

## Relief society drive starts

Surplus helps Depot's 2004 fund; Marines, sailors help each other through donations

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

Service members from Headquarters and Service Battalion, 12th Marine Corps District and Recruit Training Regiment kicked off the 2004 Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive here Monday.

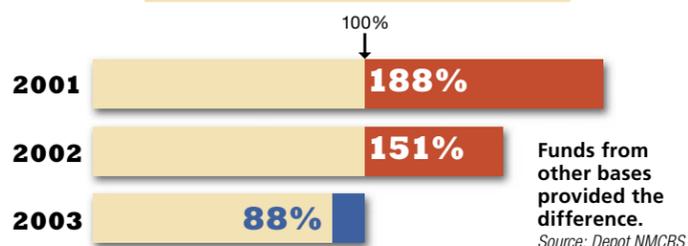
Representatives from each unit will campaign for funds during the society's centennial until April 30.

Officer and enlisted personnel are the target audience for the fund drives. The government does not provide any funding, according to the society.

"Our goal is to reach every service member attached to the Depot," said Capt. David W. Walker, assistant Depot inspector. "We want 100 percent contact to raise funds and inform service

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### PAST DEPOT FUNDS USED



2004: \$22,092 before drive kick-off

## Financial Management Office helps service members stay financially fit

BY SGT. ETHAN E. ROCKE  
*Editor*

The Community Service Center is hosting a series of free, monthly, brown-bag lunch seminars throughout the year.

The seminars, which cover a variety of personal financial fitness topics, are open to service members and dependents and are one of many financial management services available through the financial management office here.

With the multitude of get-rich-quick scams floating around America, it's fairly natural for people to be drawn to the possibility of a fatter pocket book and a more glamorous lifestyle.

Unfortunately, getting rich is something that seldom happens quickly. While many Americans may dream about someday building a fortune that would impress Bill Gates, odds are they will never realize that dream.

Ben Franklin said, "The future is that time when you'll wish you had done what you aren't doing now." That's why, according to Michael A. McIsaac, personal financial management specialist, Personal Financial Management Office, rather than placing faith in one of the thousands of get-rich-quick scams out there, service members should invest in something far more stable and promising - a better understanding of

SEE **Finance**, pg. 2

## SWIFT SILENT MEDLEY?



A bugler from the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps plays traditional Marine Corps marching music during the Battle Colors Ceremony here Saturday. *Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron*

## Battle Color Det performs aboard Depot

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

The Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon performed at Shepard Field here Saturday for the Depot's annual Battle Colors Ceremony.

Hundreds of Marines, sailors, recruits and civilians gathered under a cloudless sky to watch the performance.

"The Battle Color Detachment represents both the Marine Corps and Marine Barracks

8th and I specifically," said Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region. "It shows our military bearing and discipline to the public and that the Marines still have the best drill."

The Drum and Bugle Corps, wearing ceremonial red coats with white trousers, marched from the flagpole to reviewing stand to start the show.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Commandant's

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Rwandan graduating today shares his experiences

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### VOUCH FOR IT

Mass trans incentive program is a commuter's money saver

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### "GAME OF A LIFETIME"

Depot's brightest baller finds humility against the And 1 shoe company's squad, which is touring America playing the best players from each city for the "Streetball" TV show

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# It's time to snuff out drunk driving

One of the most disappointing things I do is receive telephone calls where the respective sergeant major on the other end says, "I hate to tell you this but we've had another DUI."

The recent statistics are alarming and much too high for personnel who are screened as the best of the best and serving on special duty. Most are doing the right things for the right reasons day in and day out. However, too many are not.

When I receive the calls, no matter how hard I try to bridle my emotion, these words take me back to an event that occurred more than 20 years ago.

Her name was Pamela Joy Beers Casteel. She was a beautiful, blonde, 26-year old college graduate with an 8-year-old

## SAFETY FROM THE SGT MAJ

son, Jamie. Pam was my first cousin, but she was more like a sister to me. I remember her looking after me when I was a young boy and she always took a personal interest in my life, career, etc. She was always

there for advice on manners, school, girls, and later even marriage.

The last time I saw Pam was when I was a sergeant headed to Recruiters School in October 1979. I had told her that I would be back in time for the Christmas holiday. Before I left, she kissed me and gave me a Saint Christopher's medal to protect us. I asked her to keep it until I came home and that she could give it to me as a Christmas gift. She smiled and politely refused.

I will never forget the morning that the duty NCO at Recruiters School told me that I needed to see the director, Maj. J. M. Guerin. He sat me down and informed me of my cousin's untimely death. Pam was pronounced dead on arrival as a result of a highway automobile accident involving a head-on collision with a drunk driver.

The major expressed his heartfelt sympathy. At the same time, he also informed me that since I was in an academic environment and Pam was "not immediate family" or next of kin, regrettably, I couldn't be granted leave. He asked me if I was okay, and I replied, "No sir, I want to go home."

He reminded me that graduation was two



Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Pulley, Depot and Western Recruiting Region sergeant major.

"I don't share this story for scare tactics, shock treatment, or even sympathy. Instead, I share it in the hope that at least one person will stop and think before they get behind the wheel and drive drunk."

weeks away and that I still had final presentations and various events to master.

I replied, "Aye aye, sir, but I need to go home." I told him how I felt about Pam and how she was always there for me and that I wanted to be there for her. He could see that my mind was set that I was going home, one way or the other.

He began to counsel me. Finally, he said he would sign the leave papers because he knew I was sincere. He also said he had faith that I would be able to make it up if I came back and didn't give up.

Maj. Guerin and I would serve together again years later when he was the commanding officer of Recruit Training Regiment here.

I went home on leave and served as a pall-bearer at Pam's funeral. I just wanted to see her one last time, but her funeral was closed-casket. I found myself looking at the lovely picture that was placed on the casket. What a senseless loss of life. I kept looking at her son Jamie thinking how unfair it was to lose his mother like that.

After the funeral, all the talk was about how the drunk driver was a habitual DUI offender who didn't have a driver's license and had supposedly stopped off at a local tavern for just one drink. The rest is history. Injuries to him: none! His sentence was 11 months and 29 days in jail. The sentence was suspended.

I don't share this story for scare tactics, shock treatment, or even sympathy. Instead, I share it in the hope that at least one person will stop and think before they get behind the wheel and drive drunk. If that can happen, then this article will be well worth it.

To me, there's really no excuse whatsoever for DUIs. Some still like to say or think that it's just a mistake. I disagree! A mistake is an accident or when you don't know better. Instead, DUI violators are making conscious, willing decisions to do wrong and violate the law. They are doing so at the possible expense of loss of limb or life — theirs or someone else's.

DUI violators are being senseless, selfish and stupid! I wish there was an Article 135 in the UCMJ for stupidity so they could be charged and fined for that as well.

I don't hate those who drink. I enjoy drinking in moderation. Drinking responsibly and in

moderation is permissible. Drunkenness is not to be tolerated.

If you are going to drink, be responsible and plan ahead. Make sure you have a designated driver or a way to get home without you being behind the wheel.

There are so many helpful leadership tools in place such as the Designated Driver and Arrive Alive programs to deter and prevent DUIs and other safety mishaps from happening. In my opinion, there's also no longer the added peer pressure to fight and drink to be a so-called "real Marine."

So why do we still have increased instances of DUIs and alcohol-related incidents? In addition to the violators' selfishness and stupidity, I think there may be a certain mentality of some leaders who want to protect vice correct their personnel.

Additionally, it strikes me as odd that some think if incidents occur off base, the punishment should be less.

Based on my experience, our Marines need, want and deserve to be held accountable for their actions. They expect it! To do otherwise is simply an injustice to everyone who tries to do the right thing.

