



Gilles Lagin lives only five kilometers from Belleau Wood, and during weekends, he provides battlefield tours to Marines, military groups and families of Belleau Wood Marines. Photo by Master Sgt. Phil Mehringer

Frenchman preserves Belleau Wood memory

BY MASTER SGT. PHIL MEHRINGER
Marine Forces Europe

BELLEAU WOOD, France — Driving up a farm road in his faded yellow four-wheel-drive and voicing a few more interesting facts about the battle fought in this area is local resident, collector and amateur historian Gilles Lagin. It is difficult to hear his voice over the engine noise his 1980 Mercedes Benz SUV emits as it navigates the rough terrain.

Lagin keeps his eyes on the trail and continues to describe the battlefield conditions as we struggle to hear him.

Eventually, at the end of a freshly plowed field, Lagin brings his vehicle to a stop near a tree line. We get out and move toward the woods on the edge of the field.

"It is here," he says as he points to the opposite tree line some 300 meters away, "that on the morning of June 6, 1918, U.S. Marines attacked the German lines."

Standing in a trench once occupied by Marines and peering through the tree line, one can only imagine what went through the minds of the Marines occupying this position more than 85 years ago. Their orders received, the objective given, and action is near. This would be no ordinary battle as the fresh, green Marines were about to fight a seasoned German army that had just punched a 70 kilometer hole in the Allied lines and were on their way to Paris.

There was not a definitive Allied defensive line when the Marines, the last of the reserve forces, made

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THE YEAR IN PICTURES

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Inside, though 2003 has gone, the Chevron showcases some moments from a visual year for the Depot. (Counter-clockwise from left) Privates First Class Ryan Sweet and Brandon Staggs, and Privates Clay Parker and Robert Wagner, all of Company C, stepped out of their fathers' shadows and began their own Marine Corps legacies when they graduated September 2003. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens / Chevron

Recounting 03's good and sad moments

COMPILED BY CHEVRON STAFF

2003 was an eventful year for Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, one filled with success and loss.

The new year kicked off with a change in the recruit training schedule. Jan. 8 was the official end of Team Week during recruit training, which means recruits no longer serve mess and maintenance duty. That seven-day period was replaced with additional training.

Many recruits, Marines and sailors gave the gift of life throughout the year during various blood drives held aboard the Depot, as well as Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During 2003, recruits donated 3,496 units of blood, which was a substantial increase from last year's total of 2,718. Additionally, four Depot personnel blood drives netted 216 units.

After several months of renovations, the Depot's new sports bar, the Locker Room, opened its doors Jan. 24. The grand opening marked the end of a five-month-long renovation of the Recreation Center's bar, which became a high-quality sports showplace that gives service members and Depot civilians an inexpensive place to relax and unwind.

Depot Marines continued to train and perform duties in the Ground Security Force throughout 2003. "When things go wrong, there is fog of war and confusion," said Col. John T. Boggs, then commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion. "If something were to happen here, there would be a lot of confusion. Being well-trained is a way to cut through the fog and confusion."

During March, the world watched as Operation Iraqi Freedom began. Even though the Depot and the Western Recruiting Region's missions are recruiting and recruit training, there were Depot service members who were

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New look graces Depot's weekly news

BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Editor

In an attempt to provide our audience a more professional and aesthetically pleasing publication, the Chevron staff has worked diligently over the past few months, combining our efforts to develop a new, redesigned Depot newspaper.

The Chevron's new design was conceptualized and executed by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn,

whose vast knowledge and proficiency in the public affairs field have proven an invaluable asset to our office.

However, all of the Chevron staff have joined forces in an attempt to raise the bar for excellence in military journalism, and we hope that is reflected in your new Chevron.

We urge all of our readers to contact the Chevron staff with feedback on the new design and the quality of our content.

We hope you like your new Chevron. Semper Fi!



RS CHICAGO RECRUITER REPEATS TOP HONOR

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Depot loses corpsman; San Diego fires destroy

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called upon to serve in the war. One of those service members was Hospital Corpsman Third Class Michael Vann Johnson Jr. "Doc" Johnson cared for the recruits of Company H, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion here, but he received orders in January to deploy with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Johnson was killed in action March 25 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Humvee in which he was traveling.

"He was about service," said Rear Adm. J.A. Johnson, commander, Naval Medical Center San Diego. "Service to Marines, service to sailors and service to family."

A graphics illustrator from the Depot's Combat Visual Information Center also played an important role during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt. Jack M. Carrillo served as a combat illustrator during the war. Instead of capturing images on film, he used sketch pads, pencils, graphite and charcoal to tell the Marine Corps story. From Kuwait to Baghdad, Carrillo created more than 150 sketches depicting various aspects of war.

Professional football training is tough, but five San Diego Chargers found out Marine Corps recruit training is no picnic. Quarterback Drew Brees, linebackers Donnie Edwards and Zeke Moreno, and wide receivers Terry Charles and Eric Parker experienced a day in the life of a Marine Corps recruit March 24. Their first stop was at the yellow footprints where they were greeted by not-so-friendly drill instructors. The football players spent the morning running through the Obstacle Course and visiting various training sites. After lunch at the recruit chow hall, the Chargers headed to Weapons and Field Training Battalion. There they had the opportunity to fire weapons and watch recruits in action during the Crucible. Players talked with recruits and told them how they admired their decision to serve their country.

In May, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, and former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, visited the Depot to thank its personnel for making Marines. It was Hagee's first visit to the Depot as Commandant and McMichael's last visit as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

The Depot welcomed a new sergeant major when Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Pulley replaced Sgt. Maj. Bruce A. Mackamul as the Sergeant Major of MCRD San Diego April 25. Mackamul was the Depot sergeant major since August 1999. He retired

from the Marine Corps in June.

The recruit training schedule underwent another major change in May. The new schedule lengthened third phase training by two weeks, giving recruits more time to recover from the physical rigors of training during phase two. The new schedule was implemented to better prepare new Marines for Marine Combat Training after graduation.

Always striving to be good neighbors, the Depot hosted 21,000 marathon runners at the finish line of the 2003 Rock 'N' Roll Marathon for the third consecutive year.

The Depot also serves as the headquarters for Western Recruiting Region and one of its recruiting districts reached a major milestone. The 12th Marine Corps District Marines made history in June when they celebrated 100 consecutive months of making its recruiting mission. The district celebrated with a picnic, attended by three colonels who served as commanding officers during the those 100 months, which began February 1995. "This was a tremendous achievement accomplished by hundreds of Marines who worked tirelessly to find young, highly qualified Americans to take up the challenge of becoming a United States Marine," said Col. Angie Salinas, commanding officer, 12th Marine Corps District.

In July, the Depot command museum was renamed James L. Day Hall in memory of the late Maj. Gen. James L. Day. He



Lance Cpl. Aaron Card, military police officer, Provost Marshal's Office, stands watch at Gate 2, the Barnett Ave. entrance to the Depot. Card, along with many other Marines, wore a surgical mask to protect against the thick smoke that polluted the air throughout the San Diego area after three major fires raged out of control. Cpl. Ethan E. Rocker/Chevron



A painting of Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael V. Johnson Jr. has hung in the Branch Medical Clinic here since the building was redesignated Johnson Hall Sept. 17 in honor of the fallen corpsman. Johnson was killed in action while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cpl. Ethan E. Rocker/Chevron

was a Medal of Honor recipient for actions on Okinawa during World War II and served in the Marine Corps for 43 years. The museum was named in his honor because of his accomplishments as a Marine and his contributions to the preservation of history.

Maj. Gen. Jan Huly relinquished command of MCRD San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region to Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. Aug. 29. During his tenure, the Depot made noteworthy accomplishments for which Huly accepted little credit. "I'm only the commanding general here," said Huly. "I try to orchestrate and ensure that people of the recruit depot are doing all the accomplishing of things."

A second Depot building was renamed during a dedication ceremony in September. The Branch Medical Clinic was renamed Johnson Hall in honor of "Doc" Johnson. After he was killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Johnson was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and promoted to petty officer second class for his bravery and selflessness. The clinic also dedicated a wall to Johnson's memory. The wall features a painting of Johnson and photos of him serving in Iraq. Brig. Gen. Paxton attended the ceremony and spoke of Johnson's bravery and sacrifice. "He wasn't afraid to step into harm's way and take care of Marines on the battlefield," said Paxton. "We were honored to have served with Michael Johnson. We're honored to recognize his legacy."

In October, the Depot opened its doors to civilian competition again during the second MCRD San Diego Boot Camp Challenge. Nearly 1,800 Marines, sailors and civilians participated in the Boot Camp Challenge, a three-mile obstacle run through the Depot that made runners not only run, but jump, crawl, climb and push. The Boot Camp Challenge kicked off Fleet Week 2003.

Dry October Santa Ana winds turned a brush fire into a firestorm that raged across San Diego County and killed more than 20 people, destroyed nearly 1,200

homes and burned more than 315,000 acres. Although the firestorm did not reach the Depot, the impact here was great. Several Depot Marines, sailors, civilians and their families had to evacuate their homes and many service members from around San Diego County sought shelter at MCRD billeting. More than 200 adults and 200 children took shelter at the bachelor enlisted quarters. The firestorm also affected the Depot's daily activities and recruit training. Intense smoke, ash and soot from the massive fires filled the air. The air quality was deemed unhealthy by county officials and physical and outdoor activities were curtailed until the smoke cleared a couple of days later.

When fiscal 2003 came to end, it was time to recognize the top drill instructor, recruiter, and recruiting staff noncommissioned officer in the nation. MCRD San Diego and Western Recruiting Region won those top honors. The 2003 Drill Instructor of the Year was Gunnery Sgt. Terrence C. Whitcomb, series gunnery sergeant, Company K. The 2003 Recruiter of the Year was Gunnery Sgt. John H. Choi from Recruiting Station Orange, Calif., 12th Marine Corps District. The 2003 Staff Noncommissioned Officer of the Year was Gunnery Sgt. Kent Cartmill, from Recruiting Substation Reno, Nev., Recruiting Station Sacramento, 12th Marine Corps District.

