

## Marines hope to win Iraqi hearts

### Depot Marines help on homefront, aid deployed comrades

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

Three Depot Marines took part in delivering donated toys, school supplies, medical supplies and sports equipment Jan. 16 for deployed Marines to give to Iraqis as part of the No Better Friend Program.

The Marines were Capt. Dave Walker, assistant Depot inspector, Cpl. James Jones and Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Green, both from the installation and logistics staff section. They departed the Depot in two moving trucks to Camp Elliot, Calif., where they filled the trucks with toys for 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to take before its next deployment to Iraq.

The toys were taken from a Toys for Tots surplus at Camp Elliot. The Depot Marines, along with Marines from Naval Marine Corps Reserve Center, Calif., separated and categorized toys before filling the trucks.

The No Better Friend Program is a Marine Corps effort to improve the relationship between Iraqis and the Marines in Iraq, according to Walker. The Marine Corps wants to take a more humanitarian approach when it returns. The name of the program is self-explanatory. Officials hope the Iraqis feel there is no better friend than a Marine. Officials from Spirit of America, which is a nonprofit organization geared toward the military, and 1st Marine Division officers decided the contents.

"This is a great program," said Walker. "We want the Iraqis to trust us and look at the Marines as friends and protectors, not enemies."

SEE Hearts, pg. 2

## CLIMB A BOARD



Cpl. Yuri Schneider, combat illustrator, Combat Visual Information Center, waits for friends at the bottom of the mountain at Big Bear Mountain Resort. Schneider joined several Depot Marines as well as dozens of Marines from the other southern California-area Marine bases to take advantage of Single Marine Program's snowboarding trip Jan. 16-18. See story pg. 6. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



### Hitting the wall

Pvt. J. A. Villalobos, Platoon 1135, Company B, descends down the wall of the rappel tower here during Company B's rappel training. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

## RAB says goodbye to 20-year-old furniture

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

For over 20 years, the Depot Recruit Administration Branch has been cursed with old, dirty, unserviceable furniture, filing cabinets and carpeting.

December 2003, RAB received new desks, carpeting, storage compartments and electronic equipment.

"It was terrible in here," said Dan Smith, recruit operations chief. "With no windows, it was already a tough place to work, but the furniture and equipment made this place a joke."

RAB is highly visible area of the Depot, where every recruit is processed. Recruits' financial problems and records are handled by RAB, so there is lots of foot

traffic, according to Smith.

"On graduation days, parents come in here with their new Marines," said Smith. "They used to say, 'this place is awful. I can't believe my son's finances and records are handled in a dump like this.' It was embarrassing."

The old carpet was brown and covered with 20 years of recruit-trampled dirt, according to Smith. The chairs and desks were filthy and mismatched and wires and extension cords cover the already dirty floor to compensate for lack of outlets.

"My chair was literally black with dirt," said Smith. "People would leave outlines and imprints in the dirt when they sat down. But it wasn't just my stuff. The whole office was like that."

SEE RAB, pg. 4



### BEST IN BIZ

Top recruiter in 2003 says his most effective selling point was the Corps itself.

5



### PRINCE TO PRIVATE

Babatunde? That names sounds like royalty ...

9



### RIDE THE BEAR

6

## Barracks 619 re-floored

### Tile replaces carpet in enlisted quarters

BY SGT. RYAN SMITH  
Chevron staff

Service members living in Barracks 619 on the second floor endured a small hardship recently when they packed up and locked away their personal belongings in their wall lockers and moved into different rooms because of renovations.

Barracks 619 recently underwent a mini makeover with new earth-tone tile flooring and off-white paint. Also, a blue area rug will cover most of the tile, according to Neil Jacob, deputy director, Depot Billeting and Housing. "The floors used to have carpet from wall to wall," said Jacob. "The old carpets were getting stained and frayed, so we decided to make the change to tile."

Billeting officials considered the carpet-replacement cost versus the tile-replacement cost. According to Jacob, when the original carpet was laid, it was glued to the tile, which made

carpet removal very difficult.

"When you consider the amount of dirt and grime tracked into a room, the carpet starts to wear down faster as time goes by," said Jacob. "With tile, you don't need to replace it as often. Having the area rug is easier and more cost effective because if a Marine lives in a room for three years, we figure the rug has fulfilled its calling and can easily be replaced."

Jacob also said new tile will make cleaning easier for Marines, making it easier to clean via broom and mop without having to dig dirt from the entire carpet.

Funding for the project was approved by the Depot in October, and the actual work began just after Christmas.

Future barracks renovations include having new tile and paint in all rooms as funding permits. Headquarters Marine Corps has budgeted for new furniture, and new items should be arriving within the year, according to Jacob.



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Green, supply maintenance clerk, Installation and Logistics, loads toys into boxes. The toys will be sent to Iraq for Marines to give to Iraqi children. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

#### Hearts, from pg. 1

Once the toys and supplies were loaded into the trucks, the Depot and Reserve Center Marines proceeded to Las Pulgas, Camp Pendleton, to make their delivery to 1st Marine Division, which redeploys in February and March.

They will be in an area called the Sunni Triangle, which is one of the most volatile areas in Iraq, so improving relations with the people is very important, according to Walker.

"Only toys with positive images are being delivered," said Walker. "Sporting goods, books, action figures and things like that are good, but we don't want to send toy guns or anything like that."

After a full day of loading and unloading, the Marines arrived back to the Depot at around 3 p.m.

"It feels good to help out," said Jones, an inactive reservist serving on active status. "I may not be over (in Iraq) with my fellow Marines, but if I can do my part in contributing to the effort, I'm happy."

For more information on the No Better Friend Program and similar programs, visit the Spirit of America Web site at [www.spiritofamerica.net](http://www.spiritofamerica.net).

# INVISIBLE KILLER AT WORK

## SAFETY

### The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and partners recommend safeguards against carbon monoxide risk. Employers, workers, and others should take precautions to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning from small gasoline-powered equipment

Using small gasoline-powered engines and tools indoors or in partially enclosed areas can put operators at risk of serious illness and death from carbon monoxide poisoning, even in apparently well ventilated spaces, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and four other agencies cautioned.

Employers, workers, consumers, and others should be aware of the hazard and take precautionary steps, the agencies recommended in a joint alert document. The alert pertains to indoor or enclosed use of equipment such as high-pressure washers, concrete cutting saws, power trowels, floor buffers, welders, pumps, compressors, and generators.

The joint alert was developed by NIOSH, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Partnerships are essential for developing and disseminating practical information that will benefit as many people as possible," said NIOSH Director Linda Rosenstock, M.D.,

M.P.H. "The new alert combines a wide range of expertise to highlight the serious risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and suggest effective preventive measures."

The agencies are distributing the alert widely to industry, labor groups, consumer organizations, and others. Written in non-technical language, the alert makes specific recommendations for equipment users, employers, tool rental agencies, and tool manufacturers. It also includes a short summary for easy posting.

Studies show that the risk of using small gasoline-powered engines in enclosed or partially enclosed areas is not widely recognized, the joint alert said. Even when the hazard is perceived, operators and others often believe mistakenly that they can avoid risk by opening doors and windows or by running exhaust fans.

The joint alert warns that carbon monoxide is particularly hazardous because it can accumulate rapidly in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces and can overcome victims without warning. Deaths and serious illnesses from small engine exhaust have occurred among parking garage employees, plumbers, flooring installers, farmers, drywall finishers, and other workers.

#### BREATHING EASY

The following precautions can be taken to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning from small gasoline-powered engines and tools:

- Do not operate gasoline-powered small devices or tools indoors unless the engine unit can be located outside and away from ventilation air intakes.
- Consider substituting other types of equipment for gasoline-powered small engines or tools, such as tools powered by electricity or compressed air, if they are available and can be used safely
- Recognize potential sources and symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Design and label equipment for safe operation.
- Provide and use personal monitors with audible alarms for timely warning of high CO concentrations.

#### THE UNLUCKY ONES

The following examples show a range of effects caused by CO poisoning in a variety of work settings:

- A farm owner died of CO poisoning while using an 11-horsepower gasoline-powered pressure washer to clean his barn. He had worked about 20 minutes before being overcome.
- A municipal employee at an indoor water treatment plant lost consciousness while trying to exit a 59,000 cubic foot room where he had been working with an 8-horsepower, gasoline-powered pump. Doors adjacent to the work area were open while he worked. His hospital diagnosis was CO poisoning.
- Five workers were treated for CO poisoning after using two 8-horsepower gasoline-powered pressure washers in a poorly ventilated underground parking garage.
- A plumber used a gasoline-powered concrete saw in a basement with open doors and windows, and a cooling fan. He experienced a severe headache and dizziness, and began to act in a paranoid manner. His symptoms were related to CO poisoning.

# How to win the war for a used car

BY 1ST LT. GEOFFREY SHOWS  
Contributing writer

Marines purchase vehicles for many reasons. These include necessity, convenience, pleasure, and even sport. Marines entering the market for a used vehicle need to be armed with the knowledge necessary to protect themselves when making a purchase.

There are steps to follow when buying a used car, and specific unscrupulous practices to avoid.

First, leave yourself enough time for the car-buying process. Give yourself a couple of weeks to complete the process. You can only accomplish all of the following steps if you have sufficient time. Don't be pressured to sign on the first day. Plan on making several trips to the dealership.

Second, before purchasing a used vehicle, you need to investigate the car's history. Before the car can be sold, the seller must possess a title document. Ask to see this document in order to identify previous owners, and to establish how long the current seller has had the car. The Federal Odometer Act also requires the title to disclose the odometer reading. Carfax.com or other services should be consulted to check the car's VIN to see if the vehicle was ever identified as a salvage or flood vehicle.

The next step in purchasing a used vehicle is to investigate the car's current mechanical condition. Do not be bashful. Insist that you be allowed to have a mechanic check the condition of the vehicle. Ask the seller about the car's history concerning prior wrecks in which the vehicle was involved. If the dealer does not know the vehicle's history, ask for the title and try to contact the prior owners of the vehicle directly.

Fourth, research the reason-

able price for that particular vehicle.

Access resources such as Consumer Reports, classifieds ads, or a NADA book in order to value the car. Internet sites such as [www.cars.com](http://www.cars.com) and [www.autotrader.com](http://www.autotrader.com) are also good resources that can be easily accessed to value used vehicles.

Car dealers also like to inflate the price of used cars for those who purchase cars on credit.

This is not allowed. Dealers may not charge credit customers a higher price than they would a cash purchaser for the same vehicle. Dealers also are not allowed to jack up the price of the purchase to cover any alleged negative equity in a trade-in.

If you finance the payment of your used vehicle, the next thing you need to do is to shop the credit terms of the purchase. Before you sign the credit contract, request a copy of the "Truth In Lending Act Disclosures." Federal law requires dealers to give these disclosures to you "clearly and conspicuously" in writing; in a form you can keep and take with you.

The disclosures required by this act include the following:

- The identity of the creditor
- The amount financed
- The total of the payments (after all payments are made, how much money changed hands)
- An itemization of amount financed (an accountability for every dollar financed)
- The annual percentage rate (interest on the loan)
- The finance charge (money paid, in the form of interest, for the privilege of making payments in monthly installments)
- The total number of payments
- A payment schedule
- Any prepayment/late payments penalties

After receiving these disclosures, go to some banks or credit unions and obtain a similar disclosure from them and compare all the numbers and choose the best deal.

Next, make sure to actually read all of the contract documents. Do not sign anything, make a down payment, or give possession of your trade-in until you are aware of and understand all of the terms of the deal. Thoroughly read for anything marked as an "option." Only buy these options if you want them. Car dealers are trained salespeople. They are there to also get you to purchase as many extras as they can. Be aware of this tactic to increase the final sales price.

Once you understand all of the terms of the deal, check and ensure that all of the promises made by the dealer are in writing, and that all of the promises made by the numbers are correct. Any promise that isn't in writing is extremely difficult to enforce. Demand that each of these be included in the paperwork.

Also, ensure that all terms and numbers in the contract are accurate. Take the contract, unsigned, and review it elsewhere. Get away from the pressures of the dealership and review these documents, or bring them to the legal assistance office to review.

Finally, the dealer must sign the title over to you in order to finalize the purchase. Even if you finance the sale, demand to see the title. You must see the actual title held by the seller and the seller must sign it over to you. Never buy a car from someone if they do not have title to the car they are selling to you.

Following these steps will increase your awareness in future purchases, and hopefully diminish the possibility of your being taken advantage of.

# No news can be good news

BY CPL. KAT JOHNSON  
Jet Stream Staff

Reporting news is supposed to be easy. Any third grade student can review their environment and write a piece about it. In any case, news is only a narrative of recent events. At least, that's what I once believed.

I thought reporters were supposed to gather facts, put them in thought and reveal their mind-blowing masterpieces in newspapers and magazines everywhere. This idea was definitely smashed when I came upon the Consolidated Public Affairs Office at MCAS Beaufort (a.k.a base newspaper office). Even the title had me confused. When I reenlisted I signed the dotted line for combat correspondent. Later to my amazement I found I had in essence been given a fancy title for a basic journalist. Nevertheless, being a reporter had me buzzed. After recently being a part of a deploying Harrier squadron, I figured this new job would be "cake."

It turned out to be more like a bunt cake. Every article created through my typing fingers had to be reorganized, undone, and written all over again.

No words were left untouched by my fearless leader, the master sergeant of Public Affairs. A new style of writing had to be learned and I was the only person in the class.

The term "lost in the sauce" didn't even compare to my state of existence. I had to reference news articles from the past, learn styles of writing for the future and apply it all to the present.

After weeks of training, I was ready to embellish myself in an article written by me and only me. The excitement was uncontainable until I was informed that newspapers in the military publish articles on a need-to-know basis. For instance, let's imagine two parked cars were struck by another vehicle. If it happened on base, no one needed to know, but if it had happened in front of the local Beaufort cable station — too late; everybody knows. A little article on the back page of the military paper would inform readers of a new driving ordinance while the local papers would report the who, where, and whys of the incident.

When I realized this tribunal fact, I was heartbroken. I shouted, "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press." Was I the only person whom remembered Article One of the Bill of Rights? And I quote "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press ..."

Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, signed the hearty bill in 1789. Newspapers had been in America for almost one hundred years by the time Jefferson signed the Constitution, so he had to have an idea of what news was.

Then it was explained that sometimes the government has to "put their foot down" about certain prospective news articles.

After careful thought, I began to agree with this concept. The news we (military) report can be accessed worldwide and I realized an urgent news release might not seem so urgent if it costs the lives of my fellow Marines or service members.

I too served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Like many others who were deployed, I remember constantly trying to gain some type of information about what was going on and where our troops were. It is now that I realize not knowing so much is what probably saved my life.

I guess I'm finally realizing government intervention is okay and sometimes necessary. The next time I pick up an article I hope to be unbiased about the date and time on which I'm receiving the news. Don't get me wrong, I will still scream, "Freedom of the press, freedom of speech," but now I know it's my freedom that's actually being protected.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government. I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

After thinking about it, I'm not quite sure I feel the same. Jefferson was a great man and an excellent leader who survived many battles of his own, probably thanks to what he didn't know.

I now urge my friends to pick up a newspaper. When they can't find any of the information they are looking for, give thanks because it's the same information that won't be found by the wrong people.



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Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron

## Wounded OIF vet speaks to recruits

The recruits of Special Training Company gave audience Jan. 15 to an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran at the Bldg. 626. Sgt. Jason Wittling attempted to provide a motivational epiphany to recruits awaiting their return to training. Wittling explained the importance of determination and having a positive mindset. He used accounts of his personal experiences on the battlefield and in life. Wittling, a member of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, was injured in Iraq when his HMMWV rolled during an accident. Wittling was caught under the vehicle. The accident broke his C-6 vertebrae, rendering him paralyzed from the neck down.

### 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

cluding 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 Wednesday.

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

### NMCRS Travers program available for dependants

As of this year, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is bringing the children of retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel and the spouses of active duty personnel back into the loan portion of the Travers program. The Travers Loan Only application is now available at [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org). The deadline for submitting the applications is March 1, for the 2004-2005 school year.

### CPR Saturday is coming

The American Red Cross is planning for its annual CPR Saturday. The event will be held 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 Feb. 18. 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](http://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](mailto:julyma@mcrdsd.usmc.mil).

### 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).

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.

office chairs and filing systems. They also received new blue carpeting along with a new front counter.

RAB also received new computer system for testing recruits.

The new furniture and equipment totaled approximately \$150,000, according to Smith.

The new look of the office has not only brought back mass compliments, but has also boosted morale.

"The new furniture makes the office look more professional," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Smith, unit diary clerk. "It looks like a bank and the atmosphere is a lot lighter."

More experienced Marines like Staff Sgt. Luis Benavides, unit diary chief, remember the office from several years ago.

"I was here as a PFC," said Benavides. "When I returned as a staff sergeant, we

still had the same basic, mismatched furniture. The new equipment is great. It really makes a difference."

All Marines and Depot visitors are encouraged to visit RAB and see the improvement, according to Smith.

"The Marines and civilians here are actually proud to call this their workplace," he said. "It's a great improvement."

# Top recruiter: Corps sells itself

## Recruiter of year climbs to top after uncertain beginning

STAFF SGT. CHERYL A. MANN  
Recruiting Station Orange

Few realized at the time that the young boy who hailed from Seoul, South Korea, would grow into such an esteemed member of his new country's most elite fighting force.

It's been 20 years since Gunnery Sgt. John H. Choi first set foot on American soil, and October 2003 he celebrated the honor of being the 2003 Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year in a ceremony in Quantico, Va.

He was also reeling from his meritorious promotion to gunnery sergeant Oct 2, 2003. He was promoted to staff sergeant the day before.

Choi said the environment in which he grew up has probably helped shape his illustrious career.

"My parents were pretty strict," said Choi. "They're very traditional Asian parents. They believed in providing my needs over my wants, which meant I missed out on maybe some of the usual things kids do and have. School was always the primary focus, and I spent a lot of time studying. But I think I've learned to appreciate things a lot more."

Choi said growing up he always knew he wanted to be in the military. He confesses he almost joined the Army, but chose the Marine Corps for its appearance.

"I saw all the other services, but every time I saw the Marines, they looked sharp," Choi said. "It really impressed me."

Choi spent his last year at Kennedy High School in La Palma, Calif., in the Delayed Entry Program and shipped to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for basic training immediately after graduating in 1996.

As a sergeant, Choi had hopes of being selected for drill instructor duty, but the recruiting screening team got to him first.

"At first, I dreaded it," he said with his head slightly bowed as if hearing the news for the first time. "In the fleet, you don't really see the good in it."

Quickly lifting his head, Choi confidently said, "I knew I'd be good; it's still the Marines." He reported for duty at Re-



Gunnery Sgt. John H. Choi says it's important to make sure he projects the same sharp image of Marines that influenced his decision to join seven years ago. For his selection as Marine Recruiter of the Year, Choi received a plaque, a Navy Achievement Medal and a meritorious promotion to his current rank after being a staff sergeant for just one day. Staff Sgt. Cheryl A. Mann/RS Orange

cruiting Station Orange, Calif., April 2002.

Choi said Julie, his high-school sweetheart and wife of two years, has been a great factor in his attitude and success. "She was all for it. She knew it supported my career."

The road to the level of recruiting

success he enjoys today was not always paved with glory. Choi recalled the early days of his new duty and paused his usual optimistic cheer.

Shaking his head, he shared his memories: "The first month, I found a quiet tree. I'd go every day and ... I just

sat there."

Choi's expression suddenly brightened and he said his sheer commitment to complete the mission is what carried him and made him the nation's best. "Recruiting is the easiest thing in the world," he said. "You get to talk about yourself."

Because it does seem so personal, Choi said the worst part was getting used to rejection. "It hurts," he quietly admitted. He said he's fortunate that he had great mentors and colleagues to guide and support him. "Watching Gunnery Sgt. Brett Beard, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Recruiting Substation Mission Viejo, RS Orange. "He set a good example. I've been blessed; everywhere I've been, there's been someone to take me under his wing. It gives me the confidence to do my job, and success breeds its own confidence."

"You get hooked," he said of recruiting. "You realize you can help someone make a decision to change his life."

He said it's also gratifying to know that he's having an impact on the whole community and the impression of who Marines are.

"They understand we're not robots; we have families and hobbies and enjoy same things they do," he said.

Choi said his greatest satisfaction comes from family reactions to the finished product. "When they see a kid who's completely different, you get a lot of parents' appreciation after they've witnessed their graduation."

He said the duty "involves your whole life. I think about it 24/7. Out here it's a hero to zero thing; it's a monthly mission that never rests. It can be as good or as bad as you make it."

Choi said his greatest lesson is learning to work smarter, not harder, and staying out of the office as much as possible. "You get used to complacency. It's easy to stay in the office and not really do anything."

His face noticeably brightened when he said that being married is his biggest incentive for getting home. "I don't work late nights; my wife and I spend that time together. I would never have made it this far without her support and understanding."

"Out here, the best advice I can give is to stick to the basics, do exactly as you've been taught and remember the Marine Corps sells itself; you just solidify a kid's decision. I talk to everyone and always keep the message the same," Choi said. "Parents come to love me because I'm honest – sometimes brutally honest. But the parents appreciate that."

Choi has heard some brutal honesty himself since earning his prestigious award. "I know this is an early promotion, but I'm not going to pass it up. I know there will be Marines to help me learn what I need to know and help me along the way."

He admitted he has a lot to learn, and he is now preparing to finish his recruiting tour next year. "I want to go back to the fleet. This has been a blessing in disguise, but I've got 13 more years left. There's a lot I want to do in that time."

For now, he looks forward to pushing forward with his mission and keeping the cycle of success going. "Life is going good," Choi said smiling. "It's great to be challenged. It's great to be a Marine."



Gunnery Sgt. John H. Choi helps one of his recruiter assistants with his pull-ups before securing for the day. Staff Sgt. Cheryl A. Mann/RS Orange

### RAB, from pg. 1

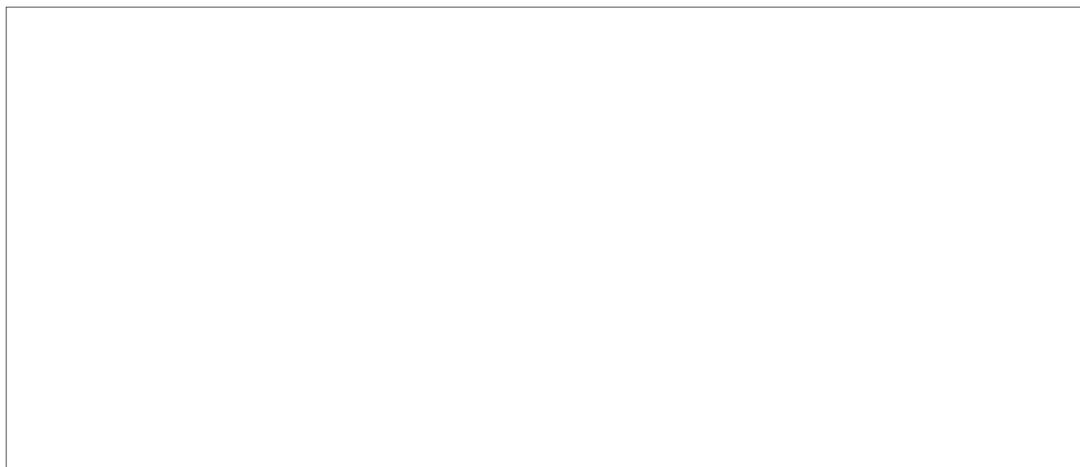
Smith wrote a letter to RTR's executive officer, Lt. Col. William Walsh, stating the discrepancies and offering a solution.

Walsh took one look at the office and agreed that it needed to be fixed up quite a bit, according to Smith.

After the proper paperwork and logistics were completed, RAB began to move in their new wood desks, rolling



Four Big Bear patrons take a quiet ride up the mountain on the express lift. Several Depot Marines enjoyed the same ride during Single Marine Program's ski and snowboarding trip to Big Bear Mountain Resorts Jan. 16-18. Sgt. Ethan E. Roeka/Chevron



As nightfall approached and closing time grew near, ski and snow board enthusiasts still swarmed around the mountain. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



Scott Bornhoft of San Diego hits the gateway box at the bottom of Big Bear Mountain. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

# RIDING HIGH

**SMP makes fun in snow affordable; Depot Marines hit slopes at Big Bear**

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON  
Chevron staff

A dozen Depot Marines packed two vans heading for the snow-packed hills of Big Bear Mountain Resort Jan. 16 to 18.

Britney O'Connor, the Single Marine Program coordinator here, made the trip possible for the Depot Marines who joined Marines, dependants and friends from Camp Pendleton, Calif. and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

The Marines stayed in cabins near the resort, which is about three hours north of San Diego.

The Marines wasted no time hitting the slopes the first night.

With clear sunny skies and temperatures well into the 50s, resort workers had to make their own snow.

"The conditions were fairly good resulting in some good jumps," said Cpl. Yuri Schneider, combat illustrator, combat visual information center. "A few of us were tearing up that mountain."

The mountain resort offered a variety of restaurants and clubs to enjoy, which the Marines did.

"It was a good weekend," said Sgt. Joel M. Castillo, traffic management office. "There was a lot of camaraderie while we

were up there." O'Connor coordinated affordable pricing for rental equipment, lift tickets and lodging.

The Depot Marines paid \$50 for lodging, transportation and food. The program paid half of the \$66 snowboard package, which included a one-day lift pass, rental equipment, and a two-hour lesson.

"SMP cut us a break on the costs, saving us a good amount," Schneider said.

Not everyone was skilled on the snow, so a few took advantage of the snowboarding lessons. After a few humiliating bumps and bruises, the Marines were ready to tackle the mountain.

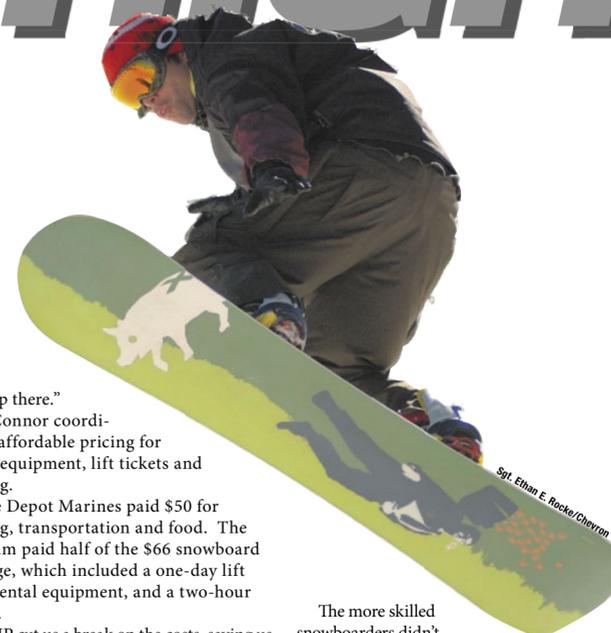
"Once I learned how to snowboard, it was smooth sailing and a lot more fun," said Castillo.

The more skilled snowboarders didn't walk away without aching muscles and a few bumps of their own.

"It was pretty cool and it felt good getting out there again," said Schneider.

The trip wasn't isolated to snowboarders. Avid skiers hit the slopes as well.

"We're planning another trip Feb. 20 to 22, and I think the interest after this trip will be pretty strong," said O'Connor.



Sgt. Ethan E. Roeka/Chevron



Some of the Single Marine Program group paused for a group photo before heading back up the mountain one last time. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

## Next generation steps up for service in Corps

BY SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC  
Recruiting Station Lansing

There are a few good future Marines roaming school halls this fall, as is the case in Harrison Mich., where one of the newest additions to the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program is living.

Marcus J. Carlstrom, 17, is ready and raring to go to Marine Corps recruit training but is unable to, at least until after he graduates from high school. In the meantime, while he waits to get on with his life in the Corps, he'll be promoting the Marines within his circle of friends and helping them decide if the Corps is right for them too.

"If you're going to (serve) once, you should go into the Marine Corps. I talk to friends who I think would do a great job. I try to influence them as much as I can," said Carlstrom.

"I strongly believe that everyone who is an American citizen should serve at least one tour in the military service to pay back what this nation has given them. Four years is a short time to serve your country for what she has given to us," he said.

Hearing of his father's experiences in the Marine Corps helped to generate Carlstrom's interest in joining.

"After living my whole life listening to the sto-

ries my dad has about the Marine Corps, I want to experience it for myself and gain stories like he has," Carlstrom said. "I want to travel the world and gain leadership skills along with gaining an opportunity to go to college through the Marine Corps."

The Marine Corps offers something for everyone, but there may be just a few elements that stand out more than the rest.

**"Seeing the kind of people who come out of boot camp, you gain a deep appreciation for what the Corps does ... It's definitely not a job, but a lifestyle."**

**— Marcus J. Carlstrom**

"Education is a big thing, but the pride and challenge are the two biggest things that the Marine Corps offers," said Sgt. Benjamin L. Miller, recruiter, Recruiting Substation West Branch, Mich.

"(Carlstrom) has got a lot of potential. Every time I see him he gives me three or four referrals," said Miller, an Arlington, Texas native and Carlstrom's recruiter. "He's a good kid, motivated and is willing to work hard. He also fits the mold of a Marine, probably because his dad is one."

Carlstrom's father, Master Sgt. Mark E. Carlstrom, is a career Marine Corps recruiter. He is the recruiter instructor for Recruiting Station Lansing, Mich. Even though he's a top recruiter in Michigan, he had little to say to his son in order to convince him the Marine Corps is the way to go.

"He's had some influence, but it's always been my decision since I was little," said Carlstrom. "Seeing the

kind of people who come out of boot camp, you gain a deep appreciation for what the Corps does for people. It's definitely not a job, but a lifestyle."

The lifestyle Marcus chooses may include the cockpit of an airplane.

"His ultimate goal is that he wants to fly and get to Annapolis," said Tamara S. Carlstrom, his mother. "The Marine Corps been very good to us, so it's nice to give back to them a little.

"We've never gotten rich being in the Marine Corps. But we've met a lot of friends from coast to coast, and it has made us become strong as a family. And that makes us rich; it's not monetary."

The Carlstroms have settled back into their hometown of Harrison for about six years after traveling in the Marine Corps for nearly 14 years.

"At first we moved around a lot, which was hard, but now it's easy for me to go into a new place and gain friendships," said Carlstrom. "It's actually cool because I can talk to people easily about the Marine Corps."

"The Corps is small, and the camaraderie is incredible. I've gained an appreciation for what the Corps is and what it offers," he said.

Marcus is heavily involved with the newly-instituted Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Harrison High School and is currently the top cadet in the program.

He is scheduled to leave for boot camp June 1, 2004 and is looking forward to serving as an infantryman for his first tour of service.

"I want to at least give four years back to the country," said Marcus. "I'll see where I am in four years and then make a judgment call as to where I need to go."

## Marine Corps presence in Panama fosters teen to join

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON  
Chevron staff

On Dec. 15, 1989, the National Assembly of Panama declared a state of war against the United States. Two days later, President George H. W. Bush gave the order to execute "Blue Spoon" as Operation Just Cause.

The mission was to protect American lives, ensure implementation of the Panama Canal Treaties and remove Gen. Manuel Noriega, Commander of the Panama Defense Force, from power and bring him to justice.

During the insertion of the 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Eduardo A. James Jr. and a Marine had a brief encounter that would inspire James to become a Marine himself.

Born and raised in Panama, James, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1129, Company B, was 18 years old when Marines patrolled the streets of his homeland.

"There were Marines patrolling, and I went up to one of the them to let him know there were civilians with guns in one of the buildings," said James. "The next day, I happened to see that Marine and this time he approached me. He thanked me and said I would be a good Marine."

"I didn't think much about that until I started walking by that building and saw it was leveled to the ground," James said.

The chaos that erupted and declaration of war against the U.S. led to the Panamanian government to order all citizens to bear arms and fight against the Americans.

James decided not to support his government and bear arms, as did his parents, resulting in threats against his parents into custody.

The chaos and dangers that mounted gave reason for James' father to take him and his brother to live in Atlanta.

A safer life and opportunities were a blessing. Now James' attention focused on joining the Marine Corps. James' stepmother discouraged it and convinced him to choose the Navy, according to James.

A broken collarbone in an automobile accident would alter the course of events and reject him from all branches of service except the Marine Corps.

James entered the Corps Mar. 21, 1993. His career would take him back to Panama where he served with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Company G as a linguist.

Sgt. Maj. Sidney M. Thomas, one of James' mentors, recalled the invaluable part James played.

"As a sergeant, he took on responsibilities that most sergeants don't take on," said Thomas. "It's amazing how he has progressed as a Marine and has taken on his leadership skills to do fantastic things. It's a testament of his hard work."

The 6-foot-4-inch slender Marine has stepped right into leading from the front and has completed his eighth training cycle on the drill field.

"I can honestly say he is consistent in his leadership and teaching after working alongside him for a fourth cycle," said drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Restituto Paz, Platoon 1129.



Staff Sgt. Eduardo A. James Jr., senior drill instructor, Platoon 1129, Company B, left his native country of Panama to emulate the men who inspired him to become a Marine. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



Pvt. Kolapo Babatunde, Platoon 1133, Company B, prepares his Service "A" uniform the night before the battalion commander's inspection. The 28-year-old Babatunde moved to America a little over a year ago from Nigeria. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

**"I am not a prince. I am a private in the Marine Corps."**

**— Pvt. Kolapo Babatunde**

## Nigerian seeks new life in Corps

Royal descendant finds pride, belonging, brotherhood among Marines

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

Nigerian-born Kolapo Babatunde is a Marine today after a journey blocked by tribulation, personal loss and learning to be a man early in life.

Three ethnic groups occupy Nigeria: the Yoruba in the West, the Hausa/Fulani in the North and the Igbo in the East. Babatunde is a Yoruba.

These groups are divided into tribes painted with poverty, promise and royalty.

Babatunde's younger brother, Adeniyi, and sister, Joke, revered him as he received guidance from his father, Idrus, and older brother, Lookmon. Yoruba life was good in their three-bedroom city flat, until Babatunde's mother, Musiliu, died after battling illness for six years. Babatunde was 14 years old.

Her death left the family in shambles, and suddenly a single father and his oldest boys were forced to make up for her absence.

"My mother and I were very close," said Babatunde. "Her death made me very sad. My heart was broken."

Babatunde's father sought help from his in-laws by asking for someone to help him take care of his family. They unexpectedly refused.

"The extended family abandoned us," said Babatunde. "My father was very sad, but he did his best to help the family."

When Babatunde graduated high school, he started working as an administrative and supply clerk for a newspaper company.

This created income for his family and tuition money to attend the University of Lagos.

"When I saved enough money, I be-

gan college," said Babatunde. "I studied actuarial science."

Actuarial science, which relates to the insurance business, seemed to be Babatunde's key to success, because it would be a skill he could use all his life. While at the university, he met a young lady named Bukky.

They were both 23 at the time and began a relationship that soon blossomed into true love, according to Babatunde.

Although she is still in Nigeria, the two have been a couple for more than five years and plan to marry within the next two years.

In his senior year at the university, lack of money forced Babatunde to drop out one credit short of his degree.

With a future seeming to go nowhere, Babatunde decided to come to America for a bright new direction. He arranged to stay with friends in Chicago.

"When I landed in Chicago, my friends didn't pick me up," said Babatunde. "I had the wrong telephone number and could not contact them."

Stranded at the airport, a taxi driver from Somalia noticed Babatunde's situation and offered to help. He drove Babatunde to an area populated heavily with Africans and introduced Babatunde to a man named Osei Bernard, an apartment complex manager who agreed to let Babatunde stay with him until the lost immigrant found his friends.

Nearly two months later, Babatunde found them.

After this setback, he moved in with his friends and started working and paying rent.

Nearly a year later, a friend who wanted to join the Marines, along with a private home on leave, phoned Babatunde to talk to him about the Marine Corps.

"This interested me because I have always wanted to join the military," said Babatunde. "I knew it was a lifelong decision, so I took a week to think it over."

A week later, Babatunde visited his local recruiter and expressed his interest in joining. He was immediately processed, shipped out for recruit training here and assigned to Platoon 1133, Company B.

Still not fully accustomed to his new country, Babatunde said he experienced a great culture shock when he arrived aboard the Depot.

"All these different faces and people are here," marveled Babatunde. "Now they are all my brothers. I love them all."

Babatunde's highest hurdle in recruit training was the language barrier. His Nigerian accent is very heavy, although he speaks eloquent English. His accent, combined with the gruff drill instructorspeak, made for some tough communication.

"At first, we did not understand each other," said Babatunde. "Now we understand each other, and I better understand the Marine Corps."

With recruit training in full stride, a lack of communication with his family still weighed heavy on Babatunde. He sent letters to his family almost weekly but never received mail in return.

His squad leader, PFC Jaim Bourg, decided to do something about Babatunde's absent mail.

Bourg consistently received mail from his family, and he wrote home about Babatunde. The Bourg family was touched and began sending letters to Babatunde.

"It was very nice of them to send me mail," said Babatunde. "It made life much more enjoyable for me, and I thank them for that."

Since his training began, Babatunde's

drill instructors watched him improve.

"At first, Babatunde was lost," said Staff Sgt. Roberto Barba, one of Babatunde's drill instructors. "He slowly picked up the language and rapidly improved."

Babatunde's life in Nigeria prepared him for life in the Corps. The trials through which he persevered have conditioned him to accept and overcome hardship, according to Staff Sgt. A. J. Towle, Babatunde's senior drill instructor.

"He never quits," said Towle. "He is always obedient to orders. He is just so disciplined."

Babatunde enlisted as a legal administration clerk and said he looks forward to the job.

"Administration is a job I am familiar with and enjoy," said Babatunde. "I am very qualified and have experience in it."

Babatunde is reluctant to mention a part of his life he left behind: He's royalty.

In the Akoko tribe, the first-born son in the royal family is next to rule. His grandfather is the second son, therefore a prince, but one who will never rule. Babatunde's father is also a prince by blood, making Babatunde a prince as well. But Babatunde doesn't consider that important in his life.

"I am not a prince," said Babatunde. "I am a private in the Marine Corps."

When his journey led him to America, he was eager to return his gratitude to the country that gave him a new future.

He will take his leave in Chicago with his friends, and he will contact his family and bride-to-be, Bukky.

"I love this country and the Marine Corps," said Babatunde. "Now I have a new extended family."

# BRAVO COMPANY



Platoon 1136

**COMPANY HONORMAN**  
Lance Cpl. A. B. Temple  
Eagle River, Alaska  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. W. M. Kidd



Platoon 1129

**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC S. H. Kahak  
Humble, Texas  
Recruited by  
Sgt. R. B. Brynes



Platoon 1130

**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC C. K. Bettles  
Chiloquin, Ore.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. C. C. Rosario



Platoon 1131

**SERIES HONORMAN**  
Lance Cpl. E. E. White  
Wichita, Kan.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. B. C. Stirrat



Platoon 1133

**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC B. J. Marren  
Chicago  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. S. Torres



Platoon 1134

**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC C. E. Yates  
Carrollton, Texas  
Recruited by  
Sgt. S. A. Flores



Platoon 1135

**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC J. L. D. Vargas  
Henderson, Nev.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. C. C. Bidal



Platoon 1133

**HIGH PFT**  
PFC A. Gonzalez  
New Braunfels, Texas  
Recruited by  
Gunnery Sgt. R. Ybarra

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

**RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT**  
Commanding Officer  
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN  
Sergeant Major  
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD  
Regimental Drill Master  
GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR.  
Parade Adjutant  
CAPT. P. S. HENRY  
Narrator  
STAFF SGT. R. MURZYN

**MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO**  
Band Officer  
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES  
Band Master  
GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS  
  
**COLOR GUARD**  
SGT. V. J. JARVIS  
SGT. J. A. VALENZUELA  
PFC E. J. SIMS  
PFC M. L. RODGERS

**1ST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION**

Commanding Officer  
Lt. Col. W. J. Cover IV  
Chaplain  
Lt. Cmdr. K. D. Count  
Sergeant Major  
Sgt. Maj. J. V. Morgan  
Battalion Drill Master  
Staff Sgt. C. A. Walker

**COMPANY B**

Commanding Officer  
Capt. J. A. McLaughlin  
Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. S. B. Mearkle

**SERIES 1129**

Series Commander  
Capt. T. M. Marecz  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. G. J. Ambuehl

**SERIES 1133**

Series Commander  
Capt. A. E. Sisneros  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. A. S. Beavers

**PLATOON 1129**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. E. A. James  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. R. D. Paz  
Staff Sgt. G. N. Isaacson

Pvt. E. J. Albertson  
Pvt. C. R. Alexander  
Pvt. W. M. Alford  
PFC S. H. Andrade  
PFC A. Aquino  
Pvt. M. J. Arismendez  
Pvt. T. Badillosanchez  
Pvt. R. G. Ballinger  
PFC J. J. Barlow  
Pvt. A. A. Bautista-Farias  
Pvt. P. M. Bidlack  
PFC B. C. Bourgeois  
PFC J. D. Bradley  
\*PFC B. K. Brimager  
PFC S. Briones  
PFC S. M. Brown  
Pvt. T. D. Bullardwolf  
PFC N. G. Chacon  
Pvt. J. M. Chaney  
Pvt. J. H. Chapman  
PFC J. I. Chavez  
Pvt. C. L. Cherry  
Pvt. D. W. Collins  
\*PFC J. B. Cook  
Pvt. A. D. Cortezcunningham  
Pvt. J. W. Cullum  
Pvt. L. M. Dagdag  
Pvt. E. D. Delarosa  
\*PFC J. R. Devoogd  
PFC M. A. Diazperdomo  
Pvt. A. C. Diggs  
Pvt. A. J. Dingman  
\*PFC R. Z. Drake  
Pvt. W. P. Duffy  
Pvt. M. W. Duncan  
Pvt. A. D. Everhart  
Pvt. I. Facundo  
Pvt. T. S. Folmar  
Pvt. J. C. Garcia  
Pvt. J. C. Gastelum  
Pvt. M. S. Glimpse

Pvt. R. E. Gomez-Hernandez  
\*PFC D. J. Green  
Pvt. M. S. Green  
Pvt. S. Grimaldo  
Pvt. E. A. Guajardo  
Pvt. D. M. Harper  
Pvt. A. H. Hazellip  
PFC C. Hernandez  
Pvt. F. Hernandezdavia  
PFC V. J. Hogue Jr.  
Pvt. T. J. Horton  
Pvt. C. M. Jankowski  
PFC S. H. Kahak  
Pvt. S. E. Kelley  
Pvt. T. R. King  
PFC G. W. Kingsbery  
Pvt. B. J. Krueger  
Pvt. W. Lee  
Pvt. J. B. Lindsay  
Pvt. G. Lopez  
Pvt. E. A. Madrigal  
Pvt. J. S. Marin  
Pvt. R. R. Maxwell  
Pvt. D. S. McDaniel  
Pvt. P. J. McNichols  
PFC J. J. Metz  
Pvt. D. L. Mills  
Pvt. E. J. Mondor  
Pvt. T. G. Moran  
Pvt. D. C. Morgan  
PFC S. M. Snyder  
Pvt. A. Tucakovic

**PLA00N 1130**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. K. Rendon  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. B. T. Johnson  
Staff Sgt. J. E. Schneeweis

Pvt. J. J. Adrian  
Pvt. M. J. Aiello  
Pvt. S. K. Alexander  
\*PFC M. L. Alkire  
Pvt. M. A. Ayala  
Pvt. J. F. Baughn  
Pvt. O. R. Baumann  
\*PFC C. K. Bettles  
Pvt. J. A. Briggs  
Pvt. C. J. Buring  
PFC L. I. Caldwell  
Pvt. K. L. Carter  
Pvt. J. D. Christian  
Pvt. B. A. Clevenger  
Pvt. D. A. Copeland  
PFC B. C. Cox  
Pvt. J. R. Dalton  
PFC C. A. Davis  
Pvt. J. J. Deering  
Pvt. A. A. Degroot  
PFC B. M. Devers  
PFC V. J. Drollingier  
Pvt. J. A. Elias  
Pvt. G. J. Enriquez  
Pvt. A. J. Eubank  
PFC J. M. Fatt  
Pvt. B. W. Ferris  
\*PFC T. A. Fielder  
Pvt. R. C. Findley  
Pvt. R. L. Follman  
PFC C. M. Galloway  
Pvt. M. A. Garcia  
Pvt. C. A. Giles



**Pvt. Jairo Elias, Platoon 1130, Company B, gathers rappel ropes after Company B completes rappel training.** Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

Pvt. A. S. Autler  
PFC F. Avalos  
PFC J. G. Baldonado  
Pvt. A. J. Barrera  
Pvt. C. F. Bauman  
PFC B. L. Benally  
Pvt. R. P. Brann  
Pvt. L. M. Brennan  
\*PFC B. J. Bretz  
PFC J. A. Buzbee  
\*PFC R. A. Cole  
Pvt. C. Cardona Jr.  
Pvt. A. M. Castro  
\*PFC C. M. Christian  
Pvt. C. A. Crane  
Pvt. S. F. Mills  
Pvt. L. R. Damon  
Pvt. P. V. Davenport  
Pvt. A. L. Delacruz  
Pvt. N. W. Earl  
Pvt. J. D. Okeefe  
Pvt. J. D. Pacheco  
Pvt. B. B. Payne  
PFC V. J. Pearson  
Pvt. L. J. Picon  
PFC B. C. Plunk  
PFC R. D. West  
\*PFC J. M. Wilcox  
Pvt. Z. R. Wilson  
PFC C. A. Zepeda  
Pvt. G. W. Zimmerman

**PLATOON 1131**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. E. Espinal  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. R. J. Gomez  
Sgt. J. S. Brown  
Staff Sgt. M. A. Sanchez  
  
Pvt. D. P. Akins  
Pvt. N. G. Arredondo

**PLATOON 1133**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. A. J. Towle  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. R. Barba  
Staff Sgt. B. Dogan  
  
Pvt. D. Acevedo  
Pvt. P. L. Akao  
Pvt. E. Alvarado  
PFC B. E. Anderson  
Pvt. M. M. Arce  
Pvt. K. G. Arnold  
Pvt. N. J. Arroyo  
Pvt. K. Y. Babatunde  
Pvt. G. Baker  
Pvt. E. T. Blanford  
Pvt. C. G. Blas  
Pvt. K. G. Boersma  
PFC D. W. Born  
\*PFC J. W. Bourg  
\*PFC J. T. Bradley  
Pvt. M. L. Brightmon  
Pvt. T. J. Browder  
Pvt. J. A. Bryie  
Pvt. G. A. Buck  
Pvt. C. J. Burk  
Pvt. J. C. Burton  
Pvt. J. R. Butler  
PFC K. E. Byrnes  
Pvt. J. D. Cain  
Pvt. K. Carleton-Smith  
PFC F. A. Castillon  
Pvt. C. P. Cathey  
Pvt. V. J. Cervantes  
PFC K. R. Childress  
Pvt. C. H. Choi  
Pvt. J. P. Clevenger  
Pvt. R. N. Coffey  
Pvt. M. P. Deiters  
Pvt. R. Delgadillo  
Pvt. C. A. Diaz  
Pvt. J. C. Duran  
Pvt. J. T. Elbo  
Pvt. M. P. Erzar  
Pvt. A. R. Finney  
Pvt. S. Flores  
Pvt. R. L. Flores  
Pvt. J. R. Galvan  
Pvt. E. T. Garcia  
Pvt. M. R. Gilliland  
Pvt. B. C. Golde  
Pvt. J. Gonzalez  
Pvt. A. Gonzalez  
Pvt. M. L. Halsey  
PFC S. R. Hayes  
Pvt. S. P. Heuman  
PFC P. O. Hines  
Pvt. R. H. Hoover



Platoon 1134

**HIGH SHOOTER**

Pvt. M. J. Parsons  
Milwaukee  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. J. R. Hillard

PFC R. M. Jendrzyczyk  
Pvt. C. G. Johnson  
Pvt. C. G. Kincaid  
Pvt. J. W. Kirkwood  
PFC A. Lugo  
Pvt. A. P. Mankin  
Pvt. K. H. Marzola  
\*PFC J. A. McDonald  
Pvt. J. S. Cook  
Pvt. C. N. Crandall  
Pvt. D. R. Diaz  
\*PFC J. D. Diffin  
Pvt. B. C. Dooley  
Pvt. A. P. Fanshier  
Pvt. W. B. Gadsby  
Pvt. J. R. Geary  
Pvt. A. U. Goodman  
Pvt. C. J. Gordon  
Pvt. A. G. Gustafson  
Pvt. J. K. K. Hansen  
Pvt. D. R. Jemal  
Pvt. I. J. Jenson  
PFC J. J. Lawrence  
Pvt. J. D. Lee  
Pvt. R. A. Martinez Jr.  
Pvt. M. E. McSweeney  
Pvt. J. J. Morrison  
Pvt. B. L. Parker  
Pvt. S. M. Peel  
Pvt. M. Peraza  
Pvt. J. J. Pfeuffer  
Pvt. J. A. Pittman  
Pvt. R. F. Pompa  
Pvt. C. A. Prothro  
Pvt. C. L. Przybylski  
Pvt. J. R. Quedding  
Pvt. S. L. Radford  
Pvt. R. W. Reeder  
Pvt. A. D. Reilly  
Pvt. T. J. Robison

**PLATOON 1134**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. M. P. Hicks  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. M. J. Brown  
Sgt. R. W. Mayfield

Pvt. J. W. Benters  
Pvt. A. B. Bodin  
Pvt. J. U. Bonilla  
Pvt. R. W. Brown  
Pvt. M. L. Chapa III  
PFC M. J. Chappell  
Pvt. A. D. Deutsch  
Pvt. C. J. Mills  
Pvt. E. J. Devries  
Pvt. T. D. Dyer  
Pvt. R. Esqueda  
Pvt. J. A. Esquivel  
Pvt. B. M. Figueroa  
Pvt. T. M. Forbus  
Pvt. A. Garcia  
Pvt. R. A. Gray  
Pvt. R. M. Grimble  
Pvt. S. G. Guerrero  
PFC M. G. Haak  
Pvt. J. L. Hart  
\*PFC J. D. Hernandez  
Pvt. R. Herrera  
Pvt. S. M. Hibben  
PFC J. A. Huber  
Pvt. J. R. Hutfless  
Pvt. J. E. Jacobs  
Pvt. P. F. Kaminski  
Pvt. J. J. Kauzlarich  
Pvt. C. J. Kelley  
Pvt. J. E. Koopman  
Pvt. J. E. Kopp  
Pvt. K. D. Lee  
Pvt. N. M. Lomeli  
PFC H. A. Martinez  
Pvt. N. A. McMenomy  
Pvt. R. Mercado Jr.  
Pvt. J. R. Molina  
Pvt. C. J. Molina-Osorio  
Pvt. J. D. Montano  
Pvt. A. Munoz  
PFC W. W. Norwood III  
\*PFC G. U. Park  
Pvt. J. M. Parker  
Pvt. M. J. Parsons  
\*PFC J. T. Poepping  
Pvt. J. L. Pollard

Pvt. C. R. Ponzer  
Pvt. D. L. Purcell II  
Pvt. S. W. Richard  
Pvt. M. J. Rittner  
Pvt. J. Roman Jr.  
PFC D. J. Russell  
Pvt. P. S. Sanchez  
\*PFC C. R. Sandness  
Pvt. N. R. Saravia  
PFC B. J. Schaeffer  
PFC J. L. Schultz  
Pvt. D. M. Schultz  
Pvt. J. W. Tone  
Pvt. A. L. Torrez  
Pvt. C. M. Townsend  
Pvt. D. J. Turner  
Pvt. A. L. Urquidez  
Pvt. H. M. Vaughn  
Pvt. Z. D. Vaughn  
Pvt. C. E. Walker  
Pvt. J. M. Walter  
Pvt. J. M. Whipple  
Pvt. J. M. White  
PFC C. Q. White  
Pvt. J. A. White  
Pvt. C. F. Whitney  
Pvt. T. W. Wickum  
Pvt. J. A. Wiens  
Pvt. A. G. Willis  
Pvt. K. K. Willmann  
PFC C. E. Yates  
\*PFC R. J. Young  
Pvt. R. A. Young  
Pvt. M. A. Zawojski  
Pvt. G. R. Zazueta  
Pvt. J. R. Zipperer

**PLATOON 1135**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Gunnery Sgt. W. W. Harris  
Drill Instructors  
Gunnery Sgt. T. M. Etheridge  
Staff Sgt. B. A. Smith

Pvt. M. W. Alves  
Pvt. J. J. H. Barrix  
Pvt. A. R. Barth  
Pvt. C. T. Bowen  
Pvt. J. P. Breuer  
Pvt. J. W. Buell  
PFC A. J. Cendejas  
Pvt. R. G. Cook  
Pvt. J. S. Cook  
Pvt. C. N. Crandall  
Pvt. D. R. Diaz  
\*PFC J. D. Diffin  
Pvt. B. C. Dooley  
Pvt. A. P. Fanshier  
Pvt. W. B. Gadsby  
Pvt. J. R. Geary  
Pvt. A. U. Goodman  
Pvt. C. J. Gordon  
Pvt. A. G. Gustafson  
Pvt. J. K. K. Hansen  
Pvt. D. R. Jemal  
Pvt. I. J. Jenson  
PFC J. J. Lawrence  
Pvt. J. D. Lee  
Pvt. R. A. Martinez Jr.  
Pvt. M. E. McSweeney  
Pvt. J. J. Morrison  
Pvt. B. L. Parker  
Pvt. S. M. Peel  
Pvt. M. Peraza  
Pvt. J. J. Pfeuffer  
Pvt. J. A. Pittman  
Pvt. R. F. Pompa  
Pvt. C. A. Prothro  
Pvt. C. L. Przybylski  
Pvt. J. R. Quedding  
Pvt. S. L. Radford  
Pvt. R. W. Reeder  
Pvt. A. D. Reilly  
Pvt. T. J. Robison

**PLATOON 1136**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Sgt. J. P. Maciel  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. D. M. Blaess  
Sgt. R. P. Flores

Pvt. S. L. Baker  
PFC W. F. Daniel  
Pvt. J. A. Hjelle  
Pvt. C. A. Lee  
Pvt. W. C. Leffler  
Pvt. B. K. Leisinger  
PFC A. C. Limnios  
Pvt. M. N. Rueda  
PFC C. A. Ruhnke  
Pvt. E. A. Rusconi  
Pvt. T. J. Russell  
PFC J. P. Salazar  
Pvt. S. Salinas  
Pvt. D. S. Savidge  
Pvt. B. A. Schmidlin  
Pvt. M. E. Schmidt  
Pvt. K. A. Schweiger  
Pvt. A. D. Scott  
\*PFC K. W. Scovill  
Pvt. B. D. Sears  
Pvt. J. M. Session

**COMPANY CURIOSITIES** Here's how men from Bravo Company's Platoon 1129 answered Chevron's random questions about their boot camp experiences:

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



**Pvt. Paul M. Bidlack**  
Valley, Neb.

**A:** Spaghetti with meat sauce — I absolutely love spaghetti, and it tasted a lot like my mother's cooking.

**Q: What's it like being exposed to diverse ethnicities?**



**PFC Ryan Z. Drake**  
Huntsville, Texas

**A:** It's normal to me. I grew up around all races. I only see one type of person here, and that is Marines. They're all my brothers.

**Q: What was your last day as a civilian like?**



**Pvt. Ismael Facundo**  
Houston

**A:** I spent my time with the most important woman in the world, my mom.

**Q: What were the hardest civilian habits to break?**



**Pvt. Raleigh R. Maxwell**  
Edmond, Okla.

**A:** It was hard to break formal speech habits — abbreviating words, slang, stuff like that.

**Q: What is your job going to be in the Corps?**



**PFC Joseph J. Metz**  
Arroyo Grande, Calif.

**A:** I'm going to be an MP. I picked that job because it is the best choice for me to achieve my goal of getting into the FBI.



**PFC Brian C. Cox, Platoon 1130, Company B, begins his descent from a hole in the top deck of the rappel tower here.** Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



**Col. John A. Terrell**  
PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Col. John A. Terrell is currently assigned as commanding officer, School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in June 1978 and then completed The Basic School and the Armor Officer Basic Course. In May 1979, he was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, in Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a tank platoon commander in both C and D Companies of 1st Tracked Vehicle Battalion.

In 1980, Terrell was assigned to Marine Barracks, Bangor Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Wash., where he served as a platoon commander and guard officer. In 1983, he was again assigned to 1st Tracked Vehicle Battalion, serving as commanding officer, Company C.

In 1985, Terrell was assigned as commanding officer of Marine Detachment, USS John F. Kennedy. Upon completion of a Mediterranean deployment in 1987, he was transferred to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. In 1988, after serving as assistant operations officer, he was assigned as commanding officer, Company C.

Participating in Operation Desert Shield in November 1990, he was promoted to the major and reassigned as commanding officer, Anti-Tank (TOW) Company, 1st Tank Battalion. During August 1991, after returning from Operation Desert Storm, Terrell was transferred to Washington, D.C. and assigned as a staff officer in the operations division, Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters, Marine Corps.

In 1995, after being selected for lieutenant colonel, he was assigned to U.S. Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii, where he served as chief, Joint Task Force Operations Branch, in the operations directorate. In June 1997, Terrell was assigned as the Inspector/Instructor, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve. In July 2000, Terrell was assigned as deputy team chief, Military Liaison Team, Lithuania, for the Joint Contact Team Program of the United States European Command. During this tour, he was promoted to colonel. In July 2001, Terrell was assigned as assistant chief of staff, Installation and Logistics, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Terrell holds a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Oregon State University, a master of arts degree in business, from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo., as well as a master of arts degree in national security strategic studies, from the U.S. Army War College.

Terrell's military education includes the Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School, the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College (Advanced Strategic Art Program). Terrell is also a graduate of the Airborne School and the Armed Forces Staff College.

Terrell's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Terrell is married to the former Linda Davidson, of Cincinnati, Ohio. They have one daughter, Johnna, age 10.

# Depot picks top athletes

The Depot played home to many outstanding athletes in 2003 and the most outstanding are to be recognized. The Depot Marine Corps Community Services Athletic Department convened recently to select the top two athletes of the year. These two Marines are now in the running for Marine Corps Athlete of the Year and will attend an awards luncheon and ceremony at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Aug. 1, where the winner will be announced.

**SGT. APRIL TAYLOR**, a cash collections agent for Food Services, was selected as one of 2003's nominees for Marine Corps Athlete of the Year. She is best known for her deeds on the Depot women's varsity basketball team, according to Rachel Dickinson, Depot intramural sports coordinator. Taylor said she also participates in as many Commanding General's Cup events as she can. She shines particularly in basketball and volleyball. "It's a real honor to be considered one of the best athletes on the Depot," said Taylor. "I just go out there and try to do the best job for my team, and my efforts are paying off."



Lance Cpl. Jess Levens

**LANCE CPL. ERIC NORFLEET**, a network technician for Communications and Information Services Division, was practically an automatic nomination for athlete of the year, according to Rachel Dickinson, Depot intramural sports coordinator. His outstanding feats as a soccer player have earned him respect, both on and off the field. While playing for the Depot soccer team, Norfleet was invited to try out for the All-Marine Soccer Team. He was instantly welcomed aboard after tryouts. Norfleet was also selected to play soccer for the All-Armed Forces Team. He plays soccer and volleyball for his unit's team in Commanding General's Cup events as well. "This year has been unreal for me," said Norfleet. "I can't believe I'm getting all this recognition for doing what I love to do."



Lance Cpl. Jess Levens

## Big Blue brings Food Services to boil

### 3rd Bn stays unbeaten in CG's Cup volleyball, Food Services still winless

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

Third Recruit Training Battalion's Big Blue snuck past Food Services two games to one in Commanding General's Cup volleyball Tuesday at the Depot Field House.

Food Services began the first game much like the way it played last week: serving balls into the net, making feeble attempts to field easy volleys and letting balls drop because of miscommunication.

Big Blue came out well-practiced, and like a machine running on all cylinders, it pelted its competition with missile-like serves and spikes.

Halfway through the first game, Food Services pulled its act together and started closing the gap.

The comeback attempt was too late, however, because Big Blue won the game with a convincing 30-17 victory.

Food Services seemed offended by its thrashing and came out differently for the second game.

They jumped to an early lead, but Big Blue began matching point for point.

They eventually took the lead from Food Services, but some late-game miscues led to impending disaster as Big Blue self-destructed.

Food Services shot ball after ball over the net, and to the surprise of many, the balls

landed in bounds.

After missing spikes and making plays on balls that were out of bounds, it appeared as if Big Blue abandoned its aggressive, dominating strategy and adopted the game plan of a sun-dried mermaid.

Food Services won the second game 32-30, forcing Big Blue into a third game, which went to 15 points instead of 30.

Food Services' exuberant effort paid off early with a quick lead. But their full-throttle momentum halted suddenly as one spike from Big Blue left Food Services tired, flat and derailed.

It seemed Big Blue used Muhammad Ali's rope-a-dope game plan to tire its opponent before delivering a knockout blow.

Big Blue took Food Services' pot off the burner before it could boil over and won the third game 15-9, clinching the match.

"We wanted to try a new plan of attack," said Big Blue's 1st Sgt. Dathan Edwards. "We put some players in different spots and really slowed the tempo."

Capt. John Black and Edwards played solid offense for Big Blue and Food Services' Sgt. April Taylor and Lance Cpl. Raymond Azpeitia were stout on defense.

Big Blue improves to 2-0 on the season, landing them in second place while Food Services remains in the cellar at 0-3.

CG's Cup volleyball commences every Tuesday until Feb. 10 at the Depot Field House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Food Service's Sgt. April Taylor meets 3rd Bn's Capt. Richard Wilson at the net, attempting to block one of many Big Blue spikes. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron