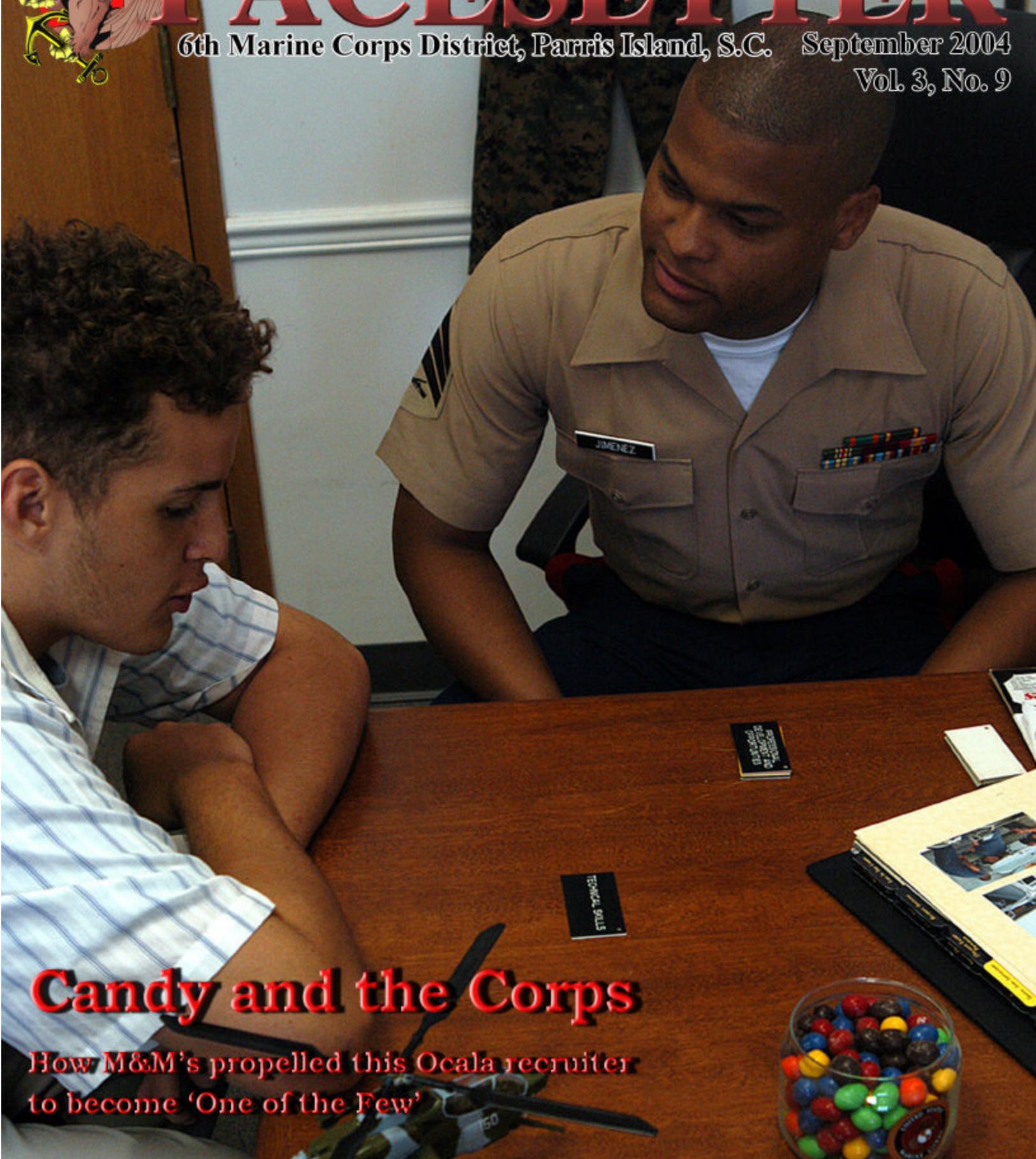




THE PACESETTER

6th Marine Corps District, Parris Island, S.C. September 2004
Vol. 3, No. 9



Candy and the Corps

How M&M's propelled this Ocala recruiter to become 'One of the Few'



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On The Covers

FRONT: Sgt. Jahir Jimenez, a canvassing recruiter for RSS Gainesville, discusses opportunities in the Corps with a community college student in his "one-man fighting hole" in PCS Ocala, Fla. For more turn to pg. 6. Photo by Staff Sgt. Will Price

BACK: Col. William P. Leek, commanding officer, 6th Marine Corps District, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Douglas C. Marr, operations officer, 6th Marine Corps District, after awarding Marr the Meritorious Service Medal, Aug 31. Marr has received orders to Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Leek said of Marr, in a goodbye formation, that Marr has been his favorite operations officer of his career. Photo by Sgt. Darius L. King

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If you have a comment or a story idea for *The Pacesetter*, please contact us. If you would like to submit a story about recruiting, professional wisdom, military families or any other topic, please send us the story and related pictures. For email submissions, send to: silwanusjf@6mcd.usmc.mil

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From the Command

Back to Basics

This past month I had the privileged opportunity, in the Cherokee National Forest outside Nashville, Tenn., to rub shoulders with some of our Corps' finest, most intelligent, and enthusiastic senior leaders of Marines – the career recruiters of the 6th MCD. Arguably, they are some of the toughest and most charismatic Marines of my experience. In my conversations and periods of instruction with my 8412s, I repeated that the secret to our success was in the simplistic blocking and tackling approach to systematic recruiting.

Once again, NCOICs should have good morning meetings and evening recaps. All recruiters should be using benefit tags and employing their Kash Callers frequently. As we all know, if we do these basics correctly, they encompass over 90 percent of the basic tenants of systematic recruiting.

The second big event, that was equally rewarding, was meeting with all of the District's Key Volunteers and RS COs in Savannah. Once more, it is plainly apparent why this District continues to excel above all others.

Yet again, last month, if not for our stalwart recruiting efforts, the region would have failed. Leading the way with a return to the number one spot was RS Nashville, 1.74. Nashville reclaimed the coveted APR Banner thanks to the efforts of Marines like NCOIC Staff Sgt. Brown, RSS Raleigh Oaks (4 for 1). Bringing in the rest of the pack, RS Orlando, 1.67, was led by NCOICs Gunnery Sgt. McDaniel, RSS St. Petersburg (10 for 5) and Staff Sgt. Nash, RSS Kissimmee (11 for 7). Hot on their heels, RS New Orleans, 1.66, was led by NCOICs Staff Sgt. Brownridge (8 for 7) and Staff Sgt. Nelson (10 for 7). NCOICs Gunnery Sgt. Wallace, RSS Rock Hill (11 for 11) and Gunnery Sgt. Brown, RSS Columbia (12 for 7) kept RS Columbia, 1.60, in the leader's pack.

Next up was RS Jacksonville, 1.53, led by NCOICs Gunnery Sgt. Anderson, RSS Gainesville (10 for 6) and Gunnery Sgt. Scoyners, RSS Panama City (8 for 7). RS Atlanta, 1.49, wasn't far behind thanks to NCOIC Master Sgt. Johnson, RSS Jonesboro, (7for7). RS Ft. Lauderdale, 1.48, and RS Montgomery, 1.42, finished out the race, led by NCOICs Staff Sgt. Aviles, RSS Hialeah and also Gunnery Sgt. McKenney, RSS Pensacola (14 for 14) and Gunnery Sgt. Deal, RSS Anniston (8 for 8), respectively.

Now, let's finish out the fiscal year as the number one District in ERR and set our sights on a historically unequalled FY'05.



W. P. Leek
Colonel of Marines



Photo Montage by Sgt. Eric R. Lucero

Ryan Hub will leave his home on Oct. 3 to attend the Officer Candidate Course at Quantico, Va. After playing baseball for five years at Clemson University, Hub decided not to pursue a career in baseball and opted to pursue his childhood dream of leading Marines.

Former Clemson baseball standout pursues childhood dream to lead Marines

Sgt. Eric R. Lucero
*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative,
 RS Columbia*

Amidst the sweltering Athens, Ga., heat, a single ball whistles past a screaming bat and into a dust-covered mitt as 34 sighs of despair chorus the Clemson University Baseball team dugout. Even while clearing the dugout and boarding their team bus, preparations for next season begin. The majority of the team promise themselves next year will be Clemson's year, others focus their attention on the professional ranks, but one player knows his passion beckons him a world away.

For five years, Ryan Hub has spilled blood, sweat and tears into the baseball diamond at Clemson University. While most players that endured his pains and sacrifices share the same dream of one day suiting up in a Major League Baseball uni-

form, Hub's inner voice pulled him in another direction—he wanted to lead Marines.

The hazel-eyed, 23-year-old will leave the comforts of home on Oct. 3 to attend the Officer Candidate Course in Quantico, Va. One look at him will tell you he considers himself more than ready. His overall demeanor commands both recognition and respect within the Tiger clubhouse. This is a trait he quickly attributes to his father and his military upbringing.

The son of a retired Air Force colonel, a logical choice would have been to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Air Force. Ironically, it was his father's words and beliefs that lit the fire within young Ryan to one-day wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

In October of 1994, Hub's father was stationed at the American Embassy in Kuwait. As Saddam Hussein ordered thousands of his troops to the Kuwaiti border, tensions ran high. In an effort to calm his son, Col. Michael G. Hub eased Ryan's mind, planting a seed at the same time.

"What's going to happen if Saddam sends his Army into Kuwait," Ryan recalled asking his father.

"It'll be alright," his father said calmly. "The Marines will come and get you."

That comment kindled Ryan's fascination with the Corps.

“The fact that he truly believed in what the Marines stood for was amazing,” Ryan said smiling. “I remember the way my father would talk about them. It was really powerful to me at that age.”

Later that year, Ryan’s father all but sealed his young son’s fate with yet another Marine encounter. As he accompanied his father to work one afternoon, they both paused to identify themselves to the Marine sentry before entering the room.

After passing through the door, Ryan asked his father why he referred to the sentry as “Marine” instead of his rank as he had seen his father do with the rest of the service members in the embassy.

“Because he’s a Marine,” his father replied matter-of-factly. “They have a reputation. They love hearing the title, Marine.”

Ryan recalled how he instantly wanted to be part of an organization, which felt that strongly about themselves.

After returning to the U.S. in the summer of 1996, Ryan attended Sumter High School in Sumter, S.C., with his dream of one-day being a Marine still intact.

However, after a couple of years of standing out on the baseball field, Ryan received an offer to play ball for one of the best collegiate baseball programs in America. A year after earning all-Region and all-State honors as a senior, Ryan was forced to choose between collegiate baseball and joining the Marine Corps.

“To be perfectly honest, Clemson was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up,” he said. “My junior year, I contacted [the Officer Selection Officer] and expressed my interest. I knew I still wanted to do it, from there it was just a matter of finishing my career and degree.”

Ryan completed his degree in political science in May and has spent the summer making sure he remains mentally and physically ready for the arduous journey that awaits him.

Despite the image collegiate student athletes are subjected to, Ryan finished his time at Clemson with a 3.4 grade point average over the last three years. For the last four years he has been named to the Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor



Photo by Sgt. Eric R. Lucero

Ryan Hub receives news of his acceptance to the Officer Candidate Course from Gunnery Sgt. Denis Labat, Officer Selection Assistant for RS Columbia, S.C. Hub graduated from Clemson University in May.

Roll, only the fifth Tiger in school history to earn that honor.

Despite his overwhelming success in the classroom and on the field, Ryan remains humble and attributes it all to his parents and the baseball program at Clemson. His personal drive seems to stem from an inner desire not to let them down.

“He’s a really good kid,” said Gunnery Sgt. Denis J. Labat, Recruiting Station Columbia’s Officer Selection Assistant. “He has a great head on his shoulders and knows what he wants. I’m sure he’ll do well.”

However, with all the support he enjoys, Ryan exudes the greatest confidence in himself amidst a world of uncertainty often referring to his favorite quote taken from the Bible.

“My enemies will look down upon me, but I will stand above them,” Ryan says with a grin. “I think that says it all.”

Ryan plans on spending his final few weeks as a civilian working hard and getting himself ready for what’s to come. His smile quickly fades when asked why he doesn’t just relax with his precious little time before departing.

“Because I’m going to lead Marines,” he said in a serious tone. “Besides, I know one of the proudest moments in my life is going to come the day my father pins my bars on me. I owe that to him.”

Contact Team Corner



Did you know you are eligible to receive Department of Labor accreditation for your time spent as a Marine Recruiter?

Marine Recruiters spend most of their time talking about the many educational benefits available in the Marine Corps without realizing that they are overlooking a great opportunity themselves.

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) grants Marines assigned the MOS 8411 the opportunity to register, document and receive a “Certificate of

Apprenticeship” in the trade of counselor from the Department of Labor.

This program functions as any other apprenticeship program in the Marine Corps.

Some of the benefits of joining an apprentice program are receiving recognition of skills learned, documented proof of work experience, advanced opportunities, obtain experience, and thorough knowledge of tools and materials in the trade, and you will become more marketable for future employment.

Marines interested in achieving certification status with the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program should contact their RI or visit the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program web site at: <https://www.cnet.navy.mil/usmap/aboutusmap.html>.

Sweet Dreams

How M&M's helped one Panamanian child enter the Marine Corps

Staff Sgt. Will Price

*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative,
RS Jacksonville*

On a dusty street in Panama City, Panama, 10-year-old Jahir Jimenez and his friends watched silently as a squad of U.S. Marines patrolled past them.

The year was 1989, and Operation JUST CAUSE was under way with two objectives: the capture of ruthless dictator Manuel Noriega, and the establishment of a democratic government in Panama.

As one Marine passed by Jimenez, he tossed the boy a small bag of M&M's from an MRE. It was a moment the young Panamanian would never forget — a simple act of kindness that would set the course for the 10-year-old's entire life.

"Those M&M's were the sweetest candy I ever tasted," recalls Jimenez. "At that moment, I knew I wanted to be just like those Marines. That was my dream."

Five years later, as fate would have it, Jahir's mother took a nursing job with the U.S. government, and the Jimenez family moved to the United States to live in Ocala, Fla. Jahir was one step closer to living his dream.

As soon as he graduated high school, Jimenez raced to the Marine recruiters of Recruiting Substation Gainesville in Ocala, Fla. Jimenez was an ideal candidate, physically, but English was a second language for him, making the grammar and reading sections of the ASVAB test very difficult.

"I did pretty well on the math, but the English sections killed me," admitted Jimenez. "After failing the ASVAB twice, I was pretty depressed. I considered giving up."

With six months to wait between each test, Jimenez had plenty of time to sulk, reconsider, and give up on his dream. Instead, he referred seven others to join and did everything he could to overcome his deficiencies in English. Recruiters helped by tutoring him every night, and soon he was ready to try again, taking the ASVAB for the third time.

For Jimenez, three times really was the charm. Scoring a 45 on the test, Jimenez cleared the final hurdle towards achieving his "sweet" dream.

On June 29, 1999, one and a half years after walking into the Marine Corps recruiting office, and a full decade after a Marine in Panama gave him a bag of M&M's, Jimenez, at long



Photo by Staff Sgt. Will Price
When Sgt. Jahir Jimenez was given a bag of M&M's by a U.S. Marine in Panama City, Panama, 15 years ago, joining the Corps became a life-long dream. Today, Jimenez has been a Marine for nearly six years and is a canvassing recruiter in RSS Gainesville's PCS Ocala, Fla.

last, found himself on the famed yellow footprints of Parris Island, S.C.

"I signed up as a Motor Transport operator, but I didn't really care what my job would be," admits Jimenez. "Becoming a Marine, and wearing the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, was all I cared about."

Ironically, Jimenez, 24, is currently a canvassing recruiter for RS Jacksonville's PCS Ocala — the same "one-man fighting hole" where he originally joined the Corps. "When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade," says Gunnery Sgt. Johnny Anderson, RSS Gainesville Staff Noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "Jimenez' strength of character reflects the positive attitude he brings to the job as a recruiter."

Jimenez' attitude is indeed reflecting well with the young men and women he meets today. In just three months of production, he has already enlisted nine others to join the ranks of the "Few and the Proud."

"I appreciate the chance to give kids the same opportunities I was given," said Jimenez. "I am deeply grateful for everything life has given me — as a recruiter, and as a United States Marine."

Sign 'em up: 8412s look into the past, plan for the future

Sgt. Josh Higgins

Marketing and Public Affairs Representative, RS Atlanta

6th Marine Corps District's 8412s gathered in Ocoee, Tenn., September 17-20 for their annual Career Recruiter Conference at the secluded Horn's Creek Lodge.

During their three-day stay the Marines were given the opportunity to enhance their recruiting techniques and share ideas while "roughing it" in close-quarters cabins at the lodge.

"We brought everyone together here to enjoy the peace and serenity this place provides and to enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Steven W. Hubbard, 6th MCD contact team chief. "We also want to use this time together to learn different tools and techniques from each other."

The Marines discussed several recruiting topics including MOS structure, developing new recruiters, and career recruiters' points of interest. One important class covering the evolution of modern day recruiting was instructed by Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Berry, 6th MCD contact team member. His brief covered



Photo by Sgt. Josh Higgins

Col. William P. Leek, commanding officer, 6th Marine Corps District, briefs the Career Recruiters of the District during their recent conference. Leek stated the District has, "the finest group of career recruiters I've ever worked with."

every recruiting era from the days of the draft to the present. He said it is important for recruiters to learn from the past so mistakes will not be repeated.

"Career recruiters are like the medicine men of recruiting so we have to lead and train our fellow recruiters to uphold the standards of systematic recruiting," said Berry. "We have no control over some of the external factors that effect recruiting, but we have to make the proper adjustments to reach our recruiting goals."

Master Sgt. Clyde Wilson, recruiter instructor, Recruiting Station Columbia, S.C., agreed with Berry saying it is important to lead by example and work closely with junior recruiters on their deficiencies.

"We have to mold the mindset of our Marines and make them believe that by using the training provided to them, they can end their recruiting tour successfully," he said.

Leaving with a little more knowledge under their belts than they came with and high praise from Colonel William P. Leek, commanding officer, 6th MCD, the Marines ended their stay in Tennessee with a white water rafting trip down the Ocoee River.

"This is the finest group of career recruiters I've ever worked with and I've been through three districts," said Leek.

"Career recruiters are like the medicine men of recruiting so we have to lead and train our fellow recruiters..."

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Berry, Career Recruiter



Photo by Sgt. Josh Higgins

Col. William P. Leek, commanding officer, 6th District, poses with the career recruiters of July APR winner, Recruiting Station Columbia, S.C., during the recent 8412 conference.

Sorry Charlie...

RS Orlando continues to accomplish mission during severe weather

Staff Sgt. Tracie G. Kessler

Marketing and Public Affairs Representative, RS Orlando

Recruiting Station Orlando stood its ground and weathered Hurricane Charlie on 13 Aug.

Despite Charlie's best efforts, RS Orlando managed to bounce back and exceed its recruiting mission by 24 contracts for the month of August.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the recruiting station was left without power for three days, which meant there was no internet access or phone capability. To combat this Capt. Juan Rivera, operations officer, RS Orlando, set up shop in the Military Entrance Processing Station in Tampa, Fla., to keep the daily shipping mission going.

Rivera explained that after the hurricane, the operations section in the headquarters was still open, though there was no power. Using flashlights and candles, they were able to access records on paper and relay the information to MEPS via cell phone.

The power outage was only a small hindrance, according to Rivera.

"We still made mission and were still shipping after the hurricane. I think [our adjustment in response to the hurricane] was rather successful," said Rivera. "It was not really inconvenient, just more of a challenge."

Though there were no lost contracts to the power outages and damage in Central Florida, daily operations did slow down some. Many of the areas that were in the path of the storm were evacuated, which meant many prospective Marines were out of town.

Police reports and high school tran-



Photo Illustration by Staff Sgt. Tracie G. Kessler
Staff Sgt. Arturo E. Ferreiro, supply chief, RS Orlando, secures several boards in front of RS Orlando's windows in preparation for Hurricane Charlie's arrival in their area.

scripts were slow in coming since many of the schools were closed and the police were busy ensuring the safety of the area.

"Everybody was affected because people were leaving the west coast [of Florida] and kids were out of town. However, we jumped back and started contracting the next day," said Rivera.

Rivera explained, one RSS that felt the sting of Hurricane Charlie and still came through in the end was RSS Kissimmee. Staff Sgt Michael Nash, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, RSS Kissimmee, explained that since his office and the RS headquarters were without power for a couple of days, he relocated his RSS to his own residence in an effort to stay on top of the game. Once the headquarters was up and running, he relocated once again.

"We had to maximize the assets that we had. Headquarters was down and none of my recruiters had power at their houses either," explained Nash.

Damaged government vehicles only added to the challenges he and his recruiters had to face. As a result, they resorted to using their own vehicles to carryout their mission.

One of the biggest challenges he and his Marines faced was the downed phone lines. However, they improvised by relying on home visits to keep up.

This also posed a problem for the recruiters due to the debris Charlie left on the roads, which impeded their ability to visit some homes.

"We knew people had no phones and no power so we had to rely on the home visit source and even built a rapport by helping move some trees," said Nash. "I remembered what our commanding officer said about the hurricane, 'It will give you an excuse [to fail] or an opportunity' and we found the opportunity."

Despite the ravaged conditions that his Marines worked in, they still overwrote their mission, writing 11 contracts four more than their mission of seven.

"The best thing I can think of is that my recruiters were very poised in the face of adversity," said Nash. "This shows that no matter what situations Marines are put in we still succeed. Everyone put forth the effort and showed that just because we're hit with a large challenge, we're not going to quit."

The executive officer of RS Orlando, Capt. Brent Bland, is equally proud of how his Marines performed under pressure.

"We are a team committed to winning and excellence," said Bland. "We're always going to put our best foot forward and, above all, we'll always accomplish the mission and take care of our own."



Photo by Cpl. John F. Silwanus

Col. William P. Leek, commanding officer, 6th MCD poses with the Recruiting Station commanding officers and Key Volunteers during the RS CO and KV Conference Sept. 1 and 2.

Key Volunteer Conference brings COs, KVs together

Cpl. John F. Silwanus

Editor

6th Marine Corps District Headquarters

The 6th Marine Corps District's Recruiting Station Commanding Officers and Key Volunteers held their first joint conference Sept. 1-2.

The conference, held at the Savannah Westin Hotel and Resort, provided a rare opportunity for the two groups to learn more about how to improve the Key Volunteer Network.

"We have not had a KV conference since Col. [William P.] Leek took command in August of last year, due to recruiting commitments," said Craig Sproul, quality of life coordinator. "Col. Leek wanted to show his appreciation of all the District and Recruiting Station KVs and the work they do on behalf of the Marines and their families."

According to Sproul, the Key Volunteer Network is a vital link between the command and the families, providing essential information to the families while allowing them to keep the command informed about family issues. The KVN is also a support network, welcoming new recruiting families, hosting much needed local and area activities, identifying TRICARE doctors and dentists, and providing other useful information.

This conference was not only the first conference during Leek's tenure; it was also the first conference to involve all the KVs and RS COs, said Sproul.

Previous conferences involved only the KV coordinators from each RS. This conference was important to the command to emphasize the KVN's importance.

"All the KVs were invited to recognize their hard work, talents and provide them with an avenue to speak with other volunteers," said Sproul. "It is very energizing for people, doing the

same work, to get together and talk about their concerns and desires receiving new ideas and sharing theirs."

The conference began with an in depth brief about the benefits of TRICARE and how to contact them in case of emergencies. Also the KVs and RS COs were encouraged to develop new relationships with each other through a team-building session with Jerry Lewis, quality of life coordinator, 4th MCD. Diane Phillips, KV, RS Atlanta, provided her insight and experience on how to develop a KV's reach to the families and the recruiting station.

Leek also shared his thoughts on the usefulness of the KVN and extended his gratitude to the KVs.

"This conference is a way to say thank you for the work you do for the Marines of the 6th District," said Leek. "It is my intent to use the KVs as a force multiplier in supporting the younger Marines 'on the streets.' Especially those who are having a hard time of it."

Overall, both Sproul and Leek agreed the conference went well and a lot of useful information was shared.

"I hope they take away from the conference a recognition of each other in their new relationship and how important it is to be a team reaching out to the families," said Sproul. "Like Col. Leek said, 'the KVs are a force multiplier for the RS,' which means the RS can accomplish so much more when families are kept informed about upcoming events and the commands can deal with family issues that affect the efficiency of recruiting."

Leek echoed Sproul and added that the location of the conference was chosen to reflect his sentiments toward the volunteers.

"We wanted to hold the conference in an appropriate place to show how much I appreciate the job you do out there," said Leek. "You have done a great job helping [Marines] get through this duty. I hope you will continue to do so."

Dancin' in the District helps...

Nashville Marines reach out to prospects at summer music festival

Staff Sgt. Jason S. Fischer

*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative,
RS Nashville*

Recruiters across the nation have used area canvassing at malls and on the street, exhaustively. These avenues of approach have worked, but may become monotonous. However, Recruiting Station Nashville recruiters get a break from the norm by kicking up their heels at the summer concert series known as Dancin' in the District.

The series, with concerts every Thursday night throughout the summer, features several musical acts each night, with popular bands such as Fuel, Everclear, Kanye West and Outkast gracing the stage. Any given show draws anywhere between 10,000 and 15,000 music fans, the vast majority of those being 17-29 years old.

According to Staff Sgt. Melvin Williams, canvassing recruiter from Recruiting Substation Rivergate, the high volume of prospects makes working at the event an attractive deal, and allows recruiters to help maintain a healthy mix of seniors and graduates.

"We have the chance to meet the young men and women from our schools in a more relaxed environment," he said. "Plus, you have the chance to meet grads, grads, grads."

This is the fourth year the Marines of Nashville have had the opportunity to work at the series. So far this year, recruiters have reeled in nearly 700 leads, countless AC contacts and nearly 25 appointments.

According to Williams, one of Dancin's "regulars", the event is positive because it gives him exposure to thousands of people in one location.

"My favorite thing about Dancin' in the District is that we have such a large and diverse market in one place to interact with," Williams said. "It's outstanding because it gives me another chance to tell the Marine Corps story."

Marcie Cardwell, the President of Mad Booking Inc. who produces the series, said the time-tested method of pairing a pull-up bar with a team of highly-motivated canvassing recruiters to engage the crowd adds something a little different to the concert.

"I think it's great that the Marines have something so interactive with the crowd, she said. "(Festival-goers) will wait in line for an hour to do pull-ups, so it's a unique experience for them."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason S. Fischer

Recruiting Substation Rivergate, Tenn., canvassing recruiter Staff Sgt. Melvin Williams counts pull-ups during a show at the "Dancin' in the District" summer concert series in downtown Nashville's Riverfront Park. The concert series has proven very successful for Nashville recruiters.

"We have the chance to meet the young men and women from our schools in a more relaxed environment."

**Staff Sgt. Melvin Williams,
Canvassing Recruiter,
RSS Rivergate**

Just as Dancin' in the District's sister concert series events, On the Bricks in Atlanta. Sessions at Merriweather in the Baltimore-Washington area and SoBro Summer Nights also in Nashville, the event's outdoor atmosphere draws a large number of young people.

They are not only interested in the music but also the social experience that the series brings to the Nashville metropolitan area.

"The Marines help us create more of a festival experience so that concert-goers can come out and enjoy more than just a concert – [Marines] are an integral part of the festival," said Cardwell.

With the success recruiters have enjoyed while working at Dancin' in the District, they will continue to reap the benefits of the series long after it ends.

Are you prepared?!

If you are concerned about upcoming hurricanes and tropical storms, MCCA One Source can help. Consultants are ready to help you understand safety issues during and after the storm. If you live or work in an area that is affected, consultants can also help you find temporary child care or elder care services and deal with the anxiety, your own, your child's, or another family member's, that can follow a natural disaster.

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Attention Recruiters!

Marine Corps Recruiting Association will have its first conference/reunion in San Diego, Calif., Oct. 20-24 at the Holiday Inn San Diego Bay Side.

For reservations to attend call toll free 1-800-662-8899 or (619) 224-3621. For more information and schedule of events call Jerry Scoggins, President and Chairman, at (505)294-2941 by September 27th. Don't miss this special inaugural reunion of the MCRA. A Luau and many other activities are planned for your enjoyment and friendship.



Courtesy Photo

The Newton High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps color guard consisting of Anthony Hill, riflebearer; Crystal Brown, U.S. Colors; Ashley Turner, Georgia State Colors; Ashley Tibbetts, Marine Corps Colors; and Antonio Hall, riflebearer; performs during the opening ceremony of the Atlanta Braves - San Francisco Giants baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 29. The color guard has performed at least one color guard for the Braves since '98. The Covington, Ga., MCJROTC cadets have also performed the color guard for events such as Major League Soccer and Arena Football. They will perform at approximately 40 events this year.



BEYOND THE LIMITS

Preparation for combat situations is a major part of the learning experience called recruit training.

During training week 10, recruits are put that experience to the test during the Crucible. It has been called the culmination of recruit training. It focuses on showing recruits they can beyond their limits to accomplish the mission.

“The problem most recruits have is pushing themselves beyond their limits,” said Sgt. J.J. Clay, drill instructor, leading Team 1/4. “They find themselves mentally and physically exhausted and they want to quit.”

Your week will begin with the final physical fitness test, where the “PT studs” compete for the “Company Iron Man” honors. It is also a chance you to make their senior drill instructor proud by showing how much they have improved physically, since reporting to boot camp.

You will spend the rest of the day preparing to step off for the Crucible. Your drill instructors will wake you just after midnight to begin the 54-hour endurance test. The six-mile march out to Page Field is only the beginning. Recruits will begin to attack each of five events after a minimal break. These events are a consolidation of what recruits have learned from recruit training.

“They must put all of what they learned to use, without instruction,” said Clay, a Jackson, Miss., native. “They have to nego-

tiate every obstacle without their drill instructor’s help. They have to do it all on their own.”

Your toughest challenge during the Crucible has been pulling themselves together, formulating a plan to accomplish each event and working as a team, according to Sgt. William Willis, drill instructor with Platoon 1072, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion.

“Most of these recruits have never been pushed to the brink of exhaustion, like this,” Willis added. “The Crucible gives a lot of them confidence in themselves and helps them develop the mental toughness needed to survive in combat.”

The third morning, you will wake early again and begin the 10-mile trek back to their barracks. After you finish cleaning up, the Warrior’s Breakfast begins. You may be allowed more time to eat and some are allowed seconds.

Although you may think, this week has exhausted you and all you want is to relax for a few days, think again. You will still be



Photo illustration by Cpl. John F. Silwanus
A recruit swings across a simulated contamination area during the Crucible.

expected to pass the Defensive Driving course and recall the classes you have received throughout recruit training during the Academic Review.

As a recruit, you should keep their heads up, because Sunday brings four hours of liberty. You will be allowed to explore the Recruit Depot without their drill instructors on their heels. It will be the last time until Family Day.



Photo by Cpl. John F. Silwanus
Bravo Company recruits low crawl under barbed wire during their final day of the Crucible. The infiltration course is just one of several events to challenge recruits and better prepare them for combat, during the Crucible.

SETTING THE PACE

Stations of the Month

RS Atlanta

Large - RSS Jonesboro - NCOIC: Master Sgt. Johnson
Small - None

RS Columbia

Large - RSS Rockhill - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. Wallace
Small - RSS Columbia - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. Brown

RS Ft. Lauderdale

Large - RSS Hialeah - NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Aviles
Small - None

RS Jacksonville

Large - RSS Gainesville - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. Anderson
Small - RSS Panama City - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. Scoyners

RS Montgomery

Large - RSS Pensacola - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. McKenney
Small - RSS Anniston - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. Deal

RS Nashville

Large - RSS Raleigh Oaks - NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Brown
Small - None

RS New Orleans

Large - RSS Hammond - NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Brownridge
Small - RSS McComb - NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Nelson

RS Orlando

Large - RSS St. Petersburg - NCOIC: Gunnery Sgt. McDaniel
Small - RSS Kissimmee - NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Nash



From the XO

Marines,

All Recruiting Stations made District mission, the District was number

one in the Eastern Recruiting Region, and the Sixth is on top of the national ticket for August. It does not get much better than that! A job well done to the staffs and the trigger pullers. The momentum is well established and the onus is on us individually to continue improving our contributions to the functioning of our machine. There are challenges in front of us, but just as "mother nature" placed a hurdle in front of the Florida stations with the storms, the "can do" attitude of Marines has allowed us to persevere. In fact, RS Orlando, the hardest hit station from Charlie, marshalled its forces and nearly locked up the APR Banner. An impressive drive to overcome. We face challenges in the short term with sufficient manning. Those Marines that are looking to rotate or EAS in the near term, I request that you look at the possibility of a 6-12 month extension. If you have the desire, review your personal situation to determine if there is a benefit. Again, CG ERR was very pleased with your actions and wanted passed along a "well done" for ensuring that the Region was successful. Nice conclusion to the summer months, continue to press with the Pacesetter tradition and have some fun!

Semper Fidelis,

Lt. Col. MacKenzie

Heavy Hitters

Recruiters with 5 or more contracts

Atlanta	Montgomery	New Orleans
Staff Sgt. Bishop 5	Staff Sgt. Sekellik 5	Sgt. Cunningham Sgt. Purin
Columbia	Nashville	Orlando
Staff Sgt. Flores 5 Sgt. Costello 5	Staff Sgt. Kinsey 5 Sgt. Sluss 5	Sgt. Thomas Sgt. Kairis Staff Sgt. Cintron Staff Sgt. Aguilar
Ft. Lauderdale	New Orleans	Staff Sgt. Miller
Sgt. Piper 5	Staff Sgt. Bonner 5	

The Honor Roll

Congrats to the following honor grads:

Aug. 20 - Alpha Co.

Pfc. Jeremy W. Braun, Charlotte, N.C.
Recruited by Sgt. Gene A. Costello, RSS Charlotte
Pfc. Cody S. Michelena, Chatanooga, Tenn.
Recruited by Sgt. Grant S. Searer, RSS Chatanooga

Aug. 27 - Echo Co.

Pfc. Mark D. Lyons, Greenville, S.C.
Recruited by Sgt. Schulte, Greenville, S.C.
Lance Cpl. Leroy A. Myers, Columbia, S.C.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. Benton, Columbia, S.C.
Lance Cpl. David . Galarza, Columbus, Ga.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. Alford, Columbus, Ga.
Lance Cpl. Howard H. Aycock, Sarasota, Fla.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. Akhtebo, Sarasota, Fla.

Sept. 3 - India Co.

Pfc. Brian A. Cramer, Warner Robins, Ga.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. Alderman, RSS Warner Robins, Ga.
Pfc. John M. Liest, Baton Rouge, La.
Recruited by Staff Sgt. Hernandez, RSS Baton Rouge, La.

LEADING THE PACK

CO's Award of Excellence



RS Nashville, 1.74
Maj. Steven Wolf



RS Orlando, 1.67
Maj. Matthew Reid



RS New Orleans, 1.66
Maj. James Christmas



RS Columbia, 1.60
Maj. Charles Dunne



RS Jacksonville, 1.53
Maj. John Bolt



RS Atlanta, 1.49
Maj. Cason Heard



RS Ft. Lauderdale, 1.48
Maj. Daniel Greenwood



RS Montgomery, 1.42
Maj. Hugh Ware

Spotlight on:



Sgt. Eric Adams
Recruiter, RSS Fort Pierce, RS Fort Lauderdale

Sgt. Adams was easily inspired to become a Marine Corps recruiter. "I just wanted to give

back to the Marine Corps what my recruiter gave to me — everything my recruiter ever promised me came to pass and I wanted the opportunity to do the same for others," he said. His positive outlook and drive to make an impact on the youth in his area have brought him notable success — in August this year he signed a total of six contracts making him the RS Recruiter of the Month for the first time since his arrival in January 2003.

Years in USMC (active): 11 years, 10 months
 Primary MOS: 6432 Aviation Electrician
 Favorite Duty Station: MCAS Futenma, Okinawa
 Favorite Book: Sun Tzu's "The Lost Art of War"
 Favorite Quote: "Don't sweat the small stuff ... because everything is small stuff."
 Favorite Movie: The "Die Hard" Trilogy
 Personal Hero: My mother. She did everything in her power to give me everything I needed and some of the things I wanted and she never let me quit.
 Hobbies: Entertaining my daughters, Alexandria and Akelah
 Greatest Accomplishment: Being a good dad.



A GREAT JOB DURING AUGUST, MARINES! You carried the region, ensuring success for the Marine Corps. It is great to be on a winning team, keep charging through this and the next fiscal year. **Priorities this month:** (1) attaining contracting phaselines, (2) shipping exactly the correct number to ensure FY shipping success – we need to be at the exact number at the end of the month.

"Recruiters prospect and sell; NCOIC's process and ship. Work hard and use systematic recruiting – the pieces of success are all there. Most of all, be Marines and lead your Marines (or future Marines) and you will be successful."

This is my last column in the Pacesetter. My three-year tour is at an end, all too fast. I wanted to write something profound to motivate you to be successful far into the future. I have been thinking about it for days.

When I thought of long-term success, I kept coming back to lines above. Do you remember the skills that great baseball players work on? Hitting and fielding – the simple basics of baseball. Recruiting is no different:

get the basics down and practice them everyday.

I want to thank the RS Commanding Officers for keeping my morale high for three years and making this a leading District. I also want to thank all the recruiters and Marines that make 6MCD a great command. Also, a special thank you to the RS and District Operations sections – superb groups of Marines. Hopefully I was able to bring some knowledge and motivation your way during my tour, but I know, in the long run, that I received far more than I gave.

Lt. Col. Bowersox, who has a wealth of recruiting experience, is taking the position of 6MCD Operations Officer. I will be the Recruit Training Regiment Executive Officer at MCRD Parris Island by the time you read this. Keep making mission, and ship nothing but quality young men and women - I will be keeping an eye on 6MCD from a different perspective. It has been great serving with you.

Douglas C. Marr
 Lt. Col. USMC



***Good Luck
Lt. Col. Marr***

