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CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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Gunnery Sgt. Shawn C. Corcoran, 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District, is congratulated by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, during the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Combined Service Awards ceremony Nov. 1. *Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin/MCRC*

Top recruiters honored by Commandant, SMMC

by Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin
Marine Corps Recruiting Command

Marines who led the way for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command during fiscal year 2005 were recognized in two separate ceremonies held here.

At the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Combined Service Awards ceremony on Nov. 1, four Marine recruiters were honored for their accomplishments. The 2005 Recruiter of the Year was Gunnery Sgt. Shawn C. Corcoran from Recruiting Sub-Station Fond Du Lac, Recruiting Station Milwaukee, 9th Marine Corps District and the 2005 Prior Service Recruiter of the Year was Staff Sgt. Mario N. Atkins, 8th MCD Prior Service Recruiting Site in Phoenix. The runner up for the recruiter of the year was Staff Sgt. Manuel Palos from the 12th MCD and the PSR of the year runner up was Staff Sgt Michael Stine from the 4th MCD.

"This is a hallmark occasion for all our Marines being awarded," said Maj. Gen. Walter Gaskin, commanding general, MCRC. "These are the hardest workers in our Corps. They are the closest to the fight and I can't feel more proud, especially in the environment in which they work in. Therefore, I applaud the efforts that these Marines have exhibited."

All four Marines received Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and the winners were meritoriously promoted to their current ranks. They also received various gifts from Marine Corps affiliated organizations and sponsors.

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, represented the commandant in honoring the award recipients. He congratulated the Marines and reemphasized to everyone in attendance the importance of recruiting.

"These Marines have reached a pinnacle outside their primary (occupations) through hard work and sacrifice," Estrada said. "There would be no United States Marine Corps without the efforts of all our recruiters. Your job in recruiting is undoubtedly one of the most important in our Corps."

In a separate ceremony held at the Clubs of Quantico on November 3, the 2005 staff noncommissioned officers in charge and transitional recruiters were honored. The 2005 SNCOIC of the Year was Gunnery Sgt. Genaro Lopez, RSS El Paso East, RS Albuquerque, 8th MCD and the 2005 Transitional Recruiters of the Year was Staff Sgt. Komisi Faraimo, Western Recruiting Region.

The deputy commandant for plans, policies and operations, Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly, the guest speaker, lauded the Marines for their accomplishments and described recruiting as the part of the Marine Corps, "where the fire begins."

"These Marines represent the finest in the Marine Corps – that ember that starts the flame and keeps the Marine Corps fires burning," Huly said. "It doesn't start on the yellow footprints. It starts with who the recruiter is in his heart, in his mind and spirit. Quality begets quality and that's what the Marine Corps is all about."

As with the recruiters and prior service

Happy Veterans Day from the CG

FROM OUR CG

Our nation pauses every year on Veterans Day, Nov. 11th, to honor those American men and women who served our country in uniform. This year, four years into the global war on terrorism, it is only right that we pay tribute to those whose sacrifices and selfless service purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy, and the unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States. From the first battles in Concord and Lexington through our ongoing fights in Afghanistan and Iraq, in conflicts that shook the foundation of civilization and in humanitarian missions that saved countless lives, our veterans provided the sword and the shield that protected and represented our nation.

Veterans Day also provides us yet another opportunity to thank all Marines and Sailors serving around the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Western Recruiting Region today, continuing the great legacy of those veterans who went before us from places like Belleau Wood, Seoul, Hue and Fallujah. Your determination to recruit and train future Marines provides us the ability to shape, harden and sharpen those young men and women into the elite warriors of tomorrow, those who will carry our noble tradition well into the future.

And so, on this day of reflection and tribute, the depot and region thank our veterans – those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, those still serving, as well as those no longer in uniform - for all they have done and continue to do for our great country. They have been and remain Semper Fidelis.

Please take the opportunity to enjoy the long weekend. In doing so, be sure to make smart decisions, those that are consistent with our core values and that take care of ourselves, our families, and our fellow Marines. We need each and every Marine in this command to be safe and responsible in order to carry out our critical mission of making Marines in order to continue winning battles. Have a safe weekend, and a memorable Veterans Day!

Sincerely,

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

SMP under new leadership

by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro
Chevron staff

The newly appointed SMP president, Cpl. Kelley A. Bentley, vice president Cpl. Robert Fleagle and new coordinator Lowell Muenchau, met for the first time Monday in the Marine Corps Community Services office.

Bentley and Fleagle were elected by SMP representatives during a going-away ceremony for Britney O'Connor, SMP's coordinator for the last three years.

Muenchau was chosen by former SMP representatives to take charge of the depot's program designed to increase morale and camaraderie among Marines, according to Bentley.

Bentley was an active member of SMP at her first duty station in Okinawa, Japan. "I came from Okinawa, and I went to some of the trips with SMP there. It's cool because in Okinawa, they do big trips, but here (at the depot), it's a lot of little trips. There's always something going on, which is good for (the Marines) because it gives them something to do as opposed to being a barracks rat," said Bentley.

SMP is not just for single Marines, but encourages Marines of all ranks, ages, and marital status to join in the scheduled events, according to Bentley.

The program includes many civil service events for depot Marines to take part in such as a trip to the Veterans Affairs hospital to visit with prior service members. A holiday dinner has also been scheduled for Marines on Thanksgiving.

"I want to try to plan more trips, get more ideas from new Marines to see what they want from the program. I enjoy the program, and the Marines and I enjoy helping. I just want to make them happy," said Bentley.

Upcoming SMP events include a day of organized paintball and an invitation to a scheduled taping of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno show Nov. 23. The depot SMP was requested to help fill the seats of the military-only audience, and dinner will be provided to all service members who attend.

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Native American Semper Fu instructor rocks the boxing ring, keeps warrior mentality
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recruiters, the six SNCOICs and two transitional recruiters also received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and gifts.

During a brief interview after the CMC Awards ceremony, Corcoran reflected on his accomplishments and stated that recruiting duty has allowed him to reaffirm his belief in the Marine Corps. He found that being direct, open and honest was an important part in becoming a successful recruiter.

"As a recruiter, you have to believe in the Corps," said the Madison, Wisconsin native. "Having perseverance and putting in a hard day's work will pay off. However, it is important to be honest and straight forward because once you compromise your integrity – you're done."

The SNCOIC of the year was very humble about his accomplishment, but expressed his sense of pride for his Marines.

"I have to attribute my success to my Marines because of their hard work on the streets and the quality of kids we have in El Paso," the El Paso, Texas native said. "My Marines recognize that they have an important job to do for the future of the Marine Corps. It's something that has to be done."

In addition to awarding the Marines for their special achievements, MCRC had reason to celebrate at the end of the fiscal year as the command met its assigned goals for FY '05. The command shipped 38,882 out of a targeted 38,838 applicants

Depot hosts annual retiree seminar

by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro
Chevron staff

The annual retired military personnel seminar and resource fair was held at the McDougal Hall Saturday at 9 a.m.

The fair provided a legislative update, estate planning information, a survivor benefits plan, information on Tricare-for-life and free flu shots.

"It was very informative. There are so many organizations with benefits for the retired, not just retired but veterans as well, that they might not know enough about like health care, social security and tricare," said retired Sgt. Maj. Bill E. Paxton, the 2005 Veteran of the Year.

"Some (veterans) do not it know existed, and some of it they don't know enough about. Here they get the chance to get information about it and each booth has friendly professional people to talk to," said Paxton.

Booths were set up in front of the theater with information about of the subjects discussed during the seminar.

There was also information about charitable events and ways to get scholarships for the grandchildren and children of veterans.

Nearly 2,000 retired military service members attended the event.

"Just from the feedback I have gotten from the people as I walk around, I think it was a huge success.

As an active-duty person, I'm not sure where retirees go to get information, so for it to be all in one place is very helpful," said Navy Capt. Lori F. Turley, program director, community support programs commander of Navy Region.

Depot Commanding General Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. greets retired Marine Lou Chatelle at this year's retirement seminar. *Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro/Chevron*

BRIEFS

Employment opportunity

The Historical Society is seeking to employ a motivated person at the gift shop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. This position is responsible for cashier, stocking and folding shirts. For additional information please call Bunny Hand, gift shop manager at (619) 524-8272.

Military testing available

Recruit Administration Branch offers the Defense Language Proficiency Test, Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery tests to all service members. Testing is held every Friday at 8 a.m. Contact Mr. Rahmani at (619) 524-6123, Sgt. Jockell or Eva Patterson-Hill at (619) 524-1993 to schedule an appointment.

Recycling reminder

Recycling efforts and dedication continues to be outstanding for MCRD. Trash tonnage going to the landfill has declined, while recycling tonnage has increased for Fiscal Year 2006. Thanks from the recycle center and remember these simple guidelines: Cardboard, paper, plastic, metal, and wood products are recyclable. Red recycle bins are available throughout the depot and at the recycle center. Green dumpsters are for trash only. Every bit of effort put into sorting and separating recyclables helps improve the efficiency of your program.

Volunteers needed

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego is seeking volunteers to help build a playground in the Linda Vista community Dec. 1. If interested, call Ron X. Calloway at (858) 227-6670.

SEND BRIEFS TO scott.dunn@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Marines get real life Tarawa lesson

by Pvt. Charlie Chavez
Chevron staff

A Recruit Training Regiment lieutenant colonel gave a history lesson on a famous World War II battle to depot Marines at Martini Hall Nov. 2.

Lt. Col. Brian D. Kerl, RTR operations officer, and a couple veterans who fought in the Battle of Tarawa hosted the battle study, attended by officers and mostly senior enlisted Marines.

Among the guests was Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., depot commanding general. He spoke before and after the lesson and presented the veterans with gifts.

Like from a movie fight scene, Kerl and a lance corporal grabbed the audience's attention by running into the room in authentic WWII uniforms, dressed as a Marine and a Japanese soldier.

Kerl began the hour-long history lesson focused on the tactics and shortcomings of both American and Japanese forces on Tarawa, November 1943.

According to Kerl, the Japanese main objective was to deny Allied forces access to the islet and set up a formidable defense. The Japanese had entrenched themselves on the islet of Bieto and had prepared for 15 months, collecting 4,836 troops with enough supplies to hold them over for a year.

The Allies wanted the islet for its airfield, and for the tactical part it played in the island-hopping campaign. Marines used amphibious assault capabilities and attacked the islet in November.

Problems in the first day for the Marines included miscalculation of the tide, resulting in Marines being dropped further from the beach than intended, and the reef was sharp and took many lives. Marines had also never been trained on the amphibious assault vehicles, and the salt water killed radios.

"During (the landing) I found out I can hide behind three or four grains of sand," said Mike Meyer, a Tarawa veteran. "I was thinking to myself, 'I wish I would have paid more attention in the Boy Scouts and learned how to swim.'"

On the second day, the situation improved for the United States; reinforcements were arriving and Marines were taking ground.

On the third day, the fierce fighting continued until the forces were within 30 meters of one another.

The fourth day concluded the battle, leaving 4,836 Japanese dead and 146 alive - mostly Korean workers. The Japanese soldiers were a versatile force that fought to the death.

"I'm not a hero … the buddies I had who didn't make it are heroes," said Tarawa veteran Will Sooter.

The Marines sustained 3,301 casualties and 837 killed in action. Learning from the bloody battle, Corps leaders realized that the pre-bombing of the islet before the attack left planes guessing where to drop bombs and that landing vehicles needed to be more versatile.

Lt. Col. Brian Kerl, left, and Lance Cpl. Ryan James act out the Battle of Tarawa at Martini Hall Nov. 2. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron*

Service Members' Civil Relief Act – how it works

by Capt. Edward C. Mitchell
Contributing writer

LEGAL

On Dec. 19, 2003, President George W. Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act, replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940. The SCRA provides military personnel – especially those deployed or called to active duty – greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations. The Service Members' Civil Relief Act is significant in that it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the now defunct SSCRA, while adding some additional protections.

This article focuses on the provisions of the new law, governing the termination of real property leases. Under the SCRA, leases of premises occupied, or intended to be occupied, by a service member or a service member's dependents for a residential, professional, business, agricultural, or similar purpose may be terminated if the lease is executed by or on behalf of a person who thereafter and during the term of the lease enters military service; or the service member, while in military service, executes the lease and thereafter receives military orders for a permanent change of station or to deploy with a military unit for a period of not less than 90 days. This change, which may appear minor, is actually quite significant, as it eliminates the need for service members to request military termination clauses in leases. Prior to the enactment of the SCRA, it was not uncommon for service members to often encounter difficulty in either negotiating military clauses with a prospective landlord, or trying to break a lease not containing a military clause.

To terminate a lease, the service member must deliver written notice to the landlord at any time after receipt of PCS, deployment or active duty orders – oral notice is not sufficient. The tenant must include a copy of the orders along with the written notice. If for some reason copies of the orders are not available, a letter from the individual's command regarding the prospective orders may suffice.

The termination becomes effective 30 days after the first date on which the next rental payment is due subsequent to the date when the notice of termination is delivered. For example, if the rent is due on the first day of each month, and notice is mailed on Aug. 1, then the next rental payment is due and payable on Sept. 1. Thirty days after that date would be Oct. 1, the effective date of termination. Termination becomes effective on the last day of the month following the month in which proper notice is delivered. For example, if the lease requires a yearly rental and proper notice of termination is given on July 20, the effective date of termination would be Aug. 31.

The service member is required to pay rent for only those months before the lease is terminated. If rent has been paid in advance, the landlord must prorate and refund the unearned portion. If a security deposit was required, it must be returned to the service member – less any lawful deductions – upon termination of the lease.

Remember, the SCRA is a law providing active duty service members certain rights based upon the conditions of their military service – it is not a tool to be used to escape your obligations.

If you have questions about your rights under the SCRA, visit the MCRD Legal Assistance Office for further assistance, or call (619) 524-4110 for an appointment.

Capt. Edward C. Mitchell is a legal assistance attorney aboard the depot.

I thought they were crazy

That's what a high school student said about the Marines; then she came to the depot

by Brittany Moncrease
Contributing writer

As I looked at the inquisitive panel of teachers, I asked myself, "Why do you want to go on this trip anyway?" I searched for an answer, but I had a difficult time responding. My sister and classmates had gone last year. To them it was great. I'd heard numerous stories of their experiences. Determined to give a cohesive, passionate answer, I pulled out a few typical " I want this bad" lines.

I contemplated my reasoning for dedicating my fall break to the yearly Marine Corps Recruit Depot trip. I knew what to expect, I'd been to the mainland before, and I'd heard last year's stories so well that I could retell them as my own. Despite what I'd believed, I knew nothing about the Marines. The only thought my friends and I had was that Marines were crazy for being Marines.

My primary responsibility on the trip was to adequately capture the experience on video. As the only TV productions student, everything that happened – every significant moment or meaningful quote – needed to be somewhere on tape. I went into the experience looking to produce a great documentary video, but I left with much more than good footage. Watching the recruits push themselves beyond their limits showed me just how powerful this boot camp process is.

With two days at Miramar and the Boot Camp Challenge behind us, we were excited to see what more we could learn and experience at MCRD. My initial stigma about the Marines was slowly dwindling and I now had an open mind. Escorted by Marines, the group was able to witness a day in the life of a recruit. We listened to the challenges they faced, witnessed them overcome some of them, and grew insurmountable respect for what these young men were doing. By this point, I'd heard numerous affirmations about just how much the Marines had changed their lives for the better.

> 'The pride they exuberated let everyone know just how hard they'd worked.'
>
> – *Brittany Moncrease*
> High School Senior

The best moment for me was being able to speak with three recruits informally about their experiences thus far. These recruits ranged from of 17-19 years old, and they all had completely different backgrounds. As they stood sharing what enlisting and going through boot camp had done for them, my group couldn't help but empathize and share in the their pride.

The recruits were in the midst of transformation, and it was evident. One recruit shared how he was the only one in his family to enlist in the Marines and how just having the opportunity to experience boot camp was an honor for him. That moment changed my perception entirely.

I left there feeling as if I'd witnessed something powerful. Just when I thought it couldn't get much better, we were able to see Preston Cole-Yamaguchi, a 2005 James Campbell High School graduate and Marine recruit, who'd been on the same trip with our school last year. I didn't personally know the recruits we met at the squad bay, but I knew Cole-Yamaguchi prior to his enlistment. To view the change, discipline and growth he'd gained was incredible.

During the drive back to the hotel, I reflected on all I had witnessed at MCRD and the entire trip up to that point. I realized just how much of an honor it is to be part of the few and the proud. The Marines at Miramar never lost sight of their purpose; their first priority was to protect our nation. Despite their areas of specialty, they all were riflemen first. It was evident in the Marines' walk, posture and discipline that they took their job seriously. No one could deny who they were.

The following day, our group was able to see the motivational run and emblem ceremony. This year was especially significant for us because Jeffrey Natividad, a Campbell graduate as well, completed boot camp and officially became a Marine. In the run, he and the rest of the recruits, as the emcee so eloquently stated, were floating on air. The pride they exuberated let everyone know just how hard they'd worked.

I'd seen the majority of the tour through an LCD screen, but once the emblem ceremony began and the drill instructors went along giving the recruits the emblems they'd worked so hard to earn, I put the camera down to take in the moment. I saw hundreds of young men, probably boys prior to boot camp, stand as proud Marines with their families looking on through tear-drenched eyes. It was like a big family sharing pride together. The Golf Company Marines were proud, their families were proud and we were proud for them. What I shared was moving. Once I took it in, of course, it was back to taping.

Sadly, I wasn't able to see the graduation the next day, but as I sat back home in Hawaii, it was on my mind. I'd initially left for San Diego looking to make a good video about the Marines. I didn't exactly know why I wanted to go, I didn't know what I wanted to gain from the trip, but I left with an unbelievable experience.

What I found is that if it's crazy to sign up for the most difficult boot camp experience, crazy to endure pain, sweat and tears for honor; crazy to value your country and sacrifice your life to protect it, then indeed Marines are crazy. But if they are, we should all aspire to that crazy. Pain is temporary, but pride is forever.

Brittany Moncrease is a senior at James Campbell High School in Hawaii. She recently visited the depot with a group of teachers and classmates.

CHEVRON
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Depot Camping Connection offers trips to San Diego's big back yard

by Pvt. Charlie Chavez
Chevron staff

Active duty service members on the depot and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., have opportunities to go on camping trips provided by Marine Corps Community Services Camping Connection.

The fourth annual Joshua Tree National Park trip was cancelled due to a lack of interest. The overnight trip would have featured challenging hiking, climbing, mountain biking and a scenic sunset on the Mojave and Colorado deserts.

"I have sponsored 12 events, and we have only had to cancel three," said Jeffery A. Turner, manager at the depot Camping Connection.

Many different offices and personnel from around the depot use the trips as morale boosters, office functions or family outings.

"Usually groups go," said Turner. "Eight people from dental and two Marines and their wives went to Lake Sabrina last year, which is our featured spring event."

Camping Connection usually coordinates three trips a year and tries to appeal to many different types of activities for active duty personnel.

"We did a backpacking trip one year and it worked out, but then the next year we didn't have enough interest," said Turner. "What people in San Diego don't realize is that they have a wonderful back yard only an hour away."

One of Camping Connection's objectives of is to help people on the depot try to see parts of Southern California that they might not see on their own.

"If someone likes the outdoors, or even a Sunday drive they can come along and see what we like to promote," said Turner. "A lot of the places here are family spots that are under utilized."

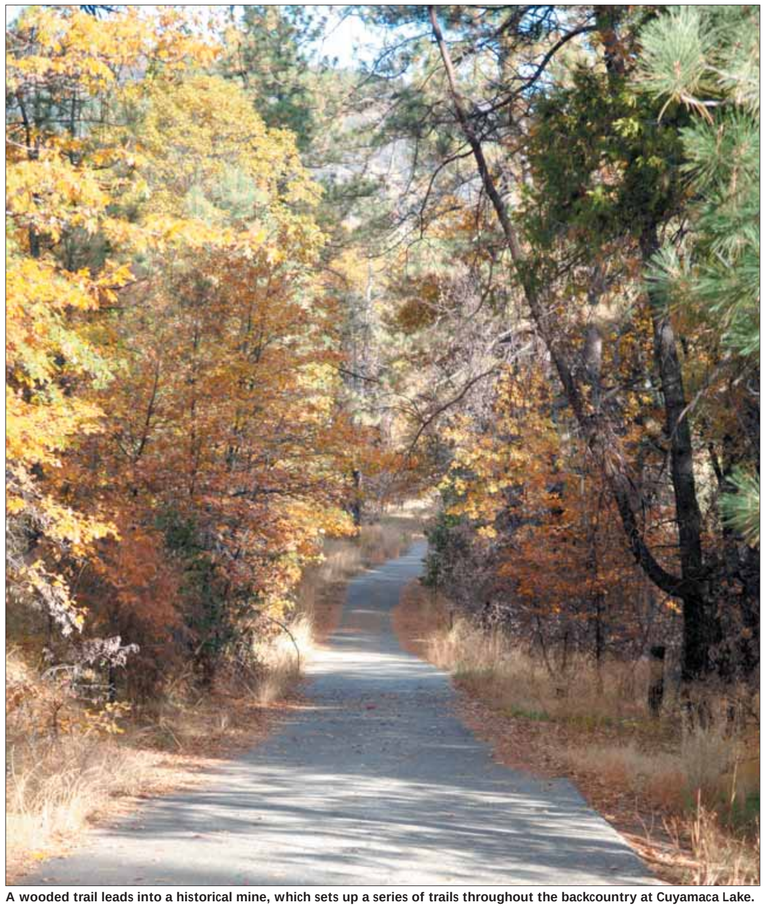
Taking a trip outside of San Diego is a quick and effective way to get outside the busy city, even if it is only an hour away.

"I enjoyed getting away from the office and seeing more than just the city life," said Lance Cpl. David R. Downs, administration clerk, who visited Cleveland National Forest Monday. "It was kind of a stress reliever to be away from everything and just do what we wanted to do."

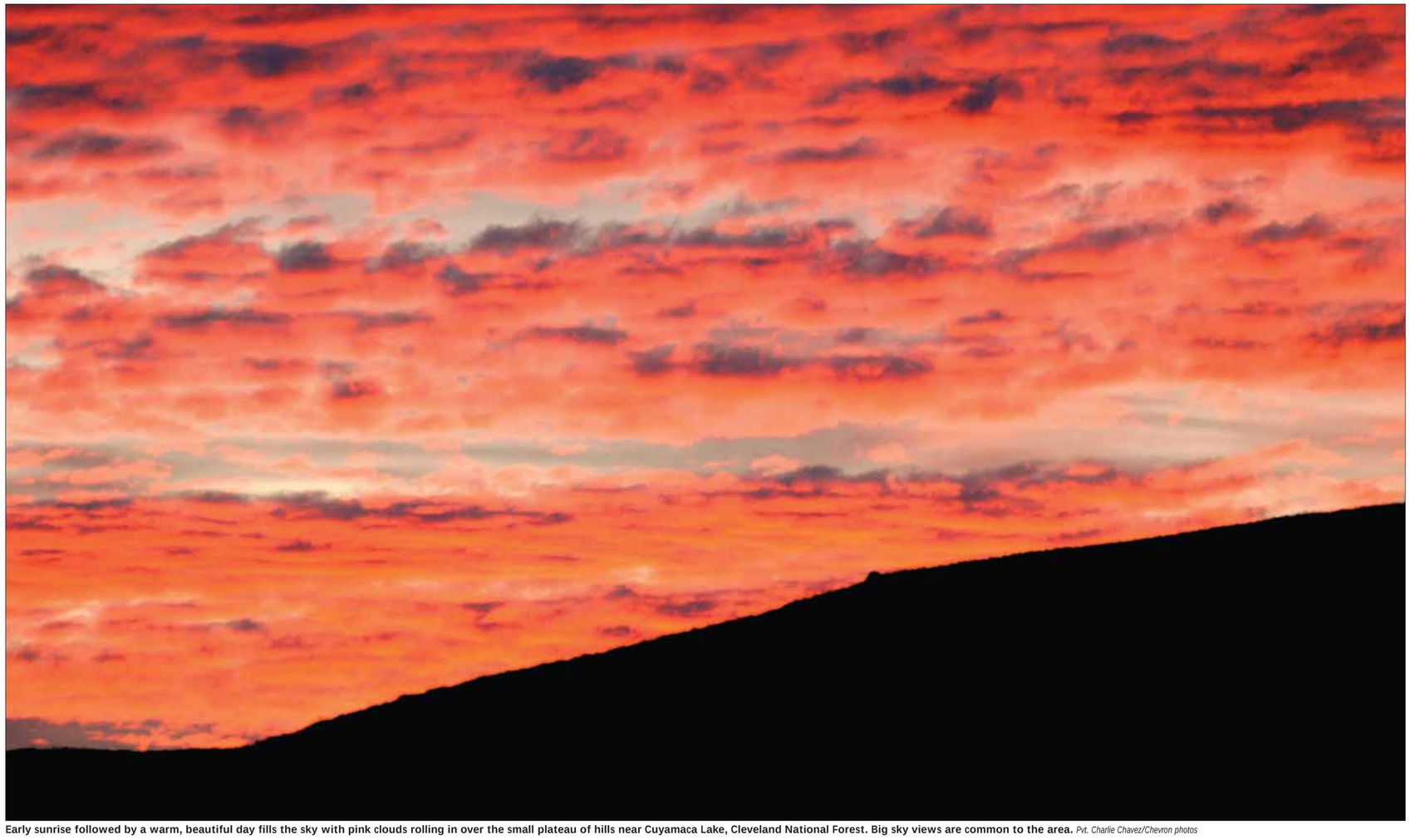
For more information on local camping, hiking and leisure activities, call Camping Connection at (619) 524-6180.

Fishermen at Cuyamaca Lake, Cleveland National Forest, set their lines for trout early Monday morning on a dock reserved for fishing.

The cool morning is accompanied by an array of different colors filling the sky above trees below the horizon at Cuyamaca Lake.



A wooded trail leads into a historical mine, which sets up a series of trails throughout the backcountry at Cuyamaca Lake.



Early sunrise followed by a warm, beautiful day fills the sky with pink clouds rolling in over the small plateau of hills near Cuyamaca Lake, Cleveland National Forest. Big sky views are common to the area. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos*

Platoon 1128	Platoon 1122	Platoon 1121	Platoon 1123	Platoon 1125	Platoon 1126	Platoon 1127	Platoon 3127	Platoon 3126
COMPANY HONOR MAN	**SERIES HONOR MAN**	**PLATOON HONOR MAN**	**PLATOON HONOR MAN**	**PLATOON HONOR MAN**	**PLATOON HONOR MAN**	**PLATOON HONOR MAN**	**HIGH SHOOTER (237)**	**HIGH PFT (300)**
Lance Cpl. D. B. Rohrer	Pfc. B. M. Manibog III	Pfc. K. A. Cueto	Pfc. B. G. Chapoy	Pfc. D. A. Carter	Pfc. P. Woo	Pfc. A. G. Wilterdink	Pfc. A. G. Wilterdink	Pfc. B. M. Manibog III
Farmington, Utah	Lancaster, Calif.	San Jose, Calif.	San Angelo, Texas	Lubbock, Texas	San Antonio	Midwest City, Okla.	Midwest City, Okla.	Lancaster, Calif.
Recruited by	Recruited By	Recruited by	Recruited by	Recruited by	Recruited by	Recruited by	Recruited by	Recruited By
Sgt. J. W. Johnston	Sgt. D. M. Pittack	Sgt. J. V. Koi	Sgt. S. J. Ramerez	Cpl. T. A. Humphreys	Staff Sgt. E. Quiroga	Sgt. J. S. Brownd	Sgt. J. S. Brownd	Sgt. D. M. Pittack

BRAVO COMPANY

These are America's newest Marines and their leaders at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company B graduates 488 men today:

FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. B. S. Blankenship
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. A. A. Spadaro
Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr. J. E. West
Drill Master
Staff Sgt. L. G. Duranleau

COMPANY B
Commanding Officer
Capt. W. Doctor Jr.
Executive Officer
1st Lt. R. D. Vallee
First Sergeant
1st Sgt. S. P. Slattery

SERIES 1121
Series Commander
Capt. R. P. Benson
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. F. M. Moreno

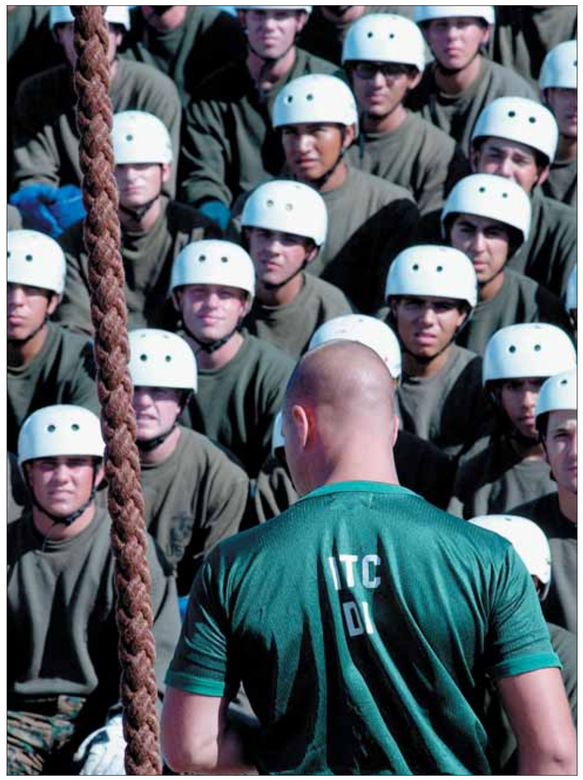
SERIES 1125
Series Commander
1st Lt. T. N. Paulson
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. M. A. Pagan

PLATOON 1121
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. L. Jones
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. D. D. Ketcham
Staff Sgt. C. S. Amancio
Staff Sgt. C. M. Cooper

*Pfc. A. Anchondovillegas
*Pfc. J. A. Aragon
Pfc. N. M. Bailey
Pfc. M. T. Ball
Pfc. I. J. Blais
Pvt. B. Bradley
Pfc. M. K. Brothers
Pfc. J. M. Brown
Pvt. K. Brown
Pvt. N. J. Bushing
*Pfc. J. Carrillo
Pvt. S. Clack
Pvt. J. R. Cleveland
Pvt. D. Coleman
Pvt. D. A. Conte
Pvt. J. M. Coriaarmenta
Pvt. M. J. Couture
Pfc. K. A. Cueto
Pvt. M. J. Dahl
Pvt. K. Danbury
Pvt. D. P. De Weerd
Pvt. K. R. Defount
Pvt. M. J. Desalvo
Pvt. R. E. Dottenwhy
Pfc. T. Egan
Pvt. S. Espinoza
Pfc. S. J. Facista
Pfc. A. Flores
Pvt. O. Flores
Pvt. C. S. Freeman
Pfc. C. Galeazzi
Pvt. S. M. Giannitrapani
Pfc. G. Giltner
*Pfc. J. Grey
*Pfc. K. R. Gronsky
Pvt. C. J. Hentschel
Pvt. V. Hernandez
Pvt. T. Hill
Pfc. M. Hollingsworth
Pvt. D. D. Holloway
Pvt. R. L. Hopkins
Pfc. B. Huddleston
Pfc. J. W. Karcis
Pvt. J. K. Kelly
Pvt. G. A. Kidder
Pfc. S. J. Kimbrell
Pvt. T. L. Knudsen Jr.
Pvt. R. Kooiker
Pfc. D. A. Larsen
Pvt. A. B. Lauck
Pfc. T. J. Ledbetter
Pvt. T. D. Lentine
Pvt. X. A. Leon
Pvt. J. Lonchar
Pvt. B. Mahoney
Pvt. D. Maksim
Pvt. R. L. Maltby
Pfc. M. R. Manzanares
Pvt. J. Martinez
Pvt. R. J. Mays
*Pfc. A. M. McGady
Pvt. R. D. Menachosalas
Pvt. C. D. Milam
Pfc. M. M. Moreland
Pvt. N. C. Mullins
Pfc. J. Obermier
Pvt. B. P. Parker
Pvt. J. A. Roe
Pfc. L. J. Rogers
Pfc. C. P. Seip
Pvt. C. L. Shelton
Pvt. B. Tucker
Pvt. C. E. Wonders

PLATOON 1122
Senior Drill Instructor
Gy Sgt. E. P. Ackley
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. M. Jackson
Staff Sgt. A. J. Loftus

Pvt. M. G. Afkari
Pvt. R. K. Almendarez
Pvt. A. A. Amador
Pvt. E. S. Anderson
Pvt. M. A. Aponte
Pfc. A. Atenco
Pvt. F. Avila
Pvt. J. Batz
Pvt. M. K. Blum
*Pfc. C. M. Bova
Pvt. D. P. Bowden
Pfc. R. A. Brewer
Pfc. N. Brown
Pfc. R. S. Brown
Pvt. J. C. Cabay
Pvt. M. R. Calix
Pfc. B. A. Christopher
Pvt. R. J. Coffman
Pvt. A. Z. Cotton
*Pfc. A. Cutler
Pvt. J. L. Deboer
Pvt. C. A. Ebeling
Pvt. B. Eischen
Pvt. A. Emul



Company B men get a safety lesson from an Instructional Training Company drill instructorbefore taking on the rappel tower here. *Marjorie Valdez/Chevron*

Pvt. R. D. Estrada
Pfc. S. M. Faber
Pvt. S. Fenwick
Pvt. K. S. Fitzgerald
Pvt. A. Flores
Pvt. J. J. Franz
*Pfc. J. W. Frein
Pvt. A. E. Gaston
Pvt. S. Geinosky
Pfc. L. B. George
Pvt. D. P. Gile
Pfc. T. X. Gonzalez-Fawcett
Pvt. J. T. Gorges
Pvt. L. Gravenish
Pvt. A. F. Guzman
Pvt. J. E. Hansen
Pvt. T. Harder
Pvt. D. A. Harris
Pvt. J. D. Hart
Pfc. J. E. Hernandez
Pvt. J. Hinojosa
Pvt. M. C. Hohertz
Pfc. E. M. Hopkins
Pfc. J. Huerta
Pvt. A. C. Hurlebaus
Pvt. J. Jackson
Pvt. K. K. James
*Pfc. K. Johnson
Pvt. D. Jones
Pvt. J. D. Jose
Pvt. C. Khatri
Pvt. E. S. Kim
Pvt. B. T. Koontz
Pfc. D. J. Krohn
Pvt. F. J. Langarica Borrayo
Pfc. J. L. Lee
Pvt. L. Macias
Pvt. J. J. Macmurdo
*Pfc. B. M. Manibog III
Pvt. F. Mariscal
Pvt. R. McBride
Pvt. J. L. McQueary
Pfc. C. J. Mejia
Pvt. R. N. Messenger
Pvt. F. J. Morales
Pvt. A. J. Muñoz
Pvt. R. R. Pacheco

PLATOON 1123
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. R. Aguilar
Drill Instructors
Sgt. O. H. Gomez
Sgt. B. L. Henning

Pfc. A. Aguirre
Pvt. A. L. Andrade
Pvt. L. J. Ausler
Pvt. A. H. Avery
Pfc. J. C. Avila
Pvt. C. B. Bailey
Pfc. A. P. Beaurgard
Pvt. C. A. Brister
Pfc. A. Brown
Pvt. R. R. Brown
Pvt. L. J. Carter
*Pfc. B. G. Chapoy
Pvt. C. L. Childress
Pvt. K. A. Clifton
Pvt. C. R. Clouse
Pvt. M. A. Coppock
Pfc. A. T. Coronado
Pvt. M. J. Cotton Jr.
Pvt. S. T. Craig
Pvt. T. S. Crawford
Pvt. L. W. Culberson
Pvt. J. Del Real
Pvt. J. S. Derosa
Pfc. O. J. Doolittle-Titus
Pfc. J. L. Dunn
Pfc. A. T. Edwards
Pfc. P. T. Ervin
Pvt. F. Estrada
Pvt. A. Etherington
Pvt. J. A. Fearn
Pfc. K. W. Forehand Jr.
Pvt. L. A. Galitan
Pvt. M. S. Garcia
Pvt. W. E. Gaultney
Pfc. B. L. Goetz
Pvt. E. K. Gunter Jr.
Pvt. J. G. Hernandez
Pvt. R. Hernandez
Pvt. C. R. Hilton
Pvt. D. J. Hinther
Pvt. T. L. Hodges
Pvt. J. L. Hotze
Pfc. A. W. Isbell
Pfc. D. D. Johnson
Pvt. D. R. Jones
Pvt. J. M. Joplin
Pvt. J. P. Joson
Pvt. J. M. Junior
Pvt. J. A. Lambert
Pvt. D. Lee
Pvt. C. J. Little
Pvt. B. M. Lucia
Pvt. C. K. Mach
Pfc. H. H. McKay III
Pfc. B. D. McLeod II
Pvt. M. R. Mecklenburg
Pvt. R. O. Mejia
Pvt. P. A. Merida
Pvt. A. L. Michaux
Pvt. J. C. Mills
Pfc. B. J. Montoya
Pvt. J. D. Morrow
Pfc. G. W. Neumann
Pfc. T. T. Oaks
Pvt. J. M. Perez
Pvt. S. F. Prebel
Pfc. F. Pulido
Pvt. S. J. Sisneros
Pvt. N. Solorio
Pfc. S. E. Sullivan
Pfc. M. A. Tillman

PLATOON 1125
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. N. R. Nofziger
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. A. J. Peralta
Staff Sgt. M. A. Castaneda
Staff Sgt. M. Huizar

Pvt. A. Alejo
Pfc. C. I. Alonzo Jr.
Pvt. A. C. Anderson
*Pfc. R. M. Astrino Jr.
Pvt. A. M. Avelar
Pvt. N. M. Avitia
Pfc. J. P. Baca
Pvt. M. T. Ballon
Pvt. J. Beltran
Pfc. T. Bergh
Pvt. J. R. Bond
Pvt. Z. D. Bond
Pvt. J. J. Boutwell
Pfc. M. K. Boyd
Pvt. K. R. Buffer Jr.
Pvt. J. R. Burns
Pvt. A. A. Calderon Jr.
Pfc. B. M. Calisher
Pvt. X. Calvillo
Pvt. J. Camp
Pvt. S. M. Cappeart
*Pfc. D. A. Carter
Pfc. D. G. Cassa
Pvt. R. Castillo
Pvt. D. E. Champion
Pvt. C. G. Chavez
Pvt. J. P. Chavez Gaitan
Pvt. B. Cleveland
*Pfc. T. Cox
Pvt. T. C. Crumpton
Pvt. J. Davenport
Pvt. J. Detwiler
Pvt. K. A. Dewhurst
Pvt. K. R. Diamond
Pvt. J. A. Dorsey
Pfc. J. A. Dowers
Pvt. J. H. Duecker
Pfc. W. O. Edwards
Pvt. D. Elwell
Pvt. C. Gallagher
Pvt. J. A. Garcia
Pvt. C. Gonzalez
Pvt. M. B. Gordon
Pfc. J. P. Green
Pvt. T. Helwig
Pvt. E. C. Hinojos
Pvt. S. A. Jensen
Pfc. M. J. Koranda
Pvt. S. E. Lacey
Pvt. A. E. Lamb
Pfc. D. Martinez III
Pvt. W. D. McNeel
Pfc. S. Miller
Pvt. T. P. Moe
Pfc. N. D. Munoz
Pfc. F. B. Nielson
Pvt. R. Profitt
Pvt. N. E. Query
Pvt. S. L. Records
Pvt. E. Riccardi
Pvt. M. S. Radi
Pvt. J. Ruiz
Pfc. R. J. Salliotte
Pfc. R. O. Sanchez
Pvt. O. Santiago Vazquez
Pvt. J. D. Siler
Pfc. E. T. Suarez
Pvt. J. N. Sutton
Pvt. J. R. Theriault
Pvt. C. R. Ulmer
*Pfc. J. J. Vanlandingham
Pvt. C. Wattenburger
Pvt. R. Wetterlund

PLATOON 1126
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. E. Buchanan
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. D. Bass
Staff Sgt. R. Deleon

Pvt. J. C. Barrientossalazar
Pvt. R. L. Chow
Pvt. M. R. Force
*Pfc. S. M. Gleason
Pvt. D. Gonzalez
Pvt. N. C. Grabinski
Pvt. R. A. Guetchidjian
Pvt. G. G. Gutowski III
Pvt. D. Harms
Pvt. D. Hernandez
Pfc. G. E. Hobson
Pfc. M. Holmes
Pvt. E. Hopkins
Pvt. T. J. Hopkins
Pvt. A. R. Hutchison
Pfc. J. Ilao
Pfc. C. R. Ingram
Pfc. J. N. Jensen
Pvt. T. Joint
Pfc. J. B. Kleiman
Pvt. J. Krahnke
Pvt. L. J. Levenhagen
Pvt. A. A. Lozano
Pvt. A. C. Lynch
Pvt. R. Marines
Pvt. D. E. Marsa
Pvt. M. Martinez
*Pfc. W. S. Martinez
Pfc. D. Mclane
Pvt. E. S. Miranda
Pvt. I. R. Montanez
Pvt. L. E. Morelos Morales
Pvt. M. P. Morris
Pvt. Y. Moua
Pvt. U. L. Mungle
Pvt. B. S. Nelson
Pfc. A. G. Orantes
Pfc. K. N. Otoman
Pvt. R. Pavel
*Pfc. W. M. Perdue
Pvt. J. R. Perkins
Pvt. J. Previtera
Pvt. C. A. Ramirez
Pvt. D. N. Ramos
Pvt. K. M. Reaktenwalt
Pfc. M. G. Rael
Pvt. M. Romanowski
Pvt. O. Schmid
Pvt. T. Schuman
Pvt. R. R. Sequeira
Pvt. J. T. Srygley
Pvt. M. L. Stansbery
Pvt. E. Steele
Pvt. S. Sullard
Pvt. W. R. Sullivan
Pvt. L. L. Tsosie
Pfc. C. R. Vind
Pvt. S. R. Walker II
Pvt. R. Watson
*Pfc. T. A. White
*Pfc. P. Woo
Pvt. J. J. Young

PLATOON 1127
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. D. P. Blank
Drill Instructors
Sgt. K. R. Starkey
Sgt. G. Jaramillo

Pvt. J. C. Alejandro
Pvt. S. F. Banks
Pvt. D. K. Booth
Pfc. R. N. Cairns
Pvt. R. B. Carroll
Pfc. C. D. Carter
Pvt. R. A. Cortez
Pvt. E. J. Escallada Alvarez
Pfc. W. J. Foo
Pvt. S. Foster
Pfc. A. R. Franks
Pvt. W. M. Fulkerson
Pvt. P. E. Grant
Pfc. M. K. Haller
Pfc. A. Hodzic
Pvt. K. R. Ivey
Pfc. M. R. Janich
Pvt. A. Jimenez
Pvt. A. G. Kreit Jr.
Pvt. M. M. Marzak
Pvt. W. A. Novello
Pvt. M. J. Obiechina
Pfc. M. H. O'Brien
Pfc. R. C. Oglesby
Pvt. M. T. Orr
Pvt. J. K. Pallett
Pvt. R. T. Perez
Pfc. F. Ponce-Gutierrez
Pvt. A. L. Ramsey
Pvt. C. L. Ramsey
Pvt. C. L. Ratliff
Pvt. F. R. Reyes
Pfc. L. A. Reyes
Pfc. J. A. Reyna
Pvt. J. J. Reynoso
Pvt. A. A. Richardet
Pvt. C. L. Riley
Pvt. B. M. Robinson
Pvt. T. J. Schmoock
Pvt. D. W. Scott
Pvt. J. R. Sepulvado Jr.
Pvt. J. C. Serrano
Pfc. G. T. Shay III
Pvt. M. Sjoblom
Pvt. M. E. Smith
Pvt. K. A. Stilwell
Pfc. T. Stockton
Pvt. G. W. Strange
Pvt. S. D. Tatum
Pvt. B. L. Thomas
Pfc. L. T. Thomas
Pvt. W. E. Upmann
Pfc. S. M. Utsler
Pvt. M. A. Valencia
Pvt. N. A. Vana
Pvt. J. A. Vaughn
Pfc. N. B. Vaughn
Pvt. J. C. Villareal
Pvt. T. W. Wells
Pvt. J. D. White
Pvt. T. N. Wilcox
Pfc. T. M. Wilcox
Pvt. B. E. Williams
*Pfc. A. G. Wilterdink
Pvt. B. E. Wood
Pvt. D. A. Young
Pvt. S. M. Zadner
Pvt. M. A. Zavala
Pvt. J. Zehner
Pvt. T. A. Zepeda
Pvt. J. A. Ziolkowski

PLATOON 1128
Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. M. R. Saenz
Drill Instructors
Sgt. B. A. Pettit
Sgt. T. R. Talamante
Sgt. C. D. McCoy

Pvt. A. R. Cano
Pfc. R. L. Cunningham Jr.
Pvt. M. W. Gibson
Pvt. M. S. Harrell
Pvt. J. L. Inmon
Pfc. M. P. McBroom
Pvt. B. E. McQuade
Pvt. T. J. Norris
Pvt. B. N. Okpoko
Pvt. C. G. O'Neal
Pfc. C. R. Pablo
*Pfc. C. Paez
Pvt. D. L. Palacios
Pvt. W. J. Parker
Pvt. C. Paruszkiewicz
Pvt. J. M. Perry
Pvt. J. M. Peterson
*Pfc. M. J. Podesto
Pvt. D. Postawa
Pvt. M. J. Powell
Pvt. G. Ramireznunez
Pvt. C. W. Raymond
Pvt. L. Reyes
Pvt. S. Reyes
Pvt. J. K. Robertson
Pvt. J. P. Robinson
Pvt. R. Robinson
Pvt. A. J. Rodriguez
*Pfc. A. F. Rodriguez
Pvt. H. Rodriguez-Madrigal
*Lance Cpl. D. B. Rohrer
Pfc. F. Salinas
Pvt. A. S. Sceales
Pvt. A. K. Schulz
Pvt. J. A. Sclafani
Pvt. C. S. Scroggins
Pfc. J. G. Shankar
Pfc. Z. Q. Sharp
Pvt. T. Short
Pfc. M. A. Silver
Pfc. N. R. Simone
Pvt. A. J. Smith
Pvt. J. J. Smith
Pvt. R. J. Smith
Pvt. V. M. Sosa
Pvt. M. W. South
Pfc. S. K. Stein
Pfc. E. J. Stephens
Pvt. J. Stephenson
Pvt. J. E. Stevenson
Pvt. T. M. Stewman
Pfc. Y. Sun
Pvt. A. V. Sveum
Pvt. A. S. Taylor
*Pfc. J. Thocher
Pfc. A. S. Torres
Pfc. A. Torres
Pfc. T. J. Torrez
Pvt. D. T. Twomey
Pvt. Z. A. Tyler
Pfc. M. R. Ulrich
Pvt. F. V. Villagomez Jr.
Pfc. J. D. Villarreal
Pvt. S. M. Whitney

**Meritorious promotion*

COMPANY CURIOSITIES

Bravo Company men answer Chevron's questions about their interests and boot camp experiences:

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

Pvt. Wade A. Novello
Arvada, Colo.

A: The freedoms – being able to sleep, eat – doing whatever, whenever.

Q: **What was the scariest moment of recruit training?**

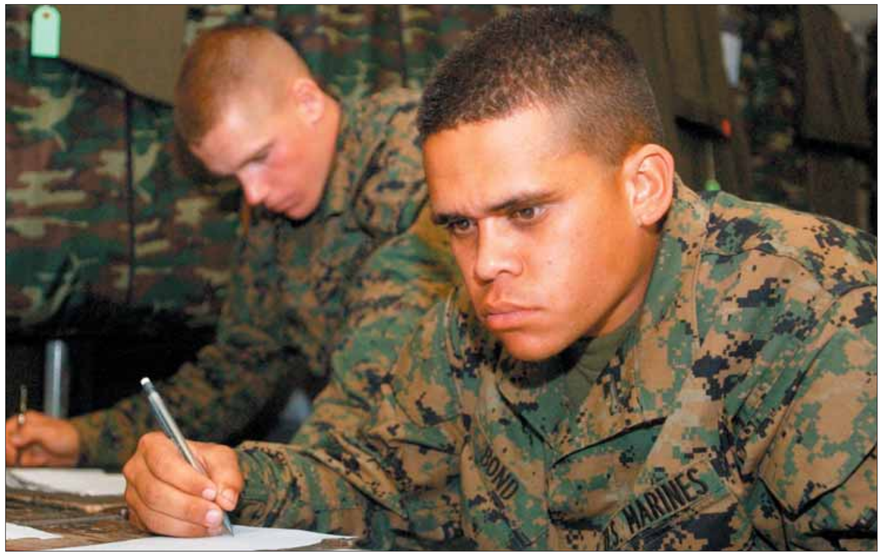
Pfc. Luis A. Reyes
Dallas

A: When we had to do things with heights because I'm terrified of heights.

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

New Marine kept focus through trials

by Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner
Chevron staff



Pvt. Jacob K. Bond, Platoon 1125, Company B, takes a practice exam before his final academic test here. *Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron*

Spending all his life in Hawaii, he made his first trip to the mainland to begin recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Pvt. Jacob K. Bond, Platoon 1125, Company B, knew he was going to be a Marine since childhood.

"Maybe around eight or nine (years old)," said Bond. "I wanted to be a Marine ever since I knew they existed."

Movies and the family tradition made Bond's decision easy. His father served in the Marine Corps infantry in the late 1960s.

Bond said he was one of those kids who always played soldier and army games growing up.

Nothing proved to be too hard for the five-foot-seven Hawaii native, but one obstacle slowed his entry into the Corps. Before any civilian can begin training, he must take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. The ASVAB is a government-issued test that compiles an array of subjects including word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, arithmetic reasoning, general science, auto and shop information, mechanical comprehension and electronics information.

The test was administered to Bond seven times before he passed. "I took it twice junior year, three times senior, and two more times after graduation," said Bond. "I think it was the math that really messed me up."

While taking and re-taking the ASVAB, Bond was also preparing physically.

"When I graduated high school, I started running to get ready for the Marines," he said.

According to Bond, leaving wasn't hard for him. His training and mental dedication prepared him for his life-changing journey.

After flying into Lindberg Field, Bond said he was nervous.

"I didn't know what to do, and I didn't want to upset (the drill instructors)," he recalled.

A week after arriving here, recruits are placed in their training platoons. All recruits who come to the depot start with a common goal in mind: to make it through training in three months.

"Since my mind was set towards completing my goal, it didn't really matter how hard it was going to be," said Bond, a machine-gunner. "I knew we were going to have to move fast and do all that, so that is what I did."

Going through the first phase of training, recruits make their biggest adjustments – changing from a civilian lifestyle to a training environment. Drilling, physical training, waking up early and eating fast becomes a big part of the transformation.

During second phase, field training and rifle qualification are the recruits' priority. At some stage in rifle practice, a chaplain and drill instructors pulled Bond off the firing line.

"My mother (has cancer and it) got really bad to the point where she almost died, so they sent me home for four days," said Bond. "My mother raised me from 12-15 (years old). I left for Lahaina Luna boarding school freshman year."

Leaving his mother for boot camp was hard, and seeing her in a bad condition made it harder to leave, according to Bond. He never had second thoughts about finishing. Seeing his mother in that condition made him want to graduate and get back to the island in his new uniform.

"I knew it was going to come sooner or later," said Bond. "But if she was going to die, I wanted her to hold on a little longer to see me as a Marine – not from heaven but with her own eyes."

Hurried back into training, Bond was required to qualify with the M-16 A2 service rifle, or he would be dropped to the following company. Bond qualified as a marksman with a 191 – one point above required qualification score.

"They all told me I wouldn't qualify," said Bond. "I only fired the rifle a few times before qualification day."

"We wanted to see him pass. We didn't care what his score was," said Staff Sgt. Martin A. Huizar, a Platoon 1125 drill instructor.

Until Bond left to see his mother, he gave his all in training. This made the decision to keep him in the company a lot easier, according to Huizar.

"You miss three days of training and you get dropped," said Huizar. "The fact that he is a good recruit kept him with Bravo Company. He is always yelling, moving fast, just doing what he is supposed to."

Coming back into training, he seemed more serious, according to Pfc. Antonio Calderon, Bond's platoon mate.

"We knew that he left because his mother was sick," said Calderon. "He came back and he seemed more focused. He didn't really get depressed or anything."

Coming back into field training and the Crucible, Bond experienced his biggest trials throughout his last days of field training.

"First phase, I knew what to expect, but when the Crucible came, it kind of kicked me in the (rear end)," said Bond. "Running up the hills, every single hill. We ran up the steepest hill and there were slow recruits behind me. We had 30 seconds to make it to the top, and just before we reached the top, my drill instructor would (stop us and make us go again)."

With the hardest training behind him, Bond came back to the depot with a different mind set.

"I had to adjust," said Bond. "I am on the way to becoming a Marine, so I must act like a Marine. First phase recruits watched us, so I knew I needed to step up."

Going through a training element such as Marine Corps boot camp, men tend to evolve, according to Huizar. Bond saw an evolution in himself.

"The biggest change I made here was going from a little boy to a man," said Bond. "The training, the drill instructors, they put it in my head."

With 12 and half weeks down, Bond said he is ready to finally be home with his mother.

"Nov. 11, I am saying goodbye," said Bond.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer Carmen Lucas

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Chief Warrant Officer Carmen Lucas was born a twin Aug. 21, 1935, in San Diego. She is a Kwaaymii Laguna band of Mission Indians of Mt. Laguna, San Diego.

In 1954, after graduating from high school, Lucas and her twin sister Su, joined the Marine Corps. After completing recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., the twins came to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where they were assigned to the issue commissary. Lucas reenlisted and was transferred to El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana, Calif. She then transferred back to Parris Island as a drill instructor. After the tour of duty as a drill instructor, she was assigned to the recruiting station in Hartwood Conn., where she served for four years. After, she was reassigned to El Toro in food services.

In 1967, the Marine Corps sent six women Marines to Iwakuni, Japan. This was the opening of the far-east duty stations for the women Marines. Lucas was one of the six women Marines selected for overseas tours. She was assigned to duties as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the issue commissary supporting the mess halls and supporting subsistence supplies to transient ships at sea.

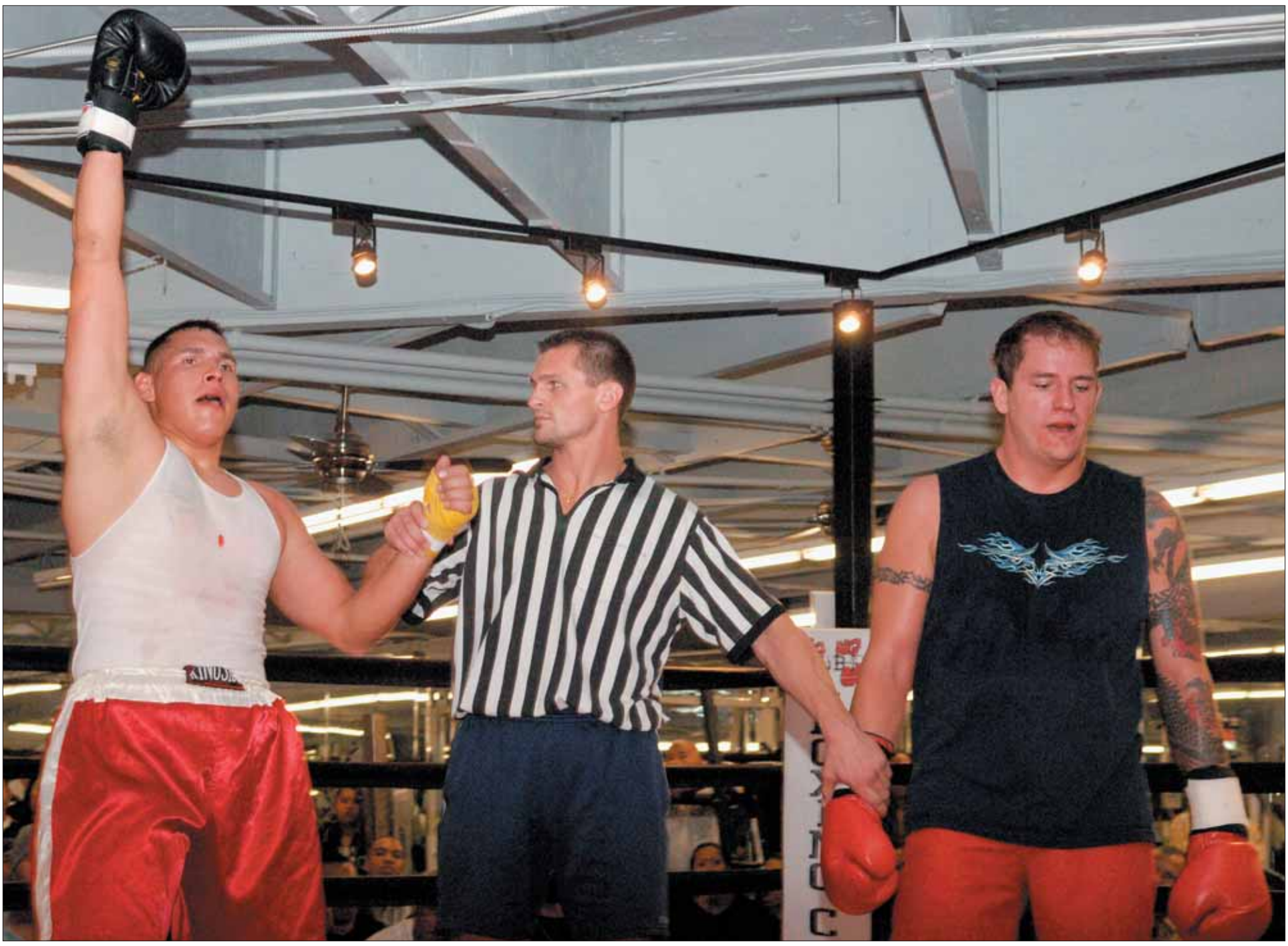
After her tour in Japan, she was again transferred to Parris Island, this time as a senior drill instructor. Lucas was stationed at Parris Island for a year when she was selected for promotion to warrant officer and transferred to Marine Corps Base Barstow, Calif., and then ending her 20 year Marine Corps career at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Lucas retired as a chief warrant officer Nov. 2, 1974. The commanding general who handed Carmen her retirement orders was also the officer who had given the oath of enlistment to her and her twin 20 years earlier in 1954.

After retiring, Lucas attended the College of the Desert in Twentynine Palms. In 1976, she relocated to her ancestor's home in the Laguna Mountains, San Diego, where she lives today.

During the past 30 years, she has participated in archeological surveys, sifted dirt, sorted and washed artifacts with different archeologist resource management companies throughout San Diego and Imperial County. She also worked on California State Parks, California's Off Road State Parks, Ocotillo Wells, and the U.S. Forest Service in the capacity of crew member and Native American monitor.

Additionally, she is a member of the Kumeyaay Indian Cultural Repatriation Committee. Lucas is also a board member of the San Diego Archeological Center and a member of the San Diego Historic Sites Board. She is also a registered member of the Women in Military Service Memorial. She reflects on her 20-year service as a Marine as a highlight of her life.



After three five-minute rounds, Staff Sgt. Highhorse I. Little, left, defeated Justin Tiger by score in an amateur boxing bout Saturday. *Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron*

RAGING HIGHHORSE

King of the ring learned his ropes on the streets before his mother and the Corps molded him into a boxing machine

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

"You know how some kids get a baseball bat or even a catching mitt for Christmas? I got a pair of boxing gloves," said Staff Sgt. Highhorse I. Little, Marine Corps martial arts instructor. "I still remember the first gym I walked into – Newman's Gym." It was dark a building with brick walls, the windows were painted over, and it had a funky smell to it.

At six years old, Little was introduced to the sport of boxing. The first time the trainer spoke with his mother about the training Little would receive, she just said, "This boy is too hyper-destructive. I need something for him to do."

From that day on, Little grew into a rounded martial artist, broadening his training at age nine with karate.

Growing up, Little's mother kept him involved in his Native American culture by going to a lot of pow-wows and other American Indian traditions.

"My mother involved me with an Indian drum group," said Little. "She wanted me to understand my heritage. My father was pure-blood Sioux, and my mother was both Nicaraguan and Seneca."

Though his father left him when he was still a baby, a hidden legacy emerged as Little went through speed bumps in his life. Growing up in Northern California led to early troubles in Little's life. Running with a gang and taking part in gang activity encouraged him to leave high school early. Before he went to jail or the cemetery, a program called Guardian Angels got a hold of him.

"There was about a six-month period in my life when I went straight down hill," said Little. "The program got me going in the right direction as far as getting my life back on track."

Boxing trainer Gustavo Pugliese motivates Staff Sgt. Highhorse I. Little before the last round of his fight

'He looked very natural – comfortable in the ring. He is a natural athlete.'
–Gustavo Pugliese
Boxing trainer

The program reached out to troubled teens and gang members in the area and helped them change their ways.

"After I dropped out of high school, I didn't know where I was going to go," said Little.

He considered enlisting in the military, but he didn't know much about it. Of the five branches, he could not choose between them.

"My father was a Marine; that's where I got the idea," said Little. "My mom had his old graduation book. Looking through it made me want to become a Marine."

As he got older, training and fighting stayed with Little. He had his first unofficial knock out at boot camp.

"When we did close combat training, we would box," said Little. "I knocked out the guide I was partnered with."

During his first enlistment, he had a chance to get back into training at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., with the Marine Corps Boxing Team. Little said he enjoyed getting back into a serious training environment.

Since his time in the Marine Corps, he earned his general equivalency diploma and he has kept to his martial arts status, becoming an official Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor.

Now training in a series of environments, Little has potential to become a distinguished boxer, according to Gustavo Pugliese, a boxing club trainer.

"Sparring with the guys here is cool, but a change in environment helps," said Little.

"The first time I saw him, he came to take one of my sparring classes," said Pugliese. "He looked very natural – comfortable in the ring. He is a natural athlete."

Pugliese said he enjoys working with the military – especially Marines.

"I like training military guys," said Pugliese. "They are very disciplined and coachable. Little has a lot of potential if he can lose 10 pounds. Right now, he is a light heavyweight. He would be perfect for the 195 weight class."

Along with the boxing club, Little is involved with the depot competing martial arts team. It is comprised of nine combat instructors who travel and compete in a mixture of competitions. Their next competition is tomorrow in Las Vegas.