



Jennifer Breennan-Sparks, artist, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Historical Society, and retired Maj. Gen. Don Fulham, shake hands after unveiling Breennan-Sparks' painting of a Marine fighting in Iraq. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

Operation Iraqi Freedom exhibit opens at command museum

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

Officials at the Depot's command museum, James L. Day Hall and the MCRD San Diego Historical Society celebrated the opening of the Iraqi Freedom exhibit here March 19.

The exhibit displays uniforms, weaponry, enemy equipment and maps of some of the areas where Ma-

rines fought battles. It features a giant-sized photo album that chronicles the war from deployment stages to the capture of Saddam Hussein. The exhibit also includes combat artwork from Sgt. Jack Carrillo, a combat illustrator here.

"The exhibit is a testament to the museum's and Historical Society's commitment to preserve the Marine Corps' history, past and present," said Barbara S. McCurtis, museum director.

The new exhibit is significant for two reasons, according to McCurtis. The first is that it is an on-going exhibit, meaning more artifacts from Operation Iraqi Freedom are constantly being offered to the museum. The second thing is, unlike other exhibits, the artifacts are coming in straight from the battlefield.

"These artifacts aren't spending time in people's garages; we're getting them from Marines and sailors coming straight out of Iraq," said McCurtis.

Some of the Marines and sailors who brought back artifacts from Iraq are currently stationed aboard the Depot.

"I thought it was important to share and help others learn," said Chief Petty Officer Robert E. Franzwa, independent duty corpsman, Branch Medical Clinic, about his part in bringing artifacts to the museum.

With recruits passing through the halls of the museum on training day 20, the exhibit will show them the Corps' present is as important and celebrated as its past.

"This shows them this war is as equally important as those we fought in the past," said Sgt. Henry S. Lopez, photographer, Combat Visual Information Center. "In many ways it will help educate and prepare them."

For those wishing to offer artifacts from Operation Iraqi Freedom, call McCurtis at (619) 534-6719.



Caches of weapons and ammunition, like the one recreated in the command museum's exhibit, were found all over Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

Depot Marine awarded Bronze Star



BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

A Depot Marine was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" March 17 for courageous acts in Operation Iraqi Freedom. First Lt. Matt Zummo, assistant series commander, Special Training Company, stood before Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, and a formation of his fellow Marines to receive his award.

"It's a great honor to get this award," said Zummo. "I don't feel like I did anything special to earn it though. I know any Marine I served with would have performed just as well in the situation."

Zummo served as the Scout Platoon commander, 2nd Tank Battalion in Iraq. The battalion was on the move, and Zummo led much of the way. He used his expertise in navigation and didn't make any wrong turns or miss any objectives.

The Marines encountered heavy fire from the enemy April 3, 2003, as they neared the town of Al Aziziyah. He continued to report enemy positions and activities until a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee. Shrapnel from the blast lodged into his lower back, causing severe bleeding.

"I didn't even know I was hit until I saw the blood on my hands," said Zummo. "The corpsman looked at it and told me there was shrapnel in my back."

Zummo had to leave on a medical evacuation.

SEE **Star**, pg. 4



Rear Adm. J. L. Betancourt, chairman, San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign, presents a Bronze Award to Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, at a luncheon celebrating the success of the charitable fund-raising campaign. The award recognized the Depot's performance in the recently completed CFC. The San Diego County CFC raised over \$6.3 million, and the Depot/WRR contributed \$412,322. This is the 15th consecutive year the Depot has been recognized in the CFC."

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HONOR PLATOON

SPRING BREAK

SMP heads to Lake Havasu for spring break celebration.

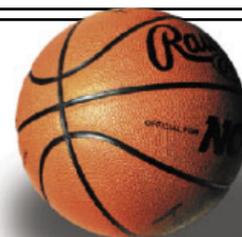
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VACATION TIME

Leisure office says it could be time to take that vacation to anywhere but here.

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B-BALL UNDERWAY AGAIN

Dental beats RAB in opening day of intramural basketball.

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POST



Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo, sergeant major, Headquarters and Service Battalion, salutes his commanding officer, Col. Anna R. Smythe, after relinquishing authority during H & S Bn.'s relief and appointment ceremony on Shepard Field March 18. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron

RELIEF



Sgt. Maj. Annanias Rose, former Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major, renders a salute to his commanding officer, Col. Anna R. Smythe, after relinquishing authority during H & S Bn.'s relief and appointment ceremony on Shepard Field March 18. Rose retired from the Corps after 30 years of service. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron

H&S Bn welcomes new enlisted senior Rose bids farewell to Corps after 30 years of service

BY SGT. RYAN SMITH
Chevron staff

Headquarters and Service Battalion welcomed Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo and said farewell to Sgt. Maj. Annanias Rose in a relief and appointment held March 18 on Shepard Field.

In conjunction with the relief and appointment ceremony, Rose retired after 30 years of service to the Corps.

"Never let anyone tell you that you don't count," said Rose, addressing the Marines of H & S Bn. "You are the little wheels that make the big wheel turn around here."

Serving with H & S Bn. several times during his career, Rose has tried to mentor Marines into becoming better for the Corps.

"He will always be mentoring, whether it be the Young Marines Organization or others he will work with along the way," said Col. Ana Smythe, commanding officer, H & S Bn.

"Sgt. Maj. Rose is a great leader of Marines who throughout his 30 years of selfless devotion to duty has made an enormous positive impact on countless

lives both in and out of uniform," said Escobedo. "During his tenure, he established an esprit de corps within the battalion in which I will definitely continue to nourish."

Escobedo said he looks forward to serving with the Marines and sailors of H & S Bn.

"It is a great privilege to be given the opportunity to represent and serve the Marines, sailors and civilians of H & S Bn.," said Escobedo. "(It is through) their hard work, dedication and professionalism that they greatly contribute in the support of the making of Marines."

Escobedo began his Marine Corps career in 1977 by attending recruit training here. He completed his training and moved on to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for training as a heavy equipment engineer operator.

After completing his training he was assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He only spent eight months there before he was ordered to report to Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. While in Okinawa, he was meritoriously promoted to corporal and deployed to South Korea where he participated in Exercise Team Spirit '79.

After serving 18 months overseas, Escobedo received orders back to Camp Pendleton, where he was assigned to Landing Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and served as an engineer equipment dispatcher and as a quality control inspector for the Heavy Equipment Platoon.

Escobedo reenlisted in May 1982 and requested orders to Marine Security Guard School, Quantico, Va. He graduated and was assigned to American Embassy, Cairo, Egypt. He was then assigned to the American Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. While in Argentina, he was promoted to staff sergeant and assumed the duties of the assistant detachment commander for the American Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

In January 1985, Escobedo received orders to Camp Lejeune, N.C. for duty as an engineer equipment foreman with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd FSSG.

While at Camp Lejeune, he volunteered for drill instructor duty here where he served for 30 months as a drill instructor.

SEE Relief, pg. 8

Restaurateurs get taste of recruit training

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

Several executive members of the Outback Steakhouse Corporation toured Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to witness Marine Corps recruit training March 15.

"The visit provided an opportunity to educate and inform members of the corporation about how we take civilians and transform them into motivated Marines," said Maj. Dave Griesmer, public affairs officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "After spending time at the Depot, these influential members will go back to their communities with a much better understanding of how we make Marines. Educating community leaders about opportunities for service in the Corps will ultimately assist our recruiting efforts."

The visit gave the executives an insight into the experiences and challenges of recruit training.



Several officers and staff noncommissioned officers helped provide a warm welcome for executives from the Outback Steakhouse Corporation who visited the Depot March 15 to observe recruit training. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

"This is a great experience," said Steve Avery, president, Outback Steakhouse, as the group departed the obstacle course. "We don't get to see this kind of stuff every day."

Although this was the Outback Steakhouse Corporation's first visit to the Depot, they have been supporting service members. The corporation sent employees to Afghanistan and Iraq to feed more

than 40,000 U.S. and Coalition troops.

"We were fortunate to have been given the opportunity to bring these heroes a little taste of home," said Avery. "We felt a great amount of pride that we were able to serve the troops a great Outback meal and to give their morale a boost."

Maj. Gen. Christopher Cortez, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, and Brig. Gen. John M.

Paxton Jr., commanding general, MCRD San Diego, along with several other leading Depot officials, organized and hosted the tour.

The Depot was just the first stop on a San Diego based military tour that also included visits to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Stamp out laziness, step up your health

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

Marines listen up! Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and among ages 25 through 45, it is the second leading killer of Americans.

In a very literal sense, we are eating, smoking, and sitting ourselves to death. The reason behind the madness is most of us just don't know any better.

Really, I mean it. How many of us believe that drinking a soda is a healthy way to start a morning. You might be shaking your head, but I know at least 10 people who begin their morning with a sugar-saturated, carbonated breakfast because they think it's healthy.

It's just a simple lack of education coupled with an overwhelming sense of false satisfaction when we crack open that 12-ounce aluminum can. The sense of satisfaction comes from the images companies attach to these products through their advertising. I'm not saying go out and file a lawsuit because you got fat for eating too many hamburgers. All I'm saying is use your better judgment when making choices on what to eat and why. Remember you have the power to choose what you eat. According to the Department of Agriculture, a balanced daily diet consists of the following:

- 2 to 4 servings of fruit
- 3 to 5 servings of vegetables
- 6 to 11 servings of breads and cereals
- 2 to 3 servings of meat
- 2 to 3 servings of milk products

Keeping up an eating schedule like this can be challenging for people with busy schedules. However, it can be accomplished with planning.

Remember the Marlboro man was the guy who made smoking cool. He was the image of manliness. Now he is the image of what tobacco can do to your body. Don't worry I'm not going to start preaching. I'll just deliver the facts. If they aren't enough to scare you, then you're lost anyway.

According to the American Heart Association:

- From 1995 to 1999, an average of 442,398 Americans died each year of smoking-related

illnesses. 33.5 percent of those deaths were cardiovascular-related.

- About 35,000 nonsmokers die from coronary heart disease (CHD) each year as a result of environmental tobacco smoke.

• The risk of death from CHD increases by up to 30 percent among those exposed to environmental tobacco smoke at home or work.

• Smoking costs Americans more than \$157 billion annually in medical care.

The list goes on and on. For those who still believe smoking is healthy for them, let's look at it from an economic standpoint. Let's say you've been smoking for 10 years and you smoke 2 to 5 packs of cigarettes a week at the price of \$3 a pack. At this pace, you've spent between \$3,120 and \$7,800. Just

think, you could have used that money to invest or take a nice trip.

When discussing the ill effects of sedentary life styles, I like to substitute the word stagnant for sedentary. The word stagnant describes more vividly what happens inside the body when we are not active. Think about it. A stagnant swamp is foul because there is no water moving through it to achieve filtration. Much like the swamp, when we don't move our blood does not circulate and oxygenate at optimal levels. This can cause all sorts of health problems. The good news is all we have to do is change our lifestyles from stagnant to active. Sounds easy huh? For those who choose to implement physical activity into their daily routine, it is easy. The key is you have to choose.

I am fully aware Marines are familiar with the topics I have discussed. However, I know that even among our ranks there are those who could benefit from a little health education. For those who knew this information prior to reading this article, I encourage you to give it to someone who can benefit from it.

To educate others takes discipline — something Marines should have. Another thing we are familiar with is helping people. As leaders, we must help our fellow Americans realize the importance of good physical health. If that means sharing what you know with friends and family members, so be it.



Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint

LANE SPLITTING 101

A reason to envy California's motorcyclists

BY SGT. C. NUNTAVONG
Flight Jacket staff

With summer around the corner, more and more motorcycle enthusiasts will be dusting off their bikes and occupying California roads. Some of us will be "splitting" lanes between cars on the freeways and city streets.

Why do motorcyclists lane split?

One of the main reasons why we lane split is because we can. But there are other, more fundamental reasons.

Lane splitting is a way for motorcyclists to save time, which may be why car-bound motorists sometimes resent us. Do we like to play tag with immature drivers who think it's fun to "merge" into our path, or open their car door just as a motorcycle is approaching? We don't.

Lane splitting reduces congestion and helps to improve traffic flow by creating an "extra lane."

Is lane splitting legal? Splitting traffic is not specifically addressed in California's Vehicle Code, but according to the California Highway Patrol's Web site, "Lane splitting by motorcycles is permissible but must be done in a safe and prudent manner."

An immediate reaction to lane splitting, for most people, is that it's dangerous.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Motorcycle Safety Foundation Web site states, "A motorcycle's narrow width can allow it to pass between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars on roadways where the lanes are wide enough to offer an adequate gap. This option can provide

an escape route for motorcyclists who would otherwise be trapped or struck from behind. There is evidence that traveling between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars (i.e., lane splitting) on multiple-lane roads, such as interstate highways, slightly reduces crash frequency compared with staying within the lane and moving with other traffic. Although lane splitting is allowed in just a few areas of the United States, notably California, it appears to be of further study because it offers a means of reducing congestion in addition to possible safety benefits. It is widely used in many other countries."

Another reason for lane splitting comes from the fact that motorcycles are air-cooled. This means they are cooled by the flow of air over the engine. Cars have large radiators that allow them remain idle for any length of time. Motorcycles don't. When a motorcycle fan turns on, it is usually a signal that the rider should find a clear stretch of road to get the engine cooled down or pull over to the side and shut down before over-heating.

In Southern California, lane splitting is our way of life. It is tolerated by law enforcement and the CHP testified against a bill that would have banned it several years ago.

Personally, I like Japan's law: In any accident involving a motorcycle and a car, the driver of the car is at fault. I wonder if we'll ever do that here? Maybe. This is California.

The moral of this story is be aware of what is going on around you. Your friendly neighborhood motorcyclist may be riding past.

In Kuwait without my camera

BY STAFF SGT A.C. MINK
3rd Marine Air Wing

While sitting here in sunny Kuwait, I realized the San Diego sun has got nothing on the weather here in March, but not even the periodic sand blasts can get me down.

I arrived here last week, a public affairs pogue ... without a camera. Well, I have a camera, I just don't have any lenses. Those got embarked so that they weren't destroyed on the trip over.

Busy as my schedule has been, what with going to the chow hall, reading and the random Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class (by the way, acclimate yourself before throwing punches in the noon sun here), I have had some time to make a couple observations.

You'll find several different groups of Marines here — and no, I'm not talking about units.

The first ones you've got are the workers. These guys put in 12 to 16 hour days and don't even blink. I'm talking about your operations clerks, admin pogues and those scary guys who are constantly checking the secured Internet for "word." They are in the command post tents or at their sections from sun up to sundown.

From the amused expression on their faces when you ask when the next flight out is coming, you know that not only have they already been here for quite awhile, but they're resigned to the fact that it may be a while before they go anywhere else — especially home. But they still answer your questions patiently.

The workers can tell you where anything is, but they can't show you — that would take them away from their work.

