

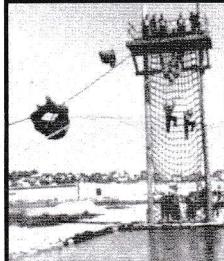
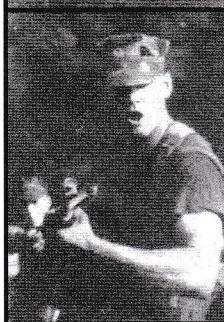
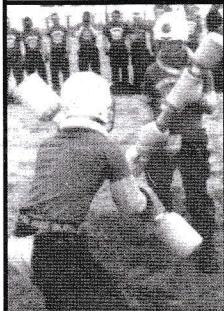
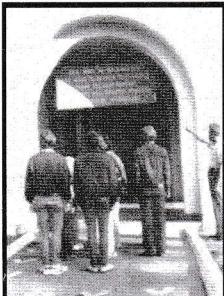


December 5th, 2021

M.C.R.D SAN DIEGO, CA 92140

Sunday

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Dear Mom, Dad, and Jordan,

Hey there! We're moving onto our last week here at MCRD as recruits. Then we'll be at Camp Pennerton doing everything more like how I envisioned bootcamp: hiking all the time, NO sitting down, guns! shooting!, sleeping in sleeping bags and doing all kinds of stuff out in the field.

The only downfall of Pennerton that I just learned about is that we ~~just learned~~ won't be receiving mail up north. I asked one of the new Marines at church today if that's true - he said they still received some mail, it just took even longer to get to them.

BTW, my address won't be changing - you'll still send them to here and then the DI's would come

and pick up the mail and ~~drive it up~~ drive it up to us.

(2)

They said we won't be receiving mail b/c up North is where bootcamp is like how I imagined it would be. We'll be hiking out & sleeping in sleeping bags outside (I'm pretty sure, I'll write more to confirm how that works) and, of course learning to shoot. This is where we won't be sitting down at all throughout the day too. Do I'm not even sure how much time I'll be able to sneak to write letters, it's already pretty difficult. Don't worry, I enjoy writing and giving updates - I'll do my best to keep it up.

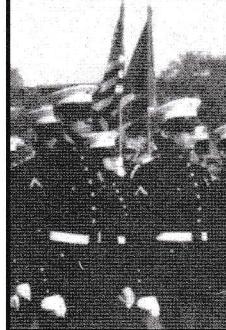
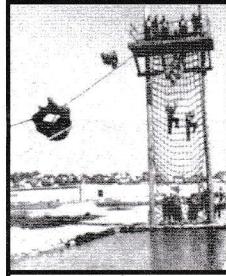
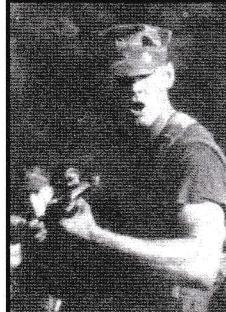
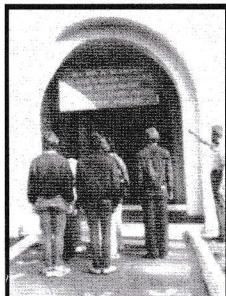
I did just write a lengthy letter to Siboni yesterday. It just so happens that a few stories that I wanted to share with everyone flowed out into that letter so I asked that she would share it with you and anyone else who would want to read it (Mara, ohana, ~~Canada Fam~~ Canada Fam).

Speaking of our Canada Fam, I just received a letter from Monique (Hussey), Méméri Papierie Rick Adrienne, and Grandma Auntie Kim.

That was super cool.

and I received all of your first letters too. I think we're all caught up now :)

(3)



M.C.R.D SAN DIEGO, CA 92140

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Please send my thanks and love to everyone in Canada. I want to write them back directly, but there's the time crunch as previously mentioned, and I don't think my stamps would take it to Canada.

I'm sure you are already, but give them my updates and they can read my letters too.

Do, everything is still good here. There are definitely tough days, but we're pushing through. We're all so excited to get to Parris Island B/C that means that we're basically almost Marines.

This week is gonna be real tough. It's finals week.

We have a PFT (~~pre~~ fitness test), the huge test I've talked about, MCMAP test to earn our tan belt, Series Commander Inspection (our

platoon will stand out in formation in our clean, ironed (4) uniforms w/ our rifles and will be graded on how our appearance is, our weapons carriage, and they're going to yell questions at us so we'll be tested on our answers and bearing during it all), and then Final Drill.

I really hope we win final drill. It would be such a huge deal. There's so much work to do though. It's gonna be a real balancing act this week.

I'm our Prod Recruit (knowledge recruit) so whenever we have time - waiting for chow mostly - I get up in front of everyone and call out knowledge. So this means I feel good about the big test. I feel good about the PFT - I don't know if my fitness has improved too extremely yet, we don't PT everyday here but that will change up North.

I'm most nervous about the MCNAF test b/c we've spent the least amount of time on those techniques, and there's quite a few. But most everyone is in that boat so we'll start grinding on that.

Final Drill will happen. We'll either win or we'll loose - we just all have to be really focused.

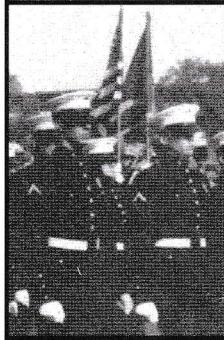
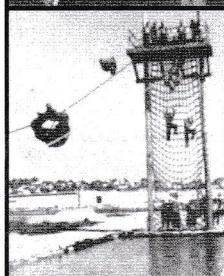
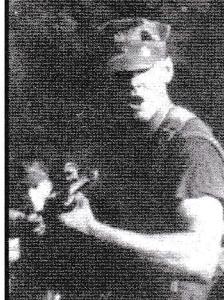
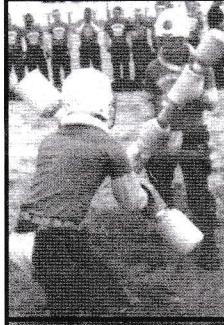
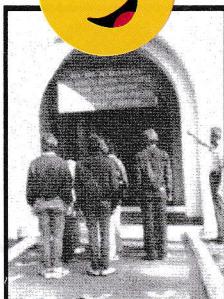


UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Anyways, that's a lot of the logistics here. I know you've been wanting to know if I'm making friends. I don't mention people too much in letters mostly because we can't talk to each other much. All of our bonding conversations are done secret & quiet. We've been here for some time now though (6 weeks?) so we're definitely getting closer & closer everyday.

I know everyone's name now and have talked to all of them too. Everyone's pretty cool here. I'd say my closest buddies are ~~Deepa~~ Singh (who I shipped with), Swingle, and Romero. There's quite a few other people that I really enjoy trying to be around like Downing, Bushman, Gomez.

This one girl Gomez has a couple different degrees in



thing that immediately made me think of We Will Be Girls. ~~The~~ I forgot exactly what the degrees were, but thinks like commented, advertising. And she said that she really wants to work on combating human trafficking in her life time. That was a fun conversation.

I'm feeling super motivated to get back to WWBG and share all these stories.

Yesterday something really interesting happened that surprised me. We keep on losing Field Day. Field Day is every Sunday. We spend hours deep cleaning the dormitory and then on Monday each platoon is inspected and the cleanest one wins.

We keep getting super messed up every Monday b/c we loose. Like messed up. We rip the sheets off our ranks, throw them to the center, clothes & footlockers in the bed, cleaning supplies ~~from~~ poured over everything. Lots of screaming.

Used to it by now though - it's just a big process cleaning it up.

December 6th, 2021

Dear Family,

Today is the last Monday here at MCRD as a Marine! That's a really exciting way to think about it.

I'm in a class right now about substance abuse. I just went to see the head and my buddy Hardy said, "Dneath, you always look like you're having a good time here."

ahaha. So I guess that's how I'm doing.

Today we had the PFT:

max pullups : 3

max crunches in 2 minutes : 76

3 mile run: 22:42

The PFT we did a week or two ago I got:

4 pullups

62 crunches

23:08 3 mile run



20, I'm definitely improving.
I actually did almost 5 pullups
today, but only the first 3
counted w/ my chin above the
bar. I'm most proud of
my run time.

December 9th 2021

It's 23:26... woke up to square away
some things and finally get this sent off.
I passed all my tests this week! All that
left is final drill.

I hope I'll be able to keep writing often.
I got your super cool Christmas card & the
Christmas treat package! Thank you so so
much! My SDI is saving the package until
it's actually Christmas & that card
was awesome (after my DIs made fun of
me about it!) (Sorry I couldn't wait till ~~now~~ - they make
us open packages in front of them)

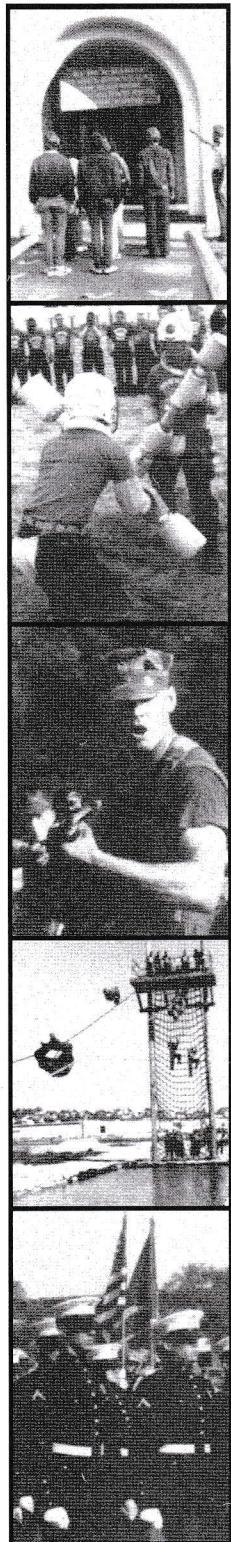
I hope you all are well and healthy,
Happy Holidays! I'll see you soon!
Love,
Madison

December 12th, 2021

M.C.R.D SAN DIEGO, CA 92140



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Dear Family,
Merry Christmas!

I'm at church right now & they gave us a Christmas card that they're gonna send out for us. Turns out the writing on the inside is quite full, but luckily I brought paper so I can write a quick message. It's 7-8 - we just got to Penrith yesterday. It was crazy.

We didn't win final drill - I'm really disappointed about that. There was stupid, weird mistakes that I've never experienced before while we were marching. It really sucked b/c our DIs were so confident that we were gonna win. They complimented us and everything, which is a huge deal b/c DIs don't give praise.

I have to make this a real fast letter b/c they're gonna

start collecting them. Hopefully I'll be able to send out a letter in the coming week.

Very excited to be here. We're gonna learn all about our weapons this week to get ready to shoot.

I'm still doing good... Don't really have much time to be sad or even remember that it's the holiday season. But they do have a Christmas tree & some decorations at the show hall & the other day all the workers wore Santa hats. Also today at church we sang some Christmas songs.

I can't wait to come home to the beast you wrote about. I love & miss you all so much. ☺

Pray for my warmth. It's cold as heck here. We wake up at 0400 now. I think it's supposed to rain this week too. That'll be interesting lol. We do have a rain jacket - it's called a vortex. So that's good.

Give each other big hugs for me.

I miss hugs. It's nice when I get a chance to hug my buddies here.

Love,

Madison

