

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See India Company graduates

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## INDIA COMPANY



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

They were briefed on their mission. An area was contaminated and they had to sterilize it. But a patch of the contagion stood between them and those who needed to be saved. They had two ropes, their rifles and a wooden beam to get the decontaminant to those in need.

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, exercised their problem-solving skills April 5 at the Leadership Reaction Stations during the Crucible.

The stations are a part of Event 2 at the Crucible and follow the recruits' body sparring and pugil stick bouts.

"Here, they're learning leadership skills," said Sgt. Timothy Davis, the leader of the event, Field Training Unit at

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Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Rct. Anthony Sanchez, an 18-year-old from Brindge Passaic, N.J., prepares to swing across a "contaminated area" while trying to overcome an obstacle at the Leadership Reaction Stations on Page Field on Feb. 5. This station's mission tasks the recruits to get across a contaminated area to provide the cleaning solution to those in need.

### Quiet moments of boot camp: Senior square-away time

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

When steel is forged into a sword, it is repeatedly heated and cooled. The process makes the blade stronger, sharper and more flexible.

Similarly, recruits at Parris Island are broken down during the day with training, but given a moment to calm their minds before going to sleep.

"Senior square-away time helps you get through the day and get ready for the next," said Pfc. Scott Collins, a 20-year-old from Plantation, Fla., with Platoon 3029.

He said the free hour gives the recruits a break from training. "It's important for them because it

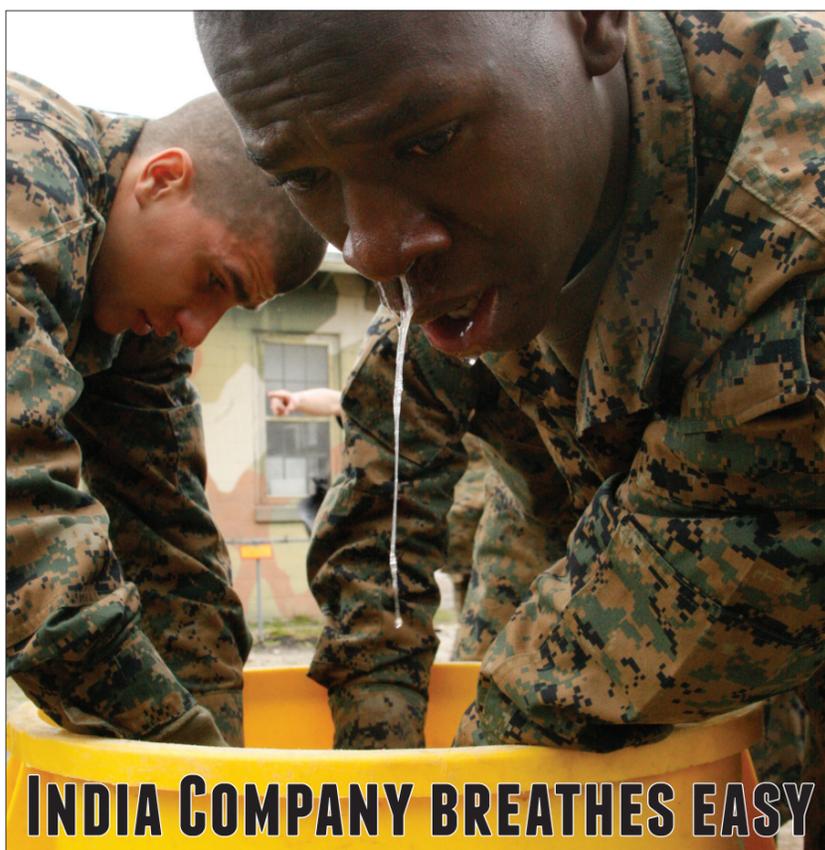
gives them a chance to decompress from the training they just had," said Staff Sgt. Michael Nichols, senior drill instructor for Platoon 3029, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

The best thing for the recruits to do during senior square-away time is fix any discrepancies they may have, Nichols said.

He said recruits often work out, fix their uniforms, practice drill movements or write letters home.

Recruits are not told what to do during this hour long period, Nichols said. The free hour is required by the recruit training order and is to be left unstructured.

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### INDIA COMPANY BREATHES EASY

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

India Company recruits experience tear gas' effects in training at Page Field on Feb. 21.

**Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers**  
Design Editor

The recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were able to breathe a little easier after completing the gas chamber Feb. 21.

The purpose of the training is to instruct the recruits with the proper use of the M50 field protective masks and give them hands-on training in a controlled environment, said Sgt. Christopher Proffit, a chemical, biological, radiological and

nuclear defense instructor with the Field Training Unit at Page Field.

Recruits take a 45-minute class before entering the chamber. The class covers assembly and operation of the mask as and

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training Monday 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.

#### Parris Island Hosts Historical Bike/Walk Tour

The Parris Island Museum, with the support of the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society, is scheduled to sponsor its 6th Iron Mike bicycle and walking tours of Parris Island April 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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India Company aims for top marks



Russian orphan finds home in Corps

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# INDIA COMPANY GRADUATES

## India Company Honor Graduates

**Pfc. A. K. Pack**, Spartanburg, S.C.  
Platoon 3024, Pack was recruited by  
Sgt. Phillips and trained by Sgt. Aleman

**Pfc. B. M. Little**, Pickerton, Ohio  
Platoon 3025, Little was recruited by  
Gunnery Sgt. Rohr and trained by Staff Sgt. Mitchell

**Pfc. R. M. Harvey**, Perry, Ohio  
Platoon 3026, Harvey was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Rivera and trained by Staff Sgt. Gentry

**Pfc. B. D. O'Connor**, Cincinnati  
Platoon 3028, O'Connor was recruited by  
Sgt. Krusinski and trained by Staff Sgt. Rogers

**Pfc. Y. Almonte**, West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Platoon 3029, Almonte was recruited by  
Sgt. Martinez and trained by Staff Sgt. Nichols

### Platoon 3024

Pvt. N. C. Anthony, Pvt. C. D. Baer, Pfc. N. O. Beaton, Pfc. A. S. Benton, Pvt. A. Bigby, Pvt. C. D. Boyd, Pfc. P. R. Burson, Pfc. D. M. Byrd, Pvt. J. D. Calhoun, Pfc. J. A. Carmona, Pfc. S. F. Cheripuram Jr., Pfc. J. A. Cole, Pfc. T. E. Conklin, Pvt. R. T. Dugan, Pfc. M. M. Ernest Jr., Pfc. T. R. Fisher Jr., Pfc. D. Q. Fleming, Pvt. J. X. Folds, Pfc. A. J. Gentry, Pfc. R. D. Grate Jr., Pfc. K. A. Holt, Pvt. R. D. Howe, Pvt. K. R. James, Pfc. R. C. Johnson, Pfc. B. L. Kilpatrick, Pfc. S. L. Kirby, Pfc. J. R. Lakey, Pfc. K. A. Lee, Pvt. T. W. Lester, Pvt. A. S. Lewis, Pfc. T. J. Lockwood, Pvt. N. L. Malone, Pvt. A. E. Marchino-Gardella, Pfc. B. D. Mills, Pfc. N. E. Mittrucker, Pvt. D. M. Murphy, Pvt. A. W. Nagib, Pfc. N. D. Nemard, Pfc. C. E. Oliver, Pfc. M. A. Ordonez, Pfc. A. K. Pack, Pvt. Z. D. Poulos, Pfc. R. M. Ramirez, Pfc. D. A. Rampil, Pfc. W. T. Ramsey III, Pvt. B. M. Raulerson, Pfc. B. R. Robinson Jr., Pvt. J. R. Roper, Pvt. S. L. Rutledge, Pfc. W. P. Smith, Pvt. A. J. Smyth, Pfc. C. R. Spiva, Pvt. M. L. Tatum, Pfc. J. A. Taylor, Pfc. M. D. Waits, Pfc. J. M. Walker, Pfc. C. A. Walton, Pfc. M. A. Wilson, Pfc. J. A. Woods

### Platoon 3025

Pvt. R. P. Abram, Pfc. J. C. Andrews, Pfc. D. A. Arvayobright, Pvt. M. T. Blueher, Pvt. K. M. Bowling, Pvt. S. G. Boyer, Pvt. B. A. Cale, Pvt. J. E. Carl, Pfc. C. R. Carlton, Pvt. M. D. Clark, Pvt. B. C. Coderre, Pfc. E. Colon, Pvt. R. E. Craig II, Pfc. B. R. Diaz, Pfc. T. J. Elkins, Pvt. R. T. Elward, Pvt. J. R. Erazo Jr., Pfc. B. D. Farmer, Pfc. G. W. Foster, Pvt. M. E. Foster, Pvt. D. R. Gaffin, Pvt. N. C. Green, Pvt. R. W. Grim, Pvt. D. R. Hancarik, Pfc. M. P. Hobbs, Pvt. J. A. Huggins, Pvt. M. S. Johnson, Pfc. M. H. Judkins, Pvt. R. S. Kessler, Pfc. B. M. Little, Pvt. N. E. Malone, Pfc. K. A. McAuliffe, Pvt. T. M. Moore, Pvt. M. D. Moore, Pvt. Z. M. Moore, Pfc. A. T. Neely, Pvt. T. D. Payne, Pvt. A. R. Pricehaase, Pvt. K. A. Quintana, Pfc. C. G. Reukauf, Pfc. S. M. Riley, Pvt. J. N. Rinaldi, Pvt. E. J. Roe, Pvt. R. E. Seitz Jr., Pvt. R. N. Seng, Pvt. D. J. Sluus, Pfc. E. R. Smith, Pfc. P. G. Sperandio III, Pfc. L. F. Strong, Pvt. T. A. Strong, Pvt. C. L. Tanner, Pvt. K. M. Thompson, Pvt. A. M. Turner II, Pvt. J. L. Vasquez, Pfc. J. R. Walter, Pfc. C. A. Ware II, Pfc. S. J. Wilkinson, Pvt. M. H. Yockey

### Platoon 3026

Pvt. A. A. Alexander, Pvt. S. R. Alexander, Pfc. M. R. Anthony, Pvt. L. F. Ardila, Pvt. M. J. Ashmore, Pvt. K. J. Atchue, Pvt. S. J. Bergeron, Pfc. G. R. Bhagwandeem, Pvt. B. J. Bourque, Pfc. C. J. Brown, Pvt. A. C. Bucklew, Pvt. B. P. Carey, Pvt. M. P. Coleman, Pvt. P. I. Coleman, Pfc. J. M. Davis, Pvt. M. A. Dufek, Pfc. A. Dunbar Jr., Pvt. A. V. Elston, Pvt. J. J. Flores, Pfc. T. J. Geary, Pfc. B. R. Gerry, Pvt. D. S. Hamm III, Pfc. J. A. Harper, Pfc. R. M. Harvey, Pvt. A. T. Heng, Pvt. M. E. Hicinbothem, Pvt. J. E. Jenkins, Pvt. T. K. Jordan, Pfc. M. C. Kiely, Pvt. B. M. King, Pfc. G. S. Kotara, Pfc. K. N. Le, Pfc. A. Lopez, Pvt. J. I. Martinez-Soriano, Pfc. J. P. McGahan, Pvt. K. C. Morse, Pfc. T. J. Murray III, Pfc. D. X. Ouellette, Pfc. J. P. Pacheco, Pfc. G. N. Panter Jr., Pvt. N. L. Pease, Pvt. J. T. Price, Pfc. B. S. Ransom Jr., Pvt. J. D. Robson, Pfc. A. L. Sirois, Pfc. J. S. Sivils, Pvt. N. A. Smith, Pfc. J. D. Solomon, Pfc. S. R. Spano Jr., Pvt. D. L. Spooner, Pvt. D. T. Spragg, Pvt. J. S. Taub, Pfc. K. D. Taylor, Pvt. J. J. Theisen, Pvt. M. A. Velazquez Jr., Pvt. J. L. Ward, Pvt. J. M. Weber, Pfc. S. C. Whisnant, Pvt. D. D. Yates

### Platoon 3028

Pvt. K. J. Austin-Rodriguez, Pvt. A. F. Barnao, Pvt. S. H. Blank, Pvt. C. F. Brennan, Pvt. A. A. Cabrejos, Pvt. K. S. Carr, Pvt. K. D. Cartright, Pfc. M. C. Clapp, Pfc. T. R. Corbett, Pfc. R. D. Crawley, Pvt. M. A. Dalton Jr., Pfc. M. D. Davidson, Pfc. E. I. Delafuente Jr., Pvt. A. P. Derco, Pvt. D. A. Durham, Pvt. J. E. Ertter, Pvt. M. M. Evans, Pvt. J. J. Farrell-Dinkle, Pvt. M. J. Ferraro, Pfc. F. A. Flores-Feliciano, Pvt. C. A. Francis, Pfc. E. W. Galarza, Pfc. D. M. Gatson, Pfc. M. A. Graham, Pfc. C. A. Kamp, Pvt. A. F. Knerr, Pfc. M. H. Labarre, Pvt. R. P. Lebeau, Pvt. D. J. Leczo, Pvt. R. J. Leer, Pvt. T. R. Luippold, Pvt. J. T. Miller, Pfc. J. D. Mullen Jr., Pfc. B. D. O'Connor, Pvt. A. J. Peninger, Pvt. C. L. Pomeroy, Pfc. S. M. Purcell, Pfc. J. J. Rathod, Pfc. N. J. Reeves, Pvt. L. A. Riley, Pvt. A. M. Ritzman, Pvt. J. R. Rivera, Pvt. J. Rivera-Diaz, Pvt. C. A. Robinson, Pfc. J. A. Saltmarsh, Pfc. V. M. Sanchez, Pfc. M. F. Sanmiguel, Pvt. M. J. Sasouvong, Pvt. J. L. Shaner, Pvt. J. L. Smith, Pvt. A. D. Steiner, Pfc. B. G. Taylor, Pfc. J. J. Wagner, Pvt. A. A. Williams, Pfc. A. L. Williams, Pvt. D. G. Wright, Pfc. E. J. Young, Pfc. E. J. Zientek

### Platoon 3029

Pvt. J. M. Abahazy, Pvt. M. Alicea, Pfc. Y. Almonte, Pfc. A. J. Baldi, Pvt. O. D. Bazana-Rauz, Pvt. A. A. Benitez, Pvt. N. R. Blanchard, Pfc. T. W. Brickman, Pfc. J. A. Brunick, Pfc. C. R. Chavez, Pvt. J. B. Ciliberto, Pfc. S. J. Collins, Pvt. N. M. Delgado, Pvt. R. B. Delossantos, Pfc. M. D. Denison, Pvt. I. D. Egli, Pvt. J. A. Fallisi, Pvt. J. R. Feaselman III, Pvt. J. A. Fermin, Pfc. P. C. Gailliot, Pvt. C. D. Hamm, Pfc. J. A. Hernandez, Pfc. A. A. Heywood, Pvt. T. V. Ho, Pfc. D. P. Horton, Pvt. A. R. Jackson, Pvt. E. K. Kimani, Pfc. J. T. Kowalski III, Pfc. A. D. Kutzli, Pvt. S. M. Lee, Pvt. J. C. Lloyd, Pvt. K. E. Mason, Pvt. J. E. Mendoza-Cerna, Pfc. J. T. Messinger, Pfc. C. H. Moy, Pvt. C. A. Ramirez, Pfc. Z. B. Reese, Pfc. R. Reyes, Pfc. J. C. Rivas, Pvt. D. J. Rocoff, Pvt. A. K. Sanchez, Pvt. A. L. Santiago-Colon, Pvt. K. M. Sees, Pfc. J. C. Sergeant, Pvt. W. M. Shifflett III, Pvt. E. Sierra-Rodriguez, Pvt. C. N. Smith, Pvt. R. J. Smith IV, Pvt. S. A. Stephenson, Pvt. W. G. Tarazona-Chirinos, Pvt. K. J. Thompson, Pfc. R. A. Thorington, Pvt. R. J. Velez, Pvt. T. J. Ward, Pvt. M. E. Winkles, Pfc. M. B. Yates, Pfc. J. D. Yorkanis, Pfc. M. T. Yusckat

## THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

India Company recruits wait to enter the gas chamber at Page Field on Feb. 21. After they take part in a class, the recruits assemble their own M50 field protective mask and experience how to properly use it.

## GAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a brief history of filtration and gas masks.

"The biggest fear for recruits is the unknown," Proffit said. "None of these recruits, save for the rare few, have ever encountered any training of this sort."

"It's like the fog of war," said Pfc. Daniel Gaffin, a 19-year-old recruit from Winchester, Ohio, and Platoon 3025. "I don't really know what to expect."

Once inside the chamber, recruits feel an immediate burning sensation on any exposed skin. The only thing keeping the gas from their lungs is the mask.

They are told to perform several moves, such as jumping-jacks and shaking their head side to side, to show them the mask will stay sealed even in high-activity situations.

Recruits are then instructed to take a deep breath and force two fingers through the side of the mask. The tear gas begins working by burning their eyes, face, lungs and nose.

"They break the seal so they can learn in the controlled environment how to clear it," Proffit said. "The worst things they can do are panic and take the mask off. But if they do it here, at least they will still be alive and can learn from the mistake."

In February 2007, insurgents in Iraq used bombs containing large amounts of chlorine in multiple attacks, making the capability of using a mask a required skill.

In the real world, this skill can come to life or death, but at recruit training, it is just that – training. Instructors are on standby and keep this

event controlled and safe.

For the final event, instructors circle the room and visually check that all recruits have broken their seals and then give the command to clear the mask and exit the chamber.

Coughing and gasping for air, the recruits rush from the chamber.

Their eyes are still watering as they run over to bins of water and begin to wash off their masks.

Their eyes clear and they breath more easily now that it's all over, and they are one step closer to earning their Eagle, Globe and Anchors.

"It wasn't too bad. I do feel like I learned quite a lot," Gaffin said. "I am confident that if I had too, I could easily do this in combat now."

The possibility of having to use this valuable skill is very real, Proffit said.

## INDIA

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Page Field. "They're learning how to take charge of things."

Eleven obstacles make up the Leadership Reaction Stations, each challenge differing from the other. The stations are based on past military missions that had to be accomplished, he said.

Recruits are grouped during the Crucible. At the stations, those teams are split in two and the recruits compete against their opposing team to see who can complete the obstacle first. The losing team has to carry the winning team around the perimeter of the obstacles. If neither team accomplishes their mission, they both carry each other.

Recruits often overthink the mission and make it harder for themselves.

Davis said recruits focus on the menial things too much, which often leads to their demise.

"When they're worn down and tired, they're going to start bickering," Davis said, a 26-year-old native of Vidalia, Ga.

Although recruits are not penalized by the drill instructors for arguing amongst themselves, Davis said they punish themselves. If they argue, they will not get the mission accom-

plished and end up fireman-carrying each other.

When the recruits get debriefed after failing a mission, the drill instructors will tell them what they did wrong. Often, it is arguing.

"You were bickering too much," Davis said. "You can't complete a mission is you're just fighting the whole time."

Pfc. Cameron Taylor, Platoon 3026, said each recruit had a different idea. When everyone threw their ideas out, it hindered them. Everyone wanted to do it their own way.

"It turns into yelling at each other, instead of talking to one another," the 19-year-old native of Nashville, said.

Pvt. Raymond Smith IV, Platoon 3029, said the recruits in his team quickly got to work trying to accomplish the mission instead of taking time to plan it perfectly.

In the end, this was the reason they failed.

"We have to think more, put our heads together and work harder, because every one person's idea can be an addition on to someone else's and makes it easier in the end," Taylor said.

Today, they graduate as Marines, and will carry the leadership lessons and skills they learned here with them throughout their careers.



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Recruits from India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, work together at a leadership action station during the Crucible on April 5.

## QUIET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nichols said drill instructors still advise recruits to improve on areas they are weak in, but often, recruits take it upon themselves to help their fellow recruit.

"If someone is having a problem with crunches, we'll get together and help them with that," Collins said. "We'll do pull ups, weights - whatever helps."

Pfc. Joshua Messinger, 19-year-old from Fredericksburg, Pa., and Platoon 3029, said the hour takes this mind away from training.

"The hour is just a moment of relaxation," Messinger said. "It helps us calm down."

Nichols said he also pushes recruits to socialize during senior square-away

time because it is the only time they have that luxury.

"I always stress to my recruits to not just know their fellow recruits' last name," Nichols said. "Know also where he's from, does he have a girlfriend, does he have a wife, does he have kids - socializing and getting to know each other will build teamwork."

Aside from helping recruits, Nichols said senior square-away time is good for the drill instructors.

It gives them time to prepare for the next day, eat and get a little break, he said.

Drill instructors, like recruits, are constantly training and spend a lot of time away from their families.

"Down here, with 16-hour days, you are going to need some kind of decompression to think about home," Nichols said.

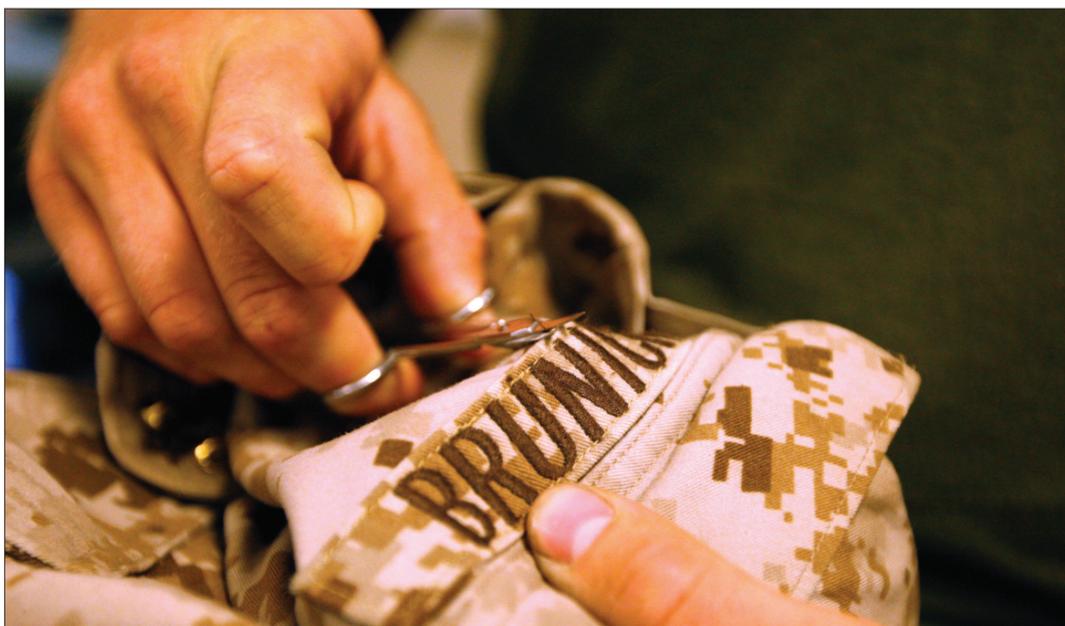


Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Pfc. Jacob Brunick, a 22-year-old from Fort Meyers, Fla., cuts a stray thread from his uniform April 9 during senior square away time. During this free hour, recruits often do this to improve themselves, such as exercising and preparing their uniforms, or writing letters home.

# Marine returns to Parris Island after 70-years



Photo by Cpl. J Nava

**Ernest Snowden, a Marine who served during World War II and nearly every major battle in the South Pacific during that time, visited Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on April 5 and 6. This visit coincided with Snowden's 70th anniversary of graduating from Parris Island.**

**Cpl. J Nava**  
Social Media Chief

Seventy years after graduating recruit training, an 87-year-old veteran Marine visited Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on April 5.

Ernest Snowden first set foot on Parris Island on April 4, 1942, and seven decades later, he returned to visit the depot one last time.

It's always great to visit Parris Island, Snowden

said.

"I don't know how many people ever get the chance to come back, especially after 70 years," he said.

Snowden, who now lives in Clay City, Ky., enlisted in the Marine Corps on Feb. 7, 1942, out of Lexington, Ky., and served in the Marine Corps as a rifleman in L Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division until his enlistment ended, Feb. 11, 1946.

On Aug. 7, 1942, he arrived on Guadalcanal.

"I served in every battle that 1st Marine Division fought in the Pacific except Okinawa," Snowden said.

Snowden served a total of two and a half years in the South Pacific and jokingly said that he "must have hit every swamp in the South Pacific during that time."

"He talks constantly about his time in the Marine Corps," said Bonita Tito, Snowden's daughter. "It had such a profound impact on his life, and I believe that he re-

ally did enjoy his time in the Marines."

"And he loves going to Parris Island," she added.

Snowden said that although things have changed since his time on the depot, he still feels nostalgic.

"There's a saying that goes 'you can't go back home,'" he said. "I think that's true here especially. What was here then, isn't now."

"All we had were quant set huts," he said laughing.

Aside from the geography of Parris Island, Snowden said one of the biggest differences he saw is the training recruits receive now.

The training back then was nowhere near as good as it is now, Snowden said.

"I don't know how we would have made it without our experienced sergeants," he said.

It's great that Marines now have training that's this in-depth, he said.

The last thing Snowden did on the island was

watch the graduation ceremony of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

"My graduation was just my drill instructor putting me on a bus and telling me to go to New River," Snowden said. "I think it's really nice that the Marines and their families get a ceremony at the end of their training."

This was the seventh year in a row that Snowden has visited Parris Island and also the last.

"I'm going to miss coming here," he said.

# INDIA SIGHTS IN ON TITLE

See more photos on [www.facebook.com/parrisisland](http://www.facebook.com/parrisisland)



Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Rct. A. R. Pricehaase, Platoon 3025, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, fires hammered-pairs, or two rounds in the chest and one in the head of a human-shaped target, during his combat marksmanship rifle qualification at a Parris Island rifle range on March 22.



Rct. C. G. Reukauf, Platoon 3025, waits to fire during the India Company combat marksmanship rifle qualification.



Recruits from India Company wait to receive their rounds before firing their combat marksmanship rifle qualification. Each recruit of the company received 50 rounds to fire during their qualification.

# Russian orphan finds family in Corps

**Sgt. James Mercure**

Regimental Combat Team 6, 1st Marine Division

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan** – Growing up in Russia, Lance Cpl. Sergey Huber had a rough childhood and knew he had to run away from his abusive father.

When he was 10, Huber and his brother ran to a Russian military base. They lived there under the care of soldiers until the base commander had them taken to an orphanage, where they lived for several years.

“When we were first taken to the orphanage, we were put into an isolation room with bars on the windows that we bent enough to slide out and run for it later that night,” said Huber, a squad automatic weapon gunner with 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. “I was caught several hours later, and it took them days to catch my brother. Over the years, we kept trying to escape, but after a while we realized we had nowhere to go, so we just lived our life at the orphanage.”

After a few years had passed, the orphanage director told Huber he would be going to the United States to live with a family who wanted to adopt him.

“I went to America for a summer with my adopted parents, and I ended up falling in love with the place,” Huber said. “I got to go to summer camp while my parents worked, and I couldn’t believe how much stuff they had. It felt unreal.”

As the summer ended, Huber had to go back to Russia while the adoption paperwork was finalized. Uncertain when his parents would come back to get him, Huber went back to his daily life at the orphanage.

“I remember it was cold, and I was sitting down to a bowl of soup, looking out the window, and I saw my parents walking toward the orphanage,” Huber said. “I ran out in the snow barefoot, and my dad picked me up and said something in English that I didn’t understand. But

we were all smiling, and it was a happy time for me.”

But as Huber grew up, he had more family trouble and found himself living out of his car at 17.

Showering at a local gym and still struggling to finish school, Huber was invited to live with one of his classmates – Lance Cpl. Jim Roche, fire team leader, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, and a man he now calls his brother.

“When I found out from a friend that he was living out of his car, my mom and I went down there and told him he was welcome to stay with us,” said Roche, a 20-year-old from Wall Township, N.J. “He calls my parents Mom and Dad. He is a brother to me.”

“After high school, he didn’t really have a plan, and I knew I was joining the Marines, so we went to boot camp together and the School of Infantry,” Roche continued. “We deployed together last year to Afghanistan and again this year. It’s great having him around, because when you start to miss home, you’ve got family two tents away.”

Huber said having Roche with him inspired him to make it through recruit training and to excel as a Marine.

“During boot camp, I thought about quitting, but I would look over and see Jim standing there going through the same things, and I couldn’t let him down,” said Huber, 22. “I’ve been a SAW gunner for quite some time now, and last year, I was the best in the company. But the most important part of this is teaching my junior guys how to be better. If they become more effective gunners, I’ve done my job.”

Though he has faced many life struggles, Huber said, he looks on the bright side and is grateful to serve with the men to his left and right. He has found a home at last with his Marines.

“The United States has done so much for me,” he said. “I have a family, I have a brotherhood, and when I decide to get out, I have all my guys I can call if I need anything, and they can do the same.”



Photo by Sgt. James Mercure

**Lance Cpl. Sergey Huber, a squad automatic weapon gunner with 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, clears a 7-foot wall during a regimental operation in Urmoz, Afghanistan on March 25. Born in Russia, Huber lived in a Russian orphanage for several years before being adopted and brought to the United States as a child.**



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