There's the PT junkies who run at 0-dark-30, shower, then hit the chow hall, are in the gym

early, at the chow hall at noon, head back to the gym and pretty much stay there until time for the boxing matches. Then they might take in a quick run before showering and hitting the rack.

You can talk to the PT junkies, but you have to jog to catch up.

The busy bees are those that know what is going on and where, and if there isn't anything, they start something up — anything to kill time and keep busy. They can find you classes, MC-MAP, movies in the command post tent and any number of other activities. There are a couple of officers here that I swear don't sleep — they sit up all night inventing things to keep the Marines from going stir crazy.

The sleepers are hard to spot — but you'll know them when you see them. They are that misshapen lump in the center of the sleeping bag in the darkest part of the hooch. Only waking to eat and take care of essential bodily functions, they can be found, day and night, in their rack.

You might think it's funny to wake them, but do so with caution — they can be VERY cranky.

Then you've got the night crawlers. That's pretty much me. I'm so stuck in Pacific Standard Time. I'm wide-awake all night and fall over passed out at 10:30 a.m., Kuwait time. That's 11:30 p.m. in California. In case you wondered.

Most are pretty much in limbo, waiting for our ride/flight up north or whatever. The night crawlers are the ones up all night in the CP tent reading or on the computer so we don't drive the Marines in our hooches nuts.

And that's where I am — six days in the desert, no camera, waiting on my flight north. But I wouldn't trade places to sit behind my old desk for anything in this world.

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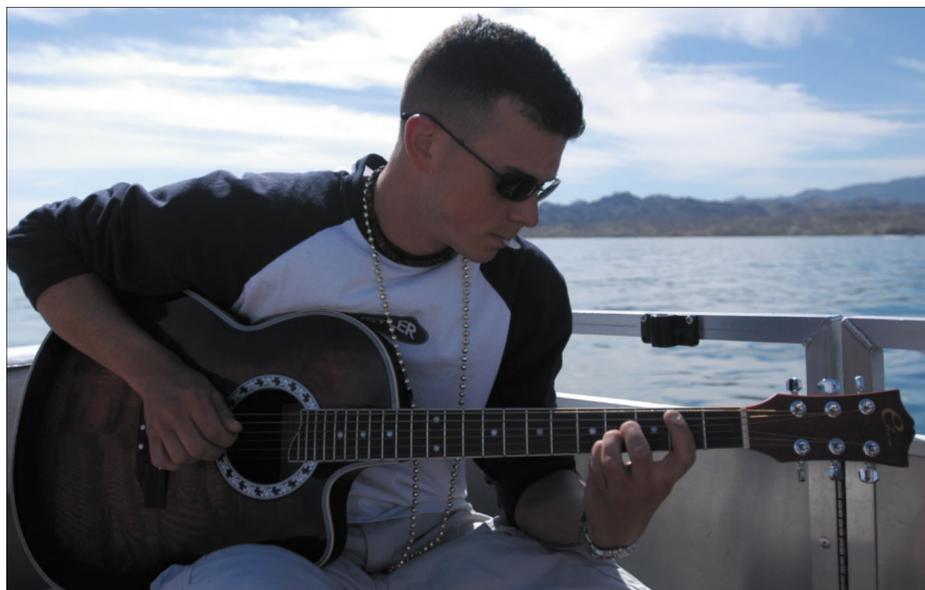
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BREAK IT UP
BREAK IT UP
BREAK IT UP



Cpl. Robbie Blowers, a Depot policeman, plays some country music on the boat heading to Copper Canyon.

SMP celebrates spring break at Lake Havasu

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Several members of the Single Marine Program took a spring break trip to Lake Havasu, Ariz., March 19 to 21.

The Marines rallied at the Locker Room parking lot here and loaded up vans for a fun-filled weekend of fellowship, boating and adventure.

"I knew this would be a great trip from the beginning," said Cpl. Robbie Blowers, a military policeman here. "I've been to Lake Havasu before, and I had great time."

With anticipation of events yet to come, the vacationers set off on their six-hour voyage to the oasis.

After the long journey through the desert, the Marines arrived at the Crazy Horse Resort, an upscale campsite with cabins for rent. After everyone settled into their cabins, the good times began.

Everyone gathered and went to a lakeside club for a night of dancing and getting a feel for the climate.

Once the music stopped and the club emptied, the group made its way back to the cabins to rest up for Saturday.

The sun shot into the cabins Saturday morning and found the Marines making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for breakfast and preparing for a day on the water.

After a safety brief from the boat rental company, the Marines launched two boats into the lake and navigated to Copper Canyon, the spring break hot spot. As the sun rose higher, more boats gathered in the canyon, which by noon was like one big party boat with people jumping from boat to boat and mingling in the 90-degree heat.

Many people abandoned ship to get cool in the water or to swim over to the cliffs that surround the cove. A few Marines scaled the cliffs for a little cliff diving.

"Cliff diving was a rush," said Lance Cpl.

Hamlet Tavarez, armorer, Depot armory. "It was incredible. I've never felt like that before."

The day got hotter and so did the party. Thousands of people occupied the cove. Music was blasting and everyone appeared to have a good time.

"That was the craziest spring break I've ever seen," said Blowers. "I had a lot of fun."

The boats had to be returned as the sun set, and the group spread to the wind to go eat or hit bars or parties. Everyone made it back to the cabins safely.

The Marines dragged into the main cabin Sunday morning prepared to leave. After chow, they loaded up the vans and hit the road. Some people slept while others talked about the great weekend. They arrived on the Depot at about 5:30 p.m., tired, but happy with the weekend.

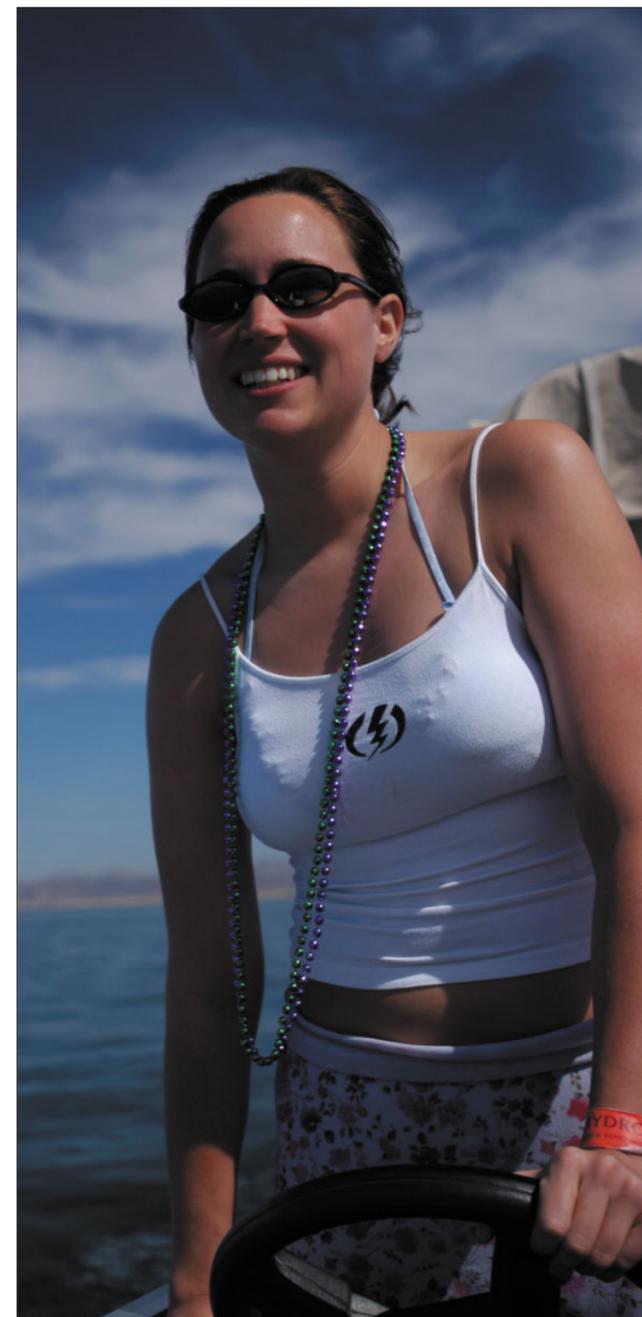
"The trip was an overall success," said Britney O'Connor, SMP coordinator. "No one got in trouble, and we all had a good safe time."



