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VOL 64 — NO 16 — COMPANY E

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004

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TIME FOR SOME R'n'R

Bravo Zulu! Well done!

In conjunction with the following letter written June 6, the commanding general has authorized regimental and battalion commanders to grant a 72-hour pass to all Marines and sailors who supported the marathon.

To the Marines and Sailors of MCRD San Diego:

Today we helped conduct the seventh annual Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon here in San Diego. It was the fourth consecutive time this popular and successful race finished aboard the Depot. This year some 17,000 runners and another estimated 30,000 visitors entered the gates of MCRD. For almost nine hours we were host to world-class and novice marathoners alike. This race has also generated over \$85 million for leukemia research over six years.

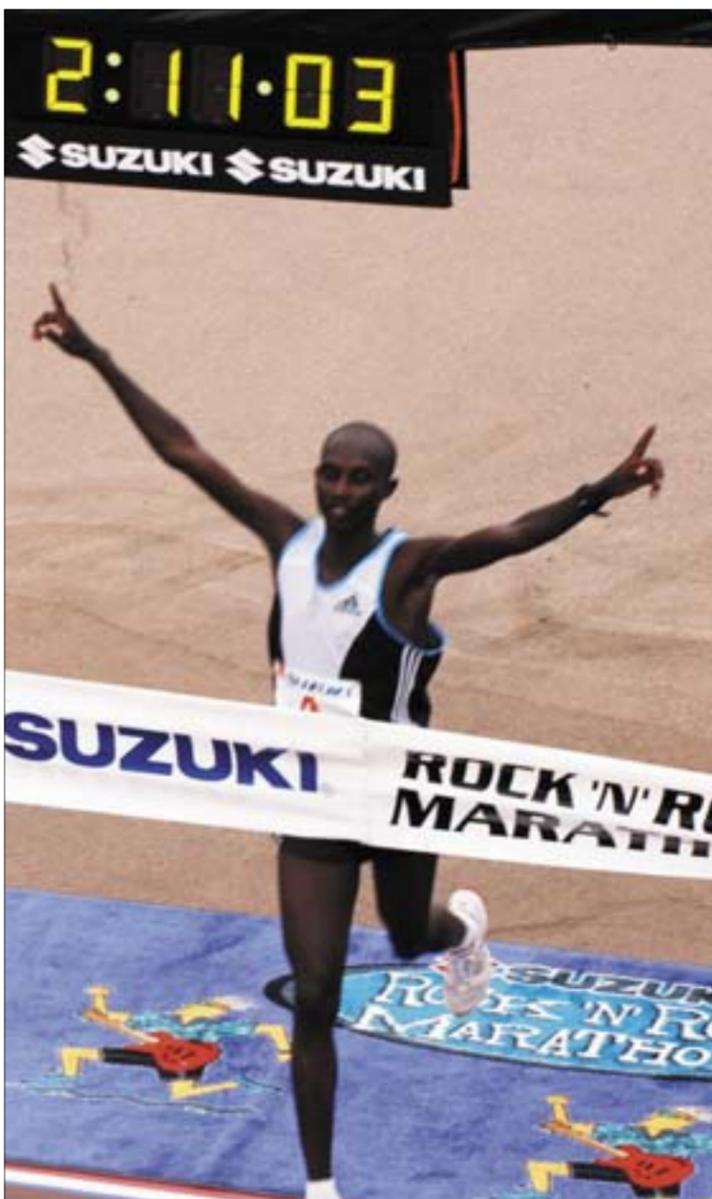
As all of you who participated know firsthand, race runners and visitors alike enjoyed our hospitality and our scenic and historic base. They were most appreciative of our community spirit. Their satisfaction and the success of the race is due to your thorough planning, rigorous training and rehearsals, and motivated race-day execution.

Everyone in all billets and all zones, be it gate security, bag checker, reaction platoon, road guard, traffic control or command post, contributed personally and immensely to the success of the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon.

I applaud your preparation and execution, and I commend you for again displaying all that is best in our Depot, our Corps and our nation. The respect and admiration of the local community is well placed and well deserved. Congratulations and Semper Fidelis!

Sincerely,

J. M. Paxton Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps



Thirty-year-old Joseph Ngolepus, from Kenya, raises his arms in triumph as he crosses the finish line first during the 7th Annual Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Sunday. The race drew more than 17,000 runners. Sgt. Ryan A. Smith/Chevron

Depot hosts 7th annual Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon finishers

COMPILED BY CHEVRON STAFF

More than 17,000 runners streamed through Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and crossed the finish line during the 2004 Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Sunday.

This was the fourth year the Depot hosted the marathon finish line. The first runner to cross was Joseph Ngolepus of Kenya. His marathon running time was 2 hours, 11 minutes and 4 seconds. The first female across the line was Russia's Tatiana Titova, with a time of 2 hours, 29 minutes and 36 seconds.

Clouds filled the sky and a light breeze swept over the course. Runners agreed that there couldn't have been better weather for the marathon.

This year's race was jammed pack with runners from around the world, including runners from all 50 states and more than 800 service members from around the globe.

"The professional athletes were nice people," said the Combat Visual Information Center's photographer Lance Cpl. Jared M. Padula, 20. "The Kenyans and Ethiopians talked to the other racers before the start of the marathon. They showed they lace their shoes the same as the rest of us."

Runners started trickling into the Depot around 9 a.m., but it wasn't long before the race route through the Depot was filled with a seemingly never-ending flow of runners and walkers. The parade deck was filled with runners, spectators and decorations. A deep

SEE **Marathon**, pg. 5



Sgt. Jack Carrillo, combat illustrator, Combat Visual Information Center and Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Depot and Western Recruiting Region commanding general, unveil Carrillo's painting of Quarters One at Butler Gardens. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

CG unveils latest Carrillo piece, honors Pendleton

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

On a significant day in Marine Corps history at his quarters, the Depot commanding general recognized preservationists and unveiled a new addition to the Depot's historical legacy.

Depot Marines and civilians gathered at Quarters One June 2 to celebrate what would have been Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton's 144th birthday.

Depot commanding general Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. acknowledged the men and women of the museum at James L. Day Hall and the Command Museum Historical Society for their work in preserving Marine Corps history.

Parker H. Jackson of the society's board of directors

suggested the idea to recognize Maj. Gen. Pendleton's birthday. Maj. Gen. Pendleton was a colonel when he petitioned to establish a Marine presence in San Diego before 1919.

"The original suggestion was to somehow commemorate Col. Pendleton for bringing the Marines to San Diego," Parker said. "I suggested a bust in Pendleton Hall, but due to Historical District constraints that was not possible."

As Jackson looked for other ways to honor Maj. Gen. Pendleton, he realized they shared birthdays. Subsequently, he suggested a cake-cutting ceremony.

When Debbie Paxton, the commanding general's wife, heard this suggestion, she decided it would also be the prime time to show off a painting that one of the Corps' best artists had created.

SEE **Quarters**, pg. 2



Company E drill instructor, a former School of Infantry instructor, sharpens men for the battlefield.

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CHALK-A-HOLICS

Dynamic duo cleans nine-ball tables and elevates H&S Battalion in CG's Cup.

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HONORABLE NOMINATION

Iraqi Freedom corporal could be first Marine Medal of Honor recipient since Vietnam era.

2



Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, and Parker H. Jackson of the Command Museum Historical Society, cut the late Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton's birthday cake June 2, which is also Jackson's birthday. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

CG's wife saw Pendleton's 144th birthday appropriate for Quarters One showing

Quarters, from pg. 1

"I had seen his art and heard about him," she said. "When I found out Sgt. Carrillo was here, I thought it would be a good opportunity to have him make something lasting while he is still at MCRD."

The artist, Sgt. Jack Carrillo from the combat visual information center here, is one of the most talented and well-known working artists in the Corps. He sketched six preliminary works of Quarters One before working on the final painting, and he added its finishing touches up to the morning of the unveiling.

"He captured it perfectly," Mrs. Paxton said. "He did it at an angle instead of square-on like most art and photographs do. At this angle you can see the Smedley Butler patio and you can even pick out the trees in the backyard."

The painting is now on permanent display in the Quarters One foyer.

Like Quarters One and the other original buildings on the Depot built by the renowned architect Bertram G. Goodhue, Carrillo's painting is an added piece of Depot history.

Career-guiding Marines gather aboard Depot, discuss tempo, retention

CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

The Corps' career retention specialists gathered at 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District headquarters here recently for their fourth annual conference.

Traditionally, the specialists gather at Headquarters Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.; however, this year's conference location gave attendees a "change of scenery and a change of perspective," said Gunnery Sgt. Tim Hale, career retention specialist monitor, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"We wanted the Marines from other units to have more of a sense of ownership in the direction (the military occupational skill) is moving," said Hale.

