

Depot seminar encourages thriftiness

BY SGT. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

The Military Saves 2010 Financial Seminar was held at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's base theater Tuesday as part of its tour to southern California military installations. The purpose of the seminar was to show service members who attended how to better plan for their financial future by building wealth, not debt.

There were booths for attending service members to get useful information from financial service organizations on base including Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society and Military OneSource.

Guest speakers included, Kelvin Boston and Peter G. Bielagus.

Boston is a distinguished financial journalist and author who believes

that financial education is the key that unlocks the doors to financial success. He is the executive producer and host of the Moneywise with Kelvin Boston public television series. He is also the author of the best-selling book, "Smart Money Moves for African Americans."

Bielagus is a licensed financial advisor who has appeared as a guest speaker on radio and television shows nationwide about personal finance for young America.

"There is no better group of people more prepared to make it through this tough economy than the military," said Boston. "The three things military members can do to improve their financial situation are reduce debt, increase savings and use every one of their benefits!"

Topics discussed during the seminar included how service members

could get out of debt by committing to a savings plan and how to build credit in order to buy their first home.

"Pursuing financial success is like playing a game," said Boston. "But many people don't play the game. Don't let others dictate how you handle your finances."

After the discussions Boston and Bielagus answered questions for the crowd as they were free to wander the various booths set up in the theater lobby.

"There was a lot of useful information presented during the speakers," said Heather Barnett, daughter of retired Gunnery Sgt. Steve Barnett. "But it was also presented in a way that made it easy to understand, so even if you have never really had any experiences dealing with financial planning, you get the basics."

Transitioning is part of Marine life

BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTINE
POLVOROSA
Depot Public Affairs Office

You would think that after being in the Marine Corps for more than 11 years and having been assigned to five different duty stations that I would be used to transitioning, but I'm not. In fact, I can tell you that it's probably something I may never get used to.

I say this because like every other Marine, I grew accustomed to every duty station I was at – seeing the same Marines, doing the same job and experiencing the day-to-day things that went on. So it shouldn't be a shock to hear that after being at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for 23 months, I'm actually going to miss this place, but most of all, I'm going to miss the Marines.

There are some outstanding leaders and junior Marines here, who have set great examples of strong character, moral courage and our core values. They represent only the best of what the Marine Corps has

to offer, and it's been a privilege for me to know them.

I can only hope that when I get to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, I will be fortunate to meet the same caliber of Marines there that I have here.

So as I depart the depot, I would like to leave some words of wisdom.

Don't waste any time here. Since this is a non-deployable duty station, it's the perfect opportunity for you to get most of your training and education done.

Request to go to your rank-equivalent professional military education courses, military occupational specialty schools or Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor courses. Another thing I would suggest is visit the Education Center and enroll in some classes, because off-duty education is just as important as PME.

Try to also excel in all your annual training. Achieving a first class in your physical fitness test and combat fitness test is extremely important, and it illustrates your initiative to achieve a standard

above mediocre.

Take the rifle and pistol range seriously as well, because promotions could come down to "who's a better rifleman." Remember Marines, you're competing for grades on your fitness reports and proficiency/conduct marks. With promotions only getting tougher, you need to do more to stay competitive – to stand out among your peers.

Lastly, something that could play a factor in promotions is your Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training. Tan belts are for new Marines. If you're wearing a tan belt and have graduated more than six months ago from your MOS school, you need to train for gray belt status.

Marines, I challenge you to live up to your potential and strive to do great things in your career. But make sure along the way that you always do the right thing and represent the Marine Corps well.

I wish the Marines, sailors and civilian Marines here all the best in their future endeavors.

BRIEFS

CG's Cup horseshoes singles and doubles tournament

Registration for singles and doubles horseshoes will be on Monday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the health promotions training room at the Fitness Center.

The singles one-day event takes place March 16 at the depot boathouse. The doubles one-day event is March 17 at the MCRD Boathouse. Tournament formats and start times will be dependent on the amount of entries. The events are only open to MCRD active duty and DoD/NaFi employees aboard the depot. For doubles, both members must be from the same office/command. For further information, please contact Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.

St. Patrick's Friday Dinner Dance

A St. Patrick's dinner dance will be held March 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the depot's Bay View Restaurant for all eligible patrons. The cost is \$21.95 per person. For reservations, call Melanie DeCosta at (619) 725-6388.

CG's Cup tennis singles and doubles tournament

Registration for singles and double tennis will be March 15 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Health Promotions training room at the Fitness Center. The singles one-day event will be hosted at the tennis courts next to the depot Boathouse, March 23.

The doubles one day event hosted at on March 24.

The start time and format will depend on the number of entries.

The events are only open to MCRD active duty and DoD/NaFi employees aboard the depot. For information, call (619) 524-0548.

Battle Color Detachment to perform

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment will perform on March 20 at 2:30 p.m. on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field. The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. includes The Commandant's Own United States Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Color Guard. The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment appears in hundreds of ceremonies annually in Washington, D.C., across the country, and abroad. The event is free and open to the public. Guests must enter through Gate 5 at the Washington St. entrance.

CG's Cup Basketball League

A coaches meeting for the CG's Cup Basketball League will be held March 22 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Health Promotions Training Room at the depot's Fitness Center. The six-week season starts March 30 with games played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Field House. The event is open to only depot active duty, and MCCS DoD/NaFi employees. For information, call (619) 524-0548.

15th Annual Clean up Day on the Bay

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the shoreline and surface waters at the depot Boathouse March 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. A free barbecue lunch and T-shirts will be provided to volunteers. The event is open to all eligible patrons and their guests. For more information, call (619) 524-5269.

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.

Make life count by making the world a better place

BY LT. CMDR. RONALD R. RINGO
H&S Battalion chaplain

Emily Dickinson once wrote, "If I can stop one heart from breaking... (or) ease one life the aching or cool one pain, or help one fainting robin into his nest again, I shall not live in vain."

What can we do in our daily lives to make some meaning or blessing come from it? I heard a quote some time ago that reflected on enhancing the meaning of giving a gift. It stated, "The value of a gift is increased by the effort, love and sacrifice of the giver." I have learned that the greatest joys in our lives often come from giving of ourselves.

Many times in our lives we are given once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to make the world a better place than we found it. Our simple, but consistent efforts to bless the lives of those who walk along our life's path can literally make changes in the world. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "No man is fit to live if he has nothing he is willing to die for."

I remember one such person who I was taught about as a little boy, who made a difference by planting apple seeds along the roads of life he walked. I had an old 45 record of the song of Johnny Appleseed. I use to play it over and over. It was John Chapman who became that famous Johnny Appleseed. And still today, because he gave of himself a little effort everywhere he walked there are apple trees along the roads of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

I've heard it said, "That each day, we are either planting seeds for brighter tomorrows or we are letting great oppor-

tunities pass us by." We literally often hold seeds of tomorrow in our hands. When we choose to share them or plant them along our paths, we make future traveling for others brighter, even though we may never pass that way again.

Several years ago my great-grandmother had died due to a blood clot and was revived. She was dead for several minutes before they were able to revive her. My parents talked with her afterwards and she told them that she no longer feared death. She said that she had been given a review of her life and that it had been a good life. She also said she still had much more to learn and wanted to share with loved ones. She died a couple days later to rejoin those loved ones. She always had been a woman who gave of herself to others. How will we feel when we someday have a similar experience? Will we be happy during our review or wish we hadn't missed opportunities?

With all the opportunities we are given to make a difference in this life, I pray that we seize those moments and make them become life enhancing for all who cross our path. Mary Catherine Fish once wrote, "Along the way I learned the power of simple truths: that life is without guarantees, that every moment counts, and that love endures."

Love is what endures through our selfless acts of service. I have one last thought on making life count. There is an old saying most of us have heard, but one I try to keep in mind from day to day. It is this, "I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing...that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now;...for I shall not pass this way again."

May we look for the opportunities to enhance the lives around us as we travel along our path this week.



Lindsey Parker, guidance counselor, Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Ill., left, demonstrates a elbow strike she learned during her Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class while Chrystal Tolbert, counselor, High Park Academy, Chicago, Ill., holds the pad during the depot's Educators Workshop March 2. During the workshop, educators from Recruiting Stations Kansas City, Mo., and Chicago, watched a demonstration and received a brief class before getting some hands-on MCMAP training.

Sgt. Shawn Dickens/Chevron

Kansas City, Chicago educators spend week in training review

BY SGT. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

High school administrators, teachers, and counselors from Recruiting Stations Kansas City, Mo., and Chicago, participated in a week-long synopsis of Marine Corps recruit training during the Educators Workshop Monday through today.

The educators began their first day aboard the depot by being greeted the same way every new recruits is when they arrive for recruit training.

When the bus screeched to a halt in front of the famous yellow footprints, drill instructors quickly bombarded the vehicles and made their intimidating presence known to the educators.

After yelling for the educators to exit the bus and line up on the yellow footprints, the drill instructors paced up and down the rows barking orders and ensuring the educators got into the proper position of attention. After several minutes of controlled chaos, the drill instructors stopped their yelling and took a moment to congratulate the educators because they had survived the first two minutes of Marine Corps Recruit Training. The educators were then taken on a tour of the rest of the receiving process by their drill instructor guides.

"This has been a great learning opportunity," said Lindsey Parker, guidance counselor, Homewood Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Ill. "I now have a ton of great information to take back and share with my students. I absolutely recommend, and am more comfort-

able recommending, the military as an option to my students."

The educators also attended classroom briefs describing the entire enlistment process, including recruiting, joining the Marine Corps, boot camp graduation, the Fleet Marine Force, and Marines' lifestyles.

They also visited various training sites around the depot. They watched demonstrations of water survival training at the depot Swim Tank; Marines tackle the confidence course; and even received a class and some brief training on the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

"I now have more respect for the Marines," said Bridget Eischeid, English teacher, Carrollton High School, Carrollton, Mo. "Not to mention, we got to see the drill instructors in action!"

Educators were also invited at the end of the first day to take part in the Bayonet Assault Course on the depot. They maneuvered through obstacles; crawled through tunnels; and navigated a rope bridge, suited in flak jackets and Kevlar helmets, while carrying rubber M-16A2 service rifles with training bayonets attached to engage targets at the end of the course.

The educators also visited Weapons Field Training Battalion, Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness weapons firing and field training, and watch Company M participate in the Emblem Ceremony.

Educators leaving the depot today said that they now have a better understanding of the Marine Corps and its young men and women.



Sgt. Joseph Ferguson, drill instructor, Receiving Company, gives educators a taste of what new recruits experience during the mock pickup portion of the Educators Workshop. During this phase, educators are welcomed to the depot by drill instructors in the same way as all Marine Corps recruits. The drill instructors then congratulate the educators on completing the first 2 minutes of recruit training and answer any questions the group may have.

Sgt. Shawn Dickens/Chevron



Dr. Jeanette Westfall, principal, Benton High School, St. Joseph, Mo., rushes to attack a training dummy on the depot's Bayonet Assault Course. During the Educators Workshop, educators get a glimpse of recruit training and learn about the many opportunities in the Marine Corps so they can better inform their students. Sgt. Shawn Dickens/Chevron

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