Lance Cpl. David Kusnitz, Recruit Training Regiment, gets his balance before diving at Lake Havasu.



Lance Cpl. Hamlet Tavarez, a Depot armorer, kicks back with his feet over the rail of the pontoon boat during the Single Marine Program's Lake Havasu spring break trip.



Britney O'Connor, Single Marine Program coordinator, drives a rented pontoon boat at SMP's Lake Havasu spring break trip.



Lauren Gurney, a 17-year-old senior in El Dorado High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, sights in during target practice. She is the number one ranked woman air rifle competitor in New Mexico. Staff Sgt. Raymie G. Cruz/Recruiting Station Albuquerque

MCJROTC senior shoots for marksmanship excellence

BY STAFF SGT. RAYMIE G. CRUZ
Recruiting Station Albuquerque

At El Dorado High School in Albuquerque, N.M., the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps teaches high school students basic military knowledge, including rifle marksmanship.

"What we do is help people prepare for life after high school," said Sgt. Maj. Lee Dickens, El Dorado High School JROTC commander. "We have our successes, but we don't always succeed. It's those talented individuals that keep us coming to work every day."

Among those talented individuals in the El Dorado JROTC, one stands out: Lauren Gurney, a 17-year-old senior who is the number one ranked woman air rifle competitor in New Mexico.

Gurney originally got involved in the JROTC after deciding that, upon graduation from high school, she wanted to go to either the Naval or Air Force Academy.

"I wanted to gain more knowledge of the military, and have some sort of background," Gurney said. "I figured that the best way to do that was to join the Marine JROTC at my high school."

"Young men and women who have been in the JROTC are about five times more likely to complete an academy," Dickens said. "Lauren is a prime example of the type of person we like to see in this world. She is bright, articulate and is well-respected throughout the athletic community as well as the academic community."

During her junior year, Gurney shot the air rifle for the first time and realized it was something in which she could excel.

"The first time I shot in the 'offhand' I

scored a 79 out of 100 points," said Gurney. "My dad said 'There's no way you're not a natural shot.'"

After some inspiration from her father, Gurney stepped up her training and began shooting every chance she got.

In April 2003, Gurney went to Las Cruces, N.M., to compete in her first match and realized how good the other shooters were. At the match, she placed 5th in state, but was determined to become number one.

Although her senior year is only the second year she has competed, Gurney made the decision to become the best and took the necessary steps.

"During the first nine weeks of school, I bought my own air rifle from George Benzovich, the coach of the University of Texas in El Paso shooting team," she said. "I also spent two training sessions with him in order to better my skills."

After learning more about the competitions and gaining extra coaching, Gurney focused on her goal and used a lot of her free time to practice.

"I would shoot about eight times each week but had to slow down to four to six times, because this is my senior year and, at this time, your academics are more important than before," she said.

Since then, Gurney has taken first place in her last three events: the National Rifleman's Association International, the American Legion International and the NRA three-position air rifle competition.

In the NRA three-position, consisting of kneeling, standing and prone, she scored 282 points out of a maximum 300.

Although Gurney enjoys competing in air rifle matches, she was also given the title of the 2003 Sports Car Club Mechanic of the Year while working with her dad.

RS Houston Marines honor WWII Purple Heart recipient 47 years later

BY STAFF SGT. JASON BORTZ
Recruiting Station Houston

For 47 years, Loraine Martin carried a heavy burden: what to do with the Purple Heart her first husband was awarded while serving during World War II? She finally came upon an answer when she talked to the Marines of Recruiting Station Houston.

Alva Lewis Roy had served in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1947. In 1945, he was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received while serving in the Western Carolines near the Marshall Islands. After the war, Roy returned home to Texas and had a happy life with his wife Loraine. Then in 1957, the couple received the frightening news that Alva had a brain aneurysm and only had a short time to live.

"He was so brave," said Martin, who welded airplanes during World War II, "just like he was when he was in the Marines."

Years later Martin remarried, but always wondered what to do with Roy's Purple Heart. The two had no children to pass the medal on to and Loraine didn't want the medal to just end up somewhere and not be appreciated.

Her husband, John Martin, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, told her to call the Marines because the Marines always take care of each other. Martin came in contact with Staff Sgt. Edwin

Ducos and asked him if there was anything the Marines could do. Ducos promised her that he would take care of it.

"It's part of our tradition, Marines take care of each other, and I didn't want his sacrifice to be forgotten," said Ducos.

Ducos, along with other Marines, contacted Jay Setchel, a local graphic designer who had also served in the Marines, about constructing a case to display the medal. Using the medal, photos of Roy and his Purple Heart citation, Setchel constructed a display case to be hung on the wall at the RS headquarters.

"We [the company] did it for cost of material only, because he was a Marine and should be remembered," said Setchel, who served during the Vietnam War.

Martin and her husband went to the RS to see the medal, Feb. 13.

"She had no idea what we had done, she thought we just put his items in a frame and that was it," said Ducos, "she didn't know all the work that had gone into it."

Upon seeing the display, Martin began to weep and repeatedly said how much her husband would have appreciated the effort.

After a small ceremony and words from Maj. Jeff Smitherman, commanding officer, RS Houston, the display was hung on the wall.

"It will remain here until the last Marines leaves this building," Smitherman said.



Loraine Martin, wife of deceased Marine and Purple Heart recipient Alva Roy, thanks Maj. Jeff Smitherman, commanding officer of RS Houston, for creating a display to remember Roy and his medal. Staff Sgt. Jason Bortz/Recruiting Station Houston

Relief, from pg. 2

Successfully ending his tour in January 1990, he went back to Japan to serve with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd FSSG, Okinawa, Japan. He held the billet of operations chief for the Engineer Equipment Platoon. During his tour in Okinawa, Escobedo was promoted to gunnery sergeant and led a detachment of Marines to Mount Fuji, Japan in support of a three-month field exercise.

In January 1990, Escobedo received orders to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, for duties as an engineer equipment foreman.

He deployed to Southwest Asia where he participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Returning from Southwest Asia, he once again volunteered for the drill field at MCRD San Diego where he served as a series gunnery sergeant and senior instructor at Drill Instructor School. While assigned to MCRD, Escobedo was selected for first sergeant and was re-assigned to Receiving Company.

After successfully completing a second tour of the drill field, Escobedo received orders to Headquarter Company, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp

Pendleton, Calif. In February 1997, he was selected to his present rank of sergeant major.

In May 1997, Escobedo received orders to 3rd Marine Air Wing where he assumed the duties of squadron sergeant major for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 located in Tustin, Calif. While in this command, he participated in two unit deployments to Okinawa, Japan.

In November 2000, Escobedo received orders to be an inspector/instructor with the 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, San Diego, Calif., where he held the billet of site sergeant major.

Escobedo's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, four Meritorious Unit Commendations, eight Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, three Southwest Asia Service Medals, three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, two Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons, two Drill Instructor Duty Ribbons, a Marine Security Guard Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

18-year-old college grad drops books, picks up rifle

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Television shows about child geniuses have captivated American people for decades: "Doogie Howser, M.D.," "Malcolm in the Middle" and even Cartoon Network's "Dexter's Laboratory" have captured hearts of nearly everyone that watches. One show, however, may never exist: "PFC Billy McCulloch, U.S. Marine."

McCulloch, 18, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry before he was old enough to vote.

While growing up in Seguin, Texas, McCulloch learned at a rapid pace at his private school. He was so far ahead of his classmates, he was allowed to skip seventh and eighth grades.

"I just seemed to understand," said McCulloch. "Science came pretty easy."

At the age of 12, McCulloch began his freshman year of high school. Later that same year, he took a placement test from Duke University and placed in the top one percentile.

"I did so well on the test, I was allowed to go straight to college," said McCulloch.

So the boy genius enrolled at St. Phillip's College, which is near his home.

"I had a chance to go to Duke, but we couldn't afford it, and it was too far from home," said McCulloch.

McCulloch said he fit in with other students despite the age gap.

"At first it was weird having my mom drop me off at college every day," said McCulloch. "But I realized I wasn't even old enough to drive, so there was no shame in that. I actually got along with everyone. I guess age

doesn't really matter. We were all science geeks and we had a good time together."

After his third semester at St. Phillip's, McCulloch transferred to Texas Lutheran University to finish his degree.

He graduated with his degree when he was 17, and despite his educational victory, McCulloch had another dream: the Marine Corps.

"I've thought about the military for a long time," said McCulloch. "I knew it had to be the Marines because they're the best. It's common knowledge. Every Marine is a rifleman first, but every airman or sailor isn't. I know I can count on my fellow Marines every time."

McCulloch looked into becoming an officer but was unable to because he didn't meet the minimum age requirement of 20 years old. He decided to enlist.

"I wanted to join right away," said McCulloch. "There was no way I was going to wait around until I was old enough to be an officer."

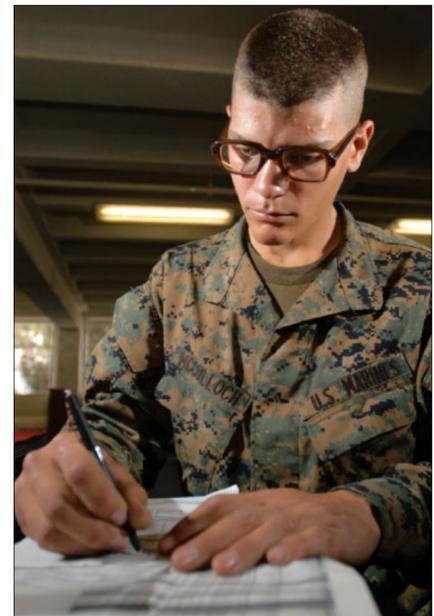
McCulloch joined as an infantryman for several reasons.

"I want to go out and see all that I can," said McCulloch. "If some combat is involved, great. I just want to be out there in the thick of it."

While preparing for life in the Corps at recruit training, McCulloch's knowledge and organizational skills helped him become the platoon scribe. The scribe helps the drill instructors with administrative duties.

"McCulloch is a smart kid," said Sgt. Kent Sabido, one of McCulloch's drill instructors. "We give him a task, and we don't even have to explain it to him. He just figures it out."

Although Marine Corps recruit training doesn't call for much chemistry, McCulloch still found ways to put his skill



PFC Billy McCulloch, Platoon 2158, Company G, fills out a platoon fire-watch roster. McCulloch was appointed platoon scribe for his knowledge and organizational skills. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

to use.

"One time, there were some spots on the floor and nobody could get them up," said McCulloch. "I went into the gear locker and mixed some chemicals and it took the spots off."

McCulloch graduates today in front of his family and peers. "While 'PFC Billy McCulloch, U.S. Marine' will never grace TV land, the sight of him walking across Shepard Field as a Marine will remain in the minds of those close to him.

SDI's sense of humor is no laughing matter

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

The American poet Bessie Stanley wrote "to laugh much and to laugh often" is an indicator of success.

If that is the case, Company G drill instructor Staff Sgt. Philip J. Kulczewski, is very successful. Using humor as a tool to achieve success in life and on the drill field has helped him reach many goals.

However, taking the path of the funnyman has caused him some problems in the past. Kulczewski grew up in St. Clare, Mich., on the icy, western edge of Lake Huron.

"Growing up, I was a bit immature," said Kulczewski. "My two jobs at St. Clare High School were football team captain and class clown. I needed to find some discipline."

Between football practice and making spitballs, Kulczewski said he found time to visit a Marine recruiter.

"I figured the best way to get some [discipline] was to join the Marines," said Kulczewski. "It was something about their mystique that told me you have to be disciplined to be one of them."

Kulczewski was right. He found discipline and learned to use his sense of humor in ways he never imagined.

While undergoing recruit training, he learned his personality and ability to make people laugh had a profound effect on others.

"It's amazing how a sense of humor can turn around someone's outlook," said Kulczewski. "In boot camp, I realized that I could use my talent to increase the morale of the other recruits in my platoon. I also realized there was a time and a place to be funny."

Nowadays, Kulczewski uses what he learned to diffuse the high-stress situa-



Staff Sgt. Philip J. Kulczewski, senior drill instructor, P platoon 2158, claims his sense of humor is the key to his success on the drill field and in life. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

tions he and his fellow drill instructors face on the drill field. As Platoon 2158's senior drill instructor, Kulczewski is mainly responsible for supervising and training the drill instructors under his charge. He enthusiastically accepts this responsibility and works to keep their spirits high.

"Around the hats, I use my sense of humor to take the edge off," said Kulczewski. "They work extremely hard. I know they take their job seriously, but I also believe in keeping things in perspective. That is how I use my sense of humor."

He is the company funnyman, according to several of his fellow drill instructors.

"He is able to boost morale through his personality and ability to make people laugh," said Gunnery Sgt. Kurt M. Martinez, series gunnery sergeant, Co. G.

"I like drill instructors so much I decided to marry one," said Kulczewski recalling the magical night in Oceanside.

Kulczewski is engaged to Sgt. Lisa Dunn, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Dunn is a former drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

"It was love at first sight," said Dunn. "He has an outstanding sense of humor. It is definitely one of the many attributes I love about him."

Having been a drill instructor, Dunn is aware of her fiancé's challenges, needs and inspirations during his current assignment.

"Our life is pretty uncomplicated," said Dunn, considering the demands training recruits places on a relationship. "I understand because I have been there. I just do what I can to support him. If it means bringing him and the drill instructors breakfast at 3:30 a.m. during the Crucible, then that's what it means."

To Kulczewski, it means a full stomach and a whole lot more. He knows how fortunate he is having someone who understands.

"I know that a lot of wives and girlfriends don't understand why their husband or boyfriend is working 20-hour days," said Kulczewski. "I don't have that problem because she knows exactly why I'm working long hours. She knows what it takes to make Marines."

According to Kulczewski, it takes hard work and dedication to make Marines, but he also said the rewards are worth the work.

