

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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## Mike, November take on Crucible



Photos By Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, do buddy drags during the Crucible at Page Field on March 2. The recruits of Mike Company and November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, faced 54 hours of constant training in the field during the Crucible.

### Colors Detachment headed to Parris Island March 12

**1st Lt. Melanie Salinas**  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to host a performance by the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment at 4 p.m. March 12.

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment is a ceremonial unit from Marine Barracks Washington featuring "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps. Each year, this highly skilled unit travels worldwide to demonstrate the discipline, professionalism,

and "esprit de corps" of U.S. Marines.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Petatross Parade Deck on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. A valid driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration are required to drive on the depot. The ceremony is free and open to the public and local citizens are encouraged to attend the performance.

Bleacher seating will be provided, and traffic will be directed by military police. Patrons are advised to arrive at least 30 minutes early. Any media interested in attending should contact Capt. Timothy Patrick at (843) 228-2080 by 4 p.m. Friday March 9.

### NHB limits accessibility for training

**Regena Kowitz**  
Naval Hospital Beaufort  
Public Affairs Officer

Due to an important Navy-wide security exercise, access to Naval Hospital Beaufort will be strictly limited from noon on March 22 through noon on March 24 due to annual training. This exercise ensures Navy security forces maintain a high level of readiness to respond to threats.

The hospital will remain open for medical emergencies, we ask that all patients take care of any routine medical needs or refills before or after the training.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our customer relations officer at 843-228-5306.



Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Sgt. Lucas Warner, a drill instructor with Platoon 3016, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, walks down the ranks of his new recruits, inspecting the few items they are allowed to have during training Dec. 17, 2011.

### MIKE CO. MEETS THEIR DRILL INSTRUCTORS

**Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes**  
Staff Writer

*Editor's note: "We make recruits" is a three-part series highlighting the events recruits endure during the first week of their journey to becoming Marines.*

"Sit up straight and look at me!" Sgt. Jaime Andrade, Platoon 3016, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, yelled at his new recruits. "My name is Sgt. Andrade, and I am your senior drill instructor."

The Marine's volume jolted the recruits' attention. This man was not the man who had received them off the bus - he was not their recruiter- he was not their high school gym coach. He was the man who would father them throughout their journey of becoming Marines.

"Discipline and spirit are the hall-

marks of a Marine," Andrade continued reciting the Senior Drill Instructor Speech.

The senior drill instructor is the head drill instructor of a platoon. The men standing behind Andrade during the speech, who were no less intimidating, were his drill instructors.

Within moments of the speech, the recruits would understand why there was such a big emphasis on Pickup, the day recruits finally meet their permanent drill instructors.

"Today is pure confusion; they have no idea what's going on - everything is new to them," said Sgt. Lucas Warner, a drill instructor with the platoon. "We are about to change their whole lives."

As soon as the drill instructors were let

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Notice to mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training March 19 from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edging Creek will be closed to boater traffic.

For questions regarding firing times and water way closures, please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion Range Control at 843-228-3170.

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Recruit pushes past cancer, excels in training



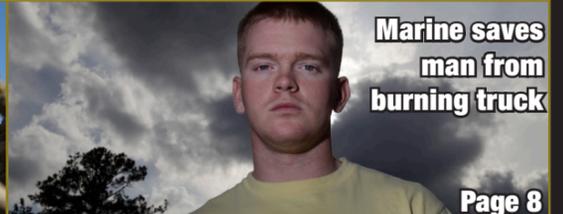
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Marines help Afghan workers make their mark



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Marine saves man from burning truck



Page 8

# MIKE & NOVEMBER COMPANY GRADUATES

## Mike Company Honor Graduates

**Pfc. C. I. Otoki**, Jackson, Ga.  
Platoon 3016, Otoki was recruited by  
Sgt. Gigliotti and trained by Sgt. Andrade

**Pfc. K. E. Vanbuskirk**, Clarkston, Mich.  
Platoon 3018, Vanbuskirk was recruited by  
Sgt. Mominee and trained by Staff Sgt. Martinez

**Pfc. J. A. Carter**, Charleston, W. Va.  
Platoon 3021, Carter was recruited by  
Sgt. Cameron and trained by Staff Sgt. Villalobos

**Pfc. L. D. Echols**, Hampton, Va.  
Platoon 3017, Echols was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Fleming and trained by Staff Sgt. Pippin

**Pfc. D. C. Goulart**, Morgantown, W. Va.  
Platoon 3020, Goulart was recruited by  
Sgt. Seguin and trained by Sgt. Coleman

**Pfc. M. B. Latta**, Pasadena, Md.  
Platoon 3022, Latta was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Bruck and trained by Staff Sgt. Ferrin Jr.

## November Company Honor Graduates

**Pfc. A.R. Martin**, Panama City, Fla.  
Platoon 4006, Martin was recruited by  
Sgt. Thomas and trained by Staff Sgt. Crawford

**Pfc. K. A. Devoogd**, Kent City, Mich.  
Platoon 4007, Devoogd was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Frederick and trained by Staff Sgt. Byfield

### Platoon 3016

Pvt. S. Aguilera Jr., Pfc. E. A. Almazo, Pvt. B. M. Baker, Pfc. D. L. Ballard, Pvt. D. T. Barton, Pvt. J. D. Beasley, Pfc. D. J. Beatty, Pfc. J. F. Becerra, Pvt. Z. A. Beckwith, Pfc. K. R. Bohannon, Pfc. R. B. Caruthers III, Pfc. M. A. Chalkley, Pvt. R. J. Chapman, Pfc. D. H. Christenbury, Pfc. D. K. Cobb, Pvt. R. L. Compton Jr., Pfc. C. L. Cox III, Pvt. M. W. Crissy, Pvt. C. L. Curse, Pvt. C. J. Daniels, Pfc. M. C. Dye, Pvt. B. W. Everheart, Pfc. R. P. Favors Jr., Pfc. M. T. Gan, Pvt. J. C. Gibbons, Pvt. C. W. Green, Pvt. J. C. Guadarrama, Pvt. N. V. Harris, Pfc. M. F. Hershner, Pvt. D. J. Hicks, Pvt. T. B. Hilton, Pfc. T. E. Humphrey, Pvt. A. J. Inman, Pfc. J. L. Johnson Jr., Pvt. J. A. King, Pvt. T. B. Kirkman, Pfc. J. T. Lahayne, Pvt. J. E. Lancaster, Pfc. C. A. Langejans, Pvt. J. T. Lee, Pfc. B. B. Love, Pfc. J. L. Mackenzie, Pvt. M. A. Maldonado, Pvt. J. R. Meister, Pvt. R. W. Miller, Pfc. R. K. Mundy Jr., Pfc. J. G. Murray, Pvt. N. M. Myers, Pfc. C. I. Otoki, Pvt. M. K. Parson, Pvt. J. L. Passmore, Pfc. E. J. Peters, Pfc. S. R. Price Jr., Pvt. M. W. Randall Jr., Pvt. R. J. Russell, Pvt. B. T. Ruth, Pvt. B. O. Saez, Pvt. J. A. Safady, Pvt. A. D. Sampson, Pvt. T. L. Sees, Pfc. C. J. Serrano Jr., Pvt. C. J. Sneed, Pfc. J. L. Spangler, Pvt. N. A. Szanto, Pvt. R. H. Thompkins, Pfc. A. Tran, Pfc. H. M. Weiss III, Pfc. L. T. Westbrooks, Pvt. Z. W. Woodworth, Pvt. S. A. Yennie, Pvt. R. R. Young IV

### Platoon 3017

Pfc. J. W. Abbott, Pvt. J. M. Aikens, Pfc. T. E. Atwood, Pvt. C. S. Benefield, Pfc. E. W. Bidwell, Pfc. C. M. Blanco, Pfc. C. A. Brantley, Pvt. C. S. Brennan, Pvt. D. L. Brown Jr., Pfc. J. W. Brown, Pfc. S. M. Carter, Pfc. T. R. Cole, Pvt. A. J. Dejesus, Pvt. A. J. Deredita, Pvt. D. M. Dore, Pfc. L. D. Echols, Pvt. F. E. Escobar-Ochoa, Pfc. N. K. Evans, Pfc. L. J. Ford, Pfc. B. N. Franklin, Pvt. S. A. Freshour, Pvt. J. J. Grady, Pfc. A. J. Griffin, Pfc. T. G. Hagy, Pfc. D. E. Hopkins, Pvt. B. J. Hubbard, Pfc. I. A. Jerez, Pvt. M. D. Johnson, Pvt. P. M. Jordan, Pvt. N. M. Karvelas III, Pfc. P. A. Lalonde, Pvt. S. R. Lancia, Pvt. T. L. Leonard, Pvt. T. J. Longworth, Pvt. K. R. McClay, Pfc. A. J. McGinty, Pfc. M. D. Moss, Pvt. R. M. Muench, Pvt. R. F. Murphy, Pvt. M. A. Nasti-Bermudez, Pfc. H. Ochoa, Pfc. P. M. O'Hara, Pfc. W. T. Oliver, Pvt. A. J. Ollivett, Pvt. A. T. Olson, Pvt. J. E. Pappalardo, Pvt. B. A. Parrish, Pvt. J. C. Parrish, Pvt. C. T. Pursley, Pvt. C. D. Reilly, Pvt. T. W. Rivers, Pvt. J. D. Robey, Pvt. R. M. Rodriguez, Pfc. J. D. Saint-Juste, Pfc. R. M. Schreiber, Pfc. C. M. SESCO, Pfc. R. J. Sheets, Pfc. R. M. Skoff Jr., Pfc. J. R. Smith, Pfc. J. L. Staley, Pfc. C. L. Stevens, Pvt. J. L. Theriault, Pvt. N. L. Thomas Jr., Pfc. J. T. Twist, Pfc. M. A. Ursini, Pvt. J. A. Vazquez-Rolon, Pvt. R. C. Ward, Pvt. J. S. Webber, Pfc. S. C. Webster, Pvt. T. T. Wilson, Pvt. Z. T. Wolfgang

### Platoon 3018

Pfc. R. M. Anderson, Pvt. M. A. Antonaros, Pvt. A. S. Ball, Pvt. R. G. Barclay, Pvt. S. Bibilouri, Pvt. R. K. Bowen, Pvt. J. J. Boylan, Pvt. B. E. Brehaut, Pvt. J. T. Bundy, Pvt. D. T. Castelluccio, Pvt. G. H. Cedeno, Pfc. F. A. Corado-Reyna, Pfc. K. Correa, Pvt. C. F. Crooks Jr., Pvt. J. W. Curtis, Pvt. K. M. Dao, Pvt. A. A. Daoust, Pvt. R. A. Delgado, Pvt. J. D. Dickerson, Pfc. J. P. Diguilio, Pvt. A. D. Douglas, Pvt. A. W. Eastman, Pfc. D. L. Ernst, Pvt. R. E. Evans, Pvt. D. E. Ferrera-Romero, Pfc. D. E. Finley, Pfc. S. R. Fritscher Jr., Pvt. T. C. Gagnon, Pvt. E. J. Gardner, Pfc. M. Gjidoda, Pvt. J. K. Gowens, Pvt. W. A. Griffing, Pfc. K. J. Hanna, Pvt. E. P. Harvey, Pvt. J. J. Headlee, Pfc. D. Z. Holder, Pvt. V. F. Hooper III, Pvt. J. A. Laforgia, Pvt. H. B. Martinez, Pvt. T. J. McLean, Pfc. P. J. McNamara, Pvt. J. A. Mesiana III, Pvt. J. M. Morrissey Jr., Pvt. M. A. Moss Jr., Pfc. N. A. Neuner, Pfc. J. G. Norris Jr., Pvt. N. R. O'Neil, Pvt. T. M. Perry, Pfc. Z. A. Plemons, Pfc. Z. K. Richards, Pvt. J. B. Riley, Pfc. C. E. Robinson, Pvt. E. A. Rosser, Pvt. G. G. Schroll, Pfc. T. D. Scruggs, Pfc. G. L. Seaman III, Pfc. J. A. Serrano, Pvt. H. B. Talab, Pvt. W. J. Terrell III, Pvt. T. J. Thomas, Pvt. D. L. Tice Jr., Pfc. K. E. Vanbuskirk, Pvt. C. R. Wallace, Pfc. D. J. Watkins, Pvt. J. A. Watkins, Pfc. W. F. Watkins, Pvt. J. D. Welborne, Pvt. R. A. West, Pfc. D. J. Willett, Pvt. C. D. Zolman