It was an eventful year for the Depot, and in December it was time for service members to gather for fun competition and camaraderie at the annual Commanding General's Field Meet. The field meet was the final event in the year-long CG's Cup competitions. After the points were totaled, Recruit Training Regiment took first place, Headquarters and Service Battalion came in second place, and the Coast Guard took third.

2003 is in the history books, and Depot Marines, sailors and civilians are ready to charge into the new year and continue to be successful in building the future of the Marine Corps.

Will your resolutions last in the new year?

BY CMDR. MARK J. LOGID
Deputy Depot Chaplain

Over 4,000 years ago the ancient Babylonians welcomed the new year by making resolutions. If you want to blame someone for the pressure to make changes in the new year, blame the ancients, who struggled with the same challenge.

As the years progressed for them, each year brought new contributions to the trash heap of old resolutions, which for one reason or another didn't come about. Maybe it was the lack of will power or the wrong timing or the opportunity didn't present itself. No matter what the excuse, often our looking back is filled with regret and grief over all the "should haves" and "could haves" that did not materialize. As you review the resolutions you made last year, what kind of success did you have in following through?

The Web site <http://pittsburgh.about.com/cs/holidays/tp/resolutions.htm> researched the most common resolutions people make. According to the site, the top ten resolutions are as follows:

1. Spend More Time with Family and Friends – A recent poll conducted by General Nutrition Centers shows that 59% of Americans vow to appreciate loved ones and spend more time with family and friends this year.

2. Fit in Fitness – The evidence is in for fitness. Regular exercise has been associated with more health benefits than anything else known to man. Studies show that it reduces the risk of some cancers, increases longevity, helps achieve and maintain weight loss, enhances mood, lowers blood pressure, and even improves arthritis. In short, exercise keeps you healthy and makes you look and feel better.

3. Tame the Bulge – Fifty-five percent of adults in America are overweight, so it is not surprising to find that weight loss is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions. Setting reasonable goals and staying focused are the two most important factors in sticking with a weight loss program, and the key to success for those millions of Americans who made a New Year's commitment to shed extra pounds.

4. Quit Smoking – If you have resolved to make this the year that you stamp out your smoking habit, over-the-counter availability of nicotine replacement therapy now provides easier access to proven quit-smoking aids. Even if you've tried to quit before and failed, don't let it get you down. On average, smokers try about four times before they quit for good. Start enjoying the rest of your smoke-free life!

5. Enjoy Life More – The changed mood of the country following September 11 has brought about a shift in Americans' resolutions for the New Year.

Millions of Americans have vowed to make this the year to diet and exercise and to appreciate life itself, according to a national survey released in December 2002.

6. Quit Drinking – While many people use the New Year as an incentive to finally stop drinking, most are not equipped to make such a drastic lifestyle change all at once. Many heavy drinkers fail to quit cold turkey but do much better when they taper gradually or learn to moderate their drinking. If you have decided you want to stop drinking, there is a world of help and support available.

7. Get Out of Debt – Was money a big source of stress in your life last year? Join the millions of Americans who have resolved to spend this year getting a handle on their finances. It's a promise that will repay itself many times over in the year ahead.

8. Learn Something New – Have you vowed to make this year the year to learn something new? Perhaps you are considering a career change; want to learn a new language or just how to fix your computer? Whether you take a course or read a book, you'll find education to be one of the easiest, most motivating New Year's resolutions to keep. Challenge your mind in the coming year, and your horizons will expand.

9. Help Others – A popular, unselfish New Year's resolution, volunteerism can take many forms. Whether you choose to spend time helping out at your local library, mentoring a child, or building a house, these nonprofit volunteer organizations could really use your help.

10. Get Organized – On just about every New Year resolution top ten list, organization can be a very reasonable goal. Whether you want your home organized enough that you can invite someone over on a whim, or your office organized enough that you can find the stapler when you need it, these tips and links should get you started on the way to a more organized life.

If you didn't make those desired changes this past year, then don't despair. You are not alone. Human beings have not changed much in their ability to focus on the ideal and then to come up short of it.

However, as the gate to the New Year opens before us, we have the promise of more time and opportunity to make changes if we so desire. Lessons learned by looking back over the past year can be a guide to our choices and behavior in the New Year.

Start small. Often we get frustrated with resolutions because they are too large and unmanageable. An elephant is eaten "one bite at a time." Often change is initiated and motivation increases with small successes. As you enter January, the month named after the Roman god Janus, who represented new beginnings, remember that each day is a new beginning under God's all knowing and loving care.

Places, faces affect Marines attitudes

BY CPL. MICAH B. SNEAD
Jet Stream Staff

The grass is always greener on the other side for many Marines. The open-ended promise of a different duty station puts stars in the eyes of lance corporals and Marines everywhere.

It seems like no matter where you are in the Corps, somewhere else is better. Especially for junior Marines, opinions on duty stations are as varied as the oceans are deep. One Marine's favorite could be another's most loathed.

For me, Jacksonville, N.C. is the pit of the world. I can't imagine anything worse than being stuck at a duty station where it seems like every third business is a liquor store-tattoo parlor-barber shop hybrid. I think if it weren't for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the surrounding air stations, Jacksonville would have a population of 20, not counting wildlife.

But my opinion is based on pure ignorance and a deep bias. My only visit to Jacksonville came during a month of Marine Combat Training and it was the most miserably point of my Marine life so far. I hated MCT and I wanted to be anywhere else but there. Getting as far away from Jacksonville as possible was my only goal in life. But that sour taste in my mouth was from what I was doing, not where I was. I'm basing all of my feelings about the community on one situation, and that's pretty ridiculous.

It didn't really hit me until I heard about the outstanding support the Jacksonville community showed for its Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Apparently during the mass deployments of Gulf War I, most left-behind families packed up and moved out of Jacksonville, but this wasn't the case during the recent conflict. That struck me as odd. People actually wanted to stay in Jacksonville? The horror.

But behind the shoeshine/barber shop/tattoo parlors/strip clubs of Jacksonville, lies a very supportive, family-oriented community. Memorials for fallen and current Marines are found in abundance, from flags and ribbons to parks and highways. How could I ever

think so despairingly about a place that has such a strong sense of responsibility and respect for their local military members?

But I was really just blinded by my own ignorance. And once I noticed it in myself, I began to see it in Marines around me all the time. For a lot of Marines here, Beaufort is the last place they want to be.

When Marines aren't locating, closing with, and destroying our enemies, we tend to get a little too comfortable. And as soon as we get comfortable, we get grumpy. No one ever complains about sitting in a fighting hole with a rifle and live rounds. But I hear plenty of complaints about how "boring" Beaufort is, and how "there's nothing to do around here."

Cry me an inter-coastal river. Beaufort is home to more than 500 years of history and culture. It has more music, theater, dance and art events than any other small coastal town in the region. Beaufort has been featured in films such as "Forrest Gump", "G.I. Jane" and, of course, "The Great Santini." If that's not enough to get you excited, Charleston, S.C. and Savannah, Ga., also popular tourism and cultural destinations, are within an hour drive away.

Most complaints directed toward Beaufort are focused on its size. It's easily forgotten that quality means a lot more than quantity. We don't have a mega-mall, but we also don't have mega-rush hours. There's no wild nightlife, but we seem to get in enough trouble with the clubs and bars we do have.

My theory on duty stations is valid for the Marine Corps as well. You have to make the best of any situation and you're only going to get from it what you put in. Whether you're in Beaufort, Jacksonville, Okinawa, Japan or Diego Garcia, you have to play the hand that's been dealt to you.

Anything in your environment can get on your nerves; from the color of your office walls to the smell of your nearest coworker, or the pace of your local community and the section of the world you're in. The difference between winning and losing, between thriving and surviving, is how you play your cards.



Downtown USO continues serving service members

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

During the new year, the downtown United Service Organizations center plans to continue its tradition of providing support and boosting morale to active duty military and their dependents.

While the Neil Ash Airport Center USO mainly serves active duty service members arriving and departing from San Diego, the downtown center focuses primarily on active duty military and their families who live in the area.

"We like to look at ourselves as a home away from home," said Kate Juergens, director of public affairs, USO San Diego.

Located at 303 A St., the downtown center makes for

a convenient stop for service members and dependents commuting in and around the San Diego metropolitan area, according to Juergens.

However, the center does not stop there. "When a visitor arrives at the center they can expect a warm greeting," said Juergens.

Along with that warm greeting, depending on the date and time of arrival, a guest can be fed and even pampered. Every Tuesday night, visitors are treated to a free dinner. This month's menu includes; chili, cheeseburger pie, and spaghetti.

If a visitor shows up to the center on the designated "Spa Day", they will be treated to a pampering from nail, hair, and skin professionals. Information on "Spa Day" can be acquired through the Key Volunteer Network or the USO.

The downtown center even has a room filled with toys to keep children busy while the parent is being pampered.

For those business-professional types, the center has conference rooms that come complete with a big oval table, digital television and videocassette recorder, and a projection screen for presentations.

One of the newest additions to the downtown center is its free Video Connect E-Mail service, which allows loved ones to see their service member while deployed away from home.

"It's one of our most popular services," said Juergens.

Service is the number one priority at the USO. Whether it's for the free donuts and coffee or for the family support services, the downtown center continues to be a valuable asset to many military members today and strives to continue that tradition for years to come.

