

THE NEW FEW

For Recruiting Station Des Moines' future Marines and their families

Vol. 1, No. 1

December 2006

Quad Cities recruit turns down Disney job to serve in Corps

Lance Cpl. Alicia Small
MCRD San Diego

SAN DIEGO -- Leaving behind the world of cartoon art and an opportunity of a lifetime to work at Disney/Pixar, Inc., one man chose to pick up an M-16A2 service rifle and train to become one of the few and the proud.

Pfc. Nathaniel W. Griggs, a native of Moline, Iowa, graduated from recruit training Oct. 6 to make his dream of becoming a Marine come true.

When Griggs was in the delayed entry program back home, he entered a piece of art, created with ink pen and colored pencil, into a contest and won second place.

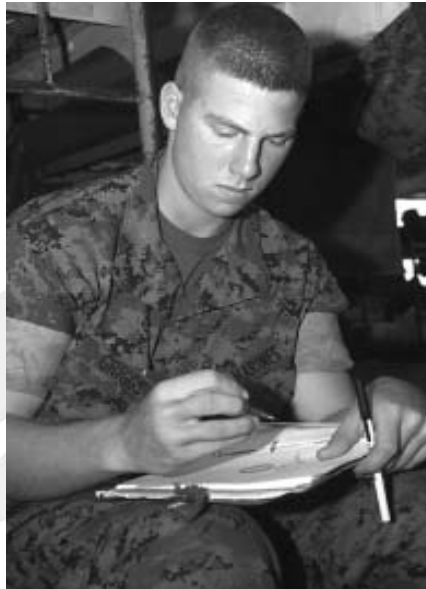
His artwork drew Disney/Pixar's attention and they offered him an apprenticeship as a cartoonist with their company. Although he was excited about the offer, Griggs decided to turn it down and stick with his decision to join the Marine Corps as a reservist while he furthers his education in art.

Griggs' family fully supported his decision to stick with the Marine Corps instead of taking the job offer with Disney.

He said his parents had always encouraged him to do whatever it was that made him happy. He wasn't sure a career drawing cartoons would provide him with what he wanted in life.

When his recruiter asked him what he hoped to gain from the Marine Corps and life in general, Griggs said the most important things to him were education, professional development and challenge.

"Griggs knew what he wanted and showed a lot of contentment with his decision," said Griggs' recruiter, Sgt. Clemente J. Batista.



Pfc. Nathaniel W. Griggs works on a sketch in the recruit barracks.

Griggs realized how much value the Marine Corps could hold for him and knew he could go to college anytime, but he wouldn't always have the chance to be a Marine, said Batista.

As a child doing projects in school, Griggs discovered his love of art. He polished up on his talent during high school art classes and started drawing on his own with encouragement from his father.

He said he tried to have either a camera or sketch pad on him at all times, so when he saw a subject he was interested in capturing, he could stop to do a sketch right away, or he could take a picture and draw the scene later. As he developed his drawing skills, he learned how to better express himself and become more creative with his artistic talent.

Throughout the last year and a half, be-

fore leaving for boot camp, he said he made a gradual turn from drawing mostly cartoons to composing more realistic compositions.

He became interested in artwork modeled after the armed forces, like the one he entered in the contest. Griggs said he believed being in the Marine Corps would provide him with a solid foundation to better express his thoughts of the noble aspects of military service.

Throughout training, Griggs continued to draw during his free time. He did sketches for the other recruits in the platoon and designed various items for the drill instructors as well.

Showing his creativity, Griggs also helped paint the range flag, which is a flag platoons carry for motivation during the rifle range. Platoon 2017's flag brandished a fox holding a rifle, targets and the senior drill instructor's name.

During second phase, Griggs' senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Abraham C. Bueno, discovered Griggs' talent and was curious why he didn't let anybody know of his gift sooner.

"The main trait Griggs displayed was esprit de corps," he said. "I believe his love of conveying the Marine Corps and its history through art helped him maintain a positive attitude throughout training."

Griggs said he believes the values and traits instilled by the Marine Corps, such as discipline and integrity, will help him with his art and aid him in his ongoing search for self-improvement.

"I think joining the Marine Corps was the best thing I could have done because it supplies me with the best way to find out the full potential of what I have to offer myself and others around me," said Griggs.

