



Torry Pines may be the start of adventure

Pg. 3



Titans gain season's first victory against 5th Marines Grizzlies

Pg. 8

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO CA
PERMIT #1864

CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

Vol. 70 – No. 26 – COMPANY L

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Commandant, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps, visit depot

BY CPL. FRANCES CANDELARIA
Chevron staff

The Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent visited Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Sept. 16.

At a town hall meeting for depot personnel, Gen. Conway and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent addressed issues such as down-sizing the manpower of the Marine Corps and the war in Afghanistan.

Gen. Conway said that downsizing the Corps' numbers is a hot topic on most Marine's minds, and made it one of his main speaking points.

"If you read in the media that we are going to slash 30,000 Marines next month, shame on us," said Conway. "That's not how we want to treat our Marines. We already know from our manpower people how much we can come down on an annual basis. That will be our target. That's when, and that is how we will do (the downsizing)."

Gen. Conway also spoke about his predictions for the Marines the coming years.

"I think we are going to see some hard times out there as far as budget and resources," he said. "We've had a series of good years...but I do think that there is coming a time when we will have to do more with less."

Sgt. Maj. Kent then spoke with the audience. He thanked the Marines for all of their hard work and for upholding the Corps to its high standards, and about the plan to downsize the force.

"We have a great commandant," said Sgt. Maj. Kent. "I have witnessed him fight battles for you and your families each and every day. He fought to grow the force from 175,000 to 202,000 Marines, and we did it in two and a half years. Why would we cut from 202,000 to 145,000



After his town hall meeting at the depot theater the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, meet and shake hands with drill instructors while exchanging a few laughs before heading over to the Command Museum's courtyard to address the families gathered for the graduating Marines of Company F, Sept. 16. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*

when the commandant grew the force so you could have more dwell time at home?"

Sgt. Maj. Kent also talked about issues such as reenlisting, recruiting, and ensuring that Marines look out for each other's welfare which will in turn, promote awareness of suicidal tendencies and sexual assault. They then took questions from the audience.

Afterward, they walked over to the Command Museum's courtyard to welcome the families of the Corps' newest

Marines graduating from Company F, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

Many family members were surprised and pleased when they found out the Marine addressing them was the Corps' highest ranking. The commandant thanked them for the sacrifice they were making as parents, siblings, friends, wives, girlfriends and children, for giving up their loved ones and their time with them in order to let them serve their country.

After, they toured training facilities to meet with drill instructors and company commanders with their platoons on the obstacle course and during combat fitness test training. The commandant ended his tour with observing the depot's new energy-saving solar panel project.

"We're doing a lot better than we were in 2001," said Gen. Conway. "Thank you for what you do. The Marine Corps is going to be in great shape because of you and the all Marines in this Corps."



9th Boot Camp Challenge tomorrow

A Marine Corps drill Instructors enthusiastically encourage challengers along their way during the annual Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Boot Camp Challenge.

The 9th annual Boot Camp Challenge, a three-mile obstacle run, begins tomorrow at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the event go to quality of life programs for Marines and their families.

Participants should arrive an hour early for parking and to ensure they are registered. Additional information on registration, parking and participant categories may be found in the briefs column on page 2.

Photo courtesy of Brightroom.com, official photographers of the MCRD Bootcamp challenge

Depot celebrates Multi-Cultural Heritage Day

The Worldbeat Cultural Center's West African performers dance during the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day event Sept. 16, at the depot museum courtyard. The multi-cultural gathering honors diversity and celebrates the American heritage: a heritage we all share, said Gunnery Sgt. Timothy B. Walker, depot equal opportunity advisor, equal opportunity office. This event serves as a recognition of achievement, a venue for education and a day of cultural celebration. "We are diverse people," said Walker. "Celebrating our differences, as well as our common interests, helps unite and educate us."

Photo Illustration/Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



BEQ dwellers exhibit initiative deficiency syndrome

BY CPL. MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

The depot is an enigmatic place. For most service members here, it offers regular working hours; easy access to college classes on and off base; and conveniently-located resources to augment Marine Corps-related training.

Being stationed in the middle of San Diego is like living in one of America's largest cities and biggest tourist destinations, where service members can walk a block and find something fun to do, in every direction.

Despite the positive aspects of being stationed at the depot, I still hear complaints from many first-term Marines stationed here.

I ask why they don't like it here and I generally receive the same answers:

"It's non-deployable," or "It's boring."

Then I ask for additional explanations.

"It's bad for my career and I only get two ribbons. I'll have three once I get my Good Conduct. I didn't sign up to sit around!"

To which I reply: "You didn't sign up to sit around, so you thought the best idea would be to pick non-combat Military Occupational Specialty?"

With their argument crumbling, they often retort by saying this is a non-deployable duty station so there will be no going "outside the wire" for them. Plus they aren't advancing their careers here because it is a "twilight tour" (last tour of duty in a Marine's Career) duty station and looks bad to begin their career here.

Marines here can show initiative and

earn several awards (and some do), like the Volunteer Service Medal for volunteering consistently for a year, and the Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance of duties. They can become meritoriously promoted for winning boards against their peers.

As for the depot being bad for one's career, it can actually be a great duty station for proactive Marines to advance their careers and get additional MOS training or college classes they may not have had time to complete otherwise.

These opportunities include, but are not limited to, taking college courses on or off base; increasing one's Marine Corps Martial Arts Program belt level, or even becoming martial arts instructors at the MCMAP satellite school here.

Although advanced MCMAP is dependent on a Marine's mission and chain of command's support, taking college courses is an almost completely independent option, allowing service members to simply walk in and take a college 101 class and initiate their schooling. Many classes are also offered online.

College not only grants additional education points towards cutting scores, but also counts toward a degree for when the Marine leaves the service.

Despite all of these opportunities to advance their careers, Marines should enjoy their time here and make the most of it.

I believe, however, that there is one factor that stops a lot of Marines from fully taking advantage of being stationed at MCRD San Diego: A dependency on orders.

Early in our training, Marines are

taught to be effective warriors by following orders without a second thought. We train in what we are required to train in, the way we are required to do it.

We work at the base and unit we are assigned and accomplish whatever tasks of greatness or not-so-greatness that is required of us.

Whether it's an order like, "Take the hill men! Do you want to live forever!" or perhaps, "Take this form to the company office private! Don't take forever!" We accomplish what is required of us and maybe a little more.

Some orders will grant a Marine a ribbon and maybe medals, while others bring no glory, no award besides a paycheck and the honor of following orders in service to one's country.

At the end of the day, the Marine who was given high-profile orders can potentially feel truly accomplished, but he is, in fact, just doing his or her job. The Marine without exciting orders however, must work a little harder for his personal satisfaction.

So, my fellow first-termers, it doesn't matter if you are an MP, an administrative clerk, a noncommissioned officer-in-charge of finance Marines, or in any other support billet aboard the depot. If you are not satisfied with what you are ordered to do and yearn to accomplish more, remember that you are Marines and the only way to be something more is to take the initiative and order yourself to do so.

"Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great. Weak men wait for opportunities; strong men make them."-Orison Swett Marden, author, 1850-1924.



Career Fair

Staff Sgt. David L. Morrell, musician, Marine Band San Diego, receives information from Wendy Seymour, military development specialist, Ashford University, during the Career and Education Fair Sept. 15, in the depot's fieldhouse. The event was open to military active duty and reserve, family members, military retirees, DoD civilians, and other personnel with access to military installations. There were more than 100 employers and educators who represented various agencies including banking, federal agencies, Fortune 500, law enforcement, retail, colleges and universities.

Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

BRIEFS

Boot Camp Challenge

The Boot Camp Challenge will be held on the depot tomorrow at 9 a.m. The three-mile course features more than 40 obstacles and is the only time that the course is open to the public. Runners will hurdle hay stacks, crawl through tunnels, maneuver fox holes, and navigate trenches, while stopping at DI-manned push-up stations. Participants can enter as individuals or as three or five-person teams where all members must cross the finish line together. The event concludes with a post-race party with vendor booths, activities, music, food and refreshments. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each category and age group, and an official race T-shirt will be given to all entrants.

Online registration is available at bootcampchallenge.com.

Parking will be secured at 4:30 p.m. today until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at the following locations: Bayview restaurant; TOQ grass lot; parade deck; Bldg. 590 (east and west lots); and Belleau Ave. (along warehouses). Any vehicles remaining in this area will be subject to citation and removal from the installation. Henderson Ave. will be closed between Dunlap St. and Henderson Ave. from 7:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 25. Belleau Ave., Guantanamo St. and Henderson Ave. will be blocked off from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Sept. 25. Traffic will also be restricted along Dunlap St. during the event. For more information, call (619) 524-8268.

Parent, Tot Activity Mornings

MCRD L.I.N.K.S. and New Parent Support are sponsoring Activity Mornings for Parents and Tots, August 31; from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Bldg. 6E classroom. The event is for parents and their children under five years old.

Each month will feature themed activities to include parent and child-centered activities such as story time, arts and crafts, movement activities, snack making and take home ideas. For details or to register, call Patricia Kalay at (619) 524-8104 or Heather Chamberlain at (619) 524-0805.

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.

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.

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.

Servicemembers not far from adventure

BY CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

Physical training does not have to be limited to going to the fitness center, lifting weighted ammunition cans or formation runs. Depot personnel from the installation can take a short drive out of the heart of the city and explore southern California's terrain and hiking cliffs by the beach. A good place to start is Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve because of its variety and close vicinity to the depot.

"Hiking is a great workout outside the gym," said Giovanna Thiesen, Fitness Center and Fitness Program manager, depot Fitness Center. "You get some sun. It's calming and peaceful. After a hike, I feel like I had a good workout. It's a great mind and body experience."

Thiesen adds variety into her exercise routine by incorporating a hike into her workouts once or twice a week.

"Hiking benefits the physical self because it gives you an opportunity to get off the pavement if you're a runner or a walker," said Bonnie Axman, fitness trainer, depot Fitness Center. "It's similar to using the elliptical and Stairmaster at the gym, but hiking is more difficult because you go your own speed and don't have a machine controlling your movements and pacing you."

There are a variety of trails to choose from at Torrey Pines. The reserve has more than five hiking trails that vary in difficulty and scenery, including Guy Fleming Trail, Parry Grove Trail, Razor Point Trail, Broken Hill Trail and Beach Trail.

Guy Fleming Trail is a .7-mile loop that is considered the easiest, relatively level,

forested and has nature markers that display the name and description of the plants. There is diverse scenery of ocean vistas, sandstone formations and spring wildflowers. In the winter months, gray whales and bottlenose dolphins may be seen.

Parry Grove Trail is a half-mile loop that is secluded, not very difficult but has a steep entry and exit. Drought and Bark Beetle infestation have devastated this grove, but it is in the process of recovering.

Razor Point Trail is the same length as the Guy Fleming Trail, and has views of the gorge, badlands, spring wildflowers and fewer, but more picturesque trees. The trail splits from the Beach Trail 200 yards below the restroom trailhead and follows the Canyon of the Swifts toward the bluffs.

Broken Hill Trail is accessible from the beach. It is the longest trail with a lot of chaparral, few trees, and a scenic overlook of a hill.

Beach Trail is three quarters of a mile to Flat Rock and the beach. It's steep and the least scenic trail with few trees. It's important to check the tides and note that winter storms may remove much of the beach

sand, making walking difficult over cobbles and rocks.

"Personally, I prefer steeper hiking trails because I like to have a cardio workout while I am out," said Thiesen. "I prefer to be hiking for at least two hours."

The park offers guided nature walks twice a day, that leave from the Visitor Center.

The park is also family friendly.

"When I have visitors in town, I take them to Torrey Pines," said Thiesen. "I have hiked there probably a hundred times. It's one of the prettiest hikes and I recommend those who go there talk to the ranger and go on a nature walk."

Thiesen also recommends starting on hiking trails aimed at beginners and working up to more challenging hikes.

"It's important to be prepared when you go hiking," said Thiesen. "Always have water on you, wear shoes with a grip because it is dusty and slippery, and bring some first aid supplies. Carry something to eat in case you get lost, know the trail and have a map so you know where you're going. Also, if you hike in a remote area, don't go alone or at least tell someone where you're hiking."



A group of people stand on Red Butte which is part of the Razor Point Trail before sunset Sept. 18, at Torrey Pines Nature Reserve, San Diego. Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



A woman runs up the steep incline at the reserve, getting cardio exercise as well as a mental break from the hustle and bustle of the city. Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



A couple hike along the Guy Fleming Trail, the trail closest to the coastline at Torrey Pines. In the winter months, gray whales and bottlenose dolphins may be seen in the water. Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



A couple walk along the pacific beach after a long hike at the nature reserve. The beach is open to the public. Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

CHEVRON
ESTABLISHED 1942

COMMANDING GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. RONALD L. BAILEY

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. SYLVESTER D. DANIELS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAJ. MICHAEL W. ARMISTEAD

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
JANICE M. HAGAR

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
GUNNERY SGT. LAURA GAWECKI

PRESS CHIEF
CPL. MATTHEW BROWN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
CPL. REBECCA LAMONT
CPL. FRANCES CANDELARIA
LANCE CPL. KATALYNN THOMAS

EDITOR
ROGER EDWARDS
MAIL COMMENTS TO:
MCRDSDPAO@usmc.mil

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92140
(619) 524-8722

www.marines.mil/unit/tecom/mcrdsandiego/Pages/welcome.aspx

The Chevron, printed with appropriated funds in compliance with Marine Corps order P5600.31F, is published by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.



Recruit Scott Herma, Platoon 3247, makes his way through one of the tunnels of Janson's Thrust, a bayonet assault course where recruits don real bayonets and use teamwork as they seek and destroy simulated tire-enemies. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Platoons 3247 and 3248, Company L, assault through the Janson's Thrust event of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The course is one of many that recruits are required to overcome in order to claim the title, Marine. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Recruit Dylan Renbarger-DeWulf, Platoon 3248, aims downrange during the Janson's Thrust event of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 14. During the course, recruits are required to overcome many physically demanding obstacles while undergoing simulated combat stress.

Assault course

By CPL. MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

From learning discipline through practicing drill to learning to focus in chaos at the rifle range, Marine recruits are constantly saturated with information and skills to help them become well-rounded warriors who can maintain the standards set by Marines from the past and present.

As training progresses, recruits are required to learn and exhibit more lessons and skills they acquired through 12 weeks of training and apply them to their final test, the Crucible.

The Marines of Company L, who have overcome every challenge Marine Corps recruit training has presented thus far, can attest to the Corps' progressive nature of training.

The Crucible is a 54-hour training event held at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., which requires Marine recruits to overcome mentally and physically-demanding obstacles as a team. They undergo a simulated combat stress which consists of food and sleep



Recruit Caleb Reed, Platoon 3248, left, and squad mate, Recruit Dylan Renbarger-DeWulf, Platoon 3248, assault through the Janson's Thrust, a bayonet assault course event of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The course is one of many that recruits are required to overcome in order to claim the title, Marine. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Marine recruits at simulated tire-enemies to provide cover for his fire team during the Janson's Thrust bayonet assault course event of the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps. Fire teams conduct buddy rushes and overcome obstacles to assault simulated tire-enemies with bayonet equipped rifles. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*

teaches Lima Recruits what it takes to win

privation before, claiming the title, Marine. "From time to time, infantry will advance farther than supply lines have," said Sgt. Trent R. Topolski, drill instructor, Platoon 3248. "Marines won't always have everything they might expect and need to be able to ration their food and adapt to overcome those kinds of situations." One Crucible event, Janson's Thrust, a bayonet assault course, is an example of the Corps' efficient training style. The event begins as the recruits are called to gather around their drill instructor to hear the Medal of Honor citation in which the event is based. Gunnery Sgt. Ernest A. Janson was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in France, June 6, 1918, at Hill 182. Janson used his team to attack potential ambushers and sound the alarm while he alone, killed two enemy leaders, driving the attackers away and preventing a potentially devastating attack on their position. "Every scenario we go through is a simulation of what an actual human went through," said Recruit Tomas F. Zuniga, team leader, Platoon 3247, Co. L. "Following their foot-

steps is inspiring and lets us (new Marines) know what we have to do to fill their shoes."

Immediately after reading the citation, the recruits go over the scenario with their Platoon sergeant, Topolski.

"Basically, the recruits have to move in their fire teams from point A to point B and eliminate all the simulated tire-enemies in between," said Topolski.

Prior to engaging the tire enemies, recruits donned flak vests and real bayonets to annihilate their opposition in a realistic fashion.

"We (Marine Corps) are the only ones who use live bayonets during fire and maneuver," Topolski said. "It's because we train like we fight that we are one of the most effective fighting forces in the world."

Once everyone was prepared and ready for the course, the recruits were split into random fire teams to further push them out of their comfort zones and help them build teamworking skills.

"It really makes you work on your confidence with your team," Zuniga said. "It's good to learn this leadership early;

I think it helps us take the initiative and step up to accomplish any mission given to us."

Besides the traits that will assist them throughout their Marine Corps careers, the course also prepares them for combat, should the recruits end up in a hostile situation, said Topolski.

"Jansen's Thrust is follow-on training to the close quarters combat skills they learned during the prior 12 weeks," said Topolski. "Once you enter a house in combat— which happens a lot— you ever know if it will turn into a hand-to-hand situation."

Topolski added that training recruits do during their time on the depot and Edson Range also incorporates core values to ensure other important aspects of being a Marine are not forgotten.

"All of the events we do here (at the Crucible) incorporate at least one core value," Topolski said. "They teach the recruits to be committed to each other and maintain fire team integrity to ensure everyone comes back safe and that the Marine Corps remains the renowned force it is today."



Recruit Carleton Robinson, right, overcome one of the many obstacles of Janson's Thrust. The Crucible is a 54-hour training event in which recruits must overcome simulated combat stress of food and sleep deprivation.



Company L recruits move in a column to their next obstacle of the Crucible, Janson's Thrust. Once the recruits reached the course's entrance, they donned flak vest to ensure their safety while using live bayonets (real bayonets made of steel.) *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*

Football player trades in pads for Marine flak vest

BY CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT
Chevron staff

After four years of playing offensive tackle on his high school's football team, he was awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., to play football. Almost two years later, Recruit Bernard D. Lueken, Platoon 3246, Company L, couldn't continue playing the role of a football player and being in the spotlight. He had to listen to the voice inside him that urged him to fulfill his desire to become a United States Marine.

When Lueken was a freshman at Chaminade College Preparatory School, Creve Coeur, Miss., he demonstrated a talent for football. Chaminade is a private high school designed for serious students intent on attending college, Lueken said.

"I tried out for the football team as a freshman and was advised by the coach to pursue an athletic career in football," said Lueken, a St. Louis, Miss., native.

For four years, Lueken held the position of offensive tackle for the Chaminade Red Devils. Lueken's dedication and

loyalty can be attributed to his mother, who lost the battle to breast cancer when he was 14 years old. She had strong character and was one of the first women Marines to graduate from bootcamp after it was designed to replicate men's training, he said. She served six years in the Corps.

"She would tell me once a Marine, always a Marine," said 21-year-old Lueken. "She taught me principals, traits and aspects of the Marine Corps like dedication, loyalty and to be good to the people around me. All of this was instilled in me since the moment

I opened my eyes and took my first breath."

His mother gave people the benefit of the doubt because she always saw the good in people, he said.

"She would say, 'We all make mistakes, but we just want to be better than we were the day before,'" said Lueken.

People often didn't live up to the standard his mother set for him and his family, he said.

"When I grew up, I realized not everyone was like my family and that Marines are truly a special breed—not everyone was raised by a Marine," said Lueken.

Because of his mother, Lueken said he had always wanted to be a Marine. But his family constantly told him to go to college and play football.

Consequently, after his mother died, he turned his focus toward athletics and channeled his emotion and energy into sports.

Prior to officially beginning his freshman year at KU, Lueken was labeled as a "true freshman." This means he did not have to sit out for a year while he prepared his body and mind through training for the intensity of football at a college level.

"I came in physically and mentally ready," said Lueken. "All new players reported the summer before the season starts because summer is used for training and attending classes as well."

For one and a half years Lueken played for the Jay Hawks. The intensity and dedication to play college football is similar to the intensity and dedication required for the Marine Corps, he said.

"There were many days we got up at 4 a.m. and would physically train, have film sessions where we studied the opponent, and position meetings, which are like a small unit meetings similar to having fire teams," said Lueken. "We would also take college classes, have tutors for classes, which were required because we often wouldn't be finished until 10 p.m."

But after his freshman year, Lueken realized something: He didn't want to be a football player.

"I was playing at the highest level and I felt like I was wasting my time," said Lueken. "My years of youth could be spent for

a better cause. I figured you only have your body and health once; I wanted to put it to good use."

He couldn't ignore the fact that he was just playing a game, he said.

"The Marine Corps is not a game. It deals with real issues," said Lueken. "College football is pure entertainment. It's what people watch to get their minds off real world issues."

Every Marine he has met had such strong demeanor and a distinct disciplined presence, he said. They walk in a room and it's apparent there is something special about them. They dedicate themselves for the betterment of others.

"Lueken understands the core values because he has known them all his life," said Staff Sgt. Levi K. Fajardo, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3246, Co. L. "He had them in him when he got here. He came with a good foundation and he was well prepared."

Fajardo also noticed his recruit was very humble and respectful toward others.

"What's so appealing about the Marine Corps is that it's a group of people that can get together and strive for a better cause," said Lueken.

If he could be a Marine, he could help people less fortunate, he said.

"I am a big believer in the ripple effect—you do something and it carries to another person," said Lueken. "I don't want to wake up one day and look back and say, 'I wish I would have.'" It (football) was exciting and fun, but we weren't helping anyone."

Fajardo holds three traits very close to his heart: selflessness, passion and leadership by inspiration. Lueken has been a squad leader the entire time he was at bootcamp. Squad leaders manage a quarter of the platoon and ensure their squad is in order and doing what they are supposed to be doing. The squad leaders take orders from the platoon guide, and the platoon guide takes orders from the drill instructors.

"I feel myself evolving and progressing here," Lueken said. "I am becoming a man, and that's thrilling. I am excited every day I wake up and realize I am better than what I was yesterday, and closer to becoming a U.S. Marine."

Lueken graduates today along with 482 of his fellow Marines.



Recruit Bernard D. Lueken, Platoon 3246, Company L, eats an apple after spending all morning executing obstacles during the Crucible at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 14. Lueken played college football for almost two years before he enlisted into the Marine Corps. Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

Col. Brian D. Kerl

Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. Brian D. Kerl graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1985 with a degree in political science. Upon graduation from college, he completed the 130th Officer Candidate Class in Quantico, Va., and in December 1985 was commissioned a second lieutenant.

After completion of the Basic School and Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Fort Sill, Okla., he reported to the 2nd Marine Division where he served with Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines, as a forward observer, liaison officer, guns platoon commander, and executive officer from May 1986 to June 1989.

From June 1989 to June 1992, he was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. During this assignment, he served as a series commander with 1st Recruit Training Battalion, operations training at headquarters, and finished his tour as the aide-de-camp for Maj. Gen. Gene A. Deegan. During this

period, he was deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He later earned his master's degree in management from Webster University and left MCRD Parris Island in 1992 to attend Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va., where he graduated in June 1993. After AWS, Kerl was transferred to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he served in operations until his assignment to command Battery A, 1st Bn., 12th Marines. Upon completion of battery command, he was assigned to command Headquarters Co., 3rd Marines.

In May 1996, Kerl was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., and assigned to the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group as the field artillery representative for the Combined Arms Exercise Program. In June 1998, Kerl was transferred to Camp Fuji, Japan, where he served as the garrison executive officer for one year.

He was assigned to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Doctrine Division in June 1999, as the fire

support doctrine officer for the Marine Corps. Upon completion of this tour, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from June 2002 to June 2004. There, he served as the current fires officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

After his MEF assignment, Kerl joined 11th Marines as the executive officer. In June 2005, Kerl was assigned to MCRD San Diego, as the recruit training regimental operations officer. After one year as the operations officer, he assumed command of the 1st Recruit Training Bn. Upon completion of his command tour, Kerl was assigned to the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., as a student at Top Level School. He graduated from the Naval War College in March 2008 and was assigned to the Pentagon, joint staff, Strategy Development Division, where he served as an action officer from March 2008 to June 2010. During this tour, he earned a master's degree in business administration from Webster University.

Kerl is currently assigned as the director of operations and training,

Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific.

His personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.





Staff Sgt. James Bergeron, drill instructor, 1st Bn., left, looks for his fellow team mates and an opening during the MCRD Titans' third game of the season, Sept. 14. The previous two games resulted in losses, but this game was a victorious 34-0 win for the Titans. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*

MCRD Titans clash with 5th Marines Grizzlies

BY CPL. FRANCES CANDELARIA
Chevron staff

The depot's football team, the Titans, had their first victory of the season against the 5th Marines Grizzlies in a 34-0 game at Camp Pendleton, Sept. 14.

Both teams warmed up on the field running through drills and calisthenics for just a short period of time before the game started at 7:30 p.m. The Titans won the coin toss and decided to take the ball. Though the game got off to a slow start, the Titans picked it up before the end of the first half with quite a few touchdowns giving them the upper hand and confidence to finish up the second half strong and victorious.

Though the Titans made it look as if all of their physical practice paid off, the coaches made sure the team was just as strong in mind as they are in body.

"We prepare the players mentally," said Staff Sgt. James Corona, drill instructor, 1st Battalion and Titans coach. "We make sure they understand that football is not just a game of brute strength but a game of quick thinking by smart men."

Some of the players also noticed how the physical part of the game is only a fraction of what makes for a winning team.

"We had a good practice Monday," said Staff Sgt. Hector Alanis, training NCO, Headquarters and Service Bn. Titans defensive

tackle. "But we had good communication and we didn't give up."

When the Titans showed up to the game, they came with passion.

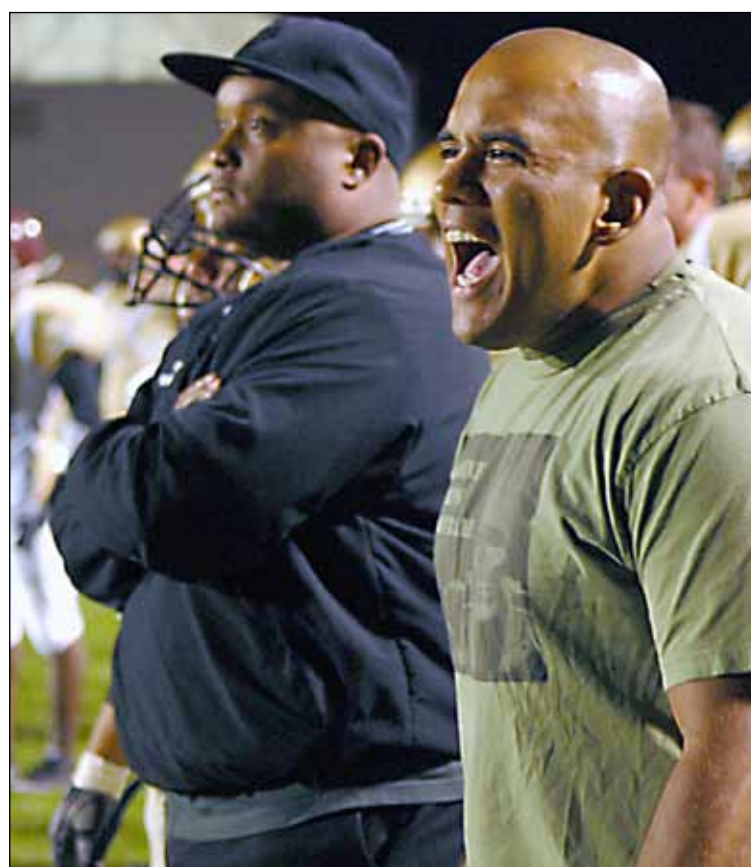
"I think we did extremely well," said Corona. "Especially after coming off a two-game losing streak. I know that we came into this game ready to win. We simply just wanted it more."

Although the Titans came with a winning mindset the players knew they weren't going to win on confidence alone. The team worked well as a whole and a few key players stood out at the end of the night.

"Staff Sgt. (James) Bergeron threw five of 11 for 98 yards," said Corona. "Lance Cpl. (LeAndre) Ingram is the most versatile player on the team. He played offensive tackle and guard, and defensive tackle and defensive end better than I have ever seen anyone play in this league. Lastly, Sgt. (Thomas) Corum rushed for one touchdown and was passing the ball with extreme accuracy. He is a very smart quarterback that reads the defense and makes changes instantly."

While most of the Titans were tired at the end of the night they were happy with their result of a 34-0 victory after having a two-game loss to start their season.

"Fifth Marines is not a bad team, but they didn't communicate tonight," said Alanis. "We had good communication and (the win) feels good. I hope we have more in the future."



Coach, Staff Sgt. James Corona, right, shouts words of encouragement and praise to his players on the field after taking down a player from the opposing team. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*



Lance Cpl. LeAndre Ingram, #55, goes in to take down the Grizzlies quarterback during the MCRD Titans third game of the season. After two previous losses, the Titans won 34-0 against 5th Marines. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*



Staff Sgt. James Bergeron, drill instructor, 1st Bn., tries to keep the ball and himself in bounds during the Titans' 34-0 win against the 5th Marines Grizzlies at Camp Pendleton. *Cpl. Frances Candelaria/Chevron*