Former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, retired Sgt. Maj. Lewis G. Lee addressed the conference. He said, with the nation at war, Marine career retention specialists play a vital role against global terrorism and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I thank you for what you do and who you are ... Your job is critical to the Marine Corps," Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Depot and Western Recruiting

SEE Career, pg. 4

MARINE METTLE



Cpl. Jason L. Dunham.

Cpl. who jumped on grenade nominated for Medal of Honor

BY MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS
The Wall Street Journal

Early this spring, Cpl. Jason Dunham and two other Marines sat in an outpost in Iraq and traded theories on surviving a hand-grenade attack.

Second Lt. Brian "Bull" Robinson suggested that if a Marine lay face down on the grenade and held it between his forearms, the ceramic bulletproof plate in his flak vest might be strong enough to protect his vital organs. His arms would shatter, but he might live.

Dunham had another idea: A Marine's Kevlar helmet held over the grenade might contain the blast. "I'll bet a Kevlar would stop it," he said, according to Robinson.

"No, it'll still mess you up," Staff Sgt. John Ferguson recalls saying.

It was a conversation the men would remember vividly a few weeks later, when they saw the shredded remains of Dunham's helmet, apparently blown apart from the inside by a grenade. Fellow Marines believe Dunham's actions saved the lives of two men and were recommended him for the Medal of Honor, an award that no act of heroism since 1993 has garnered.

A 6-foot-1 star high-school athlete from Scio, N.Y., Dunham was chosen to become a squad leader shortly after he was assigned to Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, in September 2003. Just 22 years old, he showed "the kind of leadership where you're confident in your abilities and don't have to yell about it," says Ferguson. Dunham's reputation grew when he extended his enlistment, due to end in July, so he could stay with



Capt. Trent A. Gibson, commanding officer, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, renders a salute during a memorial ceremony April 29 for Cpl. Jason L. Dunham. Dunham, a Scio, N.Y., native, jumped on a grenade April 14 near Husaybah and later died from the wounds he received. Dunham has been nominated for the Medal of Honor. Sgt. Jose L. Garcia/1st Marine Division

his squad throughout its tour in the war zone.

During the invasion of Iraq last year, 3/7 didn't suffer any combat casualties. But since March, 10 of its 900 Marines have died from hostile fire, and 89 have been wounded.

April 14 was an especially bad day. Dunham was in the town of Karabilah, leading a 14-man foot patrol to scout sites for a new base, when radio reports came pouring in about a roadside bomb hitting another group of Marines not far away.

Insurgents, the reports said, had ambushed a convoy that included the battalion commander, 40-year-old Lt. Col. Matthew Lopez. One rifle shot penetrated the rear of the commander's Humvee, hitting him in the back, Lopez says. His

translator and bodyguard, Lance Cpl. Akram Falah, had taken a bullet to the bicep, severing an artery, according to medical reports filed later.

Dunham's patrol jumped aboard some Humvees and raced toward the convoy. Near the double-arched gateway of the town of Husaybah, they heard the distinctive whizzing sound of a rocket-propelled grenade overhead. They left their vehicles and split into two teams to hunt for the shooters, according to interviews with two men who were there and written reports from two others.

Around 12:15 p.m., Dunham's team came to an intersection and saw a line of seven Iraqi vehicles along a dirt alleyway, according to Ferguson and others there. At

SEE Medal, pg. 6



FAMILY SERVICES WARMS NEW HOME

Participating in an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony, and inaugurating the new Marine and Family Services location in Building 14 next to the gym May 27 are (from left) Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Thompson, Marine Corps Community Services programs director; Bob Parker, MCCS director; Faye Blas, MCCS Marine and Family Services director; Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Depot commanding general; and Col. Jerry Calleros, G-4 officer. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Paying tribute to ...

AN AMERICAN HERO

BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Editor

To be regarded as a hero you usually have to do something pretty amazing: save someone's life, inspire others to do extraordinary things, sacrifice for the greater good. In the Corps, heroes are often made in the blink of an eye by simply reacting to circumstance, and sometimes, that single action becomes the defining moment for an individual.

Ronald Wilson Reagan never had one of those single defining moments. He had too many to count. In fact, one could argue that Reagan lived his entire life as a hero.

Although he did save lives, and he did inspire others to do extraordinary things, and he did sacrifice for the greater good, these things are not what made him a hero.

It was the genuine goodness in Reagan's heart and his passion to spread that goodness to his fellow man that made him a hero.

FROM THE EDITOR

If someone from another country asked me to explain what "The American Dream" is, I would simply refer him to Reagan's biography. In it he would find that Reagan was much more than an actor turned statesman.

Born into a poor family in rural Illinois in 1911, Reagan's humble beginnings could not constrict his shining optimism, nor his enormous potential. The only direction he knew was up.

About the meager lifestyle, with which he grew up, Reagan said "We were poor, but we didn't think of ourselves as poor." It was this type of positive outlook on life that destined him for greatness and made him excel in everything he did.

According to the official Reagan Library Web site, www.reaganlibrary.com, while employed as a young lifeguard over seven summers in Dixon, Ill., Reagan saved 77 lives. A high school athlete and amateur thespian, he was elected student body president of his high school. During his college years at Eureka College, he again rose to the top and was elected student body president.

Reagan's gravitation toward success and



Photo courtesy of Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Web site

leadership was constant throughout his life, and he held several impressive titles before president of the United States. He was a Chicago Cubs sports announcer, an Army captain, a Hollywood actor, six-term president of the Screen Actors Guild, a corporate spokesman, governor of California and a family man.

While many men would settle for a fraction of the success he achieved in his life, Reagan never stopped blessing the world with his virtue. He once said "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." This statement is a testament to his sense of humility and to the pureness of his motives behind his quest to lead.

Perhaps Reagan's most flattering and accurate title was "The Great Communicator." If you've ever heard him speak (not just read one of his speeches but actually watched him speak), you know how his words appealed to the human heart in a way unseen since the likes of Abraham Lincoln and FDR. He could rouse optimism, pride, empathy, and above all, faith in his noble cause. Who could better illustrate this character trait of his but Reagan himself?

"Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I

appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way."

Reagan had an affinity for storytelling, and he used his eloquence to instill in people the same shining optimism that defined his character and bolstered his success.

Most of us have heard the expression "The pen is mightier than the sword." Well, I'm convinced all the swords in the world could not defeat Reagan's pen because he was the type of man who inspired greatness with his leadership and cultivated strength through unity.

On June 12, 1987, Reagan pleaded with General Secretary of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev in a speech in West Berlin, saying "... If you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

The wall came down a little more than two years later, and as the wall crumbled, so did the Soviet Union and its "Evil Empire." Reagan's vision of a free, democratic Russia

was realized. The Cold War ended, and not one shot was fired in the process. Now that's a mighty pen.

Gorbachev was one of many world leaders Reagan charmed with his charisma and ideals. Who would have thought befriending and making peace with your nemesis could ultimately achieve victory over him? Another lesson in humanity punctuated quite poetically by The Great Communicator.

Never having met him personally, I could nonetheless go on forever, paying tribute to Reagan. I could talk about how he had a wonderful sense of humor, and I could offer several examples and anecdotes of this. I could tell about his romantic side and how his relationship with Nancy was a shining example of a beautiful, loving marriage. I could argue that the things he left perceived as his shortcomings as president, such as the enormous national debt he left and what some call his mistreatment of the 1980s AIDS outbreak, were eclipsed by his overwhelming success in rebuilding the true foundations of American strength, unity and liberty. I can do this because I am one of countless Americans who was touched and captivated by this true American hero. I know who he was because his extraordinary manner inspired me, long ago, to study his life and legacy.

Reagan once told us, "We will achieve our destiny to be a shining city on a hill for all mankind to see." I believe America is, and always will be, "the shining city on the hill" so long as we have leaders who attempt to emulate Reagan's stature. And while America is the shining city, Reagan is, in my eyes, the archetype of American excellence.

This week Reagan completed what he called "the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life." But before he passed, he left us with the belief "... that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

Reagan once said "We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look."

Well, if you're ever looking for someone to call your hero, I suggest President Ronald Wilson Reagan. He is gone now, but he will always be my hero.

Media favors darkness. Is good news not sensational enough?

BY LANCE CPL. OSCAR GONZALEZ
Special to Chevron

If you haven't heard about the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal, then you must have been in a cave for the past month and just recently emerged. Unless, of course, you shared that cave with Osama bin Laden.

It seems that these days all the media giants ever talk about is how bad things are going for the military in Iraq. The media have framed events in ways to make the American public feel like things in Iraq are going terribly wrong.