While not every DUI incident will result in the same senseless tragedy as my cousin's death, they do have severe consequences. Innocent lives are affected. Time, money and reputation are lost. Careers can be destroyed. Depending on when in your career a DUI occurs, the fact is you may or may not recover. At a minimum, a DUI conviction requires a waiver for retention. Even then, you may just receive a two-year for-further-observation reenlistment. You may reach service limitations because you were unable to be selected for promotion.

Further, if you are senior, you can probably expect to go home at the end of your active service, if not sooner. It doesn't matter if it was your first offense.

Bottom line is that if you are involved in an automobile accident, it could possibly be yours, mine or one of our loved one's last chance.

All my cousin did wrong was drive home from work. Pam would have turned 50 last year. To this day, I miss her and wish that she had kept the Saint Christopher's medal.

## Of brotherly love, bravery

By SGT. SCOTT A. SCHENK  
3rd Marine Air Wing

Their faces, their pasts, not much different than yours. They wander through their lives looking for the same things.

Yet in their eyes something sets itself that makes them so different from the average American.

A fire that puts the meaning to their lives.

A belief that so few have, yet it beats so strongly in their hearts.

To some they are just part of the United States military. To those who know them, they are the United States Marine Corps.

A title that so many dream of yet so few can reach.

They are truly the few, the proud, the Marines.

They live every day knowing that this country's freedom lies in

their hands and they must protect it with their lives.

They're willing to risk their own lives to save another's - something not many can stomach.

Their families know that they live risk-filled lives and that each new day could be their last.

I know the pride that comes with holding such a prestigious title - for I have been living that life for the past three years.

Going through the pain and anguish of boot camp and not seeing my family for years at a time is something that I'd rather not think about, but I know that in my heart, this is much more than just a job.

I go to work every day with so many others who came from the same background and the same culture. I work with them not because it is what I am ordered to do, but because we are the best for the job and therefore it is just meant to be that way.

Our trust for each other is something that not even the greatest scholars can define.

Knowing that I would take a bullet for him and he would do the same for me sometimes stops me in my tracks. The realization is that powerful.

He is a brother to me, and I am the same to him — standing side by side on a giant field, with a dreary haze and a strong evil looming all around.

Someone should never be subjected to such circumstances - yet they accept it and continue to complete the task at hand.

With bullets and mortar rounds landing not 5 feet from their feet, they run beside each other toward what makes war so ugly.

So many have come before them holding the same title and falling for what they believe in so you and I can live in the home of the free.

Death nips at their heels as they stride forward to what may be the end of their existence - yet they don't second-guess a single step.

What some people may call just plain crazy we see simply as bravery.

Fear is a part of each and every thought when war is the only thing you can see. One may fall, but they keep moving, knowing that the only way out is victory.

In the end, they will pick up the ones who tried but could not make it and carry them all the way home to give them what they deserve - "a hero's welcome."

The tears fall, the flag is folded and the crowd soon disappears.

Standing there is a single man - the one who stood beside him as he took his last gasp of life and the one who held his head up as he said the words "Tell my family I love them."

He stands as straight as an oak as he raises his hand to his forehead and salutes the man he calls his brother.

A single tear rolls down from his eye, yet the fire still burns.

His title "hero," his reward "death," his name "United States Marine."

Sgt. Scott Alan Schenk is a ground support equipment technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Group, and is deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## ABOUT BEING MARINES

### The essence of a 'grunt'

By CPL. ROBERT STORM  
Scout staff

Words don't adequately express what it means to be a "grunt," or "infantryman." The job is so varied and includes so many different aspects — training, the field, combat, hardship, brotherhood — it's too difficult to describe sufficiently in such short space. But I'll try to give you a picture anyway.

**Training** — Four words sum up this experience: "Any climate and place." This means



**Storm** completing a Combined Arms Exercise at Twentynine Palms in 100-plus-degree heat, or a cold-weather package at Bridgeport in minus-14-degree weather with 40 mph winds. It means spending a month in Jordan to cross-train with the Jordanian military or range time on Guam in the pouring rain. It means sitting eight hours in the back of an amphibious assault vehicle sucking diesel fumes and getting a headache while being jostled worse than any roller coaster I've ever been on.

Even when we're not doing ranges, we stay busy with endless classes on radios, the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, close-quarters battle, first aid, crew-served weapons and nuclear-biological-chemical training, all so we can deal with problems quickly, cleanly, decisively and with swift violence when necessary.

**Field** — "If it ain't raining, you ain't training," is the motto here. This aspect

probably wouldn't be that bad except that, contrary to popular belief, we rarely use tents. You will also eat the best meals of your life as a grunt. Believe me when I tell you that the meal you eat after spending four months eating Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) will be the best meal of your entire life no matter what it is. The MRE you eat after a day of patrolling or a 12-mile hike with an 80-pound pack will taste pretty good too. As for MREs, whatever idiot replaced frankfurters instead of replacing beef with mushrooms should be fired.

**Combat** — Combat is a lot easier than training; after all, it's pretty easy to get shot at. Most of the time combat is boring — it's waiting for something to happen followed by a few quick minutes of so-called excitement. In those hours of doing nothing you try not to think of everything you miss back home. Playing cards passes the time, and if you don't know how to play, don't worry; you'll learn.

Spades, hearts and rummy are the most popular games. In the meantime, you'll run endless patrols and search house to house all day long.

You'll crawl through an Iraqi sewer and climb to the roofs of many buildings so you can clear from the top down.

After exhausting yourself all day, you'll dig a fighting trench so you can bed down for the night.

In the interest of speed, you make this hole just big enough for you and another Marine to be protected so you can get as much sleep as possible, since during war you're usually at 50 percent fire watch (he's watching half the time, you're watching the other half).

This results in a bond with your

## NMCRS helps service members help their own

### Relief, from pg. 1

members of what the society does."

Within the past three years, the Depot has used more money than it raised. In 2001, it used 188 percent of funds raised, and in 2002 it used 151 percent. Service members from other bases provide the difference.

"Funds raised are sent up to the regional level and then disbursed down to smaller branches," Walker said.

In 2003, the Depot changed its pattern of donating to fully provide for its own. That year's drive raised \$214,334 and issued \$187,998 in loans and grants. Starting this year, the society issued \$22,092 in loans and grants before the drive began.

The society also helps those seeking education, nursing or help for their children. They give layettes to parents needing clothing for infants.

Visiting nurses are also available at some society offices to help pregnant women with special needs.

The current uses of nurses is what is left of the society's earlier days when they were the ones to provide health care to naval families instead of the military.

To educate service members, there are case-workers who help with budgeting.

Thirty-two thrift shops providing low-cost clothing and household items. In some cases at no cost, the shops replace lost uniform items.



Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Depot and Western Recruiting Region commanding general, hands his donation for the 2004 Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive to Capt. Michael J. Wierson, Headquarters and Service Battalion drive coordinator. The relief society started accepting funds for the drive Monday and will continue to accept them until April 30. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

According to NMCRS officials, the society replaced items a petty officer 2nd class needed for her new assignment in Great Lakes, Mich., after the items were lost in a fire.

Donations keep NMCRS afloat, so to make one, or for more information, contact your section's representative.

### Finance, from pg. 1

good financial management.

"A solid understanding of your personal financial situation and prospects will give you a better chance of achieving financial success during your career and build confidence in facing financial challenges and responsibilities," McIsaac said.

The financial management office attempts to improve the quality of service members' lives through financial information, education and assistance.

"I'm here to help the individual help himself," said McIsaac. "Contrary to popular belief, I'm not a last resort when service members have gotten themselves into a financial bind. I'm here to help them avoid those binds and stay financially fit."

McIsaac said there are two ways he helps the individual help himself. He gives classes and presentations on specific subjects relating to financial fitness and he does one-on-one counseling with service members.

