

## SCHOOL of the ROCKER

**Inside:** Staff sergeants share secrets for success at Career Course Pg. 6



Career Course student Staff Sgt. Magdiel Vazquezanzua holds his platoon's guidon following a uniform inspection Nov. 20, 2003, at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon/The Scout

## Staff Academy shifts focus toward rear area

BY STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON  
Scout Staff

A shift in mind set for educating staff sergeants across the Corps has faculty at staff noncommissioned officer academies throughout the Corps hoping to give their students information they will really use while de-emphasizing material staff NCOs should already know.

Beginning with the Career Course scheduled to kick off this month, students will see more emphasis on the staff sergeant's role in the rear area supporting combat operations.

"One of the goals behind it is to educate Marines across the spectrum on how they support offensive and defensive operations no matter what their MOS," said Master Sgt. Brian Burlingame, the Career Course's chief at Camp Pendleton.

The changes are directed mainly at non-infantry Marines — about 70 percent of the student body, he said. Classes in the past were taught with more of an infantry mind set; subjects included conducting offensive operations and weapons employment.

Surprisingly, the changes don't come from input based on lessons learned during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Burlingame said.

Most of the student feedback spurring the changes came while troops were still on the ground in Iraq. The Corps' Career Course leadership met here for a three-day conference in September 2003 to develop the new curriculum, then submitted it to Marine Corps University, which approved

SEE **Staff**, pg. 7

## Let us celebrate and honor MLK

*Safely, responsibly look out for one another*

As we kick off another year and approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region for all your hard work and dedication. This holiday is a special day to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who courageously fought for civil rights of African Americans and became an influential leader in the civil rights movement.

As we celebrate this national holiday with friends and family, it's imperative we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a leader who paved the way for equal rights and is largely responsible for what we have today. He challenged racism and fought for civil liberties.

As we embark on a new year, our efforts in recruiting and recruit training take on a renewed emphasis as we continue to fight the war on terrorism and defend this great nation.

Enjoy the long weekend, but remember to do so safely and responsibly. Ensure you are well-rested before long drives and look out for one another. Each Marine, sailor and civilian stationed at the Recruit Depot and throughout the Western Recruiting Region is vitally important to our mission of making and training Marines. Have a great weekend.

Semper Fidelis,

J.M. Paxton Jr.  
Commanding General

## 'Big brother is watching'

*Motor T installs tracking systems in gov vehicles*

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

Depot Motor Transport began installing new Global Positioning Systems in government vehicles in December 2003 to better manage its light and medium vehicles, according to Vince Sablan, motor transport fleet manager.

GPS is managed through the online connection [www.networkcar.com](http://www.networkcar.com), and only people of specific clearance are allowed to use this GPS.

"All you have to do is go to the site and log in," said Sablan. "From this site, you can check every small detail of a specific vehicle."

With this system, an individual can locate a stolen car or call for roadside assistance.

It also monitors a vehicle's remote diagnostics and gives real-time performance reports that can pinpoint the car's speed and location to the exact address.

SEE **GPS**, pg. 2



### The calm before the storm

Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Hambaugh, drill instructor, Platoon 3132, goes over last minute instructions with his recruits before Company L's final drill competition. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

## "I HAVE A DREAM."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech delivered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., lives on after 30 years.

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## ANOTHER 1½ KILOS

As one Company K drill instructor welcomes a new cycle of recruits today, he waits for his preemie son to come home from UCSD Medical Center.

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## B-BALL & V-BALL

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SAFETY

# CURBING SUICIDE

## Prevention concerns every leader

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS  
Quantico, Va.

A popular misconception held by many Marines is that more suicides happen during the holiday season than at any other time of year.

Statistically, over the past 20 years, the Marine Corps has seen the highest rate of suicide in January, which can bring serious financial burden and feelings of isolation.

This month, special emphasis needs to be added to suicide prevention and awareness.

There have been 19 suicides this year to date. This is a decrease from 20 at the same time in 2002 and 27 at the same time in 2001. Although the trend is down due to diligence in prevention efforts, Marines and sailors still need to be aware of the warning signs of suicide. The life of every service member is critical and we must take the issue of suicide seriously.

"Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the Corps" said Navy Cmdr. Tom Gaskin, Headquarters Marine Corps suicide prevention manager.

Although the U.S. military has a lower rate of suicide than the civilian population, the Marine Corps has a rate somewhat higher than the other armed forces.

One contributing factor to the Marine Corps' rate may be its population demographics. The Corps has the greatest number of unmarried males in the 19-to-24 age range, which is one of the most at-risk groups for suicide.

"In the Marine Corps, the biggest risk factors for those who ended their life was a relationship problem, typically the loss of an important relationship. Other significant risk factors were work, financial, and legal problems," said Gaskin.

Most suicides occur among junior enlisted Caucasian males. However, there has been a slight increase in suicides among females and African-American males. In the first 11 months of 2003, five of the 19 completed suicides occurred among the ranks of E-7 and above. Ultimately, there isn't one military occupational specialty, racial group, or age group that is less at risk than another, Gaskin said.

"Suicide is something that can happen to anybody," Gaskin explained. "The most important issue we try to stress to commands is to create a climate

where Marines feel that it is okay to get help for their problems. We want to see the number of suicides in the Marine Corps decline, but for this to happen, commands need to take all comments about suicide seriously and get the person in for a mental health evaluation. A mental health professional can assess the seriousness and risk associated with the suicidal statements or behavior.

"It's not unusual for most people to have occasional vague suicidal thoughts, but they don't see it as even a remotely serious option. The difference with suicidal people is that although they may desperately want to live at some level, they are temporarily unable to see ways to escape their problems other than by suicide. Once the person is evaluated by a professional, he or she can be referred for help through the crisis. These services might include continuing mental health counseling, talking to the chaplain, financial counseling, substance abuse counseling, etc. Suicide is preventable."

Suicide prevention is the concern of every leader, every Marine, every day. If you know of someone who is struggling, bring it to the attention of someone who can help. There are many resources available to Marines including the Mental Health Department of Naval hospitals and clinics, the counselors at the Marine Corps Personal Services Programs, and chaplains.

Some of the warning signs of suicide are extreme hopelessness, increased anxiety, talking about suicide or prior suicide attempts, irritability or anger and withdrawing from friends and family. Nearly 80 percent of all suicide victims show some or all of the warning signs before attempting suicide.

"It is very hard for someone who is experiencing difficult times to reach out and ask for help. This is especially true in the military culture, where there may be fear of retribution or a perception of weakness," Gaskin explained.

"If you see or hear suicidal behavior or comments, take them seriously," Gaskin added. "If Marines make suicidal statements or attempts to harm themselves, they need to be seen immediately by medical professionals. Sometimes sending a Marine to see a chaplain isn't enough. Leaders should escort the Marine to the base, branch medical, or Naval hospital. A mental health professional will evaluate the seriousness of the situation and get them the im-



mediate help they need."

In 1999, the Navy and Marine Corps began tracking suicides using the Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report in an effort to understand the trends in suicide. Based on information from the DONISIR, a training program was developed to educate Marines and sailors on suicide prevention techniques. The training kit, "Suicide Prevention: Taking Action, Saving Lives," is designed so that any leader can give the presentation. The kit includes an 18-minute video with real life scenarios on a wide variety of issues including a Marine in distress after being passed over for promotion and another whose relationship has recently ended. It also includes a suggested lecture, transparencies and answers to frequently asked questions about suicide. The kits were originally distributed in October 2000, but additional kits can be ordered at [http://www.usmcmccs.org/perssvc/prevent/suicide\\_howto.asp](http://www.usmcmccs.org/perssvc/prevent/suicide_howto.asp). Follow the links and request PIN #8066377.

A second Navy video is now available and may be helpful for Marines as well. The video, "Suicide Awareness: Making the Critical Decision," can be ordered free of charge through the Defense Visual Information Web site at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil> through the DAVIS/DITIS search option, using PIN #8066677.

Gaskin said, "Training resources give us important information regarding suicide awareness, but there is no substitute for the role of the individual Marine or commander in preventing suicide. Listening, watching for red flags, offering help and knowing your resources will help your fellow Marines in their time of need."

*Gaskin is the suicide prevention program manager at Headquarters Marine Corps. He can be contacted for further information regarding suicide prevention in the Marine Corps at (703) 784-9435 or via e-mail at [gaskinta@manpower.usmc.mil](mailto:gaskinta@manpower.usmc.mil).*

## 'GPS can locate vehicles anywhere in the world'

GPS from pg. 1

The Navy Region Southwest purchased 20 systems for the Depot and installation should be completed by the end of the month, according to Sablan.

"Once we've installed the first 20, we hope to also install them in our larger trucks and busses," said Sablan.

The units are quite simple and take between 15 and 20 minutes to install. Four parts make up the system; a cellular linkup that connects magnetically near the antenna, the GPS linkup, a cord that connects the system to the engine diagnostics and a piece called the brain.

"The GPS can locate one of

its vehicles anywhere within the GPS radius," said Sablan. "Basically, that's anywhere in the world."

The engine diagnostics reports show exactly how the car is running and are broken down into several categories. Speeds can also be monitored. If a vehicle is tracked is somewhere it shouldn't be or is going too fast, the driver's supervisor will receive a printed report for disciplinary measures, according to Sablan.

"These new systems are just to ensure our vehicles and Marines stay safe and no misuse occurs," said Sablan. "Remember, big brother is watching."



The above system is made of four parts: (from left) the brain, the GPS linkup, the cellular linkup and the connection cord. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens / Chevron

# "I have a dream."

BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963

**On Monday, Americans will pause to reflect on the life and legacy of one of our nation's greatest leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In remembrance of Dr. King's passion, his virtue, and his contributions to the advancement of the true foundations of American liberty, Chevron salutes a true American hero. These are his words, spoken with an eloquence and fervor that resonates in the hearts and minds of all lovers of peace and freedom who bathe in the vibrant glow of an America united.**

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which

every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where

they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

**CHEVRON**  
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# Doogie Howser, MC

## 18-year-old college grad chooses Marine Corps over civilian workforce

BY STAFF SGT. RONNA M. WEYLAND  
8th Marine Corps District

While most 18-year-olds are preparing for college, a high school age Texan has already graduated from one.

Billy Joe McCulloch received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Texas Lutheran University in December.

Now what? Grad school? No. Civilian job market? No.

McCulloch decided to enlist in the Marine Corps.

"I am tired of doing school work," said the Seguin, Texas native. "I am ready to go out and get dirty."

McCulloch skipped the sixth grade and scored in the top one percent of the nation on the Stanford Achievement Test in the seventh grade.

Despite being able to skip the

sixth grade and start college a quarter of the way through his freshman year, McCulloch felt unchallenged.

"I don't really like school much," he said. "I like to do work with my hands."

So, why the Marine Corps and not a civilian job?

"My friends from college are getting jobs starting out at \$50,000 a year," he said smiling. "But, I'm not in it for the money."

He said he is looking for the intangibles in life.

"I joined the Corps looking for a challenge, camaraderie and the pride of belonging," he added with a serious tone in his voice.

However, before he could enlist, the then-17-year-old college graduate had to get permission from his parents.

"It isn't everyday you have to get a PC (parental consent) from a college grad," said Gunnery

Sgt. Samuel R. Ybarra, recruiter, Recruiting Substation Walzem, Texas. "The family was very cooperative though and asked a lot of questions about what their son was going to be doing," Ybarra added.

McCulloch said, "My parents would rather I go to graduate school, but they support my decision."

He is currently assigned to Platoon 2158, Company G, in his first week of recruit training.

"He comes into the office Monday through Thursday to PT," said Ybarra. "He knew his time was limited and he wanted to be ready. He is motivated and very dedicated to what he wants to do."

McCulloch has been thinking about joining the Corps since he was 12 years old.

"I have always liked what I have seen from the Marines," he said with pride.



Billy Joe McCulloch, Platoon 2158, Company G, graduated college and enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

### New off limits locations

This message restates policy established by COMNAVREG SW regarding off-limits locations for all military personnel. The following lists establishments and locations off limits to all military personnel at all times:

- **Advanced Services of San Diego, The Focus Point, and any other photo-finishing business**  
849 4th Avenue, San Diego

- **Midnight Adult Book Store**  
3606 Midway Drive, San Diego

- **Base Liquor and adjoining parking lot**  
3201 National Avenue, San Diego

- **Club Mustang**  
2200 University Avenue, San Diego

- **Club San Diego**  
3955 Fourth Street, San Diego

- **Dream Crystal**  
1536 Highland Avenue, National City

- **Get It On Shoppe**  
3219 Mission Boulevard, San Diego

- **Main Street Motel**  
3494 Main Street, San Diego

- **Vulcan Baths**  
805 West Cedar Street, San Diego

### SMP Madden Football Tourney

The Single Marine Program is hosting a Playstation 2 video game tournament Jan. 21 at the Locker Room.

The game will be John Madden Football 2004 and the tournament is open to all Depot active duty personnel.

Each game in the single elimination tourney will be set on the All Madden difficulty level with three-minute quarters. No memory cards, created teams or players, or cheat codes are allowed.

The tourney kicks off at 4:30 p.m., and the top three finishers will receive gift certificates to Best Buy in the amounts of \$75, \$50 and \$25.

All active duty personnel are encouraged to participate or come support. The Locker Room will provide free food and happy hour drink prices.

For more information, contact Britney O'Connor at (619) 524-8240 or via e-mail at oconnorbe@usmc-mccs.org.

### 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.

The next seminar, Successful Credit Management - Key Points To Help You Stay Out Of Debt, plus How to Understand Your Credit Reports and Scores is Jan. 28.

For more information contact Michael McIsaac at 619-524-1204.

### 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.

### 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 Feb. 18. Applicants must be under 21 years old (23 if en-

rolled 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](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

### Career training for military spouses

Free career training for military spouses is being offered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. To sign up for the Spouse Orientation Class, held Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Career Resource Center in Building 5305, call (858) 974-7620 ext. 1454 or (858) 635-9142.

### 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](http://www.ddasd.org) or call (866) 373-7233.

### Hollywood ship on display in San Diego

Maritime Museum of San Diego visitors can strike a pose at the helm of the H.M.S. Surprise, the ship used in the hit movie "Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World." The ship will be on exhibit at the museum until next fall.

The ship will be open to the public during regular museum hours, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. For more information, call the museum at (619) 234-9153 or visit their Web site at [www.sdmartime.org](http://www.sdmartime.org).

### DD-214 available online

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following Web site for veterans to access their DD-214s online. The address is <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

For more information, contact Lyn Krout at (410) 306-1755 or via e-mail at [lined.krout@us.army.mil](mailto:lined.krout@us.army.mil)

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

# IT'S A miniature BABY BOY

Staff Sgt. Dustin Kazmar touches his son Zakary, who was born almost two months early.



Shortly after assisting with a baby's delivery, nurse Naomi Kazmar felt funny as she began to bleed. She thought, "This shouldn't be happening" as she looked down at her stomach, worried about the 29-week-old baby boy inside.

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

A brisk Dec. 3 evening found him lying on his couch half-asleep after a hard day's work. Through the twilight haze of the television, he heard the phone ring. Slightly annoyed, he broke away from his slumber and picked up the phone.

Staff Sgt. Dustin Kazmar expected to hear one of his fellow drill instructors from Company K on the other end, but what he heard surprised him.

"Dustin, there's something wrong with your wife," the voice said. "Please come to the hospital. She needs you."

Concerned, the 24-year-old jumped into his car and raced to the University of California San Diego Medical Center in the Hillcrest area.

An hour before the call, Naomi Kazmar, his pregnant wife who is a nurse in the labor and delivery unit, had just finished helping to deliver a baby at the hospital. After the baby was born, she began to feel strange.

"I felt really funny," said Naomi, who was 29 weeks pregnant. "Once I started bleeding, I knew something was very wrong."

Conveniently for her, she was already in the delivery unit of a hospital, and her coworkers immediately tended to her.

It seemed something had suddenly gone terribly wrong with her pregnancy, which had been perfectly healthy the previous seven months. The baby needed to be delivered nearly two months premature.

Dustin arrived at the hospital to find his wife in a hospital bed hooked up to all kinds of machines.

Once the doctor told Dustin what was happening, it took a while for the news to sink in.

"I was really calm about it," said Dustin. "It just didn't seem real and I felt like it was just something that would pass."

Naomi was stabilized and everything seemed to be under control. Suddenly, the baby's heart rate dropped dramatically from 120 beats

per minute to under 30.

"Being a nurse there, I was terrified," said Naomi. "I knew what all those beeps from the machines meant."

Also alarmed was William Simpson, the doctor who made the final decision that the baby had to come out.

A nurse told Dustin, who was in the waiting room, they were having the baby that night. Still in a state of disbelief, Dustin prepared to don a set of scrubs and witness his son's birth.

Minutes later, the nurse returned and told Dustin he had to remain where he was because they needed to do an emergency cesarean section.

"For some reason, I was never scared," said Dustin. "I knew she was in good hands and it still seemed surreal to me."

Naomi had to be put under with a general anesthetic because of the hasty nature of the operation. In most deliveries, a local or spinal anesthetic is applied to keep the mother awake.

Simpson understood the possible consequences and waited only until Naomi was unconscious before he made the incision.

Other complications ensued during the operation, however.

"The breathing tube wouldn't fit in my throat," said Naomi. "That's how they keep people breathing usually, but for some reason, it wouldn't fit."

That was even more reason to remove the baby as fast as possible. By the time Naomi was breathing again from an alternative method, Zakary Adam Kazmar was in the doctor's arms.

"It was amazing," said Dustin, still awestruck. "I waited for about 10 minutes, and at 12:04 a.m., I was a father."

Little Zakary was born quite healthy, considering his circumstances. At birth, he weighed three pounds, seven ounces. A full term baby weighs between eight and nine pounds on average.

Heart rate, breathing, temperature and anything else regarding a newborn is normal, according to Naomi.

"He has all 10 fingers and toes," chuckled Naomi.

The only real problem is that

Zakary is premature, both physically and mentally. He didn't get a whole term to develop, so he lacks some basic instincts.

"His brain and eyes aren't fully developed yet, but they are normal for his age," said Dustin. "He sometimes 'forgets' to breathe or his heart rate will drop a little bit. We have to train him how to do some natural things like breast-feeding. It's kind of like baby boot camp."

Dustin graduated his platoon in early December and starts a new training cycle today. During his off time, he and Naomi visit the hospital for about six hours every day, he said.

"All we do at home is eat and sleep," said Naomi. "We spend the rest of our time with the baby. It's like we're part-time parents. When we're at the hospital, we bathe him and change his diapers and feed him, but we don't fully feel like parents yet."

Zakary is expected home in mid-February, which is close to his original due date.

"It's going to be hard starting a new cycle and having a new baby at the house," said Dustin. "My mind will be in two places at once. I do have faith in my company though. Throughout the entire pregnancy, they've been 100 percent supportive. They let me off early several times, sent Naomi flowers and even came to the hospital to see Zakary."

Naomi and Dustin both want their son home as soon as possible, but they also believe Zakary is in good hands. "I'm just thankful that he's okay," said Naomi of her possibly fatal emergency.

"I'm thankful she's okay too," chimed in Dustin of his 24-year-old bride of nearly five years.

Zakary has now eclipsed four pounds and continues to grow at the hospital. Dustin and Naomi carry on each day waiting for their son to come home.

"This situation could've been a lot worse," said Dustin. "But my wife is still here with me and I have a beautiful, new son. He's really just a miniature baby."



Staff Sgt. Dustin Kazmar, drill instructor, Company K, and wife, Naomi, hold their son, Zakary Adam Kazmar, at the University of California San Diego Medical Center about two weeks after his birth. Kazmar family photos

# School OF THE Rocker



Career Course student Staff Sgt. Ramon Ramirez, administrative chief, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, maps out an artillery fire mission at a simulator on Camp Pendleton.



Staff Sgt. Elisha Couch, bulk fuel chief, Inspector/Instructor Staff in Phoenix, calls a command during a sword drill evaluation Nov. 25, 2003.



Staff Sgt. Richard Luna, training chief, Recruit Training Regiment, leads fellow Career Course students in push-ups during their Daily 16 physical training session Oct. 31, 2003.

## Staff sergeants share secrets for success at Career Course

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON  
*Scout Staff*

Sure, the instructors will fill your brain-housing group to the brim with great information that every staff sergeant should know, but that's only half the story, according to recent graduates.

For students coming out of the Career Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., some of the greatest lessons learned are those from the Marines to their left and right.

The seven-week Career Course serves as resident professional military education for staff sergeants and for sergeants selected for promotion. Courses are offered at all of the Corps' four Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academies located at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Quantico, Va., and Okinawa, Japan.

They share the same rank but draw on experience from all walks of life in the Corps. Student staff sergeants can range anywhere from six to 16 years of time in uniform.

From the Corps' nooks and crannies come cooks, drill instructors, administrators, reconnaissance team leaders, explosive ordnance disposal specialists and super high-frequency aviation radar

technicians, just to name a few.

This wide array of wisdom is shared when living day-in and day-out with each other. Haven't touched an NCO sword in years? Don't worry, because the Marine next to you can probably teach you. Never written a combat order? Then look to the experience of the grunt in your class.

"The majority of what I learned at the academy was from the other staff sergeants," said Staff Sgt. Ronald E. Miller, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Miller, who recently graduated the Career Course, is based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

"Myself being a 'young' staff sergeant of about six months, I learned a lot from the personal experiences shared by the others," he said.

To further tap into each other's wisdom, numerous guided discussion periods allow the students to tackle tough contemporary leadership challenges like fraternization and sexual harassment.

Interaction with the various staff sergeants allows students to pick up on some of their leadership styles, which they can incorporate into their own, said recent graduate Staff Sgt. Matthew St.

Pierre. He's a platoon sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For some, though, the greatest thing taken away from the school isn't a diploma or knowledge, but newfound brothers and sisters.

"I met a bunch of people that I usually wouldn't get to meet, and made a bunch of really good friends that will probably end up being life-long friends," said Staff Sgt. Larry A. Fouts, from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, MAG-11, 3rd MAW, based at Miramar.

"It's just too bad, that you meet great people ... and then have to return back to your parent commands," added Staff Sgt. Stephen D. Coffman, an administrative chief with the Inspector/Instructor Staff in Fort Worth, Texas.

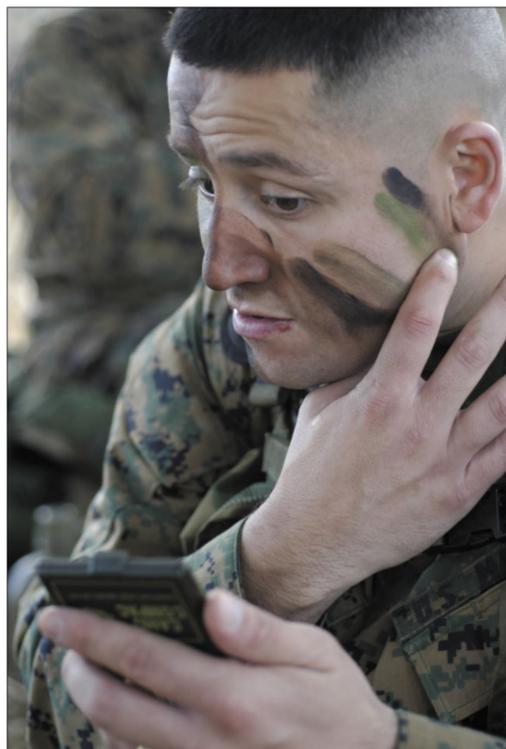
"It's one of the funnest things I've done in the Marine Corps," Fouts added. "Funnest? Is that a word?"

According to Webster's Dictionary, sometimes it is. They're learning all the time.

For more information on the Career Course or the SNCO Academy, visit <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/sncoa>.



Career Course instructor Gunnery Sgt. Amsony Mondragon checks for proper chevron placement during a uniform inspection.



Career Course student Staff Sgt. Robert Ixtlahuac, a former 3rd Recruit Training Battalion drill instructor, applies face paint during a field exercise Dec. 1, 2003.



Staff sergeants attending the Career Course walk to class facing the morning sun Nov. 25, 2003, at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Career Course is a seven-week program aimed at enhancing staff sergeants' professional qualifications in preparation for assuming duties of greater responsibility and for making a greater contribution to the Corps.

## Staff Academy places less emphasis on common skills

**Staff from pg. 1**

the updated lesson plans.

However, input from Iraqi Freedom veterans will probably result in more changes, Burlingame said.

To make room for the beefed-up rear-area security and force-protection classes, along with other curriculum revisions, the academy trimmed items like uniform inspections, parade staff drill practice and weapons classes — things staff sergeants should already know, Burlingame said.

Some believe resident professional military education, such as the Career Course, is where units send their recently promoted Marines to learn everything they need to know for that rank, Burlingame said.

But academy staff see their role differently, he said.

"We want to go outside of that box," he said. "Our goal is to try to make the staff sergeant more educated in various areas, which allows them to assume roles of greater responsibility."

All Marines, regardless of MOS, are required to know certain skills and information, known as Marine Corps Common Skills, based on their rank. According to Burlingame, the responsibility for teaching and maintaining these skills falls on unit training offices or the Marines themselves, not the academy.

For example, firing weapons like the M-203 grenade launcher and the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon is being removed even at the Sergeants Course, because NCOs already undergo the training annually in their units, Burlingame said.

The changes may find some Marines at a disadvantage. While training and evaluating common skills may be easier in Fleet Marine Force units, where access to field exercises and weapons ranges is greater, Marines at non-deployable bases or air stations may never get the opportunity.

"How am I supposed to know (the skills) if I don't go to these schools?" said recent graduate Staff Sgt. Larry A. Fouts, an aviation ordnance chief with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

The extent of common skills training and evaluation at some units includes only an annual multiple-choice exam. Others, like 1st Force Service Support Group here, are more proactive. The FSSG tries to send all its privates through captains to a week-long rear-area security class annually. They also train some of their Marines on crew-served weapons at an annual basic machine gun course, said Capt. Lester Corpus, the group's training officer.

"It's going to be more critical that units look at the curriculum at the academies," urged Burlingame.

Students attending the academy are not tested on common skills upon arrival.

Marine sergeants, staff sergeants and gunnery sergeants attend either the Sergeants Course, the Career Course or the Advanced Course at one of the Corps' four staff noncommissioned officer academies located at Marine Corps Bases Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Camp Pendleton, Quantico, Va., and Okinawa, Japan. Sergeants Courses are also held for Marines at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, and in Hawaii. Reservists attend abbreviated courses at Camp Crowder, Mo.

The seven-week Career Course is held six times per year, except at Quantico, where five are held annually.

Since the curriculum is governed by the Marine Corps University in Quantico, staff sergeants receive the same period of instruction regardless of where they attend. Minor differences occur based on the base's resources and facilities.

# Marine with prosthetic leg jumps into history books

BY CPL. ISAAC PACHECO  
MCLB Albany, Ga.

High above the eastern Alabama countryside, the deafening roar of a C-130's engines drowns out the instructor's urgent commands. The shadowy figures sitting behind him respond instinctively. In the dim light, the instructor can see only a few of their taut, weathered faces.

Focused on the task at hand, with fearless and eager faces, the shadowy figures emerge from the darkness. They've blocked out all distractions, and the only thing they respond to is the angry man in front of them whose insistence on perfection they've grudgingly come to admire.

Upon rising to their feet, more than 20 of them sardine back-to-back against the bright red bench that runs the length of the aircraft. They feel ready. After all, this is what they've trained for the past three weeks.

The plane makes a steep left turn and lights flash on above the open doors on each side of the fuselage. One minute to go. A wave of glove-covered hands reaches upward for the yellow static lines. The front man in the line



Sgt. Christopher Chandler

turns and shouts commands over his shoulder through the rushing air, "Chalk 5, all clear!"

"Chalk 5, all clear!" the instructor echoes.

The lights above the doors flash green. The instructor, who has remained fairly passive up to this point, explodes.

"Get out! Go, go, go!" he bellows as he pushes each body out of the plane.

As each jumper treads the sky, his pack springs to life releasing a life saving parachute.

Behind the plane, a trail of giant green blossoms can be seen floating gracefully to the ground.

In addition to being yet another successful day on the job for the Army Airborne Academy students, this jump turned out to be history in the making. The historical aspect of the jump centered around one student. To the surprise of many, this was the first class to graduate a Marine who had been retained on active duty with a prosthetic limb.

Sgt. Christopher Chandler, an Aurora, Colo., native, lost his left leg from below the knee Dec. 16, 2001 when he stepped on a land mine while providing security for an explosives ordinance disposal unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was one of the first service members injured in the war on terrorism, but unlike some of his wounded counterparts, he refused to let the accident diminish his resolve.

"I didn't have time to feel sorry for myself," Chandler explained. "While I was in the hospital, other injured veterans visited me. I saw that compared to them I had nothing to complain about."

It's been said that the truest test of one's character is not what he does with success but what he makes of defeat. For generations, the Marine Corps has bred recruits with this type of bravado and instilled the courage in its warriors to move forward when those around them have faltered. In keeping with this ethos, Chandler stepped up to the challenge of jump school in the face of seemingly impossible odds. In the process, he jumped into the history books.

He became the only service member retained on active duty to jump with a prosthetic leg, graduating the course Nov. 10 with distinction.

"I think any obstacle in life can be overcome if you believe in yourself," Chandler exclaimed. "I hope this will make it easier for other people with prosthetics who want to go through (jump school) next time. As long as they won't be extra baggage, and they can pull their own weight and accomplish the mission. Hopefully, they won't have to put up with as much as I had to."

Chandler not only rose to the challenge but also exceeded even his own expectations when he was selected as the class noncommissioned officer honor graduate.

"He captures the heart and soul of what it means to be a U.S. Marine," said Lt. Col. Kirk Rice, commander, Marine Corps Detachment, Fort Benning, Ga. "I mean he exemplifies all of our core values: honor, courage, and commitment. This is a courageous young man. He fought to be retained on active duty and asked for a chance to come to airborne school as a reenlistment bonus."

Chandler faced many challenges and trials during the course of his airborne training revolution, but none so rigorous as the medical boards he faced to stay on active duty.

"After his injury and the loss of his leg, Chandler had to go before a Naval review board. They had to make a decision as to whether he should be retained on active



Lt. Col. Kirk Rice, commanding officer, Marine Detachment, Fort Benning, Ga., pins on Sgt. Chandler's hard-earned jump wings during the drop zone graduation ceremony. Cpl. Isaac Pacheco/MCLB Albany, Ga.

duty," Rice explained. "He was able to demonstrate to the Physical Evaluation Review Board that he was fit for return to full duty with no limitations. I think his success will open the door for the retention of service members who have lost limbs. It clearly demonstrates that given certain conditions, they can and should be left on active duty."

Chandler had to undergo another battery of physicals, paperwork and interviews before the airborne school would accept him. Yet, he was able to keep his sense of humor throughout the ordeal.

"Obviously, the school was going to ask questions because they were concerned about my safety and the safety of the other students," Chandler explained. "They wanted to know if I was even capable of completing the tasks they had for me. I figured I had an advantage. After all, I have one less ankle to break. Running everywhere was the hardest part for me. I don't really like to run. The other guys in my class really motivated me to keep going."

One classmate said Chandler's motivation came from within and spread to the people around him.

"I was in Kandahar with him when he had his accident, and this is the first time I've seen him since then," said Sgt. Ryan Scheucher, platoon sergeant, 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force. "If you'd known him before the accident, what he's doing

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## Marine, wrestler son are dynamic recruiting duo

BY SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC  
9th Marine Corps District

A Lansing, Mich., Marine and his 12-year-old son took to the mats recently as they promoted the Marine Corps during a national wrestling match in Oklahoma.

"We recruit at the wrestling tournaments," said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald S. Olsen, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Muskegon, Mich. "We've put in two officials and one other that we're still waiting on."

One of those two, whom Olsen put into the Marine Corps, recently returned from boot camp. Pvt. Alex J. Albrecht, 18, was glad to have been noticed by Olsen during a clinic in which he was helping.

Albrecht said there are wrestling clinics every year at the elementary and middle schools, and his son Kameron was one of those in the clinics.

"My role was to demonstrate wrestling moves to the kids, and then we went around to make sure that they did the techniques correctly," said Albrecht, who was involved with these wrestling clinics in high school.

"I met Gunny Olsen in my junior year," said Albrecht.

Olsen had a couple years to work with Albrecht, and after some convincing, Albrecht decided to make the life-changing

move into the Marine Corps.

"I'm glad I've made this step. (The Marine Corps) has given me direction and confidence. For a while I didn't know what I was going to do. I used to be real quiet and not very confident. Now I believe I can do more," said Albrecht.

Olsen and his family are all getting involved in promoting the Marine Corps way of life.

"Every tournament we go to, even in the national level, there has always been a Marine who has a son wrestling or that's coaching the team. You can pick a Marine out from anywhere – not that they couldn't see the Marine paraphernalia that my family wears."

As an involved father, Olsen helped 70-pound Kameron get to the national wrestling championships in Enid, Okla., where he placed seventh in Greco-style and eighth in freestyle wrestling.

"He is considered to be in the top 10 in the nation's All-Americans. He worked hard and he did a great job," said Olsen. "As long as he gives 110 percent, he's good to go."

Kameron attributes his upbeat attitude and motivation to his dad.

"He's always encouraging me and he's always there. He hasn't missed a tournament yet. It keeps me motivated and I know that he supports me and it just keeps

me going," said Kameron. "My parents are my biggest inspiration."

Kameron and his father work out together, and on average, they run about four to five miles after work and school.

"I give my son a lot of credit because it takes a lot of dedication and determination to go and step into a sport where you have not a clue and excel that much," said Olsen. "He's got the warrior spirit – the determination and the stubbornness to never give up – which is a good thing."

"His mom and sister are great supporters. It's not him being an individual; it takes the family as a whole to support him, which we do. It takes a lot of sacrifice to be successful."

Olsen is hoping to enlist his son into the Marine Corps before he retires. Kameron is well on his way to becoming a Marine, as his bedroom is already adorned with Marine Corps camouflaged netting and bed sheets.

"He wants to go to school on an NROTC scholarship," said Olsen. "I'd like to see him start on the enlisted side – either do a (Platoon Leaders Course) program or the Reserves or both, so he can get some good leadership ability through the reserves and get an understanding of that side of the house. There's no reason why he can't do both; it would benefit him more."

## JROTC paves way for recruit-training success

SGT. L. F. LANGSTON  
Chevron staff

Throughout high school, dedicating himself to a rigid military lifestyle was his way of picking himself off the couch and doing something.

Once just a face in the crowd, PFC Roberto M. Chavez, guide, Platoon 3132, Company L, gradually worked his way up to leading his platoon.

Born in Chula Vista, Calif., and raised in nearby National City, Chavez realized he was becoming a couch potato and not progressing in school. He decided to immerse himself in the Marine Corps JROTC program at Sweetwater High School in National City.

"It wasn't until 9th grade JROTC that I became motivated to excel," Chavez said. "In order to be promoted, you had to make good grades."

"I used to hang out with friends that just played video games and did nothing. I stopped hanging out with them and started hanging out with guys in JROTC."

Chavez started picking up leadership skills. "I looked at my JROTC instructors as mentors," said Chavez.

"He showed a lot of initiative and was an overall high achiever," said retired Gunnery Sgt. Jesus Tavares, a JROTC instructor at Sweetwater.

"I learned what camaraderie was all about being in JROTC," Chavez said.

The Marine Corps JROTC program became a foundation for Chavez's success, giving him a well-rounded view of leadership skills, physical fitness, academics and community services.

"He was a super student, and I wasn't surprised he carried what he learned here onto recruit training," said retired Chief Warrant Officer Gerry Forand, another JROTC instructor at Sweetwater.

Taking on the duties as platoon guide came easily for Chavez. He participated in the JROTC rifle program's drill team and four-man exhibition drill team.

"He definitely sets the pace for the platoon," said Chavez's senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Tony S. Cruz.

Chavez participated in a series meritorious promotion board that would advance him to the company meritorious promotion board.

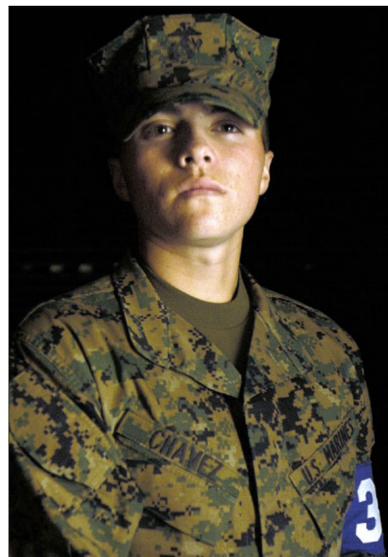
"During the series board, his knowledge and bearing were locked on. He's a strong runner with a 300 physical fitness training score," said Cruz.

Chavez missed winning the board, but the respect he has gained from his fellow recruits is strong.

"He started out slow and worked his way up. He deserved being company honorman," said squad leader, PFC Bradford Cunningham, Platoon 3132.

Chavez's commitment to excel and become a leader has been evident through his actions, but he is aware there's always room for improvement and learning.

Leading his platoon with pride and confidence off the parade deck, Chavez will take his 10-day leave period visiting friends, family and JROTC cadets.



PFC Roberto M. Chavez, guide, Platoon 3132, Company L, used his four years of JROTC experience to his advantage in recruit training, working his way up to top recruit in his platoon. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

# CRUZ CONTROL

Lima Company's soon-to-depart DI came to the drill field wanting to stand out. His demanding nature became so intense, other drill instructors dreaded working with him. Then they met him.



Staff Sgt. Tony Cruz, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3132, Company L, leads his platoon during final drill competition. Cruz received a score of 93 for his individual performance in the competition and was not satisfied.

Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

"Okay recruits, climb that rope! Faster! Louder! Higher! Ten, nine, eight, three, two ..."

Oftentimes, drill instructors order recruits to accomplish things like this, which seem impossible. For eight cycles, one Company L senior drill instructor has challenged himself and his fellow drill instructors in the same manner.

Platoon 3132's Staff Sgt. Tony Cruz demands more than the maximum – a characteristic formed during childhood in Cushing, Texas. With his parents separated since he was 2, he and his twin brother Avery had their hands full with their four other siblings.

Cruz took refuge in his small high school's extracurricular activities. He played football and baseball, and he was a member of the band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the art club and the Spanish club.

Directly after high school, he and Avery enlisted in the Marine Corps. Cruz served as a bulk fuel specialist at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and MCB Okinawa, Japan, before he volunteered for drill instructor duty.

"Even before I was a drill instructor, I was demanding," said Cruz. "I demanded the best of everything for myself and the Marines who served under me."

After training Marines in his occupational field, Cruz decided he wanted to train Marines from the beginning.

"I remember when I went through recruit training," recalled Cruz. "I knew I wanted to become a drill instructor. It's a goal I set for myself. I wanted to complete the cycle of training."

So Cruz set off to Drill Instructor School here determined to succeed.

"DI School was tough," said Cruz. "The (physical training) was hard and we took a lot of tests. I'm not really a test-taking person, but I knew I would make it. I demanded myself to (make it)."

Another challenge for Cruz was stepping out of his brother's shadow. His twin was already a drill instructor and several Marines at the school treated Cruz differently.

"I wanted people to see that I was different," said Cruz. "My brother was a great drill instructor, but we are two different people."

Cruz's demanding nature took over once he graduated and joined Co. L. His brother was in the same battalion, but not for long because Cruz's first training cycle was his brother's last.

"I had to set myself apart," said Cruz. "My recruits didn't like me, but this isn't a popularity contest; I'm here to make Marines."

Cruz said he quickly established himself as one of the company's fiercest drill instructors. In fact, other drill instructors began to dread working with him.

"When I saw the roster for this cycle I said, 'Man, not this guy,'" said Sgt. Peter O'Brien, one of Cruz's junior drill instructors. "But after working with him through this cycle, I understand why he's so demanding on us. He's rubbed off a little, and it's helped the way I train recruits."

Usually senior drill instructors take on nurturing roles and show recruits compassion. Not Cruz.

"I'm not their sugar daddy," said Cruz. "I am a senior drill instructor, but I don't believe in giving them candy or promising them rewards if they do well. They came here to become Marines, and that is the only reward I believe in."

"Marine stuff aside, I make my recruits know what it is to be good men. When dealing with anyone, I want them to open doors and say, 'yes sir, yes ma'am.' The better we represent ourselves as men, the better we represent the Marines. Someone is always watching."

Cruz's eighth and final cycle ends today, and the 27-year-old plans to go even further in his Marine Corps career.

"I have two Marine Corps goals," said Cruz. "The first is to be a drill instructor, which I've done. The second is to become an officer and get an education."

Cruz is putting the final touches on his Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program package and said he has no doubts he will be accepted.

"I want to further my education as much as possible while furthering my career as a Marine at the same time," said Cruz. "I look forward to the next step, but I will miss what I do now. I love my job, especially being around other drill instructors."

Cruz's recruits were shocked when they were introduced to his demanding nature, but as the cycle progressed, they started to see the big picture.

"At first, Staff Sgt. Cruz was a real pain," said Pvt. David Boyd of his senior drill instructor. "But as time went on, we realized why he was so demanding, and he has really benefited this platoon. He never lets up. He's always pushing, always demanding."

# LETHAL LIMA



**COMPANY HONORMAN**  
Lance Cpl. B. C. Kasher  
Braceville, Ill.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. R. C. Robbins



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC M. R. Bradley  
Walnut Creek, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. A. E. Morales



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC J. J. Bomar  
Amarillo, Texas  
Recruited by  
Gunnery Sgt. M. Goss



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC R. M. Chavez  
National City, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. M. L. Martinez



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC R. O. Flores  
Burbank, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. L. Cavers



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC J. A. Gray  
Wichita, Kan.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. L. Lithicum



**SERIES HONORMAN**  
PFC Z. J. Ritter  
Ewess, Texas  
Recruited by  
Sgt. V. Mota



**HIGH PFT**  
PFC J. C. Felix  
Madera, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. L. M. Herrera

**RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT**  
*Commanding Officer*  
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN  
*Sergeant Major*  
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD  
*Regimental Drill Master*  
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.  
*Parade Adjutant*  
GUNNERY SGT. T. C. WHITCOMB  
*Narrator*  
STAFF SGT. D. E. MARTINEZ

**MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO**  
*Band Officer*  
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES  
*Band Master*  
MASTER SGT. L. O. ARCE

**COLOR GUARD**  
SGT. T. R. JOHNSON  
SGT. J. A. HOVERSTEN  
PVT. CHARLES R. WIEDECKER  
PVT. EDWIN J. RAUDA

**3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION**  
*Commanding Officer*  
Lt. Col. J. R. Ewers Jr.  
*Chaplain*  
Lt. J. K. Manila  
*Sergeant Major*  
Sgt. Maj. R. L. Watkins  
*Battalion Drill Master*  
Staff Sgt. J. R. Craig

**SERIES 3133**  
*Series Commander*  
Capt. B. W. McBrayer  
*Series Gunnery Sergeant*  
Gunnery Sgt. W. R. Shaw

**PLATOON 3129**  
*Senior Drill Instructor*  
Gunnery Sgt. D. P. Fraser  
*Drill Instructors*  
Staff Sgt. J. L. Everson  
Sgt. S. Mccloud

**COMPANY L**  
*Commanding Officer*  
Capt. R. D. Gutierrez  
*Company First Sergeant*  
1st Sgt. R. A. Ledford  
*Company Corpsman*  
Petty Officer 3rd Class  
R. Sanchez

**SERIES 3129**  
*Series Commander*  
Capt. C. J. Adam  
*Series Gunnery Sergeant*  
Gunnery Sgt. J. R. Sanchez

Pvt. A. C. Carlson  
PFC D. A. Carrico  
PFC M. B. Carver  
Pvt. R. G. Casas  
PFC M. J. Coley  
Pvt. M. J. Cooper  
Pvt. B. M. Copeland  
Pvt. C. A. Corby  
Pvt. B. P. Davis  
PFC C. A. Decoster  
\*PFC B. C. Donnelly  
Pvt. S. A. Dosch  
Pvt. M. P. Downey  
Pvt. D. M. Duran  
Pvt. M. A. Duran-Lopez  
Pvt. T. L. Dustin  
Pvt. S. M. Duvall  
Pvt. D. F. Farag  
PFC J. C. Felix  
Pvt. B. D. Finney  
Pvt. J. Flores  
Pvt. M. N. Flowers  
Pvt. J. L. Frausto  
PFC J. T. Galaviz  
Pvt. G. P. Garduno  
Pvt. J. M. Burnett

Pvt. J. Gomez  
PFC C. M. Gonzales  
Pvt. C. A. Gonzalez  
Pvt. K. J. Gutierrez  
\*PFC J. L. Hagel  
Pvt. J. W. Haley  
PFC M. W. Hansen  
Pvt. M. A. Harding  
Pvt. W. D. Harrell  
Pvt. B. R. Hiatt  
PFC J. C. Hinz  
Pvt. J. C. Huerta  
Pvt. W. M. Jansen  
Pvt. K. J. Keyser  
PFC P. M. Knobel  
Pvt. G. L. Lazzaroid  
Pvt. D. S. Leach  
PFC J. F. Liedtke  
Pvt. F. Limon  
Pvt. M. C. Liston  
Pvt. A. Lopez  
\*PFC B. A. Lubbers  
Pvt. D. L. Madsen  
PFC C. H. Mah  
Pvt. A. S. Mahan

PFC C. D. Marshall  
PFC W. B. McCarty  
PFC D. D. Cummins  
Pvt. U. Moreno  
Pvt. T. O. Morris  
PFC K. P. Munz  
PFC B. J. Murphy  
Pvt. P. B. Nez  
PFC W. C. Patterson  
Pvt. D. W. Sharp  
Pvt. J. L. Trevino

**PLATOON 3130**  
*Senior Drill Instructor*  
Staff Sgt. M. L. Johns  
*Drill Instructors*  
Sgt. D. E. Rosenbrock  
Staff Sgt. G. W. Settler

PFC C. M. Alexander  
\*PFC M. D. Atterbury  
Pvt. S. M. Bacon  
Pvt. E. D. Barnett  
Pvt. R. B. Basi  
Pvt. M. R. Bayless  
Pvt. W. E. Bogielski  
Pvt. R. J. Borden-Pittman  
PFC G. L. Bowers  
Pvt. J. M. Brim  
PFC K. S. Buhler  
Pvt. S. L. Burks  
PFC R. S. Burns  
Pvt. J. E. Carlson  
PFC C. R. Cassingham  
PFC R. A. Castillo  
Pvt. M. J. Chaney  
\*PFC M. E. Church  
Pvt. A. C. Conner  
Pvt. J. A. Conolly  
Pvt. T. M. Cord  
Pvt. S. D. Cord  
Pvt. D. D. Crawfis

Pvt. J. M. Crenshaw  
Pvt. A. Cruz Jr  
PFC D. D. Cummins  
Pvt. G. H. Dell  
Pvt. M. S. Eason  
PFC J. A. Falco  
Pvt. C. A. Fedele  
Pvt. W. E. Fent II  
PFC B. R. Fishel  
PFC C. R. Former  
Pvt. J. C. Freel  
Pvt. M. A. Garcia  
PFC J. M. Garcia  
Pvt. E. D. German  
Pvt. T. T. Gibbons  
Pvt. G. T. Gonzalez  
Pvt. R. G. Gonzalez  
Pvt. W. C. Hamblin II

Pvt. N. A. Hamilton  
Pvt. J. T. Hammonds  
Pvt. A. B. Henderson  
Pvt. D. A. Hernandez  
Pvt. R. B. Basi  
Pvt. O. M. Jimenez  
PFC J. E. Johnson  
Pvt. T. B. Johnson  
\*Lance Cpl. B. C. Kasher  
Pvt. J. M. Keith  
Pvt. L. M. Kelley  
Pvt. L. R. Lambert  
Pvt. J. R. Lanier  
Pvt. N. V. Lazzaroid II  
PFC J. J. Lessig  
Pvt. D. J. Lopez  
Pvt. R. A. Lucas  
Pvt. M. E. Martinez  
\*PFC D. A. Martinwheeler  
Pvt. D. A. Mason  
Pvt. D. L. Madsen  
Pvt. M. B. Melendez  
Pvt. T. R. Morrison



**HIGH SHOOTER**  
PFC M. N. Flowers  
Dallas  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. B. E. Walker

Pvt. K. D. Mosher  
Pvt. A. B. Murrietta  
Pvt. T. E. Nielsen  
Pvt. M. J. Nolen  
Pvt. E. J. O' Connor  
Pvt. J. Oliverhorta  
Pvt. C. G. Page III  
PFC P. M. Pages  
Pvt. A. Perez Jr  
Pvt. J. Petrone  
\*PFC A. W. Powers  
Pvt. S. B. Regezi  
Pvt. C. A. Reynante  
Pvt. C. P. Reynolds  
Pvt. J. A. Rucker  
Pvt. J. W. Stoneberger

**PLATOON 3131**  
*Senior Drill Instructor*  
Staff Sgt. D. Pipkin  
*Drill Instructors*  
Staff Sgt. R. A. Cruz  
Sgt. A. Aguilar

PFC G. T. Abernathy  
PFC K. M. Allen  
Pvt. J. R. Anderson  
Pvt. R. Astorga  
Pvt. C. Beeman  
Pvt. E. J. Belbeck  
Pvt. C. A. Bishop  
PFC K. M. Blake  
PFC J. J. Bomar  
PFC J. L. Cammack  
Pvt. I. A. Cantu  
Pvt. P. J. Cantu  
PFC R. A. Chapman  
Pvt. M. A. Chavez  
PFC P. M. Chavez  
Pvt. D. D. Cook  
PFC R. N. Corona  
PFC T. E. Cunningham  
PFC M. J. Darrah  
Pvt. A. W. De La Cruz  
Pvt. R. De La Garza  
Pvt. D. R. Diltz  
PFC G. M. Domicck  
PFC J. D. Duncan  
PFC M. T. Duran  
\*PFC R. A. Escudra  
Pvt. C. M. Fields  
Pvt. J. J. Fitzgerrald  
Pvt. J. A. Flores  
PFC F. S. Flores  
Pvt. V. A. Fortanelli  
Pvt. M. T. Gary  
PFC R. E. George  
PFC J. N. Glasco  
PFC B. M. Glessner  
PFC M. E. Graham  
Pvt. J. Guerrero  
Pvt. J. R. Hemphill  
Pvt. J. S. Herford  
Pvt. D. M. Herrington  
PFC A. Hickman  
Pvt. J. R. Humerick  
PFC A. N. Hunt  
PFC J. J. Jimenez  
Pvt. D. A. Johanson  
Pvt. S. P. Julius  
Pvt. J. M. Karnes  
PFC J. L. Keller  
Pvt. B. C. Koertge  
Pvt. C. D. Kupfer  
Pvt. J. C. Lane  
PFC M. J. Lange  
PFC C. J. Lutz  
Pvt. T. A. MacLean  
\*PFC R. A. Macon  
Pvt. D. K. Moon  
\*PFC K. J. Moran  
Pvt. S. C. Murray  
PFC M. J. Myers  
Pvt. A. C. Neece  
PFC M. A. Newport  
Pvt. D. Noyola  
Pvt. D. P. O' Brien  
PFC R. E. Obenberger  
PFC M. R. Perdue  
Pvt. G. J. Poitvin  
Pvt. D. L. Poulson  
Pvt. J. M. Ramirez  
Pvt. Z. M. Rennels  
PFC O. E. Reyes  
Pvt. M. A. Rivera  
Pvt. N. A. Roberds

Pvt. B. J. Amoureux  
Pvt. L. E. Armendariz  
Pvt. W. B. Barkley  
Pvt. A. W. Barnhart  
PFC R. D. Beard  
Pvt. J. A. Beckett  
Pvt. D. A. Boyd  
PFC M. G. Bradshaw  
Pvt. J. L. Brandt  
Pvt. M. W. Bray  
Pvt. M. C. Bryson  
Pvt. J. R. Carpenter  
Pvt. M. M. Carter  
PFC R. M. Chavez  
Pvt. J. C. Cisneros Alvarez  
Pvt. B. C. Collier  
PFC K. C. Cox  
\*PFC T. A. Crisp  
PFC J. L. Cropper  
\*PFC B. S. Cunningham  
PFC N. R. Davis  
Pvt. K. R. Davis  
Pvt. C. J. Dodson  
Pvt. N. O. Hovsepian  
Pvt. B. J. Fraher  
Pvt. J. W. Giles  
Pvt. H. C. Hanner  
Pvt. W. R. Harris  
Pvt. J. Hernandez  
PFC H. M. Hernandez  
PFC C. T. Hunt  
Pvt. A. Garza  
Pvt. J. D. Johnson  
Pvt. M. A. Jones  
Pvt. J. D. Kauke  
PFC R. S. Kilborne  
PFC S. M. Knarr  
Pvt. B. M. Morgana  
\*PFC S. T. Larson  
PFC K. D. Lindroth  
Pvt. N. B. Maassen  
Pvt. D. T. Mallow  
Pvt. C. A. Marquez  
Pvt. C. W. Martin  
PFC J. E. Mattila  
\*PFC J. A. Monk  
\*PFC J. J. Morlok  
Pvt. D. E. Munn  
Pvt. M. D. Neal  
Pvt. J. Neff  
PFC T. H. Nguyen  
Pvt. J. Ortiz  
PFC C. J. Peugh  
Pvt. E. C. Reed  
PFC D. C. Reinhardt  
Pvt. J. G. Rektor  
Pvt. J. S. Rolfes  
Pvt. J. N. Rosa  
Pvt. E. Ruelas Diaz De Leon  
Pvt. M. B. Segaline  
Pvt. K. L. Sicksels  
Pvt. M. S. Smith  
PFC T. R. Smith  
PFC J. S. Spaans  
Pvt. J. L. Springman  
PFC R. J. Stumbaugh  
Pvt. R. S. Summers  
Pvt. A. M. Wilson  
Pvt. J. J. Wilson  
Pvt. J. Yeager  
Pvt. J. C. Woodard

PFC J. M. Bennett  
Pvt. K. J. Brignoni  
Pvt. B. P. Brinkman  
Pvt. K. A. Cramer  
Pvt. T. E. Delarosa  
Pvt. D. J. Diaz  
PFC J. B. Diefendorf  
PFC J. K. Dudney  
Pvt. J. A. Dunn  
Pvt. M. A. Duque  
\*PFC R. O. Flores  
Pvt. J. P. Frogge  
Pvt. D. Gibson  
\*PFC J. W. Glodt  
Pvt. A. J. Goedken  
Pvt. S. Gonzalez  
PFC S. Gonzalez-Jimenez  
Pvt. M. M. Goode  
PFC S. M. Grimmer  
PFC L. Y. Grizelle  
Pvt. K. J. Guerrero  
PFC B. B. Haglund  
Pvt. T. L. Helm  
Pvt. N. O. Hovsepian  
PFC C. M. Huffman  
Pvt. G. Garcia  
PFC R. J. Hurtado  
Pvt. D. L. Lambrecht  
Pvt. J. D. Luong  
Pvt. C. D. Maltz  
Pvt. J. R. Martin  
PFC D. M. McCollom  
Pvt. J. A. Meza  
Pvt. L. Moore  
Pvt. C. M. Morgan  
Pvt. J. E. Nowell  
Pvt. E. G. Pagunsan  
PFC D. K. Peahi  
PFC R. D. Roiger  
PFC D. A. Rose  
PFC T. J. Russell  
PFC I. Saldana  
Pvt. O. R. Sanchez  
Pvt. D. T. Parsons  
Pvt. C. A. Rees  
Pvt. S. L. Roland  
Pvt. N. P. Rourke  
PFC R. M. Seymour  
Pvt. R. A. Sim  
Pvt. C. J. Simmank  
Pvt. D. A. Simmons  
PFC M. R. Simon  
PFC S. C. Simoni  
Pvt. J. S. Simpson  
PFC R. M. Smith  
Pvt. J. L. Smith  
Pvt. T. L. Spellmon  
Pvt. J. R. Springhower  
Pvt. E. A. Tapia  
PFC S. Tonini  
Pvt. A. A. Torres  
PFC A. M. Vincent  
Pvt. J. P. Vitelli  
PFC S. M. Warren  
Pvt. M. S. Weinrich  
Pvt. M. G. Wright  
Pvt. J. Zarco

Pvt. J. W. Anderson  
Pvt. T. A. Arnold  
Pvt. J. A. Axlander  
Pvt. J. E. Baker  
Pvt. C. L. Belt  
Pvt. Z. G. Bemis  
Pvt. D. K. Bias  
Pvt. A. J. Bohn  
PFC J. A. Cain  
Pvt. J. W. Conrey  
PFC J. A. Coulter  
Pvt. J. F. Damico  
Pvt. J. L. Davison  
Pvt. Z. C. Downing  
Pvt. A. J. Downs  
Pvt. S. Edwards  
Pvt. R. B. Farmer  
PFC J. E. Ford  
Pvt. T. R. Fulton  
Pvt. A. J. Gamlim  
Pvt. N. C. Glumm  
Pvt. T. A. Grabski  
Pvt. B. T. Gravitt  
\*PFC J. A. Gray  
PFC D. E. Green  
Pvt. M. W. Haag  
Pvt. W. R. Hanners  
Pvt. W. M. Hawn  
Pvt. B. R. Hoover  
PFC E. D. Huerndosse  
Pvt. K. A. Huntoon  
PFC T. S. Irwin  
Pvt. K. L. Jensen  
PFC N. A. Johnson  
Pvt. M. J. Kelliher  
Pvt. J. M. Kinefelter  
Pvt. S. R. Kovacs  
PFC J. M. Lehmann  
Pvt. C. M. Madden  
Pvt. S. K. Mathew  
PFC J. J. Mattek  
Pvt. B. J. McHugh  
Pvt. C. D. Miller  
PFC S. O. Miller  
Pvt. D. B. Moore  
\*PFC S. R. Oatsvall  
Pvt. M. R. Oldfather  
Pvt. D. T. Parsons  
Pvt. C. A. Rees  
Pvt. S. L. Roland  
Pvt. N. P. Rourke  
PFC R. M. Seymour  
Pvt. R. A. Sim  
Pvt. C. J. Simmank  
Pvt. D. A. Simmons  
PFC M. R. Simon  
PFC S. C. Simoni  
Pvt. J. S. Simpson  
PFC R. M. Smith  
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Pvt. A. A. Torres  
PFC A. M. Vincent  
Pvt. J. P. Vitelli  
PFC S. M. Warren  
Pvt. M. S. Weinrich  
Pvt. M. G. Wright  
Pvt. J. Zarco

Pvt. T. G. Arndt  
Pvt. D. L. Bentjen  
Pvt. J. M. Braun  
Pvt. B. R. Brown  
Pvt. M. B. Buruca  
Pvt. J. J. Darrin  
PFC D. C. Edwards  
Pvt. F. Flores  
Pvt. J. L. Grueninger  
Pvt. K. T. Mineo  
PFC N. T. Norris  
PFC M. J. Perez  
Pvt. W. E. Phelps  
PFC S. K. Piccoli  
Pvt. R. S. Pineda  
PFC J. E. Potzin  
Pvt. J. L. Porter  
Pvt. B. J. Powell  
Pvt. E. J. Rauda  
Pvt. G. M. Rials  
Pvt. B. L. Rice  
Pvt. C. E. Rideaux  
PFC Z. J. Ritter  
PFC L. A. Roark  
Pvt. J. A. Robertson  
Pvt. W. M. Rockward  
Pvt. E. A. Rodriguez  
PFC M. L. Rogers  
PFC J. G. Rose  
PFC E. J. Rouse  
PFC K. D. Ruiz  
\*PFC A. J. Sandoval  
Pvt. C. I. Santos Garcia  
\*PFC S. A. McVey  
Pvt. J. M. Kinefelter  
Pvt. S. R. Kovacs  
PFC J. M. Lehmann  
Pvt. C. M. Madden  
Pvt. S. K. Mathew  
PFC J. J. Mattek  
Pvt. B. J. McHugh  
Pvt. C. D. Miller  
PFC S. O. Miller  
Pvt. D. B. Moore  
\*PFC S. R. Oatsvall  
Pvt. M. R. Oldfather  
Pvt. D. T. Parsons  
Pvt. C. A. Rees  
Pvt. S. L. Roland  
Pvt. N. P. Rourke  
PFC R. M. Seymour  
Pvt. R. A. Sim  
Pvt. C. J. Simmank  
Pvt. D. A. Simmons  
PFC M. R. Simon  
PFC S. C. Simoni  
Pvt. J. S. Simpson  
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Pvt. T. L. Spellmon  
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Pvt. A. A. Torres  
PFC A. M. Vincent  
Pvt. J. P. Vitelli  
PFC S. M. Warren  
Pvt. M. S. Weinrich  
Pvt. M. G. Wright  
Pvt. J. Zarco



**Helen F. Hicks**  
PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Helen F. Hicks was elected National Commandant of the Marine Corps League at the 80th National Convention in Spokane, Wash., Aug. 8, 2003.

Hicks was born in Bethany, Mo., and joined the Marine Corps in St. Joseph, Mo. She completed boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., and was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where she became a "Remington Raider" with Headquarters and Service Battalion. There were only 1,697 women Marines on active duty in the Corps and she was one of 52 stationed on the West Coast.

Upon completion of her active duty service, she transitioned to civilian life in Dallas, where she became a volunteer at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

For the past 38 years, Hicks has been an active participant and supporter of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

In 1987, Hicks became aware of the Marine Corps League and joined her local detachment, where she subsequently served in every office at the detachment level, including Commandant. She went on to become Commandant of the Department of Texas, and later she became National Vice Commandant for the Southern Division of the Marine Corps League.

She has served on the National Staff of the League as the national chief of staff, chairman of the awards and citations committee, and she has also served on numerous committees at the national level.

She served as national recording secretary for several years. At the national convention in 1999, Hicks was elected to the office of national junior vice commandant, a position to which she was re-elected at the national convention in 2000. In August 2001, she was elected to the position of national senior vice commandant and was re-elected to that position at the 2002 convention.

As a result of her dedicated service to the Marine Corps League, she has received recognition as the detachment and department "Marine of the Year." Hicks has received numerous awards and citations at all levels of the league. She is the recipient of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Because of her determined and dedicated service to veterans and their families, Hicks was one of the founding members of The Leatherneck Foundation of Texas, Inc., which was created in 1992 to provide no-cost housing to veterans in need and their families. Hicks has served as the foundation president since its inception. This program has received recognition from former Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired Gen. Carl E. Mundy, Jr., as well as other veteran and community organization leaders.

Hicks has served in law enforcement for over thirty years. Her peers have recognized her as "Officer of the Year" on numerous occasions. She is the recipient of the prestigious "Jim Harris Humanitarian Award," which is presented annually to a deserving law enforcement officer for dedicated service in community outreach. Hicks is a recipient of the "Prism Award," presented by the Mental Health Association of Dallas for service to the mentally ill and homeless.

Hicks has four children - Michael, Thomas, Kenneth, and Jamie. Thomas is a veteran Marine.



Platoon 3032 recruits execute 'stack arms' during Company L's final drill competition. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

**Airborne, from pg. 8**  
right now would come as no surprise. Both in uniform and out, he's always just been one of those guys who just shuts up and gets the job done. If anything, since his accident, I see a little more fire in his eyes. He gets up and he goes. He doesn't do anything to skyline himself or to showboat. If it's in the scope of his duty, he just does it."

Chandler's enthusiasm and tireless commitment inspired many of his classmates and set the standard for them to follow.

"The first time I even realized he had a prosthetic leg was during one of our PT (physical training) sessions, and he was just smoking these little 18 year olds out there," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Mayer, Special Operations Command Fort Bragg, N.C. "He's an inspiration because you have all these perfectly healthy people who wash out and quit while he stays in and makes it. That's a real testament to his character."

Other jump school students credited Chandler with helping them make it through the course when they were struggling.

"He motivated me because at first I felt kind of down, and I didn't like the course because it was so hard. But then I saw that he was doing it with only one leg, and that inspired me and let me know that I could do this," said Army Sgt. Fatima Hickman, Company B, 203rd Infantry, 4th Support Bn. "He could have done anything else but he chose to continue in the military and to go forth with what he wants to do. He's not letting his prosthetic leg stop him from being the Marine he wants to be."

And what did Chandler have to say to his detractors — to the people who said an amputee would never make it through the school?

"I don't have to say anything to people who said I couldn't make it," he retorted. "I just graduated."

## COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Lima Company's Platoon 3132 answered Chevron's random questions about their boot camp experiences:

**Q: How many letters came during mail call?**



**Pvt. Joel Beckett**  
Palmer, Alaska

**A:** On average, about three letters. I suppose it was enough. You can never get too much mail.

**Q: What military specialty are you pursuing?**



**PFC Robert S. Kilborne**  
Carlsbad, Calif.

**A:** Light Armored Vehicle crewman. They are the first ones to go into battle.

**Q: What do you miss most from civilian life?**



**PFC Jordon J. Morlok**  
Toledo, Ore.

**A:** The freedoms I had: showering by myself, a door on the stall of the urinal and getting to eat at free will.

**Q: What was the hardest civilian habit to break?**



**Pvt. Mathew D. Neal**  
Chula Vista, Calif.

**A:** Not being able to scratch my face when it itched.

**Q: What was your worst civilian job?**



**PFC Derek C. Reinhardt**  
Minneapolis

**A:** I worked at a grocery store bagging food.



CISD's Lance Cpl. Aaron Grieger spikes the ball over the net in Commanding General's Cup volleyball. CISD won the match two games to none. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/ Chevron

## CISD fries Food Services in CG's Cup volleyball

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

Communications and Information Systems Division cooked up a loss for Food Services Tuesday in a best-of-three volleyball match at the Depot Field House, helping to kick off Commanding General's Cup volleyball.

<b>CISD</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>FS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>

CISD bested Food Services two games to none. The computer-savvy Marines established themselves early with controlled passing and bump-and-set plays while Food Services couldn't seem to pull it together.

Their unorthodox game plan just wasn't working.

Lance Cpl. Aaron Grieger cooked up his own special dish for Food Services called hot spike salad with a side of "Bouya!" Grieger shoved spike after spike down his opponents' throats.

CISD won game one 30-10. Game two started the same way the first ended. Lance Cpl. Eric Norfleet of CISD set perfect passes and even found some hops as he joined the Spike Club.

Food Services came alive, however, as Sgt. April Taylor stood at the end line, ready to serve. Her rocket serves gave her team a few points, but CISD was too strong, too tall and too organized. CISD won the second

game 30-17, to end the match.

Cpl. Patrick Houck played solid defense and blocked several shots. Cpl. Jonathan Kaiser contributed several points for CISD.

"We owned them," said Grieger, who also coaches the team. "The game was over before we even walked in the gym. They should have just stayed home. But we do have some room for improvement."

CG's Cup volleyball games are every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Depot Field House. Playoffs and the championship game are Feb. 10. All Depot personnel are encouraged to come support their teams.

## Yuma delivers knock-out punch Lack of depth leaves Depot desperate in varsity basketball

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

The varsity basketball team from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., made an interstate trip to dominate the Depot 79-53 at the Depot Field House Saturday afternoon. The Depot's chances looked slim from

<b>YUMA</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>DEPOT</b>	<b>53</b>

the beginning as Yuma took the court in their glossy, purple warm-up suits. Rolling 12 deep, Yuma put on a pre-game exhibition of high-flying, purple flashes and exuberating sounds of "swish."

After a quiet warm-up from the Depot's eight players, the referee lined the men up for the opening tip.

The Depot quickly jumped out to a lead, but Yuma suddenly caught fire and

launched an unanswered 15-point shellacking that left the Depot's hoopsters in momentary shambles. Quietly, the Depot battled back, thanks to some good passing and nifty outside shooting from guard, Staff Sgt. Jesse Bowman.

With 7:53 to play in the first half, Depot guard, Lance Cpl. Tony Knox, knocked down a three-point jumper to tie the game at 20 a piece.

Annoyed with the Depot's tenacity, Yuma decided to step it up with some tenacious D of their own.

Yuma forced turnover after turnover, making the most of the situation. Points off turnovers rejuvenated Yuma's offense as forward Lance Cpl. Will Owens blew up the spot, leaving Depot defenders shaking their heads.

As the Depot's turnovers multiplied, so did Yuma's points. Yuma led 39-28 at halftime.

The teams regrouped on opposite ends of the field house and Depot coach Chief Warrant Officer Fred Booker addressed the turnover problem and gave a demonstration on how to properly block out an opponent.

Despite Booker's instruction, the half started the same way the first half ended.

Yuma immediately dominated offensively as Owens and company showed the Depot the true meaning of levitation.

The Depot managed to salvage some dignity as guard PFC Chris Williams distributed the ball to the shifty Knox and Bowman, the Depot's only outside threats.

As time ran down, Yuma's pain train rolled over the Depot and continuously weathered down the Depot's will.

Utter domination on the glass, both offensively and defensively, granted Yuma more opportunities to come away with points.

"Turnovers killed us," said Booker. "We had some players out and this was a learning game for us, but if we give them five chances to score and we only get one, we won't win the game."

Knox led all scorers with 18 points, and Bowman contributed 17 points in the loss. Owens scored 17 for Yuma, which had four players score in double digits.

"Our team really upped the tempo of this game," said Yuma coach Staff Sgt. Douglas Alridge. "We created opportunities by forcing turnovers and we capitalized by scoring on the other end of the floor."



Depot guard Dentalman Keilin Hopkins-Bey plays tight defense against Yuma guard Cpl. Gavin Marshall in the second half at the Depot Field House. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/ Chevron