### Platoon 3020

Pfc. R. J. Alvarenga-Mercado, Pfc. B. C. Anderson, Pvt. R. J. Argyle, Pvt. K. K. Baldeo, Pvt. J. E. Bennett, Pfc. R. A. Bleezarde, Pvt. J. Boerio, Pfc. A. F. Bustos, Pvt. Z. J. Butcher, Pfc. J. Capasso III, Pvt. M. A. Caruthers, Pfc. J. B. Castro, Pfc. A. Castro-Espinel, Pvt. J. A. Cervera, Pfc. G. M. Childs, Pvt. P. J. Claibourne Jr., Pfc. T. T. Claypool, Pvt. M. A. Cole, Pvt. T. F. Crowther, Pvt. A. M. Cutler, Pvt. R. Deoleo, Pvt. J. E. Devlin, Pvt. C. J. Drovich, Pvt. J. B. Dunn, Pvt. T. J. Evey III, Pfc. R. J. Faranda, Pvt. P. M. Fawess, Pvt. E. T. Fisher, Pvt. R. Gonzalez, Pfc. D. C. Goulart, Pfc. L. R. Harlin, Pvt. S. S. Harney, Pvt. J. L. Harter, Pvt. J. A. Hernandez-Gonzalez, Pvt. B. J. Holahan, Pvt. P. A. Holliman, Pfc. B. R. Hudson, Pvt. C. M. Johnson, Pvt. M. W. Jones, Pvt. A. P. Kramell, Pvt. S. D. Lake, Pvt. D. C. Legg, Pvt. B. Lopez-Vargas, Pfc. R. K. Ludwig, Pvt. N. M. Mahon, Pvt. J. C. Melendez-Oppenheimer, Pvt. J. Morales, Pvt. A. J. Mosier, Pfc. J. V. Nesbitt, Pvt. U. W. Perez Jr., Pvt. S. Peterson II, Pvt. E. J. Pierce, Pfc. S. D. Pine Jr., Pfc. B. R. Pylant, Pvt. L. D. Ramos, Pvt. S. A. Ramos, Pvt. G. D. Reed, Pfc. N. W. Revilla, Pvt. D. C. Roberts, Pvt. G. E. Scott, Pfc. R. S. Smazer, Pvt. J. K. Stafford Jr., Pvt. F. J. Susana-Peralta, Pvt. J. D. Vargas, Pvt. R. Vendrell Jr., Pfc. B. J. Waibel, Pvt. J. I. Weeks, Pvt. D. T. Wentzel, Pvt. L. E. West, Pvt. M. S. Westcott

### Platoon 3021

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### Platoon 4007

Pvt. D. M. Acosta, Pvt. B. R. Allard, Pfc. J. L. Arnold, Pvt. J. Arreola, Pvt. J. L. Begay, Pfc. T. M. Berg, Pfc. S. M. Bernard, Pfc. A. S. Berndt, Pvt. F. G. Bonilla, Pvt. R. D. Bray, Pfc. B. A. Burke, Pvt. V. C. Carranza, Pfc. K. T. Carson, Pvt. S. Castromata, Pfc. K. J. Chang, Pvt. D. M. Cordoba, Pfc. C. G. Cowen, Pvt. K. L. Dahlstrom, Pfc. K. A. Devoogd, Pfc. S. N. Duckworth, Pfc. E. H. Edwards, Pfc. R. L. Floto, Pvt. K. N. Foster, Pfc. A. N. Frizzell, Pvt. S. C. Gabbard, Pvt. E. Garcia, Pvt. I. N. Girgis, Pvt. V. A. Gonzales, Pfc. V. F. Gonzalez, Pfc. W. L. Haase, Pvt. V. A. Henning, Pvt. R. M. Hernandez, Pvt. A. M. Herron, Pvt. M. A. Higgins, Pfc. C. S. Honjiyo, Pvt. K. C. Hoshibata, Pvt. L. M. Irvin, Pvt. M. A. Jaggard, Pfc. L. Kaminaga, Pvt. J. L. King, Pvt. E. T. Klein, Pvt. A. G. Leon, Pvt. M. D. Lewis, Pfc. S. D. Lostia, Pfc. R. Martinez, Pfc. Z. J. Martinez, Pvt. G. Montero, Pfc. T. N. Morales, Pvt. L. Y. Moran, Pvt. J. L. Moreaux, Pfc. N. M. Ocampo, Pvt. R. Oudkerk, Pvt. D. R. Peterson, Pfc. R. L. Piatt, Pfc. A. L. Pikarski, Pvt. A. M. Ramos, Pfc. A. N. Ramos, Pvt. Y. Rios, Pvt. J. C. Romerobecerra, Pfc. V. L. Schaefer, Pvt. M. D. Schefer, Pvt. E. M. Selleck, Pfc. D. J. White

## THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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# Cancer patient graduates training in hopes of inspiring others

**Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes**  
Staff Writer

A cancer survivor graduates recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island today with Platoon 3021, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

Now that he has earned the title "Marine," Pfc. Justin Seddon, who spent his early teen years dealing with leukemia, hopes to one day speak to children with cancer and inspire them to continue fighting to beat the disease.

"Every so often you get a kid that you can tell had a rough childhood," said Staff Sgt. Jesus Villalobos, Seddon's senior drill instructor. "You can't really tell what it was, but you can tell he went through some difficult times. He's one of them."

Seddon was diagnosed at 13. Throughout his plight, inspirational speakers tried to motivate him, but they had never endured the hardships of cancer.

"I want to go back [to hospitals] and show the kids that nothing's impossible if you put your mind to it," the 23-year-old said. "I want to say, 'I was in your place. I received the chemo, and I know what it's like – and I became a United States Marine.'"

"Some of these kids, all they knew was chemotherapy," he said. "It forced me into a position of leadership where I knew other kids looked up to me. I did my best to be strong so they could see that everything would be okay."

Keeping strong was not easy for Sodden. He said there was a couple of times where it was especially difficult, and he felt like giving up.

"They tell you on Friday you have cancer, and on Monday, your whole world changes," he said. "There were 12 to 14-hour days at the hospital, all chemo, all day. Spinal taps, bone marrow – at one point I was taking 35 pills a day."

"I got dealt a crappy hand of cards," Sodden continued. "I could either fold or continue playing – but I didn't want to quit. No one around me was quitting."

Even though times got hard, Sodden still considers himself fortunate.

"I lost some friends going through chemotherapy, and no matter how hard things get through boot camp, I'm just glad to be here," he said. "Every time I get down, I think to myself, 'They're not even here.'"

Although he had cancer longer than the doctors anticipated, he did not have to endure as many treatments as others

around him.

"The whole cancer experience was probably the best thing that ever happened to me," Sodden said. "At 16 years old, I was able to see what life was like to face death, while other kids were going out partying. I understood I wasn't like everyone else when it came down to that."

Now, Sodden is different from his peers once more, but for a different reason. He has become a Marine, in a society where less than 1 percent even enlist in the armed forces.

"I thought after everything I'd been through, and being a little older, I knew something about life and how things were," Sodden said. "But I've learned so much in the past few weeks. It's been motivating and when a person feels the change inside of them, it's the craziest feeling. I can't really describe it."

Villalobos said Sodden showed drive to train.

"Everything you tell him to do, he does it 110 percent," he said. "He's that one recruit that even when he thinks no one is watching, he's always putting out."

Sodden said his hardest time in recruit training was the first few days.

"When I first got here, it was definitely a culture shock," he said. "I was like 'They hate me.' Now, I realize it's just pure dedication, and that just inspires me beyond belief to push through my day. If I'm hurting, so is everyone else."

Sodden's actions made his fellow recruits want to follow him, Villalobos said.

"He gives off this leadership vibe by the way he carries himself and how he talks with people – always respectful," said Pfc. Jordan Carter, a 19-year-old from Charlestown, W. Va.

Sodden really wanted to be a Marine and showed it through his work ethic and the way he cares for other people, Carter said.

"When there's others struggling [through training], he's one of the first ones, if not the first one, to give a helping hand and give motivation to the other recruits," Carter added.

Carter said Sodden's past serves as a personal inspiration for him.

"That motivates me when I'm tired or feel like I can't go anymore," Carter said. "I see him still going on, and I tell myself, 'He had cancer, and he's still going, so I have to keep going.'"

Sodden has not left Parris Island and has already begun inspiring people.

"Many people probably thought he wouldn't be able to do it, especially be-

cause of what he went through," Villalobos said. "He's proving to people that he can do it and he's trying to inspire people too. You can overcome any obstacle."

After completing the School of Infantry, Sodden plans to attend the Basic Reconnaissance Course.

"I hope to be a good Marine and inspire other kids," he said. "If I go back to the hospital and inspire any of these kids or their parents, and then I get sent overseas or something happens to me, that's fine by me. As long as I left a mark and inspired one or two kids [that] they can do this."



Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

**Pfc. Justin Seddon, Platoon 3021, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, spent his teen years battling leukemia. Seddon said he hopes to one day speak to children with cancer and inspire them to continue fighting to beat the disease.**

**"Many people probably thought he wouldn't be able to do it, especially because of what he went through. He's proving to people that he can do it, and he's trying to inspire people too. You can overcome any obstacle."**

Staff Sgt. Jesus Villalobos  
Senior drill instructor, Platoon 3021

# Future of Afghan village kindled by Marines

**Sgt. Michael Cifuentes**  
1st Marine Division

KHAN NEHSIN, Afghanistan - To a district in Afghanistan that was once overlooked by its government, 2nd Lt. Andrew McGann cares for it like a member of the community.

Khan Nehsin, a district of no more than 20,000 people in sporadic villages across southern Helmand Province, is undergoing an overhaul. There are currently 13 civil affairs projects supervised by the Marines of Team 3, Civil Affairs Detachment 11-2.

Under the leadership of McGann, a 26-year-old logistics officer by trade who began his ride with civil affairs just shortly after entering the Marine Corps fleet, the Marines are helping Afghan construction workers make their mark in Khan Neshin by enabling the local community to service their own country.

McGann is second in command of Team 3. His assignment includes leading patrols and vehicle convoys to project sites, assuring the Afghan construction workers are building to specifics hashed out in their contracts, and speak-

ing with local elders to get feedback on progress made in the district.

There are four major projects just in the heart of Khan Neshin: a new, all-boys school to replace the current one; a district center; a comprehensive health clinic; and a new paved road that runs through the village market.

Some of the Afghan construction workers are from Khan Neshin, and others are from towns in northern Helmand province or as far as Kabul.

"We get a week's schedule from the construction workers, telling us generally where they see the project going into the next week. We actually go and inspect their work, make sure they're on task, and keep the project moving in the right direction," said McGann, a native of Longmont, Colo.

McGann's mission doesn't stop at paying close attention to each project's progress. He monitors and provides feedback to keep each project moving along.

"There's a lot of positive words to be said about the Afghan workers, and we let them know they're doing good work," McGann said. "We also make sure the work they have done is done to a stan-

dard. If not, we'll address it right then and there and recommend ways to remediate the work or how they can correct it."

The Marines of Team 3 are just a stone throw away from the four major projects in the heart of Khan Neshin. Based out of Combat Outpost Castle, a fortified compound of high mud walls that once housed a cell of insurgent fighters, the Marines continuously monitor the projects almost daily by conducting foot patrols to the project areas. The combat outpost shares a wall with the district center and the health clinic, the road project runs alongside Castle's west wall, and the school is at the end of that road.

"A site survey allows us to put eyes on the projects that's been initiated to help rebuild the district," McGann said.

Cpl. Joshua Brooks, a Marine serving with Team 3, said sometimes site surveys service more than just an "eyes on."

"Usually in the beginning of these projects, there's always growing pains. But we build really great relationships with the Afghan workers. Sometimes we feel comfortable enough to relax with them and have tea. We've become really good friends," said Brooks, a 28-year-old native of Celeste, Texas.

Recently, the Marines and Afghan workers shared a sense of success Afghan workers. A 300-year-old grand mosque was refurbished in Khan Neshin under Team 3's supervision. The mosque, which was built to traditional standards in the desert village of mud and mortar, was deteriorating inside and out. The lack of attention to the holy building stemmed from intimidation from the insurgents before coalition forces arrived at Khan Neshin.

Now, the Afghan government confers with Marines to identify what projects are needed in the country.

McGann said coalition forces often pro-

vide guidance to civil affairs projects, "because a nation like Afghanistan doesn't always have the resources available to develop infrastructure and essential services in a rural area like Khan Neshin."

Under McGann there are five Marines and one Navy corpsman serving with Team 3, not including Hills, the team leader, and Albi, the language interpreter. Since they've arrived to the area in September 2011, they've inherited nine projects from their predecessors, which four of those are now complete. Team 3 initiated four projects during their time here, and three of those are complete. McGann said they hope to see two more projects completed by the time their replacements arrive.

"Right now the Marine Corps is pushing the insurgents out of their strongholds, and we're trying to deny them terrain. But, if we don't put something in place to fill the vacuum of power, the insurgents are going to come back once we're gone," McGann said.

"We're enabling the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and we're enabling the locals to provide services and gain the support of their villages. Civil affairs projects might be the reason why we don't have to come back to Afghanistan."

Standing at 6-foot-3 and "charismatic," according to his Marines, McGann made some good acquaintances out in the villages during his time in Afghanistan. Usually Team 3's patrols halted at the market in Khan Neshin, where McGann and his Marines bought bread, vegetables and eggs from vendors. He said the deployment has been "a very unique experience."

The tour to Afghanistan was McGann's first, and he said if the purpose was supposed to leave a lasting impact in the country, then he's going home with a feeling of accomplishment.



Photos by Sgt. Michael Cifuentes

**2nd Lt. Andrew McGann, the assistant team leader of Team 3, Civil Affairs Detachment 11-2, debriefs his Marines after a patrol that served as a site survey to civil affairs projects in Kahn Neshin, Afghanistan on Feb. 29.**



**Under the leadership of 2nd Lt. Andrew McGann, a 26-year-old native of Longmont, Colo., the Marines of Team 3 are improving Khan Neshin by helping the local community service their own country through projects contracted to locals.**



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Sgt. Jaime Andrade, senior drill instructor for Platoon 3016, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, gives a speech at the Mike Company Pickup on Dec. 17, 2011. Pickup is the first time recruits meet the drill instructors they will have throughout the remainder of training.

**MIKE**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

loose by the senior drill instructor, they herded and corrected the recruits in an intense manner and pace.

Mike Company staff stood a few meters away from the recruits and drill instructors, observing the new additions to the unit.

“Starting now, you will treat me and all other Marines with the highest respect, for we have earned our place as Marines and will accept nothing less than that from you,” Andrade continued. “We will

treat you as we do our fellow Marines, with firmness, fairness, dignity, and compassion.”

In the fleet, right before deployment, everyone gathers together before departing – families included, said Sgt. Mitchell Brown, another drill instructor with Platoon 3016

“This is our family – Mike Company – so that’s why they all come to watch us start our first day,” he said.

After seeing everything get off to a good start, the staff departed, leaving the recruits with their drill instructors.

“We’re very demanding, but at the same time, understand that these kids don’t know anything about anything,” Warner said.

Warner said the recruits were introduced to some Marine Corps ways during receiving, but now their drill instructors were going to demand that they follow these rules to serve as their new lifestyle.

“We will give every effort to train you, even after some of you have given up on yourselves,” Andrade continued.

They might not speak or do things correctly yet,

but only because they do not know better, Brown added. It will take them a while to get used to it and the drill instructors are here to teach them.

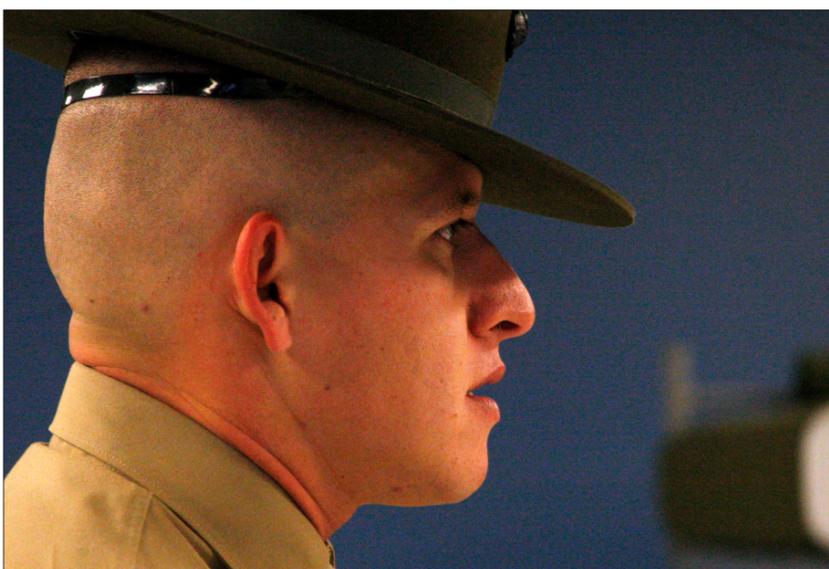
“We offer you the challenge of recruit training and the opportunity to earn the title United States Marine!” Andrade ended. “Now, when I tell you to, you’re going to rise to your feet and walk back to the line. Ready? Set? Move!”



Recruits of Platoon 3016 listen to their senior drill instructor’s speech Dec. 17, 2011. During his speech, the senior drill instructor tells the recruits what he expects from them and what they can expect from him.



Sgt. Lucas Warner and Sgt. Mitchell Brown, drill instructors with Platoon 3016, put their new recruits into formation Dec. 17, 2011.



Sgt. Jaime Andrade is the senior drill instructor for Platoon 3016. He and his drill instructors taught the recruits of Platoon 3016 everything they needed to know to become basically trained Marines.

# MIKE, NOVEMBER FACE LAST TRAINING OBSTACLE: THE CRUCIBLE

Lance Cpl.  
Javarre Glanton  
Staff writer

The recruits of Mike and November Companies overcame the last few obstacles standing in their way during the Crucible at Page Field on March 3.

The Crucible is a 54-hour ordeal made up of several events that test the recruits' endurance, strength and overall teamwork, as they face the stress of limited food and sleep, and exhaustion. It is the final test recruits must pass before they earn the title Marine.

"This is the future of the Marine Corps, so we have to make it count for them," said Cpl. Joshua Watts, a Crucible instructor. "We have to make it a challenge. They need to know how to work as a team and to never leave a Marine behind. The squad is only as strong as the weakest recruit."

The events of the Crucible are made up of various

team-oriented challenges and obstacles that simulate combat scenarios. After a little more than two days of strenuous testing and hardships, the Crucible concludes with a nine-mile hike from Page Field to the Peatross Parade Deck.

Once at the parade deck, the drill instructors hold a ceremony for the recruits, in which they present them with their Marine Corps emblems. This ceremony symbolizes the point when trainees cease to be recruits and become full-fledged Marines.

"They need to stay motivated, no matter how hard things get," Watts said. "Later on down the line, they might find themselves in combat where they may not get the time to eat or sleep, and they'll [have to work] in that state of mental and physical stress when other Marines are depending on them."

"We tell them it's the



Photos By Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, gear up for pugil sticks sparring at Page Field on March 2. During pugil sticks sparring, recruits try to land a "killing blow" on their opponent by using the stick to simulate a rifle with a bayonet.

culminating event of recruit training," said Staff Sgt. Ramarie Moore, a drill instructor with Platoon 4007, November

Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion. "I tell them it tests everything they've learned in recruit training."

During the Crucible, the recruits must use everything they learned throughout recruit training to finish on their own.

"All we do during the Crucible is observe how they're doing - we don't teach them," said Moore, 30-years-old, of Patterson, N.J. "We've taught them as much as we could, and now they have to show us that they've learned and retained it all."

Although males and females stay separated during recruit training, during the Crucible they use the same training areas simultaneously.

"I like doing the Crucible with the males," Moore said. "It shows them that the females do the same exact things, and it motivates the females to see their doing what the males are."

The hardships of the Crucible are designed to help recruits overcome

doubts about themselves and build trust in one another. Recruits from both companies must keep in mind the goal they set out to achieve the night they raised their right hands and swore to defend the Constitution of the United States.

"I've never been a quitter, so I always try to go as hard as I can," said Pfc. Corey Robinson, Platoon 3018, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. "I refuse to stop even if I'm in pain because I keep my goal in mind."

Sometimes recruits push through the hardship by looking forward to seeing their families at the end of training.

"I really hope they see a change in me," said Robinson, 20, of Tampa, Fla. "I can't wait to give my mom a hug on family day; it feels almost unreal how close it is."



Rct. Daniel Goulart, with Platoon 3020, Mike Company, provides cover for the rest of his squad during the Crucible at Page Field on March 2.



Recruits from November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, sit in a circle during a chow break while on the Crucible. The recruits stay in the field for 54 hours during the training event.



Staff Sgt. Carmen Zavala, a Marine Corps Martial Arts instructor, oversees sparring bouts for recruits from Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.



Sgt. Patrick McGovern, a drill instructor with Platoon 3020, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, briefs his squad of recruits on a Crucible event.

# Facebook spotlight on Mike and November Companies

for more visit [www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland](http://www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland)



Visit [www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland](http://www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland) to see and download photographs of recruit training that didn't make it into the The Boot.



# 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)

## Cherry Point Marine saves man from burning truck

**Lance Cpl. Stephen Stewart**  
2nd Marine Air Wing

Running late on his way to pick up a new fishing boat after work Feb. 14, Lance Cpl. David S. Shouse was driving through the small town of Boiling Spring Lakes, N.C., when he saw a truck engulfed in flames.

Shouse, a supply clerk at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, pulled over to see what was going on. Inside the truck, 59-year-old Steven Early was stuck, desperately trying to pry himself out.

"I was going to call 911 right away, but then I saw him," said Shouse, a Ripley, Ohio, native. "The only thing going through my mind when I saw him was, 'There's a guy in that truck, and I have to get him out.'" Grabbing Early's flailing arm, he pulled him out of the truck and dragged him a safe distance from the fire.

"The fire was so huge, and I was worried for the man's life," Shouse said. "I thought he was going to be very hurt."

Luckily, Early was the only person in the vehicle. All of the truck's tires were melted down, and the entire vehicle, aside from where Early sat, was an inferno, Shouse said.

"With how big the flames were, I kept thinking, 'Please don't explode,'" he said. "I thought it was going to be like the movies."

After the incident, Shouse called Lance Cpl. Scott A. Laroche, his good friend and roommate.

"When he called me and told me what happened, I didn't believe him," Laroche said. "It doesn't surprise me, though, that Shouse would do something like this."

His friend is known for always being there for his fellow Marines, Laroche added. On many occasions, he said, he has changed his plans for someone else's benefit, taking duties for people, giving rides or just offering up a place to crash

for the night.

In front of several hundred Marines two days after the rescue, Shouse's commanding officer, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Samuel P. Mowery, commended

his selflessness.

"Your actions outside the workplace are indicative of what you do in the workplace," Mowery said. Shouse said he was just glad he was there, and that

the man was OK.

"It's good I was running late to pick up my boat," he said.

The only thing that bothered him, he added, was

that he saw cars in front of him drive past the flaming vehicle.

"I don't understand why anyone would do that," he said.

"He truly cares about others and doesn't expect or want anything in return," Laroche said. "We need more people in this world like Shouse."



Photo by Cpl. Tyler Bolken

**Lance Cpl. David Shouse saved a man stuck inside his burning truck Feb. 14 in Boiling Spring Lakes, N.C.**