"I counsel people on everything from income tax planning and projections to how to teach their children the value of a dollar with an allowance," he said.

The financial management office provides education and resources on various topics, such as: budgeting, use of credit and debt, savings and investing and consumer services and rights.

"Anyone considering any major financial venture, like buying a car or a house, should talk to me first," McIsaac said. "I can save service members the anguish of a poor investment, or I might just save them some money."

McIsaac said no matter how big or small a financial issue may be, he can help in some way.

"I can show you different ways to improve your credit," he said. "If you don't have credit, I can show you the best ways to establish credit. If you have a question about money, come see me."

Anyone interested in attending a lunch seminar or personal financial management counseling should call (619) 524-1204.

## FROM THE HEART: Why one Marine re-upped at least one more time

By MASTER SGT. JACK LYNCH  
MCB Quantico, Va.

Patriotism, the Marine Corps — those things are good enough to put you in a uniform. But to cross the line of departure under fire, there had better be something else there and it is the love for the guy next to you. Absolutely the greatest fear for Marines, without a doubt, is failure — not personal failure but failing by letting someone else down. No one wants to be remembered as the man who failed the guy next to him.

I've spent most of my time in the rifle battalions, and I definitely miss it. I can't honestly describe it, other than to say that even having a family, which I do, my relationship with the Marines in a rifle battalion or company is very different but no less close.

One of the best times in my life was the six months

I spent as a platoon commander with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. The Marines I had were phenomenal. We went to Panama and the Gulf together. I worked with people who honestly believe there are some concepts that transcend money, status, position. They all believe that.

I was able to stay together with essentially the same unit for about two years. It was a very tight, close-knit unit, and it was very painful to leave that and go to recruiting duty.

Recruiting duty was probably the most challenging tour I ever had. Compared to the other services, the Marine Corps is after a different product. As a Marine recruiter, you are specifically told you will never sell a job, and you will never sell college.

When a young man or woman walks into a Marine Corps recruiting office, he or she realizes there are some places within the military services that don't

make you go to 12 weeks of boot camp. There are places that are recognized as having a higher standard of living. The young people walk into that Marine office because they saw a commercial that essentially said, "Maybe you can be one of us."

My whole family was in the Marine Corps; my uncle was in for 36 years. On my mother's side, my grandfather and both of his sons were Marines. My father was a Marine. His brother was a Marine. My brother and I are both Marines, and my daughter is married to a Marine. I believe all of us served in the 6th Marine Regiment.

If I retire at the end of this tour, it will be from a rifle battalion with one more deployment. It will not be from Quantico. I've been in the Marine Corps 22 years. When my wife was alive, the goal was to go for 30 years. I'm not as sure of that now, for my children's sake, but I have to do it at least one more time.



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### Marine Security Guard Screening Team visit

The Marine Security Guard Screening Team will visit the Depot April 2. Starting at 9 a.m. inside Building 7w, the team will present a detailed brief on MSG duty.

At the conclusion of the brief, the team will provide screening opportunities for each volunteer from the rank of Lance corporal through master gunnery sergeant.

All Marines awaiting orders to MSG school are required to attend this screening. Since this screening can be a timely process, all interested Marines should visit their command career retention specialist as soon as possible for further details.

### San Diego MS Walk 2004

The San Diego County Credit Union Multiple Sclerosis Walk 2004 takes place March 13 and 14. The walk/run is an annual event, which raises money for the National MS Society. For more information or to register, log on to [www.mswalk.com](http://www.mswalk.com) or call (858) 974-8640.

### Family-strengthening workshops

During the National Conflict Resolution Center's *Days Of Dialogue-Peace-maker Awards* March 25 through the 31, six free workshops will be available for parents, teens and families to learn the techniques of talking, listening and achieving agreements for mutually acceptable behavior.

For more information, contact Laura Walcher at (619) 238-2400 ext. 22.

### Liberty Run/Walk volunteers needed

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

The event takes place April 4. For volunteer information or entry forms, contact the volunteer coordinator at [infor@kinaneevents.com](mailto:infor@kinaneevents.com)

or call (760) 434-7706 or go to [www.kinaneevents.com](http://www.kinaneevents.com) and click on Liberty Run/Walk.

### Financial Fitness Seminars

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

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

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

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

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

### Band looking for Marines

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Designated Driver volunteers needed

The Designated Drivers Association is looking for volunteers in an effort to

cut down on DUI offenses.

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

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

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

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

### Free tax assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office is up and running.

The office provides free tax service for active duty and retired service members and their dependents.

Located in the Headquarters Company classroom, Building 6W, the office operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday the office is open from 7:30 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Appointments are available, but walk-ins are accepted as well.

Anyone filing taxes through the office should call before coming in to find out what documents and information to bring with them. For more information, call (619) 524-8107 or 8109.

### Marine Corps Times "Marine of the Year"

*Marine Corps Times* is slated to award its "Marine of the Year" for 2003 in the July 5 issue of the publication. The Times will honor the Marine who best embodies the finest qualities of the men and women serving in today's Corps. Nominations must be submitted by April 7. To nominate, go to [www.marinecorpstimes.com/Marines](http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/Marines).

Submit possible briefs to the *Chevron* via E-mail to [rockeee@mcrdsd.usmc.mil](mailto: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.

### Upcoming Single Marine Program events

#### Madden '04 Tournament

The Depot's SMP will host its second Madden tourney at the Recreation Center here Tuesday starting at 5:30 p.m. Prizes and food will be available.

#### Spring break trip

SMP will celebrate spring break in Lake Havasu, Ariz., March 19 through 21. The cost is \$50 per person for the weekend. For more information, contact Britney O'Connor at (619) 524-8240.

#### Pacific Beach surf lessons

Get a 2-hour lesson April 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. That includes the cost of wetsuit and surfboard. The \$20 is due by close of business March 22.

#### Price Is Right trip

SMP will take a trip to the Price is Right game show March 30. Anyone interested should contact Britney O'Connor at (619)524-8240 or e-mail her at [occonnorbe@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:occonnorbe@usmc-mccs.org) before COB March 15.

#### Tutor program

Anyone interested in being a tutor March 29 should contact Britney O'Connor at (619)524-8240 or e-mail her at [occonnorbe@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:occonnorbe@usmc-mccs.org) before COB March 15.

#### Aztec Invitational

\$10 dollar discounted tickets for the Aztec Invitational at Petco Park March 12 through 14 are available for military ID cardholders at the Petco Park box office.



MTIP vouchers are good for commuter trains, trolleys and buses; ferries for foot passengers, and van pools.



Coaster commuters Maj. Lisa M. Botuchis, Depot adjutant, and Gunnery Sgt. Eric J. Kosmoski, logistics chief, Headquarters and Service Battalion, walk from the Old Town rail station about a mile from their Depot offices. Kosmoski said besides money-saving reasons, he uses his commute to relax and read for an hour. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron photos

## EDUCATORS WORKSHOP



Staff Sgt. Shannan Rosenthal, an Academic Instruction Platoon instructor, explains to Dave Reichel, a career counselor at Central Kitsap High School in Silverdale, Wash., the similarities in training for male and female recruits Tuesday. Reichel visited the Depot as part of a five-day educators workshop from March 1-5. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

# WALK THIS WAY

Commuter vouchers stretching dollars, legs and scenery



Signs at the Old Town rail station assist Coaster commuters from northern San Diego County as well as trolley and bus commuters in the city. In addition to the Old Town stop, there is a trolley stop at Washington Street near the Depot's southernmost entrance.

BY LANCE CPL JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

Gas prices are high. Even on the Depot, gas is over \$2 per gallon. Many Depot employees live far from the Depot or don't own vehicles. So what can they do to save money and get to work?

How about using the Outside the National Capital Region Mass Transportation Incentive Program.

"This is a great program," said Master Sgt. Mark Graham, Depot finance chief. "I live in Orange County and I don't want to drive here every day. With this program, I can just park in Oceanside and ride the Coaster to San Diego."

The MTIP gives active-duty service members and all other DoD employees vouchers worth up to \$100 each month. The recipients then use the vouchers to buy monthly passes for whatever public transportation they need, including the Coaster, the trolley system and buses.

"A one-month pass to ride the Coaster between Oceanside and San Diego costs \$130," said Gra-

ham. "I use the voucher, then only \$30 comes out of my pocket."

Other program users may not need to use the entire value of the voucher, according to Graham.

"If a Marine lives close, but doesn't have a car, or just doesn't want drive all the time, the vouchers can be used to cover the entire cost of a monthly pass," said Graham. "But of course they won't get any change back."

The MTIP began in Washington D.C., but became active for other areas in July 2001.

The Depot has about 300 people enrolled in the program, but the majority of users are higher enlisted and officers aboard the Depot, according to Graham.

"I don't think a lot of junior enlisted know about the program," said Graham. "A lot of people also prefer to have their personal vehicle with them, but with the cost of gas, you can save a lot money by taking advantage of this. It's an employee benefit."

For more information about the MTIP, call Graham at (619) 524-1726. Marine Corps Community Service employees call William Wagoner at (619) 725-6213.

# TRUE COLORS

## Commandant's Own, Silent Drill Platoon strut on Shepard Field

Color, from pg. 1

Own Drum and Bugle Corps," said the announcer. "Your applause and cheers are encouraged throughout the performance."

The audience quickly took to clapping, whistling and cheering loudly as the Drum and Bugle Corps opened with music from the movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean."

They also played traditional Marine Corps marching music and received loud applause and appreciation throughout the entire performance.

As the Drum and Bugle Corps marched to the side of Shepard Field, the announcer spoke again.

"Ladies and gentlemen, from Marine Corps Barracks 8th and I in Washington D. C., the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon."

The audience rose to their feet to welcome them. Marching to the center of Shepard Field in dress blue-white uniforms, the Silent Drill Platoon slapped their thighs and clicked their rifle butts on the ground to make a cadence rhythm.

The Silent Drill Platoon got their name because they do their entire routine with no verbal commands or cadence from the band.

They began their routine by spinning their rifles, tossing them in the air and making rhythmic noises.

The platoon lined up for their inspection, in which the platoon sergeant stepped in front of a Marine. The Marine then threw his rifle. The platoon sergeant caught it, did some fancy drill move-

ments with it, and then threw it back to the Marine.

After a standing ovation, it was time to march on the colors. The national ensign and Marines Corps colors were presented while the "Star Spangled Banner" played.

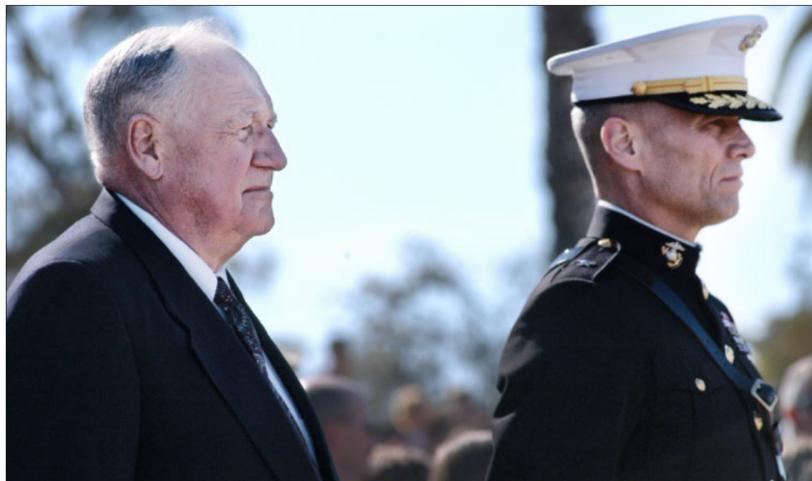
The performance concluded with a pass in review, in which the parade reviewing officer, retired Maj. Gen. Donald J. Fulham, and Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region, took their places in front of the reviewing stand.

"Watching the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon was very motivating," said Lance Cpl. Erik Hetrick, administrative clerk. "The precision and

discipline of each Marine reminded me why we are the world's greatest fighting force. We take so much pride in everything we do."

Once the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard passed, the crowd slowly dispersed, leaving Shepard after witnessing an age-old Marine Corps tradition.

"Marine Barracks 8th and I is the oldest duty station in the Corps," said Paxton. "Its Silent Drill Platoon and Drum and Bugle Corps are a showcase and both are unique among the other services. The Battle Colors reinforces our sense of history and tradition for everyone and shows the Marine Corps' traditions won't diminish."



Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, and the parade reviewing officer, retired Maj. Gen. Donald J. Fulham, stand at attention for the pass in review at the end of the Battle Colors Ceremony. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



Members of the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps draw their performance to a close as they play their final selection. Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



The Silent Drill Platoon's inspecting sergeant tosses a Marine's rifle over his back during the Battle Colors Ceremony here Saturday. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



The Marine Corps Color Guard marches the national ensign and the Marine Corps Battle Colors to the center of Shepard Field before the "Star Spangled Banner" plays. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon members stand at attention and wait to be inspected. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron



Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Warpness (front row, second from the left) pictured with fellow Marines from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Warpness was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with combat "V" device for his actions during the war. Photo courtesy of Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Warpness

## Denver Marine's selfless act contributes to victory in OIF

BY SGT. MATTHEW O. HOLLY  
8th Marine Corps District

When the Marine Corps turned its attention toward the global war on terrorism, few would have thought that a small-town Marine with dreams of seeing the world would return home as a combat veteran, decorated for his combat heroism.

Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Warpness, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, while serving as assistant machine gunner, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, with combat "V" device denoting valor for his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, April 7.

After coming up to a minefield on the west side of the Diyala River, which hindered the advance of 1st Tank Bn's offensive on Baghdad, a mine-clearing charge was detonated to clear the ground. The minefield, however, remained a daunting 150-meter hurdle of anti-tank mines and grenades rigged as anti-personnel mines for the advance.

Abandoning the safety of his am-

phibious assault vehicle, Warpness ran 120-meters down the middle of the minefield, ignoring the danger of enemy rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire, and placed a bangalore torpedo into the remaining minefield to clear a path.

The certificate – signed by Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, awarded to Warpness, who was a private first class at the time – stated that the act of valor was "instrumental in breaching the obstacle. His initiative, perseverance and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval services."

"I think my overall experience in Iraq was a good experience," said Warpness. "I learned to appreciate this great country more than before."

Warpness signed up in the Delayed Entry Program Dec. 16, 2000 and proceeded to boot camp the following year in July after attending Laramie High School.

"I was scared and proud at the same time," stated Marci Warpness,

Brandon's mother, when speaking of her son's decision to join the Marine Corps. "Joining the Marine Corps afforded him the opportunity to see different parts of the world."

When Marci asked her son if he regretted joining the Corps, he replied, "No, Mom, I don't. I wanted to see the world, that was my goal and I've certainly done that."

"I've driven from ocean to ocean and been up and down both seaboards; I've been to four different countries and met a lot of nice people along the way. I've done all of this in just two years."

"When he returned home, the difference in him was beyond description," explained Marci. "He and his father, a former Marine, stand the same way, and the only way to describe it would be to say that they stand 'tall and proud.'"

"The best way I can sum up my short time in the Marine Corps is to say that I've had a lot of fun and seen a lot of places," said Warpness.

When asked about returning to Iraq, Warpness stated he has had plenty of time to get himself and his family ready for his next deployment if he is called upon.



Lance Cpl. Brandon Warpness' unit is shown here in action in Iraq after setting off an explosive. Photo courtesy of Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Warpness

## Marines take care of own

### Recruiters, poolees offer support to help veterans

BY SGT. KIMBERLY LEONE  
Recruiting Station Chicago

An essential concept found in the toolboxes of many Marine recruiters is that of the intangibles. The Corps, from its recruiters to drill instructors and fleet Marines, promotes honor, courage, commitment and tag lines such as "a band of brothers," "take care of our own," and "once a Marine, always a Marine."

But sometimes the consumer, that potential Marine and his family, need tangible evidence to these intangible mantras.

Recently, Staff Sgt. Charles Berglund and fellow recruiter, Staff Sgt. Matthew Houston, PCS Valparaiso, Ind., showed a few Marine poolees and applicants how the Corps stands by its intangibles by volunteering at the 2003 Winter Stand-down sponsored by the Chicago Veterans Economic Development Council.

The council, a not-for-profit organization, sponsors two stand-downs a year. The winter event is designed to provide area homeless veterans with supplies that could mean the difference between life and death as they face the impending winter.

"The purpose of the winter stand-down is to equip veterans on the street for the cold winter months by providing clothing, flu shots, and information about housing available to them," said Jean Douglas, Stand-down Steering Committee Chair.

Berglund's and Houston's willingness to take a day away from their recruiting mission to support this year's event provided tangible proof of how Marines can help take care of their own.

"It's important that we show that we aren't just salesmen," said Berglund. "They need to know what I'm telling them and what other recruiters are telling them isn't just a pitch. This is an example of how we take care of our own."

Berglund, Houston, and four young men from the Valparaiso community gave their time alongside volunteers from many community outreach and veterans support organizations.

Among the services and items provided were photo identification cards, social security claims filing, food, bus passes, and winter clothing.

According to Douglas, each organization provided something unique and essential to the health and well-being of the veterans.

More than 500 veterans passed through the doors of the Northwest National Guard Armory. The Oak Park Veterans Center, Veterans Resource Center from Beverly, Ill., and the Evanston Veterans Center helped process each veteran as he came through the door. The sheer number of attendees left many waiting in the bitter cold for more than an hour.

Once inside, the VA Regional Office determined veteran status via computer link to their databases. It's a long process, but necessary according to event organizers, to ensure the limited resources go to veterans.

"The event is intended for homeless or near homeless veterans," said Douglas. "While we can ensure the people we are helping are veterans, there is no practical way to ensure that the people who come are homeless. However, it is safe to assume that you would not wait in the cold for several hours for blankets and underwear if you didn't have a need."

Aaron Bibler, 18, from Kouts High School, handed out some of those blankets and underwear to the veterans filing past a long row of tables set up in the armory gym. The day increased the quiet young man's sense of appreciation and dedication to his fellow service members.

"We should feel a sense of responsibility to take care of the veterans because of the sacrifices they made for us," said Bibler. "I wouldn't have as much as I do, the opportunities, freedoms ... if they hadn't fought for us."

## POSITIVES REINFORCE

Despite losing his mother to cancer while he served in an exhausting, high-stress occupation, a Company M senior drill instructor remains optimistic — something his mother would've wanted him to do.

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

28-year-old Staff Sgt. Jason Jenks of Platoon 3150 said he always looks for the silver lining, no matter how bad the situation.

Jenks will complete his seventh training cycle today and will report to Drill Instructor School as a faculty member.

Three years ago, about seven years into his Marine Corps career, Jenks' mother, Sandra Rassmussen, was diagnosed with lung cancer. After doctors tried to remove the cancer, she developed Ards Disease, which affects breathing. She also developed serious blood clots in her legs. Consequently, doctors put Sandra in a drug-induced coma and amputated her legs below the knees.

Jenks was working as a supply clerk at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., at the time, and he immediately flew home to Moorhead, Minn., to be with her. "Some family members and I did whatever we could to help," said Jenks. "We built her a wheelchair ramp and totally remodeled the kitchen. We lowered the counters and cabinets for her."

After his leave, Jenks came to the Depot to start DI School. Two and a half weeks later, he received a Red Cross message from his uncle.

"My uncle told me my mom was about to die, so I took emergency leave," said Jenks. "It was the saddest thing to see my

mom like that. She was bald and hooked up to all kinds of machines. Her eyes were closed, and she could barely talk. When she heard my voice, she opened her eyes barely and said, 'Jason, what are you doing here?' She was more worried about my career. She died the next day."

While in Minnesota, he and his relatives buried Sandra.

"Her death left me feeling confused," said Jenks. "Of course it crossed me. She was my mother. But I am also glad because I know she's in a better place and not suffering anymore."

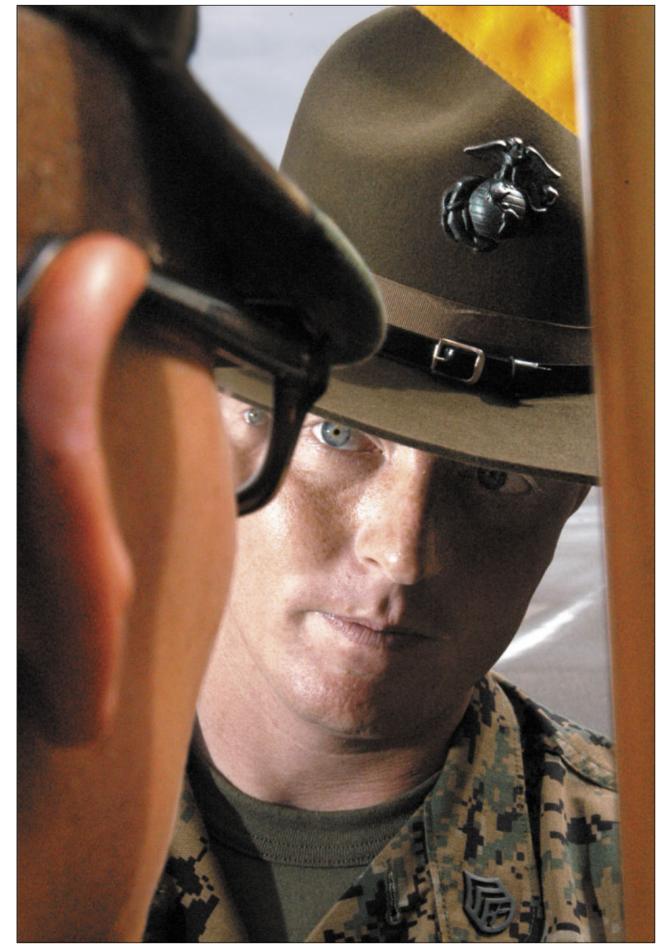
Upon his return to Drill Instructor School, his company first sergeant gave Jenks the option to drop out of the school and come back when he was in better spirits.

"Even though I was 10 days behind, I wanted to stay and finish the school," said Jenks. "My mom would've wanted it that way. She was very supportive of my career and wouldn't want it to stall for any reason."

Jenks used his mother's support for motivation, and he did extra work before and after classes. He eventually caught up with the rest of his class.

He graduated DI School and was assigned to Co. I. After two half-cycles, he was transferred to Co. M.

"Throughout my cycles, I've tried to use what I learn to see the bigger picture of recruit training and keep a positive outlook."



Staff Sgt. Jason Jenks, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3150, Company M, inspects his guide, PFC Duane White, as they cover close-order drill movements. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

His positive outlook helped him train an honor platoon, earn the Dan Daly Award for best junior drill instructor in his company, and earned Third Recruit Training Battalion drill instructor of the quarter honors.

This is Jenks' last cycle, and he said he looks forward to the new challenge at DI School. He starts his new assignment tomorrow as the school's curriculum developer. This person grades exams, guides visitors and works on the training schedule. Jenks will also be a squad instructor and in charge of training a squad.

"I think Staff Sgt. Jenks will be an excellent addition to DI School," said Staff Sgt. Chad James, series gunnery sergeant, Co. M. "The positive attitude and professionalism he displays on a daily basis is very impressive. There have been several times when I've come down on the drill instructors pretty hard and he always finds a way to keep everyone in good spirits."

Jenks said he will use his positive attitude as a teaching tool when he moves to DI School so the Corps' future drill instructors don't give up during the rigorous course.

### A REFUGEE STORY

## From killing fields to Marine Corps, Rwandan's journey took courage

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

A Marine wrote on a C-ration box in Khe Sahn: "For those who fight for it, freedom has a taste the protected will never know."

While this rings true for most service members, that freedom has an even sweeter taste for Pvt. Kimonyo Diojene, Platoon 3147, Company M, who grew up in civil war-torn Rwanda.

Twenty-year-old Diojene was born in the District of Kayonza, Rwanda, where he lived with his mother, three brothers and two sisters. His father, Paul Kimonyo, lived and worked in Kenya.

In 1990, a civil dispute between two tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsi, erupted into a bloody war.

"The Hutu made up the majority, and killed any Tutsi they could," said Diojene. "When the president was killed in 1994, things got much worse. The Hutu started killing people from other tribes and political parties."

Diojene's mother, Dayfoloza Venant, decided it

was no longer safe. Many families fled to neighboring countries for refuge. The trek would be nearly 200 miles.

The family set off by foot for Tanzania, which was a safe haven for the refugees.

"My mother didn't know the way," said Diojene. "None of us did, but we just followed the other people down the highway."

They were able to set up tents and sleep some nights, but other nights they had to keep moving.

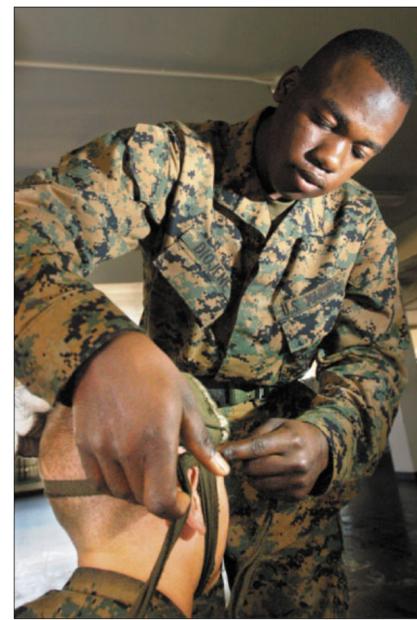
"One night we heard gun shots at three in the morning," said Diojene. "We had to pick up and leave right away. We walked all through the next day."

To make matters worse, they had no water. In Rwanda and many other African countries, the people must go down to the nearest river and draw their own water. The highway was nowhere close to a river.

After nearly a week of walking, Diojene and his family reached an open field across the Tanzanian border.

"United Nations members were there giving out

SEE **Rwandan**, pg. 11



Pvt. Kimonyo Diojene, Platoon 3147, Company M, applies dressing to Pvt. Aaron Wagner as his platoon practices for the practical application test. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

# MIGHTY MIKE



**COMPANY HONORMAN**  
Lance Cpl. K. R. Anderson  
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. M. R. Guadaluja



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC J. W. Hoard  
Elko, Nev.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. E. D. Carney



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC R. P. June  
Arvada, Colo.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. K. H. Forbus



**SERIES HONORMAN**  
Lance Cpl. A. J. Zander  
Bellingham, Wash.  
Recruited by  
Sgt. J. Rodriguez



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC D. E. White  
Fallon, Nev.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. D. W. Spears



**PLATOON HONORMAN**  
PFC L. J. Similton  
Wichita, Kan.  
Recruited by  
Cpl. T. J. Davis



**HIGH SHOOTER (244)**  
Lance Cpl. K. R. Anderson  
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.  
Marksmanship instructor  
Sgt. B. Pinnel



**HIGH PFT (300)**  
PFC J. A. Miller  
Temesca, Calif.  
Recruited by  
Staff Sgt. R. Green

**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  
STAFF SGT. D. L. TOMPKINS  
Narrator  
STAFF SGT. R. K. DAVIS

**MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO**  
Band Officer  
WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES  
Band Master  
GUNNERY SGT. B. C. PARADIS  
COLOR GUARD  
SGT. S. VILLARREAL  
SGT. F. J. CORONA  
PFC J. A. MCKINNEY  
PVT. J. P. POUND

**3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION**

Commanding Officer  
Lt. Col. J. R. Ewers Jr.  
Chaplain  
Cmdr. R. J. Silveira  
Sergeant Major  
1st Sgt. A. D. Miller  
Battalion Drill Master  
Staff Sgt. B. M. Fuller

**COMPANY M**

Commanding Officer  
Capt. J. C. Smith  
Company First Sergeant  
Gunnery Sgt. J. S. Moran  
Company Corpsman  
Hospitalman M. A. Lewis

**SERIES 3145**

Series Commander  
Capt. Grass  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. M. D. Wright

**SERIES 3149**

Series Commander  
Capt. C. R. Lucas  
Series Gunnery Sergeant  
Staff Sgt. C. O. James

**PLATOON 3145**

Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. T. J. Chaplin  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. D. A. Bonner  
Staff Sgt. R. W. Stahl  
Sgt. K. A. Miller

Pvt. J. L. Aguilar  
Pvt. J. H. Alcaraz  
Pvt. N. Alenov  
PFC A. E. Allen  
Pvt. O. A. Arauzzambrana  
\*PFC A. M. Archie  
PFC E. S. Barcenas  
PFC S. J. Barraza  
Pvt. D. J. Belcher  
Pvt. J. W. Bone  
PFC A. C. Carrillo  
Pvt. C. E. Carthron  
Pvt. J. J. Clines  
\*PFC L. C. Cronin  
Pvt. L. H. Crowell  
PFC B. J. Deano  
PFC J. A. Diaz  
Pvt. P. H. Do  
Pvt. D. C. Dotson  
PFC R. S. Eilert  
Pvt. J. R. Evans  
PFC J. M. Franco  
PFC J. W. Fulwiler  
Pvt. R. L. Galban  
Pvt. R. A. Gary  
Pvt. A. Z. Garcia  
PFC T. E. Geist  
Pvt. J. R. Glasper  
Pvt. A. Gomez  
PFC J. D. Gonzales  
PFC M. R. Gregston  
PFC Z. C. Hamel

PFC T. E. Geist  
Pvt. J. R. Glasper  
Pvt. A. Gomez  
PFC J. D. Gonzales  
PFC M. R. Gregston  
PFC Z. C. Hamel  
Pvt. R. B. Hinton  
\*PFC J. W. Hoard  
Pvt. J. K. Holland  
Pvt. K. W. Hoover  
Pvt. B. K. Hopfe  
Pvt. K. B. Hutchinson  
Pvt. A. R. Jacoby  
Pvt. J. T. Johnson  
Pvt. S. C. Jones  
Pvt. T. M. Lafser  
PFC C. B. Lee  
Pvt. J. K. Lowery  
Pvt. D. A. Manrique  
Pvt. C. R. Martinez  
Pvt. J. T. McQuern  
Pvt. J. M. Pisenno  
PFC R. Salazar  
PFC S. M. Strand  
Pvt. E. J. Vargas

**PLATOON 3146**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. A. D. Gomez  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. G. F. Ronquillo  
Sgt. R. S. Britt

Pvt. R. T. Alexa  
Pvt. J. C. Anderson  
Pvt. A. P. Arnold  
PFC R. J. Balistreri  
\*PFC C. P. Bannister  
Pvt. K. A. Beasley  
PFC A. B. Bertram  
PFC B. A. Blessing  
PFC E. Z. Brown  
PFC M. J. Bryson  
Pvt. B. B. Buckley  
Pvt. C. Cano  
PFC J. L. Cardenas  
Pvt. F. J. Carrasco  
Pvt. M. D. Chaney  
Pvt. G. L. Clemenson  
PFC M. A. Cosen  
Pvt. M. C. Daniels  
Pvt. C. M. Despot  
Pvt. B. M. Diamon  
Pvt. M. L. Dolan  
Pvt. J. D. Drewlo  
Pvt. J. A. Embrich  
Pvt. N. R. Emerson  
PFC H. Espinoza  
Pvt. B. S. Fennell  
Pvt. T. R. Foster  
PFC D. A. Glein  
Pvt. M. E. Gmur  
Pvt. R. C. Gomez  
PFC B. F. Griffeath  
Pvt. T. M. Hamby  
Pvt. J. R. Ramos  
Pvt. N. E. Hauglund  
Pvt. D. A. Headings  
Pvt. J. R. Hermostillo  
Pvt. T. W. Holder  
PFC J. C. Holland

PFC W. A. Hopkins  
Pvt. M. A. Hulcy  
\*PFC P. T. Ireland  
PFC K. A. Kempen  
Pvt. C. S. Kidd  
Pvt. B. J. Kniffen  
PFC J. M. Kronenberg  
PFC T. L. Krueger  
\*PFC J. M. Kyle  
PFC B. A. Ladika  
Pvt. J. N. Lozano  
PFC P. M. McCalister  
Pvt. J. R. Robinson  
PFC R. D. Wroblewski  
PFC C. M. Yeaw

**PLATOON 3147**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. Lozano  
Drill Instructors  
Sgt. A. J. Griffus  
Sgt. H. L. Marquez

\*PFC J. M. Adkins  
PFC A. E. Alvaradosalguero  
PFC K. R. Anderson  
\*PFC A. J. Azcuenaga  
PFC K. G. Ballesteros  
Pvt. E. Benavides  
Pvt. J. W. Benson  
Pvt. S. S. Billela  
Pvt. M. T. Cook  
Pvt. E. A. Delfin  
Pvt. K. Diojene  
PFC S. A. Dixon  
Pvt. N. L. Dotson  
Pvt. J. A. Evangelista  
PFC R. C. Findeisen  
Pvt. W. B. Gardner  
Pvt. J. K. Gonzalez  
PFC B. J. Grabowski  
Pvt. J. M. Gruttadauro  
PFC J. P. Harlan  
Pvt. J. M. Harnden  
Pvt. F. Pacheco Jr  
\*PFC T. G. Hill  
Pvt. V. C. Hua  
Pvt. J. Huynh  
Pvt. B. A. Jones  
PFC S. P. Kelly  
PFC P. R. Kenney  
PFC R. B. Mabius  
PFC J. Mastro  
Pvt. A. V. Masuch  
Pvt. E. J. McCabe  
Pvt. J. A. Miller  
PFC A. P. Miranda  
PFC J. M. Munoz  
Pvt. I. A. Nunez  
Pvt. M. D. Oreilly  
Pvt. G. Paramo III  
Pvt. J. Perez  
Pvt. S. P. Purvis  
Pvt. H. A. Ramirez  
Pvt. R. C. Ramos  
Pvt. J. Y. Rhee  
PFC J. P. Rico  
\*PFC M. A. Romeroespinoza  
PFC D. B. Samperisi  
Pvt. C. G. Schaefer  
PFC M. J. Stangle  
Pvt. A. W. Tellers

Pvt. T. V. Thome  
Pvt. G. Toreses Loredo  
PFC B. P. Trimmer  
Pvt. A. B. Wagner  
Pvt. W. Yang

**PLATOON 3149**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. E. S. Martinez  
Drill Instructors  
Staff Sgt. J. A. Rodriguez  
Staff Sgt. R. A. Taylor  
Sgt. A. A. Escobar

Pvt. N. J. Agliano  
PFC T. K. Bailey  
Pvt. J. A. Baker  
\*PFC T. J. Bettles  
Pvt. V. C. Bigornia  
Pvt. L. X. Cepeda-Moreno  
\*PFC N. F. Cerdenola  
Pvt. M. A. Cole  
PFC J. Cruz  
Pvt. C. A. Cruz  
Pvt. J. E. Davis  
Pvt. D. K. Dennis  
Pvt. K. J. Duranleau  
Pvt. J. A. Edwards  
Pvt. J. L. Elias  
Pvt. J. W. Gatlin  
PFC D. K. Hartsig  
Pvt. J. J. Homan  
Pvt. H. M. Hong  
Pvt. J. D. Hunter  
Pvt. J. A. Kapitan  
Pvt. B. A. Koch  
Pvt. T. C. Larson  
PFC B. A. Latin  
Pvt. S. Y. Lee  
Pvt. D. H. Lee  
Pvt. M. A. Lee  
Pvt. D. T. Maffei  
Pvt. B. A. Marquez  
Pvt. R. A. Moreno  
PFC L. R. Ocasio  
Pvt. F. Pacheco Jr  
PFC B. A. Ransom  
PFC B. L. Rivera  
Pvt. G. Rodriguez  
Pvt. M. A. Seamons  
Pvt. R. R. Sharky  
Pvt. D. G. Sprinkle  
Pvt. N. A. Stepp  
Pvt. B. D. Sterle  
Pvt. D. H. Vega  
Pvt. F. Wallace  
\*PFC J. M. Watkins  
PFC S. R. Wellington  
PFC H. J. Wertel  
PFC M. R. Wilkes  
Pvt. E. Wolfe  
Pvt. M. Wolfe  
PFC A. Wolfe Jr  
\*PFC S. Zacarias Jr  
Pvt. E. Zdon  
PFC S. R. Zencka  
PFC A. J. Zender  
PFC R. R. Zimmerman

Staff Sgt. S. Chaffin  
Staff Sgt. J. Melendez  
PFC J. A. Brecht  
Pvt. R. P. Goward  
Pvt. E. R. Hartman  
Pvt. B. D. Hicks  
Pvt. E. L. Honcoop  
Pvt. G. J. Imholt  
Pvt. A. L. Kelley  
Pvt. J. E. Kim  
\*PFC J. F. Kolaszewski  
PFC K. D. Maclaren  
Pvt. E. I. Martinez  
PFC G. D. McDonald  
\*PFC T. J. Miller  
Pvt. M. R. Mize  
PFC J. J. Murray  
Pvt. M. Navarro Jr.  
Pvt. R. P. Olvano III  
Pvt. C. J. Overright  
PFC J. J. Porchas Coronado Jr.  
Pvt. J. G. Portalatin  
PFC C. J. Poulos  
Pvt. S. G. Rael III  
Pvt. A. R. Ragusa  
PFC D. J. Redding  
Pvt. Z. T. Reed  
PFC C. C. Ressler  
\*PFC R. D. Reyes Jr.  
\*PFC J. D. Reynolds  
Pvt. L. M. Ryan  
Pvt. B. K. Lunn  
PFC A. J. Maciag  
Pvt. J. A. Malish  
Pvt. A. Martinez  
PFC J. J. Martinez  
\*PFC J. P. Mast  
Pvt. K. L. Maynard

**PLATOON 3150**  
Senior Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. J. E. Jenks  
Drill Instructors



**Pvt. C. Vega, Platoon 3151, Company M, eats gelatin at the recruit messhall before going to the rappelling tower.** Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

**Rwandan, from pg. 9**

food and camping equipment to the refugees," said Diojene. "It wasn't very sanitary. Everyone used one side of the road as a rest room. It was awful."

The family camped there for nearly three weeks before Diojene's father sent some friends with trucks from Kenya to pick his family up. They boarded the trucks and journeyed to Kenya.

"In 1995, (my siblings and I) were sent to Kenyan boarding schools," said Diojene. "We were adopted by Kenyan families so we could adjust and learn the Kenyan way of life. My first year, I had to learn three new languages.

After learning English, Swahili and Kikuyu Diojene attended Catholic high school until it was time to leave Kenya in 2000.

The U.S. allowed Diojene's family to move stateside with a travel loan. A Christian charity organization helped them get into a house, and they received government aid for eight months to help them get on their feet.

They moved to Denver, where Diojene continued high school and joined the school soccer team.

"High school was difficult for me at first," said Diojene. "I'm glad I was able to graduate."

After graduation, Diojene wasn't sure what to do with his life.

"I didn't have money for college and could not see myself doing nothing in three or four years," said Diojene.

"I saw a television commercial for the Marine Corps. I thought to myself, 'Maybe one day I can be one of them.'"

Diojene contacted his recruiter that summer and shipped to recruit training here. However, his hardships didn't end.

"Early in receiving, the doctor saw a problem on my neck," said Diojene.

His right lymph node was swollen enough to disqualify him from the Marine Corps.

Diojene went home disappointed, but not discouraged. He had the lymph node removed and nearly a year later, reported to Platoon 3147, Company M, for recruit training again, with only a diagonal scar on the side of his neck this time.

Diojene welcomed the challenges of recruit training and said the culture shock didn't intimidate him.

"In Africa, physical abuse is welcomed," said Diojene. "Here, they don't do that, so it's not too bad."

His drill instructors took notice of his hard life in Africa and were impressed by his eagerness to learn and succeed.

"Diojene is a fast learner," said Staff Sgt. Javier Lozano, his senior drill instructor. "He has been through a lot in his life, and it takes a lot of courage, not only to live through his trouble in Africa, but also to be rejected here and then come back to try again. That's dedication."

Diojene graduates today, and he said the long road from Rwanda to the Depot has been well worth the hardships.



**Retired Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth (Betty) Noble**

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sgt. Maj. Betty Noble, born in San Diego Sept. 29, 1922, has lived in Alpine, Calif., most of her life. She left Alpine to enlist in the Corps June 5, 1943 after getting her release from Consolidated Aircraft Co. in San Diego.

Noble attended recruit training in July 1943.

After recruit training, Noble was assigned to Motor Transport School. From there, she received orders as one of the first 93 women to be assigned duty at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif. She was there until November 1945 when the women were released after World War II.

Noble reenlisted in the regular Marine Corps at her previous rank of staff sergeant March 27, 1949 when women were authorized to become regular Marines.

Noble was assigned duty at Henderson Hall, Washington D.C., where she served as noncommissioned officer in charge of the enlisted file section at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Noble was transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., when the Women Marine Recruit Training Battalion came in effect.

From March 1953 to March 1955, Noble was the first sergeant of Women Marine Company, Quantico, Va. From there, she was transferred to MCAS El Toro for 18 months and 3 days.

After those 18 months, she was assigned back to HQMC as first sergeant of the Women Marine Company.

After a three-year tour of duty at HQMC, Noble received orders for MCRD San Diego and again served as first sergeant of the Women Marine Company until November 1961.

She received orders for Camp Smith, Hawaii, and also served as first sergeant of women there.

Noble returned to MCRD San Diego again, initially serving as first sergeant. Later she was assigned as administration chief in the Depot adjutant's office. She was promoted to master gunnery sergeant at that time.

Noble later transferred to MCRD Parris Island where she served as sergeant major of the Women Recruit Training Battalion.

Noble was the third woman to reach the rank sergeant major and the second to retire, and she was the first woman sergeant major to retire at Parris Island.

Noble retired Nov. 30, 1968 with 24 years of service.



**With little spare time, recruits from Platoon 3147, Company M, study for their practical application test.** Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

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

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



**PFC Jacob W. Hoard**  
Spring Creek, Nev.

**A:** I missed women the most.

**Q: What will your occupational specialty be?**



**PFC Levi C. Cronin**  
Spring Creek, Nev.

**A:** Infantry. I really don't know why I picked that.

**Q: What is the best MRE and why?**



**PFC Steven M. Strand**  
Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada

**A:** Enchiladas. It was the first time I ate them.

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



**PFC Anash E. Allen**  
Fresno, Calif.

**A:** Saying 'this recruit' instead of 'I' or 'me.'

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



**PFC Anthony M. Archie**  
Reno, Nev.

**A:** Working carpentry for a former U.S. Marine Corps drill instructor.



Cpl. Quinn Barfield auditioned and won a chance to play against the And 1 basketball team. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

# RARE GAME

Hot Sauce punks Depot's Marine qualifier, but it's all good

BY LANCE CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

**CPL.** Quinn Barfield, a technician at the Depot armory here, recently auditioned for the chance to play what he called the game of a lifetime — playing against the And 1 basketball team Feb. 23 at Point Loma High School in San Diego.

"Anyone who knows basketball knows about the And 1 team," said Barfield.

The And 1 team is sponsored by the And 1 shoe company. The team tours the country to play the best players from each city. They have a TV show called "Streetball."

About 85 players from ranging from 8 to 30 years old rallied at the school gym Feb. 22 for to audition.

"There were some great players there," said Barfield. "I had never played with — or against — most of the guys."

The players were divided into five-man teams that played a series of five-minute games. After each game, the players who stood out moved to the next round. Those who didn't shine went home.

The high-flying 23-year-old said he specializes in dunking, and that is just what he did. Barfield soared through all three qualifying rounds to make the 12-man squad.

"When they told me I made the team, it was unreal," said Barfield. "Out of everyone in San Diego, I was good enough to make it."

With no practice or scripted plays, the selected dozen met at the high-school gym for the big game.

About 500 people showed up to watch the And 1 players do what they do best: destroy opponents and make players look silly.

The game was split into 25-minute halves, and Barfield was a starter for the San Diego team.

"I've never played in front of that many people before," said Barfield. "It was incredible."

Barfield scored 15 points with three dunks, including the first dunk of the game.

"That's what the people came to see," said Barfield. "It's a show. The coaches told everyone to play soft defense because the people pay to see crazy offense."

Although Barfield played a solid game, one of the And 1 players, Hot Sauce, got Barfield with his trademark move.

"I was playing defense and Hot Sauce started to cross over and then step back," said Barfield. "He dribbles so fast that I had to concentrate hard. Then he bounced the ball off my forehead and ran past me. At first I was mad that I got punked, but then I thought of how many hundreds of people he's done that to and I just laughed."

Barfield has made basketball a priority in his life, behind his daughter and the Marine Corps. The Georgetown, Texas, native has played since he was a young boy and never looked back. He played for the All-Marine team in 2002 and currently plays for the Depot varsity team. He said the secret to his success is practice.

"A lot of guys love to play basketball but they don't love to practice," said Barfield. "I spend about 15 hours every week working on the simple stuff: dribbling, shooting, running and lifting weights."

The game is scheduled to air on "Streetball's" next season on ESPN. The And 1 team will come back to San Diego in June for their Mix Tape tour, when they pick up the best players from opposing teams to travel with them. Barfield said he will be ready.

"I'm just going to keep practicing and hopefully, I can play even better in June," said Barfield. "Maybe I'll even make the And 1 team."



A lot of guys love to play basketball but they don't love to practice. I spend about 15 hours every week working on the simple stuff: dribbling, shooting, running and lifting weights.'

— CPL. QUINN BARFIELD

At the Depot field house, Cpl. Quinn Barfield, a Depot armory technician, executes one of several high-flying dunks. Though Barfield specializes in dunks, he said he always remembers basketball's fundamentals. Lance Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron