



Co. E recruits tackle the depot's Bayonet Assault Course

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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



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“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2013

Depot welcomes new commanding general

BY CPL. BRIDGET M. KEANE
Chevron staff

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo relinquished his duties as commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruit Region to Brig. Gen. James W. Bierman Jr. during a change of command ceremony on the Commanding General's Honors Lawn aboard the depot, July 26.

The new commanding general, Bierman, was born April 1965 in Jacksonville, N.C. He completed Officer Candidates School in May 1987 and was commissioned as second lieutenant.

Since then, Bierman has been assigned to numerous duty stations which include Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., MCB Quantico, Va. and has served as the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines aboard MCB Hawaii.

He has completed military courses such as the Marine Air Ground Task Force Officers Course in Virginia Beach, Va. and both the Amphibious Warfare School and School of Advanced War Fighting in Quantico, Va. His last assignment was as the military secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Bierman expressed his thanks to his family and friends that have supported him throughout his career, but also took the time to recognize his predecessor and his accomplishments, profession-

see CEREMONY ▶ 2



Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo passes the organizational colors to Brig. Gen. James W. Bierman during a change of command ceremony for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Western Recruiting Region on the Commanding General's Honors Lawn, July 26. Bierman comes to MCRD from Quantico, Va., where he served as military secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Yoo will be taking over as deputy division commander for 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. During the ceremony, both Yoo and Bierman thanked the Marines with whom they have served, and acknowledged all of the support they have received from their families, friends and community.

Company B defeats Crucible

STORY & PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
Chevron staff

Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, ran through the Crucible Confidence Course at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. July 23.

The Crucible is a 54-hour test of endurance in which recruits must conquer more than 30 different obstacles while they experience food and sleep deprivation.

“The Crucible Confidence Course is part of the culminating event for recruits to prove themselves to become a Marine,” said Sgt. Brandon R. Simmons, drill instructor, Platoon 1029. “Recruits utilize all of their training to listen to their leadership and destroy individualism by working effectively as a team.”

The purpose of the Crucible Confidence Course is for recruits to conquer their fears and come together as a fire team to get through the obstacles.



Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, sprint with ammo cans during the Crucible Confidence Course at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. July 23. Recruits perform this obstacle to simulate an ammo re-supply run during combat.

“This event helps instill confidence and prepare us for combat,” said Recruit Jonathon C. Lucas. “It won't be like this in combat, but if you freeze up here, the drill instructor can guide you through it. When it comes to the

real thing, you can get through the fear and accomplish the mission.”

This course pushes recruits out of their comfort zone,

see CRUCIBLE ▶ 2

Future of Corps forged at Drill Instructor School

STORY & PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS
Chevron staff

what you will demand of your recruits.”

Students of Drill Instructor School go through a rigorous process of more than 500 hours of academics, physical training and practical applications in order to become drill instructors.

“I say something you respond gentlemen!” yelled Staff Sgt. Michael D. Riggs, instructor, Drill Instructor School, Recruit Training Regiment.

“What I demand of you is

DI SCHOOL ▶ 1



Students of Drill Instructor School, Recruit Training Regiment, finish a run during training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 22. Drill instructors' duties requires a high level of fitness.



Recruits of Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, assist each other while climbing the Skyscraper during the Crucible Confidence Course at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. July 23. The course demonstrates to recruits how they are unable to accomplish the obstacle without coordination and teamwork.

CRUCIBLE ▶ 1

through obstacles like the Stairway to Heaven and the Skyscraper. Recruits are tasked with overcoming the high obstacles in full combat gear; flak, helmet and M-16 A4 service rifle.

In addition to food and sleep deprivation, recruits are even more exhausted from constantly moving from one obstacle to the next.

"I see recruits struggle with their fear of heights on the Stairway to Heaven but they all eventually conquer their fear and overcome the obstacles," said Simmons. "With all of the various obstacles, it can be very exhausting and daunting to think about doing. Af-

ter it's over though, it becomes an eye opener when recruits look back and realize what their body can go through and accomplish."

Coming together as a team is also a key element recruits must utilize to successfully navigate the Crucible Confidence Course. Recruits must start and finish the obstacles together as one.

"These events help make you unselfish and look out for the Marines to the left and right of you," said Lucas. "It definitely added to the challenges of getting through everything; looking out for everyone else and still get through yourself, especially if they give up on themselves. You must motivate

each other and pull through together."

Teamwork and camaraderie can be some of the most rewarding aspects recruits get out of recruit training and prepares them in their future Marine Corps career. Being able to help one another and get through a challenge is one of the strongest building blocks that make the Corps strong. Helping one another can become a great asset regardless of rank and billet.

"I'm glad that everyone to my left and right has helped push me even though I'm guide and I'm supposed to be the one leading them," said Lucas. "Everyone has their bad days, but through all of it we had each other's back and have made it this far."

CEREMONY ◀ 1

alism and leadership skills.

"I have served with Gen. Yoo before and I am inspired by the way he leads Marines," said Bierman. "So this day really belongs to Dan and Grace (Yoo)."

Yoo took command of MCRD June 2011. During his time aboard the de-

pot, the WRR enlisted more than 41,000 young men and women, with MCRD San Diego training more than 40,000 male recruits.

Yoo's next assignment will be as the Deputy Commander of 1st Marine Division aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

During his speech, Yoo addressed

the importance of the making of Marines and expressed his pleasure that Bierman was taking over.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as commanding general aboard the depot," said Yoo. "I am looking forward to continuing with my career and wish the best of luck to Gen. Bierman and his family."

DI SCHOOL ◀ 1

Drill Instructor School is a leadership academy where sergeants, staff sergeants and gunnery sergeants are trained to become basically trained drill instructors, according to Gunnery Sgt. Carlos M. Weiss, chief instructor.

"The mission of Drill Instructor School is to develop NCO's (noncommissioned officer) and staff NCO's to become effective leaders, basic drill instructors. Drill Instructor School is a leadership academy, probably one of the best within the Department of Defense."

Each year, the school convenes a total of four training cycles—all equally demanding and lasting 56 training days.

The process to become a drill instructor is critical. The application requirements disqualify many of the candidates. Even minor administrative offenses exclude candidates since they are expected to make ethical decisions at all times, explained Weiss.

"The candidate needs to be a high integrity individual since the commanding officer (school director) signs off on their application package."

Once the application is accepted, candidates report to Drill Instructor School where they learn about different subjects and skills relating to Marine Corps leadership including drill, physical fitness, core values and integrity.

Students must also master field skills such as land navi-

gation, hand and arm signals and small unit tactics. However, the most important tool in a drill instructor's tool box is the drill manual.

Drill instills instant obedience to orders and enables troop leaders to maneuver a platoon with speed and efficiency.

Drill instructors are the duty experts and learning all drill movements is essential. If one cannot understand drill, one cannot teach drill, explains Weiss.

Instructors expect students to give maximum effort in every training evolution.

Students were challenged during an interval running session on July 22. During the event, they had to run approximately 400 meters before they are allowed to rest for an allotted amount of time. They continued this process until they completed six repetitions. Instructors demanded commitment in every repetition.

"You cannot demand from others (recruits) what you don't demand of yourself," said Riggs.

Drill instructors spend the majority of a three-month training cycle teaching, molding, guiding and mentoring young recruits; therefore, they need to lead the future leaders of the Marine Corps by example.

"I cannot tell someone to be of good moral character and at the same time I go somewhere else and do something wrong. We are Marines 24/7," Weiss said.

BRIEFS

Kindergarten Readiness Transition Parent Workshop

The depot is hosting a free Workshop with Professional guest speakers providing the tools and resources for parents with children transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten.

The workshop will be held in Building 6E, from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday.

Space is limited. RSVP by phone to (619) 524-8032/8104, or register Online at <http://readyssetgokrws.eventbrite.com>.

Childcare will not be provided.

Beach BBQ and Bonfire

The depot's Single Marine Program is hosting a Barbecue and Bonfire, August 11, from noon until 9 p.m., on Breakers Beach, NAS North Island, Coronado.

The event is open to single Marines, Sailors, and geographic bachelors.

This is first of three SMP Beach days this summer.

Join SMP on beautiful Coronado for a day of fun in the sun with barbecue, volleyball, football and a bonfire.

For information contact Josh Davis (619) 524-8240 or davisjp@usmc-mccs.org.

Feed the Homeless

The depot's Single Marine Program will help feed the homeless August 12 from 3:30 until 7 p.m., at Father Joe's Village.

The monthly event is open to all depot personnel, and is promoted to help support the San Diego homeless community.

This is the monthly Single Marine Program trip to FJV to support San Diego homeless community.

For information or to register, contact Josh Davis at (619) 524-8240 or via e-mail at davisjp@usmc-mccs.org.

CG Cup Basketball League

MCRD active duty and depot DoD/NAFI Employees get ready to hoop it up.

Get your Section registered for the 2013 Command General's Cup Basketball League. The league will consist of a six week season and playoffs. Earn CG Cup points for participating and extra points for female participation.

For information or to register your team, contact Rachel Dickinson at dickinsonr@usmc-mccs.org, or call her at (619) 524-0548.

Barracks Bash

The Single Marine Program sponsors a Barracks Bash August 23, from 4 until 7 p.m., in the Duncan Hall Common Area. Single service members and geographic bachelors are welcome.

Join the fun at the annual Barracks Bash Party! Hooters will cater the event, and there will be games, prizes and more!

For information, check out the event on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/185yNiM>.

MCRD Bowling League

It's back by popular demand. The MCRD Bowling League kicks off Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Recreation Center.

Get your team registered today for this 12 week league.

For information, or to register, contact Brent Poser at poserb@usmc-mccs.org or by calling (619) 524-8237.

Send briefs to:

rdsd_pao@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.

Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks: "What are you doing to improve your Combat Fitness Test score?"



"Run with a 25 pound vest because it creates resistance and when I take it off I can run faster. It gets your body acclimated to running with weigh." Sgt. Deonte D. Miller, Finance, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"A lot of ammunition can lifts and sprints. Sprints help me with the Maneuver Under Fire and Movement to Contact." Lance Cpl. Drew W. Blincoe, Band, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"After work I try to run two miles and lift weights. I'm starting to go to the pool to strengthen my cardiovascular endurance." Lance Cpl. Michael D. Wick, 12th Marine Corps District

Depot Marines rescue drowning man

STORY & PHOTO
BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II
Chevron staff

With their fishing poles in hand and boat undocked, Pfc. Calvin Ruiz and Pvt. John C. Chesnut, Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, had no idea of the situation they would encounter in the water surrounding Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 7.

Approximately 50-feet from the depot's dock, Ruiz spotted an adult male popping up and beneath the water. Ruiz waved his hands as their boat passed the man and even shouted out to him.

"When he didn't respond, it didn't sit well," said Ruiz.

Ruiz felt something was wrong and sprung to action with Chesnut. After maneuvering their boat near the man, Ruiz shut the engine off and again asked if the man was OK. He responded with having chest pains, light headedness and blurry vision.

Chesnut removed his life vest and threw it to the man. Ruiz then noticed one of his fellow platoon members paddleboarding near the victim. Ruiz shouted to Pvt. Samuel N.P. Delao, to bring the man to their boat.

When Delao brought the victim over, the trio pushed the approximately 250-pound man into the boat.

Chesnut lauded Delao for being able to move the adult, roughly 25-feet, to the boat.

"He was a big boy," said Chesnut, a former lifeguard of four-years. "Pulling a guy 250 pounds out of the water is not easy."

Once the victim was in the boat, Chesnut and Ruiz realized the severity of the



Pfc. Calvin Ruiz, Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, is presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, July 27. With the aid of Pvts. John C. Chesnut and Samuel N. P. Delao, fellow platoon members, Ruiz rescued a civilian from drowning.

man's condition.

Ruiz immediately called 911 while simultaneously instructing his fellow Marines in caring for the victim who was in shock.

Chesnut gathered their extra clothing to warm him while asking him questions.

"I kept talking to him asking him things like, 'what's your name?'" said Chesnut.

Ruiz and the others attributed their first aid knowledge and immediate actions, to their recruit training.

"I think it speaks to our training, the combat mindset," said Ruiz. "We did it without thinking about it; it was just the right thing to do."

For his leadership and actions, Ruiz

was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal July 27.

"I honestly believe he would have died without the assistance of those Marines," said 1st Sgt. Jorge Melendez, first sergeant, Special Training Company, Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment. "It doesn't matter what generation of Marines for they are. Marines will always rise for the occasion and do the right thing."

Although, some may believe the trio are heroes—Ruiz, Delao and Chesnut think otherwise.

"We didn't enlist for recognition," said Delao. "We didn't do anything special. There are thousands of Marines doing greater things that don't get recognized."

Depot Shows Appreciation



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Amy J. Arita from the Personal and Professional Development Office gave Marines, Sailors and retirees information on the many services available to them. Retirees and active duty personnel gathered information during the Retiree and Active Duty Military Appreciation Seminar and Resource Fair aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 26.



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Recruits from Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, make their way beneath a razor wire obstacle during their run on the Bayonet Assault Course aboard MCRDSD, July 16. After the Bayonet Assault Course recruits put on protective gear to fight one another in pugil stick matches.

Bayonets, pugil sticks gives combat mindset

Story and Photos by Cpl. Walter D. Marino II
Chevron staff

Battle sounds rang through speakers while recruits from Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, worked their way through the Bayonet Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 16.

The purpose of the Bayonet Assault Course is to give recruits a combat-like scenario and fatigue them before the main event—pugil sticks. After running through the course filled with barbed wire, ditches and rope bridges, recruits then fought each other with two sided padded sticks.

Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Stallings, drill instructor, Platoon 2111, explained these two exercises are put together to simulate a combat environment, with the culminating event replicating close quarters combat.

"This is a realistic training exercise. They (recruits) have live bayonets, sound effects and a hand to hand training drill," said Stallings. "This will expose strengths and weak-

nesses. If they have a bad performance, it will be an eye opener."

In order to keep the competitions on a level playing field, recruits were paired together according to weight. After necessary protective gear was put on, such as helmets and groin protectors, recruits entered an arena nicknamed the thunder dome.

To win a bout a recruit has to execute a strike to the head or knock his opponent to the ground. Inside the thunder dome recruits charged one another, swinging their pugil sticks for the winning shot.

Drill instructors watched, cheering and encouraging their recruits to put their maximum effort forward.

Victory was important to many recruits and they did all they could to achieve the win.

"I was nervous. But right before I prayed and tried to calm myself down because I knew if I went in there nervous I'd lose. So instead of being nervous I visualized the moves I would use," said Recruit Elias J. Jauregui, guide, Plt. 2115.

Jauregui, who won his match, said he believes many recruits

lose because they are nervous, however, he also explained the lesson learned from losing is powerful.

"Losing makes you not want to feel that way again," said Jauregui.

Fellow recruit, Zachary T. Daniel, was one such recruit. He took the loss as motivation instead of negativity.

"The loss didn't affect me negatively, said Daniel. There's more training to come which means more opportunity to improve. The more you practice the more natural it feels."

Daniel also said he is happy to have received the training because he found it fun and purposeful.

"You never know when you could be kicking down a door and have an enemy in your face," said Daniel.

Regardless of whether recruits lost or won their pugil stick match, all recruits took away a valuable training experience that could one day save their lives in a combat scenario.

"Obviously I've never been in a war," said Jauregui. "But this experience definitely got me in the mindset of what it (could) be like."



Recruits attach KA-BAR knives to the barrels of their M-16 A4 service rifles during the Bayonet Assault Course. After the Bayonet Assault Course recruits put on protective gear to fight one another in pugil stick matches.



Recruits prepare to attack each other during a pugil stick exercise. Recruits were matched according to weight, in order to keep the matches safe and equal.



Recruits provide security while their fellow recruits low crawl under Concertina wire during the Bayonet Assault Course, July 16. After the Bayonet Assault Course recruits put on protective gear to fight one another in pugil stick matches.

Grandfather honored through commitment

STORY AND PHOTO
BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO
CARDENAS
Chevron staff

The Marine Corps prides itself in instilling recruits with its core values; honor, courage and commitment. For Pvt. Justin B. Vannoord, Platoon 1033, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, it was his grandfather, who taught him commitment to a task at hand and through the Marine Corps Vannoord can now display what he learned from him.

As a child, the 21-year-old, Blossom, Texas native was raised by his grandparents on a farm. Sometimes the work day was long and would last 14 to 16 hours.

"Every morning we had to be up at three and the long days were not a problem because that's what needed to be done," explained Vannoord.

Growing up on the farm made manual labor part of his daily life. His grandfather being the father figure that raised him, showed him the importance of commitment to getting a job done.

"There is one memory that stands out to me, my grandfather had a 1980's Ford truck that he was always working on. He worked on that truck more than he drove it," said Vannoord.

The dedication that Vannoord's grandfather displayed was always an inspiration to him.

Vannoord enlisted in the Marine Corps and shipped off to recruit training May 6.

Throughout training, his senior drill instructor noticed that Vannoord had the ability to keep his focus and bearing during stressful times.

"He is mentally and emotionally a strong person. His grandfather would be proud of him for completing training," said Staff Sgt. Roger Reyes,



Pvt. Justin B. Vannoord Platoon 1033, Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stands at attention while a citation is read during the Crucible at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 23. Citations are found at all 30 Crucible events and recognize heroic actions Marines have done in the past. Each Crucible event emulates the actions read in the citation and drill instructors tie in the lesson and meaning behind it.

senior drill instructor. "He is going to do great in the Marine Corps because of his work ethic and ability to stay committed regardless of circumstances."

Unfortunately during Third Phase of recruit training, the man who raised him, since he was only a few months old, had passed away. Vannoord was granted emergency leave to at-

tend his grandfather's funeral.

However, even though he lost his father figure, he did not let that deter him from achieving his goal of becoming a Marine.

"I want to honor my grandfather by doing the best that I can in the Marine Corps because it is something he instilled in me," said Vannoord.

"If he was here he would say, 'Do the best that you can with what you have and do the best that you can at what you are doing.'"

Now that Vannoord has earned the title "Marine," he is ready to move on with his new career and complete Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Calif., then, on to Marine Artillery Detachment at Fort Sill, Okla. where he will learn his job of Fire Support Man.

"He is not afraid to fail and keep going until he accomplishes the mission," said Reyes.

His grandfather may have passed away but, according to Vannoord, his teachings and legacy lives on.

Col. Michael A. Moore

Parade Reviewing Officer

A native of Springfield, Neb., Col. Michael A. Moore enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in May 1985, and underwent recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. He served in Engineer Maintenance Company, 4th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Fleet Service Support Group until December 1990.

Upon graduation from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, Moore was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Platoon Leaders Course that December.

When he completed The Basic School in October 1991, Moore reported to the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fla., and was designated a naval aviator in May 1993.

The following month, June 1993, Moore reported to Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 303, Marine Aircraft Group 39 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., for replacement aircrew training in the AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopter.

In January 1993, Moore reported to

MAG-39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., for duty with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367. During this tour, he completed two deployments to Okinawa, Japan, in support of the Unit Deployment Program and one with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Tarawa.

In March 1997, Moore graduated from the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

In May 1999, Moore reported to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division Camp Pendleton, Calif., for duty as a forward air controller and air officer.

In June 2000, Moore reported to MAWTS-1 in Yuma, for duty as a Super Cobra Helicopter instructor in the Assault Support Division.

In February 2003, Moore was ordered temporary assigned duty to HMLA-169 as a tactical augment and deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In August 2003, Moore was ordered to MAG-39, 3rd MCAS Camp Pendleton, for duty with HMLA-369. In December 2003, he deployed to Okinawa, Japan in

support of the Unit Deployment Program as the aircraft maintenance officer, and in September 2005, he deployed to the Al Anbar province of Iraq in support of OIF as the operations officer.

Upon his return to the United States in May 2006, Moore was reassigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Command Element for duty as staff secretary.

In June 2007, Moore assumed duties as executive officer, HMLA-267.

In June 2008, Moore was once again deployed to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq in support of OIF as an individual augment to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Tactical Air Command Center where he served as a senior watch officer.

Upon his return from deployment in February 2009, Moore was assigned to MAG-39.

In May 2009, Moore assumed command of HMLA-369 and subsequently deployed to the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon relinquishing command in December 2010, he attended the Naval War College and was awarded a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

In August 2012, Moore reported to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and assumed duties as the future operations officer.

Moore's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal in lieu of second award, Air Medal with combat distinguishing device, Strike/Flight numeral 20, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in lieu of third award and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in lieu of second award.





Platoon 1035 COMPANY HONOR MAN Pfc. J. A. Winterstein Fremont, Neb. Recruited by Sgt. B. Russell
Platoon 1029 SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. J. C. Lucas Beaumont, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. D. Fernandez
Platoon 1030 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. T. K. Bergin Sachse, Texas Recruited by Sgt. M. Boggs
Platoon 1031 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. B. S. Guardino Centennial, Colo. Recruited by Staff Sgt. F. Arriola
Platoon 1033 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. S. N. Teifke Roundrock, Texas Recruited by Staff Sgt. S. Tijerina
Platoon 1034 PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. S. M. Roberts Cypress, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. A. Rodriguez
Platoon 1035 HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pvt. J. R. Montana Livermore, Calif. Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. K. D. Finstad
Platoon 1035 HIGH PFT (300) Pvt. F. D. Patino-Andrade Allen, Texas Recruited by Sgt. Anderson



BRAVO COMPANY

1st RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. D. R. Kazmier
Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans
Staff Sgt. C. Gonzalez



COMPANY B Commanding Officer Capt. B. J. Addison Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. W. A. Purnell	SERIES 1029 Series Commander Capt. E. S. Dmohowski Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. J. Phelan	PLATOON 1029 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. W. A. Getts Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. K. D. Nelson Sgt. D. E. Elizarraraz Sgt. F. Salas Sgt. B. R. Simmons	PLATOON 1030 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. A. Andazola Drill instructors Staff Sgt. B. W. Carsner Staff Sgt. J. C. Hunt Sgt. M. R. Harrison	PLATOON 1031 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. P. S. Haly Drill instructors Sgt. J. E. Barnes Sgt. J. J. Carrillo Sgt. J. E. Merryman
	SERIES 1033 Series Commander Capt. C. J. Pimley Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. Q. A. Truong	PLATOON 1033 Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. R. Reyes Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. Mendoza Staff Sgt. M. J. Rempe Sgt. J. G. Kinal	PLATOON 1034 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. N. K. Milner Drill Instructors Sgt. D. A. Menendez Sgt. R. H. Mobley Sgt. F. J. Sanchez Sgt. A. Vazquez	PLATOON 1035 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. A. Lichtefeld Drill Instructors Sgt. R. A. Bolio Sgt. J. Cardona Sgt. H. Y. Chae

* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

PLATOON 1029 Pfc. R. Abundiz Pvt. C. R. Alloway Pfc. G. D. Anderson Pvt. C. M. Ashing *Pfc. D. S. Bowser Pfc. B. L. Brennan Pvt. E. O. Canales Pvt. E. R. Carrillo-Martinez Pvt. A. W. Crose Pfc. A. Z. Ding Pfc. A. S. Dizon Pvt. B. M. Dominguez Pvt. J. C. Egan Pvt. C. R. Fahndrich Pvt. D. C. Feistel Pfc. K. H. Fisher Pvt. L. P. Gallegos Pfc. M. Garay Pvt. J. A. Garcia Pvt. C. J. Garrison Pfc. P. G. Ghosn Pfc. C. Gonzales Pfc. N. V. Gutierrez Pvt. J. Gutierrez Jr. Pvt. K. B. Guy Pfc. Z. J. Haakenson Pvt. C. J. Hare Pvt. R. P. Haselton Pfc. P. B. Janecko Pvt. K. T. Jenkins Pfc. J. E. Johnson Pvt. C. Juarez Pvt. J. N. Kalinowski Pvt. G. D. Knowdery Pfc. M. E. Kornder Pvt. J. L. Laduke Pvt. D. C. Leichtman Pvt. A. Lopez-Moreno Pvt. D. B. Lovelace Pvt. H. S. Lown Pfc. J. C. Lucas Pvt. J. W. Lyon Pvt. B. M. Manthey Pvt. J. Mateo-Cauich Pvt. D. L. McBride Pvt. J. Monroy Pvt. D. A. Nieves Pvt. A. Nixon Pvt. A. S. Ochoa Pvt. N. L. Pena Pvt. M. I. Perez	Pvt. Z. Poafpybitty Pvt. B. A. Polly *Pfc. P. V. Roa-Valenzuela *Pfc. W. C. Sage Pvt. R. Sanchez PLATOON 1030 Pfc. A. Acosta Pvt. C. K. Anderson Pvt. N. A. Bade Pvt. J. C. Bell Pvt. T. K. Bergin Pfc. S. T. Berryman Pfc. A. J. Bloem Pvt. R. W. Bowman III Pvt. J. B. Boyer Pvt. T. S. Burch Pvt. E. R. Caldwell Pfc. M. D. Campero Pfc. J. S. Cavaliere Pfc. E. Chairez Pfc. J. C. Clark Pfc. J. W. Collins Pvt. J. N. Cox Pvt. B. D. Davila Pvt. J. D. Dedman Pvt. C. P. Dunn Pvt. F. E. Egan Pvt. M. P. Evans II Pfc. M. A. Evernham Pfc. J. B. Fahrmeier Pvt. J. R. Farmer Pvt. L. M. Ferreira-Zavala Pvt. J. J. Ferrell Pvt. C. J. Flanagan Pvt. D. M. Garza Pvt. T. C. Gibbs Pvt. J. A. Giron-Sanchez Pvt. I. L. Goad Pvt. R. A. Gonzalez Pvt. E. E. Gutierrez Pfc. K. S. Harcrow Pfc. G. S. Harmon Pfc. J. A. Harris Pfc. M. D. Hartloff Pvt. J. F. Hernandez Pvt. S. J. Hudson Pvt. J. B. Hutchison Pfc. G. A. Johnson Pvt. C. B. Joplin	Pfc. C. D. Jovel Pfc. J. T. Jutz Pvt. A. R. Lamb-Venecia Pvt. J. Landazuri Jr. Pfc. M. F. Lane Jr. Pvt. A. J. Laverdure Pvt. A. S. Lawver Pvt. S. T. Lennon Pfc. J. K. Leysring Pvt. S. H. Limon Pvt. K. E. Maughan Pfc. J. E. Terrill Pfc. N. P. Tucker PLATOON 1031 Pvt. H. Aboytes-Madera Pfc. A. J. Acosta-Blakemore Pvt. C. R. Aksteter Pvt. F. J. Alaniz Pvt. M. J. Allen Pfc. J. Araiza Jr. Pvt. B. P. Arteaga Pfc. J. L. Atayde Pvt. J. T. Bateman Pvt. J. E. Becerra Jr. Pvt. J. P. Bleeke Pfc. P. M. Bogomolov Pvt. J. D. Bohannon Pfc. S. R. Bryant Pvt. J. R. Casanova Pfc. O. R. Chacon-Aguirre Pvt. J. A. Chavez Pvt. C. R. Coburn Pvt. C. S. Coleman Pfc. N. C. Colton Pvt. J. J. Common Pfc. R. A. Coronado-Soto Pvt. R. M. Corrales III Pvt. J. Q. Crawford Pvt. L. T. Dailey Pfc. R. D. Deisz Pvt. A. H. DeLaRosa Pfc. T. Derrer Pvt. E. D. Dimas III Pvt. J. M. Dishongh Pvt. N. B. Dorshow Pfc. T. S. Fokken Pvt. E. J. Fortin	*Pfc. M. A. Galicia Pvt. A. R. Garcia Pfc. N. C. Gibson Pvt. E. Gonzalez Pvt. C. J. Graham Pfc. B. S. Guardiano Pvt. D. R. Gunther Pvt. B. P. Guzman Pvt. T. R. Hamilton Pvt. L. D. Hanke *Pfc. B. R. Harrison Pvt. J. C. Haynie Pfc. K. J. Heuser Pvt. D. M. Hill Jr. Pvt. C. J. Hillesheim Pvt. E. T. Hinckley Pvt. J. R. Hoffmann Pvt. S. D. Houser *Pfc. T. J. Hudson Pvt. J. C. Jaime Pvt. N. S. Jenkins Pfc. K. H. Johnson Pfc. J. A. Vega PLATOON 1033 Pvt. M. Aguilar Jr. Pfc. K. J. Anderson Pfc. R. D. Becker Pvt. D. L. Black Jr. Pfc. R. C. Bochniak Pvt. J. T. Coleman Pvt. A. G. Cook Pvt. T. J. Ewing Pvt. C. A. Figueroa-Figueroa Pvt. H. Gracia Pfc. D. A. Greenway *Pfc. D. A. Grey Pfc. K. G. Haun *Pfc. J. R. Hutchins Pvt. K. S. Irizarry-Hernandez Pfc. J. I. Krauss Pvt. A. R. Martell Pfc. O. A. Mayen Pvt. R. R. Navarrete-Rivera Pvt. R. A. Relihan Pvt. C. S. Reyes Pvt. J. T. Reihl Pfc. M. S. Rodillas Pfc. R. Rodriguez Jr. Pvt. J. C. Saldana	Pvt. A. Sanchez Pfc. L. H. Serafin Pvt. A. F. Smith Pvt. B. A. Stevens Pvt. J. B. Straub Pfc. A. Tadic Pfc. J. J. Tameus Pvt. W. K. Taylor Pvt. S. N. Teifke Pvt. J. D. Thompson Pfc. C. T. Tran Pvt. J. F. Tucker Pvt. D. T. Turner Pfc. O. Valdez Pvt. A. A. Valenzuela-Meza Pfc. N. E. VanDenTop Pvt. J. B. Van Noord Pfc. J. Vasquez *Pfc. K. T. Vaughn Pfc. V. J. Vetrone Pvt. D. A. Vian Pvt. E. Victoria Jr. Pvt. T. T. Virden Pfc. G. Vue Pfc. K. R. Wall Pvt. C. M. Warner Pvt. E. A. Weaver Pvt. W. T. Wenger Pvt. C. J. West Pfc. J. T. Williams Pvt. R. S. Woods Pvt. A. Zamora Pvt. E. Zamora-Martinez	Pvt. T. E. Mickelson Pvt. B. N. Mitchell Pvt. T. B. Moses III Pfc. S. W. Oh Pvt. D. A. Oliver Pfc. J. P. Oltman Pvt. M. Partridge Pvt. R. A. Patterson Pvt. Z. T. Pearce Pvt. B. L. Query Pfc. K. Quintanilla Pfc. R. J. Ray Pfc. S. M. Roberts Pvt. L. A. Rodriguez Pvt. E. J. Rodriguez *Pfc. C. G. Sanchez Pfc. J. S. Schmidt Pvt. J. W. Setters Pvt. C. D. Shearer Pvt. D. D. Smith Pfc. Z. J. Soares Pvt. N. M. Spears Pvt. N. H. Steed Pvt. C. R. Stewart Pfc. S. H. Stovall Pfc. M. E. Surber Pvt. J. T. Taylor Pvt. B. A. Tellado-Aponte Pvt. C. K. Thao Pvt. D. C. Thiele Pvt. M. R. Thomas Pfc. D. J. Thompson Pfc. G. D. Trout Pvt. G. R. Vlietstra Pvt. D. L. Wade Pvt. B. J. Walsh Pvt. M. E. Whitman Pvt. J. D. Wojtowicz Pvt. W. F. Woodall Pvt. K. Xiong Pvt. J. E. Zorko PLATOON 1035 Pvt. W. A. Bates Pfc. A. J. Bolen Pfc. Z. P. Delacruz Pvt. C. O. Godbout Pfc. A. P. Harrison Pvt. K. D. Jones Pfc. F. G. Julebag Pvt. R. A. Kalata Pvt. P. A. Kinney Jr.	Pvt. B. P. Lafer Pfc. A. J. Lance Pvt. J. L. Lee-Brockhoff Pfc. V. P. Leone Pvt. R. A. Liano Pvt. M. J. Lingo Pfc. A. Luna Pvt. R. Macias III Pfc. M. L. Maclin Pfc. D. Madrid Jr. Pvt. D. Maldonado Pvt. D. Martinez Jr. Pvt. S. M. Maynard Pvt. M. C. McDonough Pvt. J. T. McLain Pvt. D. L. Meadows Pfc. D. L. Metcalf Pvt. J. R. Montana Pvt. K. V. Montenegro Pvt. R. Morales Pvt. H. L. Munguia Jr. Pvt. J. S. Murphy Pvt. M. C. Nunley Pvt. C. J. Nunn Pvt. J. J. Ontiveros Pfc. M. D. Palacio-Cruz Pvt. R. A. Panholzer Jr. Pfc. T. A. Passarelli Pvt. C. M. Pate Pvt. F. D. Patino-Andrade Pvt. T. A. Paz Pvt. T. K. Pennington Pvt. R. D. Petica Pvt. E. A. Pineda-Cuberio Pfc. R.M. Prado Pvt. J. D. Quinn Pvt. M. A. Robles Pfc. R. Rodriguez Jr. Pvt. M. P. Rodriguez Pfc. J. M. Schultz Pfc. J. B. Serrano Pfc. B. P. Singh Pvt. R. L. Smith Pvt. H. G. Sotelo Pfc. C. R. Wasnidge Pfc. J. A. Winterstein
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Iwo Jima veteran visits MCRD

BY LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN E. WOODLE
Chevron staff

It has been 68 years since World War II ended. Not many people are given the opportunity to see or even speak with the veterans of that war, yet Marines at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego were given a rare chance to meet one and hear him tell his story.

John J. Devine, a World War II veteran who also fought on Iwo Jima, spoke about his experience at the depot, July 12.

In 1940, Devine joined the Marine Corps right out of high school at the age of 18. He had been looking for a different type of life, one that would give him the opportunity to see the world.

"I joined the military for the travel and adventure," said Devine. "I originally tried to get into the Navy but the Marine Corps was always in the back of my mind because they have so much respect. Since the Navy was slow to process me I went to the Marines and I'm glad I ended up there."

Coming back to MCRD brought back memories of Devine's own recruit training experience. Devine recalled his training as a hard but an overall positive experience. He said that his drill instructor was a good man and had nothing but good memories of him.

"I just went along with the program and didn't fight it," said Devine. "The hardest part of recruit training was the bayonet course. I had stabbed the dummy so hard with the bayonet that I wasn't able to pull it out!"

Devine had joined the military before America was engaged in war in both Europe and the Pacific. It wasn't long after though that he would learn he would be sent to war to defend his country.

On the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, Devine was on a train ride home during a furlough, days he was required to take off work without pay. When Devine reached his home later that night he had already received a telegram telling him to go back.

Devine found himself on a ship heading out to the war in the Pacific. His first stop would be the Marshall Islands. His first experience arriving on shore was one that he will never be able to forget.

"The very first thing I saw was a Marine lying on the beach. He had his hands across his stomach holding his intestines," said Devine. "Just to the right of him there was a trench with about twelve Japanese soldiers who were toast from the flamethrower."

The battle was still raging on further into the small island. Though they had secured the shoreline, they were still open to attacks from Japanese planes in the area.

"The island was so small, and there were quite a few islands around, that they tried to disperse us as much as they could because the night before we had Japanese bombers attack our position," said Devine. "I don't know how much damage they did but we were just trying

to minimize the casualties."

After arriving on the Marshall Islands, Devine would go on three more surrounding island jumps.

"I was at a naval air station where we had our tanks and oil tanks setup. One time I saw high bombers coming over us but noticed they also had fighter planes as well. The major in charge said 'you're going to earn your money today,' which was only \$20.80 a month," said Devine. "None of the Marines were killed but that was my first combat I'd seen."

After completing the Marshall Islands Campaign, Devine was sent back to Camp Elliot in San Diego to attend ordnance school.

Devine requested to work in bomb disposal because he believed it was a less dangerous option.

"I thought it was safer because it kept my mind busy," said Devine. "If you're going to get hurt it'll be doing something in battle or some other way. Might as well be by something you had a little bit more control over."

After completing his training, Devine was sent back to the Pacific War, first stop, Saipan. One of his first tasks was to dig out one of their own 500 pound bombs that was approximately two feet underneath the runway of an airstrip.

"My sergeant and I were digging around the fuse part of the bomb and all of a sudden I saw him shake a little bit," said Devine. "I took off running like crazy and he just laughed at me and said 'you're not going to outrun the blast.'"

After Saipan was secured, Devine celebrated with his sergeant and chaplain over sake. In hindsight, he didn't think it was the best decision.

"I must have had too much to drink because I said I'd like to go with the first wave and help clean the mines up right away," said Devine. "So the next morning I didn't really have a hangover but I did after I had seen the colonel who told me to report over to Company B to prepare for the invasion of Iwo Jima."

Assigned to the assault squad, Devine had to carry 15-pounds of satchel charges on top of all of his bomb disposal gear. Devine was tasked with going first to either defuse bombs or blow up obstacles to clear a path for the rest of the troops.

"As soon as I got there I saw an emplacement right by me," said Devine. "A Japanese soldier came out. I could almost see the color of his eyes. He looked at me and lifted his rifle up. I lifted mine up, pulled the trigger but nothing happened. I dropped real fast. After that I threw that rifle away."

Devine said he believed his weapon had been jammed up from all of the sand throw up by their landing vehicle.

During his time on Iwo Jima, Devine was almost killed. Unfortunately, it is not a statement that can be said for one of the Marines he was working with.

"On Iwo Jima I was working on a mine with another Marine who was right beside me," said Devine. "All of a sudden



Lance Cpl. Benjamin E. Woodle

John J. Devine, a World War II veteran who also fought on Iwo Jima, sits in the reviewing stand aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 12. Devine came to MCRD to watch recruit training graduation and speak about his experience during World War II.



Courtesy photo

John J. Devine, a World War II veteran who also fought on Iwo Jima, poses during his recruit training platoon photo taken aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, August 1940. Devine recalls his own recruit training experience as hard, but an overall positive experience.

we started receiving Japanese mortar fire. I didn't know it at the time but he was killed right next to me."

Devine survived the attack but not without receiving injuries of his own.

"I had a concussion, lost a few teeth, and have a scar on my face now," said Devine. "I had a headache for a while after that, but that was it. I was very fortunate."

Through all of his encounters, Devine held great courage to push forward and continue to fight. He did not consider himself the bravest person on the battlefield, but he didn't need to be to complete the mission.

"My dad never wanted to talk about the war, and looking back as an adult I think it's because it was painful," said Kathy M. Devine, daughter of John J. Devine. "There were a lot of people who talked about

things who were really pumped, but in my dad's eyes it was 'I did what I had to do, there were men braver than me out there.'"

Devine knew what he had to do. He understood what he would face but at the same time realized the key that would help him through the war.

"Everybody was scared in battle, everybody," said Devine. "But you have to control yourself. That's where you had the advantage, you could control yourself."

After the war Devine became an instructor at the Engineering School at Camp Lejeune, N.C. When his time was finished there, Devine, a sergeant of Marines, decided to pursue a career outside of the military.

During his time as a civilian, Devine enjoyed his time with his family. Devine's daughter said he instilled honor, respect, pride and discipline in his

family. Similar to what he had learned in the Marine Corps. His son would also go on to become a United States Marine Corps Officer. Devine wanted to come back to where it all began, recruit training.

Watching the recruits graduate at MCRD brought great pride to Devine. Another generation of warriors is created to carry on the legacy and tradition of the Corps that Devine helped forge many years ago.

"I'm proud of all of the people that become Marines," said Devine. "It's like an inoculation, it stays with you all of your life, and at the same time you benefit from what people in the past have done."

Devine's advice to the new Marines is very short and simple.

"Enjoy life," said Devine. "I can't really say anything else because they already know it, they're proud to be a Marine."