



**Company M  
recruits meet the  
challenge**

**Pg. 4**



**Powder Puff  
can be  
rough**

**Pg. 8**

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# CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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## Certain canine breeds banned aboard depot

BY GUNNERY SGT. LAURA  
GAWECKI AND PFC. DUSTIN  
HAMBY  
*Chevron staff*

Some dog breeds are not only banned from military housing, but also on the depot, to include in vehicles aboard base and during events such as the Boot Camp Challenge, concerts and ceremonies.

Full or mixed breeds of pit bulls, rottweilers and canid/wolf hybrids are not allowed on all Marine Corps installations, according to Change 6 to the Marine Corps' housing management manual, Marine Corps Order P11000.22, released Aug. 11.

These changes were made because of increased ownership of large breed dogs with a predisposition towards aggressive or dangerous behavior, coupled with an increased risk of tragic incidents involving these dogs, the order states.

The canid hybrid is the offspring of a wolf and a dog. The Humane Society of the United States says that "Crossbreeding wolves with domesticated dogs produces animals with the same wild instincts of the wolf. They are extremely unpredictable as pets, especially around children."

From 2006 to 2008, pit-bull type dogs killed 52 Americans and accounted for 59 percent of all fatal attacks. Combined, pit bulls and rottweilers accounted for 73 percent of these deaths, according to DogsBite.org.

The Provost Marshal's Office aboard the depot is working with the staff judge advocate and the base inspector to develop

detailed, effective and reasonable procedures to address base access, said Thomas J. Capaccio, deputy chief of police, PMO, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Owners accompanying their dogs on base must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate to show the breed as declared by the attending veterinarian, or show certification from a recognized agency such as the American Kennel Club, said Capaccio.

"I usually see about 10 to 15 dogs come through the gate a week," said Lance Cpl. Justin M. Longobardo, PMO. "We also make sure they have leashes and aren't staying in the BEQ, which is prohibited."

Violations in bringing a prohibited dog aboard the depot will be handled on a case-by-case basis, Capaccio said. Punishment could potentially range from simply having to leave the depot with the dog, to debarment and a citation for trespassing.

Although not anticipated due to screening incoming people at the gates, any actions taken by PMO would be based on the circumstances and the opinions and direction of the staff judge advocate, base inspector, chief of staff and commanding general, he said.

California provides that no specific dog breed or mix shall be declared potentially dangerous or vicious in city or county ordinances, according to the American Veterinarian Medical Association State Legislative and Regulatory Department. Military installations fall under the auspices of the federal government rather than the state laws.



**Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway, addresses members of the Military Officers Association of America during its annual meeting at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort, Coronado, Calif., Oct. 24. He addressed various topics from suicide prevention to the good things Marines are doing while deployed. Other events during the seminar included a military-friendly career fair, military professional symposium and a military spouse panel.**

*Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*

## President Obama signs law to fund veteran health care

BY ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL J. CARDEN  
*American Forces Press Service*

President Barack Obama signed new legislation Oct. 22, that creates predictable funding for veterans' health care.

The Veterans Healthcare Reform and Transparency Act fundamentally changes how the Department of Veterans Affairs receive health care funding. The reform calls for appropriations a year in advance after more than two decades of regular budget delays, President Obama said from the White House East Room.

"Over the past two decades, the VA budget has been late almost every year, often by months," the president said. "At this very moment, the VA is operating without a budget, making it harder for VA medical centers and clinics to deliver the care our vets need."

President Obama said that because of budget shortfalls, new doctors, nurses and critical staff aren't hired on time. New health care facilities and programs often are put on hold, leaving veterans to pay the price for the government's neglect, he said.

"This is inexcusable. It's unacceptable. It's time for it to stop," he said. "And that's just what we'll do with this landmark legislation."

The law gives VA more funding predictability so officials can better budget their needs, recruit better-trained professionals and upgrade equipment. Mostly, President Obama said, the law gives veterans better access to quality care. "In short, this is common-sense reform," he said.

"It promotes accountability at the VA. It ensures oversight by Congress. It is fiscally responsible by not adding a dime to the deficit, and it ensures that veterans' health care will no longer be held hostage to the annual budget battles in Washington.

"Keeping faith with our veterans is work that is never truly done," he continued. "Today's veterans expect and deserve the highest quality care, as will tomorrow's veterans, especially our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The president pledged his administration would continue in efforts to build a 21st-century VA. Since he's taken office, the White House, VA and Pentagon have been working to "cut the red tape and backlogs," he said.

He noted the administration has invested in mobile clinics to give veterans in rural areas better access, and cited the VA and Pentagon's work to develop a single health care record for servicemembers to make their transition out of the military a simpler process.

The president also vowed to end homelessness among veterans and praised the success of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which offers qualified veterans better opportunities to attain higher education and training.

"All told, we have made the biggest commitment to veterans, the largest percentage increase in the VA budget in more than 30 years," he said. "As a nation, we'll pledge to fulfill our responsibilities to our veterans, because our commitment to our veterans is a sacred trust, and upholding that trust is a moral obligation."



**Rottweilers are one of the dog breeds not allowed on all Marine Corps installations. Photo courtesy of www.extrawallpapers.net**

# One good Devil Dog

BY CPL. JOSE NAVA  
Chevron staff

When I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2007 out of the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station, I had an idea of what I wanted to accomplish. I wanted to get out of Southern California, to travel and see the world.

Little did I know that in my travels I would be accompanied by a furry four-legged companion. The companion that I speak of is the depot mascot, Cpl. Molly Marine.

Molly is a seven-year-old pure breed English bulldog. Born in Jefferson, Texas on March 4, 2002, she was chosen to become the mascot for the depot. As the first female to train aboard the depot, Molly graduated from Company G, Platoon 2103, and received her eagle, globe and anchor emblem on Oct. 10, 2002. I learned all this information when I was given additional duties as her handler.

Like roommates I've had in the past, Molly was basically no different, except she walked on four legs. I've had roommates that were a little on the large side and hairy; some made me wish I had a gas mask if I had to be in the same room after they went on a run; some that would snore extremely loud and some that would eat my food. So I was already prepared for this particular roommate.

As her handler, I was responsible for doing my job as a combat correspondent and Marine as well as overseeing Molly's health, welfare and social appearances.

Initially, I didn't think my life would be any different, but I severely underestimated the popularity of Molly.

She would go to "work" each morning at 7:30 a.m., at the Public Affairs Office and was greeted and fawned over about twenty times a day from visitors and Marines. She basked in the attention she got from doing her tricks: rolling over, going into her dog house, saluting and singing, to name a few. She was excited to work each week in the proper uniform of the day at Family Days and graduations, being petted by children and having her picture taken. Additionally, she would make appearances in the local community at elementary schools and sporting events.

And where Molly went, I went.

Often, it would take us about a half hour to walk the three blocks home to the barracks because Molly would always attract a sea of happy people wanting to take her photo or pet her. The constant attention inspired her to stroll around the base with an air of entitlement, like it was her own backyard.

Her rock star frame of mind was

not limited to the San Diego county lines. She sometimes would accompany me on visits to my family home in Los Angeles. Molly would be greeted with open arms by my mother, while I unloaded the luggage.

On our journey, I learned many good things from Molly. One of them was how to manage my time. I say manage 'my time' because I had to take care of her needs first, which taught me to have a better grasp of my time. I became great at managing my priorities, organizing my goals and planning for the unpredictable. And this carried over into my work, studies and leisure activities.

From the time I spent as her handler, I learned why the depot has a mascot. She might sometimes be a messy and noisy roommate, but she has a certain

charm about her with her permanent smile.

Even people who do not like dogs come up to pet Molly and want to know all about her. When she walks around the depot and drops by Marines' offices, she seems to brighten their days.

The depot needs a mascot to raise troop morale. If people seem to be having a bad day and they see Molly, they smile or joke around with her. It takes away the stress of the day for the few moments people spend with her.

I fully believe that Molly has accomplished her mission as the depot mascot during her time here and she will be missed greatly when she is relieved of duty at the depot annual Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremony Nov. 10.



Cpl. Molly Marine, depot mascot, flaunts one of her mastered tricks, the salute. Cpl. Molly will be stepping down from her duties as depot mascot, after seven years of faithful service, during a ceremony on Nov. 10. Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron

## BRIEFS

### Uniform change

Beginning Monday, Marines on the depot are required to wear the woodland digital MARPAT with sleeves down. The Service "B" uniform will be worn Thursday and Friday of graduation weeks.

### Self-defense class for women

A self-defense class for women will be held Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Bldg. 5E classroom on the second floor. Participants will be taught verbal confrontational skills, safety strategies and physical techniques to enable them to successfully avoid, prevent, escape and survive violent assaults. Free childcare will be available for children two and older. To register, call (619) 524-1200.

### Thanksgiving buffet

The depot's Bay View Restaurant will host a Thanksgiving buffet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 26, for active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD personnel and their guests. The price is \$24.95 for adults and \$12.50 for children ages three to 11. Children under three eat free. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes and trimmings will be served. For information and reservations, call (619) 725-6388.

### Bingo!

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Recreation Center will offer bingo night every Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit youth programs at MCRD. Patrons have a chance to win \$5,000. Bingo is open to all eligible patrons and their guests. For information, call Rachel Landolt at (619) 524-8914.

### Semper Fit Strolling

Semper Fit Strolling classes are open to authorized depot personnel Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center. For information, call (619) 524-4427 or (619) 524-8465.

### Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program plans on and off base activities and community involvement for single Marines and sailors.

The program supports the overall quality of life of our Marines and sailors. It encourages the planning of recreational and social activities and offers them the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their communities.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM at the Recreation Center, Bldg. 590. This meeting is for activity and event planning as well as addressing quality of life issues for all MCRD single Marines and sailors. Free pizza and soda will be provided for all attendees.

### Volunteers needed for televised spots

Marine Corps Community Services televises "What's Happening at MCCR," a weekly segment on upcoming events throughout the depot and is looking for volunteers to narrate. Candidates can be active military, DoD civilians, or military dependants aboard the depot. Taping takes 30 minutes reading a prepared script. For information, contact Rachel Landolt, MCCR Coordinator, at landoltr@usmc-mccs.org.

### Send briefs to:

mcrdsdpao@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.

## 2009 DEPOT BIRTHDAY BALL

### Junior Enlisted Ball Saturday, Nov. 7

\$30 for active duty  
\$45 for all others

HQSVC Bn. Contact: Sgt. Parker  
(619) 524-1806

1st Bn. Contact: Sgt. Swanson  
(619) 524-1962

2nd Bn. Contact: Sgt. White  
(619) 524-5009

3rd Bn. Contact: Sgt. Diramos  
(619) 524-4335

SPT Bn. Contact: Sgt. Yocom  
(619) 524-1763

### Staff NCO Friday, Nov. 6

\$55 for active duty Marines,  
MCRD civilians and their  
guests.

\$75 for non-MCRD active duty,  
GS employees, retirees and  
civilian guests.

RTR Contact: GySgt. Martinez  
(619) 524-1766

HQSVC Bn. Contact: 1stSgt.  
Bala  
(619) 524-6678

### Officers Ball Tuesday, Nov. 10

\$80 for active duty Marines,  
MCRD civilians and their guests.

\$90 for non-MCRD active duty,  
GS employees, retirees and  
civilian guests.

RTR Contact: Capt. Peoples  
(619) 524-1775

HQSVC Bn. Contact: Capt. Cote  
(619) 524-1979

# The depot's wild neighbors: feral parrots

BY GUNNERY SGT. LAURA  
GAWECKI  
*Chevron Staff*

On the first night in my new apartment in Point Loma, Calif., I was startled by a strange, violent-sounding commotion and ran outside looking for a wild animal brawl. Instead, in the sky were about twenty pairs of bright green parrots flying home to roost in nearby trees. Their noisy squawk-

ing wasn't fighting, but their typical form of communication. I quickly found that the same routine happened every day in the morning and evenings.

I later learned from my veterinarian that there is a company of wild parrots in my neighborhood and several others in southern California.

A company also lives here aboard the depot.

The parrot's origins are part

mystery, part urban myth.

"I first noticed the parrots maybe about five years ago, but I actually heard them before that," said Rose Schuh, financial analyst, managerial accounting office, who has worked on the depot for 23 years.

"I never realized that parrots were the birds responsible for all the noise," she said.

According to Dr. Jeffrey R. Jenkins, D.V.M., Avian and Exotic

Animal Hospital, most of the parrots living in the Point Loma/Ocean Beach area are Mexican Redheaded Amazons, also called Green-cheeked Amazons, which originate from the Gulf Coast area of Mexico. The second most predominant parrot in the area is a Point Loma hybrid which breed in the wild with finches or Amazons, Jenkins said.

According to [www.realmacaw.com](http://www.realmacaw.com), the Mexican Redhead has bright green cheeks and a read head, occasional red and yellow markings on the tail, and a green body. They are typically 13 to 15 inches long and aren't the best talkers. They may pick up some words if bred in captivity, but show a preference for whistling.

There are many stories of how the parrots came to Southern California. One legend states that wild parrots flew here. According to Jenkins, it would be too far for them to fly and they would die in their attempts.

Other legends say that the parrots are all escaped pets; or that they escaped from an exotic-bird enthusiast's aviary; or that there was a fire in a pet shop in Ocean Beach in the 60s, and rather than see the birds perish, the firefighters set them free.

But Jenkins, who, since coming to San Diego in 1985, has been a self-professed godfather to many abandoned baby parrots who have fallen out of their nests or those who have been victim to abuse, says he believes the parrots originated from an artist's commune in Point Loma around 1900, called Lomaland. Agricultural experimentation

was essential to the Lomaland community's desire to be self-sufficient and they grew avocados and oranges.

One of Jenkins' clients told him that as an adolescent in the 40s, he snuck into Lomaland to take fruit from the trees and there were many parrots flying free there. Jenkins said he believes that some of those parrots probably flew down to Ocean Beach to nest in the date palms and eat bean pods and fig fruit.

"I have seen parrots on the depot for the past four years," said Ellen Guillemette, archivist, Command Museum, who has worked here since 1996.

"At first, there were only a few, but now there seems to be an entire flock and they range all over the depot. Mostly, I see them by the Exchange and in the trees on Dunlap Rd., heading toward the Bay View Restaurant. I really enjoy the parrots. They are colorful, lively, raucous, and do quite a few cute tricks."

Guillemette said she first encountered area parrots in 1989 when living in Pacific Beach.

The numbers have grown over the years and it is very likely that the depot's parrots were once part of one of the Point Loma flocks, Guillemette said.

Like the historical buildings and traditions that is the depot, the parrots are now an adoptive part of its history.

"I find the parrots very interesting and beautiful, and I think they add a little island paradise ambiance to the depot," Schuh said.



Wild Mexican Redheaded Amazons "hang eight" in Ocean Beach. All parrots have four claws on each foot. Parrot toes are zygodactyl, which means the first and fourth claws are turned backward. The second and third claws turn forward. "I love the parrots and wish I could get a closer look at them," said Sherri Bua, administrative assistant, Religious Ministries, who has worked on the depot for 22 years. "I've only been conscious of seeing them for the past three years or so, but we always know when they're in the immediate area with their squawking. MCRD is like a nature preserve." Photo courtesy of Christine Miller

# Remembering to build bridges, not walls

BY LT. CMDR. RONALD R. RINGO  
*He&S Battalion chaplain*

I remember a great metaphor I once heard: "It could be said that we are all in the construction business. In our human relationships, we have the opportunity to build bridges of trust and friendship each day, just as we have occasions to construct walls of enmity and fear. Sometimes it is easier to put up those walls than work at a better relationship."

Sir Isaac Newton said on the subject, "We build too many walls and not enough bridges." When we genuinely extend ourselves, not knowing whether our actions or kindnesses will be received as intended or our weaknesses accepted, we begin to build trust. It requires a great amount of courage and maturity to desire to build those bridges under such circumstances.

Bridge building tests our mettle, enlarges our capacities and challenges our approach to life. Many now have experienced this first hand in Iraq and other wars. Many during these experiences learned and gained a greater appreciation for their loved ones and things from home. When I returned home with many from Operation Iraqi Freedom, they told me that they didn't want to take simple things for granted anymore. I heard that they had learned to be more patient. Life, and the people whom we share it with,

became a bit more precious to us because of these types of experiences.

In the glow of sweet reunions returning from war or other separations, hopes are high that old patterns would be abandoned in favor of more loving behaviors at home. If you are one of those wondering why the good feelings of reunion can't last longer, or why resolutions to change can be so easily forgotten, perhaps there will be some words of comfort here for you.

In the book, *The Road Less Traveled* (a book I highly recommend), M. Scott Peck talks about why the honeymoon always ends.

Real love begins to deepen and grow as we move beyond the "honeymoon phase" and get down to the business of helping and serving one another through the daily difficulties of life. Spouses return to work or school and enlarge their focus to include other responsibilities and goals. This is natural and healthy, but the lessening of closeness can cause us to feel lonely, fearful or rejected.

We don't understand why this is inevitable and necessary for personal growth and happiness.

Some people go from relationship to relationship seeking that euphoric feeling that exists in the beginning, but always passes. When it does, they move on thinking the love has died, when in fact, the real work of

loving another hadn't yet begun.

Many of you, some who may have been away from a loved one, maybe had returned from a combat tour, went through hell and back, then came home to find even more heart wrenching difficulties awaiting you there. For others who were left behind, you carried heavy burdens and hung in there, only to feel unappreciated by the one who should have understood your sacrifices. You might be thinking, "What's it all for?" To patiently continue giving to those who may seem blind to the gift, takes courage, maturity and inner strength.

Those bridges that are built at home or with a foreign people require sincere efforts to responsibly reach out and try, again and again, even in the face of disappointments. Do we want to build walls or bridges?

You may be justified in feeling angry or bitter, sad or cynical, but what does that do for you? We've been told that one's anger or temper "is like a fire, it only gets destructive when it gets out of control." Someone once walked through the Holy Land, trying with all His heart to heal and bless and make a positive difference in the lives of those who would hear His voice. Yet many scoffed and scorned him and eventually crucified him. He was entitled to feelings of anger, hurt and betrayal, but chose instead to love. He fulfilled his mission and made a profound difference in the lives of those who

did listen, and believed him. He loved them purely and forgave them freely, encouraging us to do the same.

A story that was sent to me recently shares this message. "Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: Today, my best friend slapped me in the face.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from near drowning, he wrote on a stone: Today, my best friend saved my life.

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on the stone. Why?" The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in the sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

We need to do likewise with the things that we are going through. We would be wise to learn to write our hurts in the sand and carve our blessings in stone.

**CHEVRON**

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# Mighty Mike learns to rely on training, each other

BY CPL. MATTHEW BROWN  
*Chevron staff*

Throughout a Marine's time in the Corps, several lessons are consistently drilled into his mind, like the importance of core values, equal opportunity, leadership techniques, three-day-weekend safety tips and an often overlooked trait known as confidence.

"Everything recruits learn during boot camp is taught to them for a reason," said Cpl. Johnny Sermersky, field instructor, Weapons and Field training Battalion Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. "We are trying to make well-rounded members of a team. Better citizens, yes, but first they have to be effective critical thinkers and eventually effective leaders in the field."

Although Company M recruits have been learning about the importance of confidence since they first stood on the yellow footprints, they would not claim the title of Marine until they passed their final test, the Crucible. The Crucible is a 54-hour long training exercise in which recruits undergo a simulated combat stress which consists

of food and sleep deprivation. While undergoing this stress, recruit must work together to overcome mentally and physically demanding challenges like combat assault courses, mind bending obstacles, long marches, the problem-solving reaction course, and the team-building Warrior Stations.

All of the obstacles of the Crucible will test and teach recruits about core values, teamwork and confidence, but there are only a few exercises put in place that focus primarily on building recruits' confidence levels.

Company M set out to do just that, one squad at a time, as they stepped off for the Confidence Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 20.

The four obstacles that make up the confidence course are referred to as the Skyscraper, the Two-Line-Bridge, the Weaver and the Stairway to Heaven.

"These exercises all look different at first, but they are actually pretty similar," said Sermersky. "A recruit who may be unaccustomed to leading will lead. Things must be done quickly or the recruits will fail the mission and each mission

involves transporting something unconventionally from point A to point B."

Prior to beginning each obstacle, a squad of recruits gather around their drill instructor as he reads the Medal of Honor citation for which the respective obstacle is officially named.

"The DIs read the citations to show recruits how much the Marines before them gave in order to maintain the high standards of our Corps," said Sermersky. "It also gives them some great examples of core values and confidence in action."

After the citation is read, a recruit will read the safety rules, the goal of each exercise and explain the parameters in which their mission must be accomplished.

"Once all the initial stuff is completed, the recruits are given set periods of time to create a plan of action to best accomplish the mission," said Sermersky. "They decide on a plan and may run out of time, but either way they will have to accomplish the mission in the allotted time."

The Stairway to Heaven is a tall wooden ladder in which recruits are split into two teams and race up one side and down

the other and pass off their safety harnesses to their teammates.

During the Weaver, one recruit takes charge and instructs his fellow recruits on how to weave over and under each log of a triangular bridge while transporting their weapons and two ammunition cans.

Like the Weaver, the Two-Line Bridge consists of transporting supplies and personnel over an obstacle. Although in the Two-Line bridge obstacle, recruits work in teams of two rather than one large team.

The final obstacle they tackle is the Skyscraper. During that exercise, one recruit takes charge and instructs the rest of his squad on how to transport Fred, a simulated casualty dummy, from the top of a multi-platform structure to the ground while ensuring the rest of the recruits are providing security.

"The recruits who are on the ground providing security need to be confident in the recruits solving the problems, and vice versa," said Sgt. Francisco R. Castro, drill instructor, Platoon 3274, Company M. "In battle, a Marine must have confidence in himself and his teammates or he will flinch and hesitate rather

than take action at the crucial moment."

After each squad completed the course, they grabbed their gear and marched off in column formation to the next challenge that stood before them and the title they had gone there to claim.

"Just because they were able to complete the Confidence Course doesn't mean they are confident enough to really be a Marine," Sermersky said. "Confidence is gained once they realize they are able to overcome anything we throw at them and that in fact, they already have."

Castro credits much of the Corps' global success on Marines having confidence in their training and relying on it in difficult situations.

"Even if a Marine is scared of the unknown during battle, he can rely on his confidence in what he's taught, his team, and his gear, and will be able to defeat his fear and kill his enemies before they have a chance to kill him," said Castro. "One can hardly be a Marine without confidence, and these recruits are proving they have enough to at least maintain the standard that has been set by the Marines that came before them."

**Three recruits from Platoon 3274, Company M, scoot across the Two-Line-Bridge obstacle of the Confidence Course. The goal of the exercise is to transport three ammunition cans, three jugs of water and the entire squad of recruits to the opposite side of the bridge without anything touching the red "dead" marks or the ground.**

*Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



**Taking their time to communicate, recruits Brandon R. Bentley and Levi S. Wright, Platoon 3274, Company M, transport a jug of water from one end of the Two-Line-Bridge to the other without dropping it.**

*Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*





Two recruits from Platoon 3271, Company M, race one another up one side of the Stairway to Heaven and down the other as part of the Crucible's Confidence Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 20. The Stairway to Heaven is one of four obstacles that make up the course, which is designed to test and improve recruits' teamwork and confidence levels. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*



Company M recruits assist each other in moving up and over The Weaver, a Confidence Course obstacle. The Weaver requires recruits to go over and under the telephone poles that make it up, moving their equipment with them. Conquest of the Confidence Course requires teamwork and is part of the Crucible, a cumulative training evolution and the final step to becoming a Marine. *Cpl. Matthew Brown/Chevron*

# Company M recruit follows father's footsteps

BY PFC. LAUREN STEHWIEN  
Chevron staff

Many recruits who come to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., have no idea of what recruit training is

all about. But Recruit Justin R. Dorrell, Platoon 3274, Company M, arrived with a little more knowledge under his belt.

Dorrell's family has a long standing legacy in the Marine Corps ranks and he aspired to march in the same foot-

prints as his ancestors. Dorrell's father served for 22 years in the Marine Corps. During one of his assignments, he served as a Company M drill instructor.

When Dorrell was 16-years-old, his brother decided to join the Marine Corps, which established the point in which Dorrell realized he wanted to be a Marine.

"If he was going to follow through, I wanted to too," he said.

Dorrell graduated from high school one year early because he wanted to go to boot camp as soon as possible. Before shipping out, he researched and purposely left on a date where he would be placed in Co. M, in order to continue the newly established family tradition.

Before he left for boot camp, both his father and brother gave him pointers to help him prepare for what was to come.

Although Dorrell's father is a former drill instructor, things have changed over the years. Dorrell said that when his father served, recruit training was more physically challenging, but that has changed as society has changed. Despite the subtle changes, Dorrell's father told him the drill instructors' tactics are still basically the same.

Because Dorrell's brother had recently graduated from boot camp, they were bound to have similar experiences. He said his brother told him almost everything there was to know about recruit training. He included the colorful and sometimes humorous stories, and told him how training would be conducted in hopes of making him more successful there.

Dorrell said his father tried both directly and indirectly to instill in him the three core values of honor, courage and commitment, along with the 14 leadership traits such as integrity and dependability.

"The only thing you can't take from a man is his word," said Dorrell, quoting his father. "To me this means you

can have all of the material items in the world, but if you say you will do (something), you have to have the integrity (to follow through)."

Since the tender age of five, Dorrell's parents taught him leadership. He said when he started playing T-ball he hated it and wanted to quit, but his parents said leaders don't quit. To be a good leader, one can't ever give up. At the time he said he disagreed with them, but now he realizes his parents actually were correct.

While he was growing up, Dorrell's father also taught him simple things he would master later in boot camp, such as the loop sling. The loop sling is the form in which the sling on the M-16A2 rifle is tied. Its purpose is to keep the rifle straight and sturdy while shooting on the range. He also taught him the importance of physical training. Dorrell said he and his brother would often go out running with his father just for fun.

Physical training and love for the outdoors were things his family highlighted throughout his life. His family is also very close, which Dorrell believes is due to his parents serving in the Marine Corps.

"I think it helped. Dorrell seemed to be used to the strict schedule and already had a leg up on the other recruits mentally," said Staff Sgt. Michael Rucker, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3274, Co. M. "He was focused and already knew the games. That's half of the battle."

Dorrell said he will most likely return to the depot to become a drill instructor and follow in his father's footsteps.

Upon graduating from recruit training, Dorrell will attend Marine Combat Training at the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., before attending his military occupation specialty school in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to become a motor transportation operator.



Recruit Justin R. Dorrell, Platoon 3274, Company M, stands ready to fight after gearing for the sparring portion of the Crucible at Weapons Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 20. Pfc. Lauren Stehwien/Chevron



Recruit Justin R. Dorrell recovers in the corner of the boxing square, waiting for round two of his sparring bout during the Crucible. Pfc. Lauren Stehwien/Chevron

## Col. Don Zautcke

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. Don Zautcke was born in 1959 in Milwaukee, Wis. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in December 1981, having completed his undergraduate degree in business administration at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Following The Basic School and the Combat Engineer Officer Course, he was assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division in October 1982. During this tour, Zautcke served first as an engineer platoon commander, then as company executive officer, Company B, and as the battalion training officer.

In January 1985, Zautcke was transferred to sea duty aboard the USS Ranger, where he served as the guard officer and detachment executive officer. Zautcke subsequently

reported to the Army's Engineer Officer Advanced Course for duty under instruction.

Ordered to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group in August 1987, Zautcke served as assistant operations officer and commanding officer of Company B. His follow-on assignment was to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., where he worked in manpower management as a company grade ground officer monitor and later as the assistant ground lieutenant colonel monitor.

In July 1992, Zautcke reported to 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company where he served as a firepower control team leader and deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope. Upon returning, he served as a supporting arms liaison team leader and, after promotion to major, as the 1st Brigade platoon commander.

In June 1994, Zautcke was reassigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 where

he served as the operations officer. In July 1996, he was reassigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Okinawa, Japan, where he served as assistant facilities maintenance operations officer. Following graduation from Marine Corps Command and Staff College in June 1998, Zautcke was assigned to Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., as the base executive officer.

Zautcke assumed command of MWSS-373 in August 2001, and deployed his squadron in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed a second and third time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II as the assistant chief of staff, logistics, for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

In 2005, Zautcke became the assistant chief of staff for Installations and Logistics at MCRD San Diego.

Zautcke's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal; and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3rd award).





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Platoon 3275</b><br><b>COMPANY HONOR MAN</b><br>Lance Cpl. P. A. Schetter<br>Corona, Calif.<br>Recruited by<br>Sgt. T. J. Piliati | <b>Platoon 3269</b><br><b>SERIES HONOR MAN</b><br>Pfc. F. J. Becerra<br>Anaheim, Calif.<br>Recruited by<br>Staff Sgt. C. Duran | <b>Platoon 3270</b><br><b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b><br>Pfc. E. L. Evans<br>Vacaville, Calif.<br>Recruited by<br>Sgt. S. J. Balcobero | <b>Platoon 3271</b><br><b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b><br>Pfc. D. L. Godina<br>San Antonio<br>Recruited by<br>Sgt. D. N. Glover | <b>Platoon 3273</b><br><b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b><br>Pfc. N. R. Solecki<br>Flushing, Mich.<br>Recruited by<br>Sgt. I. R. Croteau | <b>Platoon 3274</b><br><b>PLATOON HONOR MAN</b><br>Pfc. D. C. Patrick<br>Ozark, Md.<br>Recruited by<br>Sgt. J. W. Thomas | <b>Platoon 3274</b><br><b>HIGH SHOOTER (333)</b><br>Pfc. C. L. Vuchetich<br>Park Falls, Wis.<br>Marksmanship Instructor<br>Sgt. H. Bringas | <b>Platoon 3269</b><br><b>HIGH PFT (300)</b><br>Pfc. J. J. Finneman<br>Bismarck, N. D.<br>Recruited by<br>Staff Sgt. D. M. Simons |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|

# MIKE COMPANY

## 3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

**Commanding Officer**  
Lt. Col. J. S. Meade  
**Sergeant Major**  
Sgt. Maj. T. W. Petersen  
**Chaplain**  
Lt. R. W. Peters III, USN  
**Battalion Drill Master**  
Staff Sgt. S. Gaytan

## COMPANY M

**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. K. J. Stepp  
**Company First Sergeant**  
1st Sgt. L. E. Harrell  
**Company Corpsman**  
Petty Officer 3rd Class N. Rodriguez

## SERIES 3269

**Series Commander**  
1st Lt. A. E. Mack  
**Chief Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. E. Zapata

## PLATOON 3269

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. F. R. Becker  
**Drill Instructors**  
Staff Sgt. M. A. Bowman  
Staff Sgt. N. L. Johnson  
Staff Sgt. M. D. Rodriguez

Pfc. A. M. Alcazar  
Pvt. M. W. Barnes  
Pfc. H. Basurto Jr.  
Pvt. T. J. Baune  
\*Pfc. F. J. Becerra  
Pvt. D. A. Bonilla  
Pfc. J. D. Bray  
Pfc. T. D. Brooks Jr.  
Pvt. R. F. Burns  
Pfc. S. D. Calsbeck  
Pfc. J. S. Carpenter  
Pvt. C. L. Castro  
Pvt. M. T. Cirilincuina  
Pfc. A. M. Clark  
Pvt. R. S. Clark  
Pvt. J. M. Coen  
Pvt. L. W. Corliss  
Pfc. M. Cortez-Anderson  
Pvt. S. C. Cunningham  
Pvt. C. L. Curtiss  
Pvt. S. H. Daniels  
Pfc. C. A. Davis  
Pvt. J. D. Davis  
Pfc. S. DeHart Jr.  
Pvt. D. M. DeYoung  
Pvt. N. M. Dixon  
Pvt. K. T. Doherty  
Pfc. T. H. Dyer  
Pfc. J. W. Elrage  
Pvt. T. L. Esqueda  
\*Pfc. B. M. Farran  
\*Pfc. J. J. Finneman  
Pfc. E. C. Galvan  
Pvt. X. Gao  
Pvt. P. C. Garcia  
Pvt. J. D. Gaytan-Gomez  
Pfc. K. M. Gilbert  
Pvt. J. P. Gonzalez  
Pvt. D. D. Gregg  
\*Pfc. B. J. Guasp  
Pvt. S. Guerrero  
Pvt. H. C. Hart  
Pvt. D. B. Hartness  
Pvt. J. C. Henrie  
Pvt. E. Hernandez  
Pvt. D. E. Herrera-Almaraz  
Pvt. P. J. Hetherington  
Pvt. E. T. Johnson  
Pvt. R. M. Johnson  
Pvt. K. N. Johnston  
Pfc. D. G. Kading  
Pfc. M. W. Klein  
Pvt. I. V. Kovachky  
Pfc. J. R. Kreman  
Pfc. K. W. Lane  
Pfc. M. H. Lemieux II

Pvt. M. A. Letona  
Pfc. J. J. Lezama  
Pvt. E. Lua-Rodriguez  
Pvt. M. P. MacLean  
Pvt. P. K. Marshall  
Pvt. A. Martinez  
Pvt. P. S. Martinez  
Pvt. D. C. Mata  
Pvt. S. A. McCarty  
Pfc. P. J. McDonald  
Pvt. P. L. McGinnis  
\*Pfc. A. Melgar  
Pvt. J. K. Merriman  
Pvt. I. Mishra  
Pvt. J. K. Moss  
Pvt. C. S. Wirtz  
Pvt. G. Yanez

## PLATOON 3270

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. M. J. Lennon  
**Drill Instructors**  
Staff Sgt. D. R. Heffel  
Staff Sgt. C. L. Olinger  
Sgt. R. A. Moreno

\*Pfc. J. M. Abramovich  
Pvt. S. C. Acuff  
Pfc. A. R. Acuna  
Pvt. R. S. Alexander  
Pfc. B. J. Allen  
Pvt. C. C. Allen  
Pvt. L. R. Atwood  
Pvt. B. E. Balogh  
\*Pfc. B. A. Bangasser  
Pvt. C. A. Barboza  
Pfc. E. C. Beck  
Pvt. A. C. Bigmedicine  
Pvt. S. C. Blair  
Pfc. B. R. Blanchard  
\*Pfc. K. J. Bolte  
Pvt. E. R. Boswell  
Pvt. B. C. Bradford  
Pfc. R. M. Bravo  
Pvt. D. J. Brodigan  
Pvt. B. M. Brown  
Pfc. J. J. Brumbaugh  
\*Pfc. J. E. Burrows  
Pvt. C. A. Butcher  
Pvt. R. D. Calonsag III  
Pvt. B. C. Cernat  
Pvt. A. J. Clark  
Pvt. M. P. Collins  
Pvt. S. E. Condry  
Pfc. B. R. Conn  
Pvt. J. J. Coyle  
Pfc. D. J. Craine  
Pfc. G. G. Crawford  
Pvt. Z. Dixon  
Pfc. L. T. Downey  
Pfc. R. A. Duarte  
Pvt. S. P. Edwards  
Pvt. S. M. Ellsworth  
Pvt. S. M. Ervin  
Pvt. J. M. Esparza  
\*Pfc. E. L. Evans  
Pvt. C. J. Farley  
Pvt. J. M. Fazekas  
Pvt. K. S. Ferguson  
Pfc. J. M. Frerichs  
Pvt. V. M. Geiger  
Pvt. A. C. Gray-Houghton  
Pvt. I. V. Grigorkiv  
Pvt. J. M. Grimsrud  
Pvt. B. L. Gross  
Pvt. L. R. Hansmeier  
Pvt. R. A. Harp  
Pvt. M. A. Haynes  
Pvt. J. T. Hendry  
Pfc. T. E. Hill  
Pvt. N. L. Hirschberger  
Pvt. M. Hipolito  
Pvt. D. K. Holdener  
Pfc. C. L. Holland  
Pvt. J. K. Kidder  
Pvt. S. R. Kidder  
Pvt. K. L. Lloyd  
Pfc. J. T. Magness  
Pfc. P. D. McHam  
Pfc. K. S. Nation

Pfc. C. L. Ott  
Pvt. A. B. Parks  
Pfc. D. R. Perez  
Pfc. S. W. Poffenroth  
Pfc. K. D. Reniere  
Pvt. N. S. Sandher  
Pfc. J. M. Sliter  
Pvt. N. W. Yost

## PLATOON 3271

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Sgt. J. Tibana  
**Drill Instructors**  
Sgt. R. Arroyo  
Sgt. A. K. Bernatowski  
Sgt. R. Moctezuma

Pfc. M. D. Abad  
Pfc. N. C. Anderson  
Pfc. R. L. Baker  
Pfc. N. C. Benally  
Pfc. N. D. Benavides  
Pvt. K. T. Bergen  
Pvt. N. R. Best  
Pvt. B. D. Beutler  
Pvt. B. L. Bonner  
Pfc. T. J. Bradbury  
Pfc. W. M. Burris  
Pvt. M. C. Calo  
Pvt. J. Cantu  
Pvt. R. A. Carrillo  
Pvt. K. N. Casayuran  
\*Pfc. A. R. Castro  
Pvt. T. J. Chaplin  
Pvt. E. W. Cook  
Pvt. C. A. Cruz  
Pvt. C. B. Demings  
Pvt. Q. N. Dinh  
Pvt. S. D. Drake  
Pfc. S. E. Ely  
\*Pfc. J. Escobar  
Pvt. C. D. Floyd  
Pvt. Z. J. Frappier  
Pvt. A. C. Garcia  
Pfc. M. E. Gill  
Pfc. D. L. Godina  
Pfc. K. Gonzalez  
Pvt. C. G. Hanson  
Pvt. Z. A. Heflin  
Pfc. T. J. Henscheid  
Pfc. D. N. Hernandez  
Pvt. J. F. Hernandez  
Pvt. R. Hernandez  
Pvt. K. D. Herrmann  
Pfc. R. Hoch  
\*Pfc. K. A. Hudson  
\*Pfc. D. M. Hurst  
Pfc. S. M. Jordan  
\*Pfc. J. M. Kruse  
Pvt. D. R. Lang  
Pfc. H. X. Le  
Pvt. B. A. Lopez  
Pvt. C. W. Mangan  
Pvt. M. A. Martinez  
Pvt. D. R. Matson  
Pfc. R. B. Maule  
Pvt. A. W. McDermott  
Pvt. C. R. McDonald  
Pvt. E. Mendoza  
Pvt. R. R. Mendoza  
Pfc. J. R. Middlebrooks  
Pfc. N. J. Milner  
Pvt. T. W. Moore  
Pfc. J. D. Mosher  
Pfc. J. R. Mueller  
Pvt. B. S. Murphy  
Pfc. A. G. Ness  
Pvt. J. H. Nielsen  
Pvt. E. P. Nietfeld  
Pvt. L. Oviedo  
Pfc. L. M. Prince  
Pfc. W. R. Rabe  
Pfc. M. A. Ramos  
Pfc. R. Q. Reyes  
Pvt. E. Rosales  
Pvt. C. R. Russell  
Pvt. D. M. Santos  
Pvt. L. A. Valdez  
Pvt. R. J. Weyer

## SERIES 3273

**Series Commander**  
1st Lt. F. M. Martinez-Cuello  
**Chief Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. E. J. Mahoney

## PLATOON 3273

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Gunnery Sgt. P. D. Mason  
**Drill Instructors**  
Sgt. A. L. Banister  
Sgt. W. J. Kondziela  
Sgt. N. A. Solana

Pfc. S. Adkins  
Pvt. M. J. Annarumma  
Pfc. J. Arenas  
Pfc. C. E. Baker  
Pvt. J. E. Barry  
Pvt. C. A. Berg  
Pfc. S. R. Bourke  
Pvt. E. M. Briden  
Pvt. T. J. Brock  
Pvt. D. W. Brummel  
Pvt. O. Bueno  
Pvt. A. R. Chavez  
Pfc. S. J. Chon  
Pfc. M. Dinh  
\*Pfc. M. E. English  
Pfc. J. M. Foreman  
Pfc. J. G. Goodbear  
Pvt. C. D. Halla  
Pfc. K. S. Hansen  
Pfc. J. D. Henry  
Pvt. J. L. Horse  
Pfc. D. S. Howard  
Pvt. A. M. Jaccard  
Pvt. M. T. James  
Pfc. M. L. Kakwitch  
Pvt. B. J. Knox  
Pvt. B. F. Koishigawa  
Pfc. R. G. Lee  
Pfc. M. A. Lindgren  
Pvt. J. T. Martinez  
Pvt. M. K. Morgan  
Pvt. J. C. Nicotro  
Pvt. J. J. Ojala  
\*Pfc. C. S. Oliveros  
Pvt. C. Quintero  
Pvt. G. C. Ramirez  
Pvt. D. R. Rankin  
Pvt. Z. K. Ray  
Pvt. E. L. Retland  
Pfc. J. M. Rinehart  
Pvt. K. R. Ritchey  
Pvt. P. A. Rocha  
Pvt. A. K. Rogers  
Pfc. N. D. Rolfe  
Pvt. A. R. Romero  
Pvt. G. Romero Jr.  
Pvt. S. Rosas  
Pfc. S. H. Schluter  
Pvt. N. D. Schmidt  
Pvt. J. L. Schneider  
Pvt. R. M. Schutter  
Pvt. A. D. Smith  
Pvt. A. T. Smith  
Pfc. N. R. Solecki  
Pvt. R. T. Stallsmith  
Pvt. K. M. Staszak  
\*Pfc. C. L. Stewart  
Pfc. J. Svoboda  
Pvt. M. A. Swoboda  
Pvt. G. T. Taggart  
Pvt. A. I. Thiele  
Pvt. A. S. Thompson  
Pvt. J. K. Turner  
Pvt. L. M. Vidal  
Pvt. J. D. Vogel  
\*Pfc. W. K. Vreeland  
Pvt. N. A. Walker  
Pvt. J. L. Wiltsey  
Pvt. N. C. Workman  
Pvt. L. S. Wright

## PLATOON 3274

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. M. A. Rucker

## Drill Instructors

Sgt. F. R. Castro  
Sgt. M. G. Martinez  
Sgt. A. M. Poznanski

Pvt. L. A. Aguilar  
Pfc. K. D. Bartell  
Pfc. K. B. Bedan  
Pfc. B. R. Bentley  
Pfc. M. T. Berry  
Pfc. B. J. Bliss  
Pvt. T. E. Brown  
Pvt. G. W. Canfield  
Pvt. V. A. Castro  
Pvt. C. R. Chandler  
Pvt. J. W. Curtis  
Pfc. J. R. Dorrell  
Pvt. K. C. Fitch  
Pvt. E. Flores  
Pvt. B. M. Fogelbach  
Pvt. H. A. Garcia  
Pfc. M. J. Grogan  
Pvt. J. F. Guerrero  
Pfc. P. S. Haataja  
Pvt. S. T. Halaliku  
Pvt. A. C. Jensen  
Pvt. C. J. Johnson  
Pvt. D. M. Johnson  
Pvt. R. T. Keenan  
Pvt. I. C. Kezer  
Pfc. T. Kopbayev  
Pvt. A. Korst  
Pfc. T. Lepak  
Pvt. J. T. Lester  
Pfc. T. K. Loewen  
Pvt. A. C. Logan  
Pvt. S. I. Lopez Jr.  
Pvt. R. N. MacFarlane  
Pvt. P. J. Maillet Jr.  
Pvt. T. M. Mattingly  
Pfc. J. D. McKinley  
Pvt. T. M. Meleg  
Pvt. K. Mendoza  
Pvt. B. M. Meyer  
Pvt. A. S. Michel  
Pvt. J. E. Miller  
Pfc. J. E. Mirelez  
Pvt. R. A. Mitchell  
Pvt. A. A. Morales  
Pvt. J. I. Morales-De Jesus  
Pvt. T. J. Morgan  
Pfc. M. G. Mumma  
Pfc. N. G. Myers  
Pvt. D. C. Nicol  
Pvt. J. C. Olson  
Pfc. C. T. Pacas  
\*Pfc. D. C. Patrick  
Pfc. W. R. Pomeroy III  
Pfc. E. A. Prieto  
\*Pfc. T. J. Rabe  
Pvt. J. R. Redlick  
Pvt. J. M. Richards  
Pfc. K. M. Roberson  
Pvt. R. R. Robles  
\*Pfc. E. Rodriguez  
Pvt. D. A. Romsdahl  
Pvt. J. P. Russell  
Pfc. R. F. Saheed  
Pvt. J. R. Sellman  
Pfc. M. H. Tiafala  
Pvt. D. J. Timbrook  
Pvt. M. L. Vanryn  
\*Pfc. D. J. Volk  
Pfc. C. L. Vuchetich  
Pvt. F. B. Wagoner  
Pfc. C. M. Weeks

## PLATOON 3275

**Senior Drill Instructor**  
Staff Sgt. J. L. Ledesma  
**Drill Instructors**  
Staff Sgt. I. D. Diaz  
Sgt. R. N. Caudle  
Sgt. J. A. Hernandez

Pfc. C. L. Ascoli-Beyette  
Pvt. J. M. Baldwin  
Pfc. D. Castro  
Pvt. B. J. Clark  
Pvt. I. D. Conley

Pvt. J. M. Duxbury  
Pfc. T. C. Egbert  
Pfc. W. M. Gary  
Pvt. C. T. Hall  
Pvt. J. A. Henderson  
Pvt. A. S. Holt  
Pfc. G. Lam  
Pvt. Z. H. McKerchie  
Pvt. T. D. Miller  
Pvt. A. M. Minarik  
Pfc. R. D. Montoya  
Pfc. D. R. Moore  
Pvt. G. W. Morales Jr.  
Pvt. M. A. Newsome  
Pfc. R. N. Ortiz  
Pvt. K. A. Patterson  
Pvt. A. E. Perez  
Pvt. N. J. Piekutowski  
Pfc. D. G. Piersall  
Pfc. C. S. Pierson  
Pvt. K. A. Polzine  
Pfc. D. R. Preece  
Pvt. J. D. Reneau  
Pvt. N. F. Reyes  
Pfc. G. G. Rice  
Pvt. G. Rivera  
Pfc. D. R. Roark  
Pvt. J. R. Rogers  
Pvt. B. G. Roseberry  
Pvt. I. C. Rosser  
Pfc. S. P. Ruiz  
Pvt. F. Salas  
Pvt. D. A. Salazar  
Pfc. J. M. Salvatore  
Pfc. A. Sanchez  
Pfc. P. L. Schaffner  
\*Lance Cpl. P. A. Schetter  
Pvt. M. W. Scrip  
Pvt. S. F. Sharp  
Pfc. T. R. Shinn  
Pvt. R. J. Singh  
Pvt. D. T. Smith  
Pvt. J. R. Starr  
Pfc. J. P. Stubbs  
Pvt. F. B. Tate  
Pfc. C. D. Taylor  
\*Pfc. D. T. Thomas  
Pfc. B. M. Thoreson  
Pvt. B. A. Ton  
Pvt. M. A. Trevino  
\*Pfc. A. N. Trujillo  
Pvt. E. Trujillo-Abarca  
Pfc. N. A. Tully  
Pfc. J. C. Olson  
Pfc. C. T. Pacas  
\*Pfc. D. C. Patrick  
Pfc. W. R. Pomeroy III  
Pfc. E. A. Prieto  
\*Pfc. T. J. Rabe  
Pvt. J. R. Redlick  
Pvt. J. M. Richards  
Pfc. K. M. Roberson  
Pvt. R. R. Robles  
\*Pfc. E. Rodriguez  
Pvt. D. A. Romsdahl  
Pvt. J. P. Russell  
Pfc. R. F. Saheed  
Pvt. J. R. Sellman  
Pfc. M. H. Tiafala  
Pvt. D. J. Timbrook  
Pvt. M. L. Vanryn  
\*Pfc. D. J. Volk  
Pfc. C. L. Vuchetich  
Pvt. F. B. Wagoner  
Pfc. C. M. Weeks

\* Denotes meritorious promotion



Pfc. Amber L. Laubert, left, administration clerk, consolidated personnel administration center, makes a hasty escape from TNT and continues down field with her flags intact during the depot's second annual Power-Puff Football Tournament championship game Oct. 22. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron

## Stingers rise to top during championship game

BY LANCE CPL. REBECCA A. LAMONT  
Chevron staff

A warm, sunny afternoon greeted more than 35 players and cheering fans during the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's competitive second annual Powder-Puff Football Tournament Championship Oct. 22.

Headquarters and Service Battalion, also known as the Stingers, battled it out with Recruit Training Regiment, or TNT. TNT was undefeated during this year's tournament

until the Stingers took victory during the championship game.

After the Stingers defeated TNT in the first game with a score of 12-0, they were required to beat them a second time to claim the championship due to TNT's undefeated status. TNT stepped up their defense in the second match, which went into overtime with a score of 0-0. The tension was slashed once Stinger player Sheena A. Aiu, training non-commissioned officer at communications electronics division, made the first touchdown.

Before the championship

game, both teams were pumped up from nervousness and excitement.

"I'm really nervous because this is the championship and all the drill instructors are counting on us, so it's a lot of pressure," said Lance Cpl. Katrina D. Perkins, administration clerk, 3rd Battalion, RTR.

As for the Stingers, their tension was triggered by a different kind of anxiety.

"The only thing I'm afraid of is because of our nervousness, we're not going to enjoy ourselves," said Capt. Catalina E. Kesler, company commander, Service Company.

"The most important thing is just have fun."

The Powder-Puff Football was designed to act as a team builder for the depot and give women Marines and military spouses an opportunity to play sports, said Michelle Pritchard, family readiness officer, RTR.

"I decided to be a part of the team this year because it would be fun to meet different women from RTR," said Perkins.

But for others, having the chance to compete and get their head in the game was their main interest.

"There was a great camaraderie

on the field," said Pfc. Amber L. Laubert, administration clerk, consolidated personnel administration center. "Everyone worked together as a team and was very respectful towards their opponents."

Pritchard, also a team member for TNT, plans to duke it out again next year because it was a great team builder and a lot of fun, she said.

And she won't be the only experienced team member next year.

"This was probably the most fun I've had while I've been on the depot," said Laubert. "I'm definitely going to play again next year."



Col. Stephanie Smith, battalion commander, Headquarters and Service Battalion, surveys the field before passing the football to a Stingers teammate during the depot's second annual Powder Puff Football Tournament championship game.

Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron



During the playoffs, Dawn Crim, spouse of Capt. Keith S. Crim, company commander, 3rd Battalion, quickly scans the field for an open receiver before her barricade breaks and becomes flooded by Weapons Field and Training Battalion players. Lance Cpl. Rebecca A. Lamont/Chevron