

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

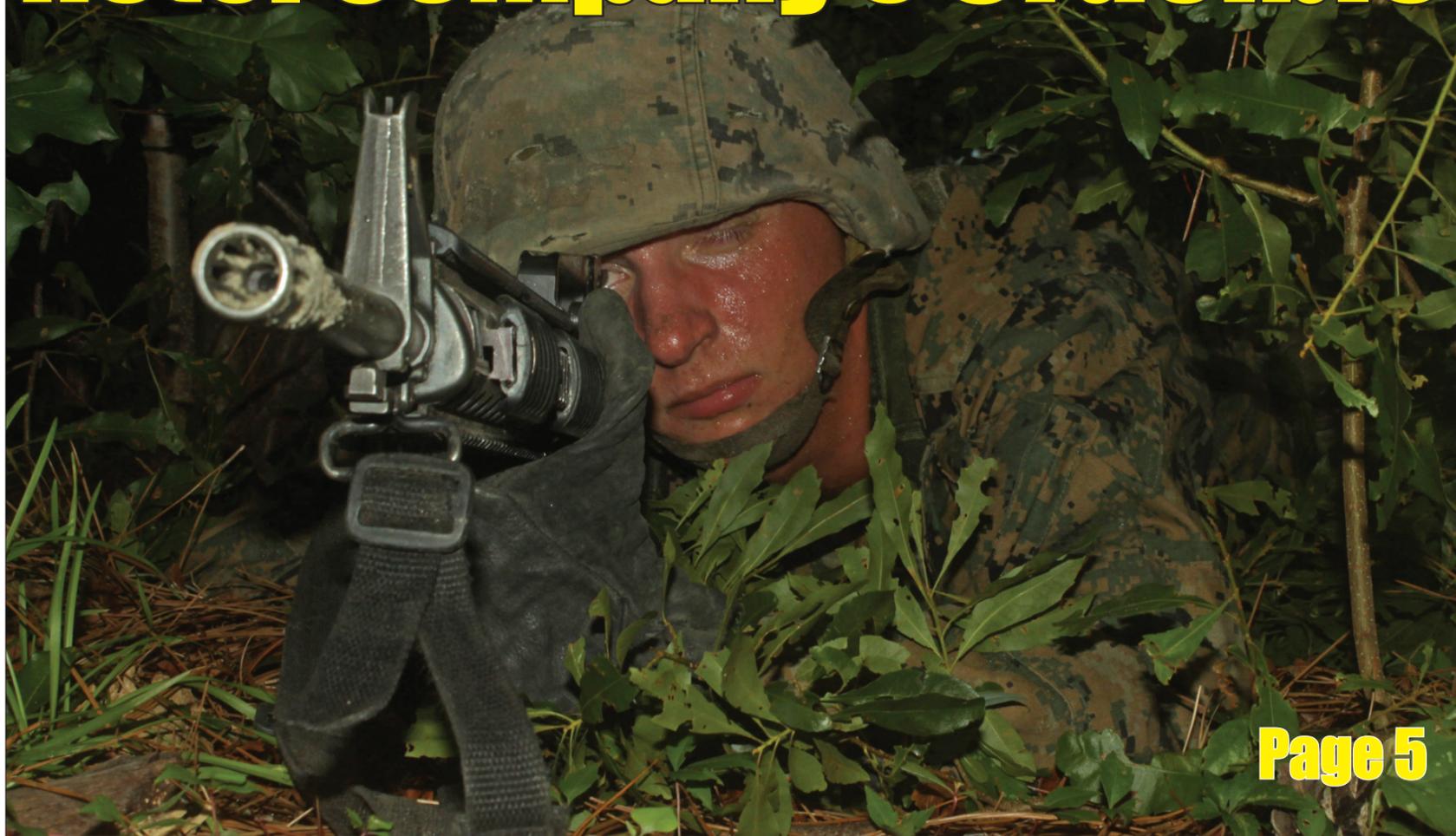


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Hotel Company's Crucible



Page 5

Photo by Sgt. Jon Holmes

Rct. Dillon Roberts, 18, from Platoon 2048, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, lies in a concealed position while waiting for his fire team to move toward the next portion of the Battle of Fallujah event at the Crucible on Parris Island on June 22. Roberts is from Princeton, W.Va.



MARINE JOINS TO SUPPORT FAMILY

Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Angel Erazo, 20, Platoon 2050, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, joined the Corps to help provide for his family.

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Pvt. Angel Erazo, 20, will walk across the Peatross Parade Deck today not just a new Marine, but a new man.

For Erazo, with Platoon 2050, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, love for his family and his mother was all he needed to join the Marine Corps' brotherhood.

Erazo was born in California and is the second oldest of his five other siblings consisting of two brothers and three sisters. By the age of 11, his family moved to Utica, Mich., where he remained prior to joining the military.