Kulczewski's attitude on training Marines and living life can be related to the final words in Stanley's poem on success. The poem states, "to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

GOLF COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. R. P. Jackson
Palmdale, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. Libby



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC C. A. Lofquist
Twin Lake, Mi.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. D. Korrek



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M. V. Norton
West Terre Haute, Ind.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. T. Billingly



SERIES HONORMAN
PFC R. M. Morris
Molouh, Kan.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. C. L. Bowling



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC J. C. Wilson
Moreno Valley, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. T. Philburn



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC F. Velasco
Pico Rivera, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. R. Torres



HIGH SHOOTER (243)
PFC J. B. Ford
Bakersfield, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. A. Arano



HIGH PFT (300)
Pvt. M. R. Ponce
San Antonio, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. Zurita

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Commanding Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. K. DAVIS

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS

COLOR GUARD
SGT. L. CEPEDA
SGT. B. A. PRICE
PFC J. C. WILSON
PVT. J. B. PERRY

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. M. Zich
Chaplain
Lt. K. Medve
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. W. Gallagher
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. T. L. Debrarr

COMPANY G

Commanding Officer
Capt. T. Carlos
Company First Sergeant
Pvt. J. M. Amos
Company Corporal
1st Sgt. J. Lucero
Company Corporal
Petty Officer 3rd Class
C. Medina

SERIES 2153

Series Commander
1st Lt. S. D. Miller
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. R. L. Garrett

SERIES 2157

Series Commander

1st Lt. J. Norris
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. K. M. Martinez

PLATOON 2153

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. D. A. Headrick
Drill Instructors
Sgt. A. L. Mayes
Sgt. S. Huerta
Sgt. D. K. Arthur

Pvt. D. M. Alonso
PFC J. M. Amos
Pvt. B. C. Ayers
Pvt. K. C. Baker
*PFC E. J. Bentz
Pvt. J. P. Berry
Pvt. J. W. Bishop
Pvt. A. J. Bodette
Pvt. S. R. Brown
Pvt. J. L. Butler
Pvt. S. J. Buzo
Pvt. J. B. Byrd
PFC J. Calvert
Pvt. G. A. Calvo
Pvt. K. P. Cannon
PFC B. A. Crane

Pvt. H. T. Crawford
Pvt. B. P. Cutknife
PFC N. B. Czechowicz
Pvt. N. D. Dalo
Pvt. F. J. Delreal
Pvt. B. S. Dick
PFC T. A. Draeger
Pvt. J. A. Drake
Pvt. W. R. Dunning
Pvt. D. E. Dyson
Pvt. D. J. Eggert
Pvt. T. J. Fithian
*PFC J. R. Fritze
PFC V. R. Garcia
Pvt. C. J. Hale
Pvt. M. W. Hammann
PFC I. A. Hapka
Pvt. M. D. Hardon
Pvt. D. M. Hardy
PFC J. D. Harrel
Pvt. M. C. Harvey
PFC A. A. Hayden
Pvt. R. A. Hernandez
Pvt. J. J. Hernandez
Pvt. J. D. Horn
Pvt. B. A. Horton
PFC C. D. Joslin
Pvt. G. A. Jewell

Pvt. J. D. Kight
Pvt. R. D. King
*PFC L. K. Kuegwa
Pvt. J. N. Leep
*PFC C. A. Lofquist
PFC J. D. Loudamy
Pvt. B. C. Luthy
Pvt. J. A. Miller
Pvt. P. F. Neligh
PFC F. S. Tamba
Pvt. Q. L. Taylor
PFC D. G. Thomas
Pvt. M. R. Turnbull
PFC L. G. Welch
Pvt. J. K. Wilfawn

PLATOON 2154

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. L. Zetina
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. Cervantes
Sgt. C. A. Favela
Sgt. R. A. Schepis

Pvt. N. L. Ailport
PFC P. C. Albavera
PFC J. R. Ambrose
Pvt. M. D. Anderson

PFC M. A. Avenger
Pvt. J. E. Avila
Pvt. J. T. Blankenship
PFC R. J. Buckner
Pvt. A. L. Buelna
Pvt. J. D. Buie Jr.
PFC B. C. Campbell
Pvt. D. M. Casey
PFC R. T. Chance
Pvt. J. A. Cherry
Pvt. C. M. Chism
Pvt. D. V. Collura
Pvt. G. W. Connor
Pvt. C. J. Cowell
PFC B. A. Crane
*PFC D. A. Digregorio

PLATOON 2155

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. A. Rowland
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. H. C. Woods
Sgt. J. D. Nieves
Sgt. R. Trevino

Pvt. F. B. Acevedo
Pvt. J. W. Ahlers
PFC E. Alcala
Pvt. R. H. Amick
Pvt. C. M. Atkins
PFC R. O. Aviles
PFC C. M. Ayala
PFC K. M. Bennett
PFC R. K. Blair
Pvt. J. A. Boleyn
*PFC D. Bosquez
Pvt. S. M. Bradley
PFC W. D. Brann
PFC T. G. Brazeal
PFC C. M. Cabanban
Pvt. M. R. Castillo
PFC P. P. Chavez
Pvt. J. A. Clyde
Pvt. B. M. Cotton
PFC T. D. Craig
Pvt. C. R. Curry
Pvt. D. J. Donnelly
Pvt. A. Echevarria

*PFC M. V. Norton
PFC T. K. Parlin
Pvt. R. D. Petersen
PFC J. V. Pfaff
Pvt. A. L. Powell
Pvt. F. C. Ramirez
Pvt. B. D. Rhodes
Pvt. J. W. Robinson
Pvt. M. H. Roland
Pvt. G. L. Smith
PFC T. M. Trammell
PFC S. J. Yamauchi

PLATOON 2156

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. A. Rowland
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. H. C. Woods
Sgt. J. D. Nieves
Sgt. R. Trevino

Pvt. T. D. Erwin
Pvt. J. W. Fallavollita
Pvt. J. A. Favri
Pvt. D. Flores
PFC J. L. Flores
PFC J. E. Garcia
Pvt. Z. E. Gay
Pvt. M. L. Gonzales
PFC E. Gonzalez
Pvt. L. Harwell
Pvt. J. P. Higgins
Pvt. J. W. Hollingshead
PFC A. S. Hunt
Pvt. D. A. Irving
*Lance Cpl. R. P. Jackson
Pvt. N. C. Mankin
PFC A. R. Marquez
PFC J. L. Marquez
Pvt. O. Martinez
PFC D. R. Mata
PFC D. T. Matson
PFC M. P. Mattammal
*PFC J. A. McFarlane
Pvt. M. Medel
Pvt. C. L. Moody
Pvt. G. N. Morin
PFC H. A. Morris
Pvt. J. D. Munoz
PFC O. Olivares
Pvt. D. J. Oneill
Pvt. J. E. Peters
Pvt. A. D. Phillips
Pvt. S. M. Pinedo
*PFC A. X. Ponce
PFC R. R. Ponce
Pvt. S. J. West

PLATOON 2157

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. P. Hutton
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. S. Smith
Staff Sgt. G. Risen

Pvt. T. D. Erwin
Pvt. J. W. Fallavollita
Pvt. J. A. Favri
Pvt. D. Flores
PFC J. L. Flores
PFC J. E. Garcia
Pvt. Z. E. Gay
Pvt. M. L. Gonzales
PFC E. Gonzalez
Pvt. L. Harwell
Pvt. J. P. Higgins
Pvt. J. W. Hollingshead
PFC A. S. Hunt
Pvt. D. A. Irving
*Lance Cpl. R. P. Jackson
Pvt. N. C. Mankin
PFC A. R. Marquez
PFC J. L. Marquez
Pvt. O. Martinez
PFC D. R. Mata
PFC D. T. Matson
PFC M. P. Mattammal
*PFC J. A. McFarlane
Pvt. M. Medel
Pvt. C. L. Moody
Pvt. G. N. Morin
PFC H. A. Morris
Pvt. J. D. Munoz
PFC O. Olivares
Pvt. D. J. Oneill
Pvt. J. E. Peters
Pvt. A. D. Phillips
Pvt. S. M. Pinedo
*PFC A. X. Ponce
PFC R. R. Ponce
Pvt. S. J. West

PLATOON 2158

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. P. Hutton
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. S. Smith
Staff Sgt. G. Risen

Pvt. B. J. Raab
Pvt. T. J. Albers
Pvt. J. L. Benson
*PFC D. C. Bluhm
PFC M. R. Boeck
Pvt. A. A. Chrisco
Pvt. J. M. Ehlers
Pvt. J. L. Engal
Pvt. B. C. Ewing
Pvt. N. J. Fisher
*PFC C. A. Gil Aranda
Pvt. R. D. Hamilton
PFC J. J. Hamilton
Pvt. B. J. Harlin
Pvt. D. E. Henley
Pvt. J. L. Hernandez
Pvt. J. A. Hernandez
Pvt. K. R. Hickman
Pvt. M. R. Machen
PFC T. C. Malotte
Pvt. A. C. Marston
PFC B. J. McCulloch
Pvt. R. W. McMillen
PFC G. D. Merz Jr
PFC G. L. Morey
PFC E. W. Niesen
Pvt. M. L. Offner
PFC J. A. Onda
Pvt. C. E. Ortiz
PFC J. R. Renninger
PFC P. J. Richardson
PFC M. C. Richman
Pvt. J. F. Roberts
Pvt. F. Rodriguez
PFC K. W. Russell
Pvt. J. Sanchez
Pvt. J. M. Sanford
Pvt. K. P. Snapp
Pvt. R. Solis
PFC S. J. Stanzel
PFC E. R. Steinig
Pvt. L. D. Stone
Pvt. T. R. Tellez
PFC C. E. Thresher
*PFC J. A. Tjaden
Pvt. T. M. Tremelling
PFC N. J. Usherwood
Pvt. S. A. Vance
PFC M. J. Vargas

Sgt. J. Angulo

Pvt. M. D. Anderson
PFC M. G. Anderson
Pvt. J. M. Barber
Pvt. G. S. Bhatti
Pvt. J. L. Burfiend
PFC B. P. Cagle
Pvt. R. D. Cates
Pvt. M. V. Cisneros
PFC A. L. Cortinas
Pvt. J. A. Delcastillo
Pvt. T. O. Denny
Pvt. A. M. Devore
Pvt. J. R. Dombrowski
PFC K. A. Dominguez
PFC C. F. Duchac
Pvt. J. L. Fontenot
*PFC J. B. Ford
Pvt. E. L. Forsythe
Pvt. E. L. Garza
Pvt. P. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. A. Good
PFC J. C. Grimes
Pvt. J. W. Grimes
PFC J. A. Hansen
*PFC C. H. Harp
Pvt. L. L. Herrera
PFC K. M. Hobbs
PFC J. P. Hooper
PFC J. D. Hughes
Pvt. R. E. Hunt
PFC E. R. Jines
*PFC K. B. Jones
PFC S. J. Kilburn
Pvt. G. Kolbasowski
PFC S. J. Kruchten
PFC J. H. Lawrence
Pvt. J. B. Maples
Pvt. D. J. May
Pvt. B. M. Mendoza
PFC J. D. Millard
*PFC R. M. Morris
Pvt. J. J. Munoz
PFC T. J. Nack
Pvt. T. Nunez
PFC J. M. Parker
Pvt. E. J. Pham
Pvt. J. B. Pierce
Pvt. J. A. Powell
Pvt. M. Puente
Pvt. O. G. Ramos
Pvt. D. A. Rideau
Pvt. A. E. Rivera
PFC E. A. Rodriguez
*PFC M. A. Ross
Pvt. M. J. Ryan
Pvt. S. C. Saefong
Pvt. A. C. Salas
PFC C. G. Savage
Pvt. J. M. Thornton
PFC C. B. Thurman
Pvt. J. L. Torrey
Pvt. M. A. Turcios
Pvt. D. L. Underwood
*PFC F. Velasco
PFC K. M. Voliland
*PFC S. T. Wallace
PFC D. R. Williamson
PFC J. C. Wilson
Pvt. L. A. Winkle
Pvt. J. R. Wittczak
PFC K. K. Wittenbraker
Pvt. B. A. Word
Pvt. M. L. Worthey
Pvt. J. R. Wren
Pvt. M. A. Zeek

Pvt. V. P. Veriuchi
Pvt. M. S. Vincent
Pvt. M. S. Wade
Pvt. B. L. Whelan
PFC G. W. Wicke
*PFC J. C. Wilson
PFC M. C. Woody
Pvt. J. G. Workman
PFC J. G. Wright
Pvt. J. L. Zabala

PLATOON 2159

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. C. Murcia
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. G. A. Paulson
Staff Sgt. R. R. Norton
Staff Sgt. B. R. Hunter

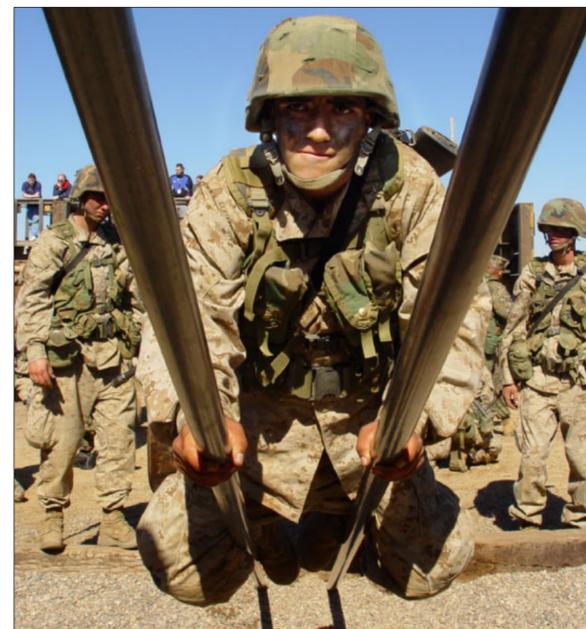
Pvt. K. J. Amerson
Pvt. J. D. Blanchard
Pvt. S. P. Collins
Pvt. L. J. Cuestas
Pvt. R. J. Edwards
Pvt. J. J. Gomez
PFC J. A. Maccammond
PFC M. R. Madsen
Pvt. N. A. Magee
Pvt. G. G. Makovicka
PFC S. P. Mang
Pvt. E. S. Martinez
Pvt. A. R. Mastro
PFC T. M. McKinley
PFC F. Mejia
PFC M. B. Middleton
PFC J. D. Middleton
*PFC J. R. Moreno
Pvt. S. C. Munger
PFC L. Inguila
Pvt. D. T. Narcisse
Pvt. N. C. Narvaez
Pvt. C. M. Newberry
Pvt. J. T. Nguyen
Pvt. B. H. Ortega
PFC M. R. Pehrson
PFC J. B. Perry
Pvt. C. A. Peterson
Pvt. S. H. Pham
Pvt. J. B. Pierce
Pvt. J. A. Powell
Pvt. M. Puente
Pvt. O. G. Ramos
Pvt. D. A. Rideau
Pvt. A. E. Rivera
PFC E. A. Rodriguez
*PFC M. A. Ross
Pvt. M. J. Ryan
Pvt. S. C. Saefong
Pvt. A. C. Salas
PFC C. G. Savage
Pvt. J. M. Thornton
PFC C. B. Thurman
Pvt. J. L. Torrey
Pvt. M. A. Turcios
Pvt. D. L. Underwood
*PFC F. Velasco
PFC K. M. Voliland
*PFC S. T. Wallace
PFC D. R. Williamson
PFC J. C. Wilson
Pvt. L. A. Winkle
Pvt. J. R. Wittczak
PFC K. K. Wittenbraker
Pvt. B. A. Word
Pvt. M. L. Worthey
Pvt. J. R. Wren
Pvt. M. A. Zeek