Every time the president or the defense secretary speak about developments in Iraq, the media emphasizes on negative quotes and keeps repeating the same thing, over and over. But the most disturbing thing of all is that we never hear about service members going above and beyond the call of duty, performing incredible acts of heroism, and putting their lives in harm's way to protect their fellow troops and accomplish the mission.

In a recent article by John D. Banusiewicz from the

American Forces Press Service, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said, "I suppose that for whatever reason, people seem to think that news isn't news unless it's bad news ... because that's essentially what's getting reported."

That is exactly what's happening right now; the media is painting a biased report of the war while ignoring other sides deserving of national attention.

Recently, two Marines from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, received the naval service's second highest award for heroism. Capt. Brian R. Chontosh and PFC Joseph B. Perez were awarded the Navy Cross; the last Navy Cross awarded was during Desert Storm in February 1991. To earn a Navy Cross, a commendable act must be performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and must be performed in such a manner as to render the individual highly conspicuous among others of equal grade, rate, experience, or position of responsibility.

Another thing most people haven't heard about is the

story of Cpl. Jason Dunham, a Marine from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, who was recently nominated for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for heroism. If awarded the medal, Cpl. Dunham would be the first service member to receive it since it was last awarded posthumously to two soldiers in Somalia in 1993. But apparently this doesn't deserve national media coverage; after all, the only thing Dunham did was jump on a grenade so his body would absorb the explosion and save his fellow Marines.

There are countless more newsworthy stories of troops who go above and beyond the call of duty and more stories concerning the construction of new hospitals and schools. All of these things are examples of what we as the public are not hearing about from the media giants.

Whatever the reasons the news media have for keeping the public in the dark should not excuse them from showing the American public another set of pictures: those of their fellow Americans who gave more than demanded for their country.

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COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. PAXTON JR.
SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. FRANK E. PULLEY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAJ. JOSEPH D. KLOPPPEL
joseph.kloppel@usmc.mil

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
MASTER SGT. JANICE M. HAGAR
janice.hagar@usmc.mil

PRESS OFFICER
1ST LT. ANTHONY DELSIGNORE
anthony.delsignore@usmc.mil

PRESS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. SCOTT DUNN
dunnsw@mcrds.usmc.mil

EDITOR
SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
rockee@mcrds.usmc.mil

WEBMASTER
DAVID HOFFMAN
david.hoffman@usmc.mil

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
SGT. LEONARD E. LANGSTON
CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS
LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120
SAN DIEGO, CA 92140
(619) 524-8722

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Marine career retention specialists attending the fourth annual CRS Conference here take an early morning run around the Depot May 20. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

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Operation Homecoming

Operation Homecoming will run through Veteran's Day, allowing returning service members and up to four direct dependents a one-time, free entry to one of the Sea World, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks. The offer provides for one visit to one park only. Proof of deployment or overseas service is required along with a valid department of defense identification and completed application form. Application forms will be available on-line and at park front gates.

Designated Driver volunteers needed

The Designated Drivers Association is looking for volunteers.

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.

Dis needed at OCS

There is currently a great need for drill instructors (male and female) at Officer Candidate School, Quantico, Va. Interested Marines must be qualified according to Marine Corps Order P1326.6D. Requests should be forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps MMEA-85.

This is a three-year tour with incentives, including special duty pay. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Archie, DI monitor, at DSN 278-9263 or (703) 784-9263.

Career, from pg. 2

Region commanding general, during his welcome-onboard brief.

The primary objective of the conference was to provide career retention specialists with the knowledge to best serve their fellow Marines and the Corps as a whole, said Gunnery Sgt. Todd A. James, Depot career retention specialist.

"The CRS conference allows career retention specialists from around the Marine Corps the opportunity to come together, voice concerns, and establish consistency throughout our MOS," said Master Sgt. Lloyd Brown, career retention specialist chief, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

"Standardization of systems is a vital element of any successful organization," said career retention specialist Staff Sgt. Dorothy M. Gordon, Marine Security Guard

Battalion, Quantico, Va. "The annual conference has allowed us to standardize our system and promote a sense of consistent growth."

A new addition to this year's conference was the Professional Selling Skills Core training course offered to recruiters and all new career retention specialists since Sept. 11, 2001.

"The great thing about adding the sales training to the conference is that it teaches the section chiefs what many of their Marines already know," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert E. Pederson, Recruiters School instructor here.

By the end of the two-week conference, many of the attendees left with a wealth of knowledge, and more importantly, a sense of urgency to share that knowledge with their fellow Marines, according to James.

USMC Parents' Conference

The first National USMC Parents' Conference, "Standing in the Gap," will take place July 30 through Aug. 1 in Indianapolis.

The purpose of the conference is to help parents of Marines know their roles in supporting their children through the Corps. For more information on the conference, call Cathy Schoon at (260) 636-3102 or contact her via e-mail at schoon@ligtel.com.

Historical Society seeks executive director

The command museum Historical Society is seeking a full-time executive director to manage the daily operation and administration of the Depot command museum and Historical Society. Responsibilities include staff supervision, funds development, facilities expansion, volunteer recruitment and supervision, command liaison, public relations and membership generation.

Qualifications for the position are demonstrated leadership and vision, excellent interpersonal skills, knowledge of finance, budgeting and strategic planning.

A Bachelor's degree is required. For more information, e-mail resumes

to pat@usmchistory.com or mail them to MCRD Museum Historical Society, c/o Pat Hawkins, P.O. Box 400085 MCRD, San Diego CA 92140-0085.

Chosen Few banquet

The Montford Point Marine Association San Diego Chapter - 12 will hold the Chosen Few Banquet Aug. 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the 32nd Street Naval Station. For more information, contact Sam Bagwell at (619) 524-6865.

Iraqi-culture classes available

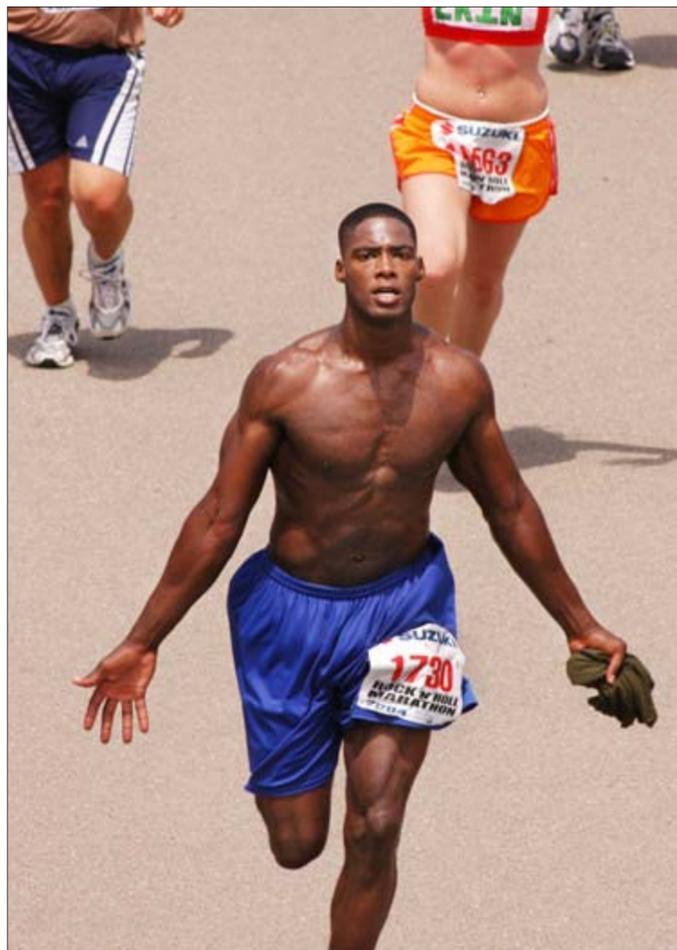
The Iraqi community of San Diego would like to show their appreciation to service members heading to Iraq.

The community is available to set up a question and answer session on the Iraqi culture and people for service members deploying to Iraq. For more information on the Iraqi Community of San Diego, contact Camille Al-Atia at (619) 417-3912 or via e-mail at catallia@yahoo.com.

Submit possible briefs to the Chevron via e-mail to rockeee@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.

'PIPE HIM ASHORE'

Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Depot commanding general, (left) retires — or "pipes ashore" — a beaming Col. Paul C. Allen, chief of staff, G3, while Capt. Brian Shottenkirk, in the background, pauses from the ceremony's narration May 28 at Pendleton Hall. Allen, who accepted the Legion of Merit at the ceremony for his exceptional training and operations leadership, retires after more than 30 years in the Corps. His wife Debbie Allen, friends and colleagues attended the ceremony. Additionally, Headquarters Marine Corps officials recently authorized Allen to wear the Vietnam Service Medal, recognizing his actions in Vietnam as an infantry lieutenant. Allen served in all three Marine Corps divisions, and he commanded 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District in the Eastern Recruiting Region. Lance Cpl. John Cosentino/CVIC



Running a 10-minute, 15-second pace, Cpl. Quinn Barfield, Depot armorer, nears the finish line where he finished at 4 hours, 29 minutes and 9 seconds. He placed 5,509th overall, 363rd among nearly 900 service members, and 261st in the men's 18-24 category. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron



Marathon medical staff assist Larry Moore, 51, of San Clemente, Calif., as he nears the finish. Moore placed 22nd among 520 runners in his division. He finished in 3 hours, 27 minutes, 19 seconds. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron



An exhausted Joseph Ngolepus, of Kenya, got down on his hands and knees after crossing the finish line in 2 hours, 11 minutes and 4 seconds. Sgt. Ryan Smith/Chevron

26.2 ROCK-HARD MILES

Live bands motivate runners throughout grueling race

Marathon, from pg. 1

rumbling bass guitar and drums pounded through the air in the festival-like atmosphere as runners cooled their heels in the grassy area between the parade deck and recruit squad bays. Many lay on their backs or sat and chatted with family and friends after their long journey. Food and beverage booths were everywhere and the smells of char-broiled chow filled the air. The recruit depot looked more like a county fair than a training base.

Several Depot Marines ran the marathon, including Padula, who felt the race was a positive and exhilarating experience.

"This was my first marathon and I

felt anything was possible after finishing," he said. "I am going to train for Iron Man next. This instilled a lot of confidence in me. It is amazing what your body can do."

Racers gained confidence and a sense of accomplishment from the race and also helped raise money for those who need it.

"The race benefited (fighting) leukemia," Padula said. "The giving spirit and competitiveness came together. It was a really positive atmosphere and I can't wait to do it again."

Depot Marines spent many months preparing for the event. Security was a top issue and the Depot was prepared to ensure the safety of runners, guests,

Marines and recruits. Months of planning and training were put into place on race day as Marines guarded the Depot and kept everything running in an orderly manner.

Coordination began in December, according to Capt. Richard D. Owen, assistant operations officer, G-3. In addition to the ground security forces, city and federal agencies were ready to provide assistance if necessary.

With 17,217 finishers and approximately 40,000 spectators and no major incidents, security seemed to cover all bases, according to Owen.

"We trained with different scenarios, from the most dangerous to the most likely," Owen said. "The Marines

did a superb job, exactly as they were trained."

Padula trained with these Marines as part of his current billet with ground security forces. Although Padula did not work the event in a security role, his command supported him in his training.

"The sergeant of the guard and corporal of the guard backed me up," said Padula. "I didn't train with anyone else, so the moral support from GSF helped keep me going."

Padula finished the marathon with a 3:53:03.

"You find out a lot about yourself as the miles progress," he said. "You compete against yourself. You train to test yourself."



Tatiana Titova, of Russia, finished first among the women runners with a time of 2 hours, 29 minutes and 36 seconds. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

More than 18,000 runners and walkers took off from Balboa Park Sunday during the Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

In combat, Marine put theory to test, comrades believe; quick action in face of grenade saved two lives

Medal, from pg. 2

Ferguson's instruction, they started checking the vehicles for weapons.

Dunham approached a run-down white Toyota Land Cruiser. The driver, an Iraqi in a black track suit and loafers, immediately lunged out and grabbed the corporal by the throat, according to men at the scene. Dunham knelt the man in the chest, and the two tumbled to the ground.

Two other Marines rushed to the scene. PFC Kelly Miller ran from the passenger side of the vehicle and put a choke hold around the man's neck. But the Iraqi continued to struggle, according to a report Miller gave later. Lance Cpl. William B. Hampton also ran to help.

A few yards away, Lance Cpl. Jason Sanders, 21, a radio operator from McAlester, Okla., says he heard Dunham yell a warning: "No, no, no – watch his hand!"

What was in the Iraqi's hand appears to have been a British-made "Mills Bomb" hand grenade. The Marines later found an unexploded Mills Bomb in the Toyota, along with AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled-grenade launchers.

A Mills Bomb user pulls a ring pin out and squeezes the external lever – called the spoon – until he's ready to throw it. Then he releases the spoon, leaving the bomb armed. Typically, three to five seconds elapse between the time the spoon detaches and the grenade explodes. The Marines later found what they believe to have been the grenade's pin on the floor of the Toyota, suggesting that the Iraqi had the grenade in his hand – on a hair trigger – even as he wrestled with Dunham.

None of the other Marines saw exactly what Dunham did, or even saw the grenade. But they believe Dunham spotted the grenade – prompting his warning cry – and, when it rolled loose, placed his helmet and body on top of it to protect his squadmates.

The scraps of Kevlar found later, scattered across the street, supported their conclusion. The grenade, they think, must have been inside the helmet when it exploded. His fellow Marines believe Dunham made an instantaneous decision to try out his theory that a helmet might blunt the grenade blast.

"I deeply believe that given the facts and evidence presented he clearly understood the situation and attempted to block the blast of the grenade from his squad members," Lopez wrote in a May 13 letter recommending Dunham for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor. "His personal action was far beyond the call of duty and saved the lives of his fellow Marines."

Recommendations for the Medal of Honor are rare. The Marines say they have no other candidates awaiting approval. Unlike other awards, the Medal of Honor must be approved by the president. The most recent act of heroism to earn the medal came 11 years ago, when two Army Delta Force soldiers gave their lives protecting a downed Blackhawk helicopter pilot in Somalia.

Ferguson was crossing the street to help when the grenade exploded. He recalls feeling a hollow punch in his chest that reminded him of being close to the starting line when dragsters gun their engines. Sanders, approaching the scene, was temporarily deafened, he says. He assumed all three Marines and the Iraqi must surely be dead.

In fact, the explosion left Dunham unconscious and face down in his own blood, according to Sanders. He says the Iraqi lay on his back, bleeding from his midsection.

The fight wasn't over, however. To Sanders's surprise, the Iraqi got up and ran. Sanders says he raised his rifle and fired 25 shots at the man's back, killing him.

The other two Marines were injured but alive. Hampton was spitting up blood and had shrapnel embedded in his left leg, knee, arm and face, according to a military transcript. Miller's arms had been perforated by shrapnel. Yet both Marines struggled to their feet and staggered back toward the corner.

"Cpl. Dunham was in the middle of the explosion," Miller told a Marine officer weeks later after he and Hampton were evacuated to the states to convalesce. "If it was not for him, none of us would be here. He took the impact of the explosion."

At first, Lance Cpl. Mark Edward Dean, a 22-year-old mortarman, didn't recognize the wounded Marine being

loaded into the back of his Humvee. Blood from shrapnel wounds in the Marine's head and neck had covered his face. Then Dean spotted the tattoo on his chest – an ace of spades and a skull – and realized he was looking at one of his closest friends, Dunham. A volunteer firefighter back home in Owasso, Okla., Dean says he knew from his experience with car wrecks that his friend had a better chance of surviving if he stayed calm.

"You're going to be all right," Dean remembers saying as the Humvee sped back to camp. "We're going to get you home."

When the battalion was at its base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., the two Marines had played pool and hung out with Dean's wife, Becky Jo, at the couple's nearby home. Dean says once in a while, they'd round up friends, drive to Las Vegas and lose some money at the roulette tables. Shortly before the battalion left Kuwait for Iraq, Dean ran short of cash. He says Dunham bought him a 550-minute phone card so he could call Becky Jo. He used every minute.

At battalion headquarters in Al Qa'im, Navy Chaplain David Slater was in his makeshift chapel – in a stripped-down Iraqi train car with red plastic chairs as pews – when he heard an Army Blackhawk helicopter take off. The 46-year-old chaplain from Lincoln, Neb., knew that meant the shock-trauma platoon would soon receive fresh casualties.

Shortly afterward, the helicopter arrived. Navy corpsmen and Marines carried Dunham's stretcher 200 feet to the medical tent, its green floor and white walls emitting a rubbery scent, clumps of stethoscopes hanging like bananas over olive-drab trunks of chest tubes, bandages and emergency airway tubes.

The bearers rested the corporal's stretcher on a pair of black metal saw-horses. A wounded Iraqi fighter was stripped naked on the next stretcher – standard practice for all patients, according to the medical staff, to ensure no injury goes unnoticed. The Iraqi had plastic cuffs on his ankles and was on morphine to quiet him, according to medical personnel who were there.

When a wounded Marine is conscious, Slater makes small talk, asking his name and hometown, to help keep the patient calm and alert even in the face of often-horrific wounds. Slater says he talked to Dunham, held his hand and prayed. But he saw no sign that the corporal heard a word. After five minutes or so, he says, he moved on to another Marine.

At the same time, the medical team worked to stabilize Dunham. One grenade fragment had penetrated the left side of his skull not far behind his eye, says Navy Cmdr. Ed Hessel, who treated him. A second entered the brain slightly higher and further toward the back of his head. A third punctured his neck.

Hessel, a 44-year-old emergency-room doctor from Eugene, Ore., quickly concluded that the corporal was "un-rousable." A calm, bespectacled man, he says he wanted to relieve the corporal's brain and body of the effort required to breathe. And he wanted to be sure the corporal had no violent physical reactions that might add to the pressure on his already swollen brain.

Navy Lt. Ted Hering, a 27-year-old critical-care nurse from San Diego, inserted an intravenous drip and fed in drugs to sedate the corporal, paralyze his muscles and blunt the gag response in his throat while a breathing tube was inserted and manual ventilator attached. The Marine's heart rate and blood pressure stabilized, according to Hessel. But a field hospital in the desert didn't have the resources to help him any further.

So Dunham was put on another Blackhawk to take him to the Seventh Marines' base at Al Asad, a transfer point for casualties heading on to the military surgical hospital in Baghdad. During the flight, the corporal lay on the top stretcher. Beneath him was the Iraqi, with two tubes protruding from his chest to keep his lungs from collapsing. Hering stood next to the stretchers, squeezing a plastic bag every four to five seconds to press air into Dunham's lungs.

The Iraqi, identified in battalion medical records only as POW#1, repeatedly asked for water until six or seven minutes before landing, when Dunham's blood-drenched head bandage burst, sending a red cascade through the mesh stretcher and onto the Iraqi's face below. After that, the man



Marines from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, bow their heads in prayer during a memorial service for Cpl. Jason L. Dunham April 29. Dunham jumped on a grenade April 14 in the outskirts of Husaybah, saving the lives of two of his fellow Marines. Sgt. Jose L. Garcia/1st Marine Division

remained quiet, and kept his eyes and mouth clenched shut, says Hering.

The Army air crew made the trip in 25 minutes, their fastest run ever, according to the pilot, and skimmed no higher than 50 feet off the ground to avoid changes in air pressure that might put additional strain on Dunham's brain.

When the Blackhawk touched down at Al Asad, Dunham was turned over to new caretakers. The Blackhawk promptly headed back to al Qa'im. More patients were waiting; 10 Marines from the 3rd Battalion were wounded April 14, along with a translator.

At 11:45 p.m. that day, Deb and Dan Dunham were at home in Scio, N.Y., a town of 1,900, when they got the phone call all military parents dread. It was a Marine lieutenant telling them their son had sustained shrapnel wounds to the head, was unconscious and in critical condition.

Mr. Dunham, 43, an Air Force veteran, works in the shipping department of a company that makes industrial heaters, and Mrs. Dunham, 44, teaches home economics. She remembers helping her athletic son, the oldest of four, learn to spell as a young boy by playing "PIG" and "HORSE" – traditional basketball shooting games – and expanding the games to include other words. He never left home or hung up the phone without telling his mother, "I love you," she says.

The days that followed were filled with uncertainty, fear and hope. The Dunhams knew their son was in a hospital in Baghdad, then in Germany, where surgeons removed part of his skull to relieve the swelling inside. At one point doctors upgraded his condition from critical to serious.

On April 21, the Marines gave the Dunhams plane tickets from Rochester to Washington, and put them up at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where their son was going to be transferred. Mrs. Dunham

brought along the first Harry Potter novel, so she and her husband could take turns reading to their son, just to let him know they were there.

When Dunham arrived that night, the doctors told the couple he had taken a turn for the worse, picking up a fever on the flight from Germany. After an hour by their son's side, Mr. Dunham says he had a "gut feeling" that the outlook was bleak. Mrs. Dunham searched for signs of hope, planning to ask relatives to bring two more Harry Potter books, in case they finished the first one. Doctors urged the Dunhams to get some rest.

They were getting dressed the next morning when the intensive-care unit called to say the hospital was sending a car for them. "Jason's condition is very, very grim," Mrs. Dunham remembers a doctor saying. "I have to tell you the outlook isn't very promising."

She says doctors told her the shrapnel had traveled down the side of his brain, and the damage was irreversible. He would always be on a respirator. He would never hear his parents or know they were by his side. Another operation to relieve pressure on his brain had little chance of succeeding and a significant chance of killing him.

Once he joined the Marines, Dunham put his father in charge of medical decisions and asked that he not be kept on life support if there was no hope of recovery, says Mr. Dunham. He says his son told him, "Please don't leave me like that."

The Dunhams went for a walk on the hospital grounds. When they returned to the room, their son's condition had deteriorated, his mother says. Blood in his urine signaled failing kidneys, and one lung had collapsed as the other was filling with fluid. Mrs. Dunham says they took the worsening symptoms as their son's way of telling them they should follow through on his wishes.

At the base in al Qa'im, Robinson, gathered the men of Dunham's platoon in the sleeping area, a spread of cots,

backpacks, CD players and rifles, its plywood walls papered with magazine shots of scantily clad women. The lieutenant says he told the Marines of the Dunhams' decision to remove their son's life support in two hours' time.

Dean wasn't the only Marine who cried. He says he prayed that some miracle would happen in the next 120 minutes. He prayed that God would touch his friend and wake him up so he could live the life he had wanted to lead.

In Bethesda, the Dunhams spent a couple more hours with their son. Marine Corps Commandant Michael Hagee arrived and pinned the Purple Heart, awarded to those wounded in battle, on his pillow. Mrs. Dunham cried on Gen. Hagee's shoulder. The Dunhams stepped out of the room while the doctors removed the ventilator.

At 4:43 p.m. on April 22, 2004, Marine Cpl. Jason L. Dunham died.

Six days later, 3rd Battalion gathered in the parking lot outside the al Qa'im command post for psalms and ceremony. In a traditional combat memorial, one Marine plunged a rifle, bayonet-first, into a sandbag. Another placed a pair of tan combat boots in front, and a third perched a helmet on the rifle's stock. Dean told those assembled about a trip to Las Vegas the two men and Becky Jo Dean had taken in January, not long before the battalion left for the Persian Gulf. Chatting in a hotel room, the corporal told his friends he was planning to extend his enlistment and stay in Iraq for the battalion's entire tour. "You're crazy for extending," Dean recalls saying. "Why?"

He says Dunham responded: "I want to make sure everyone makes it home alive. I want to be sure you go home to your wife alive."

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Infantryman Cpl. Nicholas Fierro, 3/7, kisses a helmet standing in honor of Cpl. Jason L. Dunham during a memorial ceremony April 29 at Camp Al Qaim, Iraq. Sgt. Jose L. Garcia/1st Marine Division



Joe D. Truckley of Penn Hills High School in Pennsylvania pulls himself up during sit-ups. He performed a maximum 100 sit-ups.



Eric Fabeszewski of Penn Hills High School in Pennsylvania muscles one of his 24 pull-ups.



Marines count and monitor the young women's push-ups.



Rolando O. Agtarap of Lanai High School in Hawaii touches down in the standing long jump competition.

Keystone youths

Pa. teens are national high school physical fitness champs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

Emmaus, Pa., high schoolers exhibited winning athleticism in this year's National High School Physical Fitness Championships May 21-22 at the Depot soccer field.

Approximately 250 competitors from across the country stepped onto the field under a warm sun to perform sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, long jumps and shuttle runs.

The National High School Physical Fitness Program is a continuation of the National Youth Physical Fitness Program. The high school program is designed to give added incentive for students to continue their quest toward a healthier lifestyle, according to the United States Marines Youth Foundation Inc. Web site.

Each school fronted an A-team of seniors who proved themselves as top athletes in local and regional competition in recent months.

Emmaus' female team won with 1,700 points, and their star athlete, Li-Ping



Gaemia Tracy of Penn Hills High School in Pennsylvania rounds a cone in the shuttle run competition, finishing in 47.31 seconds. Tracy was Penn Hills' top athlete, scoring 465.

Chew, was the best female competitor, scoring 375 points out of 500.

The young men of Emmaus beat out eight other schools in the competition scoring 2,306. Andy Corch, with 488, and Nate Lagler, with 481, showed their dominance as the overall best male competitors.

"We accomplished our goals," said Matt T. Roland, Emmaus. "We came out here to do our best and put it all out there."

This was Emmaus' second first-place victory in the three years Roland has been in the program.

Even though the competition is based

around the A-teams, each school brings pilot teams to prepare for next year. Pilot teams consist of juniors and below who experience competition before their senior years.

"We have 40 kids in our school and can't compete against the public school in regular sports," said ninth-place Pittsburgh East Christian High School head coach Eric A. Romandy. "This is a big accomplishment for us. (The Youth Physical Fitness Competition) allows us to compete on an individual level."

Romandy is a former YPF competitor and is leading Pittsburgh East Christian in competition against his former high school team, Penn Hills High School.

"This is our first year ever," Romandy said. "Three of the seniors decided they wanted to enter a team this year and start a new tradition for the school."

Marines were out in modified utility uniforms to ensure the competition proceeded as planned.

"The Marines helped by yelling to keep us going," Roland said. "But they picked us up if we fell short of our goals."



PFCS Arlee P. Tellei (left), Kyle T. Ngiratregd and Sherlock J. Madlutk were the first Palauan citizens sworn into the Marine Corps on Palau. Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint/Chevron

'Brothers' become first Palauans sworn in on homeland

BY CPL. SHAWN M. TOUSSAINT
Chevron staff

Nearly 60 years after Marines fought for more than 30 days to take control of the Palauan Islands from the Japanese military, three young men became the first native Palauans to enlist into the ranks of the Corps on Palau.

PFCS Kyle T. Ngiratregd, Arlee P. Tellei and Sherlock J. Madlutk became the first Palauan citizens sworn into the ranks of the Corps in Palau.

"The Navy, Army and Air Force had sworn in new recruits on Palau before, but this was the first time the Marine Corps had done it," said Madlutk.

To mark this special occasion, Palauan President Tommy Remengesau Jr. invited the three young men and their recruiter to his office where the official ceremony took place.

"It made us feel proud being the first Marines to be sworn in from our homeland," said Tellei.

Many citizens in Palau are aware of the reputation the Marine Corps has for putting new recruits through the toughest military basic training the United States has to offer. This reputation is what attracted the three new Marines from Platoon 2073, Company E.

Classmates told the enlistees they "must be crazy to join the Corps," said Tellei when they announced they were planning to enlist in the Marine Corps.

Madlutk recalled the words of a high-ranking figure in the Palauan government who came to visit him and his classmates at Emmaus High School in Koror, Palau. He came to address the students who chose to join the armed forces.

"Chief Reklai Raphael Bao Ngirmang said, 'You all made good choices, but the ones who made the best choice are Arlee, Sherlock and Kyle,'" said Madlutk. "He was a retired Marine. He talked to us about all the intangible benefits of being a Marine."

Though the three best friends knew about the benefits of the Corps, they still had to convince their parents. This task was not as easy for Ngiratregd as it was for Tellei and Madlutk.

"My mom didn't want me to join, but I told her this is what I want to do," said Ngiratregd.

The three young men who had done virtually everything together from high school sports to Sunday night dinners at each other's home, would stick to their decision despite anyone's objection.

"We are brothers," said Tellei. "We have eaten, slept and worked together for years."

However, the challenges of Marine Corps boot camp still loomed ahead. The trio would soon face the possibility of being separated after the first few weeks of training.

Suffering heat exhaustion, Ngiratregd had failed his initial physical fitness test and faced the possibility of being dropped from his platoon.

"I knew I had to get out of MRP as quickly as possible in order to avoid getting dropped," said Ngiratregd.

"We thought we were going to lose him," said Tellei. "When he came back, it was very motivating."

Today, the three Marines graduate and will soon be headed down different paths in the Marine Corps. "We will always keep in touch with each other," said Madlutk. "We have always been brothers. Now we have extended our family by becoming Marines. For us, the Corps is truly a band of brothers."

'A bit of himself'

Infantryman drill instructor hopes to better prepare Marines by teaching specialty skills

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

Newspapers piled up inside a drill instructor hut at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

When headlines related to troops, Platoon 2069, Company E's senior drill instructor used the stories about combat in Iraq to best convey real-world combat scenarios to his recruits.

The news Staff Sgt. James L. Jackson III read hit home with recruits.

"I have a brother in Iraq," said Pvt. Richard A. McLain, Plt. 2069. "When the senior drill instructor reads stories of Marines dying where my brother is, I get worried. I was very concerned about my brother at one point in training, and he arranged for me to make a phone call to my family."

Responding to the printed word, Jackson led his platoon through recruit training by emphasizing infantry skills and turning basic obstacles into preparations for war.

"Whenever we do something good, he'll read about how another Marine died," said Pvt. David A. Clime, Plt. 2069. "He taught us to act appropriately here, and that what we learn in boot camp is real."

Along with teaching values to his troops, Jackson taught them skills they could use in combat environments.

"There is always enough downtime to teach recruits more than they are required to know," Jackson said.

At Edson Range, about 50 miles north of the Depot, downtime usually refers to cleaning weapons or learning common Marine skills while waiting for events to commence.

"While other platoons concentrated on

cleaning rifles, I told my platoon to put them away," said Jackson about the night before his recruits began the Crucible - the Corps' 54-hour trial of fortitude and stamina. "Instead, we went over how to clear a building, (handling prisoners of war) and other skills they would need at (the School of Infantry) and in Iraq."

"He made everything a real-life scenario, as if it was a wartime experience," said Pvt. Michael L. Drummond, Plt. 2069.

Jackson saw the Crucible as a prime opportunity to teach such real-life scenarios. His primary job was as an infantryman, so he applies that infantry mentality to training recruits and preparing them for SOI at Camp Pendleton and for the operating forces.

"When (I was) at SOI, the Marines might have been rushed and told they will learn 'it' in the fleet," said the former SOI instructor. "These kids didn't have time to learn because a week later they were in Iraq."

According to Jackson, he has looked forward to deploying since Sept. 11, 2001. As a new drill instructor training his first cycle of recruits, Jackson listened to events unfold over a radio and became more determined to bring as much infantry skills to recruit training as he could.

Jackson's three-year drill instructor assignment ends today.

He will receive orders and checkout here before heading to Camp Pendleton and joining 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. He anticipates going to Iraq in January and leading young Marines like those he's trained.

"Staff Sgt. Jackson knows that members of his platoon may eventually join him in the Middle East conflict," said Gunnery Sgt. Patrick A. Duncan, series gunnery sergeant. "He trains his platoons hard but fair and gives each of them a bit of himself."

"There is always enough downtime to teach recruits more than they are required to know."

- STAFF SGT. JAMES L. JACKSON III



Staff Sgt. James L. Jackson III, Platoon 2069, Company E, uses downtime during training to teach his recruits infantry skills. An infantryman outside the drill field, Jackson said he hopes the specialty training will better prepare them for combat. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

ECHO COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. T. J. Henderson
Mission Viejo, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. S. Bosh



SERIES HONORMAN
PFC D. R. Woellert
Rogers, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. K. E. Russell



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC D. T. Freilinger
Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Recruited by
Sgt. B. A. Green



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC D. T. Finch
Irving, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. C. W. Riley



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC R. M. Peterson
San Antonio
Recruited by
Sgt. W. J. Diggs



PLATOON HONORMAN
PFC N. J. Thompson
Healdsburg, Calif.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. S. H. Maria



HIGH SHOOTER (244)
PFC S. R. Stanz
Sebastopol, Calif.
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. A. W. Tahir



HIGH PFT (300)
PFC D. M. Morehouse
Colton, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. T. Oakley

<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. Y. K. PARK Narrator STAFF SGT. T. NELSON</p>	<p>MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO Band Officer WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES Band Master GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS</p>	
	<p>COLOR GUARD SGT. D. NEEL SGT. J. JENKINS PVT. A. M. STRONG PVT. N. O. SCHULTZ</p>		

2ND RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. M. Zich
Chaplain
Navy Lt. K. A. Medve
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. D. W. Gallagher
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. T. L. Debarr

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

SERIES 2069
Series Commander
Capt. C. E. Roberts
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. P. A. Duncan

SERIES 2073
Series Commander
Capt. T. R. Demann
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. W. C. Cisneros

PLATOON 2069
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. L. Jackson
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. E. J. Starkey
Staff Sgt. R. D. Jordan
Sgt. F. W. Ortega

Pvt. D. Alvarado
Pvt. J. P. Anderson
PFC S. O. Avery
Pvt. T. A. Barker
Pvt. R. H. Baxter
PFC A. M. Belford
Pvt. C. S. Blair
*PFC J. D. Boston
Pvt. A. A. Caesar
Pvt. B. A. Campbell
Pvt. E. Campos
PFC K. F. Carr
PFC S. D. Cary
Pvt. C. M. Cendana
Pvt. M. L. Chapman
Pvt. M. A. Citrino
Pvt. D. A. Clime
Pvt. B. S. Cole
PFC J. S. Conway
Pvt. C. J. Corbera
Pvt. D. R. Cousino
Pvt. G. A. Cox
PFC R. P. Deloach
Pvt. D. J. Donovan
Pvt. M. U. Dorado
Pvt. K. A. Downer
*PFC M. L. Drummond
Pvt. J. D. Erdmanis
Pvt. J. H. Erickson
PFC M. G. Evans
PFC J. K. Everett
Pvt. M. A. Fox
Pvt. T. L. Freeman
Pvt. M. J. Gatto
PFC C. W. Geer
PFC L. P. Gray
PFC D. A. Groenewold
PFC J. P. Hadavi

Pvt. R. P. Hardesty
Pvt. T. S. Harrigan
Pvt. C. M. R. Heald
PFC R. Hernandez
Pvt. J. J. Hudson
Pvt. W. L. Kennedy
PFC J. D. Keskitalo
Pvt. J. B. Kirk
Pvt. E. R. Klimowicz
Pvt. M. D. Lee
PFC M. T. Lemke
Pvt. C. R. Lindahl
Pvt. K. J. Mathieu
PFC S. E. McCarty
*PFC R. A. McLain
Pvt. C. A. Meabon
Pvt. T. D. Meron
Pvt. Y. L. Mesezhnikov
Pvt. M. C. Miller
Pvt. A. W. Monroe
Pvt. J. C. Nixon
PFC H. Ochoa
PFC C. L. Prickett
Pvt. M. J. Pries
PFC M. C. Stark
PFC F. S. Tschirgi
*PFC D. R. Woellert
PFC S. O. Zarate

PLATOON 2070
Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. P. M. Headley
Drill Instructors
Sgt. B. A. Adames
Sgt. L. Cepeda
Sgt. J. Abrego

Pvt. C. N. Ahlin
Pvt. G. T. Alfonso
Pvt. A. J. Allen
PFC A. M. Almqvist
Pvt. A. M. Aquino
Pvt. B. M. Baird
PFC S. S. Barker
Pvt. C. H. Basurto
Pvt. M. A. Baugh
PFC S. M. Baxter
Pvt. R. Bennett
*PFC T. G. Bogna
Pvt. N. J. Brannan
Pvt. M. J. Brisco
Pvt. M. J. Buchana
*PFC J. C. Chavez
Pvt. A. R. Clark
Pvt. R. Colmenero
Pvt. C. A. Craythorn
Pvt. H. Del Toro
PFC C. R. Douglas
Pvt. I. L. Erickson
Pvt. M. S. Ferguson
Pvt. P. J. Jordan
Pvt. C. E. Filbin
Pvt. C. M. Fisher
Pvt. A. A. Foreman
*PFC D. T. Freilinger
Pvt. B. M. Gibson
Pvt. R. J. Gonzales
Pvt. O. C. Gonzales
Pvt. A. D. Gonzales
Pvt. R. D. Hannon
Pvt. N. G. Hart
Pvt. J. W. Hartless
Pvt. D. L. Henricksen
PFC V. R. Islas
Pvt. J. D. Kahl
Pvt. J. B. Kauffman
Pvt. J. M. Kitzmiller
Pvt. T. J. Lalumondiere

PFC A. W. Lee
*PFC F. D. Leonmeza
Pvt. C. M. Maesen
PFC B. K. Martinez
Pvt. C. A. Medina
Pvt. G. A. Montgomery
PFC S. L. Morris
PFC C. A. Motter
Pvt. E. Ochoa-Violeta
PFC G. A. Olsen
PFC M. S. Ortiz
PFC E. A. Perezhernandez
PFC T. R. Prest
Pvt. R. W. Pulst
PFC E. Reynaga
Pvt. C. B. Van Dorn

PLATOON 2071
Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. M. Lett
Drill Instructors
Gunnery Sgt. D. A. Miyasaki
Staff Sgt. A. T. Dupree
Staff Sgt. M. F. Amial

PFC J. R. Alexander
PFC K. K. Ang
PFC A. J. Armstrong
PFC B. J. Banfield
Pvt. J. J. Barde
Pvt. C. A. Boyd
Pvt. J. D. Brasley
Pvt. C. B. Burnes
Pvt. C. F. Carrillo
PFC V. W. Clemons
PFC J. W. Crabtree
PFC W. L. Dekorte
PFC M. E. Dolan
Pvt. D. A. Egan
Pvt. A. J. Hillwood
Pvt. J. Fielding
*PFC D. T. Finch
*PFC M. E. Flores
Pvt. G. Fuentes
Pvt. K. L. Gajda
Pvt. J. J. Galvan
*PFC B. A. Geck
PFC B. P. Gehrke
PFC T. A. Gernand
PFC J. A. Gill
PFC J. G. Godinez
Pvt. D. J. Gonzales
PFC B. E. Hargis
Pvt. J. J. Higgs
Pvt. J. R. Holland
PFC J. M. Howell
Pvt. N. T. Irvin
Pvt. J. J. Isom
PFC J. W. Jackson
PFC C. J. Johnson
Pvt. P. J. Jordan
Pvt. J. R. King
Pvt. M. P. Litrenta
PFC R. D. Mack
Pvt. A. Madrigal
Pvt. J. E. Marquez
Pvt. J. D. McMannes
Pvt. J. Mendoza
Pvt. A. S. Moore
Pvt. J. W. Moore
Pvt. R. Mora
*PFC D. M. Morehouse
Pvt. I. Munguia
Pvt. M. F. Oeltjen
Pvt. R. K. Olson
Pvt. E. S. Oquinn
PFC M. T. Sexton

Pvt. T. S. Hollis
PFC K. R. Jesse
PFC A. J. Montes
PFC L. Luna
Pvt. M. A. Martinez
Pvt. J. C. Mejia
Pvt. A. L. Mercer
Pvt. J. T. Obryan
Pvt. M. L. Perry
*PFC R. M. Peterson
PFC N. M. Pettingill
Pvt. C. F. Purcell
PFC A. J. Rundall
PFC D. Rusnak
PFC A. A. Rangel
PFC K. W. Ray
Pvt. J. L. Rivas
Pvt. O. Riveraquezada
PFC T. C. Robinson
PFC O. Rodriguez
Pvt. P. L. Rodriguez
Pvt. R. M. Rodriguez
PFC M. D. Tan
Pvt. V. Rusavskiy
Pvt. C. W. Thayer
PFC J. L. Thom
PFC E. E. Thomas
Pvt. A. R. Shibley
PFC M. D. Moreno
PFC N. L. Smith
Pvt. S. P. Smith
*PFC E. M. Solorio
PFC J. C. Soriano
PFC T. W. Stanley
PFC A. D. Steele
PFC S. A. Stratton
Pvt. J. A. Stuart
Pvt. J. T. Studinanz
Pvt. D. S. Stutsman
PFC M. A. Teague
PFC R. C. Thomas
Pvt. K. D. Thomas

PLATOON 2073
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. A. Hoversten
Drill Instructors
Sgt. T. R. Johnson
Sgt. M. Villegas
Sgt. B. M. Graham

Pvt. C. R. Albert
Pvt. H. E. Calderon
Pvt. Z. S. Closser
Pvt. J. S. Cruz
Pvt. N. R. Davidson
PFC M. C. Day
PFC M. G. Deleon
Pvt. K. W. Dennis
Pvt. R. J. Digard
*PFC E. A. Eagleson
PFC M. L. Ellis
Pvt. R. C. Eveleigh
Pvt. A. Garcia
PFC V. W. Gilbert
PFC M. D. Glesne
*PFC K. C. Gosvener
Pvt. D. A. Gray
Pvt. I. J. Henderson
*Lance Cpl. T. J. Henderson
Pvt. Y. Her
PFC F. N. Hernandez
Pvt. J. J. Kemp
Pvt. J. L. Kessler
PFC J. R. Krevel
PFC A. J. Ludvigson
Pvt. J. F. Lyons
PFC T. A. Madison
Pvt. S. J. Madluth
Pvt. A. S. McCauley
Pvt. S. M. Woollen
Pvt. D. L. Miller
Pvt. A. J. Montes
PFC M. Munis
PFC M. A. Neugebauer
Pvt. K. T. Ngiratregd
Pvt. J. P. Niedziela
PFC B. D. Palmer
Pvt. R. A. Ralston
Pvt. I. Rios
PFC N. M. Rockwell
Pvt. C. Rodriguez
PFC A. J. Rundall
PFC D. Rusnak
PFC A. Salcido
Pvt. S. A. Scheuermann
PFC A. R. Shastid
PFC Y. H. Shin
PFC R. Singh
Pvt. K. R. Spencer
PFC J. M. Spendlove
PFC M. D. Tan
Pvt. A. P. Tellei
Pvt. C. W. Thayer
PFC J. L. Thom
PFC E. E. Thomas
Pvt. A. R. Shibley
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Pvt. D. S. Stutsman
PFC M. A. Teague
PFC R. C. Thomas
Pvt. K. D. Thomas



Pvt. M. J. Gatto, Platoon 2069, Company E, reassembles an M16-A2 rifle as part of his final practical examination. Recruits must pass a written and oral practical exam to graduate recruit training. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Pvt. T. S. Hollis
PFC K. R. Jesse
PFC A. J. Montes
PFC L. Luna
Pvt. M. A. Martinez
Pvt. J. C. Mejia
Pvt. A. L. Mercer
Pvt. J. T. Obryan
Pvt. M. L. Perry
*PFC R. M. Peterson
PFC N. M. Pettingill
Pvt. C. F. Purcell
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PFC R. C. Thomas
Pvt. K. D. Thomas



Retired Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey J. Hill

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey J. Hill entered the Marine Corps June 24, 1973. Upon completion of recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton Calif., he underwent training at Sea School here. From 1973 to 1975, he served aboard the USS Enterprise and participated in Operations Frequent Wind, Eagle Pull and disaster relief on Mauritius. In December 1975, Hill reported to 7th Marines, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he participated in unit training at Bridgeport Calif., and the unit exchange program with the Army at Fort Lewis, Wash. Following this tour, Hill joined Naval Station Key Port/Marine Barracks Bangor Wash. From there, he was assigned to Recruiting Station Seattle as a recruiter. From 1980 to 1990, he served with various infantry units aboard Camp Pendleton. He participated in various exercises including unit training Panama, Korea, Philip-

ines and Fuji. During this time, he also joined the Marine Detachment USS Hunley in April 1985 for two years. In 1990, he was selected for Marine Gunner. He was promoted to chief warrant officer 2 and joined Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Iraq. After being promoted to chief warrant officer 4, he joined the Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, and served there from June 1997 through May 1999. After his tour with ITB, Hill remained at Camp Pendleton and served with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. During this time, he deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit as the battalion gunner. In May 2000, Hill was promoted to chief warrant officer 5. In 2003, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 1st Marine Division gunner in the drive to Baghdad,

and again with Task Force Tripoli to Tikrit. Throughout his 30 years in the Marine Corps, Hill attended nearly every infantry weapons training and survival school in the Marine Corps and participated in numerous exercises and deployments worldwide. His personal awards include: three Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, three National Defense Service Medals, three Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, seven Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, three Humanitarian Service Medals, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), five Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal and the United Nations Medal. Hill retired from the Marine Corps in September 2003 and currently resides in Oceanside, Calif., with his wife of 29 years, the former Mary-Ann Wiseman.



From the bleachers at the rappel tower here, Company E recruits listen to instructions. The recruits must learn proper safety techniques prior to rappelling. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

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

Q: What did you miss most from civilian life?



Pvt. Christopher M. Cendana
Hollister, Calif.

A: Being lazy.

Q: What was the hardest civilian habit to break?



Pvt. Thomas D. Meron II
Glendale, Ariz.

A: Picking my nose.

Q: What's your job, and why did you pick that?



Pvt. David A. Clime
Medford, Ore.

A: Infantry — I wanted to go to Iraq.

Q: Where do you want to be stationed?



Pvt. Terrence L. Freeman
Dallas, Texas

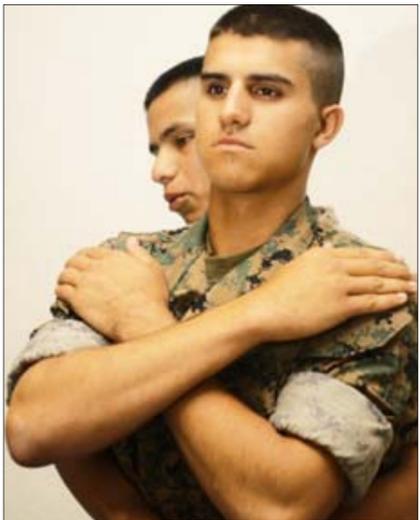
A: Okinawa, Miami or Las Vegas.

Q: Did anything make you lose your bearing?



Pvt. Keith A. Downer
Oklahoma City

A: Different things the drill instructors would say would make it a real challenge to keep your bearing.



PFCs T. G. Bogna and Julio Chavez, both of Platoon 2070, Company E, demonstrate the Heimlich maneuver during the practical application examination. The Marines are trained in basic first-aid skills. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



Cpl. Justin Dunlap, Headquarters Company, lines up for a shot in the championship match of the CG's Cup billiards tournament May 25. Dunlap's commanding officer, Maj. Charles Fuller, watched him clean the tables and bring home the first-place trophy for Headquarters and Service Battalion.



Lance Cpl. Matthew Sylvestre, postal clerk, Post Office, takes aim during the championship match against his best friend, Cpl. Justin Dunlap.

POOLED RESOURCES

“Dynamic Duo” chalks up points in billiards tourney, puts H&S on top in CG's Cup

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE
Editor

Though not showing in recent Commanding General's Cup basketball action, Headquarters and Service Battalion nevertheless swept in the cup's billiards tournament at the recreation center here May 25 and tied for first in cup standings.

Headquarters Company's self-proclaimed “Dynamic Duo” sunk the competition. Tourney winner Cpl. Justin Dunlap and his best friend, second-place finisher Lance Cpl. Matthew Sylvestre, nonchalantly cleaned the tables in the single-elimination nine-ball tournament.

Once Dunlap and Sylvestre each had won his first four matches, 28 competitors had been eliminated. H&S had sealed first and second places as Dunlap and Sylvestre met in the championship match.

“During the other games, I was a little nervous, but when (Dunlap) and I played, it was like old times – like just another day in the pool hall,” said Sylvestre. “We used to play together at least five days a week. We'd get off work and come down (to the recreation center) and play.”

The Dunlap/Sylvestre route was no accident, according to Maj. Charles Fuller, Headquarters Co. commanding officer, who said he ensured his two secret weapons were available and ready for action. A few weeks earlier, Dunlap was about to start terminal

leave and head home to Texas.

“I told Cpl. Dunlap ‘We need you to come back and do your part for the billiards tournament,’” Fuller said.

Dunlap said he was more than happy to make the trip back and compete for his unit.

“I promised I'd come back because I wanted to bring home the points for the CG's Cup,” he said.

Fuller's other shark hit a scheduling conflict as well. Originally, Sylvestre was penned for ground security training during the tournament week, so Fuller tweaked the schedule, moving Sylvestre's training to a later date and freeing up Dunlap's sidekick to accommodate an H&S victory.

Each preliminary match followed a best-of-five format, but the final two matches were best-of-sevens.

Sylvestre came on strong in the championship match, jumping out to an early 2-0 lead. Dunlap battled back, winning one game but dropping the next to put the match at 3-1. Sylvestre came up short in the end as Dunlap won three straight and narrowly defeated Sylvestre in seven games.

“Of course I wanted to win the tournament, but (I felt) if I couldn't, there's no one else I'd like to see win it, except Cpl. Dunlap,” said Sylvestre.

According to Dunlap, he was set to win although a thieving saboteur stole his “lucky stick” from the recreation center a few days before the tournament. The next day, Dunlap paid approximately \$90 for a worthy replacement cue, which he said was a sound investment after winning the tournament.

Sgt. Michael Skillings, Provost Marshal's

Office, finished third overall, completing H&S's sweep. Skillings won the loser's bracket, besting Recruit Training Regiment's Staff Sgt. Willie C. Cisneros in another close final match that also went seven games.

H&S fielded the most tournament competitors with 12. RTR had 10 entrants. Coast Guard had five, and 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District had three. Other teams in the CG's Cup competition were no-shows at the billiards tournament.

H&S now shares the lead in the cup standings with Coast Guard at 93 points. RTR is a close second with 91 points, and District is holding third with 85 points. Of the remaining three teams – Dental, Medical and Weapons and Field Training Battalion – Dental is the closest competitor to the top four with 26 points.

CG's Cup softball competition began June 1. H&S and RTR both have four teams in the softball competition, and Medical, Dental, Coast Guard and District each entered one softball team.

In the cup's first half, small point margins and a leapfrogging trend had teams continually trading positions in the standings, particularly among the top four teams. The second half promises interesting action with all the top teams focused on taking home the coveted cup.

After coming up short of third place in the billiards tournament, Cisneros, a series gunnery sergeant for Co. E, smiled humbly and reminded the victors “It ain't over yet.”



A tournament competitor takes a shot at the 3 ball in one of the preliminary rounds.