

Bravo Nation loses brother

Drill instructors lay to rest one of their own killed in Iraq

BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Editor

A funeral at Los Angeles National Cemetery Monday marked the last of a series of memorial services for a former 1st Recruit Training Battalion drill instructor who was killed in Iraq recently.

Staff Sgt. Allan Walker, 28, a Lancaster Calif., native, who served with Company B, 1st RT Bn., just a few months ago, was killed by hostile fire April 6 in Al Anbar Province.

Walker was assigned to 2nd Bn., 4th Marine Regiment out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. His battalion has lost several Marines in recent weeks as they attempt to bring order to one of Iraq's most hostile, anti-American regions — the Sunni Triangle.

Walker touched many people aboard the Depot, and news of his death spread quickly through "Bravo Nation."

"It started out as a rumor," said Staff Sgt. Carlos C. Perez, drill instructor, 1st RT Bn. "As soon as I heard it, I tried to find out if it was true. It didn't take long to confirm it. I didn't know him as well as a lot of guys, but I knew he was a real nice guy. It was very sad."

Several Depot Marines gathered for a small memorial ceremony for Walker April 15 at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Recruits from Company B filled the



Capt. Brian Manifor, operations officer, Recruit Training Regiment, pays his final respects to Staff Sgt. Allan Walker. Manifor laid his hand on Walker's casket to say a prayer for the fallen Marine. Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke/Chevron

bleachers at Field Firing Range, and sat quietly behind the Marines on rows of dusty benches in front of a display of boots, a flak jacket and Kevlar helmet, which stood as an effigy for the fallen Marine. Walker's identification tags hung from the display as those in attendance said prayers and spoke about their fallen brother.

"He wasn't the best drill instructor, but he was the hardest working drill instructor I've ever met," said 1st Sgt. Scott B. Mearkle, Company B first sergeant. "He was the type of Marine who worked at and practiced his leadership traits every single day. He was extremely compassionate, and he put his heart and soul into everything he did."

Mearkle's closing comments echoed in the minds of the Marines as they mourned their friend.

"Staff Sgt. Walker, you will be missed. Brother, you will be with us forever," he said.

The next day, a handful of Depot Marines made a trip 175 miles north to Lancaster for Walker's wake at Mumaw Funeral Home. There, Walker's friends and family saw him for the last time.

"The reality really set in when I saw him. It was hard for me to even walk," said Staff Sgt. Leo Ruiz, one of Walker's closest friends. "Everyone had tears running down their faces. It was very hard for all of us."

Saturday, Walker's family held a memorial ceremony of their own at Lancaster Presbyterian Church, and again, some Depot Marines made the trip to honor their friend.

According to the Antelope Valley Press, at the ceremony, Walker's father, Kenneth R. Walker said, "It was his life to be in the Marine Corps. It brought out his sense of honor and his sense of dignity. It turned him into a man."

The Valley Press reported that after the service, the mourning father said "All Marines are my sons now."

Monday was a day for final goodbyes as Marines helped lay to rest their fallen brother with a traditional military funeral.

While a nearby station or unit usually provides a Marine funeral detail, Bravo Nation drill instructors insisted on taking care of their own and assuming the duties.

Pallbearers wore dress blue uniforms with campaign covers, carrying their friend's casket from a Hearse to its position above Walker's final resting place.

After a benediction from a Navy chaplain, 21 shots rang out into the warm spring air. Again, Depot drill instructors did the honors.

Taps followed the gun salute, and even the trumpet player blowing the solemn notes was wearing a campaign cover. Sgt.

Scott McLaughlin, a bandsman outside the drill field, was Walker's best friend aboard the Depot.

"I hadn't touched my trumpet in years," said McLaughlin. "But I wanted to do this for Allan and his family. I wouldn't have the ceremony any other way."

McLaughlin also booked a bagpipe player clad in traditional Irish garb, who followed Taps with "Amazing Grace."

The piper was a necessary addition to the ceremony, according to McLaughlin, because Walker was extremely proud of his Irish heritage.

Mearkle delivered a folded American flag, which had draped Walker's casket, to the fallen Marine's father, and then delivered another folded flag to his mother, Nancy Crowe Walker.

When the ceremony was over, Marines and family members lingered for some time, saying final farewells and comforting one another. Some laid roses on his casket before saying a tearful goodbye, while others quietly left personal items they felt appropriate for Walker: a tiny American flag, a pair of white gloves, a can of snuff. In the end, a pint-sized can of Guinness Draught stood tall above the other items on the casket as someone commented, "Look, somebody got him his Guinness."

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Staff Sgt. Anthony Reynolds, drill instructor, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, offers his condolences to Kenneth Walker, father of Staff Sgt. Allan Walker. Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke/Chevron

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MAJOR LEAGUE SALUTE

Depot folks enjoy another San Diego Padres thank-you.

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Recruiter aide earns combat promotion, applies lessons from war

BY STAFF SGT. BOBBIE J. BRYANT
12th Recruiting District

Recruiting Station Los Angeles recruiters recently witnessed a meritorious combat promotion at the station for one of their own back from Iraq. Cpl. Jeffery E. Rivera, a recruiter

aide with Recruiting Substation Montebello, Calif., was awarded his non-commissioned officer rank, "because the command was able to trust him to accomplish the mission and keep his presence of mind in adverse situations and during combat," said Capt. Paul F. Wendler, Company G, 2nd Battalion,

23rd Marine Regiment.

Marines recommended for meritorious combat promotions must have demonstrated outstanding leadership to a degree rarely attained by Marines of equal grade. Such leadership performance should justify the Marine being advanced in grade ahead of all other



Rivera

Marines of the same grade regardless of time in grade or time in service.

Wendler went on to say, "his maturity and professionalism exceeded that of his peers and rank. He embodied the 1st Marine Division motto, 'No better friend, no worse enemy,'"

SEE **Combat**, pg. 5



Sgt. Paul J. Cubacaro, a facilities maintenance crewman, clears the air in his gas mask. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint photos/Chevron

H&S keeps training for interior guard duties

CO and Sgt. Maj. attend gas and spray portions

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

First gas, then spray. Headquarters and Service Battalion Marines here withstood choking tear gas and pepper spray during the Depot's interior guard training recently at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Proving Marines always lead from the front, Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo, the battalion sergeant major (left), received his pepper spray before everyone. Col. Ana R. Smythe, the battalion commanding officer, also enjoyed the gas and spray.

Approximately 30 Depot Marines participated in the weeklong training exercise designed to prepare them to serve on the Depot's interior guard force.

The training, which began April 12 and ended April 16, covered several topics including the Marine Corps procedures for using deadly force, non-lethal compliance tactics, chemical and biological defense, and pepper spray handlers qualification.

Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo, Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major, airs out after exiting the gas chamber. Escobedo seemed calm and unfazed by the tear-producing agents.



Marines line the gas chamber's walls as CS gas overtakes the air. CS gas exposure causes eye irritation, profuse tearing, skin irritation and irritation of the upper respiratory tract, causing coughing and difficulty in breathing.

Overdriven headlights pose nighttime threat to reaction time

MARINE CORPS SAFETY DIVISION

When you drive at night, you are in greater danger than when you drive in the daytime. More than half of the Marine driving deaths happen at night.

SAFETY Factors contributing to an increased risk include reduced visibility, drowsiness and fatigue, and alcohol consumption before driving.

Extra risk calls for extra operational risk management. You must make important changes in the way you drive.

The faster you drive, the more time and distance you need to stop and the less time you have to react. At night, when you can see only as far as your headlights allow, the situation is worse. If you go too fast, you will overdrive your headlights.

Most properly-maintained high-beam headlights shine no more than 450 feet ahead. Low-beam headlights shine no more than 350 feet. Driving within a safe range

means you should be traveling at a speed that allows you to stop within the distance covered by your headlights. You need to watch carefully for highway signs, signals and pavement markings. Traffic signs and pavement markings reflect light, making them easier to see.

Anything smaller than a car, such as a motorcycle, moped, bicycle, pedestrian or animal, is especially hard to see at night. Pedestrians, animals, and vehicles without lights will be invisible until your headlights shine on them. Most drivers need about 1.5 seconds to react after seeing an object on the road. You might be able to swerve and miss an object or person on the road unless you are driving too fast. Then the consequences can be deadly.

Every year, Marines are injured in collisions with deer or crashes resulting from swerving to miss deer. The following preventive measures can reduce the chances of a collision with a deer.

Deliberately look for deer, and if you see

them, slow down. Do not risk dodging a deer at any speed. Many crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or leave the road and roll over.

Brake when you see a deer in the road, rather than try to avoid it. If you can't avoid a collision, release the brake at the time of impact, making it possible for the deer to go underneath the vehicle, rather than through the windshield.

Once a deer clears the roadway, proceed cautiously, because other deer may be following closely.

If you hit a deer, report the crash to the local police authorities and to your insurance company.

Low headlight beams are not made for speeds of more than 40 mph, so use high beams as much as possible on highways and unlighted streets. However, low beams are mandatory if you are within 500 feet of another vehicle or in fog. If you think you see something beyond the range of the headlights, flash the high beams for a sec-

ond to see what is there. If oncoming headlights blind you, slow down and do not look directly at the lights. Look beyond them, at the right edge of the road, but keep the approaching vehicle in your peripheral vision.

Going around a curve, your headlights shine straight ahead, slow down, because you cannot see as well.

Do not forget to increase your following distance to three seconds plus or more if road or weather conditions are poor. The car ahead may stop with little warning. Extra seconds of following distance give you a greater cushion of space.

If your windshield is dirty, it increases the glare from approaching vehicles. Keep your windshield and headlights clean.

Reduced speed, increased following distance, extra alertness, and all the other measures mentioned can help prevent crashes, but the unexpected still can and often does happen. The most important safety measure of all is to always wear your safety belt.

Sgt. Scott McLaughlin writes about the bond he shared with Staff Sgt. Allan Walker. The two served together as drill instructors in Company B. Walker was killed April 6 in Iraq, and McLaughlin wrote this April 8, the day before Walker's birthday.

To know Allan

He said he wanted to be a writer, and he drank Tullamore Dew in his barracks room. His favorite pair of shoes has been high-top Chuck Taylor's for as long as I can remember. He loved The Templar's, Pennywise, Bad Religion, and Dropkick Murphy's. Allan was the only person I think I'll have ever met who was able to sleep through the fire alarms in any of the squad bays on the Depot or up at Weapons and Field Training Battalion.

He would quote such random authors on such random subjects, that I often wondered what he actually preferred. He never told any of us when his birthday was, but he always seemed to know it was ours. The posters on his wall always fell down, were ripped beyond repair, and were borderline pornographic at times, but he kept putting them back up, as if changing them, or throwing them away would somehow lessen his worth.

He never expected to get paid back, and he'd spend his last \$7.50 to buy the two of you Irish Car Bombs, or pints of Guinness. He always sent his hats home early, and never missed a series duty. His laundry was always on his couch — always. And who owns a 13-inch TV these days? His driving skills left much to be desired; in fact, I have never felt more in danger than when he was driving. The guy was no Fittipaldi.

I have to pause and say that I don't write. I never have, and I don't really have plans to after this. I'm not sure why I'm saying this. Maybe it's the wine. Though this is an alien thing for me to do, I have to do it, and I have to share some things with you all.

If you say you knew Allan, you're a liar. I can't even say that I knew him. Leonard didn't know him, and neither did Leo, April, Stephanie, Zeke, Andy, or anyone else whose heart he touched. It would be selfish of me to even suggest that I knew Allan. You see, Allan was so much more than any of us could ever imagine. His heart and his soul were larger than ... Well, I can't even think of what they're bigger than.

He was always the first one to back you up, or say he'd back you up, or stand by your side when you thought you might need back-up, or lurk somewhere near when it was possible that there might arise the occasion for back-up to be necessary. His love for his "Friends" (those of you who allowed him into your heart, and likewise yourself into his vast love) seemed to be unending. Every time he allowed himself into our lives, he allowed us to truly live.

Allan was always the first one to throw down what he was doing and focus on what was going on with us.

He came to my apartment all the time. And now, even though it's only been one day, I've looked at my back gate where he used to wait for me to let him in, and I can't help but start to cry. I drive in my car, and every CD I listen to is a CD we listened to. I barbecued chicken last night and I cried because I barbecued chicken for the two of us all the time. We drank beer

on my balcony and played Cranium with my wife and her friend. I hummed a song, and he guessed it right.

I always talked to him about my problems. Allan never was judgmental, and he was such a voice of reason that my problems paled in comparison to the bigger picture only he could see.

When I walked into the Locker Room, the first person I saw was Zeke. For those of you who don't know Zeke, he's definitely not the person you'd expect the following to come from. He wrapped his arms around me and held me in an embrace that leveled me. And there we stood — two Marines, two warriors, drill instructors, men, whatever you want to categorize us as, we stood there and didn't say a damned word, and we cried in each other's arms. Two men crying in each other's arms. Our wives watched us, and our friends watched us, and strangers watched us, but we didn't care.

I only went to the Depot to use Mapquest that day. I never expected it to turn out the way it did. As I was driving by the base theatre, I saw some friends walking from RTR and only slowed to say "Hi." In the next seven seconds, my life was rocked, and I'll never be the same again. I don't need to tell any of you who read this what I was told. It's the same thing many of us wish we'd never known.

I actually told Laurie I wish I never knew Allan died. I wish I just thought he forgot me somehow and went on with his life and got married, had babies and touched more lives. I wish I could imagine him making someone happy when his bald head should have been gray. I wish I could have imagined Allan sitting in his garage listening to Pennywise on a vintage cd player at a time when music is beamed into your head through radio waves. Or going to a bookstore and seeing a book with his name on it. Or reading in a newspaper, when my eyes aren't so good anymore, that Allan Walker, who was born April 9, 1975, died from complications of something or other, in such and such a place and was survived by so many grandkids. I wish I could read about him starting such or such company, or him being the recipient of such and such award.

You know, I really don't care anymore. I miss him damn it. I'm sitting here trying to help myself deal with this by writing this to all of you, and sharing my life with Allan, however short it was.

I always imagined that my friends from childhood would be my groomsmen, but here I was, asking him. I didn't even give it a second thought. Somehow I just knew it would be right. Somehow I just knew that he was right. And on the big day, even though he wore the disco outfit the night before, Allan was an hour late to the suite to get ready. It was classic Allan though. He was late the day that my life with him started, and he was late the day my new life would start. I could only laugh and give him a hard time about it. He felt really bad though,



'He was always the first one to back you up, or say he'd back you up, or stand by your side when you thought you might need back-up, or lurk somewhere near when it was possible that there might arise the occasion for back-up to be necessary.'



McLaughlin



Walker

and you could tell. That's how he was. He held himself responsible for everything, big or small.

April just told me his birthday was tomorrow. He would've been 29 tomorrow. Well, by Iraqi time, he would be 29 as I write this. HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHER. HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHER. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

I'm staring at the cursor blinking, and I'm suddenly grasped by the thought that somehow my life will be that of the cursor. Forever blinking, waiting for him. It's silly.

We went to Plum Crazy in Pacific Beach and got really drunk. I put about two hours of songs in the jukebox, and NOFX and Van Halen played forever. Alan and I played pool poorly and gave each other play punches in the arm when we'd make or miss a shot. It really didn't matter. I think it was just the contact of two friends that drove us on.

I can hear my wife in the other room talking to a friend about Allan's death. She said, "Out of all the Marines, it was him."

The new Spiderman trailer just premiered, and it features a line from Tobey McGuire, "No matter what I do, no matter how hard I try, it'll always be the ones I love who will pay." Allan and I watched the first Spiderman movie all the time during our last cycle as seniors.

Is this going to get any easier? Mack's Ally was supposed to be the bar we were going to open when we retired. It combined my nickname, Mack, with a play on his first name, Ally. Outside his barracks room we even mapped out the floor plan. Johnny Cash, NOFX, and Pennywise were going to be the first CDs on the jukebox, and no Will Smith was allowed. We had plans, man. We had plans. How do you expect me to go on? You never said goodbye.

The news is talking about tragedy this and conflict that. Laurie's crying on the couch, and I'm holding tears back as I type.

I am a selfish bastard. I am more concerned with how Allan's death will affect me than I am with how his loss will affect the rest of the world. He had so much to give and so much to contribute and so much kindness and understanding and wisdom and love and heart and friendship and laughter.

I just saw that one of my recruits died with Allan. Isn't that something. Maybe Allan died trying to save him. Maybe I failed somewhere. But that's just me being selfish again.

I am not a writer, and I didn't know Allan, but I was his friend, and he was mine, and indirectly I am yours and you are mine. The cursor still blinks on my screen, and as hands shake over the keyboard, the news keeps spewing unimportant crap, and Allan is still 28, forever.

I'm 29, and one day I'll be 70. Allan is 28. Every April 9th, he'll be 28.

I miss you brother. We had plans; we had plans. Happy Birthday Brother. Happy Birthday.

CHEVRON
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EDUCATORS WORKSHOP



Gunnery Sgt. Alejandro Rivera, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Instructional Training Company, briefs educators from Recruiting Stations Lansing, Mich., and Twin Cities, Minn., on the close combat instruction that recruits receive during recruit training. The educators' visit was in conjunction with their annual Educators Workshop. Twelve times each year, the Western Recruiting Region hosts approximately 80 high school and junior college educators, counselors and administrators. *Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron*

La Jolla Half Marathon volunteers

The Kiwanis Club of La Jolla is requesting Marines to volunteer at the La Jolla Half Marathon Sunday. They raise \$60,000 to \$90,000 yearly. All proceeds go back into the community for organizations that need help.

Race organizers are asking for approximately 18 Marines to work at the finish line from 6 to 11 a.m.

The Marines will meet at Scripps Park in the La Jolla Cove at 5:30 a.m. Parking is free in the village all day.

For more information, call Shelley Johnson-Labertew, half marathon volunteer chair, at (858) 558-6773.

DIs needed at OCS

There is currently a great need for drill instructors (male and female) at Officer Candidate School, Quantico, Va. Interested Marines must be qualified according to Marine Corps Order P1326.6D. Requests should be forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps MMEA-85.

This is a three-year tour with incentives, including special duty pay.

For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Archie, DI monitor, at DSN 278-9263 or (703) 784-9263.

Free guided hike

The Sierra Club is hosting a free naturalist guided hike along Auburn Creek May 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Participants will learn about the unique habitat, plants and endangered species along Auburn Creek.

For more information, call (619) 284-9399.

All Services Enlisted Ball

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA and the Navy league will partner to present the 16th annual All Services Enlisted Ball May 1 at the San Diego Paradise Point Resort and Spa.

This formal event celebrates and honors local enlisted military personnel from each of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The ball will begin at 6 p.m. with a no-host cocktail reception followed by dinner and dancing and will continue

until midnight.

Seating is limited for this event and tickets may be purchased for \$20 per person for E-5 and below, \$30 per person for E-6 and above and \$75 for officers and civilians.

For more information, contact Cindy Farless at (619) 232-9084.

Scholarship opportunity

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Museum Historical Society is taking applications for the Colonel Nate Smith Memorial College Scholarship. Applicants must be active duty, enlisted Marines or sailors stationed aboard the Depot or Western Recruiting Region, or their dependents.

Applications are available at the Historical Society office in Building 26. Deadline for submissions is June 1.

For more information, call Pat Hawkins at (619) 524-4426.

Grants available to volunteer organizations

Newman's Own, Fisher House and Military Times Media Group are sponsoring the Newman's Own Award for Military Community Excellence. Volunteer organizations are invited to compete for a share of \$50,000 in grants.

Anyone who is a part of a group striving to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their families can visit www.fisherhouse.org and submit innovative plans or ideas. The submission deemed most outstanding will receive a \$10,000 grant. The remaining \$40,000 will be allocated to other organizations by the judges.

For more information, visit www.fisherhouse.org or call (888) 294-8560. All entries must be received by June 1, 2004.

Designated Driver volunteers needed

The Designated Drivers Association is looking for volunteers.

Volunteers can meet new people, earn extra money in tips, and make a difference.

Drunk drivers kill almost 17,000 Americans and injure over 700,000 each year. Volunteering for the Designated

Drivers Association is a pro-active way to get involved in the community.

Volunteers must be at least 18 and have a valid driver's license and insurance. For more information, visit www.ddasd.org or call (866) 373-7233.

USMC Parents' Conference

The first National USMC Parents' Conference, "Standing in the Gap," will take place July 30 through Aug. 1 in Indianapolis. The purpose of the conference is to help parents of Marines know their roles in supporting their children through the Corps. For more information on the conference, call Cathy Schoon at (260) 636-3102 or contact her via e-mail at schoon@ligtel.com.

Chosen Few banquet

The Montford Point Marine Association San Diego Chapter - 12 will hold the Chosen Few Banquet Aug. 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the 32nd Street Naval Station. For more information, contact Sam Bagwell at (619) 524-6865.

Band looking for Marines

Marine Band San Diego is looking for Depot Marines to fill open musician billets in an on-the-job-training status with the goal of becoming a Marine musician.

Marines, private through sergeant, may audition for band assignments providing they receive permission from their sections.

An audition consists of performing a prepared selection, major and minor scales, and sight reading.

Typical experience of successful Marine musicians consists of four years in a high school band prior to enlisting, but it is not a requirement to audition.

Marine Band San Diego currently has vacancies for flute/piccolo, clarinet, saxophone, horn, trombone and guitar.

To set up an audition or receive more information, call Staff Sgt. Michael July at (619) 524-1754.

Submit possible briefs to the Chevron via e-mail to rockeee@mcrdsd.usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards and regulations of the U.S. Government.

A HEALTH TIP FROM THE DEPOT'S PERSONAL TRAINER

By KENNY YOUNG
MCCS Personal Trainer

Do you think you are getting enough calcium in your diet? You may have to reconsider. After several studies, the National Academy of Sciences has recently increased its recommended daily requirements for calcium in our diets from 800mg to 1,000mg, and has determined that a significant number of us are not meeting the new guidelines. Apparently concurring with the NAS, the Osteoporosis Society estimates that one in four women and one in eight men over the age of 50 have some symptoms of osteoporosis.

So do you need to worry? That depends on two factors: your diet and your lifestyle. It has long been understood that individuals who lead active lives; walking, running, sports, weightlifting, etc; are helping their bodies create and maintain healthy, dense, strong bones. However, since our bodies cannot create calcium, we need to make certain we ingest enough through the food we eat or through supplements.

The American Dietary Association recommends that, if at all possible, our 1,000mgs come from whole foods. The food we eat is loaded with a variety of nutrients like fiber, vitamins and antioxidants that are just not present in supplements.

Our best resource for calcium can be found in the dairy aisle in milk, cheese and yogurt products. A cup of milk, or 8oz, contains 300mg of calcium. You can also obtain calcium, to a lesser degree, from some green vegetables such as broccoli and bok choy, and also from almonds and beans.

If your diet doesn't contain enough of these food groups, you might want to consider a supplement. Here's what you should be looking for if you go that route. First off, make sure that any supplement you buy meets United States Pharmacopoeia standards (check the label). This will ensure that the tablets will dissolve within 30 minutes so that most of the calcium ends up in your bones and not just in your stool. Also look for a supplement that includes vitamin D, which is necessary for absorption. Don't buy tablets that are more than 500-600mg, as that is the most the body can absorb at one time. Take the tablets with meals because a natural fiber called Inulin, which is in a variety of fruits and vegetables, aids in absorption.

There are three types of calcium supplements: calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate and calcium nitrate. Of the three, calcium phosphate is your best bet. Carbonate is cheaper but may cause gas and constipation. Nitrate is the most easily absorbed but has the lowest amount of elemental calcium and is the priciest.

Also remember that 1,000mg is the recommended minimum but the NAS says to take in no more than 2,500mg per day.

So keep exercising, or start if you're not already, eat a balanced diet and supplement if necessary. Keep those bones strong and healthy and enjoy a long and active life.

Combat, from pg. 2

The humble Marine does not boast or talk negatively about Marines with whom he served.

Raised in Pico Rivera, Calif., Rivera is a reservist who was working at Disneyland and going to Long Beach Community College full time nearly three years ago when he received word that his unit was being activated. Excited to contribute to the war on terrorism, Rivera eagerly prepared for whatever the Corps had in store for him, he said.

"We spent a year on Camp Pendleton (Calif.) as a quick reaction force for homeland security for the West Coast," Rivera said. "Golf Company went through a series of riot control, non-lethal and ammunition training and Military Operations in Urban Terrain training. Within the platoon, we studied basic Arabic language, culture, terrain, maps, and Iraq's military capabilities."

In February 2003, the unit found itself attached to I Marine Expeditionary Force and saying goodbye to family.

"When I saw the faces on the family members of all the Marines, I made a promise to myself that I would make sure these Marines would return home alive," Rivera said.

When the unit landed in Kuwait, at first the men were in culture shock, he recalled. But by the time they crossed the Kuwait-Iraq border, a few months had gone by and the men were ready to face the enemy.

The mission was to provide security for I MEF and that is exactly what they did. They traveled more distance than any other Marine Corps infantry unit during the campaign. Their achievements and steady drive through dangerous and life-threatening situations were broadcast to the world through the eyes of Rick Leventhal with Fox News, an embedded correspondent.

The rifleman was made a team leader after proving to his superiors that he was best fit for the job. With three corporals and a lance corporal on his team, the band of brothers fought their way through the stinging sand storms and spray of bullets, sometimes on will alone.

"In every aspect, his intuition and leadership inspired us and kept us alive," said Lance Cpl. Sabas Luna, a rifleman with Rivera's rifle team. "He was always ahead of the game, as far as where we were and what our mission was. He kept us informed and often, when given instructions to do something, replied with 'already done, sir.' He took leadership to a new level."

Luna, a recruiter aide with RSS Santa Clarita, Calif., also added that, "I can truly say our team was a brotherhood. I could sleep with both eyes shut because I knew



Cpl. Jeffery E. Rivera, recruiting aide, Recruiting Station Los Angeles, earned a meritorious combat promotion for "demonstrating outstanding leadership to a degree rarely attained by Marines of equal grade." *Courtesy of Cpl. Jeffery E. Rivera*

my squad had my back."

Rivera's leadership was tested the most, Luna said, when morale got low. Sometimes the men did not know if they would make it back home. They went without sleep and little food and no word on when they would be resupplied.

"As a leader, you just have to be reassuring," Rivera said. "You cannot just be

friendly; you also have to be thankful toward your men. Sometimes it means giving your food up or taking someone's post because you know they need the sleep more than you do. It means not being selfish."

Rivera believes that he only did what a Marine is expected to do in times of combat. His superiors, on the other hand,

saw him quite differently.

"Rivera is friendly and charismatic. He is also a fierce warrior," said Capt. Edward J. Handler, an infantry officer with I MEF's special-operations training group. Handler was Rivera's platoon commander during their deployment.

"One night we were conducting a limited-intelligence hasty raid in Al Sahara looking for a target. Rivera was up front with his team breaching the building," said Handler. "Instead of breaking down the door or throwing in a grenade, he checked to make sure it was clear. He found women and children in the building. Reassessing the situation, he quickly threw up hand and arm signals, stopping the company from moving in on the building. He prevented civilian casualties and we pressed onto the next objective where we found a cache of weapons. He is a solid young leader in the Marine Corps who makes good decisions."

Rivera and his team had also been about 500 meters from another unit, which had been ambushed. They had been under fire for about four hours in an area untenable by their vehicles.

"We had to resupply them with ammunition and water so my team went in. We then stayed and fought with them throughout the night. They were given strength physically and mentally by our arrival," Rivera said.

"It was a difficult situation because we had a hard time getting a clear picture of movement that was going on throughout the city, because of the evening hours," he said. "We were fighting the Ba'ath party who would stop families as they were driving into town and hide in their car. Anything that was moving had our full attention. Sometimes we had to return fire ending someone's life. In the morning, a bomb was dropped on the building across from us ending that situation."

The building the Marine's destroyed was the Special Republican Guard's training site. The next morning, they took down the flag that hung there. After that, Co. G Marines pushed on to clear looters from the United Nations building. Following that, they formed up with Operation Task Force Tripoli to take down Saddam Hussein's strong point in Tikrit.

They left Iraq and returned home with zero casualties.

Rivera has taken the skills and experiences from combat with him on the streets to help in the recruiting effort.

"If an applicant is apprehensive about going to war or to Iraq, the recruiters have him talk to me," Rivera said. "I reassure them and show them that I am proof that a Marine can go on deployment and come home alive with his fellow Marines."

RIVERA'S COMRADES IN ARMS

Sgts. Christopher Merkle (left) and Jose Rodriguez of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, avoided medical evacuations to Germany. The two Marines were hurt in an overturned seven-ton truck. They said they could not leave their platoon behind in Iraq. The two Marines ducked doctors, hitched rides, begged for gear and even considered stealing a humvee to return to Co. G. *Mark Oliva/Stars and Stripes*



Cpl. Ricardo Sanchez of McFarland, Calif., and a squad automatic machine gunner from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, takes cover behind a drop-off along a road during a raid in Al Fahr, Iraq March, 2003. Sanchez served in Co. G with Cpl. Jeffery E. Rivera, who recently earned his present rank because commanders relied on him to "accomplish the mission and keep his presence of mind in adverse situations and during combat." *Mark Oliva/Stars and Stripes*

REMEMBERING

THE BEAST



"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." This passage from John 15:13 is burnt in the memories of four men whose friend laid down his life on the battlefield as he rushed to aid Marines in trouble.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE, EDITOR



Staff Sgt. Leo Ruiz, drill instructor, served as a pallbearer in Walker's funeral April 19. Ruiz said he loved Walker like a brother.



Drill instructors march toward a Hearse carrying the body of Staff Sgt. Allan Walker. Walker's funeral detail was comprised of 1st Recruit Training Battalion drill instructors, most of whom worked with Walker during his tour aboard the Depot.



Without regard for what anyone watching might think, the drill instructors locked together in a tearful embrace. The news weighed heavy on their hearts: their best friend had fallen in combat.

Sgt. Scott McLaughlin and Staff Sgt. David Watts retreated to a vulnerable state of mourning as they met at the Locker Room here April 7, just hours after learning of their friend's death.

"He just walked up, wrapped his arms around me and held me in an embrace that leveled me. We both started bawling," said McLaughlin.

Staff Sgt. Allan Walker, who served with McLaughlin and Watts as a 1st Recruit Training Battalion drill instructor just a few

months ago, was killed by hostile fire April 6 in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sources in Walker's unit said he was killed as his platoon rushed to aid a squad of Marines in trouble.

April 10, headlines and photos of Marines in Iraq mourning fallen comrades ran front page in the *Los Angeles Times*. Aboard the Depot, it was a similar story as Walker's friends and family at 'Big Red 1' were still mourning the loss of their friend, who would have turned 29 the day before. That morning, four of his closest friends came together again to talk about the special man they knew.

McLaughlin, Watts, Staff Sgts. Andy S. Beavers and Leo Ruiz all consider themselves brothers to Walker, a man they remember as a larger-than-life, proud Irish-American whose funny ears, bald head and enormous frame didn't seem to match up with his humble personality and adept intellect.

"He was the most loyal and genuine friend you could ever hope for," said McLaughlin, fighting back tears. "He'd give you his last dime if you needed it, and then he'd pretend it wasn't his last one."

Looking back on it now, McLaughlin, who everyone in the group agrees was Walker's best friend, said his and Walker's first meeting couldn't have been more poetically orchestrated.

"It was the first day of DI school. We were sitting in the classroom waiting while the instructors were taking us back to boot camp all over again, and in walks Allan an hour late," said McLaughlin. "From that point on, he never seemed to disappoint me with some sort of painful situation."

Walker's affinity for lateness became one of many trademarks by which his friends couldn't help but be charmed.

"We always knew he would never be on time," said Ruiz smiling. "It's not because

he was lazy or didn't plan ahead. It wasn't a weakness. It was just Allan."

Although he had a reputation for being less than punctual, his friends all agreed he was a consummate professional who led by example.

"He was the quintessential drill instructor," said McLaughlin. "He might not have looked like it, but man, if he didn't act like it and perform like it. He was so dedicated. The way he would lead his platoons and train his recruits was unique. He had this incredible desire to pass his passion to them. He believed in everything he taught them."

Walker's dedication to duty ran so deep he would often refuse to take time off from work to seek medical attention when it was necessary.

"He broke his finger once, and it was more twisted and contorted than anything I'd ever seen, but he wouldn't miss work to go to medical. He wanted to never let anyone down, and he never did," McLaughlin said, choking up with pride.

"One time, he had a stress fracture on his foot, but he refused to take it easy," said Ruiz.

"He'd never admit he was tired or hurt," Watts added. "He felt like he'd be letting you down."

According to Beavers, Walker's commitment to his job, friends and family was unwavering.

"If you called him and said you needed him, he would drop what he was doing, and he'd be there," he said. "If his drill instructors had something going on, he would stay on duty and send them home."

At 6 feet 2 inches and 250 pounds, Walker's intimidating physique earned him the nickname "The Beast," but his friends knew him as more of a "friendly giant."

"There's no way he could ever look small, but he was so versatile in his personality,"

McLaughlin said. "He was very animated."

"The name (The Beast) was ironic because he was so gentle," said Watts. "He was 'Uncle Allan' to all the kids. He played Santa Claus for the battalion Christmas party, and he told my daughter 'I know your daddy, and if he doesn't start acting right, I'm going to put him on the naughty list.' She was pretty excited that Santa Claus knew her daddy."

It's no secret among those who knew him that St. Patrick's Day was Walker's favorite holiday.

"St. Paddy's Day was his Christmas," said Beavers. "He would volunteer for duty on Christmas, but he'd say he had to have St. Paddy's Day off."

Born American, Walker's ethnic makeup was half Irish and half Scottish and both cultures glowed from his character, according to his friends. He was big and physical – a rugby player who loved Irish beer and Irish tattoos. He even found, among the punk rock music he so loved, a musical subgenre that celebrates Irish culture.

According to McLaughlin, he and Walker fit together almost as perfectly as the punk music and beer they often shared with each other.

"One of our favorite songs is Rancid's 'Indestructible,'" McLaughlin said. "That's what he was in my eyes – indestructible."

In addition to being an avid music lover, Walker also read a great deal. He often surprised friends and colleagues with his keen intellect and passion for reading and writing literature.

"He didn't look like the smartest guy, but he was so smart," said Ruiz affectionately. "He was always reading."

"He always had some obscure remark or quote to offer up," said McLaughlin.

While Walker often shared quotes or pas-

sages from his readings, he was very private about his own writings and seldom shared them with anyone, according to his friends.

"Allan had a box of personal stuff he gave to his friends back home. He told them that if anything ever happened to him, he wanted it burned. I'm guessing all his writings were in there."

Walker's modesty extended far beyond his writing, according to McLaughlin.

"If somebody told him he did a good job, he'd probably be the first one to say he could have done it better," he said. "He was never satisfied. He always demanded more of himself."

Walker's self-criticism motivated him to go above and beyond what was necessary in everything he did, McLaughlin said.

"When he was a J (an experienced drill instructor) and I was a senior drill instructor, he would always stand at parade rest when he talked to me," said McLaughlin. "I always told him he didn't have to do that, but he still did it. He was the most respectful person I've ever met."

Walker's respectful nature shone through in his interaction with his subordinates as well as with his leaders, according to McLaughlin.

"Allan took a sincere interest in every one of his recruits," said McLaughlin. "He remembered details about his recruits that amazed me. He would talk to a Marine on the Depot months after he trained him, and he could recall his name and hometown and all kinds of obscure little details that blew my mind."

The unique character and vast love of a man who affected countless lives has not been wiped away by his passing. Today, Walker lives on in the hearts and minds of those he touched so deeply.

"He was the funniest, brightest person I've



Sgt. Scott McLaughlin, drill instructor, Instructional Training Company, above, played Taps at his best friend's funeral April 19. McLaughlin, who is a bandsman outside the drill field, insisted on doing the honors for the ceremony. Left, McLaughlin sat centered on a symbolic display of boots, a flak jacket and Kevlar helmet at a memorial ceremony for his best friend, Staff Sgt. Allan Walker, April 15.



It was a somber mood at Field Firing Range aboard Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 15 as drill instructors held their campaign covers in their laps during a memorial ceremony for one of their fallen comrades. Staff Sgt. Allan Walker was killed by hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, April 6.



Pvt. Theodore L. Passalis's grandfather earned three Purple Hearts while fighting on Pacific islands in World War II.



Pvt. Jordy D. Rossol's family believes he is a lineal descendent of Gen. Robert E. Lee.



ABOVE PFC Jacob B. Page's third-generation uncle fought as one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War.



LEFT Pvt. Chazen Q. Walker's great grandfather was a machinist who helped America develop the atomic bomb.

PLATOON 2067

History channels

New Marines descend from America's family tree

STORY BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON *Chevron staff* PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN *Press chief*

The Marine Corps is a band of brothers that prides itself on rich history and traditions. Today, four new Marines from Platoon 2067, Company F, bring to this brotherhood their own family histories.

PFC Jacob B. Page and Privts. Theodore L. Passalis III, Jordy D. Rossol and Chazen Q. Walker all trace their roots to some important figures in American military history.

Page's third-generation uncle, Bennett Siders, served as a Rough Rider during the Spanish-American War, according to his father. He left Springfield, Ill., and joined the Army just before the turn of the 20th century. During his tour of duty, he took part in one of the most renowned military campaigns of the Spanish-American War, charging up San Juan Hill in July 1898 while serving under the command of

President Theodore Roosevelt. Page's grandfather, Jack Page, who was awarded two Bronze Stars during World War II, fought under the command of Gen. George S. Patton, fighting in Africa, Belgium and Germany.

While Page's grandfather battled Nazis on the front lines, another relative fought his own battle, struggling for freedom in Germany's concentration camps. Ben Levovitz, Page's Czechoslovakian grandfather, spent years in German prison camps, escaping several times only to be recaptured. He eventually found refuge in Hungary, where he was hidden in an attic for approximately eight months. Levovitz arrived in the United States at age 40 a free man. He left behind a brother, a sister and a mother who were killed by the Nazis.

"What they have done has made us who we are now," said Page. "It's very inspiring to know my family history."

Passalis' pride in his family history became clear as tears rolled down his face when he spoke about his grandfather,

Theodore L. Passalis Sr. His grandfather was a big influence on him, according to Pvt. Passalis. The elder Passalis helped raise him and often shared stories of his experiences during WWII.

Serving five years in the Army, Passalis participated in battles on Okinawa, the Kwajalean Islands, the Aleutian Islands, and the Philippines. He received three Purple Hearts, according to Pvt. Passalis. One of those medals was for taking a bullet in the chest, which almost cost Passalis his life.

Pvt. Passalis' patriotism, which was nurtured by his grandfather's stories, drew him to the Corps.

"I'm very proud to carry on what he believed in," he said. Rossol, a Newalla, Okla., native, has a genealogy chart that ties his bloodline to a very prominent figure from the Civil War. According to the chart, which was produced by a distant cousin years ago, Rossol's fourth-generation grandfather was Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the

Confederate Armies. Lee, who graduated second in his class at West Point, fought in the Mexican War from 1846 to 1848, during which time he was slightly wounded at the battle for Chapultepec. A little more than a decade later, he helped lead a force of Marines that helped put an end to John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.

Rossol's mother, Debra Maria-Hallford, said the cousin who developed her family's genealogy chart almost 20 years ago was a professor at Oklahoma State University.

According to Rossol, he became a Marine to carry on his family's tradition of military service.

"I wanted a real challenge, and I wanted to be part of the brotherhood," said Rossol.

When Walker's great grandfather, August Ronveaux, helped America win the race to develop an atomic bomb, he probably had no idea his work would influence his future generations so heavily. Ronveaux was chosen by President Franklin D. Roosevelt

as one of the top 10 repair machinists in the country. In 1943 he transferred from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to Los Alamos, N.M., where he stayed until the bomb was completed in 1945, according to Walker.

Walker's father, Howard Russel Walker Jr., said his grandfather and many others had guilt-ridden feelings after America dropped the first bomb, but Pvt. Walker said he knows his great grandfather's work was important to America.

"I'm proud of my grandfather's part in ending the war," said Walker.

Coming from a military background, with family members including his father in the Army, Walker said he wanted to "step it up a notch" and become a Marine.

Today, these four new Marines will leave the Depot and begin writing their own histories. Their names will join genealogy charts, and their stories will pass through generations, so great grandchildren might hear the stories of a few proud Marines.

Recovered DI stronger than before

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

A wayward recruit with a weapon in hand turned a senior drill instructor's life upside down a little more than a year ago. A blindsided butt stroke to the back of the head left the Marine fighting for his life in intensive care, only to recover and return to the drill field stronger than before.

"It was a deafening blow," said Staff Sgt. Ross Arnette, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2062, Company F. "I'm not sure why the recruit did it, but it almost killed me."

The blow left Arnette unconscious with a crowd of drill instructors hovering over him until an ambulance arrived. His severe head trauma landed him in intensive care for three weeks, and Arnette said doctors almost decided to remove a small portion of his brain before he began recovering. Doctors told Arnette that his heightened physical fitness as a drill instructor was one reason he survived and was able to recover.

"I had a total loss of motor skills," recalled Arnette. "I couldn't walk in a straight line or lay flat on my back without getting dizzy or passing out."

"He couldn't do anything on his own," said his wife of eight years, Amy Arnette. "He couldn't even brush his teeth without help."

Arnette couldn't be left alone for fear that his injury, which claimed 25 percent of the hearing in his left ear, could become too painful.

"I couldn't even remember significant things," said the Anaheim, Calif., native. "I couldn't remember the color of my first car, or even where I got married. Amy was with me the whole time. She helped me get through a lot."

The recovery wasn't easy, however. Recovery from head trauma is very hard to predict, according to Arnette.

"The doctors told me they didn't know how long it would take me to fully recover, or if I would even recover at all," said Arnette. "The way each person's brain reacts is different. Even the doctors were impressed at how rapidly I recovered."

His rapid recovery was motivated by his love for training recruits, according to Amy.

"His fast recovery shows his dedication to what he loves," said Amy. "He loves being a drill instructor."

After a month and a half of convalescent leave, Arnette was assigned to work at his battalion office until his supervisors saw fit for him to return to the trenches.

"My higher-ups at the battalion saw me strive to improve," said Arnette. "I gradually started to run and lift weights, and they saw that. They got to know me as a person and they understood the goals I set for myself, one of which is to leave here as a series gunnery sergeant."

The road to recovery was emotionally taxing for Arnette, according to Amy.

"He was miserable when he wasn't training recruits," she said. "All he did was try to get back on the drill field."

The battalion was reluctant to put Arnette back on drill duty because they worried he might resent recruits after



Staff Sgt. Ross Arnette, a Company F senior drill instructor, suffered a head injury so severe that doctors wanted to remove brain tissue. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

the incident, but he said he holds no grudges and is not bitter.

"It's a thing of the past," said the 33-year-old. "I don't hold a grudge toward that recruit. I use it to help motivate the recruits I have now. If a recruit is injured and we have to drop him, I tell him the goal of being a Marine is still there, it will just take a little longer than planned. I know my goals are still in sight, and if the recruits know their goals are reachable, they won't give up. It's made me a stronger drill instructor."

Arnette is not a series gunnery sergeant yet, but he is a senior drill instructor. He is back with his family at home and with his family in the Corps.

"The hardest part of the whole thing was not knowing what would happen," said Arnette. "Now I am 100 percent and I'm doing what I love to. I'm training recruits to be Marines."

Pooles sample boot camp with Parris Island flavor

BY SGT. S. L. STANDIFIRD
12th Recruiting District

With emphasis on motivation and with a taste for the dramatic, Sgt. Maj. Patricia McCollough, Recruiting Station Sacramento, let loose two visiting drill instructors from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., onto a group of somewhat suspecting female applicants.

The two female DIs, Staff Sgt. Mariacarmen Cuza and Sgt. Nicole Ford, began shouting.

Upon their loud orders, applicants and potential applicants from RS San Francisco and RS Sacramento scrambled to get where the DIs wanted them. After only a few short moments, the blur of grey T-shirts settled into a makeshift formation, and the pooles began to experience a pseudo Marine Corps boot camp, Parris Island style.

"I've watched the videos about boot camp, so I was kind of expecting it," said Sarina Young, an applicant from Recruiting Substation Visalia, RS Sacramento. "But then they were here and all in your face. I think they made somebody cry."

Actually, Ford did just that. Ford was surprised that even the tears didn't stop one particular participant. She noted that even with the intensity she and Cuza showed, none of the girls quit. Even the one she made cry and ejected twice from the formation, she said.

Ford and Cuza were running up and down the formation, making corrections, getting in the applicants' faces, and teaching a few easy drill movements. For Cuza, the chance to yell and announce her presence with authority was her favorite part.

Young saw it as a preview of what to expect at Parris Island.

"This helped prepare me for what I need



Sgt. Nicole Ford corrects a potential applicant during Staff Sgt. Mariacarmen Cuza's class on basic drill movements. Ford and Cuza are Parris Island, S.C., drill instructors from Companies N and O respectively.

to do," she said. "It takes away much of the shock."

That was part of what McCollough had in mind.

"I think that this will be a reality check as to where they are in regards to being a Marine," she said. "They have only encountered recruiters and very few have seen an actual DI."

The other part of what McCollough wanted to accomplish was to show the drill instructors that the recruiters are really working with these pooles and are trying to help them prepare for boot camp.

Following their first exposure to Parris Island, the applicants and Marines on hand were formed up for a one mile-formation run led by Cuza and Ford.

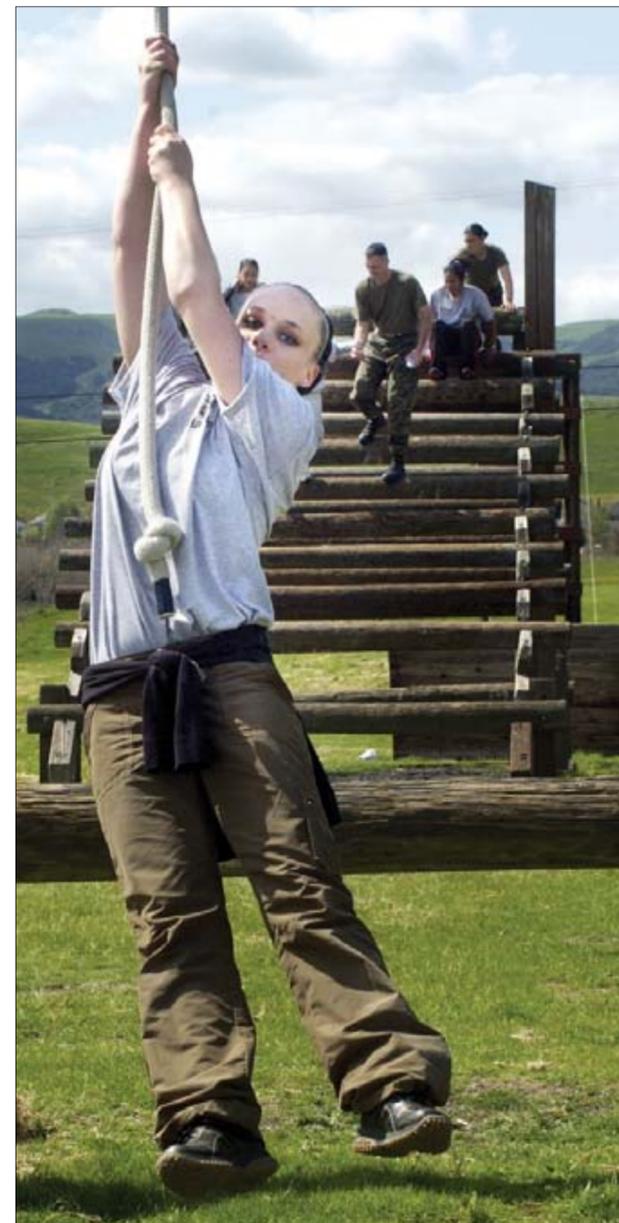
After the run was complete, the intensity of the drill instructors faded enough to give the applicants a chance to replenish their weary bodies with meals ready to eat. Smiles once again crossed the applicants' faces as they learned about the day's remaining activities.

After chow, the applicants were separated into three groups and sent to the rappel tower, a leadership reaction course and a confidence course.

The groups endured obstacles like the wall and rope climb while on the confidence course. They tried their hand at one of three scenarios on the leadership reaction course, and they were afforded the opportunity to go down the rappel tower at least once.

At the conclusion of the physical activities, the applicants had the chance to ask Ford, Cuza and any Marine questions about the Marine Corps. A few pooles asked about final preparations before their shipping date.

To top the day's events off, each participant received a certificate of completion and a some assurance that they can make it at Parris Island.



An applicant navigates a rope swing obstacle during the confidence course. Recruiting Stations Sacramento and San Francisco participated in the female poolee function that included a leadership reaction course and rappelling. Sgt. S. L. Standifird photos/12th District

FIGHTING FOX



Platoon 2065
COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. M. D. Anderson
Collinsville, Ill.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. M. D. Davis



Platoon 2061
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC B. P. Danielson
Honolulu
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. E. Pagaragan



Platoon 2062
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC V. F. Fernandez
San Antonio
Recruited by
Sgt. B. A. Beau



Platoon 2063
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC C. W. Kinsey
Lake Forest, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. Davis



Platoon 2066
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC K. A. Streeter
Indianapolis
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. A. Donelson



Platoon 2067
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC B. J. Miner
Albans, Iowa
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. Barklay



Platoon 2066
HIGH SHOOTER (240)
PFC D. N. Morey
Sedalia, Mo.
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. K. Lord



Platoon 2065
HIGH PFT (300)
PFC A. P. Jennings
Arlita, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. K. Avina

<p>MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION Commanding General BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR. Sergeant Major SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY</p>	<p>RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT Commanding Officer COL. W. M. CALLIHAN Sergeant Major SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD Regimental Drill Master GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR. Parade Adjutant STAFF SGT. A. GUTIERREZ Narrator STAFF SGT. R. K. DAVIS</p>	<p>MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO Band Officer WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES Band Master GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS COLOR GUARD SGT. B. A. PRICE SGT. L. CEPEDA PVT. J. L. TERRY PVT. A. J. RUEL</p>	
	<p>COMPANY F Commanding Officer Capt. A. Gonzalez Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. J. L. Wilson</p>	<p>PLATOON 2061 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. N. T. Bolen Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. J. Clifton Staff Sgt. S. T. Vu Pvt. C. L. Allen Pvt. D. L. Battig Pvt. A. Bermudez Pvt. D. G. Beustring PFC S. M. Bishop Pvt. J. M. Brannen PFC C. D. Brooks Pvt. M. S. Campbell Pvt. G. Campos</p>	<p>PLATOON 2062 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. E. Arnette Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. E. Tucker Sgt. C. A. Calderon Pvt. R. L. Adams PFC M. D. Alcalá Pvt. Q. J. Allen Pvt. B. J. Allen Pvt. J. A. Alvarez Pvt. V. E. Armenta PFC C. J. Arrieta Pvt. J. E. Blackford PFC S. J. Bohney Pvt. B. J. Briley Pvt. J. D. Buettgen Pvt. B. A. Buscha Pvt. K. R. Campbell Pvt. J. A. Carpio PFC D. E. Carson Pvt. D. S. Castaneda Pvt. J. A. Chapman Pvt. M. M. Chavez *PFC J. J. Cisneros Pvt. M. Contreras PFC P. J. Crowley Pvt. A. M. Cue PFC A. J. Eggebrecht Pvt. M. L. Falzone *PFC V. F. Fernandez Pvt. N. Flores Pvt. J. S. Forrester Pvt. C. L. Garcia PFC T. J. George Pvt. A. J. Gilmer Pvt. G. N. Gonzales PFC M. A. Gonzales Pvt. R. V. Gonzales PFC W. G. Grant PFC S. D. Gray Pvt. J. T. Guzman Pvt. G. C. Hefner Pvt. T. J. Hefner Pvt. J. M. Hubrich Pvt. T. M. Johnson Pvt. D. L. Johnston Pvt. G. L. Jones PFC A. D. Kramer Pvt. R. O. Lamptey Pvt. J. A. Leuluai Pvt. J. J. Oertel Pvt. J. G. Peterson *PFC C. S. Plummer PFC B. S. Stalker Pvt. S. M. Swisshelm Pvt. D. J. Veenker Pvt. E. C. Zubietta</p>
	<p>PLATOON 2063 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. W. Wright Pvt. T. Garcia *PFC R. A. Gentry Pvt. D. Gerej Pvt. R. T. Gifford Pvt. M. E. Gillette Pvt. D. R. Gilley Pvt. R. A. Gomez Pvt. R. Gonzales PFC D. Granados PFC C. J. Hairrell Pvt. N. D. Harris PFC M. W. Hatstat Pvt. J. R. Hemphill PFC S. M. Hill Pvt. J. W. Holleman Pvt. T. W. Hudgins *PFC A. C. Hull Pvt. J. D. Ivey Pvt. J. K. James Pvt. J. B. Cruz PFC C. B. Dalton PFC B. P. Danielson Pvt. E. D. De La Pena Pvt. M. W. Didominick Pvt. D. S. Dumas Pvt. P. J. Eaton Pvt. M. J. Felix Pvt. J. C. Fields PFC A. Flores PFC C. J. Fritsch Pvt. D. N. Garcia</p>	<p>PLATOON 2066 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. A. Loredo Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. J. McDermott Staff Sgt. D. M. Lowery *PFC C. L. Arriola Pvt. S. L. Carver PFC P. A. Demming PFC B. M. Fuller PFC G. L. Goodman *PFC L. M. Harsh Pvt. A. Kern Pvt. P. N. Klimek PFC D. D. Koo PFC N. H. Lanzan Pvt. B. J. Loving Pvt. L. M. Martinez PFC J. M. Martinez Pvt. B. R. McQuillen Pvt. M. N. Medrano PFC R. C. Miles Pvt. A. D. Monreal PFC J. J. Montgomery PFC D. N. Morey Pvt. D. W. Morgan Pvt. A. J. Mund Pvt. D. A. Olivas PFC R. Orozco-Lopez Pvt. D. A. Ortner Pvt. A. J. Padavic Pvt. C. J. Padgett Pvt. J. L. Pardieck Pvt. M. P. Pearson Pvt. D. W. Perez Pvt. L. J. Perez Pvt. J. D. Pina Pvt. R. M. Pulley PFC J. P. Ragan Pvt. G. A. Reyes Pvt. A. J. Riel PFC D. S. Rochon Pvt. C. J. Rodriguez Pvt. K. M. Ruch Pvt. K. W. Sandoval PFC T. A. Savage Pvt. C. D. Schwind Pvt. K. A. Schye Pvt. P. E. Smith Pvt. R. L. Smith PFC J. D. Smith Pvt. B. W. Stamps *PFC K. A. Streeter PFC S. A. Swanson PFC G. M. Tager Pvt. M. A. Teal Pvt. J. L. Terry PFC M. L. Thames Pvt. J. B. Throckmorton Pvt. T. T. Ticobay PFC A. Torres</p>	
	<p>PLATOON 2065 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. C. G. Mathews Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. L. D. Harper Staff Sgt. E. U. Estrada Staff Sgt. S. Montoyasanch Pvt. N. G. Aguinaldo *Lance Cpl. M. D. Anderson PFC H. H. Bui Pvt. J. M. Catlin Pvt. M. R. Cederberg Pvt. L. J. Chasko Pvt. R. M. Cunningham PFC A. M. Denny PFC C. K. Enos PFC J. E. Evans Pvt. J. A. Garcia Pvt. M. A. Garcia PFC N. L. Geck Pvt. J. Guzman Pvt. J. D. Halverson Pvt. S. G. Harding PFC R. Hernandez Pvt. J. L. Hesse Pvt. M. P. Hicks Pvt. T. J. Hill *PFC A. P. Jennings Pvt. D. M. Jeske PFC G. A. Kellow PFC M. R. Lancaster PFC C. J. Lee</p>	<p>PLATOON 2067 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. A. Zamora Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. D. R. Neel Sgt. O. P. Scheiss Pvt. L. W. Pitzak Pvt. D. M. Potter Pvt. J. M. Ramirez PFC D. J. Rollins PFC D. B. Roque PFC J. D. Rossol PFC R. Ruiz PFC C. A. Ruizgonzalez Pvt. K. L. Shelley PFC J. R. Buell Pvt. A. C. Krejci Pvt. T. R. Lavier PFC D. Lee *PFC J. A. Leishman Pvt. D. R. Lindsay *PFC S. P. Lomasney Pvt. D. Lumbreras PFC C. S. Mahiya Pvt. P. A. Martinez Pvt. P. C. Mattoon Pvt. G. E. McCord PFC B. J. Miner Pvt. R. Montemayor Pvt. M. J. Moree Pvt. C. B. Newland PFC D. M. Newman PFC G. A. Noriega Pvt. C. A. Wilkerson PFC T. J. Williams PFC T. A. Wimmer</p>	

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. M. Zich
Chaplain
Navy Lt. K. A. Medve
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. W. Gallagher
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. T. L. Debarr

Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 3rd Class
C. Peroutka

SERIES 2061
Series Commander
Capt. J. D. Diaz
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. T. A. Leach

SERIES 2065
Series Commander
Capt. J. P. Benson
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. W. R. Smith



Pvt. Cody L. Allen, squad leader, Platoon 2061, Company F, carries his rifle at the position of port arms during close order drill practice. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. L. D. Brown
Staff Sgt. R. L. Harmon

PFC D. W. Adams
Pvt. N. Aguirre
Pvt. C. R. Aleman
Pvt. E. E. Arce
PFC J. M. Bada
Pvt. A. D. Bartlett
Pvt. A. S. Barton
Pvt. C. T. Benedict
Pvt. M. G. Boudouris
Pvt. F. Bravo
PFC S. F. Capetillo
Pvt. G. Cardenas
*PFC E. J. Cervantes
Pvt. R. F. Corrales
Pvt. M. C. Fouty
Pvt. F. R. Gallardo
Pvt. A. P. Hahn
Pvt. J. A. Jimenez
PFC M. A. Jimenez
*PFC C. W. Kinsey
Pvt. M. A. Koopman
Pvt. J. A. Laboube
Pvt. S. P. Linehan
Pvt. T. G. Little
Pvt. V. J. Lopez
Pvt. B. R. Mallard
*PFC J. L. Manjarrez
Pvt. F. E. Matzuy
PFC M. R. Maxwell
Pvt. M. T. Mayden
Pvt. B. V. Moreno
Pvt. A. B. Mosdale
Pvt. T. D. Nealey
PFC D. R. Niederer
Pvt. R. B. Nisbet
PFC N. T. Odani
Pvt. S. Ouch
Pvt. J. A. Padilla
Pvt. M. L. Patterson
Pvt. J. E. Peck
Pvt. D. L. Perez
Pvt. A. Reynoso
PFC V. P. Rios
Pvt. S. C. Sadek
Pvt. J. S. Scheuren
PFC C. B. Sharp
PFC J. R. Sheets
PFC G. E. Swierczek
PFC J. A. Sykes
Pvt. S. A. Tallman
Pvt. L. A. Trujillo
PFC M. R. Vasquez
Pvt. M. E. Williams
Pvt. S. N. Woodcox
Pvt. E. Zamora

PLATOON 2065
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. C. G. Mathews
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. L. D. Harper
Staff Sgt. E. U. Estrada
Staff Sgt. S. Montoyasanch

Pvt. N. G. Aguinaldo
*Lance Cpl. M. D. Anderson
PFC H. H. Bui
Pvt. J. M. Catlin
Pvt. M. R. Cederberg
Pvt. L. J. Chasko
Pvt. R. M. Cunningham
PFC A. M. Denny
PFC C. K. Enos
PFC J. E. Evans
Pvt. J. A. Garcia
Pvt. M. A. Garcia
PFC N. L. Geck
Pvt. J. Guzman
Pvt. J. D. Halverson
Pvt. S. G. Harding
PFC R. Hernandez
Pvt. J. L. Hesse
Pvt. M. P. Hicks
Pvt. T. J. Hill
*PFC A. P. Jennings
Pvt. D. M. Jeske
PFC G. A. Kellow
PFC M. R. Lancaster
PFC C. J. Lee

James Laws PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER



James Laws enlisted in the Marine Corps July 18, 1943 and graduated from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Following graduation he was transferred to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and assigned to the 11th Amphibian Tractor Battalion. In July 1944 his battalion was attached to 5th Marine Division and shipped to Maui, Hawaii for further deployment to the Western Pacific. His battalion sailed from Hawaii to eventually land on the island of Iwo Jima, Feb. 19, 1945. Laws landed on the volcanic beaches of Iwo Jima in the 5th wave of the assault landing. During this operation, Laws would make numerous trips from ship to shore in his assault craft, landing weapon systems and Marines who were vital to the continued assault for control of the small but strategic island. For the remaining weeks it took

to destroy the enemy, he made continuous trips to the front delivering key supplies and ammunition. In March of the same year, Laws left Iwo Jima and returned to Hawaii. March 1, 1946, Laws was discharged from the Marine Corps. Following his service to his country as a Marine, he worked for various trucking companies in the San Diego area. In 1976, Laws retired from the Teamsters Union where he traveled the United States with his wife. He has remained active in the Water Board and little league and served as a volunteer fireman. Laws currently resides in Ramona, Calif. He was married to his late wife, the former Elaine Morse June 29, 1947. They have four children together, 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Today, one of Laws' grandchildren, PFC Timothy A. Savage, graduates here as a Marine.



PFC Brandon P. Danielson, guide, Platoon 2061, Company F, leads his platoon. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



PFC Anthony C. Hull, squad leader, Platoon 2061, Company F, belts out commands to his squad during drill. Column of files requires the squad leaders in the platoon to direct their troops when to march. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

PLATOON 2067
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. Zamora
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. D. R. Neel
Sgt. O. P. Scheiss

PFC M. J. Anderson
Pvt. A. C. Krejci
Pvt. T. R. Lavier
PFC D. Lee
*PFC J. A. Leishman
Pvt. D. R. Lindsay
*PFC S. P. Lomasney
Pvt. D. Lumbreras
PFC C. S. Mahiya
Pvt. P. A. Martinez
Pvt. P. C. Mattoon
Pvt. G. E. McCord
PFC B. J. Miner
Pvt. R. Montemayor
Pvt. M. J. Moree
Pvt. C. B. Newland
PFC D. M. Newman
PFC G. A. Noriega
Pvt. C. A. Wilkerson
PFC T. J. Williams
PFC T. A. Wimmer

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Fox Company answered Chevron's random questions about their boot camp experiences:

<p>Q: How many letters did you get during mail call?</p> <p>Pvt. Adam D. Bartelt Waukesha, Wis.</p> <p>A: About eight or nine letters each mail call. It was more than enough. I hardly slept.</p>	<p>Q: What was the scariest moment of recruit training?</p> <p>Pvt. Rogelio Corrales Los Angeles</p> <p>A: The moment I stepped off the bus. I didn't know what was going to happen.</p>	<p>Q: How was your last day of civilian life?</p> <p>Pvt. Mark C. Fouty Jackson, Mich.</p> <p>A: Short.</p>	<p>Q: What was your worst civilian job?</p> <p>Pvt. Brandon V. Moreno Fontana, Calif.</p> <p>A: I never had a bad civilian job.</p>	<p>Q: What was your favorite MRE?</p> <p>PFC Daniel R. Niederer Bay City, Mich.</p> <p>A: Beef Patty. Even though the main meal was bad, it's worth all the extra stuff.</p>
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Pitcher Akinori Otsuka and the rest of the Padres sported special camouflage jerseys for the Padres 8th annual Salute to the Armed Forces and Military Appreciation Day April 15. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



Commander of the Navy's 3rd Fleet, Vice Adm. Michael J. McCabe, talks with San Diego Padres rookie pitcher Jason Szuminski. McCabe tossed out the first pitch at the game. Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel A. Jones/Public Affairs Center San Diego

APPRECIATE IT!

In new ballpark, Depot Marines enjoy traditional San Diego Padres military day



Lance Cpl. Molly Marine, Depot mascot, and her handler, Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr., were part of the opening festivities for the Padres 8th annual Salute to the Armed Forces and Military Appreciation Day April 15. Several San Diego Marines were recognized during the pre-game ceremonies. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON
Chevron staff

Single Marine Program and recreation center officials held a pre-game baseball party here at the Locker Room April 15 to celebrate the San Diego Padres 8th annual Military Appreciation Day.

Marines and civilians gathered and enjoyed happy-hour specials from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and promoters gave away discounts and swag. The SMP coordinator, Britney O'Connor, requested 125 discounted tickets for \$5 each and free bus transportation to and from the newly built Petco Park downtown.

"It's great. Starting out at the Locker Room with the tailgate party and dropping us off and picking us up with no problems

or hassles shows (SMP is) taking care of us," said drill instructor Staff Sgt. Carlos Perez, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

The Navy Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs, descended upon the field as part of the opening ceremony. Vice Adm. Michael J. McCabe, commander of the Navy's 3rd Fleet threw the opening pitch to rookie relief pitcher Jason Szuminski who is an Air Force Reserve lieutenant. Showing support for America's military, the Padres donned their traditional camouflaged jerseys and green caps to play against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"It's good to see the Padres in cammie jerseys. It definitely shows they support us," said Cpl. Justin Johnson, programmer, communications and information systems department.

Though the Padres lost 7-5, the Marines and civilians who attended the game said



Many service members set foot inside the Padres' brand new Petco Park for the first time at this year's Military Appreciation Day. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

they enjoyed themselves. The Padres took an early lead by slugging away two runs, but they subsequently collapsed, allowing the Dodgers to score four runs in the third. The Dodgers added to their lead with another run in the fourth inning and two more in the seventh inning.