PLATOON 2159

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. C. Murcia
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. G. A. Paulson
Staff Sgt. R. R. Norton
Staff Sgt. B. R. Hunter

Pvt. B. J. Raab
Pvt. T. J. Albers
Pvt. J. L. Benson
*PFC D. C. Bluhm
PFC M. R. Boeck
Pvt. A. A. Chrisco
Pvt. J. M. Ehlers
Pvt. J. L. Engal
Pvt. B. C. Ewing
Pvt. N. J. Fisher
*PFC C. A. Gil Aranda
Pvt. R. D. Hamilton
PFC J. J. Hamilton
Pvt. B. J. Harlin
Pvt. D. E. Henley
Pvt. J. L. Hernandez
Pvt. J. A. Hernandez
Pvt. K. R. Hickman
Pvt. M. R. Machen
PFC T. C. Malotte
Pvt. A. C. Marston
PFC B. J. McCulloch
Pvt. R. W. McMillen
PFC G. D. Merz Jr
PFC G. L. Morey
PFC E. W. Niesen
Pvt. M. L. Offner
PFC J. A. Onda
Pvt. C. E. Ortiz
PFC J. R. Renninger
PFC P. J. Richardson
PFC M. C. Richman
Pvt. J. F. Roberts
Pvt. F. Rodriguez
PFC K. W. Russell
Pvt. J. Sanchez
Pvt. J. M. Sanford
Pvt. K. P. Snapp
Pvt. R. Solis
PFC S. J. Stanzel
PFC E. R. Steinig
Pvt. L. D. Stone
Pvt. T. R. Tellez
PFC C. E. Thresher
*PFC J. A. Tjaden
Pvt. T. M. Tremelling
PFC N. J. Usherwood
Pvt. S. A. Vance
PFC M. J. Vargas

*Denotes meritorious promotion



Pvt. Brian Marino, Platoon 2154, Company G, crawls up a slide fire team constructed to get a container of fuel across a river to a humvee on Reaction Course number 4, a simulated mission on the Crucible. Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora/Chevron



Pvt. Bernardo Anarvae, Platoon 2159, Company G, helps his team get a tire across a simulated mine field in the Crucible's reaction course 3. Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora/Chevron



Sgt. Maj. Harry E. Rivera
PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. Harry E. Rivera was born Sept. 5, 1962 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1982 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Following initial training, he was assigned to Marine Barracks Republic Of Panama where he served as a member of the security forces detachment.

In 1984, he was assigned to Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, where he served as a member of the supply depot. In 1986, he received orders to MCRD San Diego and was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant while serving as a drill instructor with 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

Rivera completed a lateral move to the intelligence field and attended the basic level intelligence course. He was then assigned to the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C., for duties as the intelligence analyst for South America.

In December 1989, he participated in Operation Just Cause, Republic Of Panama as a member of the human exploration and interrogation cell. From October 1990 until June 1991, he was assigned to 2nd Surveillance And Reconnaissance Group in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Following these operations, he was assigned various billets with 1st and 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces.

In September 1995, he was assigned to Marine Forces South, where he served as the G-2 intelligence chief. He also served as a member of the Panama Canal Treaties Task Force.

In April 1998, Rivera was promoted to first sergeant and was assigned to inspector-instructor staff, 1st Battalion 25th Marines. In July 2000, he was assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, Marine Forces Pacific and served as the acting sergeant major for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Forces Central Command.

In May of 2003, he was promoted to sergeant major and assumed his current post as sergeant major of Recruiting Station San Francisco.

He is married to the former Marianela Brid of Panama City, Republic of Panama. They have three children, Anthony, age 18, Christian, age 10, and Gabriella, age 8. His personnel awards include two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.



Pvt. Matios Cisneros, Platoon 2157, Company G, snaps in during grass week of basic rifle marksmanship training at Edson Range. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron

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

Q: Why did you join the Marine Corps?



Pvt. Roger H. Amick
Hesperia, Calif.

A: To start my life off right and to get a great experience to carry throughout my life.

Q: What was the scariest moment of recruit training?



Pvt. Christopher M. Atkins
Corona, Calif.

A: I've never been scared during recruit training.

Q: What did you miss most from civilian life?



PFC Rudy O. Aviles
Lake Elsinore, Calif.

A: Females and food.

Q: Do you have any Marines in your family?



Pvt. Joseph A. Boleyn
Wichita, Kan.

A: Yes, my brother is a recruiter.

Q: What's the best Meal Ready to Eat? Why?



Pvt. Heath A. Morris
Grand Rapids, Mich.

A: Bean Burrito; it has a burrito with hot sauce and chocolate mint poundcake.



RAB forward Sgt. Shamar Underwood drives to the basket past several Dental defenders. Underwood scored two of his 14 points on the play.

Dental cleans RAB out

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

A stingy man-to-man defense and unselfish offense was the key to the Branch Dental Clinic's 70-60 victory over the Recruit Administrative Branch intramural basketball action at the base gymnasium Tuesday afternoon.

DENTAL	70
RAB	60

Beginning the Commanding General's Cup Basketball season with a bang, Dental was able to emerge as a team to be

reckoned with at the end of the six-team round-robin day of hoops.

"Good team spirit is the key," said Dental's point guard Dentalman Keilin Hopkins-Bey. "It gives us a chance to show that we need to be recognized on the Depot as far as sports are concerned."

Dental's superior teamwork on offense resulted in four players registering double-digit scoring.

"We try to distribute the ball evenly," said Hopkins-

Bey who had 11 assists.

Dental's leading scorer was power forward Dentalman Alondo Johnson with 14 points. The bulk of Dental's scoring came as a result of RAB turnovers, which led to easy fast-break scoring opportunities.

RAB was able to keep the game close until the middle of the second period when they decreased a Dental 10-point lead to four with six minutes left to play.

"We started getting in foul trouble," said RAB shooting guard Staff Sgt. Robert Palmer. "After fighting to decrease their lead for the majority of the game, we started to get tired and make mistakes."

Leading scorers for RAB were forwards Cpl. Jesus G. Valdez with 21 points and Sgt. Shamar K. Underwood with 14 points.

The next day of competition for the six teams competing for the CG's Cup basketball championship is scheduled for April 6. For more information on CG's Cup basketball, call Rachel Dickinson, intramural sports coordinator, Marine Corps Community Services, at (619) 524-0458.



RAB point guard Lance Cpl. Dwayne Low shoots after darting past a Dental defender.



RUNNING TO THE END OF THE RAINBOW



Marine Corps Community Services hosted the St. Patty's Day three-mile run here March 16. Maj. Andrew Bartle, finished first overall out of 880 runners, crossing the finish line at 16:23, and Maj. Rhesa Ashbacher, civil law attorney, was the top female finisher with a time of 18:58. Top finishers received shoes courtesy of Road Runner Sports, and the top three finishers in each category received awards also. Runners and spectators enjoyed free food and prize giveaways from various sponsors during and after the fun run. Individual commands collected points toward the Commanding General's Cup Tournament, with Recruit Training Regiment coming in first followed by Headquarters and Service Battalion and Coast Guard. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron