

Raheek Alam

Jonathan Arvizu

Period 3

Marc Jackson

Marine Corps

Four years of service

2016



Marc Jackson

Marc Jackson was born on November 10, 1963, and though he was originally from Cleveland, Ohio, he moved to Long Beach, California in 1975, at the age of nine. In high school, Jackson was a football player and had wanted to get a scholarship with his athletic skills. But after being considered too small to play his position at the collegiate level, and in an effort to escape the environment he found himself surrounded in as friends and other people he knew were getting into rock cocaine, Jackson headed to a U.S. Air Force recruitment office. The U.S. Air Force recruitment center was closed when he arrived, and when he turned around and saw the Marine Corps recruitment center, he made his way into that recruitment office. There, the recruiter notice Jackson's birthday was the same day as the Marine Corps birthday (The Marine Corps was conceived in a bar, Tun Tavern, on November 10, 1775.) After the recruiter told Jackson it was fate, Jackson joined the Marine Corps.

After signing, Jackson was sent to a three month Marine Corps boot camp. The first month of training was the most vigorous. Jackson stated "The instructors jobs were to tear the recruits down and teach you that the world is not for you and will do nothing for you, unlike your

parents that will do anything for you.” During training, Jackson had an average of four to seven hours of sleep per day. The instructors’ roles were to keep the trainees off guard and there was a lot of mental training. They used a popular saying to instill “mental toughness,” mind over matter; “if you don't mind, it does not matter.” One funny event that stood out to Jackson, was when all of the trainees were showering and the instructor said that they had 20 seconds to get out, but he started his countdown from 10, and everyone was rushing to get out of the shower. All of the recruits were standing at attention at the feet of their bunks, except one man who came running out of the shower and slipped and fell in the floor. All of the recruits were trying so hard not to laugh that some were even “vibrating”. The instructor also did his best not to laugh and after taking a few moments to compose himself, he ordered everyone back into the shower except the man that fell. Next the instructor ordered everyone to cover themselves in soap, and then ordered them to real out of the showers, to stop right outside of their barracks and then to “fall,” everyone complied and fell to the floor. The next order was to “flop like a fish.” Everyone did as ordered and flopped around like a fish. The man that had fallen earlier was just standing there “dying laughing” at what was going on.

After boot camp, Jackson had various options for his MOS (job). His goal was to become a military police (MP) officer, but due to the amount of MP, the only locations available to become an MP was a special assignment in Alaska, and somewhere else that he did not want to go. His next choice was to become a part of embarkation that dealt with drafting load for aircraft. He worked directly under the Airwing General making loading plans and having meals with Congressmen. He stated “ I traveled all across the United States but never had to go to another country and never had any combat experience.”

When Jackson was in an Honors Grad class for scoring the highest possible marks in boot camp, he met man named Jones. Because Jackson had been trained in the West Coast and Jones had been trained on the East Coast, they had a strong rivalry and did not even speak to each other unless it was required. One day Jackson was coming back from working out and saw Jones eating some chicken. Trying to break the ice, Jackson asked “hey, where did you get that?” and Jones replied, “they were selling it them at the ‘NCO’ club.” Jackson said, “well I’ll have to go down and get some later” and then headed to the shower. When he came back from the shower, Jones had left two big plates of chicken dinner for Jackson. From then on they were best friends. “Jones was the funniest man,” he stated.

After the military, Jackson always wanted to be a L.A. sheriff. A few months before he left the military, he applied to the sheriff’s department, and having passed the entrance exam, he was told that when he is out of the military he could go through sheriffs training. The day after leaving the Marine Corps, he went straight to the sheriff’s academy, which lasted about three months. For Jackson, the sheriff’s academy was “nothing” compared to the Marine Corps training. After the sheriff’s training, he got the graveyard shift because that is when the criminals are the most active. Jackson stated “ I liked having the graveyard shift because I wanted more action.” After a few years in a patrol unit, he was promoted to Detective.

As a Detective he went undercover in The Vice Unit. After a few years of being a Detective, he join the “L.A. B.E.S.T. which is Border Enforcement Security Team, a Federal task force under The Department of Homeland Security.” They went around the U.S. dealing with gangs and mafias. One of his hardest cases was a group of Cubans who were going around L.A. picking locks, walking away, and waiting in their car watching to see what the cops reactions

were. This was going on for a few months, and in the process, they stole four trucks. One day, the group of Cubans went to a warehouse, cut a hole in the roof and rappelled down into the warehouse. Then all of the Cubans exited the building in the four stolen trucks. Jackson and his team followed in pursuit, leading to the capture of the thieves and “recovering 22 million in cell phones.” After 27 years of service in the police force, Jackson retired. Since his retirement last year, he is enjoying going to the gym twice a day, learning how to cook and spend quality time with his family.