

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

See Fox & November Companies' graduates



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First to strike: Fox fights through endurance course



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Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Rct. Kristopher Wood, left, an 18-year-old from Perry, Fla., and Rct. Ezekiel Bauer, a 21-year-old from Clarion, Pa., strike a punching bag during the Marine Corps' Martial Arts Program endurance course at Parris Island on June 29. Both recruits are from Platoon 2064, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

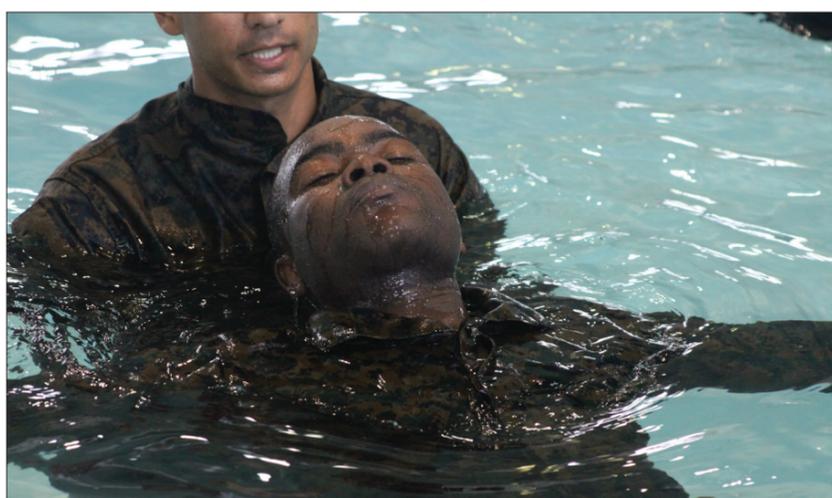


Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn

Rct. Maguiliwe Bodjona, Platoon 2069, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, focuses on his breathing while getting one-on-one time with a swim instructor July 3 at the recruit training pool at Parris Island. Bodjona, a 25-year-old from Lama-Kara, a village in the African country of Togo, had never swam before coming to recruit training.

African overcomes fear of water, earns Marine Corps emblem

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn
Staff Writer

A new Marine from Togo, Africa, who had no experience in the water, let alone in a pool, will graduate today as a U.S. Marine.

Pvt. Maguiliwe Bodjona, Platoon 2069, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, faced his fear of water by completing his swim qualification July 3 at the recruit training pool despite never swimming before.

"I've never been in the water before," said Bodjona. "The first week was very

bad because I did not want to get in the water. I thought I was going to drown for sure."

Some recruits, like Bodjona, come to training having never swum before, and are wary about swimming for the first time — even under the supervision of trained instructors.

Bodjona is one of the frightened recruits who braved the indoor pool, said Staff Sgt. David Perry, a swim instructor at the pool.

"We tried to swim with him and get

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Fox Company battles obstacle course

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn
Staff Writer

The recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, climbed through their first attempt at

the obstacle course at the battalion's physical training field June 25.

All recruits that come through training here complete the obstacle course to show the drill instructors

and themselves that they can perform any physical strain that is asked of them at any given time.

The obstacle course is done at least twice

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Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn

Recruits from Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, jump onto and bear hug a log in order to get over it and to the next obstacle during the obstacle course at Parris Island on June 25. The recruits did the obstacle course twice during training. The first time was focused on technique and safety, and the second time the course focused on speed and intensity.

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Sept. 4-6 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.

For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures, contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion range control at 843-228-3170.

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November ninjas crawl through night course

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Fox & November Companies' Graduates

Fox Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. Kyle N. James, Bernville, Pa.
Platoon 2064, James was recruited by
Sgt. Jackson and trained by Staff Sgt. Evans Jr.

Pfc. Mathew R. Lopez, Charlottesville, Va.
Platoon 2066, Lopez was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Kennedy and trained by Sgt. Dominguez

Pfc. Logan T. Hancock, Fairfax, Va.
Platoon 2069, Hancock, was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Watkins and trained by Sgt. Harris

Pfc. Tyler G. Dettlaff, Columbia, S.C.
Platoon 2065, Dettlaff was recruited by
Sgt. Halback and trained by Sgt. Wells

Pfc. Kyle N. Wright, Gonzales, La.
Platoon 2068, Wright was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Bradford and trained by Staff Sgt. Baird

Pfc. Christopher W. Leege, Gansevoort, N.Y.
Platoon 2070, Leege was recruited by
Sgt. Dole and trained by Staff Sgt. Liciagarecci

November Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. Alexandria R. VanHouten, Orlando, Fla.
Platoon 4024, Vanhouten, was recruited by
Sgt. Santiago and trained by Staff Sgt. Zalwango

Pfc. Sara Jaramillo, Naples, Fla.
Platoon 4025, Jaramillo was recruited by
Sgt. Smith and trained by Staff Sgt. Pacheco

Platoon 2064

G. Deel, Pfc. R. N. Duff, Pvt. E. C. Eason, Pvt. T. A. Faulring, Pvt. A. T. Fowler, Pvt. D. C. Francios, Pvt. A. D. Gadson, Pfc. R. Garcia, Pfc. A. M. Gardner, Pfc. N. C. Garrett, Pvt. C. H. Gentle, Pfc. T. D. Gibson, Pfc. A. J. Grabbert, Pfc. M. E. Griffin, Pfc. S. C. Griffith, Pfc. C. E. Hall, Pfc. M. A. Hampton, Pvt. T. W. Harris, Pvt. C. E. Henderson, Pvt. J. D. Hernandez, Pfc. P. D. Hicks, Pfc. J. Hill, Pfc. P. J. Hodge, Pvt. H. D. Holloway, Pfc. C. W. Hubbard, Pfc. C. D. Inman, Pfc. C. L. Jackson, Pvt. L. R. Jackson, Pfc. K. N. James, Pfc. J. S. Joy, Pfc. C. L. Kariuki, Pfc. A. M. Lange, Pvt. P. F. Liao, Pfc. D. A. Lopezponce, Pfc. A. M. Manning, Pvt. W. J. Marshall, Pvt. D. N. Martin, Pvt. L. M. Martinezlugo, Pfc. S. V. Mawolo, Pfc. A. J. McDonagh, Pfc. M. K. Morris, Pvt. J. J. Munoz, Pfc. M. R. Pappas, Pvt. D. P. Phillips, Pfc. D. M. Ramirez, Pfc. P. I. Sauli, Pfc. J. L. Sinclair, Pvt. W. A. Singleton, Pfc. T. D. Slack, Pfc. C. A. Smith, Pvt. G. J. Smith, Pfc. D. Smither, Pfc. R. E. Soloman, Pfc. F. Taheri, Pfc. C. G. Taylor, Pvt. C. W. Tedder, Pfc. C. D. Thompkins, Pfc. S. Torres, Pvt. C. Vang, Pvt. K. R. Wood

Platoon 2065

A. K. Dorough, Pfc. D. K. Durjan, Pfc. J. R. Easley, Pvt. C. B. Franklin, Pvt. F. G. Freeman, Pvt. J. R. Garner, Pvt. J. S. Garzon, Pfc. J. N. Gensler, Pfc. J. D. Gibb, Pvt. B. T. Grant, Pfc. D. S. Hammers, Pvt. B. D. Hanna, Pvt. K. S. Harrington, Pfc. D. A. Henes, Pfc. S. D. Hicks, Pfc. N. A. Hinton, Pfc. Z. S. Holley, Pfc. S. Innocent, Pvt. C. B. Jenkins, Pfc. T. D. Jordan, Pvt. N. M. Long, Pfc. R. M. Lovell, Pfc. J. N. Lyons, Pfc. B. M. Marlow, Pfc. R. Medina, Pvt. C. D. Mullins, Pvt. C. R. Near, Pfc. J. L. Owens, Pvt. C. Q. Patrick, Pfc. J. T. Porter, Pvt. J. R. Powe, Pvt. J. B. Putchlawski, Pvt. J. T. Rawson, Pvt. D. L. Render, Pvt. M. J. Reuis, Pfc. A. S. Rias, Pvt. L. E. Risner, Pfc. J. M. Roberts, Pfc. D. M. Robinson, Pfc. W. D. Robinson, Pfc. D. J. Rodriguezwells, Pfc. B. S. Rogers, Pvt. M. D. Sartori, Pvt. E. T. Scott, Pfc. G. O. Smith, Pvt. J. C. Smith, Pvt. K. I. Taylor, Pvt. W. T. Thompson, Pvt. W. C. Wagers, Pvt. S. J. Ward, Pvt. J. F. Warren, Pvt. A. D. Watson, Pvt. M. L. Wederbrand, Pfc. M. D. Williams, Pvt. J. D. Wilson, Pfc. J. A. Wiser, Pfc. Z. Zenios

Platoon 2066

M. T. Cleveland, Pfc. C. J. Connor, Pvt. K. M. Dauphinee, Pfc. P. M. Davey, Pvt. A. Dinuccio, Pvt. S. L. Ellis, Pvt. X. K. Esty, Pvt. D. A. Fishburn, Pvt. B. H. Flett, Pfc. M. J. Giacopasi, Pvt. J. C. Gonzalezaquich, Pvt. E. W. Grant, Pfc. M. A. Guerrero, Pfc. A. M. Hall, Pfc. S. B. Hammond, Pvt. A. R. Hibbert, Pvt. S. P. Hillard, Pfc. E. W. Horst, Pfc. D. W. Howard, Pvt. Z. E. Huffman, Pfc. J. P. Jones, Pvt. A. M. Kelly, Pfc. J. M. Ketzler, Pvt. J. M. King, Pfc. C. R. Knighton, Pfc. M. R. Kraeger, Pfc. C. G. Lee, Pvt. B. D. Little, Pvt. R. G. Long, Pfc. M. R. Lopez, Pfc. R. J. Martin, Pvt. C. A. Mathias, Pfc. M. A. McLaughlin, Pfc. M. D. Mcpherson, Pfc. A. L. Memmon, Pvt. A. S. Miller, Pvt. J. D. Mott, Pvt. J. K. Naquin, Pfc. L. R. Phillips Jr., Pfc. G. A. Poppleton, Pfc. D. W. Ruppel, Pvt. K. M. Rushing, Pfc. C. P. Rushman, Pfc. J. M. Sabey, Pvt. J. Sanabria, Pvt. B. M. Sanders, Pvt. T. D. Simmitt, Pvt. J. W. Simmons, Pfc. L. C. Sobboh, Pvt. C. W. Truitt, Pvt. N. A. Verros, Pvt. D. R. Vonsoosten, Pvt. J. D. Wakefield, Pvt. J. A. Watson, Pvt. T. J. Watson, Pvt. B. D. Weber, Pvt. B. T. Wehr, Pvt. A. S. Winston

Platoon 2068

Dove, Pvt. R. J. Dye, Pvt. J. M. Evans, Pvt. F. T. Fairleybaker, Pvt. C. R. Fettes, Pfc. C. M. Fischer, Pvt. A. L. Fleming, Pfc. C. A. Forster, Pvt. D. J. Foster, Pvt. C. L. Freeland, Pfc. D. R. Fuline, Pfc. C. W. Gabrenya, Pvt. J. D. Gaydos, Pvt. R. B. Geahr, Pvt. D. J. Green, Pvt. D. J. Grooms, Pfc. T. L. Hall, Pvt. C. S. Harris, Pvt. B. J. Hayes, Pvt. H. J. Hedges, Pfc. A. R. Hodge, Pfc. J. R. Hudson, Pvt. M. A. Hughes, Pfc. S. L. Humbert, Pfc. M. E. Hyde, Pvt. M. Z. Johnson, Pfc. N. C. Jones, Pvt. E. D. Judkins, Pvt. C. J. Kirkner, Pfc. A. J. Korona, Pfc. K. B. Lebryer, Pvt. N. J. Lacy, Pvt. T. M. Laforge, Pvt. E. A. Lima, Pfc. R. Lizdiaz, Pvt. D. R. Martin, Pvt. M. S. McDaniel, Pfc. R. S. McNair, Pvt. T. N. Mohn, Pvt. C. B. Moody, Pvt. J. K. Newberry, Pvt. E. T. Oliver, Pvt. C. S. Oquinn, Pvt. M. T. Pickett, Pvt. N. M. Pinkney, Pfc. R. N. Prelow, Pvt. T. A. Prestigiaco, Pfc. S. R. Proffitt, Pvt. O. O. Radayev, Pfc. J. O. Ramos Jr., Pfc. P. K. Richards Jr., Pvt. S. N. Roberts, Pfc. K. M. Roberts, Pfc. C. S. Ruiz, Pfc. A. G. Sellmeyer, Pvt. T. P. Skelf, Pfc. C. J. Smith, Pfc. K. K. Smith, Pfc. D. B. Stevens, Pvt. R. M. Sullivan, Pvt. P. Surbaugh, Pvt. D. P. Terravecchia, Pvt. D. M. Wood, Pfc. K. N. Wright

Platoon 2069

Giles, Pvt. J. Gonzalez, Pfc. J. Gonzalez, Pvt. A. H. Goodridge, Pvt. K. D. Graves, Pfc. L. T. Hancock, Pvt. L. J. Henderson, Pvt. K. L. Hobbs, Pvt. C. A. Hopson, Pvt. W. E. Hughes II, Pvt. M. T. Imm, Pvt. J. A. Iseman, Pvt. A. N. Jefferson, Pfc. D. C. Jensen, Pvt. R. L. Jorgensen, Pvt. J. A. Juergens, Pvt. T. A. Karr, Pvt. T. J. Kirby, Pvt. C. A. Laforte, Pvt. K. C. Lee, Pvt. J. T. Lindsay, Pfc. S. J. Manning, Pvt. A. Manzanedo Jr., Pfc. M. T. Martinezcanalez, Pfc. H. A. Massaley Jr., Pvt. C. C. Mattison, Pvt. J. M. Mccool Jr., Pfc. J. D. Mejia, Pvt. R. L. Mercier, Pvt. A. D. Mighty, Pvt. G. Z. Miller, Pvt. G. P. Nabus, Pvt. J. A. Nail, Pfc. T. B. Nelson, Pvt. B. S. Nofsker, Pvt. R. P. Norton, Pvt. A. T. Platt, Pfc. D. R. Pollard, Pvt. A. M. Powley, Pvt. H. A. Salazarmelendez, Pfc. W. G. Santosmorales, Pvt. C. L. Scott, Pvt. J. M. Shepherd, Pvt. A. W. Shrieves, Pvt. S. D. Silvestro, Pfc. T. L. Simmons, Pvt. C. E. Sims Jr., Pvt. A. J. Stenglein, Pvt. B. Suarez, Pvt. A. M. Szoke, Pvt. T. C. Trent, Pvt. C. E. Turner III, Pvt. E. D. Tyndale, Pvt. B. Ubiles, Pfc. A. J. Wakeen, Pvt. S. M. Walton, Pfc. L. A. Wenrich, Pvt. J. J. Whitsett, Pvt. Q. M. Williams, Pvt. Y. C. Zhang

Platoon 2070

C. S. Henry, Pvt. J. Irizarry, Pvt. K. K. Kaiwibenson, Pfc. C. W. Leege, Pfc. J. M. Longo, Pfc. J. Macnevin, Pfc. M. J. Mcgee, Pvt. R. A. Michaels, Pvt. S. P. Monegro, Pfc. R. K. Murray, Pvt. A. R. Newman, Pfc. P. D. Nguyen, Pvt. V. J. Oliva, Pfc. L. J. Omalley, Pvt. S. J. Ornelas, Pvt. L. J. Orticke, Pvt. S. R. Ortiz, Pvt. A. J. Ozelis, Pfc. A. J. Page, Pfc. B. W. Penaledesma, Pvt. C. Peruzzi, Pvt. K. A. Peterson, Pfc. C. Phachansiri, Pvt. J. C. Phinizee, Pvt. J. Piedrahitaguerro, Pvt. M. A. Pollacek, Pfc. J. L. Prince, Pfc. T. J. Prinzo, Pvt. M. R. Pullen, Pfc. C. L. Ramos, Pvt. V. D. Remekie, Pfc. J. J. Riverareyes, Pfc. P. A. Roberts, Pvt. D. J. Rodgers, Pvt. G. Rodriguez, Pvt. J. C. Saltz, Pvt. B. K. Sansing, Pvt. C. M. Saudino, Pvt. G. V. Separta, Pvt. M. H. Seabra, Pvt. S. D. Shedlock, Pvt. A. J. Sheridan, Pvt. E. A. Smith, Pvt. C. P. Spear, Pvt. J. L. Taylor, Pvt. J. N. Terry, Pfc. K. B. Thibault, Pvt. E. P. Thomas, Pvt. G. Torres, Pvt. R. Touch, Pfc. E. D. Trabalrodriguez, Pfc. D. R. Traore, Pvt. S. M. Unkel

Platoon 4024

Gonzalezcontreras, Pvt. D. D. Goodin, Pfc. S. N. Guerrero, Pvt. K. A. Guillermo, Pfc. K. K. Hair, Pfc. T. J. Harrison, Pfc. T. M. Hay, Pfc. S. K. Hempling, Pvt. J. Heredia, Pvt. K. J. Holzbauer, Pfc. K. E. Johns, Pfc. M. M. Kirchgessner, Pvt. J. E. Ko, Pfc. L. K. Lemley, Pvt. G. Lowe, Pfc. K. A. Maldonadocruz, Pfc. B. J. Manners, Pvt. K. C. Marquez, Pfc. T. C. Marsh, Pfc. V. Maurer, Pvt. N. M. Mcdaniel, Pfc. A. J. Mehalic, Pfc. K. A. Mickinkle, Pvt. A. B. Miner, Pfc. V. A. Parrish, Pvt. H. M. Paul, Pfc. P. M. Pendergrass, Pvt. B. N. Pettiford, Pfc. J. K. Powell, Pfc. A. H. Powers, Pfc. T. N. Powers, Pvt. J. L. Ramos, Pvt. E. E. Ross, Pvt. D. N. Russell, Pvt. L. N. Seigler, Pvt. C. E. Stanko, Pfc. A. R. Vanhouten, Pvt. R. L. Watson, Pvt. B. M. Waugh, Pfc. K. J. Wells, Pvt. K. R. Wesley, Pfc. V. L. Whitman, Pvt. K. P. Wiebe, Pvt. F. Wiggins, Pvt. E. K. Wooten

Platoon 4025

Pvt. M. F. Anzaldo, Pfc. A. P. Arellanoeribe, Pfc. E. L. Asauskas, Pvt. A. K. Ausan, Pvt. D. D. Austin, Pfc. A. L. Champlain, Pvt. S. E. Chastain, Pvt. J. Chavez, Pfc. T. Q. Chiles, Pfc. S. N. D'Aguilar, Pvt. C. A. Evers, Pfc. D. Foster, Pvt. A. H. Gallegos, Pvt. K. R. Garnersterling, Pfc. E. N. Glazner, Pvt. C. E. Guerrerocarela, Pvt. E. M. Hajostek, Pvt. E. N. Hardy, Pvt. O. Holt, Pfc. S. Jaramillo, Pfc. M. E. Mason, Pfc. D. L. Mccarter, Pvt. M. A. Medina, Pfc. L. D. Meehan, Pvt. V. B. Merrill, Pvt. J. K. Miller, Pfc. J. E. Miller, Pfc. A. B. Montgomery, Pvt. J. L. Moore, Pvt. X. J. Mouton, Pfc. R. S. Murray, Pvt. M. I. Novak, Pvt. M. A. Ogden, Pfc. R. A. Penavargas, Pfc. M. D. Pimenta, Pfc. K. J. Price, Pfc. A. Purdy, Pvt. I. Ramirez, Pvt. M. C. Redden, Pvt. M. Reynaga, Pvt. D. C. Riherd, Pfc. S. E. Rivera, Pfc. R. R. Roberts, Pvt. A. Rodriguez, Pvt. F. M. Rodriguez, Pfc. J. S. Rompon, Pvt. T. L. Ruddicks, Pvt. S. N. Saulnier, Pfc. M. A. Schlueter, Pvt. J. V. Sevillagutierrez, Pfc. M. P. Sheehy, Pfc. B. L. Snyder, Pfc. M. G. Solis, Pvt. A. K. Storr, Pvt. N. M. Tomaszwski, Pvt. K. E. Trimble, Pvt. K. M. Vonapecorino, Pfc. J. M. Williams, Pvt. R. M. Wright, Pvt. L. R. Yoruw

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Fox Company's final drill evaluation

Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

The recruits of Platoon 2069, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, wait for their senior drill instructor to give the next command during their final drill evaluation at the Peatross Parade Deck on Parris Island on Aug. 22. On command, the recruits align themselves in rows and columns and perform Marine Corps rifle and marching movements. They do not initially know which commands they will receive. However, their drill instructors have prepared them for the unexpected by spending countless hours practicing drill.



The recruits of Platoon 2066, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, march across the Peatross Parade Deck during their final drill evaluation on Parris Island on Aug. 22. The senior drill instructor commands recruits to perform different Marine Corps drill movements demonstrating obedience and discipline. The evaluation is the culminating event of drill, testing how well the recruits have mastered the drill movements they have practiced throughout training.



Parris Island drill masters inspect the recruits of Platoon 2066, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, as they stand in formation during the company's final drill evaluation Aug. 22 at the Peatross Parade Deck on Parris Island. During the evaluation, drill masters measure the platoon's progression for precision, discipline and obedience. The drill masters stand by the platoon and look for any discrepancies in movement or execution. The smallest incorrect movement could result in a deduction from the platoon's overall score.

November infiltrates night movement course

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn
Staff Writer

Heavy rain and thick darkness could not keep the recruits of November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, from completing the night movement course at Parris Island's Page Field on Aug. 7.

This course was the recruits' first opportunity to apply basic combat skills at night.

The course is designed to simulate an enemy camp that the recruits are trying to infiltrate, said Sgt. Jason Boggess, a night-movement course instructor. The flares represent the enemy's attempts to locate them, which is a life-like challenge they must overcome.

When recruits run the course during the day, the emphasis is on teamwork, said Boggess, a 26-year-old from Stuart, Fla. At night, the focus is on the individual's tactics and attention to detail.

"We run the course at night to simulate what it would be like in combat,"

said Boggess. "A lot of times in combat, you would do a raid at night and try to get that element of surprise."

To make the course as real as possible, the instructors at Page Field use two types of flares, the white star parachute and the trip flares to simulate the enemy looking for the recruits.

The white star parachute flares rocket into the sky and illuminate the area for 40 seconds, then fizzles out. The trip flares stay on the ground and immediately illuminate the surrounding area.

"The flares made the event more realistic," said Pfc. Alexandria VanHouten, a 19-year-old from Platoon 4024 and a native of Orlando, Fla.

When the recruits see or hear one of the flares go off, they are told to immediately get as low to the ground as possible and not move in hopes of not being detected.

The new Marines that march across the Peatross Parade Deck on Aug. 31 have faced many challenges during recruit training and surpassed them all.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Holmes

Rct. Shari D'Aguilar, 24, from Platoon 4025, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through sand and mud during Parris Island's night movement course on Aug. 7. D'Aguilar, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is scheduled to graduate today with November Company.

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Fox Company endures the endurance course



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Brett Wehr, of Platoon 2066, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, punches a mat held by Rct. Joshua Sabey, of Platoon 2066, during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program endurance course on Parris Island on June 29. Wehr, a 19-year-old from South Windsor, Conn., and Sabey, a 22-year-old Syracuse, N.Y., native, graduate today.

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, punched, kicked and elbowed their way through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program's endurance course at Parris Island on June 29.

The circuit course is a continuous series of MCMAP events, said Sgt. Phillip Wells, senior drill instructor for Platoon 2065. The recruits receive MCMAP remediation as well as physical training while on the course.

"I was expecting only martial arts, just pick up a mat and start hitting," said Pvt. Kemton Taylor of Platoon 2065. "I didn't expect all the low crawls and bear crawls and buddy drags that we had to do -- the nonstop movement."

The drill instructors lead them from one event to the next. The recruits would stop at a station to practice a MCMAP technique. Once their time at that station was up, recruits would crawl, drag or run to the next event and begin again.

"There were times when I wanted to stop," said Taylor, a 20-year-old from Kissimmee, Fla. "I looked around and saw

no one else stopping. I refused to be the only one that stopped. So I pushed through it."

The recruits are separated into even groups before beginning the course, going through every obstacle together. They motivated each other even when they wanted to quit.

Taylor said he knew if he stopped, it'd be an embarrassment not only to him, but to the recruit beside him who kept moving forward.

"There were times when it was challenging, but you just had to push yourself," said Pfc. Drew Robinson, a 23-year-old from Carthage, N.C., and Platoon 2065. "Anything I have to do to become a Marine, I'm going to do."

Even when recruits found it hard to see through the sweat dripping in their eyes, they had their drill instructors beside them for motivation.

"You just have to remind them that I would never give up on them, even when they give up on themselves," said Wells, a 24-year-old from Tylertown, Miss. "I will train them to the best of their abilities."

Today, their endurance and dedication will be rewarded as they walk across the parade deck as the world's newest U.S. Marines.



COURSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

during recruit training the first time stressed technique and safety and the second time stressed speed and intensity.

The course is designed to challenge the recruits' muscles and coordination. Both are a necessity in recruit training, said Staff Sgt. Michael Begg, a chief drill instructor for Fox Company.

The course has many different obstacles, such as climbing over walls, walking across narrow logs, climbing up ropes and pulling themselves over bars.

The different obstacles throughout the course challenge recruits' strength and stamina in different ways, much like recruit training will do, said Begg, a 30-year-old from Mechanicsville, Md.

Drill instructors from each platoon demonstrate the course, and then the recruits are run through the course.

Some of the recruits have harder times than others while trying to complete the course the first time. If the senior drill instructor sees a recruit struggling, he will pull him to the side and give them another time through the course and extra guidance if they need it, said Begg.

Rct. Adam Gertz, Platoon 2069, said he was excited for the course because it looked like fun, but he was more nervous because he hadn't done anything like before.

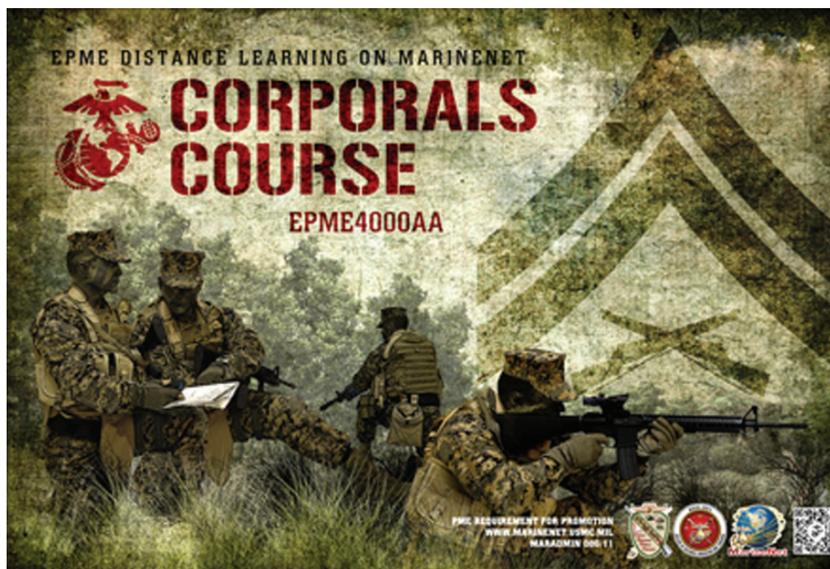
"The ropes were probably the hardest part of the course for me," said Gertz, a 24-year-old from Manchester, Md. "I was exhausted by the time I got to them."

The obstacle course was just one of the many hurdles the recruits of Fox Company had to overcome in order to march across the Peatross Parade Deck today as this nation's newest Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Dunn

A recruit of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, runs through the obstacle course at Parris Island on June 25. The course consists of different obstacles that challenge physical endurance and coordination.

**FEAR**

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him to lie on his back and relax, but he was terrified," said Perry, a 29-year-old from Hulbert, Okla.

Bodjona, a 25-year-old from Lama-Kara, Togo, Africa, said he was on his third, and final, attempt to qualify.

Bodjona said he moved to the United States in 2011 because his mother wanted them to have a better life.

Perry said that teaching recruits like Bodjona who have never swum is something all instruc-

tors are familiar with.

They spent one-on-one time with him and other recruits, making sure they became comfortable enough to qualify with the rest of the company.

One problem Bodjona had was the lack of coordination with the forms of swimming.

"I haven't figured out how to kick my legs in unison while moving my arms yet," said Bodjona. "I try to lie on my back, but kicking my legs while moving my arms is really hard for me, so I don't really float that long before I

go under."

Bodjona said he was confident he would pass the third time swim qualification this time with all the training he received over the course of three weeks.

"I joined the Marine Corps because I was proud to be in the U.S.," said Bodjona. "I want to distinguish myself in this new country."

After many hours in the pool, Bodjona finally passed his swim qualification and continued training with his fellow recruits of Fox Company who graduate today.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Sgt. Kadeem Walker, a drill instructor for recruit receiving, glares at Rct. Jeremy Reuis, a 24-year-old native of Allendale, S.C., and Platoon 2065, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, as the new arrivals receive some of their first orders from Marine Corps drill instructors in the receiving building on Parris Island on June 4. The recruits must quickly adapt to their new environment upon arrival on Parris Island.

Fox, November companies' first night at Parris Island

Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis
Staff Writer

More than 200 men and women arrived on Parris Island on June 4. The calm, clear skies of the evening did not reflect the mayhem they would soon endure.

The future recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, and November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, sat stone-faced as their bus halted in front of the building where they met their first Marine Corps drill instructor.

"Get off my bus!" shouted Staff Sgt. Tamara Moody, senior drill instructor of receiving. The new arrivals frantically rushed off the bus and onto the famous yellow footprints as the drill instructor followed close behind.

On the footprints, Moody told the men and women what would be expected of them during their time on Parris Island — to be loud and fast at all times.

On her command, the future recruits hastily formed two lines in front of the receiving building. They passed through the silver doors, signifying their crossover from civilians to recruits. They sat motionless in rows of chairs as the drill instructors paced the isles glaring at them.

"I was thinking, 'what did I get myself into?'" said Pvt. Jenny Sevillagutierrez, 18, of Platoon 4025, November Company, and a Minneapolis native.

Throughout processing, the drill instructors' yelling and roaring did not stop. They demanded constant speed and immediate obedience from the recruits. The deafening volume of the drill instructors left some recruits stiff and frightened.

The purpose of yelling and constantly correcting the recruits is to get rid of their bad habits so the drill instructors can instill the character traits of a

Marine, said Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson, chief drill instructor at recruit receiving.

The receiving drill instructors continuously

ordered speed and intensity from the recruits, and any small mistake resulted in loud, intense reprimands.

"We're not going to be

soft on them," Johnson said. "Their drill instructors are not going to be soft on them either."

The recruits of Fox and November Compa-

nies made it past the rude awakening the first night they arrived at Parris Island, making quick adaptations to the chaotic nature of recruit

training. After three months, they have overcome the challenges of recruit training and graduate today as U.S. Marines.

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 (MCO) Open
- 6AM-6PM Marine Corps Exchange (MCO) 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 (MCO) Open
- 6AM-6PM Marine Corps Exchange (MCO) 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 (MCO) Open
- 6AM-6PM Marine Corps Exchange (MCO) 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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