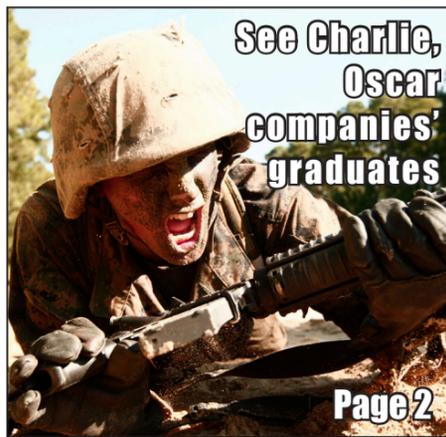


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



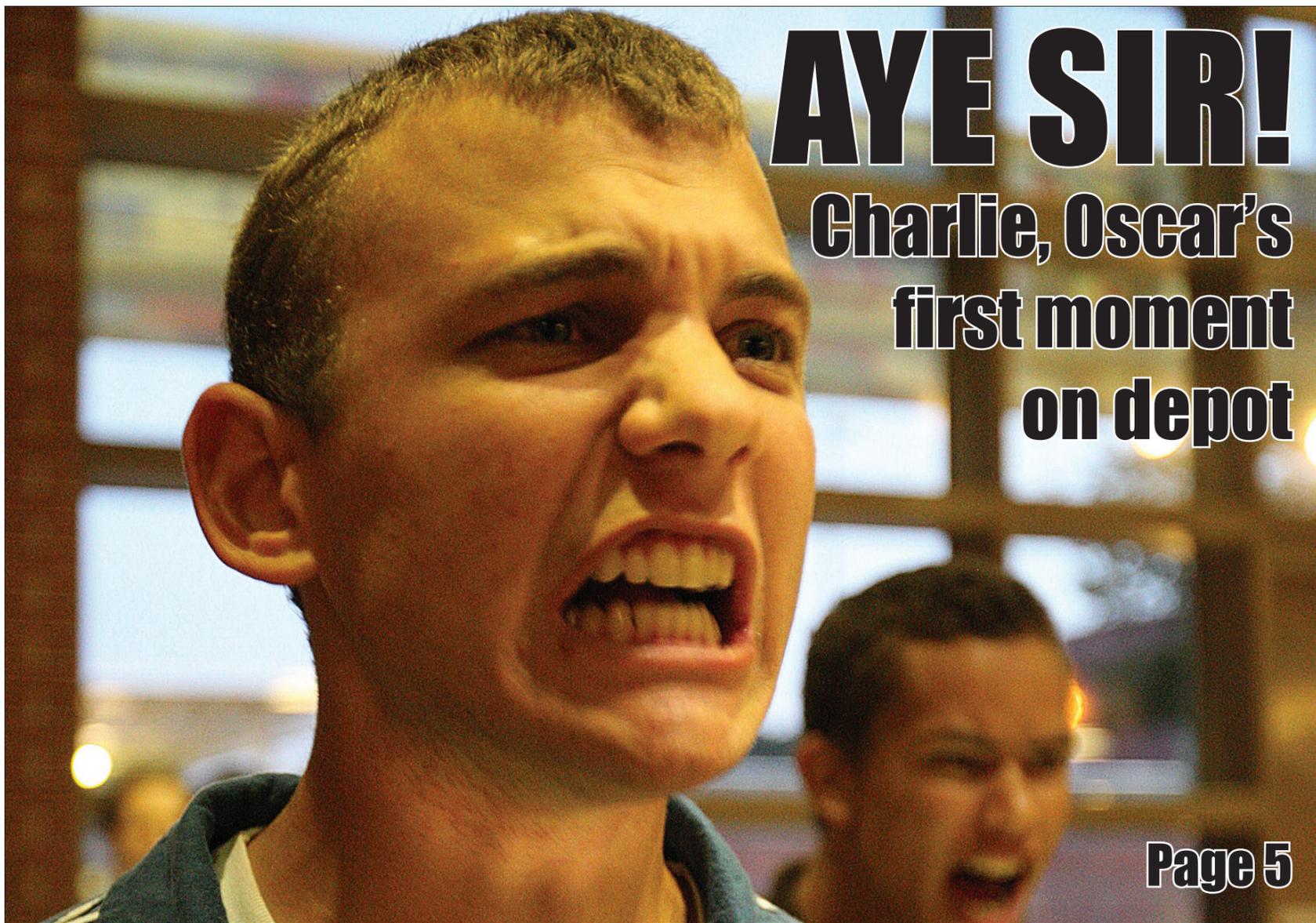
See Charlie, Oscar companies' graduates

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AYE SIR!

Charlie, Oscar's first moment on depot

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Brian Richard, an 18-year-old from Knoxville, Tenn., of Platoon 1064, Charlie Company, responds to a drill instructor's commands at Parris Island on June 18.

Recent Parris Island graduate drowns

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Public Affairs Chief

A new Marine on post-training leave drowned while swimming in the Atlantic Ocean on Sept. 7, after graduating that same day from recruit training on Parris Island.

Pfc. Jonathon A. Crawford, graduate from Platoon 3066, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, was apparently hit by multiple waves and pulled underwater at approximately 4 p.m.

SEE GRADUATE PAGE 3



Pfc. Jonathon A. Crawford

Mess hall wins Marine Corpswide award

Lance Cpl. Tyler Reirez
Staff Writer

The staff from 1st Recruit Training Battalion's mess hall were recognized as the best full food service contracted mess hall for the Marine Corps on Sept. 7 when they were presented the William P. Thompson Hill Award.

The workers of the mess hall accepted their trophy during an award presentation at the mess hall.

During the official award presentation at

the mess hall, Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island/Eastern Recruiting Region, congratulated the staff on their achievement and applauded their outstanding performance.

"Every Thursday and Friday I tell parents that we take good care of their sons and daughters," she said. "I can tell them that because of things like this."

Wayne M. Skuthan, general manager of the mess hall, said his team

goes above and beyond to make sure the recruits who eat at their mess hall are prepared to face the challenges of training.

The recruits of Charlie Company ate nearly every meal at this mess hall for the duration of their training. Skuthan said when recruits are in his mess hall, they are more than just recruits, they're customers.

"This is their 20 minutes of sanctuary three times a day," he said. "This is the only place

SEE AWARD PAGE 3

IRAQI NATIONAL JOINS CORPS

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

An Iraqi national has undergone one of the most challenging tasks possible to prove he is worthy to be an American. He has become a U.S. Marine.

Pfc. Muslim Jaesh, 26, of Platoon

1068, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, was born and raised in Babylon, Iraq, in the heart of the Mesopotamia region, and has earned a bachelor's in chemistry at the University of Babylon.

SEE NATIONAL PAGE 6



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Muslim Jaesh, a 26-year-old Iraqi national, of Platoon 1068, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stands by Parris Island's Iwo Jima flag raising statue after his final drill evaluation Sept. 5. Jaesh is from Lexington, Ky., and is scheduled to graduate Sept. 14.

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Sept. 17-19 from 6 a.m. to midnight. 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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Marines aid fight against drugs in Central America

Charlie & Oscar Companies' Graduates

Charlie Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. Patrick S. Parsons, Zebulon, Ga.
Platoon 1064, Parsons was recruited by
Sgt. Reed and trained by Staff Sgt. Milan

Pfc. Jacob L. Finfrock, West Milton, Ohio
Platoon 1066, Finfrock was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Sedlauriers II and trained by Staff Sgt. Lane

Pfc. Douglas R. Miner, Panama City Beach, Fla.
Platoon 1069, Miner was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Bright and trained by Staff Sgt. Fenelon

Pfc. Kyle P. Kearney, Stafford, Va.
Platoon 1065, Kearney was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Marte and trained by Sgt. Cain

Pfc. Joshua X. Medina, Hamilton, N.J.
Platoon 1068, Medina was recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. Gronski and trained by Staff Sgt. Hernandez

Pfc. Jerrod J. Jones, Picayune, Miss.
Platoon 1070, Jones was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Nesbitt and trained by Staff Sgt. Kemp III

Oscar Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. Abigail L. Beurmann, Rockford, Mich.
Platoon 4026, Beurmann was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Thibodeaux and trained by Staff Sgt. Wilk

Pfc. Morgan A. Almazan, Arvada, Colo.
Platoon 4027, Almazan was recruited by
Sgt. Burks and trained by Staff Sgt. Moody

Platoon 1064

Pvt. D. A. Avilez, Pfc. J. K. Ball, Pvt. J. A. Boone, Pfc. B. D. Bowker, Pvt. R. M. Bradley, Pvt. B. C. Brendell, Pvt. A. C. Brock, Pfc. D. Brooks, Pvt. K. N. Broxton Jr., Pfc. N. D. Burke, Pvt. T. W. Chaney, Pvt. D. J. Clemente, Pvt. T. J. Crosby, Pvt. J. K. Deutschmann, Pvt. G. F. Dudley, Pvt. Z. C. Dunn, Pfc. R. D. Eidson, Pvt. A. Estrada, Pfc. B. M. Fenner, Pvt. J. L. Garrett, Pvt. K. A. Giles, Pvt. J. D. Githens, Pvt. J. G. Graham, Pfc. A. R. Griffith, Pvt. A. Guerrero IV, Pvt. Z. M. Harmon, Pvt. A. J. Harris, Pfc. C. D. Harris, Pvt. K. Z. Harris, Pfc. A. J. Harry, Pvt. T. J. Head, Pfc. J. F. Hess, Pvt. C. R. Holliday, Pvt. R. C. Howard, Pfc. C. L. Howarth, Pfc. A. T. Hunt, Pvt. P. G. Ibrahim, Pfc. S. M. Jacobs, Pfc. J. C. Johnson, Pvt. J. L. Kirkland, Pfc. R. R. Krohn, Pvt. R. K. Kubowicz, Pfc. B. W. Landon, Pvt. S. Lu, Pvt. A. C. McGregor, Pfc. C. R. McKinley, Pfc. R. R. McMullen, Pvt. D. C. Morgan, Pfc. S. O. Morman, Pvt. R. H. Mullins, Pvt. T. K. Myers, Pfc. L. Nagy, Pfc. D. R. Nord, Pvt. A. A. Odey, Pvt. R. Orona, Pvt. A. C. Pafford, Pfc. T. W. Paider, Pvt. D. A. Parady, Pfc. P. S. Parsons, Pvt. M. E. Pierre, Pfc. N. A. Plympton, Pvt. S. D. Rakestraw, Pvt. V. E. Rapadas, Pvt. T. W. Rhoads, Pfc. B. L. Richard, Pvt. C. J. Rogers, Pfc. L. D. Rojas, Pvt. C. M. Sabree, Pfc. M. P. Sanjaya, Pfc. G. L. Seay, Pfc. E. J. Sewell, Pvt. K. D. Simmons, Pvt. H. C. Sobtaguim, Pvt. H. G. Sorto, Pvt. W. O. Squires III, Pfc. A. C. Stephens, Pvt. B. N. Stogner, Pvt. D. D. Sylvester, Pfc. S. E. Treverrow, Pvt. M. S. Tucker, Pvt. D. D. Tyler, Pfc. L. J. Vergeldt, Pvt. B. M. Ward, Pvt. W. L. Watkins, Pfc. K. L. Wells II, Pvt. K. R. Wheeler, Pfc. R. T. Wilcox, Pvt. M. A. York, Pvt. R. T. Zbikowski