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Bikes for tikes

Staff Sgt. Saul Barajas, drill instructor, Co. H, 2nd Battalion and his family were one of 19 families from Recruit Training Regiment who received free bicycles from BAE Systems (systems, defense, and aerospace contractor). BAE Systems worked with the United Service Organization, donating a total of 57 bicycles to Depot Marine families. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron

Fantasy wedding giveaway

The Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce is giving away a fantasy wedding to one lucky military couple. One member of the couple must be active duty military. The couple must be engaged by Jan. 15. Both the bride and groom must be 21 years old. The couple must submit an application, an essay of 300 words or less about why they should be chosen, and a photograph by Jan. 15. For more information, contact Capt. Carrie A. Craig, protocol officer, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. at (760) 725-5780. Both bride and groom must also be present for an interview Feb. 6. The wedding will commence June 13, 2004 at 11 a.m. For more information, visit: www.fallbrookchamberwedding.com/fantasy.wedding.htm.

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,

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call Staff Sgt. Michael July at (619) 524-1754 or e-mail him at julyma@mcrdsd.usmc.mil.

CG's Cup needs competitors

The Commanding General's Cup competition is about to start for 2004, and participants are encouraged to join the quest for the coveted cup. The first event of the competition is volleyball, and currently, only one section has fielded a team. The Depot needs maximum participation from all sections and individuals in order continue the competition. Other events include flag football, basketball, horse-shoes, soccer and the CG's Field Meet. The Field Meet is the final competition that pits all units against each other in sprint relays, dizzy izzy relays, kayak relays, egg toss and a tug of war.

All Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen are invited and encouraged to come out and represent their units in this year's CG's Cup.

For more information, contact Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548, e-mail her at dickinsonr@usmc-mccs.org.

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.

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.

DD-214 available online

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following Web site for veterans to access their DD-214s online. The address is <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. For more information, contact Lyn Krout at (410) 306-1755 or via e-mail at lined.krout@us.army.mil

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.ddas.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.sdmaritime.org.

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.



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Belleau, from Pg. 1

their way to the enemy while navigating through exhausted Allied Forces retreating from the front. Answering the plea from a French officer for the Marines to join the retreat, Capt. Lloyd Williams shouted, "Retreat, hell! We just got here!"

Although U.S. Marines in the area stopped the German offensive, it was now time to push them back and out of Belleau Wood.

The waist-high wheat field the Marines had to cross starting their offensive was covered with interlocking sectors of German machine guns. "It was bad, real bad," said Lagin. He continued to say that while attacking Hill 142, the Marines would take 333 casualties - dead, wounded or missing. By the end of the day the Marines suffered 1,087 casualties, exceeding the total of all previous casualties in the Corps' history.

The battle for Belleau Wood raged on, back and forth until June 24, when the Germans were pushed out of the northern edge of the woods and Marine Maj. Maurice Shearer telegraphed the American Expeditionary Force headquarters, "Woods now U.S. Marine Corps' entirely."

Lagin explained that it was during the battle for Belleau Wood that the famous quote, "Come on you-sons-of-bitches, do you want to live forever" was screamed by Gunnery Sgt. Dan Daily. "He had to motivate the Marines," Lagin added.

THE FASCINATION BEGINS

The fascination Lagin has with the Battle of Belleau Wood started when he was about 9 years old. On display near the north end of battlefield are German artillery pieces that Lagin and other schoolmates came to visit. It was this experience, combined with stories from his grandfather, a WW II veteran stationed near the Maginot Line and later captured by the Germans, which perked an early interest in military history.

Lagin has a difficult time explaining what he felt, but said that during this time, "Something started for me."

Most of all, though, Lagin explains that the combined events of a community project and a school experience at about the same time ensured his interest in the Marine Corps and Belleau Wood forever.

The community project educated Lagin on the proper archeological techniques to locate, unearth and care for ancient artifacts. He worked for several years volunteering and honing his new skills near the old castle in Chateau-Thierry, his hometown, until professionals were hired full time.

The final event that destined Lagin to become infatuated with Marines and Belleau Wood was simply an oversight. The fact that World War I history, according to his teacher and textbook, mentioned little about American participation in the war unsettled the young man because he knew better.

It was several years later when Lagin's grandmother gave him a metal detector for his 12th birthday that his two passions came together. The simple metal detector had a single bulb that would light up when placed over a dense object such as metal. Lagin took the metal detector to Belleau Wood and on the very first day he discovered equipment belonging to a German soldier, including a belt buckle and cartridges.

TODAY'S MARINES

Now, 39-year-old Lagin has only strengthened his interest in the American participation in World War I. A fork-lift mechanic, he said his family has lived in and around Chateau-Thierry as farmers for five generations and the "ground was saved by the Americans that came to this battle." In his broken English Lagin said, "The first help to my family came from Americans. They built a primitive wooden house and (were) given horses for working in the field."

Lagin has met many Marines who visit the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery that

lies at the northern edge of Belleau Wood where 2,289 American service members who fought in the vicinity are buried. He has photos with several Commandants of the Marine Corps including Generals Mundy, Krulak and Jones.

Educating U.S. Marines about the battle of Belleau Wood motivates Gilles Lagin. He has met individual Marines and groups of Marines, and he has even spent the night in Belleau Wood with Marines. His time spent camping with Marines from 2nd Bn, 6th Marines a few years ago is still fresh in his memory.

"We found an old .45 that night," he said. "Spending time with Marines, it is a part of my life," he added. "I am very proud to tell the story of the U.S. Marines."

Lagin estimates that before September 11, 2001 he visited with approximately 1,000 Marines a year to conduct battlefield studies. Since then, he says, there have not been as many visitors to the battlefield, although he hopes that will change soon.

HELPING FAMILIES

Lagin's fascination with the battle of Belleau Wood has helped many American families bring closure to coping with the loss of a loved one. Lagin has a Web site that provides assistance to families that would like to know more about how their Marine may have died or where he fought in the battle. He added that most families only received a message from the U.S. government that their loved one had died and received little additional facts.

With as little as a last name and a unit, Lagin can cross-reference his library of books to find field reports from the day, time and location of a Marine's death. He can then find out what the unit's last orders were, and from that information provide a more detailed account of the battle that took place on a particular day, digest it all, then provide a synopsis to inquiring families.

"It is my passion to explain what Americans were doing here and to honor their memory and their heroic fight," said Lagin. "I try to explain what really happened and how he may have died."

MUSEUM

Lagin's passion for the battle of Belleau Wood is better explained by a visit to his museum.

While visiting his museum and perusing his artifacts, one may get the impression that his passion has turned into an obsession. Lagin has complete uniforms, weapons and all of the items one would carry on the battlefield. Although the Frenchman may live in a two hundred year old house and is collecting artifacts from an 85-year-old war, when asked how he obtains items for his museum he simply states with a smile, "eBAY!"

One of his most recent additions to the museum is a complete World War I U.S.

Marine uniform he purchased for \$500. Another recent purchase from the Internet was 47 German maps used during the battle. Many of his museum artifacts were also purchased at flea markets and estate sales. However, Lagin mentioned, it is getting more difficult to find items these days.

The most prized possessions in his collection are "items with identification," said Lagin. With identification, the item can be traced to the owner and perhaps the owner to a family. Lagin added that he has had success in the past, but contacting families of the rightful owner is very difficult.

In his museum are American, French and German relics and artifacts. Much of his inventory is in great condition. The artifacts found on the actual battlefield are in the worst condition. Every piece tells its own story and is a treasured item in his collection.

Standing in his museum Lagin opened up a display case, reached in and picked up an upper receiver of a Springfield '03, the standard issued weapon Marine infantry carried into battle. He said he found this piece in the wheat field (Hill 142) where we visited earlier that day. As he pulled the receiver out, he pointed to the chamber where the round, encrusted in mud and rust, was clearly visible. The bolt was to the rear, the round in the chamber.

"What happened," I asked, since the bolt should have been seated home on the round. For the next few moments, we went through plausible explanations. Clearly the weapon received an impact breaking the left side of the receiver. The impact looked like that of a shell fragment. But more importantly, I wanted to know who owned the weapon. Did the Marine survive?

The next item I picked up had a more obvious explanation. It was a semi-rusted helmet worn by a Marine with a clear entry hole in the front and a more destructive exit hole in the rear. No further questions needed.

When asked how much money his



An unmistakable sight in the Chateau-Thierry area is that of Lagin's "Semper Fi" sticker on his vehicle's rear. Master Sgt. Phil Mehrlinger



Gilles Lagin's displays Marine Corps paraphernalia from the WW I era. Master Sgt. Phil Mehrlinger

collection cost him, Lagin struggled to find an answer. He hesitated and tilted his head, shrugged his shoulders and said about 375,000 Francs, which is about \$70,000 dollars. This amount did not include the money necessary to renovate his barn to maintain the museum. That was another \$20,000 he said.

A MAN AND HIS BATTLEFIELD

The details Lagin can talk about while touring the Belleau Wood battlefield are mind-boggling. His knowledge of the location of German and Marine positions is extraordinary. His accountability and detail of weapons and equipment used during the battle are accurate to the locations of where and when they were manufactured. His mind is as sharp as a tack, and there is no hesitation when he answers questions.

To expect a single person to know where every foxhole, shell hole and trench line is located on a battlefield such as Belleau Wood is unrealistic. To believe that Lagin does not know the location of every foxhole, shell hole and trench line on the battlefield would be equally unrealistic.

"It is small, but it is the most interesting battlefield. Everything is the same, nothing has changed," said Lagin.

FUTURE GOALS

Lagin recently was hired by a film company from Hollywood to be a military adviser for the movie "The Lost Battalion." During May 2001, he spent nearly a month working on the film providing detailed and accurate information to cast and crew. Lagin said that his experience with working on "The Lost Battalion" was somewhat frustrating because they did not use much of the detailed information he provided to the production crew. However, he said he would like to work with Hollywood again.

"If they want to make a movie about Belleau Wood, they need to talk to me," said Lagin. "I will ensure the movie is accurate and correct." Lagin's director of choice would be none other than Steven Spielberg. "He did a great job with 'Saving Private Ryan.'"

The future of his museum is also a concern for Lagin. He would like to see the governments of France and the U.S. come together and open a museum near where Devil Dog Fountain is located in the town of Belleau. "With the American people and French government cooperation maybe this is possible," said Lagin. However, he also acknowledges he has no "diplomatic history to make the museum a reality."

He also mentioned that perhaps an agreement could be worked out between the Marine Corps and the town of Belleau that would facilitate progress for a permanent museum.

Dreams are a reality of life and Lagin has them too. His ultimate dream is to be the keeper of "Belleau Wood." As curator, he would ensure that the area in and around the Woods would stay as pristine as possible. He also has initiatives that would help visitors understand the battle such as a developing a brochure to hand out. He would also ensure all of the private memorials, informative plates and the statue of "Iron Mike" received proper attention.

"This is my dream," said Lagin. He is a single man who has secured and will not let the history of the United States Marine Corps disappear in the country of France. For those lucky enough to visit Belleau Wood, Lagin encourages them to contact him by visiting his Web site at http://perso.wanadoo.fr/war_1/

If, for some reason, you unexpectedly show up in Chateau-Thierry or Belleau, France with time on your hands, just look for a dinghy, old 4x4 with the only "Semper Fi" sticker in all of France stuck to the back windshield. That would be Gilles Lagin, on his way to or returning from the battlefield.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



MOTIVATE Lance Cpl. Mike Passe, Company I, prepares for his physical fitness test. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



MOVE With speed and intensity, Sgt. Fernando Galvan electrifies a new summer batch of Company L recruits. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



UNIFY Company L recruits gather below the rappelling tower and listen to instructions from above by Gunnery Sgt. Christopher R. Reed, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Instructional Training Company. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

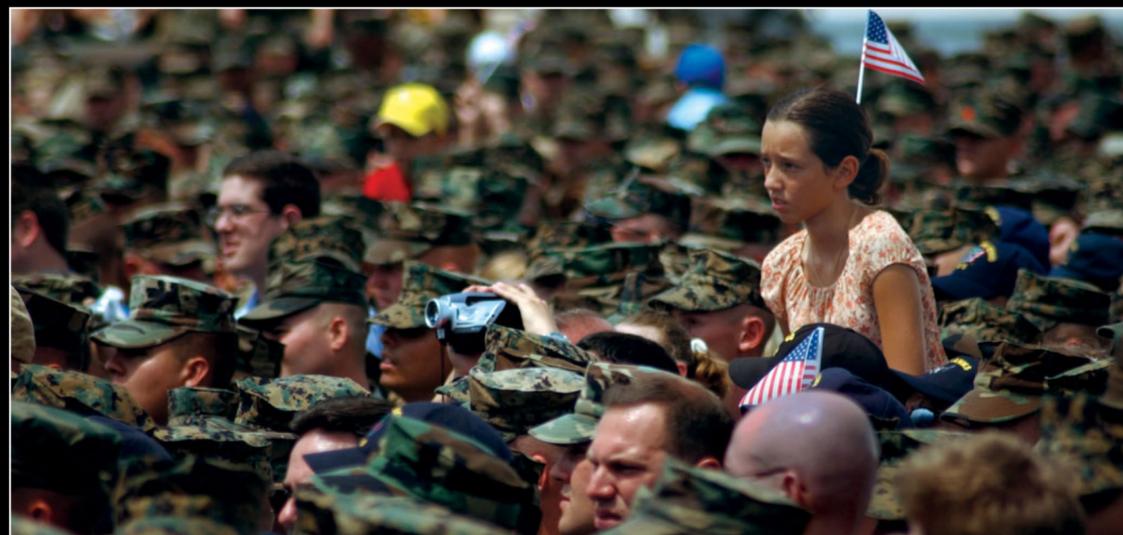


TRAIN A sea of rifles and shaved heads from Company C forms at the Depot's bayonet assault course during martial-arts instruction. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

In this new photography era, Chevron staff members paralleled the rapidly advancing industry through 2003 and shot everything digitally; however, each visual offering in this handful of pictures paints last year with a timeless essence. Chevron selected these classic pictorial moments from an annual archive of hundreds.



NEVER QUIT Amid a booming combat simulation, Pvt. R.C. Zahn, Company C, crawls toward a ditch near the end of the Movement Course at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



SUPPORT A girl perches on a service member's shoulders during President Bush's visit to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 14. The president spoke on a number of issues related to the military and thanked the Marines and sailors for their service to the nation. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron



APPRECIATE While the San Diego Chargers warmed up before their 15th annual "Salute to the Military," color guard sailors stood in the foreground. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche



BLAZE TRAILS During the Crucible, these Company M recruits negotiated 32 obstacles and marched more than 40 miles in 54 hours, all while eating only three meals. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



GRAB HOLD Pvt. David Hicks, Company L, grabs every bar across the Arm Stretch obstacle of the Confidence Course. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron



REMEMBER John E. Finelli, a Raider who joined the Marines in 1942 when he was 20, wears the Raider logo on a ring he bought in Tijuana, Mexico. Finelli, who hailed from Bogota, N.J., fought with 3rd Raider Battalion, Company E. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

Leading the way to the Corps' future

Former special-operations soldier leaves Army elite to make Marines

BY LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR. AND SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Chevron staff

D-Day—June 6, 1944, the Germans had the Army's 29th Infantry Division pinned down on Normandy's infamous Omaha Beach. General Norman D. Cota, assistant division commander of the 29th, knew his men were in a dire situation and had to break through the German defenses soon. In the heat of the battle, he called upon men he knew could do the job. He called upon Army Rangers.

"Rangers, get up and lead the way!" Cota yelled. It was at this time and place the Ranger motto, 'Rangers Lead The Way,' was born.

Before Staff Sgt. Robert Armendariz became 'always faithful' to the Corps, he served as one of those intrepid soldiers who are renowned for their high standards of discipline and proficiency on the battlefield.

Armendariz, who currently serves as senior drill instructor, Platoon 2132, Company F, fed his adolescent hunger for 'guts and glory' at the young age of 17. Anxious to don a camouflage uniform and get into the mix of the U.S. military, he gave up a ticket to Marine Corps boot camp and accepted the Army's more immediate end to an enthusiastic teenager's pursuit of prestige, honor and high esprit de corps.

Nevertheless, Armendariz would eventually return to the Marine recruiter's doorstep.

"I left the Army for the Marine Corps," said the hazel-eyed Armendariz. "I always wanted to be a Marine."

Armendariz served in the Army for more than eight years before leaving to fulfill his Leatherneck dreams. His adventurous military beginning took him through several of the Army's toughest schools and hardened him on battlefields in back-to-back American conflicts—from Operation Just Cause in Panama to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Graduating basic training and infantry school was just the beginning for Armendariz. He earned his wings in Airborne School, fought through hunger and sleep deprivation in Ranger School, and endured the painstaking challenges of Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School.

He served as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division's

Long Range Surveillance Detachment, a unit that has a mission similar to that of the Corps' Force Reconnaissance units.

After all of this, something was missing from his life. "I liked the units I was with in the Army," he said. "But even after being in combat twice, there was still something missing that I felt I could find in the Marine Corps."

In order to find what was missing, he had to struggle for the opportunity to fulfill his long-time goal.

His obligation as a father of three became an obstacle in his quest to earn the title Marine when he had to get a waiver from the Corps to let him attend recruit training while, at the same time, supporting his children. The waiver took longer than expected to get approved, according to Armendariz.

"I got the run-around from one recruiter for a year before I went to another city where a different recruiter got me in quick," Armendariz said.

At 26 years old, he came into the Corps with an open enlistment contract. The fact that his military occupational specialty was uncertain didn't bother Armendariz because he knew any male Marine could try out for the Marine reconnaissance program.

Armendariz became a Crash, Fire, Rescue Marine, but just as the Army's toughest challenges beckoned to Armendariz, so did the Corps'. He looked to the recon program for the challenging lifestyle he was accustomed to.

But during his quest for the recon MOS, Armendariz encountered an obstacle that was insurmountable for even him. A week before his indoctrination into the recon program, he was promoted to sergeant.

Even though the promotion was a proud occasion, it also meant he was no longer eligible for the recon program, and his hopes of getting back to his infantry roots were smothered.

Losing hope of finding a fitting challenge for a Marine with his skills, he was ready to join the Army again until he was influenced by his sergeant major.

"He asked me if I would stay if he could get me orders to the drill field," said Armendariz. "I took the orders because he said it was hard."

Since completing Drill Instructor School here in April 2001, he has trained eight cycles of recruits.



Staff Sgt. Robert Armendariz spent more than eight years in the Army before leaving his career as a soldier to pursue his long-time dream of becoming a Marine. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

He said he now hopes to be on the next deployment to Iraq to see Marines he trained in action. He wants to make sure he did a good job.

"Sometimes they will come see me for advice before they go or some have come back after being in Iraq and thanked me," Armendariz said. According to him, it's very rewarding to see Marines he trained come back to visit him.

"He's a role model," said PFC Alvaro Rodriguez, Platoon 2132. "He gave speeches that really inspired me."

Although he misses recon and the infantry, he has many fond memories of his days in the Army and much to be proud of in his roller coaster career among the Army's elite and America's 911 force—the Marines.

Retiring from the Corps in a few years, Armendariz may pursue a career as a teacher and help young people get started off in the right direction — much like he does now.

"After I give the command 'dismissed' on graduation day, I see parents who don't even recognize their sons," Armendariz said. "I see the tears of joy on their faces, and that lets me know I've done my job. I don't need any medals or ribbons. That's all the reward I need, and I'm just as proud as that mom and dad are."

Physically challenged siblings inspire new Marine

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

PFC Alvaro Rodriguez, Platoon 2132, Company F, learned to set the example at a young age and has been helping his seven older siblings along the way as he reaches his goals.

He is the first of his siblings to graduate high school and has also taken on the role of caretaker to his mentally disabled brother, and sister, who was mistakenly shot in the head during a violent dispute. His family's support has inspired him to become a Marine and with every achievement he makes, his family lifts him to another level.

"It has always been a thought in my head," said Rodriguez. "My sister liked the Marines. She always said the Marines was something I should do."

Rodriguez hoped to return his unfortunate sister's inspiration after she first urged him to become a Marine. Now recovered from her severe head wound, Rodriguez hopes she will be impressed with his transformation.

The thought of seeing his sister out of intensive care, and her seeing him in a Marine Corps uniform, has helped Rodriguez fuel his desire to succeed and claim the title of Marine.



PFC Alvaro Rodriguez gives blood. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Top dog in the Windy City

Recruiter earns top honors at Recruiting Station Chicago for second year running

BY SGT. KIMBERLY LEONE
Recruiting Station Chicago

Working persistently out of his humble office in Valparaiso, Ind., Staff Sgt. Charles P. Berglund expects to succeed. And he does. He has established a self-fulfilling prophecy in which he achieves exactly what he expects, success as a Marine Corps recruiter.

Berglund's success has led to his selection as the RS Chicago Recruiter of the Year for the second year in a row. In addition to this back-to-back achievement, Berglund has been recognized as the 9th Marine Corps District's Recruiter of the Year for FY03.

Berglund joined the Marine Corps in June 1995. Excelling in his first school, Basic Motor Transportation, he trained as a Logistics Vehicle Systems operator. He served in several billets within motor transport before attending Recruiters School in the spring of 2001.

During his 26 months as a recruiter for Recruiting Station Chicago, Berglund has earned numerous recruiting awards including the Pace Setter Award for writing the first three contracts of the month, nine 4.0 Club Awards, eight Hammer Awards, and several quarterly and monthly recruiter awards.

His recognition as RS Chicago Recruiter of the Month for four months of fiscal year 2002, and RS Chicago Recruiter of the Quarter for three quarters of fiscal year 2002, led Berglund to compete for Marine Corps Recruiter of the Year in 2002.

"My first year I did not get the Recruiter of the Nation," said Berglund. "Earning RS Chicago Recruiter of the Year wasn't good enough for me, so I set my goal this year to win the national award."

Berglund stepped into this year's competition for the national honors just nine contracts away from the coveted Centurion award. While top honors went to Gunnery Sgt. John H. Choi, RSS Orange, Orange County Calif., Berglund's accomplishments remain undiminished

in the eyes of his fellow recruiters and SNOICs.

"The thing that continues to impress me about Staff Sgt. Berglund is his work ethic," said Master Sgt. David A. Lee, SNOIC, RSS Indiana. "He just doesn't settle for the average or baseline. He sets his goal to be the best."

Lee also said Berglund's ability to persevere and to put his personality to work for him contributes to his success.

"He has an uncanny ability to relate to everyone," Lee said. "Kids love him. Parents love him. School faculty love him."

In addition to having a personality seemingly designed for recruiting, Berglund benefits from following one of the key rules in sales and recruiting, "Believe in what you sell."

"I believe one reason I am an outstanding recruiter is because of the fact that I believe one hundred percent in the product that I am selling, the Marine Corps," he said. "I definitely have a true passion and love for what I sell."

"The Corps sells itself," he added. "I don't even think of myself as a salesman. I think of myself as just a Marine in the community who is looked upon to answer questions and to dispel misconceptions."

Berglund's approach has not only earned him a number of plaques and accolades but also a position of greater responsibility and authority. As of October 2003, he is the SNOIC of the recently-established recruiting substation in Valparaiso. The position affords him the opportunity to mentor a new recruiter, Staff Sgt. Matthew S. Houston.

"New recruiters can learn many lessons from Staff Sgt. B," said Lee. "I think the most important thing to learn from him would be how to start off on the duty. He always tells people (recruiters) 'you must work extremely hard early to establish yourself in schools and in the community.' Following this will pay dividends your entire tour."

Establishing himself early in his recruiting tour proved an emotional and stressful battle for Berglund. Dur-



Staff Sgt. Charles P. Berglund, recruiter, Recruiting Station Chicago, has been selected as Recruiter of the Year 2003. Berglund has been honored with the award for the second year in a row. RS Chicago photo/Chevron

ing his first year as a recruiter, Berglund dealt with the loss of his father and his brother to cancer, in addition to other personal battles. The stress accumulating in his off-duty hours accompanied by the stresses associated with recruiting duty would have slowed or completely stopped most Marines, according to Lee. But not Berglund.

Time and stress management round out a recruiter's toolbox, according to Berglund. He emphasizes this when working with Houston.

"He never seems to stress, no matter how close we are to making mission or how many 'special cases' I throw in his direction," Houston said.

"You have to be able to stay focused and not stress about the mission," said Berglund. "Stressing about mission can lead to pressure sales. You don't need that and neither does the Marine Corps. Besides, potential applicants and their parents can sense pressure sales or desperation sales pitches. If you don't believe you are going to make mission, you won't."

2003 DRILL INSTRUCTOR STANDOUTS

Each Chevron issue spotlights a drill instructor from the graduating company. These are the outstanding Marine makers Chevron noticed in 2003.

<p>COMPANY A SGT. GILBERTO BERNAL</p> <p>Excelled despite shake up after his brother's severe injury</p>	<p>COMPANY C GUNNERY SGT. JOHN LUCERO JR.</p> <p>Inspired a DI who is his former recruit</p>	<p>COMPANY D STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. REITHMANN</p> <p>Commits to mentoring future leaders</p>	<p>COMPANY F STAFF SGT. KEVIN MARTIN</p> <p>An intensely aggressive leader</p>	<p>COMPANY G STAFF SGT. RALPH C. WILLIAMS JR.</p> <p>Excelled thanks to father's guidance</p>	<p>COMPANY I STAFF SGT. JOHN P. SAUL</p> <p>Is a huge New York Yankees fan</p>	<p>COMPANY K GUNNERY SGT. TERENCE C. WHITCOMB</p> <p>The Marine Corps' DI of the Year</p>	<p>COMPANY M STAFF SGT. WALTER G. SQUIEROS</p> <p>Motivated by strong family ties</p>
<p>COMPANY B STAFF SGT. EDUARDO ESPINAL</p> <p>Uses humor as tool on drill field</p>	<p>COMPANY C STAFF SGT. DAVID S. BALDOCK</p> <p>Worked beside fellow DI who was his own drill instructor years ago</p>	<p>COMPANY D STAFF SGT. ALEJANDRO G. ELIZALDE</p> <p>Quiet-to-loud manner earned him "Silent Bomb" nickname</p>	<p>COMPANY F SGT. NOLAN P. ESPIRITU</p> <p>Longs for Filipino wife and son to join him in the United States</p>	<p>COMPANY G STAFF SGT. ADRIAN GUTIERREZ</p> <p>Attention to detail is his best quality</p>	<p>COMPANY I STAFF SGT. GABRIEL CANO</p> <p>Insists communication is key to success</p>	<p>COMPANY K STAFF SGT. JEFFREY R. CRAIG</p> <p>Decorated highly in marksmanship</p>	<p>COMPANY M STAFF SGT. JORGE MELENDEZBARRAZA</p> <p>Volunteered to mentor troubled teens</p>
<p>COMPANY A STAFF SGT. GABRIEL ALGARIN</p> <p>Went from stubborn hard charger to team player</p>	<p>COMPANY C STAFF SGT. ADAM L. SANDERCOCK</p> <p>Demanding son of a gun</p>	<p>COMPANY D STAFF SGT. MICHAEL J. POE</p> <p>Left troubled youth for straight-and-narrow</p>	<p>COMPANY F STAFF SGT. MICHAEL BARRETT</p> <p>Follows father's footsteps on the drill field</p>	<p>COMPANY G SGT. JASON N. INGLE</p> <p>Brought combat experience to drill field</p>	<p>COMPANY I STAFF SGT. PHILLIP J. ALLEN</p> <p>Relies on strong marriage to succeed on drill field and in life</p>	<p>COMPANY K STAFF SGT. BRIAN L. BROWN</p> <p>As a single father, makes time for son and daughter</p>	<p>COMPANY M STAFF SGT. DUKE T. HIGGS</p> <p>Applies work ethic to higher education</p>
<p>COMPANY A STAFF SGT. JEAN-YONEL ULCEUS</p> <p>Uses passion to inspire his recruits</p>	<p>COMPANY C SGT. DONALD MAYORGA</p> <p>Quickly overcame language barrier to be Marine</p>	<p>COMPANY D STAFF SGT. VICTOR LEANOS</p> <p>Appreciates all the support his wife gives</p>	<p>COMPANY F SGT. MALCOLM A. AMMON</p> <p>Challenges his junior DIs</p>	<p>COMPANY G STAFF SGT. GERARDO C. YBARRA</p> <p>Longs to be a sergeant major</p>	<p>COMPANY I SGT. BRYAN FULLER</p> <p>Determined to excel in everything he does</p>	<p>COMPANY K STAFF SGT. BRIAN L. BROWN</p> <p>Won two Dan Daly drill instructor awards</p>	<p>COMPANY M SGT. LEONARDO D. GOMEZ</p> <p>Made a family in the Corps</p>
<p>COMPANY A STAFF SGT. AARON B. STOKES</p> <p>Being Marine is his only lifestyle</p>	<p>COMPANY C GUNNERY SGT. ALEJANDRO RIVERA</p> <p>Corps pride reflected in his recruits</p>	<p>COMPANY D STAFF SGT. EARL BUDD</p> <p>Takes on fatherly role with recruits</p>	<p>COMPANY F STAFF SGT. MICHAEL BARRETT</p> <p>Follows father's footsteps on the drill field</p>	<p>COMPANY G STAFF SGT. GREG A. HARLAND</p> <p>Brings infantry tenure to drill field</p>	<p>COMPANY I SGT. RICHARD N. LUINA</p> <p>Akin to a superhero</p>	<p>COMPANY K GUNNERY SGT. RUBEN PRENTISS</p> <p>Uses drill field experience to mentor junior DIs</p>	<p>COMPANY M SGT. LEONARDO D. GOMEZ</p> <p>Made a family in the Corps</p>

NOTE: Ranks are same as when DI stories were published.

FOX COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. T.A. Mensch
Fort Wayne, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. D. J. Emery



PLATOON 2129
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M. Marquez
Anthony, N.M.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. B. Escobar



PLATOON 2130
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC N. Hill
Medical Lake, Wash.
Recruited by
Sgt. J. L. Fox



PLATOON 2131
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC S. G. Kahn
Dripping Spring, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. B. Hays



SERIES HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. D. E. Pulido
Corona, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. M. George



PLATOON 2132
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC M. A. Mishler
Michigan City, Ind.
Recruited by
Sgt. W. Curry



PLATOON 2133
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC B. J. Bosscher
Springfield, Mo.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. W. W. Hall



PLATOON 2135
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC T. D. Moyer
Battleground, Wash.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. D. A. Blelarski



PLATOON 2136
PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC T. D. Moyer
Battleground, Wash.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. D. A. Blelarski

Pvt. F. J. McKenzie
Pvt. J. D. McLeese
Pvt. S. Mellado-Barbosa
Pvt. M. S. Mendez
Pvt. N. L. Mevis
Pvt. J. G. Miller
PFC M. A. Mishler
Pvt. D. J. Molina
PFC J. G. Navarro
PFC B. A. Schleuter
*PFC C. R. Trevino

PLATOON 2134
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. L. Martin
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. E. Diaz Mejia
Staff Sgt. S. Montoya Sanchez

PFC M. S. Annis
PFC K. T. Applegate
PFC J. D. Baker
Pvt. T. J. Baptist
Pvt. B. L. Berry
Pvt. W. E. Biddle
PFC M. N. Bird
PFC N. N. Brandau
Pvt. J. M. Buedel
Pvt. J. L. Campbell
Pvt. B. L. Coffin
Pvt. B. C. Colby
Pvt. C. A. Cowin
Pvt. B. A. Doyle
Pvt. B. J. Ernst
Pvt. F. J. Guzman
Pvt. C. R. Herrington
PFC K. F. Hicks
PFC J. L. Hoke
Pvt. J. L. Jessie
Pvt. J. L. Johnson
PFC M. C. Johnson
Pvt. D. J. Kitts
Pvt. K. J. Knight
PFC S. G. Krouse
Pvt. R. D. Mace
Pvt. K. M. Maes
Pvt. K. L. Matkay
Pvt. B. J. McKinzy
Lance Cpl. T. A. Mensch
PFC M. S. Miller
Pvt. J. L. Montbrault
Pvt. M. R. Moreno
PFC W. K. Nelson
Pvt. O. Oliva
PFC C. J. Orback

Pvt. J. A. Ovalle
Pvt. D. B. Parodi
PFC B. A. Parsons
Pvt. C. D. Phillips
Pvt. J. G. Phillips
Pvt. R. J. Rauch
Pvt. D. A. Ready
Pvt. C. Reed
Pvt. B. D. Rich
Pvt. J. J. Richards
Pvt. G. H. Rodriguez
Pvt. P. J. Rodriguez
Pvt. J. M. Salazar
Pvt. D. R. Salinas
PFC R. P. Sanchez
Pvt. D. J. Scott
PFC R. S. Setterstrom
Pvt. K. H. Sharp
Pvt. E. T. Shepherd
Pvt. S. E. Siders
Pvt. S. K. Sippel
Pvt. I. J. Smart
Pvt. G. L. Smith
*PFC L. W. Stanley
Pvt. J. A. Steelman
Pvt. A. P. Steffanic
Pvt. B. R. Sullivan
*PFC A. W. Swagger
PFC C. J. Trask
PFC J. R. Trevino
Pvt. T. S. Turcato
*PFC L. A. Vanfleet
Pvt. T. D. Walmsley
Pvt. P. J. Weiss
*PFC C. M. Wheeler
Pvt. J. D. Winecoff
Pvt. E. W. Wischan
Pvt. J. A. Wofford
Pvt. J. J. Zardner
Pvt. A. B. Zebrowski

Pvt. E. P. Anton
PFC C. C. Ashbrook
Pvt. S. Bachar
PFC L. G. Bennett
Pvt. S. J. Bevins
Pvt. D. M. Bombard
Pvt. D. J. Bower
*PFC M. S. Reed
Pvt. N. R. Rehman
Pvt. A. L. Reynolds
Pvt. J. J. Richardson
Pvt. M. L. Fischer
PFC C. L. Risinger
Pvt. D. L. Robinson
Pvt. E. Robles
Pvt. D. J. Roderick
PFC E. Rodriguez
PFC A. Rodriguez
Pvt. B. S. Rogers
PFC C. Romo
Pvt. A. T. Rose
PFC J. E. Rowley
PFC M. Ruiz
PFC J. D. Sanabria
PFC T. C. Sandberg
PFC T. Sandberg
Pvt. J. W. Scherr
*PFC D. G. Schiele
Pvt. T. A. Schild
Pvt. S. R. Schmidt
PFC M. L. Schulze
PFC J. P. Sciarillo
Pvt. J. D. Seaberg
PFC R. K. Seidel
Pvt. S. R. Severtsgaard
PFC T. D. Sharpe
Pvt. S. J. Shaw
Pvt. R. R. Smith
Pvt. K. A. Smith
PFC S. E. Smithson
Pvt. T. N. Snyder
*PFC J. F. Spier
Pvt. A. T. Springfield
PFC N. A. Stephen
Pvt. D. R. Stief
Pvt. A. T. Surigao
Pvt. S. M. Suzuki
Pvt. T. D. Swain
PFC B. S. Teel
Pvt. C. Thomas
PFC H. Torres
PFC C. A. Triantafilio
PFC C. D. Tuggle
Pvt. G. P. Valdez
PFC R. J. Valencia
Pvt. I. M. Vallarta
Pvt. L. J. Wallace
*PFC A. J. Wange
Pvt. A. E. Webb
PFC T. J. Welch
Pvt. J. W. Wheeler
Pvt. N. R. Whiteman
Pvt. J. A. Wilber
Pvt. B. A. Williams
Pvt. M. C. Wolfe

Pvt. M. S. Annis
PFC K. T. Applegate
PFC J. D. Baker
Pvt. T. J. Baptist
Pvt. B. L. Berry
Pvt. W. E. Biddle
PFC M. N. Bird
PFC N. N. Brandau
Pvt. J. M. Buedel
Pvt. J. L. Campbell
Pvt. B. L. Coffin
Pvt. B. C. Colby
Pvt. C. A. Cowin
Pvt. B. A. Doyle
Pvt. B. J. Ernst
Pvt. F. J. Guzman
Pvt. C. R. Herrington
PFC K. F. Hicks
PFC J. L. Hoke
Pvt. J. L. Jessie
Pvt. J. L. Johnson
PFC M. C. Johnson
Pvt. D. J. Kitts
Pvt. K. J. Knight
PFC S. G. Krouse
Pvt. R. D. Mace
Pvt. K. M. Maes
Pvt. K. L. Matkay
Pvt. B. J. McKinzy
Lance Cpl. T. A. Mensch
PFC M. S. Miller
Pvt. J. L. Montbrault
Pvt. M. R. Moreno
PFC W. K. Nelson
Pvt. O. Oliva
PFC C. J. Orback

Pvt. E. P. Anton
PFC C. C. Ashbrook
Pvt. S. Bachar
PFC L. G. Bennett
Pvt. S. J. Bevins
Pvt. D. M. Bombard
Pvt. D. J. Bower
*PFC M. S. Reed
Pvt. N. R. Rehman
Pvt. A. L. Reynolds
Pvt. J. J. Richardson
Pvt. M. L. Fischer
PFC C. L. Risinger
Pvt. D. L. Robinson
Pvt. E. Robles
Pvt. D. J. Roderick
PFC E. Rodriguez
PFC A. Rodriguez
Pvt. B. S. Rogers
PFC C. Romo
Pvt. A. T. Rose
PFC J. E. Rowley
PFC M. Ruiz
PFC J. D. Sanabria
PFC T. C. Sandberg
PFC T. Sandberg
Pvt. J. W. Scherr
*PFC D. G. Schiele
Pvt. T. A. Schild
Pvt. S. R. Schmidt
PFC M. L. Schulze
PFC J. P. Sciarillo
Pvt. J. D. Seaberg
PFC R. K. Seidel
Pvt. S. R. Severtsgaard
PFC T. D. Sharpe
Pvt. S. J. Shaw
Pvt. R. R. Smith
Pvt. K. A. Smith
PFC S. E. Smithson
Pvt. T. N. Snyder
*PFC J. F. Spier
Pvt. A. T. Springfield
PFC N. A. Stephen
Pvt. D. R. Stief
Pvt. A. T. Surigao
Pvt. S. M. Suzuki
Pvt. T. D. Swain
PFC B. S. Teel
Pvt. C. Thomas
PFC H. Torres
PFC C. A. Triantafilio
PFC C. D. Tuggle
Pvt. G. P. Valdez
PFC R. J. Valencia
Pvt. I. M. Vallarta
Pvt. L. J. Wallace
*PFC A. J. Wange
Pvt. A. E. Webb
PFC T. J. Welch
Pvt. J. W. Wheeler
Pvt. N. R. Whiteman
Pvt. J. A. Wilber
Pvt. B. A. Williams
Pvt. M. C. Wolfe

HIGH PFT SCORE
PFC N. R. Thompson
Eagle Grove, Iowa
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. Otte

HIGH SHOOTER
PFC P. D. Gorges
WestAndale, Kan.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. L. M. Koerner

PLATOON 2133
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. W. R. Smith
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. L. D. Harper
Staff Sgt. L. B. Brown

Pvt. E. P. Anton
PFC C. C. Ashbrook
Pvt. S. Bachar
PFC L. G. Bennett
Pvt. S. J. Bevins
Pvt. D. M. Bombard
Pvt. D. J. Bower
*PFC M. S. Reed
Pvt. N. R. Rehman
Pvt. A. L. Reynolds
Pvt. J. J. Richardson
Pvt. M. L. Fischer
PFC C. L. Risinger
Pvt. D. L. Robinson
Pvt. E. Robles
Pvt. D. J. Roderick
PFC E. Rodriguez
PFC A. Rodriguez
Pvt. B. S. Rogers
PFC C. Romo
Pvt. A. T. Rose
PFC J. E. Rowley
PFC M. Ruiz
PFC J. D. Sanabria
PFC T. C. Sandberg
PFC T. Sandberg
Pvt. J. W. Scherr
*PFC D. G. Schiele
Pvt. T. A. Schild
Pvt. S. R. Schmidt
PFC M. L. Schulze
PFC J. P. Sciarillo
Pvt. J. D. Seaberg
PFC R. K. Seidel
Pvt. S. R. Severtsgaard
PFC T. D. Sharpe
Pvt. S. J. Shaw
Pvt. R. R. Smith
Pvt. K. A. Smith
PFC S. E. Smithson
Pvt. T. N. Snyder
*PFC J. F. Spier
Pvt. A. T. Springfield
PFC N. A. Stephen
Pvt. D. R. Stief
Pvt. A. T. Surigao
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PFC C. D. Tuggle
Pvt. G. P. Valdez
PFC R. J. Valencia
Pvt. I. M. Vallarta
Pvt. L. J. Wallace
*PFC A. J. Wange
Pvt. A. E. Webb
PFC T. J. Welch
Pvt. J. W. Wheeler
Pvt. N. R. Whiteman
Pvt. J. A. Wilber
Pvt. B. A. Williams
Pvt. M. C. Wolfe

PLATOON 2135
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. A. Loredo
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. N. P. Espiritu
Staff Sgt. D. M. Lowery

*PFC J. T. Atalig
Pvt. K. M. Baird
Pvt. J. L. Beltran
Pvt. J. J. Bernardo
Pvt. R. P. Blancas

Pvt. C. R. Bolton
PFC B. J. Bosscher
Pvt. A. F. Boy
Pvt. M. G. Brooks
PFC B. E. Cassidy
*PFC S. M. Castro
*PFC J. L. Chamberlain
Pvt. M. T. Chambers
Pvt. J. R. Chavezrodriguez
Pvt. C. G. Christen
Pvt. D. D. Colindressegura
Pvt. N. A. Copeland
Pvt. P. K. Deleonguerrero
Pvt. A. F. Dorado
*PFC R. A. Doria
Pvt. R. V. Estrellanavarrete
Pvt. M. A. Fenderson
Pvt. J. R. Ferguson
Pvt. K. J. Fisher
Pvt. R. Gallardo
Pvt. P. R. Garcia
*PFC A. M. Gonzales
PFC M. R. Gonzalez
Pvt. R. E. Gould
PFC N. F. Graf
*PFC J. D. Griffe
Pvt. A. W. Gruetzmacher
Pvt. A. J. Halverson
Pvt. M. F. Hernandez
Pvt. S. M. Hernandez
Pvt. K. D. Hersha
Pvt. M. G. Hill
PFC W. A. Hill Jr.
PFC M. J. Jackson
Pvt. B. K. Jamesky
Pvt. R. J. Kareliusson
Pvt. S. Kim
Pvt. J. T. Labuff
PFC D. E. Leavens
Pvt. F. L. Magruder
Pvt. J. L. Mahannah
Pvt. A. J. Martin
Pvt. N. G. Martin
PFC M. A. Martus
Pvt. J. R. McCormick
Pvt. A. T. McEntire
PFC W. A. McKinley
Pvt. B. W. McRaven
PFC O. G. Mejiamartinez
Pvt. J. D. Mendez
PFC M. L. Miller
Pvt. P. S. Mitchell
Pvt. L. A. Montes

Pvt. D. M. Murry
Pvt. C. D. Nauman
Pvt. N. A. Neidlinger
Pvt. A. A. Neuman
Pvt. M. A. Oliva
Pvt. M. T. Palmer
Pvt. A. K. Perry
Pvt. M. A. Phillips
Pvt. D. T. Pollet
PFC J. A. Porter
Pvt. C. J. Prather
PFC A. W. Prince
Pvt. E. J. Quintero
Pvt. S. L. Reid
Pvt. W. E. Richey
Pvt. M. A. Rivera
Pvt. F. J. Rodriguez
Pvt. S. A. Tadeo

PLATOON 2136
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. C. G. Mathews
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. A. Richardson
Sgt. A. J. Mcdermott

*PFC D. A. Bedolla
Pvt. J. J. Bliske
Pvt. M. M. Blodgett
Pvt. C. D. Davis
Pvt. C. C. Dew
Pvt. O. A. Elguetzabal
Pvt. K. D. Gardner
Pvt. K. C. Hope
Pvt. B. J. Van Goor
Pvt. G. Vega
Pvt. G. S. Villegas
Pvt. J. P. Vincent
*PFC S. A. Ward
Pvt. S. S. Weinheimer
Pvt. N. S. Welter
Pvt. J. A. Wenzel
Pvt. M. E. Wesley
Pvt. P. L. Whitlatch
Pvt. F. Wiltron
Pvt. M. H. Wong
Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

*PFC D. A. Bedolla
Pvt. J. J. Bliske
Pvt. M. M. Blodgett
Pvt. C. D. Davis
Pvt. C. C. Dew
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Pvt. J. J. Bliske
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Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

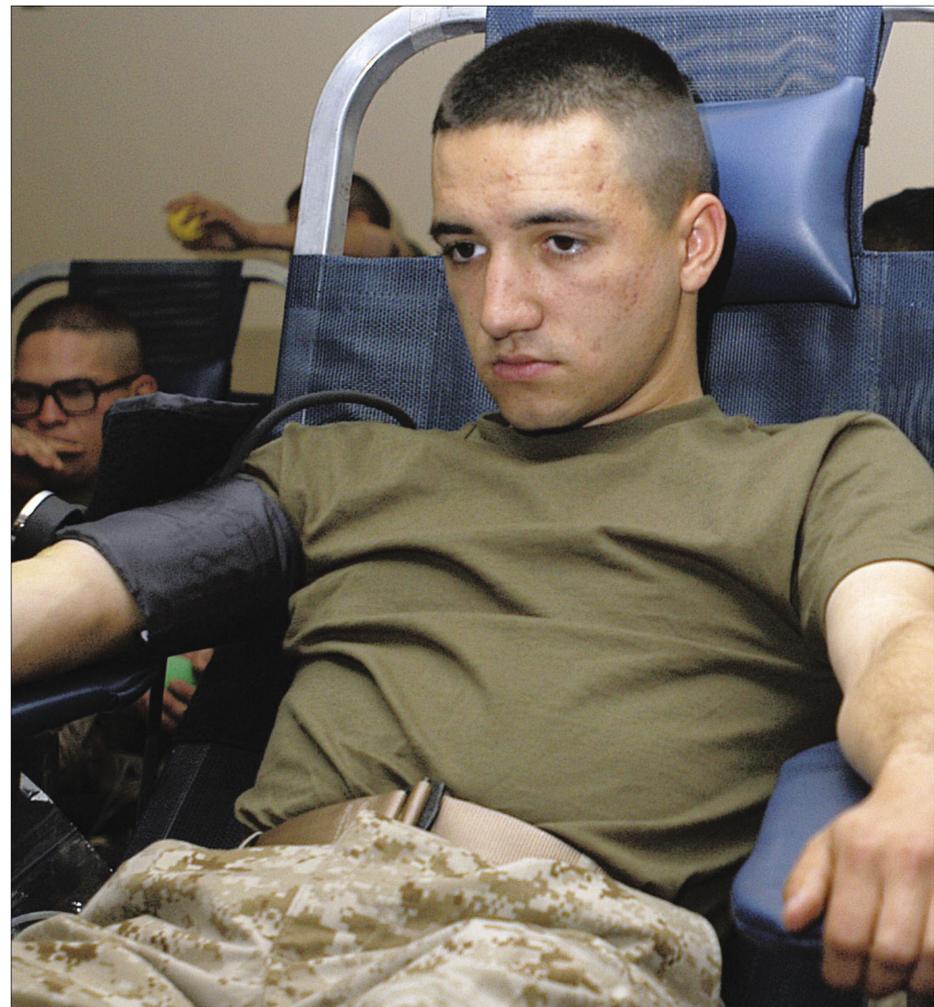
*PFC D. A. Bedolla
Pvt. J. J. Bliske
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Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

*PFC D. A. Bedolla
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Pvt. K. C. Hope
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Pvt. J. P. Vincent
*PFC S. A. Ward
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Pvt. M. E. Wesley
Pvt. P. L. Whitlatch
Pvt. F. Wiltron
Pvt. M. H. Wong
Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

*PFC D. A. Bedolla
Pvt. J. J. Bliske
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Pvt. J. P. Vincent
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Pvt. M. E. Wesley
Pvt. P. L. Whitlatch
Pvt. F. Wiltron
Pvt. M. H. Wong
Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

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Pvt. J. J. Bliske
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Pvt. O. A. Elguetzabal
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Pvt. P. L. Whitlatch
Pvt. F. Wiltron
Pvt. M. H. Wong
Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb

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Pvt. N. S. Welter
Pvt. J. A. Wenzel
Pvt. M. E. Wesley
Pvt. P. L. Whitlatch
Pvt. F. Wiltron
Pvt. M. H. Wong
Pvt. J. R. Wright
PFC A. T. Wurmb



PFC Jerry W. Holland, Company F, donates blood inside a mobile unit that collects blood every Saturday outside the recruit processing area of the Depot's Branch Medical Clinic. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



Maj. Gen. Christopher Cortez

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Maj. Gen. Christopher Cortez is currently assigned as commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Cortez is a graduate of Marietta College in Ohio, and he also attended the University of Madrid in Spain for one semester as part of his undergraduate program.

Cortez was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Program in 1971 and completed The Basic School in 1972.

He served as a rifle platoon commander from 1972 to 1973 and rifle company executive officer and infantry battalion adjutant from 1973 to 1974. From 1978 to 1981 Cortez served as a rifle company commander, weapons company commander, and infantry battalion operations officer.

In 1988, he was the Headquarters Battalion executive officer for 1st Marine Division, and then battalion commander for 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment in 1989. From 1992 to 1993, Cortez served as operations officer for 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and commanding officer, infantry regiment for 1993 to 1995.

While serving as commanding officer of 1/5, his unit deployed with 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade to Saudi Arabia, serving sequentially with 7th Marines and 3rd Marines during Operation Desert Shield and then with Task Force Ripper during Operation Desert Storm. At Camp Pendleton, Calif., he served as chief of staff, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in 1996 and then as assistant division commander, 1st Marine Division in 1997.

His operational tours continued in February, March and April 1998 as he deployed to Southwest Asia with Third U.S. Army Headquarters serving as chief of staff, Combined Coalition Joint Task Force, Kuwait. Most recently, he served as director for operations, U.S. Pacific Command from 2000 to 2002.

Other tours have included recruiting officer and officer selection officer duty at Recruiting Station Los Angeles. He was assigned to Landing Force Training Command, Pacific for duty as instructor, U.S. Army School of the Americas. USARSA was located in the Republic of Panama. At Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, he served as action officer for Central and South America in the Western Regional Branch of Plans Division and as director, Strategy and Plans Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

He is a graduate of Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Inter-American Defense College.

His personal decorations include: two Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit—one with Combat V, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

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. S. J. Kelly
Narrator
Staff Sgt. R. K. Davis

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
Warrant Officer E. M. Hayes
Band Master
Master Sgt. L. O. Arce

COLOR GUARD
Sgt. J. A. Hoverson
Pvt. J. H. Sperry
Pvt. J. A. Orchard

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. D. L. Krause

COMPANY F
Commanding Officer
Capt. A. Gonzalez
Company First Sergeant
PFC N. R. Jordan
1st Sgt. J. L. Wilson
Company Corporal
Petty Officer 3rd Class
T. D. Thomas

SERIES 2129
Series Commander
Capt. D. B. Hickey
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. T. A. Leach
Assistant Series Commander
1st Lt. J. D. Diaz

SERIES 2135
Series Commander
Capt. J. P. Benson
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. O. M. Gonzales
Assistant Series Commander
1st Lt. T. J. Price

PLATOON 2129
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. W. Wright
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. R. E. Arnette
Staff Sgt. R. L. Harmon

Pvt. A. J. Abelta
Pvt. E. J. Aguilar
Pvt. Z. B. Agustin
Pvt. J. W. Albrecht
Pvt. M. A. Alfaro
Pvt. R. C. Andersen
Pvt. T. O. Andersen
PFC R. T. Anderson
Pvt. J. A. Ballesteros
Pvt. P. A. Barrera
Pvt. J. D. Berryhill
Pvt. M. A. Bielenberg
Pvt. A. M. Briggs
Pvt. D. L. Brooks
Pvt. B. K. Brown
Pvt. M. C. Caples
PFC C. M. Capps
Pvt. B. M. Carrara
Pvt. K. O. Clendenning
Pvt. S. R. Cobb
Pvt. J. R. Cohea
Pvt. D. T. Cole
Pvt. R. A. Combs
Pvt. R. N. Conclara
*PFC J. L. Criger
PFC C. J. Cummings
Pvt. C. L. Davis
Pvt. A. S. Davis
Pvt. C. M. Dito
Pvt. M. O. Dunlap
Pvt. J. A. Dunn
Pvt. C. J. Dutton
Pvt. E. S. Egurrola
Pvt. R. Emiliano
Pvt. R. P. Fineran

*PFC M. S. Flatau
PFC B. H. Friend
Pvt. A. J. Fuentes
Pvt. D. W. Gaskey
Pvt. D. A. Griffith
Pvt. J. A. Guajardo
Pvt. A. M. Guerrero
PFC N. W. Hancock
*PFC B. D. Hatchett Jr.
PFC C. M. Hernandez
PFC J. W. Holland
Pvt. D. B. Jackson
Pvt. E. W. Jiang
Pvt. D. J. Jimenez
PFC N. S. Jordan
Pvt. D. L. Kasprzak
PFC J. E. Keoni
Pvt. T. Klanprachar
PFC M. J. Kolonoski
Pvt. T. C. Lapointe
Pvt. L. X. Le
PFC O. R. Licon
*PFC E. T. Lueras
Pvt. A. J. Madden
*PFC M. Marquez
PFC R. D. Martinez
Pvt. R. J. Mast
Pvt. C. L. McCord
Pvt. M. A. Meryhew
Pvt. C. M. Mordus
Pvt. S. Moreno Diaz
Pvt. N. J. Nakamoto
Pvt. J. Nevarez
Pvt. A. Nguyen
Pvt. C. W. Nolan
Pvt. D. M. Obrien
Pvt. D. E. Ortiz
Pvt. M. P. Paez
Pvt. R. C. Phelan
Pvt. F. H. Ramos
PFC J. B. Ruff
PFC R. H. Schumaker

PLATOON 2130
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. N. T. Bolen
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. Zamora
Staff Sgt. E. U. Estrada

Pvt. N. S. Acevedo
PFC J. R. Actis
Pvt. I. Alatorre
Pvt. C. M. Allen
Pvt. M. R. Almaraz
Pvt. C. L.



Headquarters and Service Battalion Marines compete in the tug-of-war competition at the Commanding General's Cup Field Meet. Sgt. L. F. Langston/Chevron



Cpl. Yuri Schneider clears the ball out of Depot territory in the West Coast Regional Soccer Tournament's championship game against 1st FSSG. Sgt. Ethan E. Roche/Chevron

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff writer

The Depot became a battlefield for sports in 2003 as events including varsity basketball, West Coast Regional softball and soccer tournaments, intramural hockey and the Commanding General's Cup swept over the Depot.

The CG's Cup, a year-round competition among Depot units, kicked off at the beginning of the year. The annual competition measures units through such trials as flag football, soccer, softball, basketball and volleyball. A field meet, which consists of sprint relays, a dizzy izzy relay, kayak relay and a tug-of-war, is the culminating event in the competition.

2003 SPORTS ROUNDUP

Traditionally, U.S. Marines are fighting men and women inclined to be fiercely competitive and carry an internal instinct that refuses to accept defeat. Aboard the Depot, that tradition carries on and is nurtured throughout the year with the help of the Depot's extensive sports programs, which help fuse any Marine's athletic nature with the Corps' warrior spirit.

Recruit Training Regiment entered the field meet leading the pack and was able to hold their lead as they snuffed out Headquarters and Service Battalion, who finished a close second.

The Depot soccer team made it to the big dance in the West Coast Regional Soccer Tournament, but their Cinderella season was cut short by 1st Force Service Support Group, 4-1, in the championship game. Despite the loss, it was a shining moment for the Depot as PFC Will Touchstone, administrative clerk, Service Company, Lance Cpl. Eric Norfleet and Cpl. Jonathan Kaiser, both network technicians for Communications and Information Systems Department, were selected to try out for the All-Marine Soccer Team.

The Depot also hosted the West Coast Regional Softball Tournament in July. The Depot softball team finished third in the round-robin tourney behind Twentynine Palms and Miramar, who won the championship game with a miraculous comeback. Sgt. Derek Canales, Depot review chief, was selected to try out for the All-Marine Softball Team in North Carolina.

Although the sunny San Diego weather doesn't complement winter sports very well, Depot Marines still found a way to play hockey. They started a roller hockey team and joined an intramural league in Poway, Calif. The MCRD Devil Dogs skated and bruised their way through the season, finishing in the middle of the



Staff Sgt. Robert C. Ixtlahuac escapes Staff Sgt. Ryan D. Duque's reach during CG's Cup flag football. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

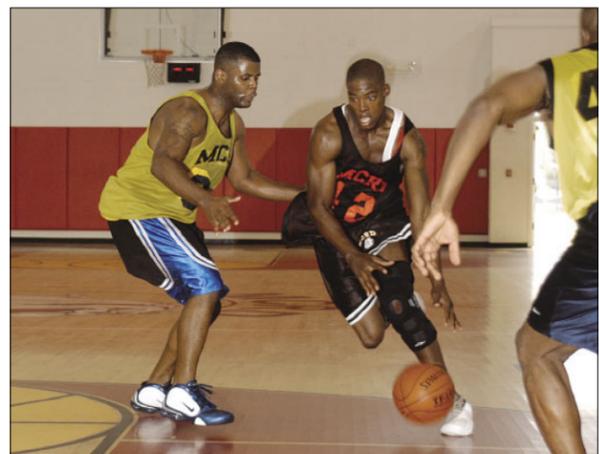
pack, but still leaving spectators wanting more.

Men's and women's varsity basketball teams both put forth gallant efforts throughout the year while competing with teams from military installations in the San Diego area. The women finished second with an overall record of eight wins and two losses while the men finished in the top half.

Overall, it was an impressive year for sports aboard the Depot. Teams finished tournaments in the top three, the CG's Cup was claimed by RTR, and several individual athletes shined for the whole Corps to see. With all that in the past, 2004 should make for a very interesting year, hopefully with a few championships for the Depot.



Miramar's Sgt. Johnny Hendon slides to second base, beating Twentynine Palms' Petty Officer 3rd Class Gary G. Denette's tag during West Coast Regional Softball here. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron



Cpl. Quinn Barfield drives past Staff Sgt. Jesse L. Bowman in the championship game of the Fleet Week 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron