

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Bravo Company graduates

Page 2

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## BRAVO

## BECOMES

## BASIC

## WARRIORS



Page 4

Rct. Kyle Jastren, 22, of Platoon 1060, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, rests after finishing the hand-and-arm signals course on Parris Island's Page Field on July 31. Jastren is from Livonia, Mich.

Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey



Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Jeremy Lagala, 19, of Platoon 1062, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through a trail of the combat endurance course at Page Field on Parris Island on Aug. 4. The recruits advance through the course as a team and none are left behind. Lagala is from Syracuse, N.Y.,

### Bravo Company relies on teamwork, completes combat endurance course

Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis  
Staff Writer

Drenched in sweat and covered in mud, the recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, relied on teamwork to push themselves and each other through the combat endurance course at Page Field on Parris Island on Aug. 4.

The recruits carried rifles and wore full uniforms as they ran, jumped and crawled

through the obstacles of the 2.1-mile course. The teamwork they developed throughout training helped them make it to the finish.

"The purpose of the course is for recruits to take care of each other as if they were already Marines," said Sgt. Kelvin Carrington Jr., 30, senior drill instructor of Platoon 1056, and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

As the recruits advanced through the muddy course, some reached their physical

limits. Others lent helping hands by carrying tired recruits' rifles and giving words of encouragement.

Just as they would in combat, the recruits must always think of what their fellow recruit needs, said Staff Sgt. Jesse Mejia, senior drill instructor of Platoon 1058.

"We want to see what they've learned as far as being a team, working together," added Mejia,

SEE COURSE PAGE 3

### Bravo Company uses high-tech tool to train

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, used a simulated range to practice the fundamentals of marksmanship one last time before qualifying on the range July 12.

The Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer is a tool all recruits use at least once.

The marksmanship trainer is in a building with rooms filled with simulated ranges the recruits use during their first week on the range. During that week, recruits receive lessons on the fundamentals of firing their M16-A4 rifles and the four shooting positions.

Recruits use the trainer while firing in the positions previously taught to them by their primary marksmanship instructors. The recruits fire modified rifles at a digital target with magazines containing enough compressed air to simulate 25 rounds.

"The ISMT is a tool used by the PMIs to find out if the recruits grasp the concepts and fundamentals of marksmanship before they shoot live rounds," said Sgt. Kevin Cumbie, who teaches the fundamentals at the ISMT.

The rifles and the screens use wireless technology to show the

PMIs how a recruit is shooting. The simulation is so accurate, it can show groups of shots and how well the recruits grasp the fundamentals of marksmanship, said Cumbie, a 26-year-old from Dawsonville, Ga.

The information shown by the PMIs and the recruits, who discuss and analyze the patterns together.

Rct. Chad Warren, Platoon 1062, said he thinks the goal of spending time in the ISMT is to practice the fundamentals and get hands-on training with the rifle.

Cumbie said the ISMT is a helpful tool for the instructors because they can see if a recruit needs extra guidance before they begin firing week.

"The PMIs are very helpful in here," said Warren, a 26-year-old from Harlem, N.Y. "The recruits who are struggling with the fundamentals get the one-on-one time with the PMIs they need before we qualify."

Warren said he feels the information and guidance the recruits received while at the ISMT was very useful on the range.

With the help of the simulated range and knowledge from their PMIs, the recruits of Bravo Company learned and applied the skills they needed in order to graduate as U.S. Marines.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Wounded Marines still in the fight

Page 6



Bravo's blood brings life to combat troops

Page 5



From father to son: passing the torch

Page 7

# Bravo Company's Graduates

## Honor Graduates

**Pfc. C. A. Price**, Taylorsville, N.C.  
Platoon 1056, Price was recruited by Staff Sgt. Church and trained by Sgt. Carrington

**Pfc. D. A. Ramos**, Boston  
Platoon 1058, Ramos was recruited by Sgt. Winegardner and trained by Staff Sgt. Mejia

**Pfc. J. D. Kennedy Jr.**, Delran, N.J.  
Platoon 1061, Kennedy Jr., was recruited by Sgt. Broderick and trained by Staff Sgt. Wells

**Pfc. J. S. Smith**, Navarre, Fla.  
Platoon 1057, Smith was recruited by Staff Sgt. Monday and trained by Staff Sgt. Sanchez

**Pfc. J. H. Gerde**, Cincinnati  
Platoon 1060, Gerde was recruited by Sgt. Krusinski and trained by Staff Sgt. Rudolph

**Pfc. C. N. Warren**, Frederick, Md.  
Platoon 1062, Warren was recruited by Sgt. Gonzalez and trained by Staff Sgt. Williams

### Platoon 1056

Pvt. J. R. Anderson, Pvt. J. M. Avery, Pvt. D. W. Aycoth, Pvt. P. J. Baseda, Pvt. C. C. Boyd, Pvt. A. D. Burrus, Pvt. C. A. Caldwell, Pfc. E. A. Candanedo, Pvt. J. I. Cohen Jr., Pvt. J. J. Colson, Pfc. D. E. Conklin, Pvt. D. E. Craig, Pvt. M. A. Daniels Jr., Pfc. D. A. David, Pfc. J. E. Drew, Pvt. A. M. Dunn, Pvt. B. M. Duvall, Pfc. D. L. Fiall, Pvt. J. M. Galli, Pvt. J. W. Hall, Pvt. T. H. Kinnett, Pvt. C. L. Lawson II, Pvt. K. J. Madrid, Pvt. W. Mayes, Pvt. M. T. Mccray, Pvt. B. D. Mediate, Pvt. J. A. Medlock, Pvt. O. R. Mitchellhoke, Pvt. D. A. Moore, Pvt. M. K. Neff, Pvt. A. A. Newell, Pvt. J. R. Oakley, Pvt. E. S. Parker, Pvt. W. E. Pittman V, Pfc. C. A. Price, Pfc. C. S. Radloff II, Pvt. L. M. Rainwater, Pvt. J. M. Richardson, Pfc. D. B. Rinck, Pvt. J. L. Ringel, Pvt. K. A. Rogers, Pvt. D. R. Runnerstrom, Pvt. T. R. Rush, Pvt. R. P. Sanborn, Pfc. M. P. Sheppard, Pfc. G. L. Spearman, Pfc. D. J. Taylor, Pfc. M. R. Thomas, Pfc. Z. L. Thomas, Pfc. Z. R. Thomas, Pfc. J. A. Turner, Pfc. A. J. Vagasky, Pfc. S. A. Welch, Pvt. J. M. Wilkerson

### Platoon 1057

Pfc. C. A. Beistline, Pfc. W. G. Bishop, Pvt. J. T. Blair, Pfc. W. J. Bottoms, Pvt. J. A. Bourdon, Pvt. P. J. Brophy, Pfc. C. M. Brown, Pvt. B. D. Carrier, Pvt. M. A. Combs, Pfc. J. W. Conlon, Pfc. E. D. Craig, Pfc. S. W. Cunningham, Pvt. J. P. Curry, Pvt. Z. R. Drury, Pvt. N. F. Feldman, Pfc. J. M. Gonzalezgarcia, Pfc. J. L. Grimaldi, Pfc. W. O. Hayes, Pvt. J. C. Hines, Pvt. J. D. Hodges, Pvt. S. W. Hurley, Pfc. M. T. Iozia, Pfc. M. A. Johnson, Pvt. L. E. Jones, Pfc. C. A. Lester, Pvt. J. A. Lipham, Pfc. T. L. Mayes, Pfc. J. M. Mcneil, Pvt. C. J. Miller, Pvt. S. H. Miller, Pvt. D. A. Minor, Pvt. O. Mortell, Pvt. D. S. Ndini, Pvt. C. A. Oliver, Pfc. C. P. Olsen, Pfc. E. J. Owen, Pfc. S. Park, Pvt. B. A. Parker, Pfc. B. J. Perry Jr., Pvt. E. M. Reed, Pfc. M. J. Rice, Pfc. R. Sanchezcolchado, Pvt. R. Sanchezrivera, Pvt. J. J. Sanusi, Pfc. J. S. Smith, Pfc. T. M. Smith, Pfc. E. B. Stern, Pfc. K. A. Strom, Pvt. D. W. Swartz, Pvt. S. K. Whatley, Pvt. V. T. Wilson, Pfc. D. Q. Witherspoon

### Platoon 1058

Pvt. K. M. Bowen, Pfc. J. R. Boyter, Pfc. R. A. Corsention, Pvt. D. C. Cox, Pfc. J. W. Christina, Pfc. P. T. Crotwell, Pvt. D. M. Davis, Pvt. G. G. Davis, Pfc. K. T. Do, Pfc. W. T. Doyle, Pvt. A. T. Duffy, Pvt. L. T. Epley, Pvt. L. R. Fernandez, Pvt. D. P. Foley, Pfc. N. G. French, Pfc. C. S. Galinski, Pvt. J. D. Gregory, Pfc. T. M. Gustafson, Pvt. B. J. Harris, Pfc. M. I. Henrickson, Pfc. G. T. Hines, Pvt. Z. T. Lee, Pfc. I. A. Mcleod, Pvt. S. F. Manhardt, Pfc. C. J. Nagata, Pvt. H. L. Nelson, Pfc. J. F. Orsini, Pvt. R. J. Otoole, Pfc. G. E. Parks, Pfc. J. A. Povirk, Pvt. D. W. Price, Pfc. D. A. Ramos, Pvt. D. M. Reasoner, Pfc. B. C. Robinson, Pvt. R. D. Rogers, Pvt. M. D. Rhonke, Pfc. M. E. Rojas, Pvt. C. T. Saunders, Pfc. T. F. Saur, Pfc. N. J. Scott, Pvt. T. J. Sebastio, Pfc. K. P. Shepard, Pvt. A. J. Smith, Pfc. L. H. Steele, Pfc. J. T. Stiner, Pfc. K. S. Trippeda, Pfc. B. J. Velazques, Pvt. C. D. Vogel, Pfc. K. J. Waitz, Pvt. Z. A. Wheeler, Pvt. B. C. Young, Pvt. J. S. Zambrano, Pvt. Z. W. Zottoli

### Platoon 1060

Pvt. Z. K. Alarie, Pvt. A. B. Amers, Pvt. B. C. Bailey, Pvt. R. M. Beirne, Pvt. C. W. Bosler III, Pvt. C. E. Campbell, Pvt. J. D. Caudill, Pvt. A. K. Comrie, Pvt. L. Cruzmorales, Pvt. R. K. Curtin, Pvt. K. J. Decristofaro, Pvt. P. D. Duris II, Pfc. G. W. Eldridge III, Pvt. S. W. Elgin, Pvt. D. J. Fleck, Pvt. K. T. French, Pvt. D. J. George, Pfc. J. H. Gerde, Pfc. A. Giraudguzman, Pfc. T. D. Harnischfeger, Pvt. E. T. Hawn, Pfc. L. J. Highley, Pfc. T. P. Hisgen Jr, Pfc. C. M. Hoots, Pfc. T. M. Hopkins, Pvt. D. M. Inlow, Pfc. K. R. Jastren, Pvt. J. C. Jayne Jr., Pvt. S. M. Judelson, Pfc. R. J. Keevill, Pfc. Z. P. Keller, Pvt. R. D. King, Pfc. J. M. Luthers, Pfc. K. L. Marsh, Pfc. J. T. Mccurdy, Pfc. J. D. Moxley, Pvt. N. A. Mucci, Pvt. D. A. Muller, Pfc. S. T. Osborne, Pfc. J. Pena, Pfc. G. M. Portillo, Pvt. L. A. Racavich, Pvt. A. M. Reid, Pfc. L. Revilla, Pfc. E. Rivera, Pfc. M. P. Rodenbush, Pvt. A. F. Roy, Pvt. B. D. Samuel, Pvt. B. C. Smith, Pvt. D. D. Thompson, Pvt. C. W. Velezruiz, Pvt. N. T. Weiss, Pvt. K. L. Williams

### Platoon 1061

Pvt. T. Acevedovega, Pvt. J. A. Adams, Pvt. N. A. Alvaradolopez, Pvt. D. A. Barrerascarrillo, Pfc. A. S. Boveda, Pvt. Z. E. Brousseau, Pvt. T. E. Brown, Pvt. S. A. Bruce, Pvt. E. A. Carson, Pvt. A. S. Channels, Pvt. D. C. Christian, Pvt. J. C. Coleman, Pvt. J. F. Collins, Pfc. R. W. Degraaf, Pfc. R. P. Delaney, Pvt. D. A. Deladovicetti, Pfc. N. C. Desir, Pfc. R. Dever, Pvt. G. E. Drane, Pvt. K. B. Duran, Pfc. L. P. Enders, Pvt. J. T. Folk, Pfc. S. J. Foster, Pvt. R. Grass, Pfc. G. M. Green, Pvt. H. J. Harbach, Pvt. J. M. Horn, Pvt. D. Huynh, Pvt. N. M. Jones, Pfc. J. D. Kennedy Jr., Pfc. Z. L. Kinhart, Pfc. A. B. Kollie, Pvt. C. J. Kutz, Pvt. T. G. Langan, Pvt. J. R. Louis, Pfc. M. Macahia, Pvt. R. A. Mainville, Pvt. H. L. Marbrey, Pfc. D. A. Mccall, Pvt. A. McCormickdemolli, Pvt. S. Miah, Pvt. W. E. Miller, Pvt. O. Q. Moton, Pfc. R. C. Murphy, Pvt. J. T. Proctor, Pvt. J. K. Quinton, Pfc. C. L. Reynolds, Pfc. B. G. Richtarik, Pfc. L. R. Rymer, Pfc. P. G. Silva, Pvt. D. P. Souder, Pfc. N. R. Stafford, Pvt. C. M. Torresfelix, Pfc. M. Wilkins, Pvt. S. S. Zoll

### Platoon 1062

Pvt. M. E. Alqaryouti, Pfc. D. C. Amarando, Pvt. C. D. Baker, Pvt. C. V. Bautista, Pvt. D. Bernard, Pvt. C. H. Blue, Pvt. B. S. Butler, Pfc. D. J. Callender, Pvt. M. Chute, Pvt. A. D. Cruz, Pvt. A. A. Culp, Pvt. A. P. Demarco, Pvt. T. Desrochers, Pvt. D. U. Donovan, Pfc. A. J. Doyle, Pvt. J. T. Dross, Pfc. R. L. Duncan, Pfc. T. R. Eustache, Pvt. B. A. Ferrell, Pvt. J. T. Gilyard, Pfc. A. G. Gluvna, Pfc. J. A. Graves, Pfc. S. Harrington, Pfc. M. Jameson, Pvt. M. H. Khan, Pfc. J. J. Lagala, Pvt. Z. K. Logston, Pfc. T. H. Madrie Jr., Pvt. R. A. McConnell, Pvt. S. T. Meagher, Pvt. G. M. Millet, Pfc. N. J. Nekic, Pfc. C. D. Peksa, Pfc. W. J. Peraltaparra, Pfc. N. F. Racioppi, Pvt. J. R. Rodriguez, Pfc. E. A. Roque, Pfc. S. T. Rousseau, Pfc. C. J. Ruane, Pvt. M. D. Salcedo, Pvt. D. W. Satchell, Pfc. V. J. Schlott, Pfc. C. D. Sisler, Pvt. D. P. Skinner, Pfc. M. G. Smith, Pfc. N. J. St. Ange, Pfc. E. L. Trautz, Pvt. R. M. Tyler, Pvt. D. Varney, Pvt. K. J. Vieldhouse, Pvt. C. M. Ward, Pfc. C. N. Warren, Pfc. M. Weber Jr., Pfc. L. M. Wangi, Pfc. P. G. Williams

## THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Rct. Charles Peksa, 17, of Platoon 1062, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, acts as security as his fellow recruits complete another obstacle of the combat endurance course at Page Field on Parris Island on Aug. 4. The recruits must work together so they can effectively complete each event of the course. Peksa is a native of Trinity, N.C.

## COURSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a native of Dallas.

"There were times where I had difficulty keeping up with the squad," said Rct. Dang Huynh, 20, of Platoon 1061, and a native of Fairfax, Va. "People would come behind me and motivate me to run faster."

If it were not for having each other, some recruits would not have been able to make it through the course, said 22-year-old Rct. Alex Boveda, of Platoon 1061 and from Key West, Fla. They needed to be physically and mentally strong for each other.

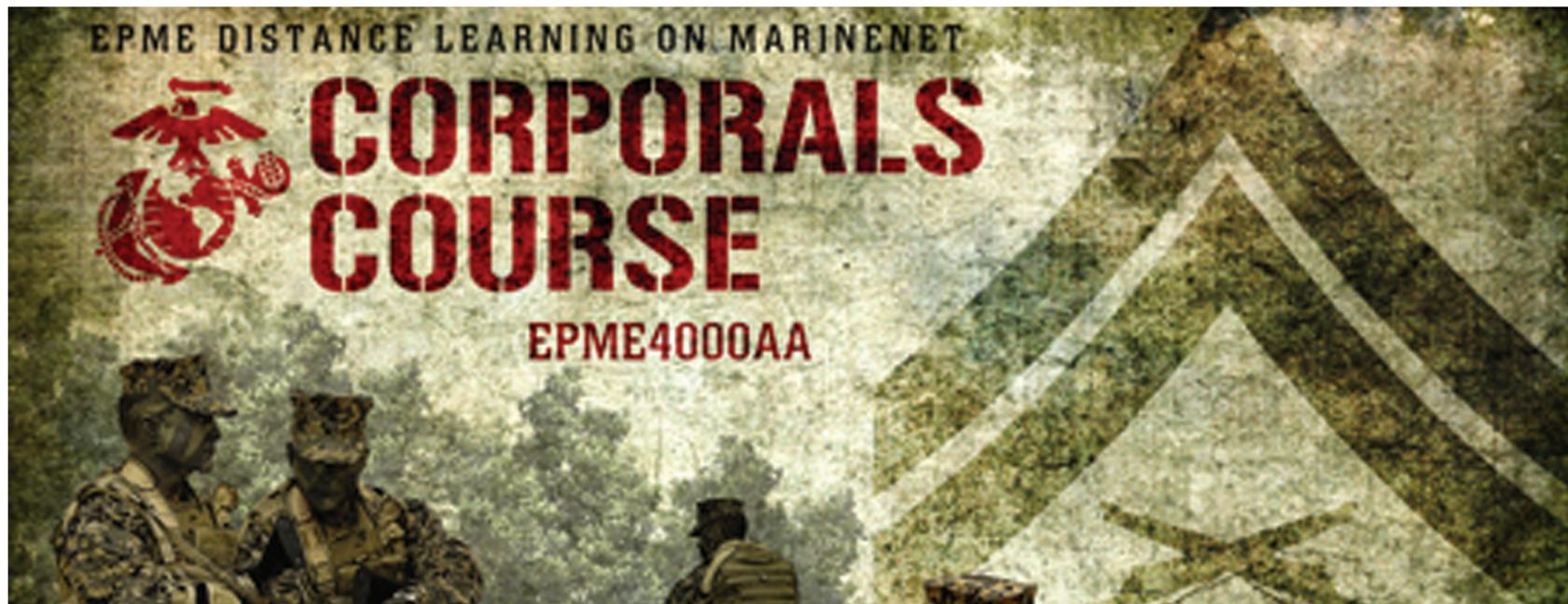
The drill instructors have worked since the first day of training to instill a sense of teamwork and unity in their recruits. As a result, the recruits have learned that teamwork is essential for effective mission accomplishment and building strong companionship.

"There is no individuality in the Marine Corps. There is working together," Carrington said.

The recruits of Bravo Company graduate as U.S. Marines today.



Rct. Andrew Gluvna, 19, of Platoon 1062, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through a dirt trail of the combat endurance course at Page Field on Parris Island on Aug. 4. The course is used to test the recruits' physical and mental stamina as well as their teamwork. Gluvna is a native of Cleveland.



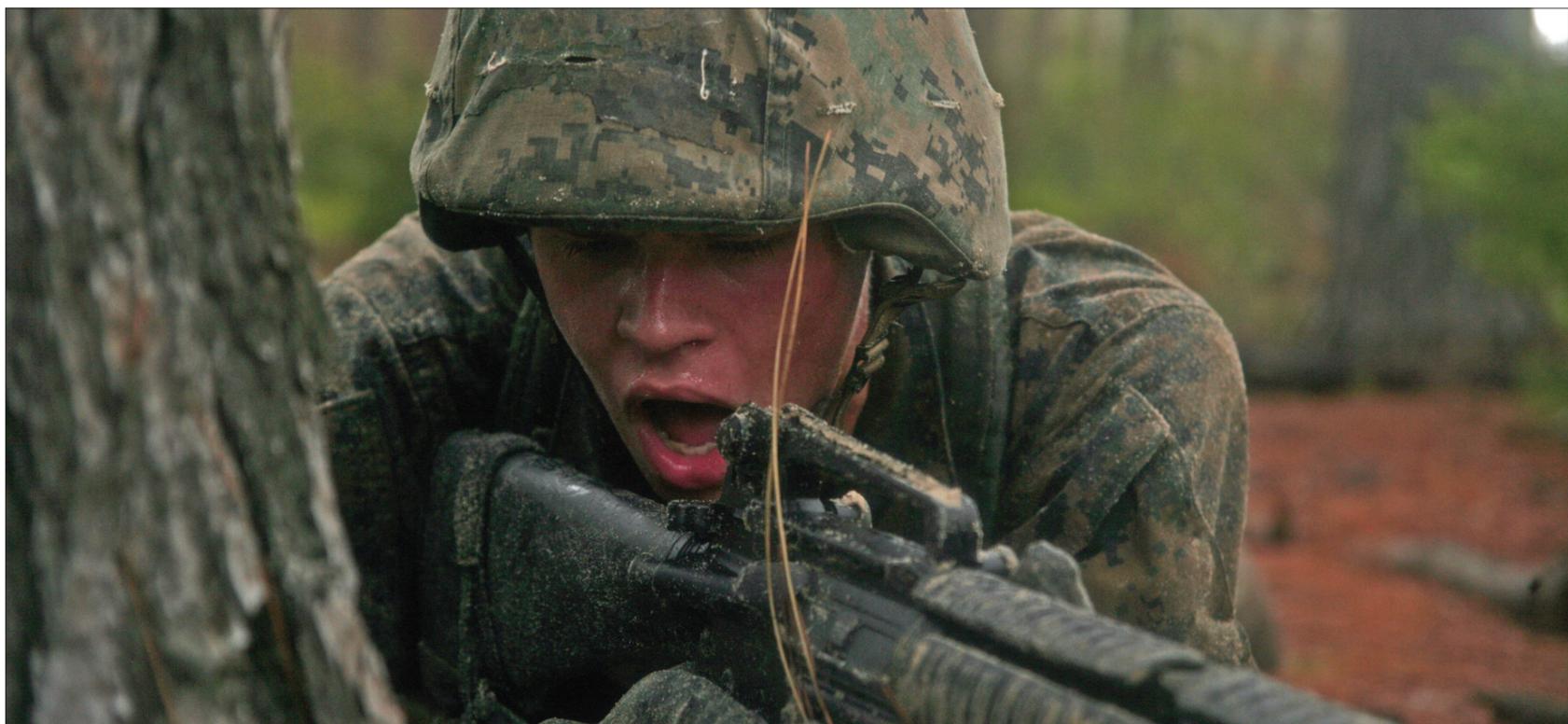


Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. James Avery, 19, of Platoon 1056, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, shouts to other recruits on the day movement course at Page Field on Parris Island on July 31. Avery is from Gainesville, Fla.

# Bravo Company tackles Basic Warrior Training

**Lance Cpl. David Bessey**  
Staff Writer

Recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, further solidified their role as basically trained Marines during Basic Warrior Training during their 10th week of training on Parris Island on July 28 through Aug. 4.

BWT introduces recruits to basic infantry tactics before they go to Marine Combat Training or the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, N.C., said Gunnery Sgt. Seth Howard, 33, a chief drill instructor for the company.

The training consists of five major events.

The first two days recruits are on Page Field, they learn basic fire team formations and silent communication techniques such as hand-and-arm signals. These skills are put to the test during the day and night movement courses.

"It is the foundation of everything

they will learn later in the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Aburto, 38, a chief drill instructor for the company.

This is the time where recruits get the chance to crawl through sand, crawl under razor-wire obstacles and jump over walls with their combat gear and rifle. This training can be seen as a major change to what recruits are used to in recruit training.

"Up until now, training has been nothing but drill," said Rct. Korrigan Marsh, 18, of Platoon 1060, and a native of Jackson, Tenn. "Here at BWT, we learn the practical side of being a Marine."

For some recruits, this is what they have been waiting for since they began training, said Rct. Kyle Jastren, 22, of Platoon 1060.

"I think it's great because it gives us knowledge on the field," said Jastren, a Livonia, Mich., native. "This is something we can actually apply."

When recruits finish their field training, they return to the rifle range for additional marksmanship training, including combat firing, which is used by Marines in war zones.

The firing drills consist of learning to immobilize a hostile target to eliminating a target instantly at close range. Recruits also learned how to

fire on a moving a target from 100 yards away.

The training recruits received during BWT forms the basis for everything they will learn later in the Marine Corps. The skills they learned will carry them through future training and even combat operations for the Marine Corps overseas.

**2ND ANNUAL TRI-COMMAND HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION**  
DIVERSITY UNITED BUILDING AMERICA TODAY

**Bienvenidos!**  
Come celebrate the food, dancing, piñata's, culture and countries that make up our proud Hispanic heritage.

**When:** September 28, 2012 6-9 pm **Where:** Lyceum MCRD PARRIS ISLAND  
**Ticket Prices:** Adults (13+): \$15.00, Kids (7-12): \$8.00, Kids (0-6): Free

**Contact committee members for tickets**  
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# Bravo's blood brings Marines back from brink of death

Lance Cpl. David Bessey  
Staff Writer

Recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, donated blood at a blood drive held at Parris Island's All-Weather Training Facility on Aug. 5. The blood drive is held to gather blood for wounded service members in combat operations overseas.

The purpose of the blood drive is to find able-bodied candidates to give blood for service members wounded in Afghanistan, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric Longacre, 29, senior enlisted at the blood donor center on Fort Gordon, Ga.

The center hosts a blood drive every Sunday on Parris Island for recruits, said Longacre.

The center has held weekly blood drives since

2003 after taking over the joint operation with Naval Hospital Beaufort, said Erin Hawkins, a blood donor recruiter at Fort Gordon's blood donor center.

About 100 recruits were selected to be screened to give blood, and approximately 85 pints of blood were gathered, said Hawkins.

The blood is sent immediately to Fort Gordon to be processed and tested for user safety, said Longacre.

Within approximately 48 hours, it is transported to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and in a week, the blood could arrive to service members in need of it in Afghanistan, he said.

Every week the center delivers blood to various locations overseas to service members, said Hawkins.

"It is a good thing [what] we are doing here be-

cause one day I might even need blood," said Pfc. Shane Cunningham, 25, of Platoon 1057 and a native of Norville, Tenn.

Parris Island makes up approximately 25 to 30 percent of the total blood that is sent overseas from the center, said Hawkins.

About 38,000 recruits have donated blood since the beginning of 2001, said Hawkins.

Pfc. Jacob Christina, 23, of Platoon 1058, and a native of Depew, N.Y., said he was happy to give blood to a service member who needs it.

Even as they walk across Peatross Parade Deck one last time, the Marines of Bravo Company will have one more thing to be proud of besides earning the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. They will know that somewhere in Afghanistan, they've already had a chance to help fellow Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Eric Stern, 20, of Platoon 1057, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, has his arm sterilized by a medical technician during a blood drive at Parris Island's All Weather Training Facility on Aug. 5. Recruits donate blood to help service members in combat zones overseas. Stern is From Toledo, Ohio.



Photo by Cpl. Daniel Wetzel

Cpl. Kionte Storey, native of Stockton, Calif., runs across the finish line in the men's 100-meter dash race during the track and field portion of the 2012 Warrior Games at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on May 4. Storey took gold in the 100- and 200-meter races.

### Cpl. Daniel Wetzel

Headquarters Marine Corps

As the battlefield settled and the medevac carried Cpl. Brad Fite to Germany, medical personnel didn't think he would survive. The damage was so extensive, Fite had to be resuscitated three times before landing.

"They didn't think I would survive, but I did," Fite said. "After I got to Germany, they said I wouldn't walk again and I spent a lot of time in a wheelchair, but eventually I taught myself to walk again."

Like Fite, there are many Marines who are knocked down but get back up to compete, motivate others and live their lives to the fullest.

Fite still goes through therapy but participates in wheelchair basketball, as well as regular basketball and competed in swimming at the 2012 Marine Corps Trials.

Fite, an amphibious assault vehicle crewmember, was hit by an improvised explosive device in Marjah, Afghanistan, in July 2010. He suffered a broken spine that tore open his stomach and punctured a lung. His other lung collapsed. His shoulder and jaw were dislo-

cated, nine of his ribs were broken and his knee ligaments were torn. He suffered a traumatic brain injury and continues to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and a hearing impairment.

Fite has come a long way and said he has received help from both inside and outside the Marine Corps. He credits the recovery to his will power that pushed him to keep fighting and never stop.

One opportunity all wounded Marines have to rehabilitate themselves is the Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program. As soon as Marines are cleared physically, they are required to start trying sports until they find one they like.

"Everyone is required to be part of the WAR-Program," said Maj. Susan Stark, the officer in charge of the program. "Our goal isn't to get them competing; our goal is to get wounded warriors to complete a goal."

The program is designed to help wounded warriors achieve something physically and get them back into a goal-oriented mindset, Stark said.

"They need to have a goal," Stark said. "It can be paddling down the Mississippi River, competing in the

Marine Corps Trials or anything in between."

Some wounded warriors set goals for themselves that aren't just physical.

While deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, Sgt. Maj. Raymond Mackey lost both his legs from an IED blast. But this setback didn't change Mackey's desire to lead and mentor Marines.

He made it his goal to help every Marine he meets. "Marines are Marines," Mackey said. "Sometimes, they need help, and sometimes, they just need guidance."

Though Mackey is set to retire soon, he hopes to continue working with Marines for years to come.

"Life's not over," Mackey said. "You can motivate anybody. To inspire somebody is completely different. You can motivate them to come out and play wheelchair basketball, but you can inspire them for a lifetime."

Wounded Marines receive a lot of support when it comes to recovery, though not all wounds are from combat.

At first glance, many assume Lance Cpl. Chuck Sketch received his injuries while serving in a combat zone. Sketch, however, never served overseas. Instead, while Sketch was on leave before heading to his first duty station, doctors discovered a benign tumor on the side of his head. In four and a half years, the tumor turned cancerous, claiming his sight and later both of his legs due to blood clots.

In a short time, things that had once been so easy for Sketch suddenly looked impossible. But Sketch couldn't be kept down.

"I've definitely been able to overcome my injuries," Sketch said. "In all honesty, people who have all their limbs are missing out. If I had all my limbs, I never would have had these opportunities."

One such opportunity is competing in the Marine Corps Trials and Warrior Games. Sketch swam in the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyles and competed in the hand bike race as the only tandem cyclist.

Some Marines compete in track and field nationals. Some compete in National Paralympics. One even rode his bike across the state, Stark said. Another wanted to shoot a moose; the WAR-program set him up with a hunting program to help him accomplish that goal.

"Being a wounded warrior put me in a worldwide group, not just Americans," Fite said. "It's our own community, and it's an intense community. Whether we've lost limbs or not, we've all been through it, and we all choose to stick together."

These wounded warriors are a few examples of the perseverance of fortunate Marines – Marines who have suffered but came out of it ahead. Their common experiences and difficulties as wounded warriors is a bond not shared by most other groups. They may have been injured but, as Fite said, "We're still a part of the fight."

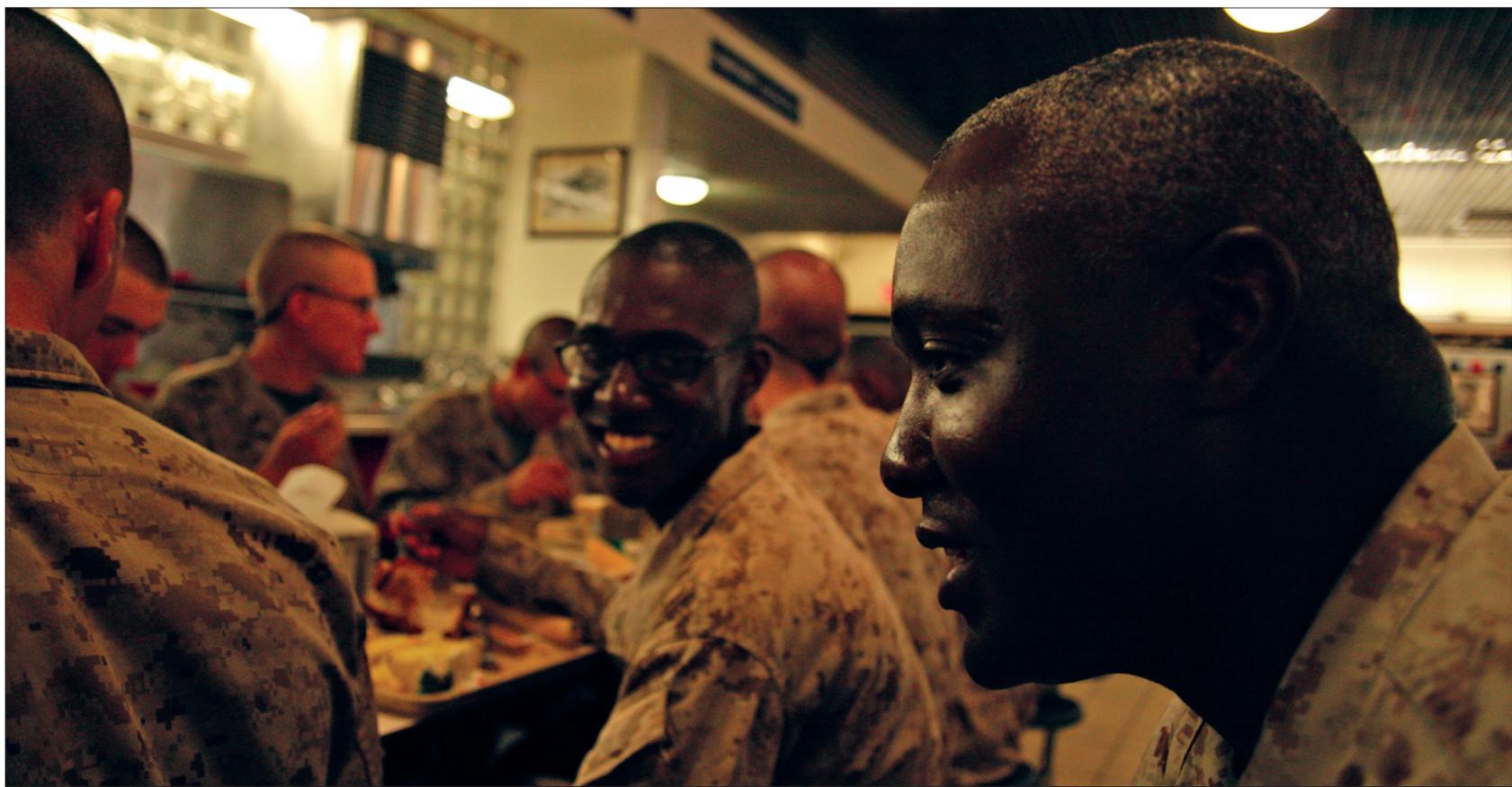


Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Pvt. Andrew K. Comrie, center, Platoon 1060, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, sits next to his father, Gunnery Sgt. Andrew L. Comrie, during his Warrior's Breakfast after finishing the Crucible on Aug. 18.

## From father to son: passing the torch to the next generation

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn  
Staff Writer

One new Marine from Platoon 1060, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, charged his way through boot camp with high hopes of carrying on his father's legacy.

Pvt. Andrew K. Comrie, a 19-year-old native of Port St. Lucie, Fla., said that he grew up around the Marine Corps, and it felt right to join the ranks of his father.

"I believe he has always wanted to follow in my footsteps to a certain extent," said Gunnery Sgt. Andrew L. Comrie, his father, who is preparing to retire. "He saw my array of accomplishments and wanted that for himself as well."

The Marine Corps has taken both father and son to many different places around the United States.

"Growing up around the Marine Corps wasn't easy," said the private. "I didn't keep friends long, and I moved around a lot."

His father, a native of St. Catherine, Jamaica, said he thinks that moving his son around a lot

while he was growing up affected him both positively and negatively.

Just like all kids who move around a lot, he didn't get to keep friends for very long, said his father. Whenever he felt like he was doing well in school, he had to change schools again.

Although there were some negative aspects, the older Comrie thinks his son is no worse for the wear considering his childhood.

"He got to go to a lot of different places, see a lot of different things and experienced a lot of new experiences," said the younger Comrie. "I think it will make it an easier transition into being a Marine because he doesn't have that one place he knew growing up."

The new Marine admits it was hard moving around a lot, but he also thinks it is cool that he can say he has been across the country and back.

The younger Comrie said his dad told him that when things get tough or exciting to write him, and most importantly to never give up on himself.

One of the emotional

challenges recruits face when they go through recruit training is being far away from their families, but that is not the case for this Marine.

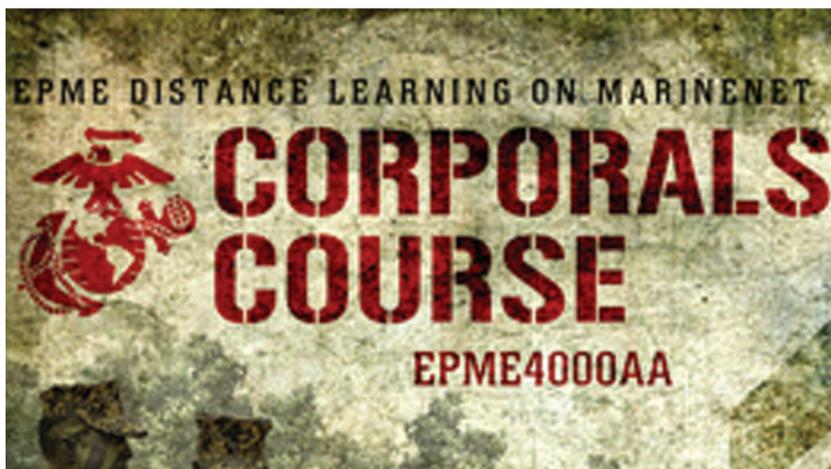
"It feels weird sometimes, knowing that my dad and family are just up the street," said the younger Comrie. "It is also comforting at others though. I know they are never far away."

The younger Comrie is scheduled to graduate from Parris Island today.

"I am really proud of that graduation date because we as recruits all came here together, and we all need to graduate and leave together," he said.

The elder Comrie feels as if the ability to be on the same island as his son is during recruit training is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, he said.

"It's unique that he is here right now because I was here exactly 19 years ago, doing the exact same thing he is doing now with a picture of him in my pocket as my motivation; now, he is in my place — doing recruit training with a picture of me in his pocket as his motivation," said the gunnery sergeant.



# 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 (MCE) Open
- 6AM-6PM .....Marine Corps Exchange (MCE) 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
- 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 (MCE) Open
- 6AM-6PM .....Marine Corps Exchange (MCE) 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
- 3PM-4PM .....Marine Corps 101 at Douglas Visitors' Center
- 5PM .....Meet & Greet with Depot Command at Traditions Lounge
- 5:30PM .....Welcome from the Command
- 5:45PM .....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 (MCE) Open
- 6AM-6PM .....Marine Corps Exchange (MCE) 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)

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