Platoon 1065

Pvt. C. L. Abercrombie, Pfc. C. W. Baran, Pvt. Y. G. Barghouthy, Pvt. C. M. Bates, Pvt. D. C. Bell, Pfc. K. R. Blevins, Pfc. S. R. Borders, Pvt. A. M. Brooks, Pvt. M. S. Brownell, Pvt. C. G. Canfield, Pvt. T. J. Casey, Pfc. S. L. Chhom, Pfc. M. T. Churn, Pvt. R. C. Colon, Pfc. N. A. Craig, Pvt. A. J. Davis, Pfc. J. J. Dean, Pvt. T. W. Doyle, Pfc. C. M. Dunn, Pfc. E. M. Elrod, Pvt. G. M. Esquivel, Pvt. A. Fernandez, Pvt. D. M. Fitzwater, Pfc. J. W. Ford, Pfc. A. Gomez, Pfc. D. Gomez, Pvt. A. A. Gore, Pfc. K. E. Greene, Pfc. A. D. Gustafson Jr., Pvt. J. C. Hall, Pvt. J. D. Hall, Pfc. T. M. Hammond, Pfc. J. M. Hammons, Pvt. J. F. Harper, Pvt. C. E. Hartman, Pfc. T. J. Hartsfield, Pvt. B. S. Hawthorn, Pfc. R. K. Hereford, Pvt. J. J. Holcomb, Pvt. Y. D. Holmes, Pfc. A. J. Johnson, Pfc. A. K. Johnson, Pfc. K. P. Kearney, Pfc. N. R. Keniston, Pfc. D. R. King, Pfc. W. K. King, Pvt. D. L. Knott, Pfc. Z. D. Krepps, Pfc. T. J. Launi, Pvt. M. I. Lebronrivera, Pfc. N. L. Lee, Pvt. J. M. Leonard, Pvt. I. M. Lowery, Pfc. R. R. Maier, Pvt. C. W. Mann, Pvt. M. P. Maphixat, Pvt. C. T. Medders, Pfc. K. J. Melanson, Pvt. R. E. Michalowski, Pvt. C. E. Morgan, Pvt. D. W. Murry, Pfc. T. R. Nicklas, Pvt. J. B. Palyok, Pvt. J. R. Parnell, Pfc. Z. W. Pearl, Pfc. C. Peoples III, Pfc. E. K. Perry, Pfc. R. S. Pritchard, Pvt. J. Rada, Pfc. J. A. Reed, Pvt. C. B. Reilly, Pfc. D. Rovito, Pfc. G. K. Sandoval, Pvt. K. A. Santiago, Pvt. R. J. Selkirk, Pvt. J. R. Slocum, Pvt. J. M. Snipes, Pvt. D. F. Soliman Jr., Pvt. D. R. Sullivan, Pvt. A. B. Tadesse, Pvt. S. M. Tandy, Pfc. J. R. Teal, Pvt. J. E. Terry, Pvt. D. J. Verhoff, Pvt. D. A. Via, Pvt. T. R. Wilborn

Platoon 1066

Pfc. S. L. Abell, Pvt. J. W. Adams, Pvt. J. A. Adams, Pvt. J. A. Aguirre, Pfc. N. A. Alvarado, Pvt. T. E. Alvarezrodriguez, Pvt. M. F. Amodio, Pvt. J. K. Banks, Pvt. J. P. Battise, Pfc. D. A. Bean, Pfc. A. L. Becker, Pvt. J. A. Blankenship, Pfc. E. N. Brideau, Pvt. G. J. Brockway, Pvt. P. M. Brown, Pvt. E. D. Burnett, Pvt. R. Cabrera, Pfc. R. G. Carrino, Pvt. M. Carrion, Pfc. V. E. Castillo, Pvt. T. L. Casto, Pvt. T. D. Charles, Pvt. B. J. Cope, Pvt. C. S. Cutler, Pfc. J. Damoeda, Pfc. A. J. Dantonio, Pfc. J. D. Dippman, Pfc. B. T. Doerler, Pfc. K. A. Dooling, Pvt. E. C. Douglas, Pvt. R. A. Eppley Jr., Pvt. S. T. Eure, Pvt. B. W. Evans, Pfc. J. L. Finfrock, Pvt. A. A. Fitch, Pvt. I. M. Forry, Pvt. E. M. Fortson, Pvt. D. B. Gisher, Pvt. N. J. Grandizio, Pvt. A. Gregory, Pvt. D. A. Hartford, Pfc. J. E. Hernandez, Pfc. S. D. Hodges, Pfc. C. J. Hogan, Pfc. C. J. Holder, Pfc. J. R. Howard, Pvt. J. L. Jaep, Pvt. W. James, Pvt. M. Karepov, Pfc. M. Keomahavong, Pfc. J. J. Konsavage, Pvt. C. B. Kovnesky, Pvt. G. Le, Pvt. K. P. Lee, Pfc. J. L. Long, Pvt. A. A. Marroquinjuarez, Pfc. D. K. Martin, Pfc. A. C. Masse, Pvt. J. M. Maurer, Pvt. M. P. McGinn, Pfc. M. T. Mihajlov, Pfc. O. O. Mirandafigueroa, Pfc. G. C. Moirs, Pvt. N. W. Molitor, Pvt. C. J. Mueller, Pvt. Y. A. Muhammadyancey, Pvt. J. A. Myers, Pvt. J. E. Navarro, Pfc. E. Y. Orellana, Pvt. G. B. Peavey, Pvt. M. A. Perrier, Pvt. P. A. Raley, Pvt. J. J. Ramos, Pfc. G. Samaroo, Pfc. M. A. Sandoval, Pfc. N. J. Shiel, Pvt. T. J. Smith, Pvt. D. M. Snyder, Pvt. C. A. Southard, Pfc. J. R. Tucker, Pfc. W. H. Vance II, Pfc. J. G. Whitson, Pvt. C. A. Wiltsey, Pvt. J. T. Wurdeman, Pfc. P. L. Yeatman, Pvt. A. Young

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Platoon 4026

Pfc. F. B. Agosto, Pvt. N. C. Araujo, Pvt. M. C. Badger, Pfc. A. L. Beurmann, Pvt. A. N. Billups, Pvt. L. F. Britton, Pvt. A. A. Cameron, Pfc. J. A. Chew, Pfc. C. S. Cole, Pfc. M. S. Cole, Pvt. K. I. Curtis, Pvt. K. L. Davis, Pvt. C. A. Felix, Pvt. K. Flenders, Pfc. E. A. Fuertes, Pfc. S. Gomez, Pfc. D. V. Gonzalez, Pfc. N. Gonzalez, Pvt. A. N. Grier, Pvt. M. Guerin, Pvt. J. R. Hackler, Pfc. T. D. Harris, Pvt. B. R. Herron, Pvt. K. A. Hockett, Pvt. K. S. Howard, Pvt. M. M. Huddleston, Pfc. A. C. Jaques, Pvt. C. N. Kottwitz, Pfc. S. S. Lee, Pfc. L. G. Lemuszacarias, Pfc. H. E. Lopus, Pvt. B. M. Martin, Pfc. M. Mendez, Pvt. A. K. Merrill, Pvt. L. A. Mills, Pfc. A. M. Monteverde, Pvt. D. D. Moss, Pvt. L. E. Nennering, Pfc. J. C. Nottingham, Pfc. S. P. Porter, Pfc. T. E. Riverfontanez, Pfc. G. A. Rosales, Pfc. T. R. Simpson, Pvt. A. K. Snay, Pfc. E. A. Spath, Pvt. R. S. Stegall, Pvt. E. T. Stump, Pvt. V. Tejedagonzalez, Pvt. E. Vigo, Pfc. T. K. Waltersmihalis, Pfc. A. T. Weed, Pvt. N. A. White, Pvt. N. M. Williams, Pfc. B. D. Wood, Pfc. M. D. Wright

Platoon 4027

Pvt. C. Aguilar, Pfc. A. N. Albrightson, Pfc. M. A. Almazan, Pvt. K. T. Armstrong, Pfc. H. K. Aubuchont, Pfc. M. N. Ayala, Pfc. R. E. Bourne, Pfc. M. Capristo, Pfc. T. A. Childers, Pfc. A. L. Chung, Pvt. C. A. Cooley, Pfc. O. E. Daniels, Pvt. M. G. Delgadillo, Pvt. H. L. Fiorentino, Pfc. R. M. Gomez, Pvt. P. M. Gump, Pvt. B. G. Hernandeznavas, Pfc. A. D. Howells, Pvt. A. Jernberg, Pfc. K. Jimenez, Pvt. J. M. Joyce, Pvt. D. M. Juarez, Pfc. T. A. Lawas, Pvt. M. Lobitz, Pvt. S. Luo, Pvt. A. R. Lusher, Pvt. U. A. Manigault, Pfc. A. G. Martin, Pfc. A. D. Martin, Pfc. A. M. Moore, Pfc. S. E. Napoli, Pvt. A. K. Navarro, Pvt. B. Olave, Pvt. H. M. Oliveira, Pvt. E. C. Olvera, Pvt. E. R. Ortega, Pvt. D. E. Perkinsgoodrie, Pvt. C. C. Pinzon, Pvt. L. Polanco, Pfc. Y. B. Rivera, Pfc. S. R. Rodriguez, Pfc. W. M. Roeder, Pvt. S. R. Russell, Pvt. M. D. Sanchez, Pvt. L. B. Santillanes, Pfc. J. L. Schubert, Pfc. S. B. Sisavath, Pvt. K. M. Smith, Pvt. J. S. Snead, Pvt. A. R. Stalker, Pfc. E. D. Torres, Pfc. K. A. Walker, Pfc. D. M. Welch, Pfc. R. K. Williams, Pvt. A. A. Winnwest, Pvt. A. M. Young

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Commanding General
MCRD Parris Island
Eastern Recruiting Region

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2nd Lt. Jean Durham

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Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Mess hall employees from the 1st Recruit Training Battalion mess hall pose with Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, commanding general Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island/Eastern Recruiting Region and Sgt. Maj. Gary W. Buck, depot sergeant major, at Parris Island. The mess hall staff was awarded the William P. Thompson Hill Award for best full-food service contracted mess hall in the Marine Corps during a ceremony at the mess hall, Sept. 7.

AWARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other than church where they can relax.”

Recruits face a variety of physically demanding tasks every day. Skuthan said it is important for them to get sufficient nutrition at the mess hall.

“They need the nutrition,” Skuthan said. “The drill instructors will make sure they burn every calorie we give them. If we see a recruit rush through the line and only have starch we will try to help them out because we know once they go out the door, they are going to work it all off.”

Skuthan said his staff is proud to con-

tribute to the process that transforms the nervous young recruits into U.S. Marines.

“During the last week or so of training, we see the difference,” he said. “We recognize the importance of what we do when they come back and tell us how great it was here and how they appreciate it.”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriez

Recruits from 1st Recruit Training Battalion on Parris Island eat lunch at the 1st battalion mess hall on Aug. 23. The mess hall was recognized as the best full-food service contracted mess hall for the Marine Corps on Sept. 7 when they were presented the William P. Thompson Hill Award.

GRADUATE

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His body washed ashore an hour later, and he was pronounced dead by emergency medical responders at the scene.

Crawford, 19, was swimming with his brother off Hunting Island State Park's south beach in South Carolina, approximately 25 miles from Parris Island.

Crawford's family was invited to stay on Parris Island as guest of the commanding general that night. On the morning of Sept. 8, approximately 600 recruits from 3rd Recruit Training Battalion lined the streets of Parris Island to show their respects as Crawford's family drove home.

Parris Island Marines are also working with Crawford's family to ensure the Marine is properly laid to rest with military honors near his home in Ohio.

Crawford was meritoriously promoted to the rank of private first class for being among the top 10 percent in his platoon.

Crawford is the son of William L. Crawford of Amelia, Ohio, and Dawn Annette Ford of Hamersville, Ohio. His step-mother is Mary Welch Crawford. He is a 2012 graduate of Amelia High School.

Shoot out: Photos from around the Corps



Photo by Sgt. Aaron Hostutler

Sgt. Justin D. Head, animal packing course chief instructor, exercises his mustang, Hondo, shortly after grazing Aug. 21. The animal packing course is the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense and teaches Marines and other military personnel how to effectively and efficiently work with beast of burden to transport munitions, supplies and wounded personnel to and from areas inaccessible to mechanized and air transportation. The course, offered at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., teaches an introduction to animal packing, an anatomy of pack animals, animal packing techniques, casualty evacuation techniques, animal first aid and bivouac considerations.



Photo by Cpl. Ed Galo

Marines with Scout Sniper Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, exit a compound in Agha Ahmad, Afghanistan, on Aug. 27. The Marines with Scout Sniper Platoon provided surveillance and gathered intelligence on the enemy as part during Operation Helmand Viper.



Photo by Andy Wolfe

Test pilots Maj. C. R. Clift and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Burks fly the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter during an evaluation over the Atlantic Ocean Aug. 22. The fighter jet, which is short take-offs and vertical landings, is scheduled to replace three of the Marine Corps' aircraft in the near future. The F-35B is undergoing tests and evaluations at Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, Md. Once fully fielded, the F-35B will replace the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler jets, saving approximately \$1 billion in operations and maintenance costs.



Photo by 1st Lt. Dominic Pitrone

Sgt. Bruce Weidenhammer, a Flushing, Mich., native and marksmanship instructor from Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa, works with a member of the Djiboutian Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale during a combat marksmanship training event Aug. 30. The Marines are in Djibouti training with the Djiboutians to further build on close-quarters combat, medical and sniper skills. Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa is made up of more than 120 reserve Marines and sailors from 32 different units.



CHARLIE, OSCAR'S FIRST NIGHT

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Sgt. James Case, a 28-year-old from Jackson, Mich., and a receiving drill instructor, walks down the aisle talking to the new recruits at Parris Island on June 18.

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Future Charlie Company, and Oscar Company recruits had their first encounter with a drill instructor after their arrival on Parris Island on June 18.

Some of these recruits had never been yelled at before, or had so much demanded of them by a stranger. A few thought they were prepared for what was to come, but had never truly seen a drill instructor at work.

"There was a little bit more than I expected," said Pvt. Onofrio Vir-ciglio, of Platoon 1070, Charlie Company, 1st

Recruit Training Battalion. "I've seen videos, and training didn't look that terrible, but when it's you sitting there with them yelling at you, it's a different feeling."

The new arrivals sprinted off the bus as the drill instructor yelled at them to move faster toward the yellow footprints.

"Yelling is a necessity for a shock factor," said Staff Sgt. Noe Castillo, a senior drill instructor for receiving, "Being talked to nicely doesn't always get you what you need. When they go to war, no one is going to ask them to move nicely. No one is going to ask them to get down. It's going to

be demanded of them. When you're told to do something, you do it."

Although the environment is stressful, some recruits still know why they are here.

"I came down here to be a Marine," said Pvt. Bennett Russ, an 18-year-old from Louisville, N.C., and Platoon 1070, Charlie Company. "I want to do this for myself."

The transition from the civilian world to the Marine Corps culture is sometimes a drastic change.

When he worked at a restaurant in his hometown of Birmingham, Ala., everybody liked him there, said Vir-

ciglio, 18. His former job was nothing like recruit training. He felt blindsided by the intensity of the drill instructors. It was nerve-wracking.

These recruits may not be new to work, but they have never been in the presence of a drill instructor when something needs to get done.

"You've got to break them down to the simplest factor and build them back up," Castillo said. "Break them down ... so they realize that they are recruits. They

are still people; they are still treated as an individual, as an actual person, but the platoon is treated as a team."

The initial shock from their first encounter with a drill instructor is one that all recruits have gone through. It is just one of the stress factors the recruits will deal with during training.

"Everything we've ever done is based on teamwork," said Castillo, a 28-year-old native of Austin, Texas. "So, they understand it's not

'me from back on the block.' It doesn't matter what you come from ... it matters what you learn now. What you thought your persona was in the streets doesn't matter."

Their first night on Parris Island was spent with little to no sleep, and a drill instructor screaming in their face.

Today, they walk across the Peatross Parade Deck. They have completed their last day of recruit training and the first day of the rest of their lives as Marines.

Marine selected for recruiting station commands

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Public Affairs Chief

The Marine Corps recently announced the names of six officers selected to command East Coast recruiting stations next year.

Those selected would lead one of the 24 recruiting stations within the Eastern Recruiting Region, which is headquartered on Parris Island along with the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Capt. John F. Campbell was named for Recruiting Station New Jersey, and Capt. Robert M. Jones Jr. for Recruiting Station New York. Maj. Gabriel L. Diana would command the recruiting station headquartered in Charleston, W.Va., while Maj. Paul B. Bock would lead the station based in Frederick, Md. Capt. Ryan R. Gordinier was

selected for Richmond, Va., and Capt. Kathryn E. Wagner was picked for Nashville, Tenn.

All of the captains have been selected for promotion to the rank of major.

If they accept the assignments, the officers would assume command beginning in the summer of 2013.

Senior officers held the annual command screening board in order to select the best and most fully qualified commanders with the potential to operate effectively in the unique assignment, according to a Corpswide message released Aug. 30.

Three generals and 10 other officers reviewed the records of 581 eligible Marines and selected 15 for command of recruiting stations across the country, as well as 12 as alternates.

NATIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He never had a chance to know his father. His father was an Iraqi soldier and was killed in 1987 during the Iran-Iraq War.

He became a civilian contractor during Operation Enduring Freedom. Jaesh worked with the Army Rangers in support of missions all over Iraq working as a translator in 2009 to 2011, he said.

A series of killings began to sweep across Iraq after U.S. forces pulled out from the country in 2011.

"After the pull out the terrorists began killing anyone who was involved with the Army," Jaesh said.

Jaesh said he knew his life was in danger and that it was only a matter of time before he was found. In a desperate attempt to save his life he flew to America to start a new life with his wife and 4-year-old son.

He was able to travel to America by permission of the United States embassy by showing his many letters of appreciation and commendations awarded to him by the Army.

Jaesh's mother remains in Babylon and said because it is her home, she will remain there for the rest of her life, said Jaesh.

He was scheduled to fly to Wisconsin. How-

ever, do to a mix up with his paperwork at the U.S. embassy he landed in his new home of Lexington, Ky., he said.

When he arrived to America the local population didn't give him a warm welcome.

"The people were calling me a terrorist and I wanted to prove I was dedicated to America's cause," said Jaesh.

Despite his years of working with the Army, Jaesh enlisted in the Marine Corps.

"I want to fight and the Marines are the first to fight," he said.

The hardest part about enlisting was leaving his family behind.

Jaesh misses his wife but she knows he is doing the right thing and is standing with his decision.

"He was born into war and he saw his country of birth destroyed. However, he got the message that we were there to help them," said Staff Sgt. Gustavo Hernandez, 24, the senior drill instructor of Platoon 1068.

Recruit training has been physically challenging for him, however, his favorite part of training has been learning about Marine Corps history, he said.

Jaesh enlisted into the infantry and has high hopes for the Marine Corps.

"I just want to prove myself and be apart of something," Jaesh said.

MARINES AID FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Officials at Joint Interagency Task Force South welcomed the contributions that a 200-member Marine Corps detachment made toward tracking drug traffickers and other transnational criminals Sept. 7.

The Marines – mostly from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Forces South in Miami – deployed to Guatemala City at the Guatemalan government's request Aug. 11, reported Staff Sgt. Earnest Barnes, Marine Forces South spokesman.

Since their arrival, they have been patrolling the skies over Guatemala's littoral waters with four UH-1N Huey helicopters, reporting suspicious activity as part of Joint Interagency Task Force South's

Operation Martillo mission, which kicked off in January.

Detachment Martillo also is using enhanced communications to increase the task force's monitoring and detection capabilities to help Guatemalan authorities quickly apprehend and prosecute illicit traffickers, and seize their shipments, Barnes said.

Barnes emphasized that the Marines are not directly involved in apprehending traffickers and are serving only in a supporting role.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Steven J. DePalmer, Joint Interagency Task Force South's deputy director, praised the Marines' contributions. "Our Marines are well-suited to work with the Guatemalans against transnational organized crime. With their aerial surveillance helicopters and communication support, the U.S. Marine detachment deployed in sup-

port of Operation Martillo provides an enhanced capability to partner-nation efforts."

Operation Martillo, which translated, means "Operation Hammer," specifically targets illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along the Central American Isthmus – the route for more than 90 percent of the cocaine destined for the United States.

The goal, explained Coast Guard Rear Adm. Charles D. Michel, the task force commander, is to "take pressure off these Central American countries."

Particularly in the northern triangle area of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, "thousands of their citizens are being murdered," Michel told American Forces Press Service. "Government officials are being corrupted. Institutions are being rotted from the inside out. Portions of their

territory are no longer effectively under their control."

"That is instability," the admiral said, "and that is a national security threat, right in our backyard."

Operation Martillo is showing progress in working with partner nations to address that threat. Since Jan. 15, law enforcement and Coast Guard members operating under its umbrella seized or disrupted shipments that included more than 108 tons of cocaine, almost 8 tons of marijuana and \$3.5 million in laundered money, reported Jody Draves, the task force's public affairs officer.

Michel had high praise for the interagency and international teamwork that has made Joint Interagency Task Force South "the most effective and efficient counter-illicit trafficking, detection, monitoring and law enforce-

ment organization the planet has ever known."

The task force stood up 23 years ago as Joint Task Force 4 as a new model of intergovernmental cooperation in dealing with drug trafficking. The staff includes representatives of all five armed services, including the National Guard and reserves, members of various federal law enforcement entities, the intelligence community and their counterparts from 13 partner nations.

Even as the Marines tentatively plan to wrap up their support mission Oct. 31, Michel said, he'll continue to press for more assets – particularly ships and aircraft – to support the task force's mission.

"If we had more assets, we would be able to make an even bigger dent into this effort," he said. "You give me assets, and I'll show you results."

Remembering Sept. 11



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Parris Island Marines gathered at Parris Island on Sept. 11 during the morning colors ceremony to look back on the events that transpired in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa., on Sept. 11, 2001. During the ceremony, several Marines recounted their memories of the day and how it affected their lives or decision to join the Marine Corps. During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island/Eastern Recruiting Region, spoke to those present about her experience that day and what has transpired since. "This is our Pearl Harbor," Reynolds said. "This is the day everything changed."

