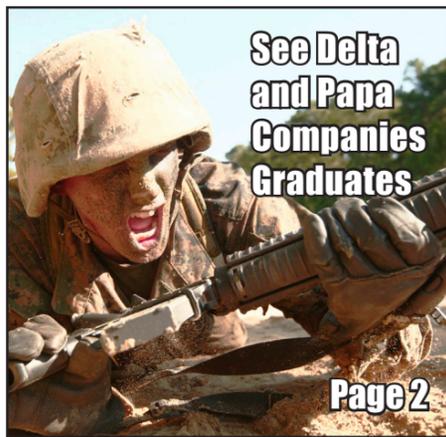


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Delta and Papa Companies Graduates

Page 2

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Delta, Papa Companies sight in



Page 4

Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Leah Easley of Platoon 4017, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, aims at her target while practicing with her rifle at the Parris Island ranges May 9. Easley is a native of Columbia, Mo.



PAPA COMPANY TESTS ITS BONDS

Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Uerequenía Pereira, 24, of Platoon 4017, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, climbs her way up the Workman's Weaver event of the Crucible at Parris Island's Page Field on June 14. Her fellow recruits waited to follow her as she advanced up the structure. Pereira is from Newark, N.J.

Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis
Staff Writer

The recruits of Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, tightened their bonds with one another and became a team that would conquer the culminating event of recruit training – the Crucible.

The recruits have learned much about each other during the previous 12 weeks on Parris Island. June 14 marked the day they would begin their journey that would test their cohesion not only as recruits, but also as sisters who would soon earn their place in the Corps.

The Crucible is meant to test their teamwork, said Sgt. Alicia Roseman, a drill instructor for Platoon 4017.

They had worked together to get to that point.

The start of recruit training posed a challenge for recruits. They came from unique backgrounds and were forced to live and work together.

“In the beginning, no one really knew how to act around each other,” said Pvt. Amber Flippo, 20, of Platoon 4017, from Palm Bay, Fla. “It was chaos.”

Recruits encounter many challenges and are put under stress throughout training. Often times, they gravitate toward each other for comfort and support, building a strong and trusting bond between them.

“We’re the only ones that can re-

SEE BONDS PAGE 5

Delta Company takes the plunge

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Recruits from Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, jumped feet first into the amphibious role of the Marine Corps in the recruit training pool April 24.

After World War II, recruits were taught basic water survival to lower deaths from drowning. Since then, water survival has been a graduation requirement.

Recruits must pass five different tests before they are qualified in basic water survival.

“Everyone is born with the natural instinct to swim,” said Staff Sgt. David Perry, a swimming instructor at the training pool.

However, that natural instinct can be buried by fear. It is up to the swim instructors to help recruits overcome that anxiety by giving the recruits classes before entering the water.

“The difficult part is building a recruit’s confidence in the water,” said Perry, 29, from Hulbert, Okla.

Recruits must swim 25-yards in four feet of water. This is so the swim instructors can evaluate which recruits will need remediation before they continue with the rest of their training.

This helps the recruits build their skills under the instructor’s guidance

One such recruit was Pvt. Jayme Kelliher, 19, of Platoon 1041.

“I was nervous when we got

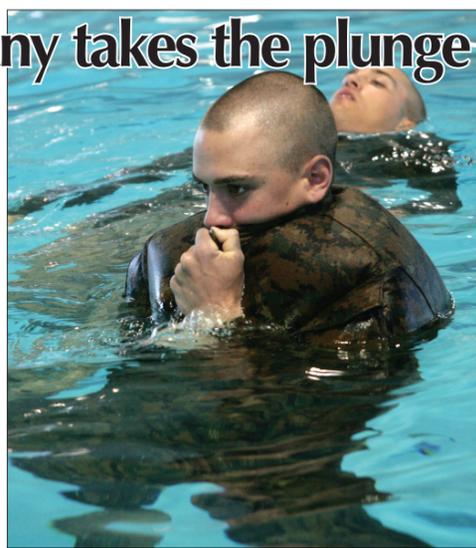


Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Daniel Monroe, 20, from Platoon 1044, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, inflates his blouse to stay afloat during swim training at the recruit training pool April 24.

to the [jump], it seems so much higher once you’re up there,” he said. “I felt more confident after jumping into the water.”

Even though Kelliher was nervous about the tower, he was an adept swimmer.

“I’ve always been good at swimming,” Kelliher said. “However, I never knew there were so many techniques to stay floating.”

To pass, recruits must be able to swim 25-yards with a loaded backpack, demonstrate how to abandon ship and remove their Kevlar, flak vest and rifle while underwater.

“Marines have died in war because they couldn’t remove their gear in time,” Perry said. “They were too weighed down wearing 80 pounds of equipment and were unable to get it off in time.”

What the recruits learn here is more than just getting comfortable in the water—they learn basic water survival techniques to take the fight to the enemy from the water to the shores of the world.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Page 7

Delta Company throws down



Page 3

Recruits find their way in land navigation training



Marines remember fallen from Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan

Page 6

DELTA & PAPA COMPANIES GRADUATES

Delta Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. T. D. Red, Perry, Ga.
Platoon 1040, Red was recruited by
Sgt. Dunlap and trained by Staff Sgt. Herrera

Pfc. A. J. Pecorella, Orlanda, Fla.
Platoon 1041, Pecorella was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Adams and trained by Staff Sgt. Lowe

Pfc. J. J. Brennan, Lauderhill, Fla.
Platoon 1042, Brennan was recruited by
Sgt. Burgess and trained by Staff Sgt. Collier

Pfc. J. Valle, Wilmington, Del.
Platoon 1044, Valle was recruited by
Sgt. Lobo and trained by Staff Sgt. Broc

Pfc. K. E. King, Westerville, Ohio.
Platoon 1045, King was recruited by
Sgt. Baker and trained by Sgt. Daniels

Papa Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. J. L. Morford, Omaha, Neb.
Platoon 4016, Morford was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Estrada and trained by Staff Sgt. Zamora

Pfc. L. E. Ferguson, Seal Beach, Calif.
Platoon 4017, Ferguson was recruited by
Sgt. Cruz and trained by Sgt. Wassink

Platoon 1040 Pvt. N. R. Adkins, Pvt. A. C. Albertson, Pvt. R. C. Almazan, Pfc. G. D. Ardister Jr., Pvt. J. E. Backus, Pvt. J. C. Bates, Pvt. J. A. Beebe, Pvt. L. D. Black, Pvt. J. C. Bourque IV, Pfc. T. S. Boutwell, Pvt. D. B. Bowyer, Pvt. J. A. Busey, Pvt. J. C. Casey, Pvt. D. W. Cereske, Pvt. E. C. Cortes, Pvt. J. O. Derricotte, Pfc. C. L. Dilday, Pfc. A. A. Erickson, Pvt. C. Evrendilek, Pvt. J. A. Ferrell, Pvt. M. H. Fiala, Pvt. D. C. Gantt, Pvt. L. R. Gottfay, Pfc. S. N. Grizzle, Pvt. D. M. Haire, Pfc. V. N. Higginstalley, Pfc. M. W. Huskey, Pfc. N. A. James, Pvt. B. S. Jessup, Pvt. K. L. Leathers, Pvt. E. J. Lleras, Pfc. K. D. Malone, Pvt. S. M. Martin, Pvt. N. M. May, Pvt. A. D. McKenzie, Pvt. W. D. Melton, Pfc. M. S. Nesbitt, Pfc. M. A. Nissly, Pfc. B. M. Pigg, Pvt. G. M. Potter, Pfc. T. D. Red, Pfc. C. A. Rodriguezdelgado, Pfc. J. E. Self, Pfc. T. R. Siegel, Pvt. C. R. Smith, Pvt. M. D. Stagmer, Pvt. S. A. Sturdevant, Pvt. G. M. Taylor, Pvt. A. A. Uribe, Pvt. D. R. Walker, Pvt. A. B. Wileyboyce, Pfc. B. M. Wynn, Pvt. A. R. Young

Platoon 1041 Pvt. J. A. Alemany, Pfc. M. A. Angelo, Pvt. D. A. Armstrong, Pfc. R. N. Bast, Pvt. C. A. Bolick, Pvt. J. C. Bolton, Pvt. R. J. Boyd, Pfc. J. S. Bradshaw, Pvt. J. D. Brown, Pvt. T. W. Campbell, Pfc. A. J. Corbin, Pvt. A. W. Cortez, Pvt. B. B. Crisman, Pfc. T. R. Davis II, Pvt. D. H. Diehl, Pvt. R. Espinoza, Pvt. K. A. Floyd, Pvt. J. R. Ford, Pfc. T. J. Gaither, Pfc. J. O. Griffin, Pfc. D. Guadalupe, Pvt. J. R. Hehl, Pfc. J. W. Hunsaker, Pvt. J. P. Iverson, Pfc. R. A. Jackson, Pvt. S. J. Joyce, Pvt. B. T. Kelley, Pvt. J. P. Kelliher, Pvt. L. A. Knadler, Pfc. H. T. Kriberscheck, Pfc. D. J. Letendre, Pfc. Z. S. Louie, Pfc. C. B. Mayo, Pvt. S. A. McLellan, Pvt. T. M. McVoy, Pvt. C. L. Packard IV, Pfc. A. J. Pecorella, Pfc. J. A. Perkins, Pfc. R. S. Phillips, Pfc. J. D. Porter, Pfc. E. T. Powell, Pvt. J. F. Renfroe, Pvt. N. B. Robinson, Pvt. R. Serran, Pvt. T. A. Selila, Pvt. B. R. Vance, Pfc. B. J. Vohlers, Pfc. J. J. West, Pvt. S. E. Widdecomb III, Pvt. E. O. Williams II, Pvt. J. L. Wurtsmith

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DELTA COMPANY FINDS ITS WAY

Photos by Pfc. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Tyler Schmid, from Platoon 1042, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, uses a compass during land navigation at Elliot's Beach on Parris Island on May 30. Schmid, 19, of Lancaster, Pa., and other recruits learn how to plot grid points and get to their desired destinations without the use of electronic technology.

Pfc. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Every step through the maze of trees, brush and spider webs at Elliot's Beach brought the recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, a bit closer to their graduation as they practiced land navigation skills on May 30.

Although it does not require speed and intensity like the o-courses and confidence course, land navigation requires something else from recruits – mental fortitude and confidence in one's self. Recruits must be able to think quickly, plot their own points on a map and perform as a unit.

Plotting points is a simple concept using a pen to make a dot on a map. It is marking their desired destination by working with the latitude and longitude grids on a map.

Land navigation teaches recruits to rely on themselves to get from one place to another without getting lost, said Cpl. Christopher Ziegler, a land navigation instructor. Unlike a GPS, these skills only require the proper gear. No batteries or reception are needed.

"It's pretty neat to learn," said Rct. Damien McAdams, 23, of Louisville, Ky., Platoon 1045. "I've never been put in a position to use these tools."

However, the recruits also learned that land navigation was not an easy skill to master, even with the right tools.

Before recruits begin the land navigation exercise, they are taught the basic fundamentals during a four-hour class. Recruits learned everything from how to read a map to using a compass.

The recruits are split

into four-person fire teams. Each team is given a paper with three points they have to plot. The recruits must find their way through the wooded area to the points, which are marked by brightly colored boxes.

The hardest part was navigating through the woods to find the points, said Rct. Raphael Figueredo, Platoon 1042.

Many recruits had to return to their starting points after realizing they were lost. When lining up the compass with their azimuths, one misstep to the left or right can lead a recruit far from their marked box.

Delta Company recruits worked together to complete the mission. They had learned the fundamentals of land navigation, a skill that will be built upon not only during their Marine Combat Training, but the rest of



From left, Rct. Chris Nhem, 19, of Boston, Rct. Robert Oliano, 23, of Wallingford, Conn., Rct. Raphael Figueredo, 23, of Miami, Fla., and Rct. Tyler Schmid, 19, of Lancaster, Pa., from Platoon 1042, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, work together during their land navigation exercise at Elliot's Beach on May 30. Recruits discuss their plots when unsure of which direction to go.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Recruits of Platoon 1045, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practice their newfound skills about the fundamentals of marksmanship at the Parris Island ranges May 9. Recruits spend a week practicing how to correctly fire their rifles before ever firing a shot.

Delta, Papa Companies sight in at rifle range



Cpl. Justin Zaelke, a primary marksmanship instructor, assists Rct. Stephen Mohammed of Platoon 1045, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, in adjusting his sights for proper alignment. Mohammed is from Orlando, Fla.

Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis
Staff Writer

The recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, and Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, put their eyes on the target during their sixth week of training from May 7-12, as they learned the basics of Marine Corps marksmanship.

Primary marksmanship instructors are the recruits' teachers of the fundamentals of shooting. They spend nearly a week educating the recruits about marksmanship and equipping them with the skills they will need to meet the shooting standards of the Marine Corps.

PMIs train all recruits to be Marine Corps riflemen, said Sgt. David Gring, a primary marksmanship instructor. No Marine is exempt from being required to know

how to handle a rifle.

The recruits sat in the classroom flipping through pages of their rifle manuals learning the formulas of an accurate shot.

The lessons the instructors teach are necessary for a good shot, said Rct. Lauren Ferguson, 18, of Platoon 4017, and a native of Seal Beach, Calif.

The recruits went to an open, grassy field where they would practice aiming their weapons in each of the firing positions – standing, kneeling, sitting and prone. They slung their rifles and lined up in an L-shape around a white barrel covered in small targets.

Each recruit pointed his or her rifle at the barrel and looked through the sights to ensure they were aiming correctly at their targets.

Recruits spend a full week practicing aiming techniques with

their rifles, Gring said. It gives them a better chance of performing to their full potential when they qualify on the range.

The indoor simulated marksmanship trainer was also part of the recruits' training.

"This provides a tool to teach recruits the fundamentals," Gring said.

Recruits fired modified rifles at targets on a projector screen. The screen would then display where the recruits shot on the target. This way, the recruits were able to understand their shooting accuracy and make the needed adjustments for a better shot.

Roughly 46 hours are put into marksmanship during recruit training, Gring added. It ensures that every Marine possesses the skills to execute overseas missions and maintains the nation's readiness.





Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Abbie Leibold, 19, of Platoon 4017, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, waits on the first beam of the Workman's Weaver for her fellow recruits to give her the command to pass her rifle over the structure. She and the recruits of her team tackled this obstacle on the first day of their Crucible on June 14 at Parris Island's Page Field.

BONDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

late to each other, so that brings us closer together," said Pfc. Lisa Danback, 22, of Platoon 4016, and a native of De Soto, Mo.

The recruits tackle several different obstacles on the Crucible that they must complete as a team. They designate members of their group to perform certain tasks in order to accomplish their

missions.

"By knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses, we know who can do what and how they can contribute to a certain event," Flippo said.

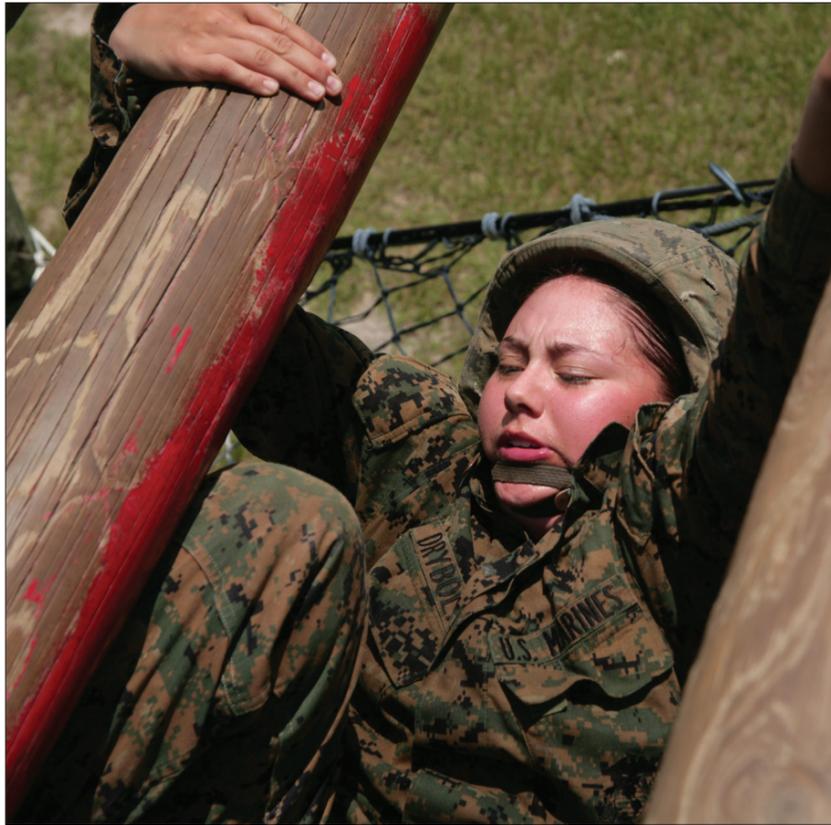
Each event of the Crucible was made easier by the recruits' cooperation with one another, Flippo added.

The recruits approached each event as a unit. On the Workman's Weaver, a hill-like structure of logs, recruits must climb and

transport all of their gear from one side to the other. The recruits collaborated their skills to complete the job.

"We work for each other," said Pfc. Lydia Reyes-Hernandez, 19, of Platoon 4017 and a native of Edison, N.J. "Each one of us plays a big role."

The recruits of Papa Company united as a team, and led each other through the Crucible. Today, they graduate as U.S. Marines.



Rct. Emily Drybola, 19, of Platoon 4017, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, pulls herself up between two logs of the Workman's Weaver event of the Crucible at Page Field on Parris Island on June 14. Drybola is from Burleson, Texas.





Photo by Cpl. Chelsea Flowers

Lance Cpl. Robert A. Smith III, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, and a native of Buffalo, N.Y., walks his post at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Voinovich Park in Cleveland June 12. The traveling wall, which lists the names of those fallen in the Vietnam War, was erected during Marine Week Cleveland and is the site of a wreath-laying ceremony by a gold star family member, which is a relative of a Marine who died in war.

Marines remember fallen from Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan



Photo by Cpl. Marcin Platek

A Cleveland native makes a rubbing of his friend's name written on the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall at Voinovich Park on June 12. Voinovich Park is one of the sites of displays available to the public during the Marine Week Cleveland. Along with the wall, Marine Corps vehicles, aircraft and equipment were available for viewing at Public Square, Voinovich Park, Gateway Plaza and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Marine Week Cleveland celebrated community, country and the Corps.

Cpl. Chelsea Flowers
Defense Media Activity

CLEVELAND – A somber crowd gathered in front of the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Voinovich Park for a wreath-laying ceremony during Marine Week Cleveland June 12.

Although the wall lists the names of the fallen from the conflict in Vietnam, the service also commemorated those who paid the ultimate price more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We’ve been out here 14 hours a day doing this and still every ceremony we do is very emotional,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Drake, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Marine Week honor guard at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall.

During the ceremony, which will take place daily throughout Marine Week, a gold star family member, which is a rela-

tive of a Marine who died in war, lays the wreath at the foot of the flagpole in front of the wall.

Sandra Mendez-Ruiz placed the wreath to honor the life and sacrifice of her nephew, Lance Cpl. David Alberto Mendez, who was killed in Iraq six years ago.

“I lost David, but I gained a family,” Ruiz said. “What I’ve learned in the past six and a half years is that the Marine Corps is a family – it’s a bond unlike any other. It doesn’t just include the Marines, it includes the family of those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

That family loyalty was plainly seen through the Marine sentries who walk daily in front of the wall from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Marine veteran who are now Cleveland police officers volunteered to stand guard for the evening hours to honor their fallen brothers.

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Taylor, with 3rd Battalion,

25th Marine Regiment, and native of Northampton, England, was one of the Marines chosen to serve hourly shifts as a sentry.

“It’s hot, and it can get pretty miserable, but it’s a feeling you can’t really describe,” Taylor said about standing guard. “It’s humbling to say the least.”

Ceremonies like the wreath laying are just one way Marines and gold star families alike are doing their best to keep the memories of their fallen brothers and sisters alive.

“We’re just a continuation,” Taylor said. “It’s an ongoing thing. It’s nice to know that when I’m gone, there will be more Marines who will remember me and so on and so on.”

As the wreath was placed in front of the wall, the fallen from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan joined their fallen brothers from past conflicts in American history. Although they may be gone, they are never forgotten.



Photo by Cpl. Chelsea Flowers

A Marine Corps bugler plays taps while Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Corps Forces Reserve and Marine Corps Forces North, salutes alongside Sandra Mendez-Ruiz, a relative of a Marine who died in the Vietnam War, during the wreath-laying ceremony in front of the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall at Voinovich Park in Cleveland on June 12.

DELTA COMPANY FIGHTS THROUGH



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Eric Williams, 19, of Platoon 1041, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, prepares to throw a punch during Marine Corps martial arts training at a physical training field on Parris Island on April 18. Williams is from Tampa Bay, Fla.

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

The recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, powered through part of the way Marine Corps martial arts training on Parris Island on April 18.

Recruits learned strikes, chokeholds and joint manipulations as part of the tan-belt martial arts training required for graduation.

The purpose of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is to teach basic self-defense, said Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Justice, 31, a martial

arts instructor at Leatherneck Square. Sometimes, given the right situation, a person may need to contain an aggressive individual.

Recruits learned counterstrikes and chokeholds to defend themselves.

“Counters and manipulations are important because they allow you to detain an opponent in a bad situation before it gets out of hand,” said Justice.

For some recruits, MC-MAP is more of a means to defend and protect the ones they care about.

“Everything the recruits are taught revolves

around the combat mindset,” said Justice, a native of Coshocton, Ohio. “We teach them to be ready for anything.”

Recruits were partnered up and practiced the moves on each other after learning the proper technique from the instructor.

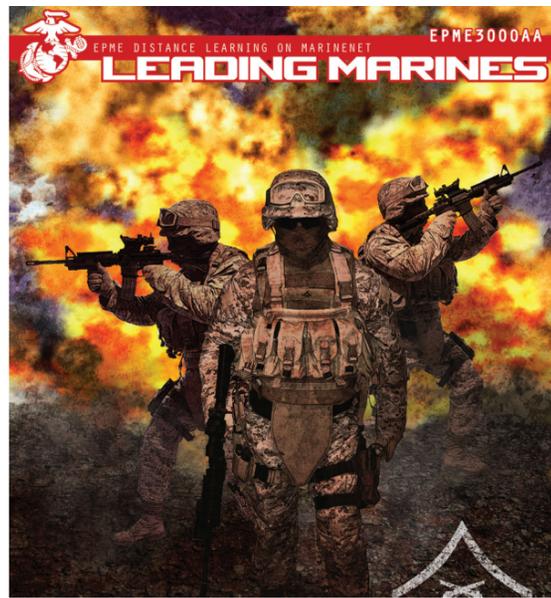
“We pit them against one another so they learn what it’s like to take a punch, a kick or an elbow. When a situation occurs when they have to defend themselves, they won’t be afraid to strike back,” Justice said.

One technique recruits learned was how

to dodge and counter a punch. A recruit would step to the side when attacked, then strike the attacker’s arm with his forearm to knock his opponent off balance. As he staggered, the defending recruit delivers a devastating strike to subdue the enemy.

However, recruits are also taught that not every confrontation deems the use of extreme force.

“In MCMAP, we teach why and when we should fight because not every situation demands an aggressive response. Sometimes it’s better to just detain an opponent,” said Justice.



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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-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7:30AM-4PMDouglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (9AM-11:30AM)
Graduation Station (8AM-4PM)
- 9AM-4PMFamily 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
- LUNCHTraditions (Officer/SNCO Club), Food Court, Subway, Golf Course, Back Yard Burgers
- 1:30PM-3:30PMFamily Orientation Brief at the Lyceum
- 5PM-8PMSteak Night at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club).
Reservations required

Thursday

Welcome to Family Liberty Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-4PMDouglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (6AM-2PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-4PM)
- 6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7AMMotivational Run - Peatross Parade Deck
- 8AMDepot Museum Opens
- 8:15AMAll Weather Training Facility (AWTF) Opens
- 9:30AM-10AM.....Battalion Commander's Brief to Families & Liberty Ceremony (AWTF)
- 10AM-2PMMarksmanship Training Unit Open House
- 10AMLiberty Begins
- 10:30AM-1PM.....Family Day Buffet at the Lyceum - new Marines eat for free!
- 2PMWarrior's Prayer at the Recruit Chapel
- 3PMLiberty Ends
- 3PM-4PMMarine Corps 101 at Douglas Visitors' Center
- 5PMMeet & Greet with Depot Command at Traditions Lounge
- 5:30PMWelcome from the Command
- 5:45PMFamily Day Dinner with Depot Command at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)
Advance reservations guarantee admittance

Friday

Welcome to Graduation Day at Parris Island

- 6AM-2PMDouglas Visitors' Center open
Java Café (6AM-12PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-12PM)
- 6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
- 6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
- 7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
- 7:45AMMorning Colors at Barrow Hall
- 9AM-10AMGraduation at Peatross Parade Deck (weather permitting)
- 11AM-1PMLunch Buffet at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

