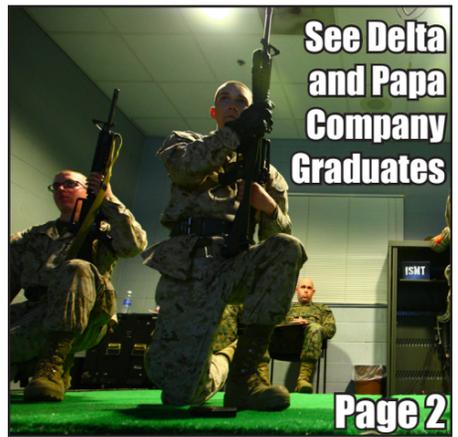


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Delta and Papa Company Graduates

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Welcome to Parris Island: Delta, Papa Companies recall first night as recruits



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Staff Sgt. Kevin Overton, drill instructor, speaks to the new recruits of Delta and Papa Companies in the rain as they stand on the yellow footprints Nov. 28, 2011.



Lance Cpl. Javaree Glanton

Three Months ago, Rct. Jessica Campbell, Platoon 4005, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, gave up being a specialist in the National Guard for a chance to become a Marine. She graduates today as a private first class.

Specialist trades rank for title Marine

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

A prior specialist gave up her rank and time in the National Guard for a shot at earning an Eagle, Globe and Anchor, which she received Feb. 18. Pfc. Jessica Campbell came to Parris Island after transferring her contract to the Marine Corps, and started training with Platoon 4005, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion. Campbell said she joined the National Guard because she was a single mother at the time, and she could not join the Marine Corps without losing custody of her son. "I wanted to join right away. But, [because] I couldn't, I still wanted to do something in the military,"

Campbell said. She joined the National Guard and became a specialist and spent two years as a supply specialist and armorer. Campbell said she enlisted partially out of the desire to set a good example for her son, who is now three years old. The opportunity arose for her to enlist in the Marine Corps when she got married. Despite the fact that she would have to start over, Campbell said she immediately began the paperwork to transfer her service. "She's losing that rank - two pay grades," said Sgt. Jaimie Wassink, her senior drill instructor. "It's a good amount of money, but I don't

SEE SPECIALIST PAGE 3

Professor gives up teaching for title

Lance Cpl F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

A former college professor graduates recruit training today as a leader among his peers. Pfc. Guillermo Bocanegra, a 27-year-old from Weston, Fla., was selected as the honorman for Platoon 1013, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, for his extraordinary guidance. "Bocanegra already knew [Delta Company's] motto 'Ducto Exemplo,' which means 'Leadership by example,' before he came here," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Brock, Bocanegra's senior drill instructor. "He knew what it meant, and he's taken it to heart." Brock said Bocanegra's life experiences made him very mature. "When he hears Marine, he sees someone that's disciplined and has a lot of values to him - that's how he acts," Brock continued. "He's probably the best recruit I've ever had." With a bachelor's degree in English, and enough credits to earn a master's degree, Bocanegra taught at McArthur High School in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

SEE PROFESSOR PAGE 4

Chaplains help keep the faith during training

Lance Cpl Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

In recruit training at Parris Island, chaplains play a vital role with keeping recruits in touch with their faith. "We're needed in recruit training for the same reason we're needed everywhere else - to provide the spiritual support," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Sears, Recruit Training Regiment chaplain. "We also help recruits cope with the training process." Each recruit training battalion employs a Navy chaplain and a Navy religious program specialist, or chaplain's aide, to ensure the spiritual well-being of its recruits and permanent personnel, he said. The DoD recognizes a set number of faiths, and it is the chaplains' responsibility to provide for them. Although most chaplains claim one religion, they know and understand many to properly assist others of varying faiths. "We're a critical element of the values-based training that's at the heart of recruit training," Sears said. "Honor, courage and commitment didn't just spring up when

SEE FAITH PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Monday and Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edding Creek will be closed to boater traffic. For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures, please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion Range Control at 843-228-3170.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Oscar Company takes on Confidence Course

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Marines explore uncharted parts of Afghanistan

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Marines patrol Helmand border

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Delta Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. D. C. Mestre, Powder Springs, Ga.
Platoon 1008, Mestre was recruited by
Sgt. Hernandez and trained by Staff Sgt. Allen

Pfc. T. L. Griffith, Lancaster, Ohio
Platoon 1010, Griffith was recruited by
Sgt. Shaffer and trained by Staff Sgt. Lowe

Pfc. G. M. Bocanegraalvarado, Weston, Fla.
Platoon 1013, Bocanegraalvarado was recruited by
Sgt. Roberts and trained by Staff Sgt. Brock

Pfc. N. P. Smith, Dandridge, Tenn.
Platoon 1009, Smith was recruited by
Sgt. Wilson and trained by Staff Sgt. Lisowski

Pfc. M. L. Eason, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Platoon 1012, Eason was recruited by
Sgt. Edwards and trained by Staff Sgt. Arrivey

Pfc. J. A. Vaccaro, Edison, N.J.
Platoon 1014, Vaccaro was recruited by
Sgt. Minott and trained by Staff Sgt. Castellucci

Papa Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. K. M. Castillorrioux, Glenpool, Okla.
Platoon 4004, Castillorrioux was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Morrison and trained by Staff Sgt. Zamora

Pfc. J. L. Campbell, Whitefish, Mont.
Platoon 4005, Campbell was recruited by
Sgt. Garcia and trained by Sgt. Wassin