His mother, Silvia Perez, provided everything for his family, he said.

When he was 15, Erazo got a job in roofing for \$19 an hour. He worked in

the business for four years. However, he had to choose between working full time or staying in school.

"I wanted to drop out of high school to help out my family full time, but my mom refused to let me do it," Erazo said. "She told me I needed to stay and make something of myself."

Erazo said he was always physically strong, but struggled academically in school.

His mother's perseverance pushed him to graduate with a diploma, Erazo said.

"I have to be strong for him, and he looks to me for that strength," said Perez.

When he graduated with a diploma in hand Erazo planned to join the Army

SEE FAMILY PAGE 7

HOTEL COMPANY THROWS DOWN

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, tested for their tan belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program at Leatherneck Square on May 4.

MCMAP forms the foun-

ation of every basically trained Marine, said Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Justice, 31, a martial arts instructor at Leatherneck Square, Parris Island. It teaches recruits the warrior ethos and the importance of mental, physical and character disciplines.

The mental discipline

consists of warrior studies, where recruits learn the tactics and culture of past warrior societies.

The program began in 2001 to train Marines in unarmed combat, edged weapons and rifle and bayonet techniques. MCMAP also teaches the impor-

SEE THROWS PAGE 4



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, perform a butt-stroke with their rifles during their Marine Corps martial arts evaluation at Leatherneck Square on Parris Island on May 4.

Depot to hold July Fourth blast

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Staff Writer

Parris Island is scheduled to host its annual Independence Day event and fireworks display July 4 at the Peatross Parade Deck from 6:30-10 p.m.

The Fourth of July celebration is free and open to the general public.

The Parris Island Marine Band is scheduled to perform a mix of patri-

otic to popular music from 6:30-9:15 p.m. Following the band's performance, a fireworks display will start at approximately 9:15 p.m. and conclude by 10 p.m.

The Parris Island Historical and Museum Society will also present a living history display with volunteers wearing period Marine Corps

SEE JULY PAGE 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



HOTEL COMPANY GRADUATES

Honor Graduates

Pfc. J. S. Gogan, Statesville, N.C.
Platoon 2048, Gogan was recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. Lavador and trained by Sgt. Martinez

Pfc. T. D. Hunter, Emmet, Mich.
Platoon 2049, Hunter was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Lovy and trained by Staff Sgt. Sanders

Pfc. K. B. Delehanty, Postsdam, Ohio
Platoon 2050, Delehanty was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Polt and trained by Staff Sgt. McCord

Pfc. B. D. Thoreson, Novelty, Ohio
Platoon 2052, Thoreson was recruited by
Sgt. Wilson and trained by Sgt. Wollin

Pfc. J. M. Chermak, Huntington, N.Y.
Platoon 2053, Chermak was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Reschke and trained by Staff Sgt. Woods

Platoon 2048 Pvt. L. J. Baker, Pfc. A. J. Barber, Pvt. A. B. Bieber, Pvt. J. E. Callahan, Pvt. D. T. Cohen, Pvt. S. M. Day, Pfc. M. A. Dennis, Pvt. M. R. Ekhlhas, Pvt. J. S. Ellis, Pfc. D. M. Fairchild, Pfc. T. J. Fuller, Pfc. J. S. Gogan, Pfc. J. K. Graham III, Pvt. C. F. Greco, Pfc. J. A. Jenkins, Pfc. J. W. Kingston, Pvt. D. J. Lapointe, Pvt. A. S. Lewis, Pvt. J. Z. Lewis, Pvt. A. Luvianosanchez, Pvt. M. C. Marlett, Pfc. C. A. Martin, Pfc. R. Martinez Jr., Pvt. M. D. Mialki, Pvt. J. L. Mohler, Pvt. B. R. Ownbey, Pfc. D. L. Parlier, Pfc. A. Pech, Pvt. Z. D. Peeler, Pvt. L. R. Phillips, Pvt. R. O. Rivers, Pvt. D. R. Roberts, Pfc. M. Rodriguezsegura, Pfc. B. N. Shermer, Pvt. W. A. Sisco, Pvt. M. H. Sisson, Pfc. A. K. Slone, Pvt. B. O. Smith, Pvt. J. A. Teague, Pvt. C. T. Tinch, Pfc. S. P. Tolle, Pfc. J. D. Tumlin, Pfc. N. Vu, Pvt. C. J. Welch

Platoon 2049 Pvt. L. O. Abdelaziz, Pfc. J. B. Box, Pfc. J. A. Brown, Pvt. J. F. Byers IV, Pvt. M. D. Bers, Pvt. C. T. Capela, Pvt. D. R. Christensen, Pvt. D. F. Clark, Pfc. S. S. Covell, Pfc. J. D. Delehanty, Pvt. J. M. Duran, Pvt. A. G. Figurell, Pfc. D. O. Flores, Pfc. M. S. Glow, Pvt. J. C. Goodrich, Pfc. D. A. Gurunian, Pfc. A. D. Hall, Pvt. J. R. Hartup, Pvt. C. C. Hertlein, Pfc. T. D. Hunter, Pvt. D. O. Huntley, Pfc. R. D. Johnson, Pvt. P. A. Kabatt II, Pvt. B. M. Kaul, Pfc. J. B. Khan, Pvt. W. D. Kidwell, Pvt. D. Luce, Pfc. J. R. McDonald, Pfc. K. M. Millard, Pfc. D. D. Mitchell, Pvt. J. D. Neville, Pvt. A. Nuccio, Pvt. B. A. Phipps, Pvt. M. W. Poole, Pvt. D. L. Radloff, Pfc. J. A. Ruddyaklin, Pfc. C. K. Ryder, Pvt. J. D. Sandman, Pfc. K. F. Schick, Pfc. L. A. Simpson, Pfc. K. G. Swartz, Pvt. A. F. Troisi, Pvt. K. J. Zannithatch

Platoon 2050 Pvt. J. S. Beard, Pfc. K. J. Berbach Jr., Pvt. S. L. Berry, Pvt. K. A. Bezier, Pfc. D. C. Boti, Pvt. T. C. Coumbe Jr., Pvt. V. R. Cummings, Pvt. K. J. DeJesusmaymi, Pfc. K. B. Delehanty, Pfc. M. F. Delorme, Pfc. J. W. Dutton, Pvt. S. A. Ely, Pvt. A. S. Erazo, Pvt. T. J. Fortin, Pvt. K. D. Hamons, Pvt. T. M. Helton, Pvt. P. D. Honore, Pfc. Z. D. Joaquin, Pvt. T. E. King, Pvt. G. R. Krause, Pfc. T. D. McDowell III, Pvt. D. Meneses, Pfc. B. S. Minge, Pfc. G. M. Mitchell, Pfc. J. K. Moan, Pfc. M. P. Murphy, Pfc. F. Natal Jr., Pfc. R. D. Newton, Pvt. G. P. Nicely, Pfc. J. A. Normandia, Pvt. J. M. Oneal, Pvt. B. Paiba, Pvt. J. M. Parrish, Pfc. R. C. Peters, Pvt. R. Reyes, Pfc. K. P. Schroeder, Pfc. A. J. Serrata, Pfc. B. A. Serratotroche, Pvt. D. S. Shropshire, Pfc. K. W. Torresos, Pvt. R. J. Voelker III, Pvt. M. A. Wagner

Platoon 2052 Pvt. T. C. Andrejak III, Pvt. N. H. Ballinger, Pvt. G. R. Baltodano, Pfc. R. P. Baxter, Pfc. S. Bou, Pfc. L. J. Bourgeois III, Pvt. H. A. Brothers, Pfc. J. H. Bryant III, Pfc. J. Camacho, Pvt. D. Canela, Pfc. C. T. Conway, Pvt. J. T. Crissman, Pfc. T. J. Difrancesco II, Pvt. H. A. Fairbairn, Pfc. L. E. Farmer Jr., Pvt. D. L. Galka, Pfc. M. P. Harrigan, Pfc. D. E. Harrison, Pvt. C. J. Housel, Pvt. G. B. Hurt Jr., Pfc. B. T. James, Pfc. B. J. Kensey, Pfc. G. E. Lopezortiz, Pfc. C. T. Mansfield, Pfc. G. M. Masters, Pvt. D. J. Mathis, Pfc. C. A. Ofori, Pvt. M. J. Peralta, Pvt. T. J. Perry, Pvt. R. K. Reed III, Pvt. J. J. Revels, Pfc. I. E. Rodriguezfradera, Pfc. D. M. Rogers, Pfc. D. A. Russell, Pfc. N. J. Sandelier, Pfc. J. M. Siebold, Pvt. D. R. Spangler, Pvt. J. A. Spilar, Pfc. B. D. Thoreson, Pfc. J. S. White, Pfc. J. A. Willard

Platoon 2053 Pvt. S. M. Alvarez, Pfc. R. J. Anderson Jr., Pvt. P. J. Atkinson, Pfc. J. L. Bennett, Pfc. A. A. Berkowitz, Pvt. A. K. Bogdanich, Pfc. R. C. Burns, Pfc. N. Carranza, Pfc. J. M. Chermak, Pvt. L. W. Deal, Pfc. T. A. Durkalski, Pvt. P. J. Ervin, Pvt. R. E. Fisher III, Pvt. D. Garcia, Pfc. M. A. Gunsalus, Pfc. B. S. Hernandez, Pvt. D. T. Huntoon, Pvt. B. G. Keller, Pvt. P. O. Kryukov, Pfc. B. A. Lichtenstein, Pvt. E. A. Lomba, Pfc. J. M. Lombardi, Pfc. D. R. MacDowell, Pfc. A. M. Marshall, Pfc. C. E. Moon, Pvt. T. J. Moon, Pvt. E. I. Morales, Pvt. T. V. Nguyen, Pvt. B. J. O'Connor, Pvt. S. J. Pabon, Pvt. A. Penabonilla, Pvt. C. J. Simpson, Pfc. D. Singh, Pvt. K. A. Smith Jr., Pvt. A. R. Smith, Pvt. C. A. Smith, Pvt. B. A. Syphrett, Pvt. J. K. Taylor Jr., Pfc. M. R. Tobias, Pfc. T. J. Tutera, Pvt. K. C. Urenarodriguez, Pfc. N. N. Valentin, Pfc. R. G. Veras, Pfc. R. A. Whittle, Pfc. A. M. Wiedemann

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Photos by Sgt. Jon Holmes

Rct. Angel Erazo, 20, from Platoon 2050, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, lies in position while waiting for the instructor's command to begin the day movement course during their Basic Warrior Training at Parris Island on June 4.

HOTEL COMPANY RECRUITS BECOME TRAINED WARRIORS

Pfc. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, learned to put their fellow recruits before their own mental and physical comfort during the day movement course at Page Field on June 4.

The 300-yard-long course, which is designed to make the recruits work as a team, began with a simple word – rush.

The recruits made their way in pairs across the wet sand, dropping behind any protection they could find. As one recruit continued forward, another guarded him.

“In this course, you have to see it as real,” said Pvt. Steven Ely, Platoon 2050. “How fast you move, how loud you scream determine that kid’s life beside you. This day changed my attitude

toward boot camp.”

Communication was essential. Without it, the recruits failed to work as a team. The drill instructors made sure those who did not work together received extra practice by having them restart the course. Some recruits learned this the hard way.

“I felt that every time he told me to get up and do it again, I could do better each time,” said Pfc. Lionel Bourgeois, a 26-year-old from Gautier, Miss., of Platoon 2052. “I could push myself a little bit harder and not give up.”

The recruits quickly learned that they could not get through the course alone. Even physical fitness could not compensate for teamwork.

“Everyone thinks they are going to fly through this course, but you definitely can’t be cocky on

this course,” said Ely, a 20-year-old from Alexandria, Va., “It doesn’t matter how in shape you are. This course will break you down.”

The purpose of the course is to teach recruits how to overcome different obstacles as a team so they can destroy the enemy, said Sgt. Robbie Payne, an instructor for the course, and a 26-year-old from Danville, Va.

Physically exhausted and mentally spent, recruits pushed their way through the course knowing they could not stop, no matter what stood before them, until the mission was accomplished.

These recruits displayed their will to never quit and their determination to push forward at all cost, qualities that will benefit them throughout their Marine Corps career.



Rct. Nicholas Valentin, Platoon 2053, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, makes his way swiftly across the balancing log during the day movement course of Basic Warrior Training at Parris Island on June 4. Valentin, 20, from Brooklyn, N.Y., graduates today.



Rct. Micah Sisson, Platoon 2048, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, watches for “enemies” while his buddy, a fellow recruit, navigates through the day movement course, a part of Basic Warrior Training, at Page Field on June 4. Basic Warrior Training is one of the first times recruits are evaluated on their combat skills while at Parris Island. Sisson, 21, from Conwood, S.C.



Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Recruits from Platoon 2052, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, demonstrate the basic warrior stance during their Marine Corps martial arts evaluation at Leatherneck Square on Parris Island on May 4.



Rct. Gregory Hurt, 19, from Platoon 2052, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, simulates a bayonet thrust with his rifle during his Marine Corps martial arts evaluation at Leatherneck Square on Parris Island on May 4.



Rct. Casey Mansfield, 20, from Platoon 2052, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, sweeps the leg of Rct. Gregory Hurt, 19, of Platoon 2052 during his Marine Corps martial arts evaluation at Leatherneck Square on Parris Island on May 4.

THROWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tance of character development, responsible use of force and leadership.

Only a third of MCMAP falls under physical discipline. This discipline includes fighting techniques, sustaining skills, strength and endurance.

Character discipline involves the Marine Corps' core values, ethics and the importance of being more than a Marine, but a good citizen.

Recruits complete more than 27 hours of MCMAP training before they test for their tan belts, the lowest level all Marines must earn.

The evaluation is one of the mandatory tests in training and is supervised by the martial arts instructors who taught the recruits over the past 23 days.

"We only teach the basics to recruits here," said Sgt. Dana Hiline, 25, a martial arts instructor at Leatherneck Square. "This is only the beginning level of MCMAP."

Recruits were tested on upper and lower body strikes, counters, chokes, joint manipulations and bayonet and knife techniques.

"The hardest part was remembering all the moves," said Pfc. Larry Farmer, 21, Platoon 2052, and a native from Lagrange, Ky.

After earning the tan belt, they will get chances to advance through the gray, green, brown and black belts later in their Marine Corps career. Each level comes with more difficult techniques and more responsibility.

What the recruits have done here has opened doors to them in the Marine Corps when they leave recruit training, said Hiline.

"I don't want to stop improving myself," said Pvt. Gregory Hurt, 19, from Platoon 2052 and a native of Cape Coral, Fla. "I want to keep getting better and further my advancement in MCMAP."



Photos by Sgt. Jon Holmes

Rct. Spencer Tolle, 20, Platoon 2048, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, helps Rct. Mateo Rodriguezsegura, 21, over the first bar of the obstacle course during the Dunham's Defense event on the Crucible at Parris Island on June 22. Tolle is from Statesville, N.C. Rodriguezsegura is from Marietta, Ga.

Trial by fire

Hotel Company overcomes final challenge

Sgt. Jon M. Holmes
Press Chief

Today, the members of hotel company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, graduate as Marines.

However, it was only seven days ago

when they began what would be the most physically demanding and mentally challenging part of recruit training — The Crucible.

See the photos that show these new Marines' last challenge before earning the coveted title Marine.

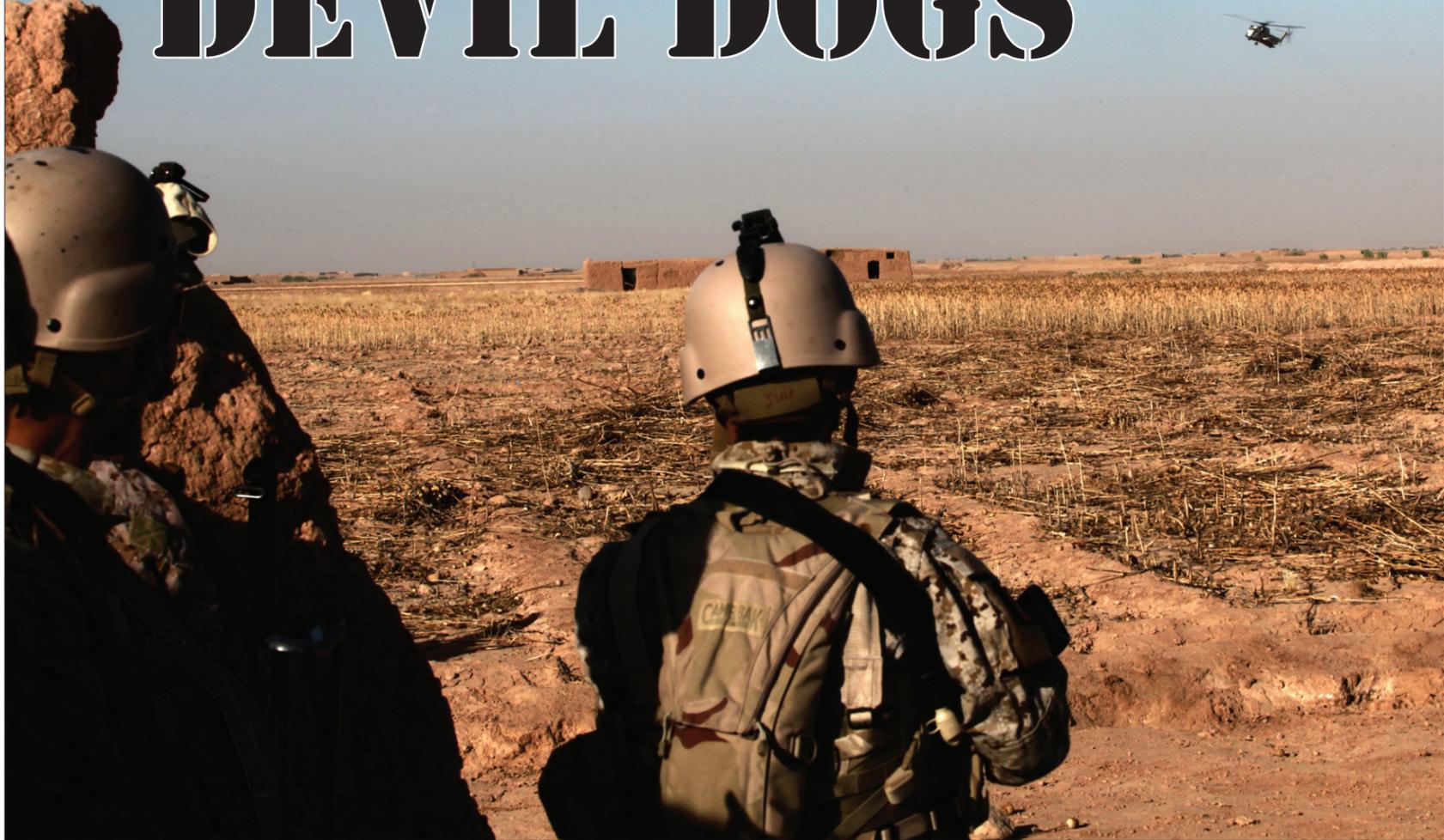


Rct. Jason Teague, 19, from Platoon 2048, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, hides behind a tree for protection while waiting for his fire team to move toward the next portion of the Battle of Fallujah event at the Crucible on Parris Island on June 22.



Rct. Antonio Nuccio, 19, Platoon 2049, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, throws a punch during the Dunham's Defense event of the Crucible on Parris Island on June 22. Nuccio is from Detroit.

UGLY ANGELS DELIVER DEVIL DOGS



Photos by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, wait to be extracted by two CH-53D Sea Stallions from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on June 4. Helicopters from the squadron transported the ground units to and from three different areas of the province to conduct counternarcotics operations.

Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Rolling down the runway on Camp Bastion, Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, nicknamed the Ugly Angels, makes preparations and adjustments to his .50-caliber machine gun prior to taking off for a counternarcotics operation in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.

As his CH-53D Sea Stallion flies into a firing range, he lets loose a burst from the gun, ensuring everything is in working order before heading into a hostile environment.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Paniagua knows all too well the need for a working weapon and the dangers of landing in a combat zone.

During one of the squadron's first missions of the deployment, a helicopter from the unit came under insurgent fire, wounding a crew member inside. While not present for the mission, the incident lingers in the back of his mind every time he flies into a potential hostile area.

"It really drives the point home that what happens out here is for real," Paniagua said. "We know that it's a possibility."

With that in mind, Paniagua makes final adjustments to his gear and weapon, affectionately named "Terra," by the squadron armorers. He then scans the ground below, looking for anything that could threaten the helicopter on its way to pick up Marines from 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics unit.

Arriving at Camp Hanson, Paniagua assists the Marines and NIU aboard. The two Sea Stallions take off and fly to the first targets of the day – two abandoned compounds suspected to be staging areas for narcotics and weapons.

A short distance from the compounds, the helicopters descend, making their final approach.

Landing in a cloud of dust and debris, the Marines and NIU quickly disembark and make their way to their objectives.

"Seeing those guys run out like that, it really gets you all riled up knowing that they're going into harm's way," Paniagua said. "It's our job to fly these guys to and from each place and keep them as safe as possible."



Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 and native of Brooklyn, N.Y., scans the surrounding area in Helmand province, Afghanistan on June 4.

The Marines and NIU search both compounds, but find nothing. Several minutes later, the helicopters land to pick up the Marines and move onto the next target several kilometers away.

1st Lt. Ben Leape, the assistant intelligence officer for the battalion, said having air assets, like the Ugly Angels, to transport them from location to location, has greatly enhanced the unit's range, allowing them to reach more target areas quickly.

"Having the helos around to take us from place to place

while we're doing these kinds of [operations] is a huge enabler," said Leape, of Annapolis, Md. "Without them, we would have to stand on the side and watch and know huge shipments of narcotics are leaving the area."

By day's end, the Marines and NIU search three compounds, but do not find any weapons or drugs. As Paniagua takes Terra off its firing hinges, he can't help but be glad the day ended well.

"It's a good feeling when everyone comes back and nobody gets hurt," he said.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics team, ride in a CH-53D Sea Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 to conduct drug raids across Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Angel Erazo, 20, Platoon 2050, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, lies in concealment while acting as a sentry for his fire team as the recruits simulate an extraction of a "wounded" recruit during the Crucible on Parris Island on June 21. Erazo, a native of Utica, Mich., joined the Marine Corps to help support his mother and siblings.

FAMILY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

until the Marine Corps caught his attention.

"My family is filled with people who only do labor jobs," he said. "I wanted to become something more."

Erazo wanted to give back to his mother for what she had done for him.

"He said that it was the toughest branch there

was and was going to provide the greatest challenge," said Perez.

Erazo said he was the first in his family to strive for a better life.

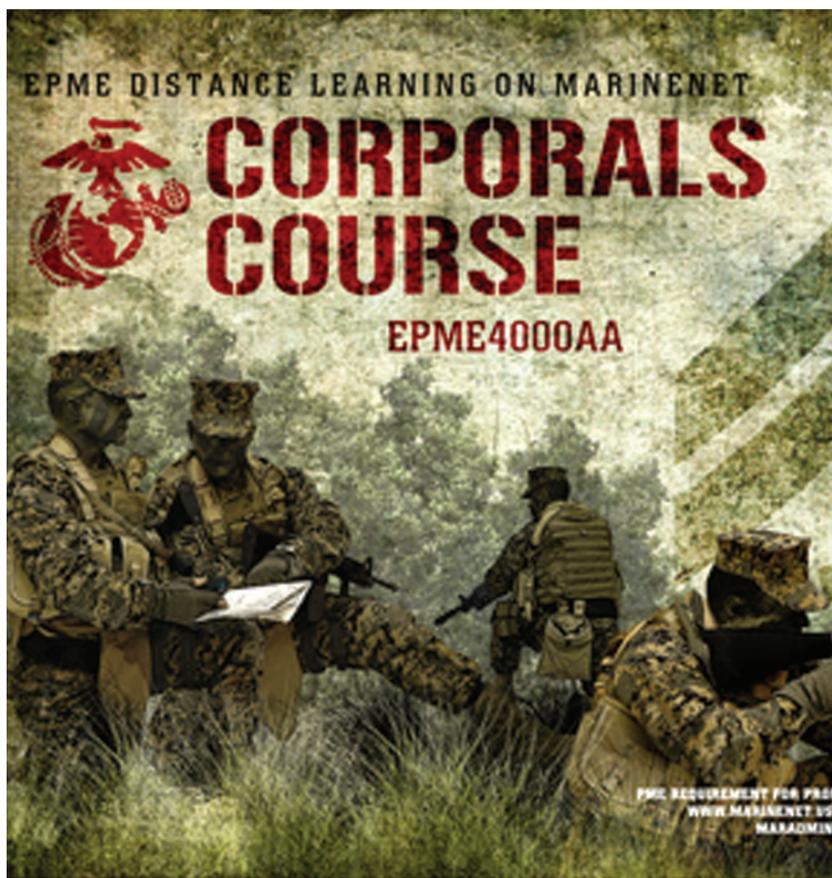
Erazo has big plans for his future career, both civilian and military, he said.

"I plan to be in the military for 10 years and save enough money to start my own roofing business," Erazo said. "I love roofing. Not so much the

actual labor aspect, but I would want to manage it."

Erazo has been trained to the Corps' physical, mental and moral standards, and pushed to his limits for the opportunity to become a Marine.

"It makes me proud that he's doing this," said Perez. "I feel this is going to make him more mature and appreciate more in life."



HOTEL COMPANY SOAKS UP TRAINING

Lance Cpl.
Octavia Davis
Staff Writer

As recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion plunged into their water survival training assessment they took their first step into the Corp's amphibious legacy at the recruit training pool May 1.

Since 1776, the Corps has carried out aquatic missions across the globe such as the assault on New Providence, Bahamas. Today, recruits learn water survival methods during training.

What the recruits are taught here will provide them with the necessary skills to survive in an aquatic environment, said Staff Sgt. Dwight Whitaker, supervisor for the water survival section at the recruit pool. These skills will allow them to help themselves and assist others in a time of crisis.

Each swim exercise teaches recruits different aspects of water survival. The recruits meet their qualification requirements after they have successfully demonstrated each technique.

Recruits wear combat gear when learning survival skills. They must swim 25 meters in shallow water, 25 meters in deep water and stay

afloat for four minutes all while in full uniform for their test. Recruits must also swim 25 meters with a weighted pack.

Fully clad in boots and utility uniforms, the recruits climbed the ladder of the 10-foot diving tower. The swim instructor ordered each recruit to cross his arms over his chest and step up to the edge of the tower.

On the swim instructor's command, each recruit stepped off the ledge and plunged into the pool.

"I was a little disoriented going under water after the jump," said Pfc. James Graham III, 19, of Platoon 2048, and a native of Atlanta.

Recruits also learned to lighten their load while in the water. They stood four feet deep in the pool with rifles, helmets and flak jackets. The recruits had 10 seconds to submerge themselves underwater and shed all of their gear, allowing for a less strenuous swim.

Recruits can use these skills anywhere, Whitaker said. They could potentially save themselves or someone else.

The recruits spent hours learning and applying combat swim techniques. Afterward, they left the pool a step closer to graduation, equipped with more tools they will need as U.S. Marines.

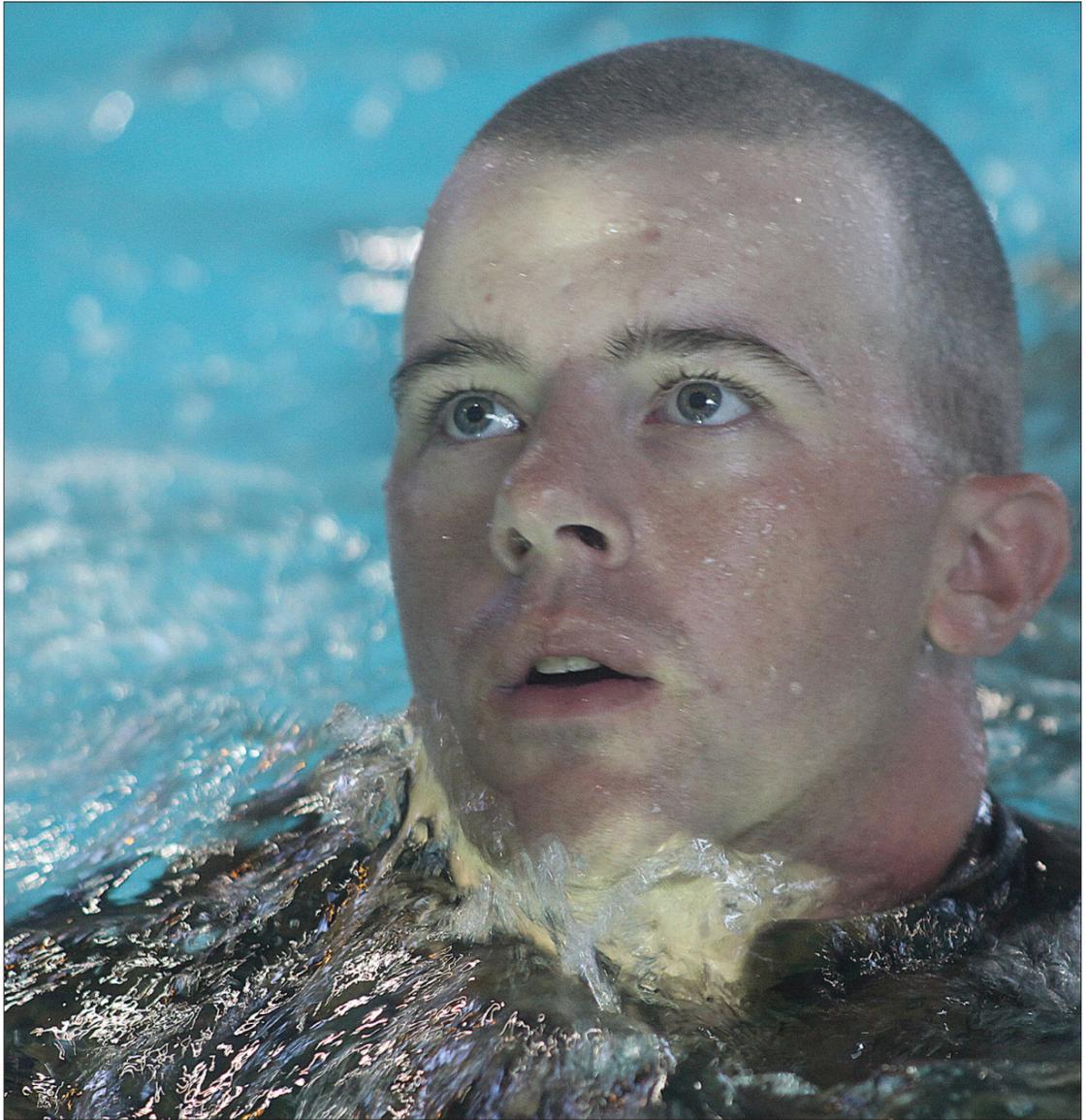
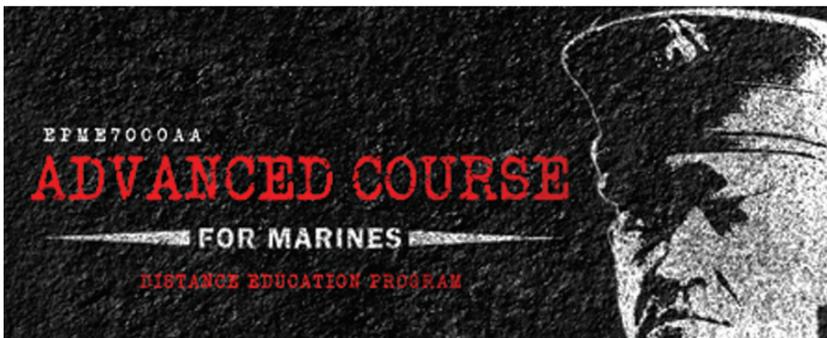


Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Micah Sisson, 21, of Platoon 2048, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, treads water during the four-minute float test of the swim qualification at the recruit pool May 1. Sisson is native to Sumter, S.C.



JULY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

uniforms and exhibiting equipment from World War I through Vietnam.

Visitors may bring blankets and lawn chairs for this event. No outside fireworks, including sparklers, pets or coolers, will be allowed at the event. Food and beverages, including beer, will be available for purchase.

Following the event, both traffic

lanes will be open only for outbound vehicles for approximately 30 minutes in order to reduce waiting times. Incoming traffic will be delayed, and drivers are advised to avoid coming onto Parris Island between 9:45 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

In 2011, more than 8,000 people attended Parris Island's Fourth of July event.

For more information, visit <http://www.mccs-sc.com/july4th/index.asp>.