The "New" Look:

We've retired the old poolee newsletter "Eye of the Tiger" and are pleased to introduce "The New Few". If you haven't guessed, the title refers to our poolees who are the newest members of the Marine Corps' 231-year legacy. Poolees, this newsletter is for you, so e-mail any suggestions to Gunnery Sgt. Ayala at ayalacr@marines.usmc.mil.

WELCOME ABOARD

The Marine Corps entrusts its 231-year legacy to these future Marines.

Taking the Challenge | The following people enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program in October

RSS Burlington

Jonathon Herr
William Jackson

RSS Cedar Rapids

Brian Parsons
Sean Wagamon
Timothy Robinson
Jonathan King
Alexander Loffgren
Andrew Anderson
Brian Clemons
Guillermo Gaytan
David Cox

RSS West Omaha

Travis Blecha
Evan Fritts
Jason Rasmussen
Anthony Perkins

RSS Des Moines

Erik Bernardino
David Thorn
Andrew Loudon
Nicholas Raridon
Logan Suhbrier
Chance Staab
Keith Ulrich
Kody Kromrie
William Holmes
Tanner Hortema

RSS Dubuque

Benjamin Fowler
Alan Hird
Kyle Reuter

RSS Lincoln

Nicholas Hardesty
Jason Hellige

RSS Kearney

Chad Larkin
Thomas Sokolik
Curtis Reed

RSS Quad Cities

Justin Evers
Aaron Rouch
Jesse Galvan
Callan Ruderman
Noah Allen
Brandon Fox
Joshua Swanson
Samuel Browning
Brandon Fullmer
Eric Brolin

RSS Waterloo

James Ebling

RSS Sioux City

Greggory Lobato
Sarah Stickney
Eddy Berney
Joshua Chamberlin
Zachary Dewitt
Joshua Hoversten

RSS South Omaha

Corey Livingston
Jacob Goodwin
Clyde Crawford
Maximilion Shelburg
Justin Guy
Paul Woolery
Daniel Freed
Brittiany Crafton

The Journey Begins | The following recruits began recruit training in October

RSS Cedar Rapids

Dario Culp
Cody Donaldson
Austin Carnes
Dustin Sievers
Billy Bruce
Daniel Griffin
Jeremy Laughlin
Adam Williams
Brian Parsons
Jonathan King

RSS Dubuque

Justin Flynn
Sheldon Brainard
Lee Ray Adams

RSS Kearney

Jessie Bassett
Keith James
Chad Larkin
Timothy Sinner
Edgar Sandoval

RSS Lincoln

Zachary Mattison
Kyle Brown
Allen Novotny
David Gressley
Eric Witler
Caleb Bartels

RSS Quad Cities

Patrick Page
Adam Cook
Peter Carr
Elizabeth Jennison
Joseph Perry
Jesse Galvan

RSS Sioux City

Robert Witchey
Eric Anderson
Terrance Mccauley

RSS Burlington

Brandon Cabbage

RSS South Omaha

Jacob Matthews
Miranda Margrave
Patrick Coret
Andrew Burgin-Anton
Demetrious Dalby
Peter Black
Jimmy Nong
Eric Stainbrook

RSS West Omaha

Alexander Diaz
Eric Karels
Travis Blecha

For Honor | The following Marines graduated recruit training with special recognition in October

Platoon Honor Graduate: Blanca Cortez

High Shooter: Cori Larson & Jesse Shrock

Meritorious Promotion: Raleigh Brooks, Bryan Brovont, Neil Gutschmidt
Joshua Frost, Chase Rieger, Kyle Shadhagen

REWARDS FOR REFERRALS

Jumpstart your Marine Corps career and earn rewards in the process by helping your recruiter find more qualified men and women in your communities who want to take the challenge of becoming Marines.

Referrals

- 1
- 2
- 3

Rewards

- Backpack
- Windbreaker + Promotion to Private First Class + nearly \$250 more pay each month!
- Dress Blue Uniform Coat (\$170 value!)

The following poolees have distinguished themselves by each bringing one future warrior into the Marine Corps:

Daren King | Jay Christian | Kristopher Taylor

Nicholas Schulte | Dustin Gold | Paul Hill

Mason Bru | Nicholas Hogan | Timothy Thompson

Referrals only count if the person enlists, and since not everyone has what it takes to be a Marine, the more referrals you bring to your recruiter, the better chance of earning the rewards. If you haven't received your referral awards, let your recruiter know. Dress Blues are received upon completion of boot camp.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Be the first to answer the following two-part trivia question and earn yourself a black "Pain Is Weakness Leaving The Body" Marine Corps sweatshirt.

“Who is the latest Marine to receive the Medal of Honor, and what two Marines from Iowa or Nebraska earned the Navy Cross in the past five years?”

Think you know the answer?

Send e-mail to ayalacr@marines.usmc.mil

(Reward will be presented via winner's recruiter.)

THE NEW FEW

"The New Few" is published periodically by Marine Corps Recruiting Station Des Moines 4725 Merle Hay Road #209 Des Moines, Iowa, 50322.

Commanding Officer | Maj. Karl C. Rohr

Sergeant Major | Sgt. Maj. Bradley A. Kasal

Pool Coordinator | Gunnery Sgt. Ciriaco R. Ayala

Layout & Design | Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

PARENTS OF THE PROUD



Be sure to check out **A Parent's Guide to the Marine Corps.**

Available online at parents.marines.com or ask your son or daughter's recruiter for a printed copy.



Pool Function



Learning never to abandon their fellow Marines, poolees carry simulated wounded with them during a combat patrol.



Poolees listen to Staff Sgt. Charles R. Rush before beginning the patrol. Below, Omaha-area poolees unleash their best war cries.

Omaha's poolees patrol for combat, field basic skills

For their Aug. 12 pool function, recruiters from the West Omaha and South Omaha substations took their poolees to the field, where the future warriors learned some of the basics. Donned in real Marine combat gear, poolees learned about camouflage, patrolling and teamwork.

-- Photos by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon --



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Vol. 1, No. 2

December 2006

Des Moines-area native teaches self Arabic in Iraq

Sgt. Roe F. Seigle
1st Marine Division

BARWANAH, Iraq -- With his unit short of Arabic interpreters to communicate with Iraqis during patrols here, one Iowa-native Marine decided to learn the language himself.

Lance Cpl. Kenneth Dickerson soon found out he had a knack for learning the language -- he was able to remember almost every phrase Iraqi soldiers taught him.

"I just carried a waterproof notebook with me and I would write down every word I was taught," said Dickerson, a Clive-native, a suburb of Des Moines. "The soldiers have always been willing to help me learn their language, and they have become good friends now that I can understand them."

The 19-year-old Marine has used many of those words and phrases daily on the dusty streets of Barwanah with his fellow Marines in the Hawaii-based 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

"He came here not knowing one word of Arabic, and now we take him out on patrol and we do not need an interpreter," said Cpl. Daniel Robert, a fellow Marine in the unit.

Recently, Dickerson and the Marines in his squad were involved in a gunfight with several insurgents. Eight of the insurgents were captured, but the Marines did not have an interpreter with them.

What they did have was Dickerson, translated all the questions asked the detainees.

Dickerson says he feels good when he is able to use the language in a combat situation but he gets more joy when he is able to talk to locals, especially young children.

"I enjoy working with the Iraqi people and learning about their culture and way of life," said Dickerson.



Lance Cpl. Kenneth Dickerson, a 19-year-old Marine from Clive, Iowa, talks with children in Barwanah, Iraq, July 29, 2006. On many patrols in Iraq, Dickerson's unit was not able to communicate with the local populace, so he taught himself Arabic.

He joined the Marines at age 17 after graduating from Waukee High School in 2005.

Although Dickerson believes he is just doing what he can to help the Marines accomplish missions on a daily basis, several of his peers and seniors believe Dickerson has the potential to become a great leader of Marines.

"Dickerson is one of the youngest Marines in the company but he far exceeds my expectations of a Marine his age and rank," said Capt. Michael Hudson, Dickerson's commanding officer. "He goes above and beyond to accomplish missions on a daily basis, and he will be placed in a leadership billet on our next deployment to Iraq."

In addition to his linguist skills, Dickerson is a radio operator by trade. When he is not speaking Arabic, he's the one who maintains

contact with higher headquarters during patrols, which sometimes last more than six hours.

But Dickerson's talents don't stop there.

Recently, he learned how to use a metal detector in his precious-little spare time, and once located a buried weapons cache.

"Dickerson does so much more than I expect of him and I can always count on him to do the right thing no matter what," said Robert. "We really do not need an interpreter with us anymore because 90 percent of the time he is able to translate. He just rattles it off -- it's amazing."

Dickerson, whose father also served in the Marine Corps, said he plans to continue to learn Arabic and will enroll in formal classes when he returns to Hawaii.

His goal is to be a more proficient translator when he redeploys to Iraq next year.

The "New" Look:

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Christopher Whiteing
Keith Ulrich
Andrew Beynen
Benjamin Wilcox
Garrett Davidson
Craig Carter

RSS Quad Cities
Travis Martin
Brandon Fox
Trevor Henke
Matthew Tracy
Brandon Snyder
Ashley McKee

RSS South Omaha
Rory Simmons
Jared Grayson
Wilfredo Marrero Buxo
Clyde Crawford
Cody Michel
Jacob Dofner
Corey Livingston

RSS Kearney
Curtis Reed
Kevin Godfrey

RSS West Omaha
Brandon Russell
Michael Elayan
Adrian Richards

RSS Burlington
Leland Miller
Jessie Stevens

RSS Sioux City
Joshua Hoversten
Leanna Cook

RSS Lincoln
Alex Johnson
Chad Elsen
Justin Evers

RSS Cedar Rapids
Kenneth Feeney
Michael Power
Forrest Hawkins
James Lair

RSS Cedar Falls
David Turner

RSS Dubuque
Kyle Reuter

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Jessie Stevens
Michael Fleming
Anthony Lovstuen

RSS Des Moines
Stephanie Lord
Chane Larkin
Andrew Beynen
Benjamin Wilcox
Garrett Davidson
Edwin Pagliai
Patrick Faiferlick
Alex Husk
Matthew Mayhew

RSS Lincoln
Russell Pond
Collin Phillips
Zachary Dey
Mitchell Baady
Seth Ziemba

RSS Sioux City
Preston Johnson
Leanna Cook

RSS Cedar Rapids
Johnathon Ferriss
Kris Bunker
Christian Valencia
Marquail Darpoh
Morgan Mehlert
Forrest Hawkins
Scott Eickman
Kyle Dunn
James Lair

RSS Quad Cities
Chrystal Michaels
Derrick Moore
Evan Edens
Ashley McKee
Matthew Tracy
Timothy Langan
Patrick Anderson

RSS Kearney
Nathan Hoffman
Kevin Godfrey
Jordan Becker
Cody Buhrman
James Norton

RSS South Omaha
Michaela Hotz
Cody Michel
Jacob Dofner
Mychal Cleaveland
Corey Livingston
Jesse Clark
Jared Joyce

RSS Dubuque
James Moon
Matthew Jones

RSS Cedar Falls
George Schorg
Adam Karsjens
David Turner

RSS West Omaha
Taurean Breckinridge
John Reiten
Adrian Richards
Michael Elayan
Zachary Vangestel
Jesse Davenport

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Company & Platoon Honor Graduate: PFC Dominic Stam

Meritorious Promotion: PFC Nathan Aber, PFC Dominic Stam

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- 1
- 2
- 3

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2 Referrals | Scott Spiegel | Zacahry Pope

1 Referral | Michael Bell | Corey Smith | Nicholas Jacob

Kris Bunker | Jenner Merkwel | Kyle Reuter | Kristapher Taylor

Devin McPherson | Lisa Guzman

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Be the first to answer the following two-part trivia question and earn yourself a black "Pain Is Weakness Leaving The Body" Marine Corps sweatshirt.

Q: "In what city did a Marine Corps Reserve major found the Toys For Tots program, and what was the first toy collected?"

Think you know the answer?

Send e-mail to ayalacr@marines.usmc.mil

Last issue's winner: Stephen Goose
(Reward will be presented via winner's recruiter.)

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Lincoln's poolees prepare with pain

“Pain is weakness leaving the body,” states a favorite Marine Corps maxim. For their Nov. 18 pool function, the poolees from the Lincoln, Neb., area endured some pain only to get stronger for boot camp. Pull-ups, crunches and a fireman’s carry relay were among the day’s exercises.



-- Photos by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon --