

New CO takes helm of Big Red 1

BY SGT. L. F. LANGSTON
Chevron staff

First Recruit Training Battalion Marines welcomed Lt. Col. Benjamin S. Blankenship and said farewell to Lt. Col. William J. Cover IV during a change of command ceremony Jan. 23 at Shephard Field.

"This is a big event," said Col. Mark Callihan, Recruit Training Regiment commanding officer. "Taking on your own command is a cherished opportunity."

During the ceremony, Cover expressed his gratitude for the commitment the Marines displayed while commanding 1st Recruit Training Bn. He expressed special gratitude to his father for supporting him, and he thanked Sgt. Maj. Joseph V. Morgan, 1st Bn. sergeant major, for invaluable advice.

"Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the recruit training mission. I'm very proud and honored to have been battalion commander," said Cover.

Cover wished Blankenship good luck, and reminded him that time would pass quicker than desired. "Hold on. It will be a fast and furious ride," Cover said. "Coming from the regiment as the operations officer, it's a great way for him to transition into the commanding officer's billet."

"The battalion has continued to perform in an outstanding manner and your performance has exceeded all expectations."

Blankenship, who came from Recruit Training Regiment as operations officer, understands the work ethic he will be encountering.

"The insights and what I have learned is going
SEE **COC**, pg. 2



Sgt. Jack Carrillo, combat illustrator, Combat Visual Information Center, continues to make his mark. He recently became the 12th recipient of the Col. John W. Thomason Award, a prestigious Marine Corps art award. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



JACK'S BACK

Depot's star combat artist to receive award

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

A Depot Marine has been selected to receive the Col. John W. Thomason Award for best Marine Corps art in 2003.

Sgt. Jack Carrillo, a combat illustrator from the Combat Visual Information Center here, was chosen as the award winner by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, according to Gary Solis, the foundation's award committee chairman.

"When they called me about the award, I thought it was a travel claim (issue)," said Carrillo. "Once they explained that I won an award, I was surprised."

The foundation presents yearly awards for categories including best book, best photography, best article, best art among others pertaining to the Marine Corps.

The award is named for Col. John W. Thomason, well-

known illustrator and writer in the 1920s and 1930s, according to Solis.

Carrillo is the award's 12th recipient since its conception in 1984.

"Although it's a yearly award, we don't see fit to present one every year," said Solis. "Only artwork that truly merits this award is recognized, and Sgt. Carrillo has produced the high standard of art we reward."

Charles Grow, curator of art at the Marine Corps Museum in Washington, D.C., Solis, and other committee members selected Carrillo for the award after seeing the art he produced while in Iraq during operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I saw an article on Sgt. Carrillo in the San Diego Union Tribune," said Solis. "It showed one sample of his work and I noticed his skill, so I asked Charles Grow if he was familiar with Carrillo's work. He too had taken note

SEE **Jack**, pg. 4



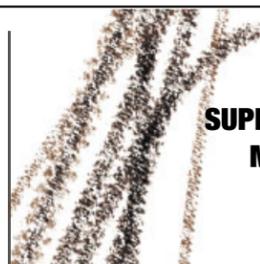
LOCKER ROOM TURNS 1 Dozens of Depot staff members took advantage of happy hour drink prices, free food and karaoke at the Locker Room's anniversary party Jan. 23. The party marked one year of existence for the Depot's sports bar and restaurant. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

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HONOR PLATOON

"IT WAS A LITTLE EERIE ..."

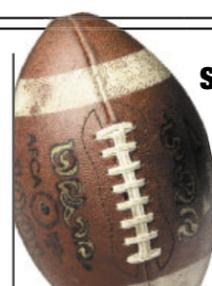
Oklahoma City recruiters move into rebuilt federal building.

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SUPERCROSS: MOTO FOR MARINES

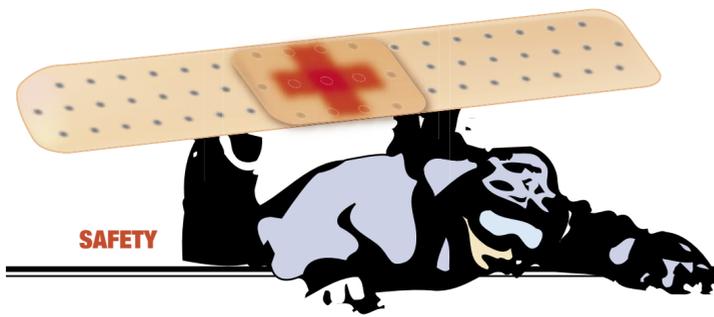
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SUPERBOWL XXXVIII

A lance corporal, a corporal and a sergeant give their predictions.

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SOURCE: David Halsey, associate clinical professor, orthopedic surgery, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, N.H.

Snowboarding can slam upper body

WRISTS, SHOULDERS TAKE A BEATING DURING FALLS

COURTESY OF HEALTHDAYNEWS
www.healthscoutnews.com

Wrists and shoulders bear the brunt of the falls in snowboarding, and beginners are the most prone to injury.

The combination of fixed bindings and the fact that snow boarders ride sideways means they most often try to break their falls with their arms, injuring their wrists and shoulders.

When are snow boarders most likely to fall?

When they are first learning the sport, says Dr. David Halsey, an orthopedic surgeon in Hanover, N.H.

Unlike skiing, where risk increases as

people become more proficient and ski faster, studies show snowboarding is most dangerous during the first few days on the slopes, he said.

"Some studies say that the risk of injury in snowboarding is 20 percent in the first five days of starting the sport, which is very high," said Halsey. "And injuries can be very bad fractures of the wrist, requiring casts, pins or screws and taking from 12 to 16 weeks to heal."

Shoulders, too, can be injured, especially when someone falls forward, throwing all the weight of the body on the shoulders and arms, according to Halsey.

However, as snow boarders become

better, they fall less and their rates of injuries subside, so Halsey suggests a preemptive strike against snowboarding injuries.

"Good quality instruction is the most effective way to decrease the risk of serious injuries," Halsey said.

He also strongly recommends helmets. Wrist guards are helpful, too, although they have to be specific to snowboarding.

"The ones used for roller-blading don't have sufficient protection. You need ones that are sports-specific for snowboarding," he said.

To learn more about snowboarding, the newest Olympic sport, you can visit the United States Ski and Snowboard Association at www.ussskiteam.com.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act replaced

BY CPL. JEFF ZACCARO
Flight Jacket staff

President George W. Bush recently approved the new Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act to replace the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

The new act provides protection to service members who are having difficulty meeting personal financial and legal obligations due to their military service and adds some benefits to the previous SSCRA.

With the SCRA in place, "Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment," Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, told the American Forces Press Service.

Not only are these services available for uniformed service members, but also Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officers, National Guard members

SEE Act, pg. 4

Cover passes torch to Blankenship

COC, from pg. 1

to help me as I go on to 1st Bn.," said Blankenship. "It's a very intense environment; I'm excited and it's a great opportunity. Lt. Col. Cover has been very successful. He's very conscientious, and I admire his leadership."

Blankenship completed his undergraduate education in history at Western Kentucky University. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1983 and was later commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1984.

In December 1985, he was assigned to Marine Wing Communications Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., as a field communications center platoon commander, assistant logistics officer and radio platoon commander.

Blankenship was discharged in 1988 from active duty and assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve. He returned to active duty in 1989 and was assigned to 8th Communication Bn., 2nd Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During his tour, he completed an eight-month deployment with 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade for service in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In May 1993, he was assigned to the Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii, as the contingencies and exercise officer until June 1996.

The following year, he was assigned as the aide de camp for the III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general.

Blankenship reported to 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., for duty as the deputy command and control communications officer in July 1998. He was re-assigned as commanding officer, Communications Co., in May 1999.

He transferred to Yokota Air Base, Japan, in June 2000 for duty as the branch chief, network operations and small-computer administration for the Commander, U.S. Forces, Japan.

Blankenship's personal decorations include two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Lt. Col. Benjamin S. Blankenship, commanding officer, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, salutes during the change of command ceremony with Lt. Col. William J. Cover IV. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

Strong family equals strong Corps

Peace of mind at home helps accomplish 'mission first'

BY MASTER SGT. ALLYSON C. HEDRICK
Contributing writer

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference to the world. The Marines don't have that problem."

Why is this so? Because great achievement is born of great sacrifice and is never the result of selfishness. Simply put, those of us wearing the eagle, globe, and anchor have earned the title "Marine." With it comes the understanding that the Corps' mission comes first. Our commitment to support and defend our country is a commitment that must be taken seriously for we are obligated to put our lives on the line should we be called to do so.

Family, like the Corps, brings a sense of purpose and belonging into our lives. Balance and harmony modeled at home brings to the family unit what order and discipline brings to the Marine unit.

The Corps fully understands that a Marine who has "peace of mind" from trusting that his family is well taken care of and can run smoothly while he or she is away is a Marine who focuses full concentration and effort toward the task at hand. This is why quality of life is emphasized and community support such as Marine and Family Services and Key Volunteer Network links are made available. As Marine sponsors, we too have a responsibility to aid our families in adapting to the constant change associated with military life; naturally, it is on a nurturing and intimate level. Together, military families are wise to plan and prepare for the emotional, physical, financial and spiritual aspects of the military lifestyle. Single Marines, dual military, and Marines with dependents who are unable to care for themselves in the Marine's absence are required to establish a family care plan per MCO 1740.13.

Consideration to these areas minimizes stress on service members and dependents.

Learning to value family time and setting a positive emotional climate fosters acceptance of separations and long working hours. Make it a habit to appreciate and validate your partner often. Genuinely thank your spouse for the hard work done on your behalf.

Keep your promises! Integrity is just as important at home as it is at work. Honesty is linked to trust. By keeping your promises you earn the respect of your spouse while teaching your children the value of integrity.

Learn to be fully present – physically, emotionally and

spiritually. Live in the moment with your family. Whatever you do, do not exaggerate your workload.

There is always a never-ending amount of work to be done. However, there are some who use work to avoid home responsibilities. There will be times when working overtime and taking work home is necessary, but it should not be an everyday occurrence. Exaggerating your workload is like crying wolf. Crying work every day could mean losing your family's support when you need it most.

When urgent business conflicts with family plans, gather the family and explain the situation. Give them choices, such as rescheduling the trip, going without you, or delaying the plans until after business is taken care of. By offering these choices you give each family member power in the decision-making.

Communication with your loved ones is extremely important. Speak to them with love and kindness. Be a good listener. Many times offering solutions is not necessary. What is necessary is the heartfelt act of listening. It is okay to be non-reactive and neutral. When we agree to disagree we become more peaceful and less reactive.

Don't sweat the small stuff, and make conscious choices.

Your choices reflect your values, and for every choice there is a consequence. For example, you may not have a squeaky clean house. However, you have well-adjusted and properly educated children. Show your family they are more important than things. Things can always be replaced. Loved ones are with us for only a short time.

Physical aspects to a balanced family lie in fostering good health and creating an androgynous family lifestyle. Proper hygiene, diet, nutrition, sleeping habits, adequate exercise, and nutritional supplements should be evaluated to see if there is room for improvement. Active measures could ward off depression and reduce the amount of colds and flu the family experiences throughout the year.

Make mealtime family time. When possible, create great meals together.

Exercise together! Get the whole family out to play ball, hike, bike, swim, or do a host of other activities. Regular exercise releases endorphins, which have a calming effect on the brain.

Androgyny may not only be practiced in the kitchen and during sports, but can be taught during household chores. Don't hesitate to teach your children how to cook, clean, iron and make a bed. Our greatest responsibility as a parent is to ensure our children are self-reliant indepen-

dent thinkers. Many of us did not learn these skills until boot camp.

Spouses who find themselves stuck in gender specific roles, or minimizing the importance of their mate's role may want to try role reversing. This exercise may bring you to appreciate your partner more.

You haven't taken care of family business until you have put your finances in order.

This means creating a budget and establishing mutually agreed upon short and long-term financial goals with your partner. Be honest with yourselves and separate needs from wants. Keep in mind that material things do not define you or your family. You and your family are worth much more than a brand name! Be respectful to yourself, your family and your money. Take the money you trim from your budget and pay off credit card debt. Start saving. Put money away for both that family vacation and emergencies. Next, develop a plan for retirement through investments such as the Thrift Savings Plan, or a Roth IRA.

Be responsible to those you love. Make sure that wills, trusts, and powers of attorney for finances and health care are in place. Review your insurance policies and keep your Record of Emergency Data updated. Protect important documents, such as birth certificates, by placing them in a safe place like a fireproof box.

Your family should guard against identity theft; check your credit report annually.

Teach your children well. Children today will inherit a global economy in a highly technical and competitive world. The more they understand money, the less fear, hesitation and mistakes they will experience when making their own financial decisions as adults. Piggy banks and passbook savings are an excellent place to start.

The spiritual part of us is always present and available. The family that relates spiritually to one another and practices their faith as a divine union draws strength from wisdom and universal truths that run through all religions and philosophies. This distills and sets into motion the intentions of creating a life filled with happiness, meaning, and miracles. When we are connected spiritually, we experience harmony and peace, and are in tune with the "voice" within. Worship, pray, and meditate together in your sacred space, your home. This will help you to live from the heart. Find a place of worship with like-minded believers. This will give your family uplifting support and strengthen the children to resist outside peer pressure.

Old habits put up hardest fight of all

BY CPL. MICAH B. SNEAD
Jet Stream Staff

Old habits may die hard, but old bad habits put up the hardest fight of all.

America is a land of freedom, opportunity, democracy and bad habits. When you give people the overwhelming independence of free choice, you can expect a few bad decisions to be made. We wander around in social sin confusion.

Most vices are physically, mentally or socially negative, but people have them anyway. Smoking and drinking are known to be physically harmful, but people do it anyway and others make a great deal of money from it. Being apathetic, disagreeable and asinine will never earn you any friends and is totally out of sync with all obligations to society, but still there are people who make a conscious choice to be

just those things every single day.

In a way, that's America's greatest feature. You can smoke, spit, dip, drink, cuss, stomp, moan and cry your way through life if you choose, and no one is going to stop you. But that doesn't mean it's right.

It's hard to tell yourself not to do something you enjoy, especially when it's a major part of mainstream America. For example, while the anti-tobacco campaign is picking up full speed, drinking and driving is something that few groups even attempt to throw a harsh light on. Binge drinking is the top social killer in the nation, but for some reason it has become socially acceptable. In some circles, like in college, it's a social obligation to go out and throw liquids into your body that are going to alter your state of consciousness. And as soon as your body recovers, you get to go out and do it again!

That's what I call a sin of self. Doing something that you don't feel great about all the time just because it feels good. However not all of these sins are about a lack of moderation and common sense.

One die-hard habit I've always been cursed with is the good guy syndrome. Everybody knows someone like me. That guy who's almost always willing to take one for the team or sacrifice his own for the sake of someone else. I'm talking about everything from a free ride for the office bum to chipping in a little extra cash for lunch, just to cover the regular cheaps.

It's a sickness, a disease of nice, and we see it all the time. Maybe it's a Marine who stands duty so no one else has to, or even just a buddy who pays for your dinner because he feels like it.

For those of us infected with this good-natured charity, the real world can be

frustrating. We always want to help out our friends, but when it comes to money, work and time (especially in the Marine Corps) things just don't always work that way. We always want to look out for the little guy, even if the situation could turn out bad for you. And no matter how much you don't do these things for praise or gratitude, it always stings when you don't get any back.

We all have our vices, the good (charity), the bad (apathy) and the ugly (chewing tobacco) but it's up to the individual to decide which creates the most real world problems. Discerning right from wrong may seem like an easy choice. The hard decisions are always when your head is going one-way and your body another. With experience and maturity, the decisions are supposed to get easier. Hopefully, time won't just make young habits old ones.

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of Carrillo's talent."

Solis then recalled Carrillo's work with the combat utility uniform plates, which are the basic design of the new digital camouflage uniform, and some of his other work.

"I really feel artists are born with a natural vision, which I know I have," said

Carrillo. "But it takes time and education and lots of people to help develop an artist. I couldn't have done this alone."

After meeting with Grow and the other committee members, Carrillo was chosen to receive the award, which is a lavish plaque and \$1,000.

Carrillo moves to the East Coast in June and said he and his wife will spend the prize

money to help with the transition.

Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, will present the award to Carrillo in June at a black-tie dinner in D.C. Retired Lt. Gen. Ronald Christmas, president of the MCHF, will also be on hand.

"It is terrific to see an enlisted Marine honored by a national organization and awarded by the Commandant," said Solis.

"He follows a long line of distinguished artists such as Tom Lea and Col. Donna Neary, both phenomenal Marine Corps artists."

Carrillo was awestruck when he discovered the prestige of the Thomason, and had trouble expressing his joy.

"I had no idea this award was such a big deal," said Carrillo. "It's such an honor to receive something like this."

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**

Financial Fitness Seminars

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

The seminars last from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Service Center Classroom, Building 26.

Anyone interested can call 619-524-5728 to register.

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

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

Liberty Run/Walk volunteers needed

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

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

NMCRS Travers program available for dependents

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.

The deadline for submitting the applications is March 1 for the 2004-2005 school year.

CPR Saturday is coming

The American Red Cross will hold its annual CPR Saturday Feb. 28. The Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help Feb. 27 to 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.

Band looking for Marines

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

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

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

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

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

To set up an audition or receive more information, call Staff Sgt. Michael July at (619) 524-1754 or E-mail him at julyma@mcrdsd.usmc.mil.

Designated Driver volunteers needed

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

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

Drunk drivers kill almost 17,000 Americans and injure over 700,000 each year.

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

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

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



A SPRY GOODBYE

Cpl. Blane Spry, directives control chief, Depot Adjutants' Office, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Hugh Henry, deputy G-1, following a ceremony Jan. 23 that marked the end of Spry's term of service in the Corps. Spry, who served his entire enlistment at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, received a Navy Achievement Medal during the ceremony for his dedicated service to the Depot.

Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

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called to federal active service in excess of 30 days, and U.S. citizens serving in the prosecution of a war or military action with a U.S. ally are also protected.

One of the highlighted changes of the new act is a clause that puts a six percent cap on debt interest rates.

According to Judge Advocate Legal Advisory 1-04, a memorandum released by the Head Legal Assistance Branch, Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, creditors must reduce the interest rate on service members debts incurred before active duty to six percent per year during their period of service. All interest in excess of six percent is forgiven.

Another benefit that will help service members getting ready to deploy is the option to terminate a car lease when being deployed for an extended period.

According to the memorandum released Jan. 1, a motor vehicle lease for service members or their dependents may be terminated if it is a pre-service lease and they are later called to duty or receive orders for a

period of not less than 180 days, or if it is a lease executed during military service, and they later receive PCS orders outside the continental United States, or deployment orders, for a period of not less than 180 days.

No early termination charge may be imposed, but certain fees and taxes may be charged pursuant to a service member lease, including reasonable charges for excess wear, use and mileage.

According to Lindemann, more service members need to know about the SCRA to protect themselves.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," he said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

For more information on the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, contact the Staff Judge Advocate office at 577-1656.

Recruiting: Are you up for the job?

BY SGT. JIMMIE PERKINS
Marine Corps Recruiting Command

Myth: You are a salesman.

Fact: You are a Marine. You are not a salesman, but a Marine on recruiting duty.

You don't sell used cars or vacuum cleaners.

You will tell the Marine Corps story using your personal example, communication skills, and leadership to convey those attributes that make Marines extraordinary warriors and human beings.

Myth: Marine recruiters get fired.

Fact: Historically, less than one percent of Marines on recruiting duty are relieved for failing to adequately recruit.

A recruiter with a successful tour is retained and promoted. — Master Gunnery Sgt. Preston E. Ford, career recruiter.

In order to sustain the expeditionary force that has served the United States in times of need around the world, the Marine Corps must find nearly 40,000 qualified men and women each year who are up to the challenge of becoming Marines. To support this requirement, approximately 1,200 Marines of sound character, skill, and poise selected each year to recruit the next generation of Marines.

The Marine Corps seeks its best for recruiting duty.

Each year the Headquarters Recruiting Screening Team visits Marine Corps installations to screen Marines for recruiting duty. Marines are judged on their mental, moral and physical qualities.

Only the best are selected. It takes a special type of Marine to be part of the successful recruiting team. It is a challenging duty requiring discipline, determination and the right demeanor to be successful.

Recruiting duty is not easy; it is a challenge.

As with any fight worth fighting, the proper preparation can set the right tone for victory.

To that end, the Marine Corps trains and prepares its recruiters with one of the most in-depth training programs to be found in the military or corporate world.

From day one at Recruiters School, through the completion of a successful tour, a recruiter receives continuous training.

The education starts during a seven-week Recruiters School course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

While there, future recruiters receive thorough training on planning, organization, and implementation of systematic recruiting.

In addition, recruiters attend the same corporate-level professional selling-skills course that is used by many Fortune 500 corporations. The Marine Corps has met its monthly contracting goals since July 1995, a record not matched by any other service. Once a recruiter graduates

and moves on to his or her recruiting station, the training continues. Career recruiters, contact teams and recruiter instructors train and assist canvassing recruiters daily.

"I feel that the training was extremely professional," said Gunnery Sgt. Brett Beard, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Marine Corps Recruiting Substation Mission Viejo, Calif. "There were a lot of proven performers as instructors who gave me the basics and the confidence to go out and hit the streets and talk to young people. Once you add your own personality into the training, then it falls together."

Beard, the 12th Marine Corps District 2002 Recruiter of the Year, said the training is valuable beyond recruiting duty. "What the instruction teaches is how to get at the basic needs and concerns of an individual. So it teaches interpersonal skills that you can use within any work environment or relationship in the Marine Corps and beyond."

Discipline for the recruiter can be a number of things.

As recruiters, Marines may be operating far from the main RS in a small town or city. This independent duty requires Marines to manage their time accordingly by setting their own schedule. They will stand as a fitting example of what the Corps values most — smart, tough, elite warriors. Often as one of the only Marines in a community, and possibly the first Marine a potential recruit will ever meet face-to-face, the eyes of many will be on the Marine recruiter.

"Everything you say and do from the start must be consistent because you are often the 'first one in' when dealing with an applicant," said former recruiter Staff Sgt. Wayne Kelly, manpower chief, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. During his three years "on the street" in Troy, Ala., Kelly found that the consistent image was the key to success.

"Although you may be the first Marine a prospective applicant sees, you probably aren't the first Marine a teacher or school administrator will have worked with. It is important that our recruiters have the integrity, honor and courage that all Marines should possess.

From one recruiter to the next, teachers and community leaders see the same qualities in each Marine that their students might benefit from, said Kelly.

To be successful recruiters, Marines must have determination — the type of determination that will help them take applicants who are struggling to pass their initial strength test and send them off properly prepared for recruit training. Recruiters put in extra hours in search of one more applicant to make their monthly mission. They must stay on target and stay motivated to be successful. These are the same qualities that drive Marines to accomplish any task they're given.

Albuquerque recruiter puts training to work on streets

BY STAFF SGT. RAYMIE G. CRUZ
RS Albuquerque

Staff Sgt. Troy A. Velasquez was selected for promotion while on recruiting duty by using the traits he gained throughout his years in the infantry.

Velasquez hails from the Laguna Pueblo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, 30 miles west of Albuquerque. When he graduated from high school, the goal-oriented Native American looked to the Marine Corps to accomplish many of his goals.

"I joined the Marines to be able to get off the reservation and, after four years of service, have a way to pay for my college," Velasquez said.

Although his friends and relatives questioned whether he made the right choice by joining the Marines, he pursued his plans.

"When I joined the Marines, some people back home asked me why I wanted to serve a country that has done so much to my people in the past," said Velasquez. "I feel that as a Native American, I have more of an obligation

to serve and protect my country. I guess it's that warrior mentality that is passed down in the blood of all Native Americans.

"My tribe and the Marine Corps are both older than the United States, and the Marines have a proud tradition with Native Americans. I'm just proud to be a part of that tradition."

In 1995, he left home and became a Marine. From 1996 to 1998, Velasquez served with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment as an infantryman. There he held every billet from rifleman to platoon commander.

From 1998 to 2000, he served with the same unit in the Scout Sniper Platoon. While serving with the Scout Sniper Platoon, he received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for serving as the chief land navigation instructor and rewriting the platoon's standard operating procedures.

"Growing up on the reservation was what gave me the edge in the infantry," said Velasquez. "I view recruiting duty just like the infantry. I am very mission-oriented and that's why I think

"When you hear that first 'no' it's just the beginning. I went into a high school facing a challenge. There were many restrictions on when and how I could approach the kids," said Kelly. "I kept going back and talking with the students — not just the seniors or the best qualified, but also the ones who were not doing so well academically or socially. My persistence paid off. The staff began to support me and ease their restrictions. They saw that I wasn't just looking after myself; I was trying to help the students and the school. The year before I arrived on recruiting duty, the school had not produced any recruits. By the time I left, they were sending four to six seniors a year to the Marine Corps."

Recruiting takes a certain type of individual; an individual with bearing, an open mind, and limitless leadership potential. Recruiters must have the right demeanor, a can-do optimism that makes them approachable and helps them guide and shape their pool of applicants. They must have the ability to win over a parent or an educator. The right type of attitude will open doors.

"Most importantly, recruiters must be flexible and capable of independent thought," said Col. Dan McManus, assistant chief of staff for operations, MCRC. "Recruiters must be prepared to 'change the plan' and keep on marching."

It is not a myth that recruiters put in long hours each week. That said, the phrase, "Made mission, gone fishing," holds true for recruiters who work hard and manage their time properly. The leadership of the Corps recognizes that recruiting duty is challenging.

From extra pay to choice of next duty assignment, even the opportunity for special promotion considerations, recruiting duty has much to offer a Marine.

Recruiters receive \$450 per month in special-duty assignment pay. This is the highest special-duty assignment pay authorized for any service member. Recruiting duty also offers stability for the family, as recruiters are non-deployable. Recruiters are represented at promotion boards by a member of MCRC, who explains the special nature of recruiting duty. Also, MCRC receives a number of meritorious promotion allocations each year for its top performing Marines.

Marines who enjoy success on recruiting duty and wish to stay in the occupation field may apply to become a career recruiter. Recruiting becomes their permanent military occupational specialty, and they fill billets such as SNCOIC or recruiter instructor. The SNCOIC is responsible for the management of the localized recruiting substations, and recruiter instructors are responsible for overall training of the recruiters within the recruiting station. For further advancement, career recruiters now have

SEE Job, pg. 8



Maj. Keven W. Matthews, commanding officer, Recruiting Station Albuquerque, congratulates Staff Sgt. Troy A. Velasquez on his promotion to staff sergeant during a ceremony at RS Albuquerque Nov. 1, 2003. Staff Sgt. Raymie G. Cruz/RS Albuquerque

I've been successful out here."

During his tour with the infantry, he also served four months as a rappel and ropes instructor at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Japan.

In March 1999, he married his wife Tiffany. They have two children, 4-year-old son Tobyn and 2-year-old daughter Talyn.

By 2000, Velasquez had already

learned a lot in the Marine Corps and felt it was time to pass on to new Marines the skills he possessed.

"Once I was done with my first tour, I re-enlisted to go to Edson Range and teach young recruits field craftsmanship and how to shoot," he said.

From 2000 to 2002 he served with

SEE Streets, pg. 11

A day at the track: SUPERCROSS

Marines off to races as popular extreme sport buzzes through San Diego

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Supercross is in the air.

The temperature dropped when the sun set, but thousands still gathered in the parking lot to barbeque and party down supercross style. Not even the threat of rain kept these extreme sports fans from getting their fill of excitement Saturday night. Recreational vehicles and roped-off caravans blasting punk rock filled the lot as the aroma of hot dogs and chicken filled the air. Men in racing jerseys staggered around spilling their beverages, and girls in mesh trucker hats giggled as they huddled around the barbeque pits to keep warm.

The noise of motorcycles vibrated Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego for the THQ World Supercross GP and THQ American Motorcyclist Association Supercross Series. Truckloads of dirt to fashion an off-road racing track replaced the usual baseball diamond with ramps, moguls and sharp turns.

Spectators gathered in the parking lot as early as 9 a.m. to kick off the pre-race festivities though riding didn't commence until after noon.

Sponsors and vendors set up booths in the pits exhibiting static motorcycle and truck displays. Racing jerseys were a big selling item and nearly half the spectators wore them.

Marine Recruiting Station San Diego set up a booth in the pits with a pull-up bar set for a

Chin-Up Challenge. The recruiters challenged males to do pull-ups and women to do the flex arm hang. The 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District's red Humvee was also there roaring hard-rock tunes as people accepted the challenges.

Also on hand was the Depot Single Marine Program, which set up shop in the parking lot and spent the majority of the day tailgating before filing into the stadium for the evening's events.

During the early racing, there was a lull in the action as officials noticed some problems with the track. After nearly an hour, they made necessary modifications.

The fans waited patiently, and when the bikes fired back up, the stadium filled with cheers as the races continued.

The riders whipped around turns and some reached jumps almost 30 feet high. It rained briefly, causing the track to get a little muddy, but no one seemed to mind as the spectators donned plastic ponchos and continued watching.

"We had a blast," said Sgt. Jarrod Holmes, programmer chief, Communications and Information Systems Division. "My favorite part of the day was the crossover challenge because it gave us a chance to put into perspective how the pro riders really look out there."

The crossover challenge takes racers who ride motocross, which is outdoors, and places them in indoor supercross races.

All who attended had a good time, accord-

ing to Holmes, and the Marines look forward to future extreme sporting events.

Though the event was a success overall, the motorcyclist community suffered a great tragedy when one of the riders, 19-year-old Jason Ciarletta of Riverside, Calif., died from injuries he received during a race. Ciarletta is the first rider to die in a race since the AMA formed 31 years ago, according to Steve Whitelock, manager, AMA Pro Racing Motocross/Supercross Series.



Several tons of dirt blanketed San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium, transforming it into an off-road race course worthy of the title Supercross.



Two riders jockey for position as they race over a series of dirt moguls during a qualification round.



Sponsors and racing teams displayed their bikes in the pits throughout the day to give race fans a closer look at what they came to see.



A rider catches some big air during a qualification race Saturday at Qualcomm Stadium. Riders reached heights of nearly 30 feet on the higher jumps.

Oklahoma City Federal Building re-opens

Oklahoma Marines need no reminder of war on terror

BY STAFF SGT. SKIP OSBORN
RS Oklahoma City

At 9:02 a.m., April 19, 1995, a titanic explosion rocked downtown Oklahoma City, destroying the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The explosion killed 168 men, women, and children and injuring approximately 400 others.

Within three days of the tragedy, the flag-draped remains of Capt. Randolph A. Guzman, executive officer, Recruiting Station Oklahoma City, and Sgt. Benjamin L. Davis, operations clerk, RS Oklahoma City, were carried from the ragged debris of the building. They were pulled from the wreckage by four former Marines assigned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Task Force 1, which organized police, firemen and emergency medical service specialists from around the nation for recovery efforts following the tragedy.

After the devastation of what was, at the time, the country's most damaging terrorist attack, the remaining federal employees relocated their offices throughout the city. Eight and one-half years later, they started moving into the new Oklahoma City federal building, across the street from where the Murrah Building once stood, and less than a block from what is now the memorial site. The building officially opened Dec. 8, 2003.

The new three-story, horseshoe-shaped building cost \$33 million to build. Its main entrance is enclosed in 3/4-inch-thick, floor-to-ceiling steel panels.

Its windows are specially treated so they will not shatter in an explosion, and waist-high concrete plugs, designed to keep vehicles at bay, surround the structure.

It is the first federal building to be built



The new Oklahoma City federal building lies across the street from the Oklahoma City bombing memorial, which marks the site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

in the United States in more than 15 years and is one of the most durable facilities in the nation.

However, no matter how robust the structure is, the new federal building still fails to provide a sense of emotional security for some federal employees who survived the bombing, and several have refused to enter the new structure. For others, like RS Oklahoma City's Recruiter Instructor Master Gunnery Sgt. Patrick M. Waters, the return is a statement about the strength of our government, and something they will not evade.

"I think it sends a message that you can damage someone's life, but you can't break their spirit," said Waters. "You may kill a Guzman or a Davis, but you can't beat America. It's a statement that the Corps is an institution and is more enduring than any terrorist organization."

Waters was lucky on the day of the bombing. He and several others were attending a career-recruiter conference in New Orleans. After hearing news of the bombing, they were sent back to Oklahoma City. They assisted Task Force 1 in

recovering their co-workers and set up a temporary processing station so they could continue striving to make mission. The fact that they were back in business and processing applicants at the Armed Forces Reserve Center one day after the bombing is a statement of their fortitude.

"Moving in here brings back a lot of memories," said Waters. "But in the Corps, you lose good friends all the time and life has to go on. We can't bring Guzman or Davis back, but our willingness to go on is a testament to their legacy. With my blood pressure, I could have a heart attack tomorrow, but the Corps would go on."

For RS Oklahoma City, the reminders of terror are overtly present and will be forever. "It was a little eerie at first when I walked past the concrete wall that used to be the tunnel leading to the daycare in the old building," said Waters. "But I parked there for five years straight so it doesn't bother me too much."

Besides those reminders, the RS has recovered and preserved the original colors

and pieced together the shattered ceramic Marine Corps seal that used to hang in the old office. They are now on display in the RS's new reception area and the key parts of the RS are named after those Marines lost to terrorism.

"The RS conference room will always be the Guzman room, the [operations] room will always be the Davis room, and now we have a new room to dedicate," said Maj. Kendal A. Martinez, commanding officer, RS OKC.

The sergeant major's office will be dedicated to Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtain, Marine Corps Reserve, New York City police officer and one of the emergency workers who pulled Guzman and Davis from the wreckage. Curtain, a hero many times over, also fell victim to terrorism during the Sept. 11 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Those small memorials created to honor fallen Marines will ensure they will never be forgotten. They will ensure their legacy and the legacy of the Corps will live on because of their spirit, service, and sacrifice.

Job, from pg. 5

the opportunity to apply for a warrant officer program specialty. Those selected will be appointed warrant officers and assigned to districts as an operations officer.

"I benefited from opportunities in recruiting that have given me the exposure and the access to the billets that have propelled me to this point in my career," said Chief Warrant Officer William Hanrahan, operations officer for RS Albany, 1st Marine Corps District. "I have been a recruiter, SNCOIC at a recruiting substation, operations chief, recruiter instructor, and recently a member of the 6th MCD contact team."

Successful recruiters and career recruiters also hold key staff billets at the recruiting station, district, region and headquarters level.

Beyond these very substantial benefits, there is also a very strong structure of support in place for Marines and their families while on recruiting duty. In spite of the fact that many recruiters are geographically stationed far from a military installation, a focus of MCRC is to ensure that Marines and their families still enjoy a quality of life comparable to their fellow service members.

"Even though our Marines out there on independent duty may be assigned to an area without a local military base, they are still Marines and rate the same quality of life programs a base provides," said Elizabeth Simms, deputy G-1, MCRC. "We must support and sustain Marines and their families on recruiting duty so that the Marines can stay focused on their very important mission."

Marine Corps Recruiting Command has six recruiting district headquarters with QOL coordinators in place to support Marines and families. Each of the six districts has approximately 650 personnel assigned to them across hundreds of square miles. Working in conjunction with their respective Marine Corps Community Service Center and the communities where recruiting personnel are located, the QOL coordinators are responsible for ensuring

that Marines and their families receive the QOL programs established by the Marine Corps.

Marines and their families are introduced to MCRC through the MCRC Welcome Aboard/Sponsorship Program. Members of the command and the Key Volunteer Network, a family support program, contact Marines and family members prior to their departure from their current duty station. A welcome aboard package that contains a booklet and a video about the command is mailed to the Marine and his or her family. When the new families arrive at their recruiting station, they are met by their sponsor and welcomed to the command by the commanding officer.

Once at the recruiting station, Marines and their families can also take advantage of the "home base" concept between all services. Marines who reside near a military installation can claim that installation as their home base. In concert with the other services, the home base concept was established to give additional support and as on recruiting duty. For example, Marine families on recruiting duty will receive Priority II assignment to base housing, regardless of which services base is in the geographical area.

Recruiters and their families also enjoy many other benefits and QOL initiatives, such as privileges at the exchange, commissary, medical and dental facilities, and recreational activities. Ultimately, QOL is determined by each individual Marine, the Marine's family and how both take advantage of the differences between recruiting and life in the fleet.

"Quality of life has been great," said Gunnery Sgt. Jessie Cornelius, a recruiter in Indianapolis, Ind. Cornelius, the 2002 Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year, finds that balancing duty and family is not as hard as it might seem for recruiters. "I include my family in as many activities as possible, and together we are involved in the local community."

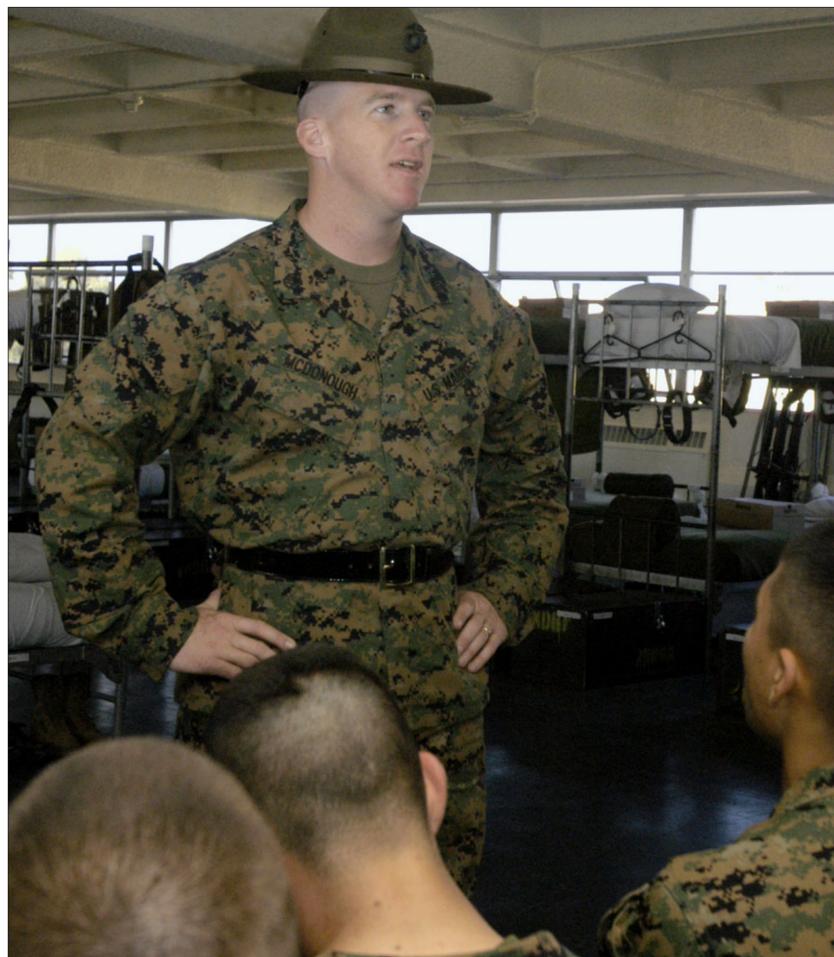
Marine families on recruiting duty have access to many of the same family service programs available at Marine Corps bases; programs such as the Key Volunteer Network and Lifestyles, Insights, Networking and Skills. In addition, the MCCS One source system, available on the Internet at www.mccsone.com or by phone at 1-800-433-6868, brings MCCS information and services to Marines and their families regardless of their geographic location. MCRC also sponsors a spouses' workshop each year for the spouses of the six district recruiters of the year. They are briefed and provide feedback on MCRC programs and initiatives.

Each year, the commandant of the Marine Corps personally recognizes the Marine Recruiter, SNCOIC and Officer Selection Officer of the Year. These individuals, selected through a board process. Their statistics and recruiting methods for the previous year are reviewed and a personal interview is conducted. Then, the winners are selected. Once selected as the Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year, the enlisted Marine is meritoriously promoted at a ceremony held by the commandant.

Recruiting duty is for Marines seeking to further their professional skill; it's for Marines who seek faster promotion or career advancement. Marines interested in significant special duty pay or choice of assignment will find that in recruiting duty. Recruiters develop strong leadership skills, time management solutions, corporate sales skills and qualities that make good leaders in the Corps. Recruiters have the pride of being the model Marine that a community admires.

They are playing a direct role in helping find and shape the next generation of the Marine Corps.

Marines who think they are up to the challenge may visit the Marine Corps Recruiting Command Web site for more information.



Staff Sgt. Jerry McDonough, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2143, Company E, congratulates his platoon on winning the final drill competition. Platoon 2143 is McDonough's fourth honor platoon. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

Marine's sense of team makes drill field work

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Teamwork is a must in sports. It binds a group of athletes together for a common goal, working together so they may receive their prize as one. The teamwork philosophy is used in many other facets of life. However, that may range from a job, maintaining a family or making Marines.

Staff Sgt. Jerry McDonough, senior drill instructor, Platoon 2143, Company E, grew up in San Diego and said he's used teamwork to get through his life.

"I think teamwork is the key to everything," said McDonough. "Anything an individual can do can be done better by a team."

McDonough took a year off after school and decided to join the military. He was unimpressed by his first choice, the Army.

"The Army didn't stress teamwork enough and I felt like the recruiter came on too strong," said McDonough. "The Marines emphasized teamwork and offered me the discipline I wanted."

At the age of 19, McDonough, now 29, entered the Corps as a hygiene equipment operator. That same year, he married a woman named Maria, whom he said has been his most valuable teammate thus far.

"Maria is more than just my wife," said McDonough. "She is a big part of my career. She's been with through thick and thin."

Maria is the Co. E Key Volunteer president and helps the company out in many ways, according to McDonough.

"She organizes get-togethers for initial and final drill for the company," said the father of two. "Sometimes, late at night, she'll bring chow for the drill instructors, even when we're at the Crucible."

Maria also appreciates the union she has with the Corps.

"Teamwork plays a vital role in our marriage, as well as all other aspects of our lives," said Maria. "Teamwork has been our success tool here at the Depot. The fact that my husband wants me to be a part of his career has opened many doors of opportunity for me in the Marine Corps."

McDonough has taken the example from his MVP and applied it to teaching recruits and junior drill instructors.

Platoon 2143, McDonough's eighth and final cycle, was named honor platoon. Of his eight cycles, four have been honor platoons, which is almost unheard of, according to McDonough.

His platoon won first place in every competitive event this cycle, including initial drill, rifle range, final physical fitness test, practical application and final drill.

"It's not a coincidence," said McDonough. "The only way a platoon can pull together and win every event is through exceptional teamwork."

His recruits have seen how learning teamwork early can pay off late.

"Staff Sgt. McDonough taught us that teamwork is the most important thing," said PFC Anthony Robertson, McDonough's guide. "The teamwork he instilled in us is absolutely the only way we could've won every event."

McDonough said teamwork is important among drill instructors as well.

"Every cycle is the start of a new (drill instructor) team," said McDonough. "If we can't show the recruits early on that we are a tight-knit team, our mission will be a lot harder. It really comes down to a team caring what kind of product it puts into the Corps."

With his tour on the drill field drawing to an end, McDonough, his wife and two daughters, 9-year-old Rena and 8-year-old Sarina, are preparing to move to Okinawa, Japan for three years. McDonough will resume his primary duties at the Marine Corps Base there.

"The teamwork I've seen and learned here is something great," said McDonough. "I plan to take it back to the fleet with me and use it in every aspect of my life."

On a mission Mormon serves Corps with high distinction

COMPILED BY CHEVRON STAFF

Instead of pursuing missionary service like many of his religious peers do at his age, Lance Cpl. Derek A. Smith, 19, chose an armed service. One of roughly 11 million Latter-day Saints is now the Corps' latter-day Marine, holding the highest distinction of any boot-camp graduate in his company.

Though recruit training was tough, Smith, Company E's honorman, came to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego with support from the church and his parents; after all, he can still share his religion in the Marines.

Retired Air Force Gen. Robert C. Oaks, a general authority leader in the church, commended Smith on his decision and urged him to serve with pride. "Church members in the Armed Forces have, over the years, been instrumental in introducing the Gospel to many people in many lands," wrote Oaks to Smith in boot camp.

"The church thought joining the Marine Corps would make me a better member and help me follow the teachings and beliefs," said Smith. "Without the military, the church believes it wouldn't have the freedom to practice."

After 10 days leave, Smith will report to the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif., before joining Company F, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, Salt Lake City.

Derek's father, Jeffrey Smith, wanted him to become a missionary but understands and supports his son's decision to join the Corps. His father said, "(Missionary service) tests the skills of a man, how to depend on the Lord, and gain confidence in his abilities."

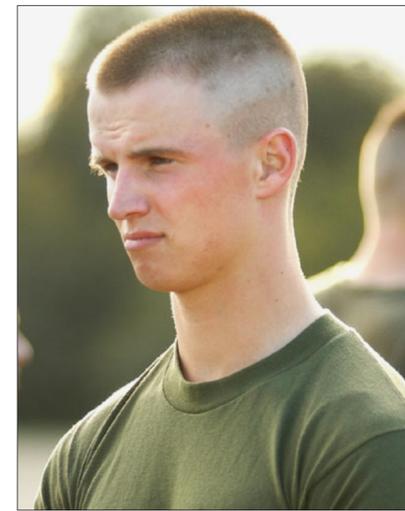
Smith sees recruit training as an added foundation to strengthening his faith and sees similarities between the church and the Marine Corps. He said recruit training constantly challenges recruits' abilities and confidence and stresses the importance of teamwork.

"The same values of honor, courage and commitment the Marine Corps teaches goes along with the teachings of the church," said Smith, who is from West Jordan, Utah.

Smith's foundation of church and Corps values has driven him, gaining respect from his fellow recruits and drill instructors.

"He's the most squared-away recruit," said drill instructor Sgt. Mark A. Mann, Platoon 2142, Company E. Smith's senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Gregory B. Nelson added his praise "He's done an awesome job; he has definitely led by example."

Smith said Oaks' letter presented a good challenge: A Marine can perform his duties and use his time in service to spread the faith.



Lance Cpl. Derek A. Smith, Platoon 2142, Company E, pursued service in the Marine Corps at an age when most of his Mormon peers fulfill their calling to spread the teachings of the church. Sgt. L. F. Langston

ECHO COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. D.A. Smith
West Jordan, Utah
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. W. Johnson



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC W.A. Hochrine
Chandler, Ariz.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. P. Felton



SERIES HONORMAN
PFC W.E. Dilworth
Cotton Plant, Ark.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. E. D. Crow



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M. J. Kissee
Roseburg, Ore.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. W. A. Egan



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M.A. Dalton
Parker, Ariz.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. E. D. Lisonbee



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC A. J. Robertson
Aurora, Colo.
Recruited by
Sgt. D. J. Wedgewood



HIGH PFT
PFC T. M. Gonzalez
Goodson, Mo.
Recruited by
Sgt. B. E. Arnold



HIGH SHOOTER
PFC T. M. Gonzalez
Goodson, Mo.
Recruited by
Sgt. B. E. Arnold

<p>MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION Commanding General BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR. Sergeant Major SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY</p>	<p>RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT Commanding Officer COL. W. M. CALLIHAN Sergeant Major SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD Regimental Drill Master GUNNERY SGT. P. DOMINGUEZ JR. Parade Adjutant CAPT. S. J. KELLY Narrator STAFF SGT. R. K. DAVIS</p>	<p>MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO Band Officer WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES Band Master GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS COLOR GUARD SGT. S. HUERTA SGT. R. A. SCHEPIS PVT. L. E. SMITH PFC P. D. WALLACE</p>
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2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

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

COMPANY E

Commanding Officer
Capt. G. G. Kellman
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. T. E. Ryan
Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Leonardo

SERIES 2137

Series Commander
1st Lt. M. P. Zummo
Assistant Series Commander
1st Lt. R. Demann
Series Gunnery Sergeant

Gunnery Sgt. P. A. Duncan

SERIES 2141

Series Commander
1st Lt. R. M. Cunningham
Assistant Series Commander
1st Lt. C. E. Roberts
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. V. Leanos

PLATOON 2137

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. R. Arrieta
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. L. Jackson III
Sgt. B. A. Adames
Sgt. E. Penameza

Pvt. G. Andrade
Pvt. B. Andrews
PFC A. A. Avalos
Pvt. J. C. Balderas
Pvt. R. C. Barleta
Pvt. J. A. Bauman
Pvt. P. G. Benson
Pvt. E. J. Beston

*PFC C. R. Bingham
Pvt. K. D. Bowles
Pvt. G. M. Bush
Pvt. R. G. Chapman
PFC J. L. Chavez
Pvt. W. P. Christos
Pvt. R. R. Combs
Pvt. S. S. Crawford
Pvt. P. J. Curtis
Pvt. R. A. Dags
Pvt. D. M. Davis
PFC J. S. Davis
PFC J. J. Denbeste
PFC D. P. Dragich
Pvt. B. T. Edens
PFC J. E. Edwards
PFC D. J. Evans
Pvt. R. E. Garcia
PFC A. Garcia
*PFC H. Gonzalez
PFC T. B. Groft
PFC D. C. Gross
Pvt. J. L. Gulley
PFC C. C. Hall
Pvt. J. R. Hamm

Pvt. A. W. Heikkila
Pvt. A. J. Hennessey
PFC W. A. Hochrine
Pvt. T. A. Howland
Pvt. B. S. Jensen
Pvt. J. M. Keefover
*PFC N. A. Knollman
PFC D. Kulenovic
*PFC A. J. Lamb
Pvt. N. R. Lantz
Pvt. B. A. Larrymore
Pvt. D. M. Lawrence
Pvt. J. S. Lee
Pvt. C. A. Loomis
Pvt. S. Lowary
Pvt. S. K. Mackay
Pvt. T. S. Marshall
PFC B. J. May
Pvt. T. W. McGurthy
Pvt. J. B. Menjiaur
Pvt. J. T. Milosevich
Pvt. J. A. Montalvo
Pvt. K. P. Moore
Pvt. J. M. Morris
Pvt. W. H. Nghiem
Pvt. J. E. Osornio

Pvt. A. J. Rouse

PLATOON 2138
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. L. Ezell
Drill Instructors
Sgt. A. M. Wahab
Sgt. M. Villegasruiz

Pvt. R. P. Hopper
Pvt. D. L. Horton
PFC D. A. Hupp
PFC R. Ibarra
Pvt. J. W. Jarred
Pvt. C. A. Jensen
Pvt. K. L. Johnson
Pvt. Q. K. Joyner
Pvt. J. D. Kellogg
*PFC A. D. Kelly
Pvt. D. T. Little
Pvt. M. A. Lopez
Pvt. C. Martinez
Pvt. J. A. Martinez
Pvt. K. D. Mayfield
Pvt. T. J. McElroy
Pvt. J. M. McGroary
Pvt. J. C. Mendiola
Pvt. J. R. Mendoza
Pvt. M. T. Mondt
Pvt. V. M. Montoya
Pvt. D. J. Cormier
Pvt. B. D. Davis
*PFC W. E. Dilworth
Pvt. T. B. Doyle
PFC D. M. Dudley
*PFC D. Duran
Pvt. T. S. Duvall
Pvt. F. A. Elizondo
PFC D. M. Estoril
Pvt. M. E. Fuller
Pvt. F. A. Garcia
Pvt. T. D. Garza
Pvt. N. D. Gilbert
*PFC A. J. Gonzales
Pvt. A. L. Goodman
Pvt. C. R. Goodrich
Pvt. K. P. Moore
Pvt. J. M. Morris
Pvt. W. H. Nghiem
Pvt. J. E. Osornio

Pvt. R. P. Hopper
Pvt. D. L. Horton
PFC D. A. Hupp
PFC R. Ibarra
Pvt. J. W. Jarred
Pvt. C. A. Jensen
Pvt. K. L. Johnson
Pvt. Q. K. Joyner
Pvt. J. D. Kellogg
*PFC A. D. Kelly
Pvt. D. T. Little
Pvt. M. A. Lopez
Pvt. C. Martinez
Pvt. J. A. Martinez
Pvt. K. D. Mayfield
Pvt. T. J. McElroy
Pvt. J. M. McGroary
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Pvt. K. P. Moore
Pvt. J. M. Morris
Pvt. W. H. Nghiem
Pvt. J. E. Osornio

PLATOON 2139
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. P. M. Headley
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. D. A. Miyasaki
Sgt. S. J. Washechek

Pvt. J. P. Acosta
PFC C. R. Allen
Pvt. E. E. Antonio
Pvt. J. L. Backhaus
Pvt. M. F. Bedwell

Pvt. K. Benally
Pvt. D. P. Brown
Pvt. D. B. Campbell
Pvt. C. V. Cousins
Pvt. J. A. Crawford
*PFC M. J. Creason
PFC T. L. Crockett
Pvt. J. R. Crow
PFC N. G. Crum
PFC K. L. Dutton
PFC J. E. Ebert
Pvt. J. J. Espinoza
Pvt. M. J. Florez
PFC D. T. Friesen
Pvt. J. M. Grandfield
Pvt. S. A. Greer
PFC M. F. Gross

Pvt. M. E. Running
Pvt. M. R. Sainz
PFC S. T. Sakievich
Pvt. W. C. Saling
PFC F. R. Schmidt
Pvt. J. E. Searan
Pvt. P. J. Silvaestrada
Pvt. A. D. Smith
Pvt. J. C. Spears
Pvt. W. M. Strickfaden
Pvt. C. I. Thompson
Pvt. D. O. Torresarreola
Pvt. G. A. Trainor
Pvt. D. A. Tumbarello
Pvt. M. T. Twombly
Pvt. R. K. Valia
Pvt. T. R. Wilson
Pvt. C. A. Zamani

Pvt. R. A. Ainsworth
Pvt. O. Amador
Pvt. P. A. Archuleta
*PFC D. S. Arendt
Pvt. R. E. Arnal
Pvt. J. L. Barabe
Pvt. J. R. Barnes
Pvt. N. S. Bianco
Pvt. J. L. Bonnin
PFC A. M. Botenhagen
PFC J. D. Brewer
Pvt. N. D. Brinker
Pvt. C. L. Burns
Pvt. N. W. Bursick
Pvt. C. J. Burton

Pvt. V. L. Cervantes
Pvt. E. U. Chavez
Pvt. L. Contreras
PFC E. D. Cook
Pvt. M. J. Croad
*PFC B. D. Crooks
*PFC M. A. Dalton
Pvt. J. A. Dando
Pvt. T. S. Durham
Pvt. A. M. Enriquez
PFC M. Estrada
PFC D. A. Eunson
PFC D. J. Garner
Pvt. J. J. Gomez
PFC T. M. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. E. Gordon
Pvt. C. C. Gault
Pvt. C. E. Groenwold
PFC K. V. Hansen
Pvt. A. C. Hays
Pvt. R. J. Hernandez
Pvt. A. G. Hill
Pvt. J. M. Hoepfner
PFC K. J. Hoff
Pvt. J. D. Holder
Pvt. J. R. Ihnen
PFC J. C. Keith
Pvt. J. D. Kniss
Pvt. S. P. Lancaster
Pvt. D. S. Lance
Pvt. T. D. Larocque
Pvt. T. A. Laver
PFC S. M. Mancera
Pvt. M. T. Manjarrez
PFC G. Manzo
Pvt. J. D. Marmolejo
PFC S. R. Marsh
Pvt. E. W. Mathias
Pvt. J. J. McKnight
Pvt. A. M. Molina
Pvt. T. N. Nguyen
*PFC F. Orozcolemus

Pvt. M. E. Running
Pvt. M. R. Sainz
PFC S. T. Sakievich
Pvt. W. C. Saling
PFC F. R. Schmidt
Pvt. J. E. Searan
Pvt. P. J. Silvaestrada
Pvt. A. D. Smith
Pvt. J. C. Spears
Pvt. W. M. Strickfaden
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Pvt. R. K. Valia
Pvt. T. R. Wilson
Pvt. C. A. Zamani

Pvt. R. A. Ainsworth
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Pvt. P. A. Archuleta
*PFC D. S. Arendt
Pvt. R. E. Arnal
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Pvt. J. L. Bonnin
PFC A. M. Botenhagen
PFC J. D. Brewer
Pvt. N. D. Brinker
Pvt. C. L. Burns
Pvt. N. W. Bursick
Pvt. C. J. Burton

Pvt. E. Ortiz
Pvt. C. L. Parrett
Pvt. C. T. Preshler
Pvt. C. A. Salaverria
Pvt. C. J. Sherwood
Pvt. A. Yao

PLATOON 2142
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. G. E. Nelson
Drill Instructors
Sgt. M. M. Mann
Sgt. T. R. Johnson

*PFC L. H. Abel
Pvt. J. R. Albarico
PFC D. K. Caudill
Pvt. Z. J. Chase
Pvt. C. C. Clark
PFC J. R. Comer
Pvt. R. A. Coulter
Pvt. D. K. Dewitt
PFC T. J. Flint
Pvt. C. J. Fuhrman
Pvt. J. C. Jimenez
PFC G. D. Johnson
PFC M. J. Kamps
Pvt. R. W. Leonhardt
Pvt. B. L. Maggard
PFC M. R. McKenzie
Pvt. L. D. Padillaporras
Pvt. R. A. Peckinpough
Pvt. R. Q. Perez
PFC R. J. Phillips
Pvt. J. T. Poindexter
Pvt. J. D. Proctor
Pvt. E. Quintana
PFC M. B. Rangel
Sgt. N. C. Rees
PFC A. P. Rivera
Pvt. A. P. Rodriguez

PLATOON 2143
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. J. McDonough
Drill Instructors
Sgt. J. A. Hoversten
Staff Sgt. J. P. Johnson

Pvt. L. Barajas
Pvt. A. R. Day
Pvt. G. P. Harris
Pvt. B. R. Henson
PFC R. C. Neutermer
Pvt. H. M. Palmer
PFC D. T. Pearson
Pvt. M. E. Pekarek
Pvt. M. A. Pena
Pvt. M. S. Perovich
PFC T. K. Peters
Pvt. M. A. Piccioli
PFC A. R. Pittman
Pvt. J. C. Porter
Pvt. R. T. Posada
Pvt. R. L. Presley
PFC V. M. Quevedo
Pvt. M. Ramos
PFC E. Reyes
Pvt. J. L. Richmond
PFC J. L. Rios
*PFC A. J. Robertson
PFC P. F. Rodriguez
Pvt. J. Rodriguez
Pvt. P. D. Rogers
Pvt. D. A. Rogers
Pvt. P. B. Rosales
Pvt. W. A. Ruano
Pvt. S. A. Ruiz
Pvt. C. A. Russell
Pvt. M. G. Salgado
Pvt. A. M. Samano
*PFC J. L. Sanchez
Pvt. D. J. Schallert
PFC N. E. Schrader
PFC E. Serrano
Pvt. S. M. Sheehan
Pvt. T. L. Slaton
Pvt. L. E. Smith
*PFC N. L. Stanton
PFC J. P. Steffen
Pvt. J. D. Steger

Pvt. B. S. White
Pvt. T. M. Winters
Pvt. B. R. Wright
Pvt. C. J. Wyman
Pvt. E. Zamora
Pvt. J. P. Zuniga

*Denotes meritorious promotion



Sgt. Maj. Jimmie L. Gibson

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. Jimmie L. Gibson is a native of Flint, Mich. Born Aug. 1, 1957, he is the second of three children.

After graduating from Flint Northern High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Nov. 10, 1975. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Upon graduation from boot camp March 1976, he was assigned to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was promoted to private first class and assigned to Naval Weapons Station Goose Creek, S.C., after completion of ITS.

Gibson was later promoted to lance corporal and transferred to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine

Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He was meritoriously promoted to corporal and completed a deployment to the Mediterranean region. He joined the reserve forces in December 1979.

He later returned to active duty and was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 121, Marine Air Group 13, 3rd Marine Air Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif.

After completion of two unit deployments to Iwakuni, Japan, Gibson, then a sergeant, was transferred to 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Combat Group 28, 2nd MAW, Cherry Point, N.C. While there, he deployed with the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit and participated in operations in Beirut, Lebanon with the U.S. contingent of the multi-national force.

In December 1984, Gibson was transferred to MCRD Parris Island, where he served as a drill instructor with 3rd Recruit Training Battalion until March 1987.

After earning the rank staff sergeant, Gibson was transferred to 1st LAAD Battalion, MACG-18, 1st MAW, Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a platoon sergeant and platoon commander.

During this tour, he deployed to the Gulf of Oman, the Straits of Hormuz, and the Persian Gulf. Upon return, he was assigned to 3rd LAAD Battalion, MACG-38, Camp Pendleton, where he served as a battery gunnery sergeant. He was promoted to gunnery sergeant and returned to 1st LAAD Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, for duty as a platoon commander.

Upon completion of this tour, he was assigned to a second tour as a drill instructor, this time serving

aboard MCRD San Diego. He served as a series gunnery sergeant and an instructor at Drill Instructor School. Upon completion of this tour, he was transferred back to 2nd LAAD Battalion, MACG-28, Cherry Point, N.C.

Gibson again served as a battery gunnery sergeant and a battery first sergeant.

He was then selected for first sergeant and assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, where he served as the company first sergeant for Bridge, Alpha and Headquarters and Service Companies.

He was reassigned as first sergeant, Beach Terminal Operations Company, 1st Landing Support Battalion.

After being promoted to his current grade, he assumed duties as sergeant major, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, where the command was engaged in projects from Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Alaska, Miramar, Calif., and Texas.

After serving two years as 7th ESB's sergeant major, Gibson was transferred to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

He served as regimental sergeant major, 5th Marine Regiment, and he recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gibson's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and eight Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

Gibson is married to the former Geisla Frazier of Los Angeles. They have three daughters and currently reside in Oceanside, Calif.



Company E recruits assemble at the starting line of the 3-mile-run route here during the final physical fitness test. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Echo Company's Platoon 2142 answered Chevron's random questions about boot camp experiences:

Q: Why did you join the Marine Corps?



PFC Ronald J. Phillips
Flint, Mich.

A: To get away from the bad things at home and to become part of the world's strongest brotherhood.

Q: What was the funniest moment of recruit training?



Pvt. Jesse D. Proctor
Fort Worth, Texas

A: A recruit was asked how many chins he had, and he replied, "Approximately eight, sir!"

Q: What did you miss most from civilian life?



PFC Alan P. Rivera
Bullhead City, Ariz.

A: Being able to use the head at any time and place.

Q: Did you meet your goal on the rifle range?



PFC George F. Spaniel
Ennis, Texas

A: No, I shot 237. My goal was to shoot a perfect score.

Q: What was your favorite competitive event?



Pvt. Richard G. White
Sonoma, Calif.

A: The Crucible because the stations were competitive, and it showed what real teamwork can do.

Streets, from pg. 5

Weapons and Field Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

There, he assumed duties as a field instructor, primary marksmanship instructor, martial arts instructor and small arms weapons instructor. At the end of his tour, he received a Certificate of Commendation for training more than 40 recruit companies, totaling more than 19,000 recruits, without incidents.

In the summer of 2002, he decided to bring his family home to New Mexico for a little while, so he volunteered for recruiting duty.

During his time on recruiting duty, he has received three Certificates of Commendation, one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and several plaques. In October, he was named Recruiting Station Albuquerque's rookie recruiter of the year.

"It is unusual to find a Marine on recruiting duty who demonstrates the tenacity and tireless effort Staff Sgt. Velasquez has exemplified," said Gunnery Sgt. Eugene Drozd, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Recruiting Substation Farmington. "What is also uncommon is to witness the native culture to which he brings opportunity. It is a pleasure to lead a Marine who prepares his poolers as meticulously as he does, resulting in his zero percent MCRD attrition."

He received this award for his efforts in contracting 48 future Marines in ten months and finishing the year with a net annual percentage rate of 3.27, 4.1 gross and an eight percent Delayed Entry Program attrition and zero percent Marine Corps Recruit Depot attrition. So far, 24 of the young men and women he has contracted have gone to boot camp.

"I do not plan on making recruiting duty a career," he said. "I'm excited to get back to the infantry and serve as a platoon sergeant and once again train young Marines."



SMP Maddens Marines

Sgt. Derek Canales, legal review chief, and Cpl. Chris Weimer, network administrator, Communications and Information Systems Division, play John Madden Football 2004 at Single Marine Program's Playstation 2 tournament at the Locker Room Jan. 21. Staff Sgt. Marlin Wilbur, drill instructor, Company D, won the tourney and a \$75 gift certificate to Best Buy. The tourney went five rounds and lasted five hours. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

CISD reboots Big Blue

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Communication and Information Systems Division defeated Big Blue of 3rd Recruit Training Battalion in Commanding General's Cup volleyball Tuesday at the Depot Field House.

CISD won the first game 30-14 as Sgt. Jarrod Holmes and Cpl. Will Ostoj shot hard serves at Big Blue.

Big Blue battled back in the second game, beating CISD 30-25, forcing a third game to decide the victor. 1st Sgt. Dathan Edwards brought his

team to life fielding some hard CISD balls and laying down some ferocious spikes.

The third game took the form of the first, however, as CISD jumped to an 8-1 lead.

Edwards and company weren't ready to give up though and brought Big Blue close by cutting CISD's lead to 13-10. Some big spikes from Cpl. Mark Jeltema and tight ball handling from Lance Cpl. Eric Norfleet kept Big Blue at bay.

CISD won the third game 15-10. CISD's record improves to 2-2, while Big Blue slips to 2-1.

CG's Cup volleyball is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday until Feb. 10.

Bringin' the Boo-yah!

Chevron's Lance Cpl. Jess Levens sat down with three Depot Marines to discuss Super Bowl XXXVIII. Sgt. Miguel Gonzalez, Depot inspector clerk, Cpl. Tim Brosius and Lance Cpl. Aaron Grieger, both from Communications and Information Systems Division, traded blows with their two cents to tackle some "super" issues.

Will the climate of Houston affect either team?

MG: The climate won't affect either team. They're both from the East and wouldn't mind the warmer weather.

AG: The Patriots will play even better when they aren't freezing cold.

TB: Wait a minute. With no snow to play in, New England's D will be at a loss. The cold, paralyzing weather that usually befriends them will be gone. The opposing offense will just have to worry about the defense and not about how to warm their hands in between plays.

Can Stephen Davis be a factor against the Pats' stout defense?

MG: Stephen Davis will be a lot more effective against this Pats team. DeShaun Foster is another power back who can test this D. All they need to do is pound New England for a little bit and wear them out.

TB: I think the Panthers are going to try to use both of their backs like they did against the Eagles. Davis still isn't full speed, so don't look for Carolina to be utilizing him every down. Money time is now, so look for Carolina to cash out. Davis might play the whole game.

AG: Sure, Davis will be effective. I also think the Cubs will win it next year.

Will Stephen Davis' playoff injury hurt his Super Bowl performance?

AG: It won't affect his performance, but he'll play through some pain.

TB: Come on, he strained a quad three weeks ago. Besides, he went through full workouts just recently and Coach Fox said he's good to go.

MG: He's gotten enough rest this past week to heal.

Carolina surprised a lot of people this year. Can they surprise the Patriots?

AG: If they just don't show up, that would surprise the Patriots.

MG: They'll just play as if they have nothing to lose.

PULLING FOR THE PANTHERS



Sgt. Miguel Gonzalez

NO CONFIDENCE IN CAROLINA



Lance Cpl. Aaron Grieger

PARTIAL TO PATS POTENTIAL



Cpl. Tim Brosius

Nobody expected them to be there in the first place, but they are there. They just play hard-nosed, smash-mouth football.

TB: I don't think they'll surprise New England. Coach Belichick will have the Pats ready. As a team, the Panthers might get a bit overwhelmed and wake up from their dream that has been this season. I'm expecting them to play well and keep the score close.

Why is Tom Brady so good?

AG: He sold his soul to Satan.

MG: Yeah, good is all that he is; not great like Elway, Marino, Favre, Bradshaw or Starr. The list can go on forever. I don't think Brady can beat this team with his arm if he had to. All those other quarterbacks could.

TB: OK, Brady hasn't been around long enough to be considered one of the greats, but if he and his team win this one, there's going to be a lot of talk with his name in the same category as those QBs. Given, he doesn't have Michael Vick's cannon, but he still picks defenses apart, and he's already won a Super Bowl, unlike Marino.

Does having one Super Bowl victory under his belt give Brady and the Pats an advantage?

TB: Definitely, although, Jake Delhomme is no rookie. He was bouncing around the World League for years and even won a championship there, so it's not like he hasn't been in big games. He's been an extremely underrated player until the playoffs, and people see that he can win.

MG: No way! The only advantage I give them is they do have better defense.

AG: Well, Lucifer is on his side.

How will Jake Delhomme match up against a quick, aggressive Patriot defense?

MG: Delhomme will fair well because the Pats blitz and try to stop the run when they need to watch for Steve Smith. Everybody blows up the Pats' D. They can be scored on. The 2000 Ravens, the 1985 Bears, the Steel Curtain and the Raiders with Jack Tatum: those

were defenses.

TB: I think he'll match up well with them. The Pats will have to pick their spots with the blitz because Delhomme is a master of recognizing it and just throwing the ball up for those incompleteness-interference plays. New England's blitzes aren't all that neutralizing; they just play them to a T. Look for Carolina to capitalize on a couple of big runs by picking up the Pats extra rushers and running by. But New England was ranked in the top 10 in total defense this year, so they're nothing to sneeze at. I expect them to turn it up a notch in the red zone.

AG: No, no. He will remember that he is Jake Delhomme, and that he doesn't even know who he is, and then he will play like Jake Delhomme.

What is the Panthers' key to stopping Brady and company?

AG: Brady is nothing a shotgun can't stop.

MG: They've got to abuse those receivers like they did to the Eagles. Just suffocate them. Pats' receivers run a lot of timing routes. Carolina needs to knock them off, then see what Brady can do.

TB: Brady's not going to let the Panthers abuse his receivers. I hate to say it, but these days in the NFL, the only way to keep corners from getting too aggressive with the bump-and-run is to force the D into penalties. Case in point, one of Brady's TD passes against the Colts took advantage of Indy's tight corners. Brady pump-faked to the wide-out running a quick screen, the corner bit and the receiver bolted for the end zone. Expect Brady to find his receivers on the plays when Carolina slacks off and lets the tight end slide by the linebackers. Expect a fair bit of play action from both teams.

What's your prediction for the final outcome?

AG: There will be some good commercials, maybe even a game. Seriously, it'll be a close, low-scoring game with the Patriots winning, just like everyone and their mother is saying.

MG: Panthers, 28-20, enough said.

TB: New England by 10.