is responsible for the coordination of logistics and musical product for that 65 percent.

"Being nominated for this shows me that hard work, dedi-

see MUSICIANS ▶ 6

Heavy on the whipped cream



Cpl. Kristin E. Moreno

A Marine is served dessert during the Single Marine Thanksgiving lunch hosted by the staff noncommissioned officers and officers of Headquarters and Service Battalion Nov. 22. The lunch was held to provide single Marines with some home cooking for the holidays. Once the single Marines were served, all other Marines were invited to grab a plate.

From out of the past



David Douglas Duncan

Lance Cpl. Ernest Delgado looks in astonishment as he is shown a photo of himself that is displayed in Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's Command Museum's Vietnam Exhibit, Nov. 16, during Platoon 3317's 45th anniversary of their bootcamp graduation. Delgado was unaware the museum had this photo until Kenneth Christie, a fellow platoon member, brought him here after five years of searching for Delgado. "I can't even tell you how it made me feel," said Delgado. "I was very proud, and it was life-changing to be here with my platoon and one of my drill instructors when it was shown to me." The photo of Delgado was in Life Magazine Mar. 18, 1968, and is entitled "Battle Fatigue set in long ago for most the men [at Khe Sanh]."

USO ❖ 1

the musical melodies and help them gain an appreciation for music.

"It's important that children listen and develop a musical appreciation. That's why I brought mine here today," said Raquel Deblin, Navy spouse, who brought her two daughters.

The concert started out with the Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, an upbeat children friendly band of three, based out of Los Angeles, playing holiday classics.

During the second hour, Marine Band San Diego filled the theater with a wide variety of instrumental music and singing, showcasing just a few of their talents.

"The Marine Corps Band was definitely the best part of the concert, it was nice

to be able to see them perform," said Deblin.

Shortly before the concert ended, Santa Claus came out to share a treat with the children. Santa and the Marines gathered all the children on stage, and Santa told them a holiday story that brought many smiles.

"Of course my children loved seeing Santa Claus and having him tell them a story, it was probably the highlight for them," said Deblin.

Marine Band San Diego finished up their holiday performance with one last five-minute piece.

"The last melody of songs mixed with Christmas music was my favorite," said Yoo. "The Marine Band San Diego is very talented and did a great job putting the melodies together."



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Santa Claus tells children a story during the USO holiday concert at Balboa Theater Nov. 21. Santa invited all the children on stage as Marine Band San Diego performed.



Depot military members, civilian employees and families are invited to

MCRD's 2011 Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, Dec. 10, 3:30 to 5 p.m

A concert of holiday music by Marine Band San Diego will be followed by the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Refreshments will be available

Those attending should feel free to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots

BRIEFS

Santa visits

That Jolly ol' Elf in red and white visits the depot's Main Exchange Mall, tomorrow and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come out, say hello and get a picture with him for free.

December Nights

Members of the Single Marine Program will attend "December Nights" in Balboa Park, a premier holiday festival, tomorrow from 4 until 10 p.m. This event will include free museums, festival activities, food and spirits as well as entertainment.

Round-trip transportation will be provided.

The event is open to single or unaccompanied service members aboard MCRD San Diego only. Sign up today, space is limited.

For more information call Diana Vuong, Semper Fit Interim Single Marine Program coordinator at (619) 524-8083 or e-mail at vuongd@usmc-mccs.org.

VA hospital visit

The Single Marine Program is looking for volunteers to hand out holiday cards to patients at the VA Hospital Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Volunteers give patients the opportunity to mail out holiday cards to their families. Round-trip transportation and chow is provided.

For more information contact Diana Vuong, Semper Fit Interim Single Marine Program coordinator at (619) 524-8083 or via e-mail at vuongd@usmc-mccs.org.

Trees for troops

MCRD and WRR active duty members and/or their family members can pick up a free Christmas tree Thursday at the Home Store and Garden Center starting at 1 p.m. Current military identification is required at check in.

It's one tree per family. Pick up for friends will not be permitted. Exceptions will not be granted.

Trees will be distributed while supplies last.

For more information contact the MCCS MCRD Coordinator at (619) 725-6445 or your Family Readiness Officer.

Vertical Hold

The Single Marine Program will be taking a day trip to Vertical Hold rock climbing facility Dec. 10. The event is free and includes lessons, gear and a day pass. Round-trip transportation will be provided. This trip is open to single or unaccompanied service members aboard MCRD San Diego only. Sign up today, space is limited.

For more information contact Diana Vuong, Semper Fit Interim Single Marine Program coordinator at (619) 524-8083 or via e-mail at vuongd@usmc-mccs.org.

Free movies

The Single Marine Program has scheduled a free movie night at the AMC Mission Valley theater Dec. 14. Round-trip transportation, movie ticket, small popcorn and small drink are included. The event is open to single or unaccompanied service members aboard MCRD San Diego only.

For more information contact Diana Vuong, Semper Fit Interim Single Marine Program coordinator at (619) 524-8083 or via e-mail at vuongd@usmc-mccs.org.

Send briefs to:

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

Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks: "What is your favorite holiday movie? Why?"



"It's a Wonderful Life.' It shows you that you need to seize the moment and not worry so much about what's happening tomorrow or the next day." Barbara McCurtis, director, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Museum



"I love 'Four Christmases' with Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn. It's absolutely hilarious." Cpl. Fatemeh Carradine, postal clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"I like 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.' He starts off all mean and this little girl comes around and changes his whole life around." Lance Cpl. Daniel Delgado, administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

Corps eyes Pacific after Afghanistan

BY LANCE CPL. DANIEL A. WETZEL
Headquarters Marine Corps

ARLINGTON, Va. – With the current budget crisis, all branches of the military are looking for ways to cut spending. The downsizing of service members from Afghanistan in the near future have some people concerned about future troop placement.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos spoke at a conference in Arlington Va., Nov. 18 where he said the Corps is getting back to its amphibious roots and stewarding the nation's trust as the Corps repositions Marines from the Middle East to the Pacific.

"Our goal as we come out of Afghanistan is to reorient to the Pacific," Amos said. "I'm very excited about Australia. That will be good for the nation as that part of the world is not threatening, but significant."

The Corps' Amphibious force mission includes maintaining freedom of movement for sea trade, providing operational reach and increased agility. This will help keep waters safe and give time to diplomatic leaders during a crisis.

"The world's issues do not

always have a clear answer," Amos said. "Our forward deployment gives the nation time to make a decision."

At any given moment there are 23,000 ships traversing the ocean. Many of these ships account for 95 percent of the world's commerce.

These decisions could require quick action from Marines Amos said.

"When we respond from a forward posture, our response time is almost immediate," Amos stated at a conference earlier this year. "The goal of our engagement activities is to minimize the conditions for conflict and enable host nation forces to effectively address instability as it occurs."

The 82nd Congress directed the Corps as the force intended to be "the most ready when the Nation is least ready." This burden of readiness is what Marines were and are trained to achieve.

"This expectation exists because of the costly lessons our nation learned during the Korean War," Amos said. "A lack of preparedness in the beginning stages of conflict very nearly resulted in defeat."

Since then, Marines have set the standard for crisis response. From a sea

bound operation in the Mediterranean earlier this year, Marine forces rescued a downed Air Force pilot in Libya within 90 minutes of being notified.

Likewise, within 20 hours of orders, forward deployed Marines arrived in Japan and began humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions after a tsunami devastated the country March 11.

Over the past year, Marine Corps amphibious forces have conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Pakistan: supported combat operations in Afghanistan with ground forces and air support; and responded to piracy on container ship MV Magellan Star. Then they also supported operations in Libya and assisted our allies in the Philippines and Japan.

"We possess the finesse, the training and tools to knock at the front door diplomatically, pick the lock skillfully or kick it in violently," Amos said.

Even with drawbacks in finances and manpower, Amos said the Corps will continue to do what America wants by being the expeditionary force in readiness; self-sufficient and ready for everything.

"There are three financial levers I can influence," Amos said. "Manpower, equipment, and operations and maintenance."

The Marine Corps has already planned on reducing the number of troops from 202,000 to 186,800, however, because of further budget cuts in the Department of Defense, Amos said that number would probably decrease.

In an address to Congress Nov. 2, Amos said the Corps will consistently examine and streamline its needs to meet the nation's fiscal challenges and told them how America's investment in the Marine Corps is beneficial to the nation and the world.

"As our nation draws down there's a real level of risk," Amos said. "The world's not getting nicer."

And as troops are being reduced it also reduces the military's capacity to do things everywhere and be ready for everything, Amos said. But, for a comparably small financial investment, the Corps continues to provide protection the nation needs in an increasingly uncertain world.

"The Marine Corps will continue to be our nation's risk mitigation force," Amos said.



Lance Cpl. Daniel A. Wetzel

General James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, explains the importance of the Marine Corps and the Corps' future with the United States to a group of people at Arlington Va., Nov. 18. He spoke of moving troops from Afghanistan to the Pacific.

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Depot recruits learn confidence, overcome fears

BY LANCE CPL. CRYSTAL DRUERY
Chevron staff

When recruits come to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, they don't realize how many challenges they will face. Recruit training consists of more than just a physical challenge, it also forces recruits to face

personal

fears such as the fear of heights or water. But after a few weeks of training they have to overcome them.

On Nov. 21 the recruits of Company D faced some of their fears through multiple obstacles and push their bodies to a new physical limit on the confidence course during training week three.

The confidence course is an

integrated event designed to help recruits overcome their fear of heights through high obstacles, said Sgt. Anthony Butler, martial arts training instructor, Recruit Training Regiment.

By accomplishing the course, recruits are pushed out of their comfort zone they have grown accustomed to prior to arrival at the depot, said Butler.

During training, recruits experience the confidence course twice. During

the first experience they lack the confidence to perform all of the obstacles, said Butler.

"During the fourth week recruits get a second go at the confidence course. By this time the recruits have built up some confidence making it a little easier for them to take on the bigger obstacles," said Butler.

The obstacles during training week three aren't as high and recruits don't have to cross a water obstacle until they qualify in Marine Combat Water Survival training.

"This is just a part of the process of building their confidence for all the challenges that are to come," said Gunnery Sgt. Joby Clark, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2067, Co. D.

Clark said the recruits will be faced with similar challenges, not only during recruit training, but once they become Marines.

One obstacle Co. D faced was the rope swing which consists of running, grabbing a hanging rope and jumping it across a small gap. For Recruit Sidney Schroeder, Platoon 1065, Co. D, this particular obstacle was the most challenging for him.

"I had a hard time getting a hold of the rope and keeping enough momentum to make it across," said Schroeder, who completed the obstacle after several attempts.

While Schroeder was able to make it over the obstacle on his own, many recruits require extra motivation while facing heights.

"The greatest experience is watching a recruit get over (his fear of) heights," said Butler. "On the third or fourth bar on the Stairway to Heaven, recruits who fear heights will start crying, wanting to go home, but a drill instructor motivates them to keep climbing and eventually they finish with a new sense of confidence."

The Stairway to Heaven is a 40-foot, 12-rung, ladder that shoots straight up in the air. This is one challenge recruits have to overcome at the confidence course. Many of the obstacles require recruits to think outside of the box to successfully complete them, said Butler. The obstacles require thinking instead of just physically making it over a wall. Other than the obstacles, recruits also have added challenges between obstacles such as running, carrying fellow recruits, and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Training.

"The confidence course is part of their physical challenges. It allows them to actually see the obstacles and get over them, building confidence," said Clark.

He said that many of the other obstacles in recruit training are more mental, making this course a good experience for the recruits to be able to visualize their challenge at hand.

"The course made me feel good," said Schroeder. "I pushed my body to do more than I thought I could."



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Recruits from Company D take on the Dirty Name obstacle during the confidence course Nov. 21 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The confidence course is an integrated event designed to help recruits overcome their fears through a series of obstacles like the Dirty Name, where a recruit has to jump from one log to a higher log.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Recruits from Company D attempt the rope swing during the confidence course Nov. 21 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The confidence course is an integrated event designed to help recruits overcome their fears through a series of obstacles.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Recruits from Company D complete the skyscraper obstacle during the confidence course Nov. 21 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The confidence course is an integrated event designed to help recruits overcome their fears through obstacles like the skyscraper which requires recruits to use their upper body strength to climb three stories.



Lance Cpl. Crystal Druery

Recruits from Company D practice buddy drags between obstacles on the confidence course. Aside from the obstacles, recruits also face other added challenges such as running, carrying fellow recruits, and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training ... pushing them to their limits.

MUSICIANS ◀ 1

cation and giving 110 percent still means something,” said Bley. “It’s nice to be awarded for doing that.”

Bley was also the acting bandmaster, which is usually a master sergeant or master gunnery sergeant position – at least two grades above Bley’s. As acting bandmaster, Bley developed the unit’s operational plan, rehearsal schedule, training schedule, daily operational schedule and evaluated all band requests that were received.

“I’m humbled and honored by winning this,” said Bley. “I am willing to do the hard jobs, and do them to the best of my ability. I take absolute ownership of my assigned mission and attack it until completion. I thrive on increased responsibility.”

Bley is also a Marine Corps Martial Arts Black Belt Instructor Trainer. He makes it a priority to train Marines in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. He also trains and leads three martial arts instructors within the band. He has directly led 75 hours and supervised 315 hours of martial arts training and combat conditioning.

“Staff Sgt. Bley always loves sharing knowledge with his Marines,” said Cpl. Sean Yellin, musician, Service Co., H&S Bn. “It didn’t matter if it was about his music ensemble or every day Marine tasks.”

This recognition allows Marines in his charge to emulate his example and see what hard work has done for him and do that for themselves.

“He’s a good Marine, and he cares a lot,” said Jeremiah. “It shows in his actions, he demonstrates it by being at work

very early and staying very late, all for one purpose – to take care of his Marines.”

Jones, a native of Penfield, N.Y., leads his Marines by example. It shows in his musical proficiency score, he plays the French horn at a 3.04 level which exceeds the required level for a SNCO in the band. He was a member of the brass quintet and has been a featured soloist with the Concert Band.

The musical proficiency score is a score used to determine how good a musician is. It is based on a 4.0 scale, and an applicant for the band military occupational specialty needs a 2.7 to be accepted.

“I’m very thankful for the mentors and leaders I’ve had over the years,” said Jones. “It feels good to know you are doing something right.”

Jones was the operations noncommissioned officer in charge, a position that is normally assigned to a SNCO at Marine Band San Diego. This position is critical to the accomplishment of their mission.

“Sgt. Jones is a motivator,” said Lance Cpl. Kristian Simonis, musician, Service Co., H&S Bn. “Everything he did was out of the kindness of his heart. He was a great musician and an even better Marine. He was 100 percent Marine before a musician, everything he did was ‘oorah Marine Corps.’”

Some of the duties as the operations NCOIC are making sure that all temporary assigned duty orders are submitted correctly and on time, logging unit statistics and commitment logistics. They also need to make arrangements for transportation of Marines while they will be travelling with the band.

“Sgt. Jones put a lot of

time in to contribute to these Marines,” said Bley. “His goal was overall improvement of the unit. He had spent plenty of his off hours training his Marines in MCMAP.”

Jones has trained Marines within and outside of the band for 124 hours in MCMAP. He has aided in the advancement of many Marines to higher belts. “My prime directive is taking care of my Marines ... showing a true interest in them, their personal life, family, work and their accomplishments,” said Jones.

Jones says he puts his Marines first and sets the example for them to follow. He says that if his Marines run faster than him, he will get up in the morning earlier and run, if they can do more pull-ups than him he will be working to get stronger and set the standard. He believes that as a leader, especially a sergeant, it is imperative to act like a Marine and care.

“Jones is hyper, but in a good way,” said Jeremiah. “He’s like your double shot of energy for the day. He has a great sense of humor and loves to train. Nothing makes him happier than being a Marine. You know the saying ‘if it ain’t raining, we ain’t training?’ Well, no matter the weather, you’ll find him training. He constantly strives to better himself in every way.”

The band is constantly practicing, travelling or playing for ceremonies. This doesn’t leave much down time. However, Jones would go out of his way to help his junior Marines.

“Sgt. Jones made me want to be a better Marine,” said Yellin. “Being a martial arts instructor, he was very physically fit and had a very motivating personality when he was at work.”



Lance Cpl. Katalynn Rodgers

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bley, musician, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, takes time out of his hectic schedule to practice playing music Nov. 23. Bley was named the staff noncommissioned officer of the year for 2011. Nominees were judged based on their performance as Marines and musicians. Judges looked at their rifle qualification scores, physical fitness test and combat fitness test among other criteria.

These Marines have brought an accomplishment to their unit they can all celebrate, and for those under their charge to emulate.

“This gives our young Marines something to look forward to,” said Jeremiah. “It gives them something to strive for.”

Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Kufchak

Parade Reviewing Officer

Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Kufchak was born in Warren, Ohio, March 27, 1962. He enlisted in the Marine Corps January 29, 1982. Kufchak graduated from Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., May 6, 1982.

Upon completion of recruit training, he attended his military occupational specialty school at the Infantry Training School on Camp Geiger in North Carolina where he was promoted to private first class.

After successfully graduating ITS as a mortarman, Kufchak was assigned to the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., where he served as a member of force protection for installation security as a sentry, corporal of the guard and sergeant of the guard. Additionally, he was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal and corporal.

In March 1985, Kufchak was reassigned to Weapons Company, 1st Bn., 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where

he served as a mortar squad leader and forward observer. After completing two unit deployments, Kufchak was assigned to the Regimental Tow Platoon where he trained as a tow gunner. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant February 1, 1988.

During May 1988, Kufchak reported for duty as a primary marksmanship instructor for Weapons and Field Training Bn., Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he taught basic marksmanship to entry level Marines. Upon completion of this tour, he volunteered for service as a drill instructor.

After graduating from class 2-91 in April 1991, Kufchak was assigned to Company B, 1st RTBn., Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, where he completed four cycles as a drill instructor and two cycles as a senior drill instructor.

In March 1993, Kufchak transferred to 1st Bn., 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as an infantry platoon sergeant and battalion operations chief. He was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant October 1, 1993. After completion of his second deployment to Okinawa, Japan, Kufchak received orders to the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, El Toro, Calif., where he served as an instructor for the sergeants course.

In January 1998, Kufchak

was again reassigned to 1st Bn., 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and served as the Weapons Platoon sergeant and company gunnery sergeant for Company B. He was promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant July 1, 1998. After completing two deployments with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in June 2001, Kufchak was reassigned to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., as the engineering chief. He was promoted to the rank of first sergeant May 1, 2002, and reassigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, for duty as the first sergeant for Company H, 2nd RTBn. In March of 2004 he was reassigned to Support Bn., as the company first sergeant of the Receiving Barracks Company.

Upon completion of his tour in San Diego, Kufchak was directed to report to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, where he was assigned to the 5th Marine Regiment and assumed duties as the Weapons Company first sergeant for 3rd Bn., 5th Marines. Upon his selection to sergeant major, Kufchak assumed the post of battalion sergeant major for 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, and deployed with the battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During January 2007, Kufchak was reassigned to 3rd Assault Amphibian Bn., where he assumed his post as the battalion sergeant major.

In June 2008, Kufchak was assigned to Twentynine Palms, Calif., to assume his new post as the regimental sergeant major for 7th Marine

Regiment and subsequently completed a one year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with Regimental Combat Team 7.

In April 2011, Kufchak was reassigned to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division to assume his new post as the division sergeant major. Division.

Kufchak’s personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device and gold star in lieu of second award, Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star and the Combat Action Ribbon with gold star.

“Congratulations Marines. As you should know, we as a Corps have just recently celebrated 236 remarkable years of longevity that has been accented with many major accomplishments! Our future is defined by our past. You now belong to a family rich in history. We await your tremendous contributions that will further define and enhance our lineage and legacy. You have now become a part of history. We are confident in you, who will proceed us.”





Platoon 3230 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. C. J. Wojtkiewicz Denver, Colo. Recruited by Sgt. B. A. Scoggins	Platoon 3233 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. G. E. Esparza-Torres Portland, Ore. Recruited by Staff Sgt. S. Spaulding	Platoon 3229 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. K. L. Lake Los Angeles Recruited by Sgt. E. Pierson	Platoon 3231 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. Williams-Harrington St. Louis Recruited by Sgt. K. L. Zimmerman	Platoon 3234 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. C. Young Guam Recruited by Staff Sgt. R. Terlaje	Platoon 3235 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. A. L. Gonzalez Los Angeles Recruited by Staff Sgt. W. Lehrshall	Platoon 3231 HIGH SHOOTER (343) Pfc. C. W. Nicewanter Waupaca, Wis. Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. C. Graikowski	Platoon 3230 HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. C. D. Dabney St. Louis Recruited by Staff Sgt. L. A. Wallet
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KILO COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. M. A. Reiley
Sgt. Maj. E. Gonzalez
Staff Sgt. J. A. Cargile



COMPANY K Commanding Officer Capt. K. C. Creutzburg Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. J. M. Melendez	SERIES 3229 Series Commander Capt. R. M. Barclay Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. P. Segura	PLATOON 3229 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. S. Rios Drill Instructors Sgt. E. Mendoza Sgt. M. A. Peters	PLATOON 3230 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. G. W. Webber Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. C. Dodson Sgt. M. A. Lee Sgt. B. D. Rembert	PLATOON 3231 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. G. P. Gentry Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. N. V. Priesman Staff Sgt. K. Pryor Sgt. T. A. Steber
	SERIES 3233 Series Commander Capt. D. J. Eckerly Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. G. Walke	PLATOON 3233 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. V. Monroy Drill Instructors Sgt. G. D. Spires Sgt. B. E. Torrence	PLATOON 3234 Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. P. A. Botello Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. W. Morris Sgt. C. Gonzales Sgt. C. M. Levine	PLATOON 3235 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. A. Williams Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. R. A. Griffith Sgt. A. P. Stevens

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

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|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| PLATOON 3229
*Pfc. C. W. Alexander
Pvt. O. Alvarez
Pvt. S. R. Arredondo
Pvt. A. W. Artwohl
Pvt. C. V. Auston
Pvt. N. R. Blank
Pvt. W. B. Bowmanjones
Pfc. J. L. Bridges
Pfc. M. S. Briggs
Pfc. N. A. Carroll
Pvt. T. L. Doering
Pvt. C. J. Harden
Pvt. R. E. Hernandez
Pfc. D. L. Hipsher
Pvt. B. C. Howard
Pvt. C. T. Kock
*Pfc. M. D. Koehler
Pfc. K. L. Lake
Pvt. K. R. Lewis
Pvt. S. D. Lom
Pfc. W. G. Lowder
Pvt. A. C. Martinez
Pfc. R. C. McGullion
Pfc. I. P. McKnabb
Pfc. A. H. Mejorado
Pvt. A. T. Miller
Pvt. A. E. Moran
Pvt. B. P. Mortensen
*Pfc. J. M. Nolan
Pvt. B. J. O'Fallon
Pfc. J. A. Orozco
Pvt. J. Oseguera
Pvt. A. K. Pape
Pvt. R. D. Parra
Pvt. D. W. Pasley
Pvt. I. J. Perez
Pvt. C. R. Pontious
Pvt. J. Ramos
Pvt. A. J. Randazzo
Pvt. A. D. Reese
Pfc. B. C. Reeves
Pfc. Z. W. Regan
Pvt. M. K. Rife
Pvt. D. K. Robbins
Pvt. J. M. Roberts
Pvt. D. F. Robinson
*Pfc. J. L. Rojelio III
Pvt. D. Romero
Pvt. A. N. Rosales
Pvt. L. G. Rysavy
Pfc. M. Salgado
Pvt. L. E. Santiago
Pvt. J. R. Sassen
Pfc. A. D. Sepulveda
Pvt. A. A. Serna-Flores
*Pfc. J. A. Shaidell
Pvt. S. D. Simkins
Pvt. G. W. Smith
Pfc. M. A. Smith
Pvt. B. D. Stuart
Pfc. B. M. Tagliavia
Pvt. T. V. Tomlinson
Pvt. C. C. Townsend
Pvt. J. A. Trejo
Pvt. D. S. Trimble | Pvt. J. E. Urquizo-Trujillo
Pfc. C. J. Valley
Pvt. C. A. Vargas-Heathcock
Pfc. A. Viramontes
Pfc. S. M. Wadsworth
Pvt. G. L. Walls
Pfc. R. J. Whitney
*Pfc. S. M. Wynn

PLATOON 3230
Pfc. M. W. Abernathy
Pfc. S. D. Appelt
*Pfc. D. J. Armstrong
Pvt. B. D. Baker
Pvt. C. A. Baker
Pvt. J. A. Baysinger
Pvt. M. J. Benavides
Pvt. B. V. Benham
Pvt. N. A. Bodkin
Pvt. E. C. Boisvert
Pvt. W. M. Brown III
*Pfc. W. R. Bumpas
Pvt. V. M. Campa Jr.
Pfc. B. D. Capps
Pfc. L. W. Cash Jr.
Pvt. L. K. Cheshire
Pvt. T. S. Chesmore
Pfc. E. O. Coles
Pvt. E. A. Coonce
*Pfc. T. J. Cruz
Pvt. D. M. Curry
*Pfc. C. D. Dabney
Pvt. K. K. Davis
Pvt. M. A. Delreal-Mendoza
Pvt. J. D. Diaz
Pfc. R. L. Dollmeyer
Pvt. A. G. Dunakin
Pfc. T. A. Dunker
Pvt. T. W. Dunklin
Pfc. K. W. Edwards
Pvt. M. V. Espinoza
Pfc. C. P. Fierro
Pvt. C. H. Ho
Pvt. T. C. Hoover
Pvt. N. D. Jackson
Pvt. D. C. Jacobs
Pvt. M. S. Johnson
Pvt. K. D. Kaczmarowski
*Pfc. H. D. Kalb
Pvt. J. D. Kendrick
Pvt. J. F. King
Pvt. Z. T. Lambi
Pfc. J. B. Lewis
Pvt. G. A. Lien
Pvt. M. Perez Jr.
Pvt. O. E. Perez
Pvt. M. F. Porras
Pvt. L. D. Prince
Pvt. N. A. Proctor
Pvt. J. L. Puente
Pvt. D. T. Quichocho
Pvt. J. A. Ramirez
Pvt. C. D. Rin
Pfc. L. R. Rodden | Pvt. C. R. Rosas
Pvt. J. T. Rychtik
Pfc. P. T. Schuchhardt
Pvt. J. A. Sirias
Pvt. J. D. Sission
Pvt. C. R. Smith
Pvt. R. E. Smith
Pvt. M. Solorzano-Ramirez
Pvt. S. A. St. Clair
Pvt. L. C. Thompson
Pfc. S. P. Thornal
Pvt. D. M. Towle
Pvt. A. Villegas
Pfc. E. S. Wallace
Pvt. R. L. Williams
Pvt. E. A. Wilson
*Pfc. C. J. Wojtkiewicz
Pfc. X. F. Wolof
Pvt. T. J. Wright

PLATOON 3231
Pvt. B. S. Ahoyt
Pvt. D. A. Anderson
Pfc. K. M. Aparicio
Pvt. S. N. Avery
Pvt. J. L. Beiersdorf
Pvt. J. A. Benevedo
Pfc. J. D. Bevans
Pvt. G. G. Bienemann-Marcolla
Pvt. Z. E. Black
Pvt. G. H. Bowlby
Pvt. K. G. Braaten
Pvt. C. M. Brown
Pvt. R. A. Buck
Pvt. J. T. Cantwell
Pfc. T. A. Chevalier Jr.
Pvt. D. J. Keefer
Pvt. C. W. Klaver
*Pfc. K. A. Krenceski
Pvt. C. W. Langley
Pfc. I. D. Lopez-Diaz
Pvt. T. E. Lord
Pvt. A. T. Maloy
Pvt. A. J. Marti
Pvt. M. O. Mayberry
Pvt. K. W. McClain
Pvt. D. R. McClung
Pfc. D. A. McDonald
Pvt. F. McHerron
*Pfc. A. K. Medina
Pvt. J. M. Miles
Pfc. J. T. Moore
Pvt. D. K. Moran
Pvt. L. D. Motley
Pfc. D. E. Newell
*Pfc. C. W. Nicewander
Pvt. R. J. Nimeth
Pvt. K. W. Ord
Pvt. R. M. Overstreet
Pvt. E. L. Paras
Pvt. J. J. Petty
Pvt. A. T. Phillips
Pvt. N. L. Posvatz
Pvt. J. A. Potts Jr. | Pvt. J. R. Radley
Pfc. C. N. Rector
Pfc. L. R. Rivera
Pvt. E. Rodriguez
Pfc. E. M. Ryan
Pvt. P. L. Ryan
Pvt. C. A. Saelle
Pvt. R. A. Salazar II
Pvt. A. L. Sanchez
Pvt. C. M. Schisnewski
Pvt. J. D. Schuette
Pvt. S. D. Seitz
Pvt. J. W. Sexton
Pvt. S. M. Sieler
*Pfc. W. J. Sierzant
Pvt. E. R. Simples
Pvt. M. J. Smith
Pvt. M. E. Sorenson
Pfc. B. J. Spada
Pvt. J. C. Stadler
Pvt. B. M. Sturgeon
Pvt. A. D. Surface
Pvt. R. M. Sweatt
Pvt. T. E. Tart
Pvt. J. A. Teige
Pvt. S. D. Umtuch
*Pfc. T. J. Vermillion
Pvt. J. A. Villa
*Pfc. A. Williams-Harrington

PLATOON 3233
Pvt. T. B. Ahrens
Pvt. S. E. Alvarez
*Pfc. S. Alvarez-Terriquez
Pvt. J. L. Aquino-Aguilar
Pfc. T. S. Arlan
Pvt. C. B. Bozarth
Pvt. R. S. Camacho
Pvt. J. R. Catron
Pvt. C. A. Chapman
Pvt. C. M. Chapman
Pvt. M. R. Davis-Leonard
Pvt. C. L. Davis
Pvt. D. C. Earle
*Pfc. G. E. Esparza-Torres
Pvt. A. A. Espinoza
Pvt. B. C. Faught
Pvt. J. C. Fisher
Pfc. D. E. Flom
Pvt. T. M. Flournoy
Pvt. A. L. Floyd
Pvt. C. A. Freimark
Pvt. L. A. Gaines
Pvt. R. A. Gallentine
Pvt. S. M. Gil
Pvt. M. W. Gloria
Pfc. T. J. Goodwin
Pvt. J. R. Gould II
Pvt. M. T. Guillen Jr.
Pvt. J. J. Guinn
Pvt. D. L. Hackler
*Pfc. T. J. Hartl
Pvt. J. Hernandez | Pvt. E. J. Hopper
Pvt. J. P. Jacobson
Pfc. B. C. Jumangit
Pvt. J. M. Karns
Pfc. A. G. Kennedy
Pvt. D. T. Kreft
Pvt. A. D. Kruckeberg III
Pvt. W. T. Krueck
Pfc. A. Lara
Pvt. T. R. Larson II
Pvt. T. D. Lester
Pvt. W. M. Lewis
Pvt. I. S. Majewski
Pvt. M. D. Mayton
Pfc. D. P. Mikesell
Pfc. L. M. Miller
Pfc. S. A. Miller
Pvt. E. A. Monreal
Pvt. K. C. Morris
Pvt. N. T. Mortson
*Pfc. C. H. Muskett
Pvt. I. J. Nassimi
Pvt. A. L. Niewirowicz
Pvt. D. Pina
Pfc. R. J. Pomeroy
Pvt. K. K. Potter
Pvt. E. N. Raymond
Pvt. R. W. Roach
Pvt. L. D. Roberts
*Pfc. S. J. Rossell
Pvt. C. A. Sagler
*Pfc. P. A. Shannon
Pvt. S. F. Shelby
Pvt. R. J. Smeltzer
Pvt. R. M. Stevens
Pfc. B. A. Szafraniec
Pvt. T. R. Trussell
Pvt. C. Villarreal III
Pvt. J. D. Watters
Pvt. A. T. Welch
Pvt. A. R. Wise

PLATOON 3234
Pvt. D. J. Belleza
Pfc. N. A. Bernal
Pvt. J. D. Broadway
Pfc. J. A. Cardenas
Pvt. R. A. Carrillo
Pvt. D. H. Carter
Pfc. S. T. Caughey
Pvt. R. Cerdagalvan
Pvt. M. B. Chinn
Pfc. G. S. Corrales
Pfc. M. G. Cote
Pfc. J. A. Daehnke
Pvt. J. S. De La Cruz
Pvt. K. A. Dukatz
Pvt. J. G. Evers
Pfc. D. S. Feinhandler
Pfc. T. A. Fisk
Pfc. A. K. Freeman
Pfc. S. J. Freeman
Pvt. P. K. Gonser
Pvt. R. Gonzalez Jr.
*Pfc. J. L. Good
Pvt. S. A. Govea | Pvt. J. I. Hagedorn
Pvt. T. W. Hanna
Pvt. B. R. Hansen
Pfc. M. T. Hansen
Pvt. R. L. Hay
Pvt. R. A. Herman
Pvt. H. Hernandez
Pvt. C. S. Hester
Pfc. A. R. Higgins
Pvt. M. J. Hoffer
Pvt. D. A. Horton
Pvt. C. R. Householder
Pvt. J. D. Huddleston
Pvt. M. M. Huffman
Pvt. E. E. Hurtado
Pfc. A. C. Iglupas Jr.
*Pfc. N. C. Jackson
Pvt. A. J. Jaggars
Pvt. M. L. Janes
Pvt. C. B. Johnson
*Pfc. P. D. Johnson
Pfc. J. P. Lezcano
Pvt. S. A. Lopez
Pvt. R. A. Lozoya
Pvt. B. C. Malo
Pvt. D. L. Martin
Pvt. C. A. Martinez
Pfc. B. C. Maynard-Starkey
Pvt. R. A. McComas
Pvt. C. L. McIlvanie
Pvt. A. S. McNeal-Smith
*Pfc. C. W. Melton
Pvt. W. R. Miler
Pvt. K. J. Miller
Pfc. T. C. Moews
Pvt. C. A. Morales
Pvt. T. E. Moroney
Pvt. A. J. Moser
Pvt. T. R. Nale
Pvt. A. H. Nguyen
Pfc. M. W. Nichols
Pvt. A. M. Padilla
Pfc. M. S. Pineda
Pvt. T. R. Schaidt
Pvt. K. D. Swager
Pvt. N. D. Toel
Pvt. J. M. Torres
Pvt. D. A. Van Wey
Pfc. D. C. Young
Pfc. W. P. Ziegler III
Pvt. M. J. Zitek

PLATOON 3235
Pvt. J. D. Babcock
Pvt. J. J. Cabrera-Martinez
Pvt. O. L. Calles
Pvt. E. Carrasco
Pvt. K. A. Chalmers
Pvt. H. Cobian
Pvt. B. G. Cole
Pvt. A. M. Coletta
Pvt. A. J. Cowan
Pvt. E. G. Coy
Pfc. J. W. Coyle IV | Pvt. C. D. Croucher
Pvt. R. E. Cryer
Pvt. M. R. Cowan
Pvt. T. R. Dachelet
Pvt. T. A. Dalton
Pfc. M. D. Dees
Pvt. A. M. Ditty
Pvt. K. P. Dwyer
Pfc. M. T. Edwards
Pfc. B. T. Eisenschenk
*Pfc. E. Estrada
Pvt. V. S. Fajardo
Pvt. A. V. Fanella
*Pfc. D. J. Fernandez
Pfc. R. D. Ferrin
Pvt. D. L. Fields
Pvt. D. W. Fitzgerald
Pvt. A. A. Flores-Gastelum
Pfc. G. I. Forrester
Pvt. L. F. Franchi
Pvt. C. D. Gallarini
*Pfc. A. L. Gonzalez
Pfc. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. O. S. Gorish
Pvt. M. W. Gray
Pvt. C. Gutierrez
Pvt. K. M. Haines
Pvt. M. W. Harmon
Pvt. R. L. Hawbaker
Pvt. R. D. Heggem
*Pfc. E. A. Hoffman
Pvt. J. R. Huie
*Pfc. P. D. Johnson
Pfc. B. M. Jones
Pfc. J. Z. Juarez
Pfc. E. J. Kessler
Pfc. A. J. Kibasa
Pvt. C. D. Merten
Pvt. S. L. Milbrandt
Pvt. Z. J. Ratzlaff IV
Pvt. D. J. Pfankuch
Pvt. J. A. Pregler
Pvt. D. L. Presson
Pvt. Z. J. Ratzlaff
Pvt. K. W. Seifert
Pvt. J. S. Sipper
Pvt. A. R. Teter
*Pfc. T. G. Tiedeman
Pvt. D. R. Van Diver
Pvt. S. A. Van Haaster
Pvt. R. C. Wagner
Pvt. R. D. Walker
Pvt. E. S. Waran
Pfc. R. J. Welker
Pvt. J. J. Wenzel
Pvt. T. E. Wenzelman
Pvt. I. H. West
Pvt. A. J. Wetherbee
Pvt. J. R. Willis
Pvt. A. D. Wilson
Pvt. K. D. Wolf
Pvt. T. Yang
Pvt. Z. F. Zamora |
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Lance Cpl. Katalynn Rodgers

Participants of the 9th annual Turkey Trot aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego kick off the five-kilometer run Nov. 18. The Turkey Trot is part of the Commanding General's Cup sports competition held throughout the year on the depot. The Turkey Trot also consisted of a raffle, pie eating contest and small lunch.

Annual Turkey Trot more than fun run, food drive

BY LANCE CPL. KATALYNN RODGERS
Chevron staff

Approximately 1,100 people gathered at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 18 to participate in the annual Turkey Trot, a five-kilometer run around the depot.

Marine Corps Community Services

and Semper Fit conducts an annual race series as part of the Commanding General's Cup. The Turkey Trot is the last in the series.

"We try to get a little bit of every athletic type in the CG's Cup," said Kelley Sitar, Semper Fit deputy director. "We have sports from horseshoes to badminton, but we don't have any track and field. The fun runs are the closest we can get to that."

If a command simply enters the race, they earn eight participation points. If they have at least one female enter, the get another eight participation points. They also receive points based on the outcome of the race. These points are combined with the participation points for a final score. If they are first they receive twelve points, second earns eight and third earns four towards their overall CG Cup score.

"The fun run series helps promote combat readiness, leadership, teamwork and morale," said Sitar. "Every year we hope to have a smoothly run event where the participants leave with a greater sense of community pride and personal accomplishment."

Active duty Marines, sailors, coast guard personnel, dependants, reservists, retirees and civilian personnel were encouraged to participate in the Turkey Trot and all other CG Cup events.

Before the run began, the depot's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo challenged participants to beat his flag and group across the finish line.

"My favorite part of the Turkey Trot was that I finished the run just before the flag and (commanding general) crossed the finish line," said Lance Cpl.

Daniel Delgado, administrative clerk, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "It made me feel good about myself because I achieved another goal for myself."

All racers received a T-shirt, turkey sandwich, chips and a drink at the finish.

"This is the ninth year we have professionally timed the race," said Sitar. "But, it had been a run just for fun for 20 years before that."

Some participants use the times they received here as qualifying times for Marine Corps teams.

The first three racers to finish this year's Turkey Trot were Corey Duquette, finishing with a time of 16:05; Ricky Bovee, finishing at 17:06; and Roscoe Milner, finishing at 17:23.

This year's youngest participant was Giovanni Jimenez, a 1 year-old boy, who finished at 35:50. The oldest participant was Barbara Gregorio, an 82-year-old woman, who finished at 47:19.

Among the participants who were running individually, some groups ran in formation with their unit. The Recruiter's School and Drill Instructor School were among those who did.

"I ran the Turkey Trot with my fellow Drill Instructor School brothers and the students," said Lance Cpl. Anthony Roseman, administrative chief, Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment. "The whole thing was great. I love doing these runs; I would definitely participate next year."

The Turkey Trot not only consisted of a run. There were 16 vendors and sponsors at the start and finish area, to include the depot Substance Abuse Counseling

Center's "Great American Smoke-Out," where people could pledge to be smoke-free for a day or for the rest of their lives.

There was also a food drive collection point for the families in need aboard MCRD. According to Sitar, the food collected was put together on shelves and families that were nominated by their commands could "go shopping" for food Nov. 22.

Participants could also enter into a pumpkin pie eating contest. Contestants were not allowed to use their hands to eat their pie, and had to eat every bit of pie including the crust.

The person who finished their pie first and showed the judges that they had swallowed the last bit won a movie bundle, which consisted of two tickets to any AMC movie theatre, popcorn and two sodas. They also received one free drink at the Starbucks on base.

"The pie eating contest was a really fun event," said Staff Sgt. Robert Moran, postal chief, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "I had problems finishing the pie about halfway through and really towards the end, but I wanted to beat the rest of the people at the table. My motivation was winning."

Moran was the winner of the pie eating contest.

The next and final event for this year's CG's Cup is the field meet slated for Dec. 9. After the field meet is completed and final points are tallied, the depot's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, will present the Commanding General's Cup of Excellence to the most competitive command this year.



Lance Cpl. Katalynn Rodgers

Depot Turkey Trotters were invited to compete in a pumpkin pie eating contest Nov. 18.

4th Annual Padre Pedal Power Ride raises funds for Semper Fi Fund

BY SGT. HEIDI E. AGOSTINI
I Marine Expeditionary Force

More than 20 cyclists participated in the 4th Annual Padre Pedal Power Ride from Camp Pendleton to San Diego on Nov. 11.

Navy chaplains, along with religious program assistants and friends pedaled their bikes from the I Marine Expeditionary Force Command Element building to the commanding generals building aboard the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Veterans Day to raise money for the Semper Fi Fund.

"Four years ago my son and I decided we wanted to do something for Veterans Day," said Navy Capt. Irving Elson, a chaplain with 3rd Marine Air Wing. "We had just gotten into cycling again and we decided to ride from Camp Pendleton to Balboa Hospital. Sadly that's the journey that a lot of our veterans take."

Fifteen riders joined the father and son team on the inaugural ride. The group grew over the next three years to include seven chaplains and four religious program assistants this year. Elson is already planning for next year's ride.

"It's just a great way to observe Veterans Day, by doing stuff with our feet and our legs, he said." The first half of the ride is gorgeous because we come down the coast to Torrey Pines. We're lucky that we're able to get out there and ride and we hope that by raising money for the Semper Fi Fund, others who have been injured will be able to ride again someday.

More than \$5,400 was raised to support the Semper Fi Fund, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and quality of life solutions for injured or severely ill service members. The fund provides relief to qualified service members and their families for



Sgt. Heidi E. Agostini

The first group of cyclists complete the 40-plus mile trek from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego during the 4th Annual Padre Pedal Power Ride. The ride honored all veterans and raised money for the Semper Fi Fund, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and quality of life solutions for injured or severely ill service members.

immediate financial needs that arise during hospitalization and recovery, as well as perpetuating needs such as

home modifications, customized transportation and specialized equipment. The Semper Fi Fund has awarded more than

34,000 financial grants totaling more than \$55 million in grants given to injured and ill service members and their families.