Platoon 1008

Pvt. A. Acosta, Pfc. K. W. Alexander, Pvt. R. C. Baker III, Pfc. N. M. Barnett, Pvt. H. C. Bedford, Pfc. A. S. Bennett, Pvt. K. E. Bowitz, Pvt. J. R. Brock, Pvt. B. T. Butcher, Pfc. K. R. Butler, Pfc. J. C. Castellanos, Pfc. J. M. Cobb, Pfc. K. R. Cottman, Pfc. C. T. Cunningham, Pfc. S. P. Duran, Pfc. C. S. Earney, Pfc. A. Flores Jr., Pfc. T. D. Floyd, Pfc. M. A. Forero Jr., Pvt. C. M. Griffeth, Pfc. J. M. Hankey, Pvt. M. B. Keylon, Pfc. A. A. Kirkland, Pfc. K. T. Lawton, Pvt. S. P. Maloney, Pvt. B. S. Messer, Pfc. B. N. Messer, Pfc. D. C. Mestre, Pfc. B. L. Nottingham, Pvt. C. L. Olson, Pvt. K. C. Palmer, Pfc. J. M. Petrillo, Pfc. M. A. Porrazzo Jr., Pvt. F. J. Pratt, Pfc. D. A. Pryor, Pfc. S. K. Ramsay, Pvt. J. D. Sartin, Pvt. W. J. Seibert, Pfc. D. O. Singletary, Pvt. H. C. Snell, Pvt. T. R. Straw, Pvt. M. J. Thompson, Pvt. C. W. Thrift, Pfc. P. M. Tilton, Pfc. M. C. Trull, Pvt. C. H. Tucker, Pfc. A. C. Tyler, Pvt. Y. Vasallo, Pvt. M. Vasquez, Pvt. L. R. Vilarodriguez, Pfc. A. E. Wachtel, Pvt. C. J. Watkins, Pfc. V. V. Watley, Pvt. T. S. Wingfield, Pvt. D. C. Yi

Platoon 1009

Pfc. Y. E. Alcantaroquinones, Pvt. C. A. Amis, Pvt. C. R. Banks, Pfc. Z. J. Bates, Pvt. W. C. Bell, Pvt. M. C. Bolgos, Pfc. K. J. Brennan, Pvt. N. R. Campbell, Pvt. H. A. Carmical, Pvt. R. G. Chamness, Pvt. K. W. Cochran, Pvt. J. E. Davidson, Pfc. M. C. Echard, Pfc. C. A. Farley III, Pfc. M. N. Fobar, Pvt. M. J. Gonzalez, Pvt. H. J. GonzalezOrtiz, Pfc. L. M. Gottsch, Pfc. D. A. Hamrick, Pfc. J. R. Hardman, Pfc. B. E. Hodges, Pfc. P. E. Holland, Pvt. P. M. Hudson, Pfc. P. A. Jahr, Pfc. J. P. Jeans, Pvt. J. P. Jones, Pvt. V. J. Jones, Pvt. M. C. Kerr, Pvt. A. Y. Kim, Pfc. B. Kim, Pvt. T. J. Koestler, Pvt. M. T. Maggio, Pfc. S. C. Major, Pfc. J. Martinez III, Pfc. J. S. McGilton, Pvt. S. T. Melgar, Pvt. D. C. Newcomb Jr., Pfc. J. J. Olivergandia, Pvt. B. W. Pittenger, Pvt. B. Porter, Pvt. J. M. RentaRuiz, Pfc. E. A. Rivera, Pvt. K. L. Roddey, Pvt. D. T. Royce, Pvt. M. D. Schultz, Pvt. C. R. Shannon, Pfc. R. J. Shea, Pfc. N. R. Sill, Pfc. N. P. Smith, Pvt. J. R. Tew, Pfc. A. M. Thompson, Pvt. B. M. Vargas, Pvt. A. VeraVega, Pvt. M. E. Woodcock, Pvt. C. J. Wright, Pfc. J. T. Wyatt

Platoon 1010

Pvt. R. L. Bailey, Pfc. J. W. Capra, Pvt. J. Delarosa, Pvt. F. W. Downing, Pvt. M. A. Dubose, Pvt. S. J. Duckworth, Pvt. J. T. Eckstein, Pfc. Z. D. Fortner, Pvt. S. N. France, Pfc. B. L. Furlough, Pvt. J. T. Goedert, Pvt. J. Gonzalezramos, Pfc. T. L. Griffith, Pvt. D. C. Hale, Pvt. C. M. Hand, Pfc. J. D. Harvey, Pvt. A. E. Herrera, Pvt. A. C. Horan, Pvt. P. P. Hughes, Pfc. Y. A. Infanterosario, Pvt. R. P. Jackson, Pvt. C. A. Kennedy, Pvt. R. C. Kent, Pvt. J. J. Kingery, Pvt. G. F. Koelle, Pvt. M. N. Lanius, Pvt. A. J. Lewis, Pvt. D. E. Lindell, Pvt. H. J. Lopezastacio, Pvt. J. P. Maturo III, Pvt. J. J. McQuage, Pfc. R. M. Mihovan, Pvt. J. C. Millard, Pvt. R. A. Naumann, Pfc. R. M. Ovallessolano, Pfc. L. Phan, Pvt. J. D. Roberts, Pvt. C. R. Roddy, Pfc. A. T. Sawdon, Pvt. P. D. Scott, Pvt. I. R. Seely, Pfc. R. F. Senger, Pvt. S. L. Sheasley, Pfc. F. J. Sicsico, Pvt. S. Soto, Pvt. D. W. Spinney, Pvt. E. R. Stromdahl, Pfc. A. Sturgill, Pvt. K. Ta, Pvt. J. A. Tipton, Pvt. D. S. Vandermark, Pfc. A. J. Vongunden, Pvt. V. J. Whiteside

Platoon 1012

Pvt. S. T. Abrell, Pfc. D. A. Bagot, Pvt. M. J. Blair, Pvt. S. A. Bunnell, Pfc. J. M. Burke, Pvt. M. D. Cairns, Pvt. M. J. Carroll, Pvt. T. W. Cole, Pfc. J. A. Contreras, Pvt. Z. C. Crone, Pfc. M. L. Eason, Pfc. S. L. Egelston, Pvt. C. A. Griffinbenitez, Pvt. B. A. Hannum Jr., Pvt. N. J. Harkness, Pfc. C. A. Hawes, Pvt. M. W. Hearn, Pvt. J. J. Heintzelman, Pvt. J. D. Holtzmaster, Pvt. S. T. Hopkins, Pfc. P. A. Isham, Pvt. D. C. King, Pfc. S. M. Koffi, Pfc. P. B. Kubin, Pfc. T. R. Lewis Jr., Pvt. M. T. Litke, Pfc. C. M. Mason, Pfc. P. A. Maxjones, Pvt. S. D. Mcnear, Pvt. B. D. Miller, Pfc. N. G. Mitts, Pvt. B. M. Montoya, Pvt. M. D. Morgan Jr., Pvt. T. E. Mulberry, Pvt. J. D. Ramsey, Pvt. D. A. Rattigan Jr., Pvt. T. G. Resetar, Pfc. G. G. Riveraroman, Pfc. D. R. Schmidt, Pvt. V. C. Seeley Jr., Pvt. G. R. Seward II, Pvt. E. T. Smitherman, Pfc. B. E. Stalk, Pfc. V. M. Stankiewicz, Pvt. C. J. Tallent, Pvt. A. D. Thomas, Pfc. R. P. Timm, Pvt. E. H. Ventura, Pfc. B. S. Williams, Pfc. E. M. Williams, Pfc. C. J. Woodward, Pvt. Z. S. Wyne

Platoon 1013

Pfc. P. C. Arnold, Pvt. J. R. Beauvais, Pvt. J. M. Bedell, Pvt. E. Benitez, Pvt. D. J. Bickford, Pfc. A. R. Blackwood, Pfc. G. M. Bocanegraalvarado, Pvt. L. L. Brown, Pvt. N. M. Cabral, Pvt. O. Carrasquillomontane, Pfc. J. D. Castro, Pvt. D. Damore, Pvt. L. G. Dominguez, Pvt. J. T. Elorriaga, Pvt. D. E. Fleckner, Pvt. W. W. Gardner, Pfc. J. G. Garzon, Pvt. E. R. Greenfield, Pvt. D. H. Greider, Pvt. J. A. Grubbs, Pvt. Q. C. Hare, Pvt. T. J. Harper, Pvt. M. J. Hatch, Pvt. A. P. Ivins, Pvt. M. J. Kempka, Pvt. J. A. Kosak, Pfc. E. K. La, Pfc. T. A. Livingstine, Pvt. G. R. Loftin, Pvt. J. A. Long, Pfc. C. W. Lowry, Pvt. W. Melodasilva, Pfc. J. A. Mitchell, Pfc. M. E. Moser, Pvt. Z. C. Pak, Pvt. C. J. Richard, Pvt. M. A. Rodriguez, Pvt. M. A. Roundtree, Pvt. R. A. Silva, Pvt. E. Solisexposito, Pfc. J. M. Swierc, Pfc. S. T. Taft, Pfc. J. A. Vazquez, Pfc. M. W. Vura Jr., Pvt. D. C. Walker, Pvt. R. R. Watkins, Pvt. S. S. Wheeler, Pfc. D. L. Williams, Pfc. C. M. Wood, Pvt. J. L. Youngblood

Platoon 1014

Pvt. B. J. Aguilargarcia, Pvt. E. E. Alcantara, Pvt. K. W. Apt, Pvt. E. M. Arnold, Pvt. B. Ayala, Pvt. T. M. Bermudez, Pfc. S. M. Best, Pfc. J. C. Blaiser, Pvt. J. I. Bosley, Pvt. M. D. Brown, Pvt. N. J. Brown, Pvt. G. S. Chacaavila, Pfc. J. G. Cibelli, Pvt. C. J. Coomey, Pvt. R. M. Danylo, Pvt. D. A. Deaver, Pvt. C. A. Donnelly, Pvt. D. J. Dudley, Pvt. J. F. Gervais IV, Pvt. K. L. Gross, Pvt. C. G. Haswell, Pvt. K. T. Henry, Pvt. E. L. Holland, Pvt. T. L. Hostrander, Pvt. N. B. Hunt, Pfc. R. C. Jorgensen, Pfc. M. R. Kendall, Pvt. L. K. Krah, Pfc. K. J. Lage, Pvt. B. D. Mayenschein, Pvt. A. C. McNeal, Pvt. G. R. Milano, Pvt. M. A. Monroe, Pvt. J. t. Murray, Pfc. J. R. Ollarveslovera, Pvt. E. T. Ostapowycz, Pvt. A. N. Phillips, Pvt. A. P. Pinedorabanal, Pvt. K. Pyron Jr., Pvt. J. Ramos, Pvt. H. R. Royal, Pvt. P. A. Scarnechia, Pvt. J. F. Silva, Pvt. R. S. Smith, Pvt. J. C. Thuesen, Pvt. J. R. Toth, Pvt. J. A. Vaccaro, Pvt. M. A. Valdesrengifo, Pfc. K. Vazquez, Pvt. J. D. Villalta Jr., Pvt. A. T. Welch Jr., Pvt. M. H. Williamson, Pvt. D. A. Yaussy Jr.

Platoon 4004

Pfc. B. L. Alvares, Pvt. K. D. Arrington, Pfc. A. M. Baldini, Pvt. S. A. Barnhill, Pvt. C. L. Bigu, Pvt. A. D. Bornerbishop, Pfc. J. D. Burroughs, Pfc. K. M. Castillorrioux, Pvt. S. C. Cifuentes, Pvt. A. D. Coleyhebron, Pfc. C. M. Conlin, Pfc. K. A. Couch, Pvt. C. L. Downey, Pvt. A. L. Drapp, Pfc. C. A. Draughn, Pfc. A. N. Fisher, Pfc. M. A. Gillispie, Pfc. D. M. Gutierrez, Pvt. R. M. Hall, Pvt. D. J. Hanson, Pfc. E. D. Harris, Pfc. S. E. Henson, Pfc. S. P. Houy, Pfc. S. E. Jackson, Pvt. S. T. Jemmott, Pfc. J. L. Johnson, Pvt. C. N. Jones, Pfc. R. A. Ketchum, Pvt. K. E. Kilroy, Pvt. S. R. King, Pvt. V. A. Lowe, Pvt. A. A. Montielmayoral, Pfc. K. D. Morris, Pvt. B. P. Mullin, Pvt. E. H. Nesimoglu, Pfc. J. J. Newman, Pfc. J. Olaechea, Pfc. C. M. Oliva, Pvt. V. C. Polanco, Pfc. K. A. Pouncey, Pvt. A. H. Reed, Pvt. T. Richmond, Pfc. L. D. Rojas, Pvt. C. J. Routh, Pfc. A. N. Rowback, Pfc. N. A. Sams, Pvt. I. C. Sanders, Pfc. A. R. Scales, Pvt. B. R. Shuler, Pvt. A. D. Stephens, Pfc. R. G. Stephens, Pvt. S. A. Stombaugh, Pvt. S. A. Strickland, Pfc. E. A. Torres, Pvt. S. S. Un, Pvt. R. J. Vandebos, Pfc. V. E. Verdusco, Pvt. S. L. Ward, Pvt. H. P. Webb, Pvt. F. E. White, Pvt. V. A. Wollerman

Platoon 4005

Pvt. M. L. Alani, Pvt. C. Almonte, Pvt. A. Arredondolona, Pvt. K. L. Barr, Pfc. K. Behmlander, Pfc. M. E. Bencrowsky, Pvt. C. L. Bera, Pvt. J. L. Campbell, Pfc. B. W. Canady, Pfc. K. J. Castillocampos, Pvt. J. Castro, Pfc. K. L. Cavner, Pfc. A. Chavezmorales, Pfc. J. J. Chilel, Pfc. N. M. Contreras, Pfc. E. A. Dollinger, Pfc. A. Dominguez, Pfc. C. E. Donham, Pfc. B. Dzhaparkizi, Pfc. T. R. Farquharson, Pfc. E. A. Findlay, Pfc. C. R. Foster, Pvt. L. M. Fowlds, Pfc. B. P. Francisco, Pfc. G. O. Gayapa, Pfc. R. J. Glass, Pvt. C. N. Hall, Pfc. M. A. Hammond, Pvt. M. Herrera, Pvt. T. L. Horne, Pfc. E. M. Hutton, Pvt. S. H. Joesten, Pfc. C. V. Keaney, Pfc. A. K. Lovern, Pvt. C. L. Martin, Pvt. K. J. Miles, Pfc. B. L. Mitchell, Pfc. S. L. Mowel, Pvt. C. M. Neil, Pvt. B. A. Newkirk, Pvt. O. J. Oden, Pvt. R. A. Oldfield, Pfc. E. F. Otarola, Pvt. L. N. Patterson, Pvt. A. E. Pettie, Pfc. B. L. Phillips, Pvt. L. Pond, Pvt. J. Rodriguez, Pfc. S. J. Romero, Pfc. K. D. Salazar, Pvt. K. R. Schmidleutner, Pfc. K. F. Seby, Pvt. N. R. Trivillionpearce, Pfc. G. L. Tupper, Pfc. S. S. Valverde, Pfc. K. L. Vivian, Pfc. M. E. Wade, Pfc. E. B. White, Pfc. S. J. Yang, Pvt. K. V. Zardee

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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More of the story

SPECIALIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

think that anything can pay for that experience that you have when you come to recruit training.”

Campbell said she was not concerned with the loss of rank, pay and everything she earned in the

National Guard. To her, the title Marine meant more than everything combined.

Along with the title, Campbell's prior service allowed her to graduate as a private first class. She said the Marines allowed her to get the job she originally tried for in the National Guard.

“I always wanted to be [military police], but the position was not available when I joined the National Guard,” Campbell said. “It is one of those things that if I looked back later in life [I'd think] ‘I should have done that. You realize that now is the time to do it if you still can.’”



Pfc. Jessica Campbell enlisted in the Marines after reaching the rank of specialist, or E-4, in the National Guard.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Pfc. Jessica Campbell, scheduled to graduate Friday with Platoon 4005, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, traded in a higher rank for a new branch.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Chaplains lead the prayer services recruits attend every Sunday.

FAITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we became a nation. They're values that have been around since before then, and we help implement those core values.”

Recruits get the most time to speak with chaplains and practice their religions every Sunday morning between 8 a.m. and noon.

“Chaplains are really on board with what we do,” said Staff Sgt. David McGur-in, a drill instructor of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. “It gets recruits motivated to train.”

Chaplains also offer themselves as reference points to recruits who feel conflicted in their responsibilities as a Marine and their faith.

“We want American combat warriors to be in touch with their values,” Sears

said. “American warriors are strong – not bloodthirsty, firm – not aggressive. We have a long list of warriors in our history who were protectors.”

There are rooms and items for the different religions and are practiced at the All-Weather Training Facility and the Religious Ministries Center building.

“I always say, ‘every faith, every place’” he said. “Wherever Marines and sailors may be, we're there for them.”

It's that same service that helps recruits get through training.

“It's refreshing and re-energizing,” said Rct. Damion Tate, Platoon 2022, Hotel Company, 2nd RTBn. “It's what gets me through the day.”

Drill instructors are responsible for a recruit's physical well being, but it is the chaplains of Parris Island who provide spiritual strength and support.

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND EXPANDED FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

MCRD Parris Island has expanded the events and activities available to families who are coming aboard the Depot to see their son or daughter graduate and become a Marine. The adjacent schedule outlines the events that are now offered to our new Marines' families and loved ones. The times and locations of these events are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit <http://www.mccs-sc.com/recruitfamilies>.



Wednesday

Welcome to Family Orientation Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop open
- 7:30AM - 4PM.....Douglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (9AM - 11:30AM)
Graduation Station (8AM - 4PM)
- 9AM-4PM.....Family Check-in at the Douglas Visitors' Center; Java Café open 9AM - 12PM
- 10AM-12:30PM.....Marine Corps 101, including a "Behind the Scenes" tour, at Douglas Visitors' Center
- LUNCH.....Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club), Food Court, Subway, Golf Course, Back Yard Burgers
- 1:30PM-3:30PM.....Family Orientation Brief at the Lyceum
- 4PM.....Recruit Families' Meet & Greet at Traditions Lounge
- 5PM-8PM.....Steak Night at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club).
Reservations required

Thursday

Welcome to Family Liberty Day at Parris Island

- 6AM - 4PM.....Douglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (6AM - 2PM)
Graduation Station (6AM - 4PM)
- 6AM-10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop open
- 7AM.....Motivational Run - Peatross Parade Deck
- 8AM.....Depot Museum Opens
- 8:15AM.....All Weather Training Facility (AWTF) Opens
- 9:30AM-10AM.....Battalion Commander's Brief to Families & Liberty Ceremony (AWTF)
- 10AM-2PM.....Marksmanship Training Unit Open House
- 10AM.....Liberty Begins
- 10:30AM-1PM.....Family Day Buffet at the Lyceum - new Marines eat for free!
- 2PM.....Warrior's Prayer at the Recruit Chapel
- 3PM.....Liberty Ends
- 3:00PM-4:00PM.....Marine Corps 101 at Four Winds Family Readiness Center
- 5:30PM-6:30PM.....Meet & Greet with Depot Command at Traditions Lounge
- 6:30PM-8:30PM.....Family Day Dinner with Depot Command at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)
Advance reservations guarantee admittance

Friday

Welcome to Graduation Day at Parris Island

- 6AM - 2PM.....Douglas Visitors' Center open
Java Café (6AM - 12PM)
Graduation Station (6AM -12PM)
- 6AM-10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop open
- 7:45AM.....Morning Colors at Barrow Hall
- 9AM-10AM.....Graduation at Peatross Parade Deck (weather permitting)
- 11AM-1PM.....Lunch Buffet at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

PROFESSOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Broward College in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I wanted to give the

Marine Corps my best - be physically and mentally ready to give them what they asked for," Bocanegra said. "That's why I did that long wait of

[nearly 10 years.]" He was in the middle of teaching a semester in college when he decided he was ready to take on recruit training.

Although many people with college degrees are commissioned to become an officer, Bocanegra wanted to see both sides of the Corps, he said. He also wanted to ensure that he would have the profession he wanted - infantry.

Brock said Bocanegra's desire to become a Marine fueled him all throughout training.

"He hasn't had one hard day here because he's always kept his eye on what he came here to do," Brock said. "He set goals, put his mind to it and is not going to let anything get in his way."

Caitlin Nolan, Bocanegra's girlfriend of three years, said he is passionate, motivated and determined.

"He holds high standards for himself, which allows him to persevere through anything in order to succeed," Nolan said. "He is diligent with

every task because every task must be completed with perfection. If [he ever stumbles] upon a challenge, he will literally put forth more effort than imagined to assure he overcomes the challenge. Failing is not an option."

Seeing his drive and abilities, Brock placed Bocanegra as guide for the platoon, the highest job a recruit can hold.

"In the beginning, they didn't [respond well to Bocanegra's leadership] because they thought he was just a recruit trying to be a drill instructor," Brock said. "He's not trying to be like us - he's not running around screaming constantly - but he's demanding of them."

Bocanegra made sure he was squared away before correcting anyone else, Brock said. If the recruits were doing something, he was too in order to show them there was

no reason for the task to not be completed.

Nolan said Bocanegra is not the type of person to sit on the sidelines and watch things happen. He makes it happen by leading with diligence and excellence to show how things are done right.

Bocanegra will excel once he gets to the operating forces, Brock said. He should be quickly promoted if he continues pushing forth with the same drive.

Bocanegra said he hopes to serve the Marine Corps for 20 years. He hopes it will add experience to his already extensive résumé.

"Life is a learning experience and there is always polishing that needs to be done," he said. "I think that the Marine Corps is going to give me the final luster that I need to be competitive in the world."



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Rct. Guillermo Bocanegra, the guide for Platoon 1013, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion adjusts a uniform for a fellow recruit Feb. 7 during second phase clothing.

Marines sweep uncharted areas of Khan-Neshin during Operation Highland Thunder

Cpl. Alfred Lopez
2nd Marine Division

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A large plot of austere terrain in the southern portion of Khan-Neshin district is home to local farmers who make a living growing crops far from the more developed districts of southern Helmand province.

The villages of Sre Kala and Paygel can be found among this austere terrain, along with evidence of an insurgency whose members have moved from northern districts to escape the growing reach of Afghan National Security Forces.

Until recently, the hundreds of kilometers of desert and marshland terrain in this area of Helmand's southernmost district were previously untouched by Afghan or coalition forces. Marines and sailors of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, swept through 324 square kilometers of southern Khan-Neshin during Operation Highland Thunder, Feb. 15-22.

The operation, part of the ongoing Regimental Combat Team 5 winter offensive, was conducted to prepare the area for follow on counterinsurgency operations by Afghan forces.

The Helmand Afghan Border Police will soon join their Marine counterparts to begin partnered operations around Sre Kala and Paygel, further extending the southern reach of Afghan and coalition forces. The addition of the ABP will aid

coalition efforts to curb insurgent drug and weapons trafficking activity in the area.

"This area is pretty large," said Sgt. Jared Carlson, a squad leader with Alpha Company, 1st LAR and 26-year-old native of Kaneohe, Hawaii. "There's a lot of enemy activity... You can tell by the atmosphere [in the villages]."

Afghan forces regard this segment of the Helmand River, as their southernmost area of influence in the province. The establishment of two new patrol bases in Sre Kala and Paygel will further strengthen their ability to operate in this area of Khan-Neshin.

"The number one thing we're doing is disrupting the enemy to set the conditions for the arrival of the Afghan Border Police," said Capt. Sean Williams, the Alpha Company commander, 1st LAR and 30-year-old native of Aurora, Company "We're doing that by conducting a lot of dismounted patrols in the green zone, where everybody lives."

After establishing Patrol Bases Sre Kala and Paygel, Marines with 1st LAR led the operation on foot, using dismounted patrols to sweep for insurgent activity, weapons and drug caches.

Mobile units of the battalion set up blocking positions and vehicle check points to catch insurgents attempting to flee the area, while India Company, 3/3 conducted helicopter inserts to disrupt insurgent freedom of movement.

"We want to get [the

ABP] established here, so they have the ability to be able to push west," said Williams. "Going into the villages, collecting biometrics data, getting to know the elders, getting to know the lay of the land is going to help set them up for success."

"We want to get them here and have something for them to fall in on," explained Williams. "It's always easier when there's a baseline already established."

The terrain presented uncomfortable obstacles during numerous daylong patrols. Marines treaded through waist-deep canals, and marched through knee-high patches of mud, averaging 10 kilometer

treks on a daily basis.

"The terrain in our previous area of operations was a lot more forgiving," said 1st Lt. Gil Barndollar, a platoon commander with Alpha Company, 1st LAR and 30-year-old native of Portsmouth, N.H. "Here, the biggest challenge is the canals...They're a lot deeper and wider, we have very little choice but to cross them."

In order to avoid enemy ambushes and improvised explosive device attacks, Marines avoided crossing the makeshift bridges built by locals and other well traveled routes.

"During an overnight outpost, one of our Marines was carrying his [overnight] pack along

with an electronic countermeasure device while crossing a canal," recalled Barndollar. "He got off-balance and fell back into the water...everything in his pack got wet. As soon as we got to our OP, we had to dry all his things and keep him warm to avoid hypothermia."

Regardless of the inherent difficulties presented by the terrain, Alpha Company Marines found multiple caches during their foot patrols through the muddy marshland and seemingly endless desert.

These caches contained several AK-47s and RPK medium machine guns recently used against coalition forces, more than 3000 7.62mm rounds for

the weapons, drugs and IED components.

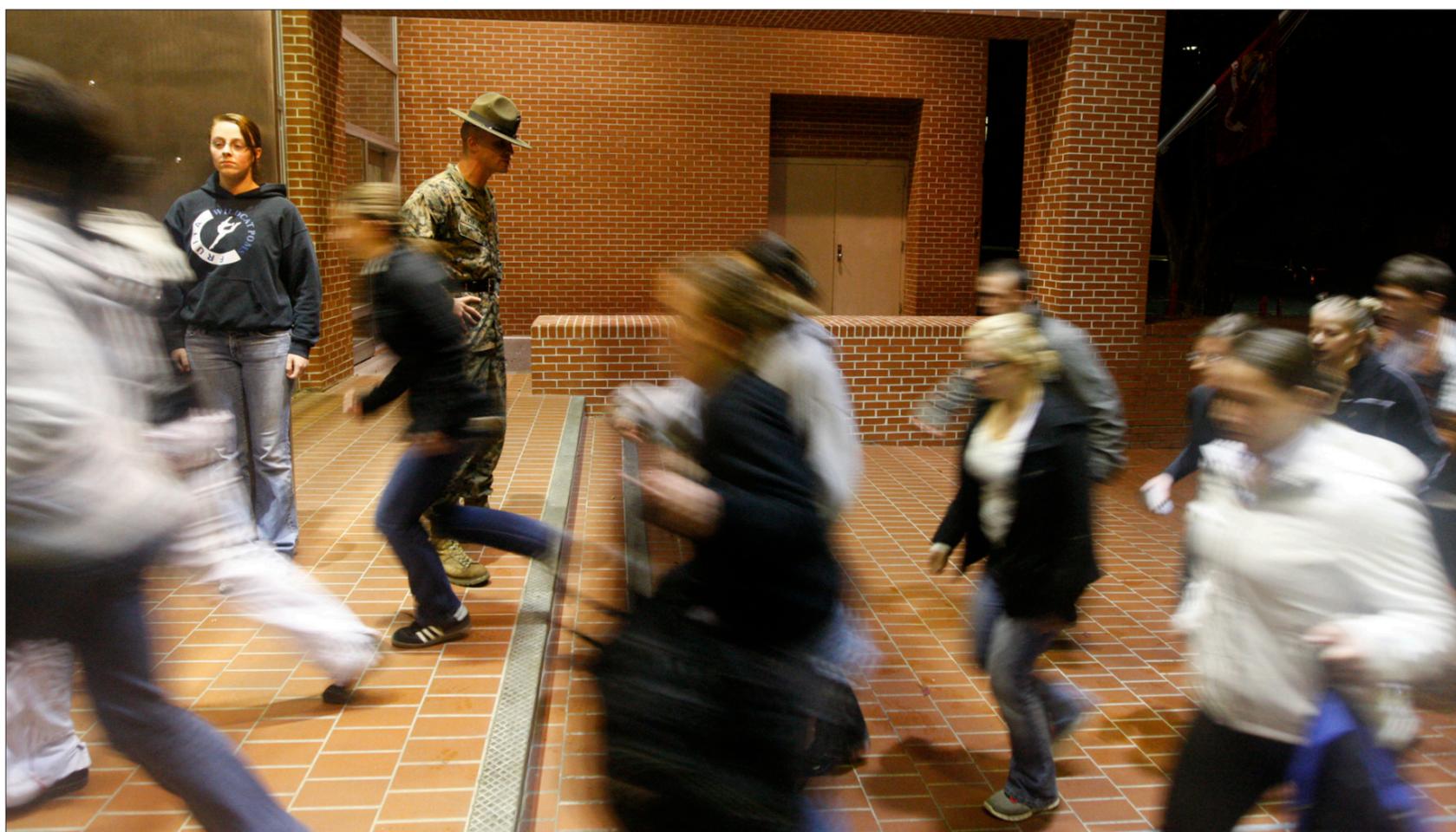
"Being able to find the enemy's tools of the trade is a great victory," explained Carlson. "Hopefully it's keeping this area safe and helping it progress, especially with the ABP coming in."

Marines with 1st LAR will continue to strengthen their positions at Sre Kala and Paygel in anticipation of follow on operations with the Helmand ABP. The partnered forces look to mirror the steady progress made by their counterparts in northern districts, as Marine forces gradually shift into an advisory role and the ABP take the lead in counterinsurgency operations.



Photo by Cpl. Alfred Lopez

Lance Cpl. Matthew Bayles, a point man with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, crosses over a canal during a patrol in Khan-Neshin, Feb. 16.



The new recruits of Delta and Papa Companies rush through the silver doors of the receiving building, Nov. 28, 2011.

Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Papa, Delta welcomed at Receiving on first night

Lance Cpl.
F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Editor's note: "We make recruits" is a 3-part series highlighting what recruits endure during their first week on their journey to becoming Marines.

Yellow footprints, silver doors, phone call home, haircut, paperwork, uniform issue – six hours and it was done – gone in a blur.

The new recruits for Delta and Papa Company arrived in buses and vans to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island late Nov. 28.

They were met by the roars of Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. Kevin Overton, who ran them off the vehicles into formation. The night was cold and fresh rain glazed the yellow

footprints they stood on. "It was exciting and unnerving knowing that my whole life was going to be turned upside down," said Levi Rojas, a 19-year-old from The Colony, Texas.

The recruits were herded to the silver doors of the receiving building.

"Through these portals pass prospects for America's finest fighting force United States Marines"

The words are above the doors marked with Eagle, Globe and Anchors. This is the only time the recruits pass through these specific doors – marking the beginning of the transformation from civilian to Marine.

"The training doesn't start here; this is where we make a basically trained recruit," said Overton. "We set a re-

cruit up for success out in the training and at the same time try to keep that initial shock, which is valuable to the recruit training process

That shock follows the recruits throughout the night.

"It's a small concept that goes into a bigger concept," Overton said. "They have to know from the moment they drop on the yellow footprints that it's not a game. And if they see it from the start, they see the effects and the overall concept of being a Marine [later]."

After entering the receiving building, recruits begin to fill out paperwork and are then led to a room with phones lining a wall. This is their first, and very likely, only phone call home while at Parris Island.

The recruit's phone call must be made to an immediate relative 18 years or older or their recruiter. As soon as someone answers, the new recruits must loudly and quickly recite a specific script. If whomever the new recruit calls is lucky, they will be able to squeeze out a quick "I love you" or "good luck" before the call is ended.

This is where some recruits first break.

"It was hard; I've never been away from my family," said Rct. Katelyn Couch, 18-year-old from Clearwater, Fla.

"I'll get through it; it's just going to be hard the first few days," she said as tears flooded her eyes. "I don't know, I'm just nervous."

After the phone calls, male recruits proceed to get haircuts. Crammed

into the barbershop, the recruits are quickly shaved one by one.

The impact of going from three or four inches of hair down to the skin further shocks the recruits, Overton said.

He said he sometimes catches recruits rubbing their heads in awe trying to refamiliarize themselves with their own heads.

The recruits continue to uniforms and personal supplies issue. This is the first time recruits ever wear their uniforms, and will wear them in a modified way until they earn the right to wear them properly.

"How many people can say 'I graduated from the Marine Corps' boot camp,'" Rojas said. "It's going to be hard, but it'll be worth it."

Throughout the night, recruits continue with paperwork and are given one last chance to correct errors in their contracts.

"The recruit's not going to remember that phone call home – he's not going

to remember the yellow footprints," Overton said. "He's going to remember the overall week like 'Woah! What was that?'"

Still, with no sleep, the recruits are taken to get their physical exams at the Branch Medical Clinic.

Their first night is over.



Recruits are issued some of the necessities they will use throughout training on their first night.



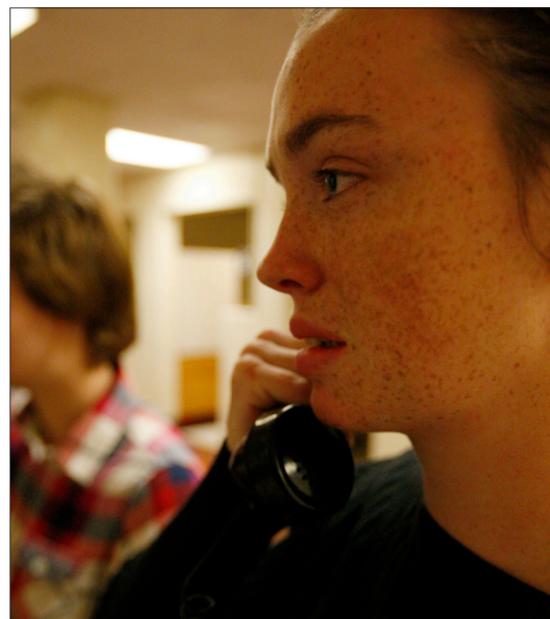
A new Delta Company recruit gets the first of many haircuts during the first night. The haircut is one of the first things male recruits do on receiving night.



Staff Sgt. Kevin Overton, a drill instructor, explains to the new recruits of Delta and Papa Companies what they will do after entering the silver doors of the receiving building.



Drill instructors with receiving are the first true taste of Parris Island the new recruits experience. These Marines tell the new recruits what to do, how to fill out their paperwork and the platoon they will be a part of.



Rct. Katelyn Couch, an 18-year-old from Clearwater, Fla., calls home to let her parents know she arrived at Parris Island. Some recruits break down into tears during the call.

Facebook spotlight on Oscar Co.

For more visit www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland



The Confidence Course is one of the more mentally challenging events recruits face during their three months of training. The first time they face the obstacles is at Leatherneck Square on Parris Island.

The obstacles are a mixture of mentally and physically demanding tests designed to push recruits out of their comfort zone. Some obstacles can be considered easier than others, like the arm stretcher (monkey bars) compared to the A-frame, which is a tall obstacle recruits must climb using a rope, then

a wooden triangle-shaped ladder, only to slide down a second rope.

During training, recruits see the actual course twice and must negotiate a larger version of some obstacles during the Crucible the week before the graduate.



Afghan Border Police, Marines extend reach toward Helmand border

Cpl.
Reece Lodder
3rd Marine Regiment

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — The thunderous clap of low-flying helicopters reverberates off an endless desert landscape. Inside the mechanical fortress, rows of Afghan Border Police and U.S. Marines stare out the open back hatch, calmly watching the wilderness rapidly retract beneath them.

Hazy brown clouds explode skyward, masking the helicopters as they descend into the dust. Shadowy figures emerge and rush into a security cordon as the rotor wash dissipates. Within moments, they've established communication with their now distant headquarters.

Any thoughts of the showy entrance quickly fade as members of the partnered force pick up bulky packs and begin moving to their next position. A laborious hike leads them to a shallow bowl carved out of a sand dune, their patrol base during Operation Shahem Tofan Eagle Storm here, Feb. 10-13.

In the barren Registan Desert near the former Forward Operating Base Rhino — the first U.S. position established in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001— ABP and Marines with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, scoured dusty highways for smugglers and insurgents moving across the eastern desert into Helmand province.

The ABP's mission was a shift from their current assignment in Garmsir, where they keep watch over the district's southern population centers.

Under the coalition mentorship, they are returning to their core capability of interdicting insurgent activity across Helmand's border. This mission is one of the most challenging among those of the Afghan National Security Forces, said Capt. Robert Murray, the officer in charge of the Border Advisor Team 2 in support of the battalion.

"The ABP are the frontiersmen of the desert ... they go where no Afghan or coalition forces have gone before," said Murray, a native of Currituck, N.C. "They're becoming Afghanistan's force in readiness for securing the untouched parts of Helmand province as its city centers expand outward."

As the two heliborne elements flew southeast into the desert, an armored convoy moved into eastern Garmsir under the cover of darkness. When the sun rose on the operation's first full day, the partnered forces covered three parallel objectives.

At their defensive positions, the ABP followed the Marines' examples, digging foxholes to shield themselves from the chill of desert winds and incessant sand storms.

Catching the last strain of bitter cold before the arrival of spring, they began working through a cycle of patrolling and posting security at their defensive position, breaking the grind only to catch a moment's rest.

In both daylight and at night, the partnered team set out in search of criminals. The Marines worked to establish a pattern of life in the unfamiliar area, collecting census information and biometrically enrolling travelers. From the seats of all-terrain

vehicles, their ABP counterparts spotted traffic from afar and sped off to search and question the passersby.

Capt. Jason Armas, the commanding officer of Weapons Company, 3/3, said the ABP's willingness to excel during the mission was evidence of their growth into competent soldiers.

"A couple of years ago, they weren't capable of doing sustained operations in an austere environment like this," said Armas, a native of Rye, N.Y. "Now, they're grasping the ideas we've given them. They're willing to go out on their own ... they aren't hamstrung in proximity to Marines."

Long before they took to the desert, the ABP took an active role in the planning process.

"The Marines won't always be here, so we're learning how to plan and conduct operations on our own," said Lt. Mohammad

Zarif, the commander of 4th Tolai, 2nd Kandak, Helmand ABP. "We wanted to show them the ABP can take on the challenge of providing security for our own country."

Murray said the ABP prepared for the operation by coordinating with their higher command, rather than depending wholly on the Marines for logistical support. He called their personal provision and transportation of fuel, food, water and cold weather equipment a "logistical victory."

Though the operation yielded few tangible results in the form of illicit activity, Armas said the process was the mission's main success. Ahead of the nearing transition to Afghan-led security in Garmsir, he said the coordination, transportation and implementation of the operation was as important as its end result.

"Planning operations together with the ABP has

driven them to start working toward their borders, where they're using their mobility assets as a smaller, lighter, faster force under the overwatch of Marines," Armas said.

Battered by 30 years of sustained conflict, Zarif said the people of Af-

ghanistan are tired of war and eager to live in peace. His smile widened and he beamed with pride as he declared himself part of the catalyst within the Afghan forces.

"We want Afghanistan to succeed and to be secure; we want to be able

to move around our country without the enemy trying to attack us," Zarif said. "We've gained experience by working with Marines, and we're ready to protect our country. The way to peace here is by maintaining security along our borders."



Photos by Cpl. Reece Lodder

Sgt. Brandon Camling, a 23-year-old advisor with a Border Advisor Team in support of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, speaks with members of the Afghan Border Police assigned to 4th Tolai, 2nd Kandak, Helmand ABP, while halted on a security patrol during Operation Shahem Tofan Eagle Storm Afghanistan, Feb. 13.



Marines with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Afghan Border Police rush off a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter.