



Lt. Col. Hugh A. Henry, deputy assistant chief of staff G-1, said he plans to fulfill a religious mission in China that God called him to serve. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron photo illustration

## TO CHINA 愛 WITH LOVE

### Depot Marine answers calling to spread faith in Asia

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

He sits at his desk tying up loose ends and doing the last of his Marine Corps duties, only stopping to sip from his Proverbs 20:7 coffee mug and reminisce over his long tenure. A sigh escapes his lips.

Deputy assistant chief of staff Lt. Col. Hugh A. Henry sighs with gratitude and relief. He sips, peering over his mug into a unique future with his family doing what he said is his calling in a service other than the Corps: spreading Christianity, which he plans to do in China in a couple months.

Raised Roman Catholic in a Marine Corps family, Henry became interested in God at an early age. "I always had great respect for God and the Bible," said Henry. "When I was 7 years old, a question popped into my head. 'How do I know I'll go to Heaven? Do I have

SEE **China**, pg. 5

## New recruit shoes in test phase

### Millipedes on feet could reduce injuries

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

To cut down on injuries and replace the 10-year-old technology of the current shoes to make way for new advances in footwear, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is in the process of testing new athletic shoes for the recruits here.

The new shoes are made by Millipede, a fledgling shoe company that started when the founder, Bill Guthrie, wanted to remedy his foot injuries.

Guthrie approached former Depot commanding general Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly and said he wanted to make new training shoes for recruits, according to Jim Reading, Recruit Training Regiment physical fitness advisor. Guthrie explained the new technology involved with his shoes and how the shoes would help the recruits.

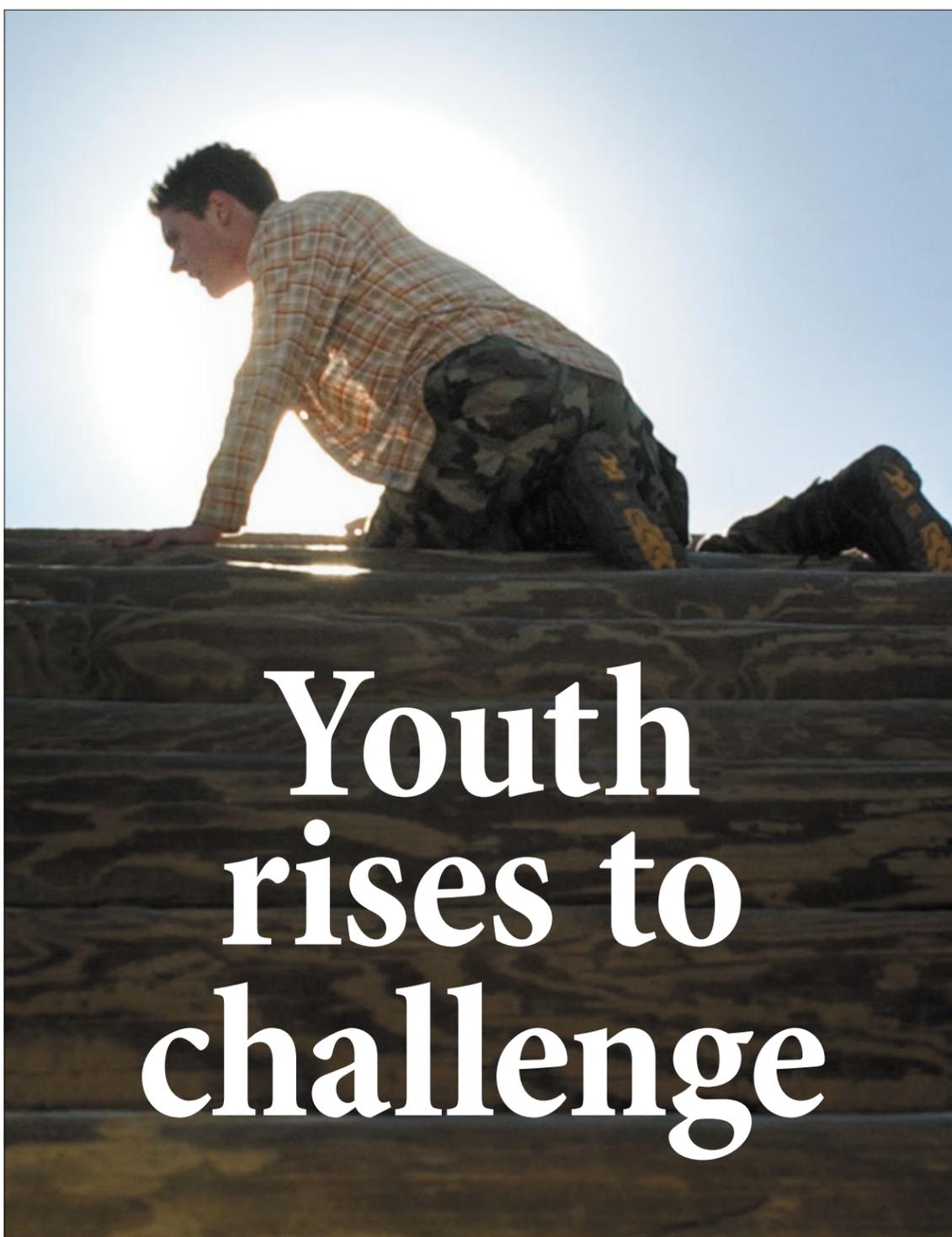
"We wanted to do whatever would cut down on injuries," said Reading. "Footwear is a big piece of the injury puzzle."

These shoes are designed to cut down on knee injuries and stress fractures. Although knee injuries are the most common and long-lasting injuries, stress fractures are almost completely isolated to military training and activities that involve long hikes and marching, according to Reading.

Unlike the old, camouflage Asics, the Millipedes control the foot from the inside, not the outside.

"Most shoes try to keep the foot in place from the outside," said Reading. "The new shoes support the foot

SEE **Shoes**, pg. 2



A Crucible Challenge participant makes it to the top of 'The Weaver' during Recruiting Station San Diego's Crucible Challenge. The challenge invites high school students from Southern California and Las Vegas. See story pg. 6. Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke/Chevron



### DESERT KING

RS San Diego's top recruiter thrives on the rural side.

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### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Leaders should identify and share the significant African American contributions to American society.

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### CG'S CUP V-BALL WRAP-UP

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Depot Marines commonly use these 15-passenger vans, which some say should be treated more like trucks and less like cars to prevent accidents. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

## SAFETY Not Your Mother's Mini-Van

BY JIM WILDER  
Ground Warrior

Not all vans are created equal. If you don't believe it, park Mom's mini-van next to a 15-passenger van and compare height, length and width measurements. The 15-passenger van will prove to be larger as it has more in common with a truck. So, if vans are as big as a truck, with truck suspension and tires, shouldn't they be treated like a truck?

The distinctions among trucks, vans and cars are critical because they determine handling characteristics. The key difference between vans and cars is the vans' high center of gravity, which increases the chance for rollovers. Loaded vans are heavy, and their weight requires long stopping distances.

The van body limits driver visibility when backing or maneuvering through

tight areas. The back end of the body extends beyond the rear axle and can create another problem. This added length allows seating for six more people, which places considerable weight behind the rear axle. This weight changes the way the van will handle and how it will react to quick steering changes.

A fully loaded van is heavy, so it is critical that correct tires are mounted and correct tire pressure is maintained. Tubeless tires tend to bleed off air over time. It is important to physically check pressure instead of doing just a "visual inspection." Tires often look fine when the van is empty, even though they may be under-inflated. Under-inflated tires heat up and cause blowouts. Check tire pressure with a gauge, not your eyeball or foot.

Manufacturer's recommended tire size and pressures are listed on the driver's door post. Compare these with the size

and pressures on the tires before you drive a van. If they do not match, do not drive the van until corrections are made. This rule is even more important with older vans, because they probably will have replacement tires installed.

Marines "make things happen." If a round and black tire from an unattended wheelbarrow will fit, guess what tire may be on your van. A recent check of 10 vans found that nine of them had the wrong tires mounted.

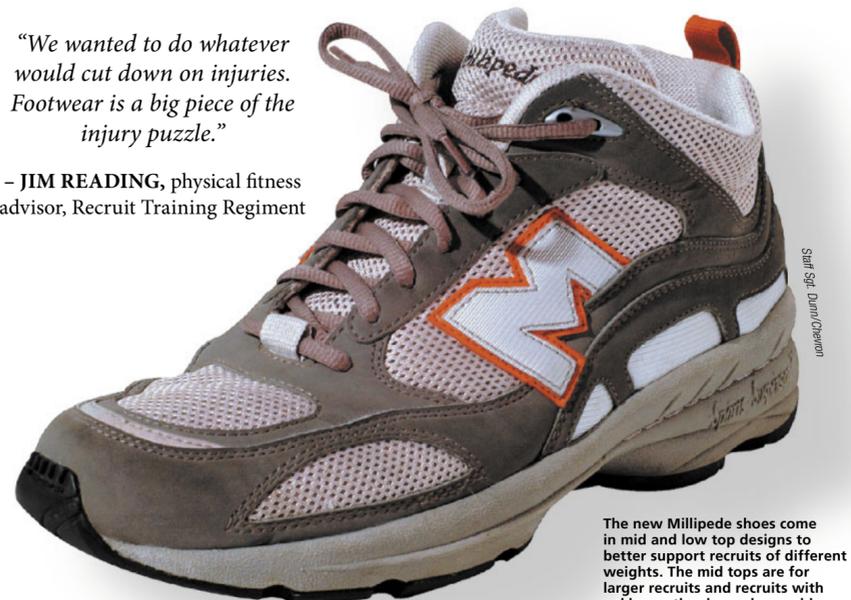
The Marine Corps has experienced two serious 15-passenger mishaps recently, and five lives were lost. Driver experience played a role in both mishaps. The first driver had been licensed for five years but had never driven a 15-passenger van. During an extended trip, a fully loaded van's left rear tire failed. The driver was within the posted speed limit of 65 mph, but he lost control and the van

rolled several times. Two passengers were killed and several were injured.

The second mishap involved a driver who had held a driver's license for six months before being assigned to drive a 15-passenger van for the first time. While transporting 11 Marines, the driver lost control and the van rolled. Three Marines were killed, and several others were seriously injured.

Transporting Marines is a common undertaking. Unfortunately, routine tasks routinely claim the most lives. The keen eyes used to plan more complex operations are focused elsewhere when mundane tasks are carried out.

Any operation that exposes Marines to hazards need to be examined ahead of time. Use operational risk management to identify hazards, which in this case are driver experience, van size, load, speed, and distance.



"We wanted to do whatever would cut down on injuries. Footwear is a big piece of the injury puzzle."

— JIM READING, physical fitness advisor, Recruit Training Regiment

Shoes, from pg. 1 from the inside."

Another feature of the Millipedes is removable insoles. Most shoes come with one sole and it may or may not fit a certain foot.

"Not every shoe will fit every foot properly," said Reading. "These shoes have three different insoles depending on a recruit's foot type."

Their foot types are determined when the shoes are issued. Representatives from the company come and test each recruit's foot with a computer. Each recruit steps on a computerized mat, which scans feet for normal arches, high arches or flat feet. Appropriate insoles are issued accordingly.

The new Millipedes are silver and gray with red trim, and they are the second Millipede prototype. The first was an all-black high top that received mixed feedback. The new shoes are low tops, but mid tops are available for recruits who are overweight or have ankle or shin problems, according to Reading.

One downfall of the Millipedes is that they are heavier than most running shoes, according to Reading. But that weight is sacrificed so the shoe can have the necessary durability to last through recruit training.

The Millipedes, which cost about the same as the Asics, are still in the testing phase. Col. Mark Callihan, commanding officer, RTR, will decide the shoe's fate within a couple months.

The new Millipede shoes come in mid and low top designs to better support recruits of different weights. The mid tops are for larger recruits and recruits with ankle or other lower leg problems.

# HARD TO HEEL

## Some Marines you just can't reach

BY STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN  
Chevron staff

Dear reader, I give up. I'm dropping a hefty dime, for I'm beginning to doubt my abilities as a staff noncom. I've never served with a Marine like this one — a lance corporal who won't think twice about ignoring orders or walking away while I require attention.

Sure, the lance corporal regularly reports on time for duty and is courteous to Navy and Marine officers, but I'm never sure what she'll do next.

And it's getting worse. Though she can't even dress properly without a fellow Marine's assistance, this lance corporal cleverly displays her good side to senior enlisted members and officers outside of the public affairs office in which we work. And they eat it up; they love her.

I bet the commanding general himself wouldn't stir if he knew how often I've caught the Marine dozing off during business hours. Why understate? She snores unaffectedly through supersaturating drool spells.

Dimes are falling. Sometimes the Depot sergeant major offers a courteous ear only for her to spew despicable things behind his back.

When men run by in formation, she gets inappropriately excited and begins barking things the reader wouldn't understand.

She obviously was missing her best friend, her crush, Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr., who had recently been out of the office providing ground security this past

January. She must also miss 1st Lt. Beatriz Yarrish, a woman who gave the needy lance corporal great attention. Yarrish suddenly deployed to Iraq in January to support public affairs there.

I suppose the reader can blame the lance corporal's increasingly strange behavior on these personnel shifts. She doesn't cope well with change, something all Marines must eventually learn. Maybe she'll start acting more normal now that Guevara has returned to public affairs duty.

But some actions can't be dismissed so easily. A source from the public affairs office said she helped herself to the deputy G-1's turkey sandwich without permission. Furthermore, few know about how after a late night recently she slept in the public affairs director's office and threw up on the carpet.

Maybe I've failed; maybe I'm being hypercritical. Let me rethink this.

Though I've never worked with such a Marine until this past summer, I have learned to appreciate what Lance Cpl. Molly Marine does for the Corps. After all, what would the reader expect from a British bulldog?

*"The commanding general himself wouldn't stir if he knew how often I've caught the Marine dozing off during business hours."*

In her own colorful way, Molly, the Depot's mascot, shows how great the Corps is.

In patriotic poise, she is a proud pet that sings to the National Anthem with a low, soft cry when Marine Band San Diego plays at our Friday Morning Colors ceremonies. In return, Molly draws coos every week from visiting friends and family members of graduating Marines. She is public affairs pedigree, so I can't argue against her indispensability.

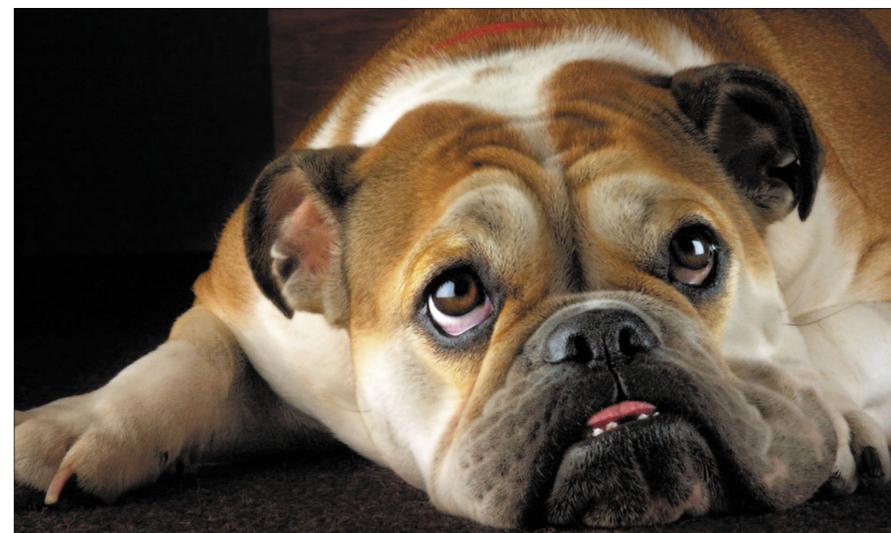
Her name appropriately derives from a 1943 recruiting attempt to attract women to the Corps. Four women Marines posed for the Molly Marine statue, which still stands in New Orleans after being crudely cast in marble chip and granite, effects of wartime metal shortages.

Our Molly attracts the world. In May 2003, 51 dogs, one from each state and the District of Columbia, strutted on Fox Television's Miss Dog Beauty Pageant. Not Molly; she's a Marine. She opened the show.

In more television, Animal Planet's Pet Story series documented Molly's recent surgery to fix her inherited hip dysplasia. Albeit cheesy, that episode, which aired December 2003, showed the world the indomitable spirit of a Marine.

After dropping dimes on my lance corporal, I feel apologetic. Perhaps she and I can rehash things now with this invigorated understanding. Besides, we have similar likes. We're both colorblind, we both like listening to Nina Simone and eating wasabi peas (that's a secret), and we both love the Marine Corps and telling its story.

Come, Molly, Molly, come!



Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

## Commanders encouraged to recognize African American contributions

BY CAPT. MELISSA Y. AYRES  
Manpower and Reserve Affairs Officer

The 78th national observance of African American contributions to American history is celebrated during the month of February. Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro history week in 1926 and the week was expanded to a month in 1976.

This year's theme, "Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas," commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that subsequently ended federally sanctioned racial segregation in public schools. Linda Brown, an African American girl attending fifth grade at the public schools in Topeka, Kan., was denied admission into a white elementary school.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People supported her case, along with similar ones in Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia and Delaware. All five cases were argued in the Supreme Court together in December 1952 by Thurgood Marshall, who then headed the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. The Court's unanimous decision, handed down on May 17, 1954, declared that separate educational facilities are inherently "unequal" and, as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens "equal protection of the laws."

Prior to this decision, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which directed the racial integration of the Armed Forces. This gave greater credence to the military oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" and thereby strengthened our military's reputation as a powerful force of national defense. The Executive Order and Supreme Court decision laid the groundwork for the desegregation of public schools and our society as a whole.

Commanders are encouraged to recognize the significance of the African American contributions to American society and history to provide equal access to all opportunities regardless of physical appearance.

Commanders are further encouraged to conduct programs and promote participation in observance events both on base and in the local community and are authorized to develop local themes for use at their commands.

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ESTABLISHED 1943

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## EDUCATORS WORKSHOP

## Phoenix teacher finds familiar face on Depot

Pvt. Jonathon Taylor, Platoon 3150, Company M, jots down his platoon mailing address for his former high school teacher, Michelle Yanez. Yanez is a teacher at Cortez High School in Phoenix and is here attending the Western Recruiting Region Educators Workshop. Twelve times a year, WRR hosts approximately 80 high school and junior college educators, counselors and administrators. During the Educators Workshop, the educators observe Marine Corps recruit training, air-wing operations and amphibious assault vehicle training. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron



### Free tax assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office is up and running.

The office provides free tax service for active duty and retired service members and their dependents.

Located in the Headquarters Company classroom, Building 6W, the office operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday the office is open from 7:30 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Appointments are available, but walk-ins are accepted as well.

Anyone filing taxes through the office should call before coming in to find out what documents and information to bring with them. For more information, call (619) 524-8107 or 8109.

### Free Valentine's Day photographs at USO

The San Diego USO will celebrate Valentine's Day with professional photography sessions and photos for all active duty military members and their families.

The USO will offer free sittings Saturday in a portable studio at the downtown USO center. A professional photographer will donate his talents from 1 to 4 p.m. All active-duty service members and their dependents and loved ones are invited to join the USO as they "capture a moment in time."

Free 4 by 6 inch prints will be available for pick-up at the USO after Feb. 24. Additional prints will also be made available online and those details will be disbursed the day of the event.

All interested participants must pre-register no later than 9 p.m. today. For more information, call Kate Juergens at (619) 235-6503 or e-mail her at Kate@USOSanDiego.org

### Battle Color Detachment to perform

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., will perform here at Shepherd Field Feb. 28 at 1:30 p.m.

The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Color Guard of the Marine Corps will all be on hand for the event.

The performance is not open to the public.

### Law Enforcement Job Fair at Camp Pendleton

Anyone interested in a career in Law Enforcement can check out the 2004 Camp Pendleton Law Enforcement Expo Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Mesa SSCO Club.

Several county, state and federal law enforcement

agencies will be on hand for the expo. Some agencies will conduct on-site testing the following day.

The event is sponsored by the Marine For Life program. For more information, call (703) 432-9210, or email mclellanky@manpower.usmc.mil.

### Liberty Run/Walk volunteers needed

The Liberty Run/Walk Freedom from Domestic Violence is a 4-mile/run/walk across the Coronado Bay Bridge to help raise awareness and funds for programs to prevent domestic violence in San Diego County.

The event takes place April 4. For volunteer information or entry forms, contact the volunteer coordinator at info@kinanevents.com or call (760) 434-7706 or go to www.kinanevents.com and click on Liberty Run/Walk.

### Financial Fitness Seminars

The Community Service Center is hosting a series of free monthly Brown Bag Lunch Seminars on Personal Financial Fitness topics ranging from the "Secrets of Financial Success" to "Things to Teach Your Kids About Money."

The seminars last from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Service Center Classroom, Building 26. Anyone interested can call 619-524-5728 to register.

The seminars are open to all who are interested, including family members, but will be limited to the first 40 people to call and register.

Light snacks and drinks will be provided free of charge, but attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch. For more information, contact Michael McIsaac at (619) 524-1204.

### Operation USO Care Package

The San Diego USO will be participating in "Operation USO Care Package," which will provide USO Care Packages to Marines and sailors of the I Marine Expeditionary Force who will be deploying to Iraq. The USO is requesting the assistance of volunteers to help hand out the care packages from Feb. 23 through March 31. Volunteers will need to be available for day and evening shifts as well as weekday and weekend shifts.

For more information, call (619) 235-6503.

### CPR Saturday is coming

The American Red Cross will hold its annual CPR Saturday Feb. 28. The Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help Feb. 27, 28 and March 1. For information, call Rich Creiglow at (619) 532-9573 or (619) 588-7247. To register as a volunteer, call the Red Cross at (619) 542-7699. Lunch is provided and all volunteers will receive a CPR Saturday shirt.

### Scholarships for military youth

Children of active duty, retired and reserve service members can apply for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program.

Unmarried dependents with an ID card can apply for the \$1,500 academic scholarships through Wednesday. Applicants must be under 21 years old (23 if enrolled as a full-time student) and have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

For more information, log on to www.militaryscholar.org.

### Band looking for Marines

Marine Band San Diego is looking for Marines aboard the Depot 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 or E-mail him at julyma@mcrdsd.usmc.mil.

### Designated Driver volunteers needed

The Designated Drivers Association is looking for volunteers in an effort to cut down on DUI offenses.

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.

Submit possible briefs to the Chevron via E-mail to rockee@mcrcsd.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.

# Retiring officer accepts ministry mission

China, from pg. 1

to be a priest to know?"

This question stayed with Henry and was finally answered when he was 16, living in Cherry Point, N.C.

"My friends invited me to a Billy Graham crusade," said Henry. "I was reluctant because of my loyalty to the Catholic Church, but I still had a lot of questions."

Henry said Graham's sermon made sense to him and everything started coming together. Then came the alter call, when Graham invited audience members to come to the stage and accept Jesus Christ as their savior.

"I felt it inside me, but for some reason, I wouldn't go down there," said Henry. "I realized I was embarrassed to go in front of my friends, which was silly. So I swallowed my pride. I'd rather have an opportunity for a real relationship with God than look cool in front of my friends."

So Henry went to the alter where he met one of Graham's counselors. The counselor showed Henry a pamphlet that pictured two cliffs with a valley in the middle. One cliff was labeled "God," and the other "man." Written in the valley was the word "sin." A cross lay over the valley, forming a bridge between man and God.

"That was the first time I understood how to have a personal relationship with God," said Henry.

Henry stayed faithful, and about two years later, a new journey began in his life. He was accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Before enrolling there, he had to complete courses at the Naval Academy Preparatory School.

"I was lonely at NAPS," said Henry. "Every night, I stayed in my room and prayed and wrote in my journal. One evening I wrote, 'I want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.' I studied the disciples closer and decided that's what I wanted. Following Him is a simple priority. All (disciples) did was follow Jesus and spread his word."

Henry kept that new priority hidden in his heart and finished NAPS. In his freshman year at the academy, some upperclassmen invited him and fellow Plebes —freshmen at the academy — to a Bible study.

"I enjoyed this Bible study because the leaders never tried to push Christianity on anyone," said Henry. "The answers to everyone's question were always right there in the Bible."

While going to a Christian conference with his study group, Henry came across a scripture that changed his life forever: Acts 20:24.

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

"That verse has guided my life for the last 28 years," said Henry.

While serving at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., in 1984, four years after being commissioned an officer, Henry met a young sailor named Tom Frakes at the racquetball court.



Lt. Col. Hugh A. Henry, deputy assistant chief of staff G-1, retires today after more than 24 years of service. He and his wife, Crickett, and their five children plan to move to China in April to live as missionaries. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

**"Our family has done several military moves. But this time, we're selling almost everything we have. We don't really plan to come back this time."**

— CRICKET HENRY, wife of Lt. Col. Hugh A. Henry

Their friendship eventually led Frakes to Christianity.

When Frakes left the Navy, he moved to China as a missionary and gave Henry an open invitation to join him.

"That is what I feel I was called to do," said Henry. "I knew when I was done with the Corps I was going to be a missionary."

Henry saw Frakes periodically and Frakes again extended the invitation to join the missionary team in China.

Henry shared the idea with his wife of 14 years, Crickett, who enthusiastically agreed.

"I loved the idea," said Crickett. "I felt God put China in my heart several years ago, and it was just confirmation of God's plan for us when Hugh brought it up."

Henry and his wife thought and prayed hard on the subject before presenting the idea to their children, who are all under 14 years old, and home schooled.

"Megan, my oldest, said she loved the idea," said Henry. "She told me if we didn't go, she planned to go anyway when she was old enough."

The other kids, Matthew, Rebekah, Samuel and Caleb, concurred with the idea, according to Henry.

"Our family has done several military moves," said Crickett. "So the kids and I were used to packing up and leaving everything behind. But this time, we're selling almost everything we have. We don't really plan to come back this time."

Shortly after the decision to go to

China, Crickett saw a newspaper advertisement for the Chinese Bible Church of San Diego.

"She showed it to me as a joke, and I said, 'Sounds great. Let's go,'" said Henry. "So we went as a family and were welcomed quite warmly. We still attend services every week."

Henry started to use the skills and experience of his fellow church members, who are all Chinese.

"We have been learning Chinese for about a year and a half," said Henry. "We bought cassette tapes and books, but the greatest help has been the congregation."

The church members were quickly excited when they heard the Henry family plan and wanted to help in every way, including cultural lessons, language lessons and Chinese dinners.

Henry has also used a workbook titled "The Call of God" and sought the counsel of several Christian mentors.

With the majority of training and lessons complete, the Henry family is scheduled to leave for China in April after Henry's time on active duty is over. They will minister in the city of Guangzhou, in Southeastern China, where the SARS virus erupted.

With SARS mostly subdued, the Henry family has other serious concerns.

"In a city of 10 million people, we will stick out like a sore thumb," said Henry. "It will definitely be a culture shock, especially for the kids. We will have to adjust to a whole new way of life."

People shop for groceries and clothing

Henry's retirement ceremony is today, and he starts terminal leave Feb. 23. Until then, he'll do his duties and use his proverbial coffee mug as a testament to his faith.

in outdoor markets and bargain for the best prices.

"We will try to hire someone to do our grocery shopping and cooking," said Henry. "Americans are usually given bad prices and don't know how to barter correctly."

Henry said it will also be tough moving from a normal, American house to a Chinese apartment building.

The biggest challenge lies in carrying out his God-given mission in a country that isn't exactly Christian friendly.

"Since the Communists took control of China in the 1940s, they've tried to drive out Christianity," said Henry. "It started by imprisoning Christians and church officials."

Today, China is somewhat more lenient toward Christians. The Chinese government established the Religious Affairs Bureau, which closely monitors all religious activity in the country.

"The bureau allows Christianity at official government churches," said Henry. "But those churches are limited in what they can teach. For example, the churches aren't allowed to teach about Christ's resurrection, which is one of the most important parts of the Bible."

The Chinese also hold secret church services out of their homes, but those services are often raided or broken up.

Until they are proficient in the Chinese language, the Henrys will start their evangelism by holding Bible studies on university campuses where people speak English.

Henry will be on terminal leave during his first days in Asia, and must get special U.S. government permission to enter China. He said the process is in the works and the outcome looks good.

Henry said the Marine Corps had a hand in grooming him for this mission in several ways.

"The Corps has given me discipline and perseverance to do what I need to do," said Henry. "It's also taught me to use compassion for those less fortunate. The core values, honor, courage and commitment, are also very important when it comes to evangelism."

"The leadership and discipline the military gave him had a good spiritual impact," added Crickett. "That, in turn, helped our family."

China felt the Corps' presence in the early 1900s during the Boxer Rebellion. A group of martial artists gained some power and tried to oust all Western influence by terrorizing businesses and people. The Marines were sent in to police the Boxers.

"My stint in China won't be anything like that," said Henry. "I want the Chinese people to see God's love and use it to make them better citizens. Once the officials understand we don't want to control them or overthrow the government, being a missionary will be much easier."

The officers who serve above Henry have also taken note of his brave, selfless mission.

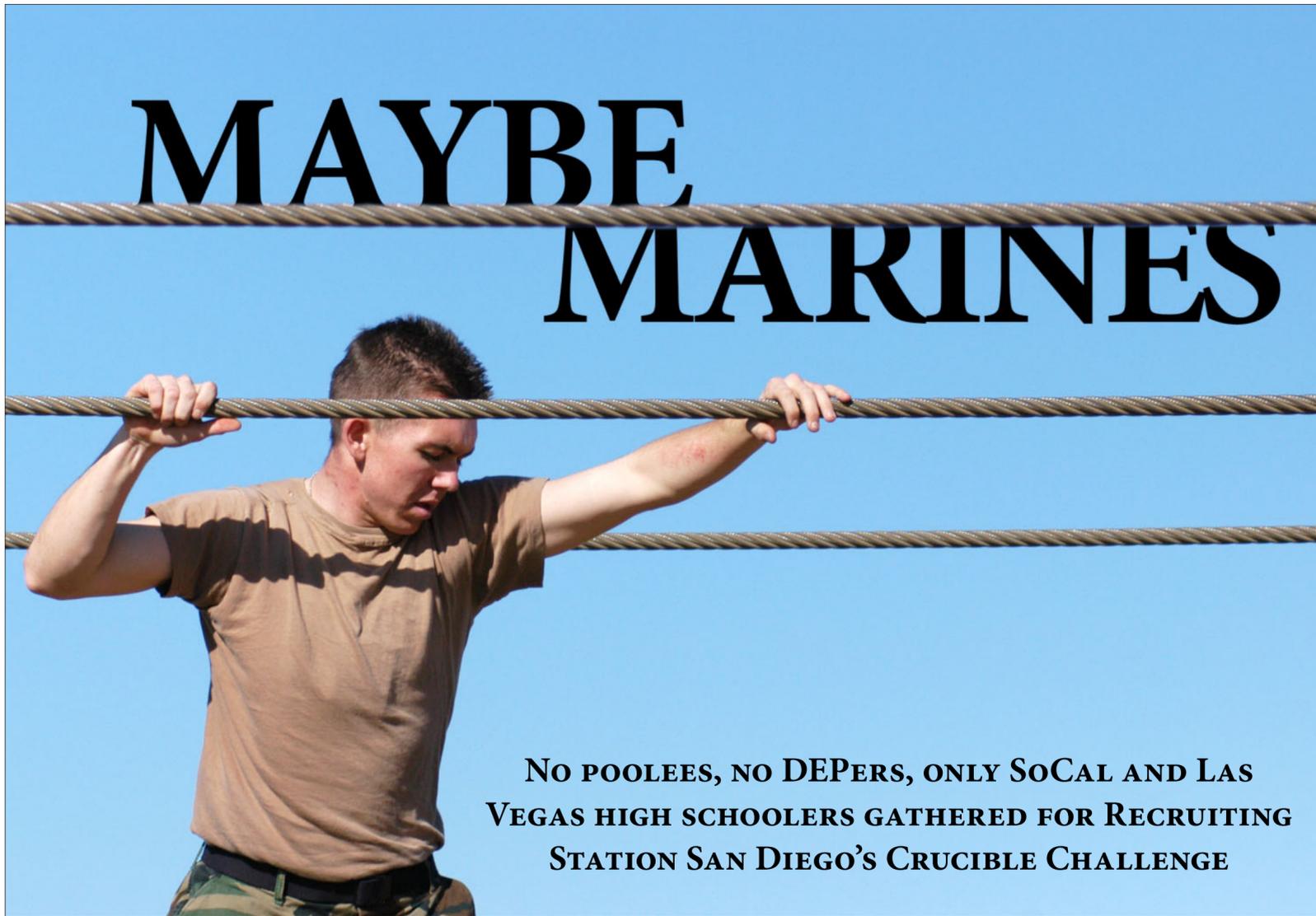
"Service is the hallmark of a Marine — service to country, support and protection of the Constitution and service to our brother and sister Marines," said Col. Ana R. Smythe, commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion.

"It has been the credo of Lt. Col. Henry throughout his career. Now he is turning that service to his God in an endeavor strengthened with the support of his entire family as a missionary in China. I know that mission accomplishment and the welfare of his congregation will still be his goals in his calling to be an example of faith. We add our prayers for his success."

Henry's retirement ceremony is today, and he starts terminal leave Feb. 23. Until then, he'll do his duties and use his proverbial coffee mug as a testament to his faith.



LOVE



**NO POOLEES, NO DEPERs, ONLY SOCAL AND LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOLERS GATHERED FOR RECRUITING STATION SAN DIEGO'S CRUCIBLE CHALLENGE**

A Crucible Challenge participant makes his way across the "Two-Line Bridge," one of six obstacles comprising the challenge. This is the second year Recruiting Station San Diego has put on the Crucible challenge. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

**T**wo hundred thirty-five high school students from Recruiting Station San Diego's area gathered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 6 for the second Crucible Challenge, a weekend of sleeping in the field and negotiating Crucible obstacles like Marine Corps recruits.

The students arrived at Camp Pendleton Friday from Imperial, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and Las Vegas. They were issued tent halves and sleeping bags for their night outdoors.

Before preparing their shelter, Marines demonstrated the proper way to set up the tents.

"I really liked sleeping in the field," said Brandon Wright from San Diego High School. "We ate out there and everything. I wish we had another night."

Sleep was important to these Marine prospects because the next morning would mark the start of a long, energy-draining day.

Each school sent one team of students, many being Junior ROTC participants, to compete in six events throughout the day. There were 58 teams.

12th Marine Corps Recruiting District brought its inflatable obstacle course, which was used as one of the obstacles. Students also did pull-ups

and crunches, dragged dummies and they negotiated two Crucible obstacles: the Weaver and the Two-Line Bridge.

The Weaver is a pyramid-shaped series of logs through which participants must climb over under until reaching the peak.

"The Weaver is the hardest thing I've done here," said Dan Borden of Green Valley High School, Las Vegas. "And we only did half of it."

The Two-Line Bridge consists of two parallel ropes that participants must shimmy across horizontally, holding the high rope and walking on the low rope. At the end, they must wrap their legs around a vertical rope and climb down.

The Crucible Challenge was masterminded by RS San Diego last year and has been a big success, according to Maj. Dan Wilson, commanding officer, RS San Diego.

"Last year, we had 258 kids come out, and we got 19 contracts," said Wilson. "I'm confident we'll have great results this year too."

After all 58 teams cycled through the events and the points were totaled, the winner of the event was Basic High School in Las Vegas. The team members earned bags of Marine Corps merchandise.

The event was a success and the Marines are confident many students like the taste of the Corps they received, according to Wilson.

"We hope to do this event every year," said Wilson. "There is no other event we have that produces these results."



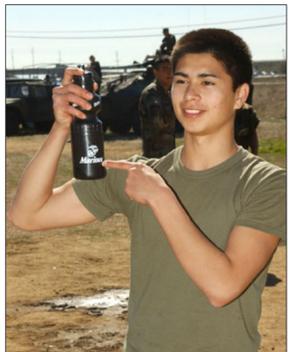
Crucible Challenge participant Patrick Withey holds Terence Daily's feet during the crunches competition portion of the challenge. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



Will Maupin of La Quinta High School in Coachella Valley makes his way down a rope at the end of the "Two Line Bridge" during the Crucible Challenge. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



Crucible Challenge participants race toward the turnaround point during the dummy drag competition. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



Toni Morales, a junior at Valley High School in Las Vegas shows off his 'Marines' water bottle to a friend. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



Dan Borden, a Green Valley High School student from Las Vegas, negotiates 'The Weaver' during the Crucible Challenge. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



JROTC cadets race toward the turnaround point of the dummy drag competition. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



Staff Sgt. Courtney Steele, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Recruiting Substation Victorville, Calif., is Recruiting Station San Diego's 2003 Recruiter of the Year. This is the second consecutive year he has received the award. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

## KING OF THE DESERT

Victorville recruiter earns top honors at RS San Diego for second consecutive year

BY SGT. MIKE CAMACHO  
Recruiting Station San Diego

The high desert region of California tends to be a little different to those on the outside looking in. Victorville, Apple Valley, Barstow and Yermo are all major areas in the Recruiting Substation Victorville area of responsibility. These desert cities are sometimes known for their Joshua Trees, and often for some Southern Californians, a stopping point during a drive to Las Vegas. But the area has become quite a market for the Marines in finding quality young men and women to join its ranks.

No one may know this better than Staff Sgt. Courtney Steele, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, RSS Victorville. Steele was recently selected as Recruiting Station San Diego's Recruiter of the Year for the second year running, thanks to his performance in the Victorville area.

"I enjoy finding future Marines. It doesn't matter where I'm at," said Steele. "It's that great feeling you get when you see someone's life change because of an opportunity you were able to offer," said Steele.

According to Master Gunnery Sgt. Dan Alvarez, recruiter instructor, RS San Diego, the area has little to do with Steele's success. It's the can-do attitude, leadership by example and persistence that forms a winning recruiter and a great Staff NCOIC.

"In our business, the can-do attitude is 90 percent of what we do here. That's why Steele would be successful wherever he had to recruit. He has an infectious personality, and everyone likes him," said Alvarez.

Steele has a way of making people feel comfortable around him. Young people enjoy speaking with him and it shows. He's contracted 36 applicants in 2003 and maintained an 8 percent delayed entry program attrition percentage and a 4 percent recruit training attrition percentage. He's only three contracts away from the coveted Centurion Award, an award which

recognizes recruiters who write 100 contracts. He is confident he'll reach it before his new recruiters begin production.

"He's a consistent superior performer and his second award for Recruiter of the Year proves that," said Maj. Dan Wilson, commanding officer, RS San Diego. "RSS Victorville thrived under his capable leadership. He will be a valuable addition to the (career recruiter) community. He's vibrant, bursting with energy, enthusiastic and young men and

women gravitate toward his positive energy."

According to Steele's colleagues, he is energetic and easy to like, and his laugh is contagious and unmistakable. His sense of humor and high level of profes-

sionalism add to his magnetic personality. He never swears, and almost every Sunday he's in church.

Steele said 75 percent of his time is dedicated to recruiting, and the other 25 percent is spent trying to get his mind free and clear for another day enlisting the Corps' future Marines.

During his off time, Steele makes the occasional trip to Chula Vista, Calif., where he visits his uncle. He said he also loves movies, music and gospel plays.

Steele has his own take on his success. He said his shipping makes the biggest difference in his numbers. His attrition percentages are low, and he wrote the most contracts for RS San Diego. He gives much credit to a physical training program that he and his future Marines follow faithfully.

According to Steele, his program does a few things. It keeps them focused on their commitment and doesn't let them forget the reality of their decision. It gives Steele time with them, and he said they enjoy it as does he. Lastly, the program gets them physically ready for boot camp.

Steele said in the end he is a fairly private, modest person who enjoys what he's doing.

"I just want people to know Staff Sgt. Steele is do-

ing his job," he said.

Steele is doing his job, and doing it well. But the recognition he has received as RS San Diego's Recruiter of the Year is just one of many rewards he receives as a recruiter.

"Nowadays, you see a lot of parents control their young person's life and question their ability to make adult decisions. Then, the same parent sees their child return from boot camp, in uniform, and they see their new son or daughter is on their own with an unsurpassed amount of confidence and pride - that's priceless."



Staff Sgt. Courtney Steele, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Recruiting Substation Victorville, Calif., talks to a potential recruit. Sgt. Mike Camacho/Recruiting Station San Diego



PFC Hai-Nam D. Nguyen, Platoon 1143, Company D, prepares to ascend the rappel tower here. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

## FINDING HIS OWN WAY

Vietnamese eldest son introduces family to Corps

BY LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
Chevron staff

Some cultures take more pride in their family names than others.

PFC Hai-Nam D. Nguyen, Platoon 1143, Company D, comes from a traditional Vietnamese family, which passes down family responsibility and the surname to the first-born son.

His father is an eldest son and so is Nguyen, who would be head of the family, should the father pass away.

"He has to be a role model for the rest of the 28 grand children," said Dong Nguyen, his older sister. "Nam is hard-headed and doesn't always understand how important his role is."

This hard-headedness comes from growing up away from Vietnam and tradition.

According to Nguyen, although his family is from Vietnam, he was born in a Philippines refugee camp and raised in the United States.

While ducking police in Vietnam during the 1980s, his family escaped to the sea, first finding themselves in Thailand before making their way with pirates to the Philippines, according to the siblings.

The police caught up with his father Buck Nguyen and took him to a political camp for months. Afterward he found his family in the Philippines and rejoined them to journey to the United States, according to Nguyen.

The family is now settled in Arlington, Texas, where Buck owns a construction business.

According to Nguyen, his father faced hardships to find happiness. This inspired Nguyen to endure the challenge of becoming a Marine.

"I wanted to be unique and show I put forth the effort to earn what I was given and to pay back the United States for the opportunities given to my family," said Nguyen.

The United States allowed his family to migrate after one of his family members, who was an ally to the American government while in Vietnam, moved to the states and sponsored them to come over.

The United States also offered aid to Nguyen's family when they began living in America. However, they did not use it.

"My dad refused government support," he said. "He wanted to earn everything on his own."

That memory was ingrained in Nguyen's mind.

"I didn't go through the hardships (my parents) did," he said. "My father was happy when I told him I joined the Marines."

Nguyen now tries to earn his own way like his father.

"He lived those core values of honor, courage and commitment everyday," Nguyen said, speaking about the same values instilled in Marines during recruit training.

Although Nguyen has now proved his mettle by completing recruit training, he had to receive his family's approval before joining.

He wanted to join the Marine Corps out of high school, but his family forbade it.

"Most Asian families don't think outside the box," said Dong. "Everyone in the family was against it, even our parents at first."

Fortunately for Nguyen, his parents felt he could grow as a man and a role model for his family as a Marine.

"When I joined the Marine Corps (my father) told me he was proud. It brought tears to his eyes," said Nguyen. "We live as Americans and still recognize we come from Vietnam and are now Vietnamese-Americans."

Nguyen can now combine his experience with both cultures to move his family into the future with confidence.

## Athleticism defines SDI

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON  
Chevron staff

Competitive athleticism is commonly found throughout green landscapes of American playing fields, but it also thrives on the blacktop center of the Depot.

Maintaining that competitive athleticism hasn't been easy for Staff Sgt. Mark Kand, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1141, Company D, who was born in Huntington Beach, Calif. and raised in South Carolina, Alaska, and Kentucky.

Living fit and being involved in athletics, Kand admits his athletics have suffered from long work hours and devoting time to his wife, Stephanie Kand, and their infant daughter Maci.

"Athletics is an important part of my life," said Kand. "I'll probably raise my girl with that same mentality."

Staying involved in athletics has been ongoing in Kand's life, which has created his reputation as a hard worker.

Involving himself in wrestling in his first year in high school, Kand was bigger than advertised, weighing 130 pounds and competing in the 145-pound weight class.

Currently, he still gets a bit of old-school wrestling in by way of Marine Corps martial arts.

"I really enjoy getting out there and grappling on the mat," said Kand. "You're not dependent on anyone. It's just you."

Kand has been at the forefront of leadership and is accustomed to teammates and Marines depending on him.

He played defensive end on the Chugiak High School football team in Eagle River, Alaska, and was chosen for the Alaska all-state team two years in a row. Even then, Kand displayed his enthusiasm and leadership that is evident now.

"I always remember the tough guys," said Bruce Shearer, former Chugiak football coach. "He was an outstanding player and always pumped up the guys on the field."

The football field wasn't the only place Kand's intensity was present, however. After losing a bet with his brother that he would make the Western Kentucky University football team as a walk-on, his cousin persuaded him to test his skills with rugby.

After a few pick-up games, Kand was hooked and a passion for the rugged sport erupted.

"As long as I'm healthy and able to play, I'll always play rugby," said Kand.

He got together with teammates to raise money for team fees and travel expenses to play throughout the Southern states. Kand said he enjoyed himself at Western Kentucky University.

But after about a year at the university, Kand found his grades slipping and his concentration on academics declining.

Kand made the decision to join the Marine Corps with a little help from a fellow teammate who was a Marine reservist.

Kand decided to take his hunger for competition to the Corps, hoping to continue his athletic routine.

His hopes came true and he continued to play rugby throughout his Marine Corps career, including with the Misfits of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. His participation in sports has helped him maintain high physical fitness scores.

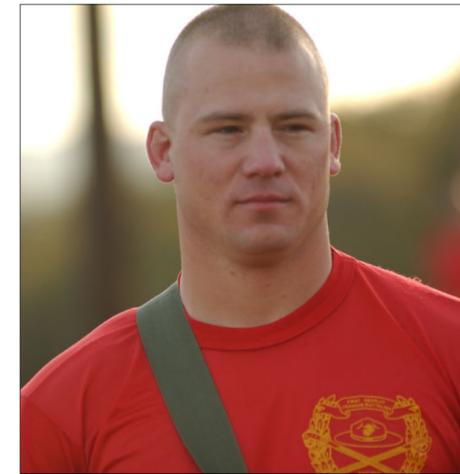
"I enjoyed my first years being sent to schools and playing rugby," said Kand.

As any athlete wanting to be the best, Kand wanted to step up to the next level in the Corps.

"To me, being a drill instructor is the pinnacle of a Marine's career," said Kand. "I have a lot of respect for my drill instructors, and I wanted to achieve that level too."

Now on the drill field and maintaining a high work tempo, Kand still finds time to squeeze in the occasional workout.

Although the drill field is not entirely depleting his physical fitness, Kand said he is ready to regain his rugged sports days.



Staff Sgt. Mark Kand, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1141, Company D, has a passion for athletic competition, which blends well with his Marine Corps career. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

# DELTA COMPANY



**COMPANY HONORMAN**  
PFC R. B. Reynolds  
Deer Park, Texas  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. M. J. Gutierrez



**PLATOON 1137**  
**SERIES HONORMAN**  
PFC C. A. Leadingham  
Tucson, Ariz.  
Recruited by  
Gunnery Sgt. A. R. Arvisu



**PLATOON 1138**  
**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC L. Asher  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. J. Benavides



**PLATOON 1139**  
**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC S. J. Yoder  
Clinton, Iowa  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. R. D. Kruppe Jr.



**PLATOON 1141**  
**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC C. A. Dupzyk  
El Dorado Hills, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. N. D. Young



**PLATOON 1142**  
**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC B. C. Davis  
Forreshall, Mo.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. M. J. Boldoc



**PLATOON 1142**  
**HIGH SHOOTER (241)**  
PFC E. R. Stripes  
Tijeras, N. M.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. S. A. Martinez



**PLATOON 1142**  
**HIGH PFT (300)**  
PFC B. C. Davis  
Forreshall, Mo.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. M. J. Boldoc



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BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.  
Sergeant Major  
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

**RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT**  
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Sergeant Major  
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD  
Regimental Drill Master  
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.  
Parade Adjutant  
STAFF SGT. D. L. TOMPKINS  
Narrator  
STAFF SGT. J. R. BIGGS JR.

**MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO**  
Band Officer  
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES  
Band Master  
GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS  
  
**COLOR GUARD**  
SGT. D. J. SUTTON  
SGT. J. A. SALAUN  
PFC J. A. ROBLES TORRES  
PFC M. J. RODRIGUEZ

**1ST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION**

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Lt. Col. B. S. Blankenship  
Chaplain  
Lt. Cmdr. K. D. Count  
Sergeant Major  
Sgt. Maj. J. V. Morgan  
Battalion Drill Master  
Gunnery Sgt. C. A. Walker

**COMPANY D**

Commanding Officer  
Capt. T. R. Blankenhorn  
Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. R. S. Torres

**SERIES 1137**

Series Commander  
Capt. M. C. Chambliss  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. A. Rodriguez

**SERIES 1141**

Series Commander  
Capt. C. L. Fain  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. M. Q. Retana

**PLATOON 1137**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. C. A. Reithmann  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. M. M. McLaughlin  
Sgt. L. G. Duranleau  
Sgt. R. L. Hayes

Pvt. J. B. Alexander

Pvt. P. A. Arellano  
Pvt. N. M. Artam  
PFC S. J. Bean  
\*PFC C. W. Blanton  
Pvt. J. P. Byington  
Pvt. J. H. Callaway  
Pvt. J. A. Castanon  
PFC E. Castellanos  
Pvt. D. A. Clark

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Sgt. M. C. Waters  
Sgt. D. P. Blank

Pvt. J. A. Adams

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Pvt. D. Romero  
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Pvt. B. Ramirez  
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# Twelfth time

## District beats Coast Guard in volleyball championship

BY LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
Chevron staff

The Marines of 12th Marine Corps District slipped past Coast Guard 2-0 in the championship game of the Commanding General's Cup volleyball tournament at the Depot field house Tuesday.

Both teams traded points until tying 29-29 and forcing a mandatory two-point victory margin.

District answered the call and came out of the first battle after inching to a 31-29 win.

**DISTRICT 31 30**  
**COAST GUARD 29 25**

"We had the attitude that we were going to win it all," said District's Staff Sgt. Kurt M. Dayos. "However, we had to be careful;

we didn't want to become complacent and risk losing the game."

Keeping light spirits, Coast Guard pushed on in the second game, which stayed close, but not close enough.

"You could see the match going the wrong way halfway through the second game," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher L. Gill, team captain. "We were missing the ball."

Coast Guard saw events turn after scoring two in a row and after Petty Officer 2nd Class Francisco Salgado dove out of bounds into metal chairs to hit the ball back to an unprepared, surprised District.

Despite the effort, officials waved the point off making it 26-22.

District finalized its reign after pushing ahead 30-25.

"We passed well and hit well," Dayos said. "We learned to believe in each other and cover each other. That is what Team 12 is all about."

Although the Coast Guardsmen lost, their spirits stayed high.

"We had fun and enjoyed it," Gill said. "Starting in second place is a good way to begin the CG Cup."

The next CG Cup event is a one-day horseshoe tournament Tuesday.

For more information, call Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.



Sgt. Stephen Standifird, 12th Marine Corps District, bumps the ball to one of his teammates. Good coverage on the court helped District win the championship. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

### CG'S CUP VOLLEYBALL SINGLE-ELIMINATION PLAYOFFS (All teams are in playoffs)

	W	L	avg.	GB
District (1st)	4	1	.800	—
Coast Guard (2nd)	4	1	.800	—
3rd Battalion (3rd)	3	2	.600	1
Legal (4th)	2	3	.400	2
CISD (5th)	2	3	.400	2
Food Services (6th)	0	5	—	4

