Semper Fi

Kevin L. Enfinger and Patrick L. Stevens

sew´·ẽr sō·ci·ol´ō·gy, *the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships viewed through the eyes of a sewer; specifically, the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective sewer use of organized groups of human beings.*

Most sewer flows are characterized by repeatable diurnal patterns that vary across weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Differences in land use are also apparent, and distractions and disruptions of daily life often can be observed.

Pfc. Crystal Druery/U.S. Marine Corps

This month we take a look at Marine Corps recruit training through the eyes of a sewer.

For those enlisting in the Marine Corps, the first stop is recruit training – more commonly known as *boot camp.* Recruits are assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depots at either Parris Island, S.C., or San Diego. Recruits who attend boot camp in San Diego are affectionately referred to as *Hollywood Marines*.

A composite hydrograph of sewer use observed downstream from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego is shown in the figure. Weekdays are shown in green, and weekends are shown in blue.

The diurnal pattern provides a glimpse into the life of a recruit: *Reveille* at 0500 hours and lights out at 2100 hours. So what's that distinctive spike in sewer flow that occurs each evening just before lights out? Shower time.

As we celebrate Independence Day this month, we salute *The Few . . . The Proud . . . The Marines.*

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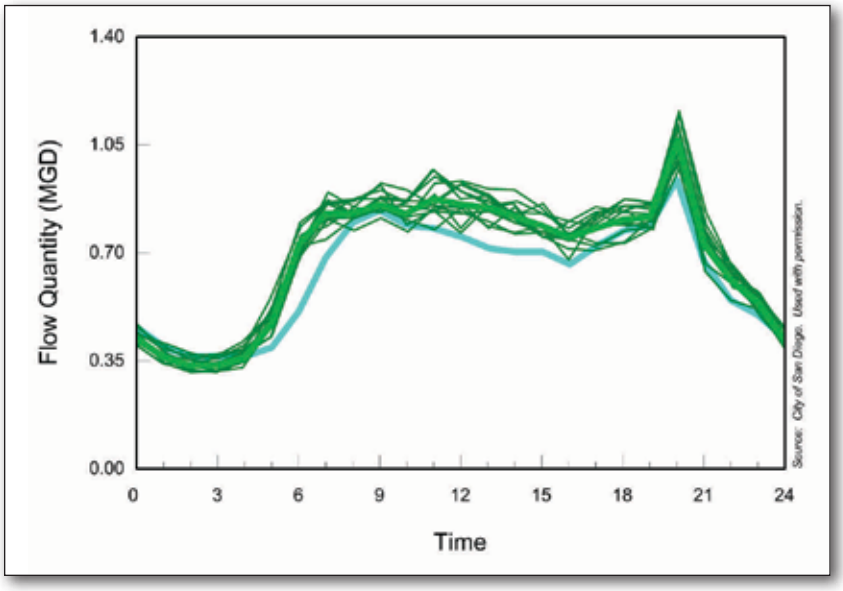
Marine corps recruit training



Lance Cpl. Michael Ito/U.S. Marine Corps

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