

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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## Delta Company recruits get down, dirty

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

The recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, use their rifles to lift razor wire away from their bodies as they crawl forward during the day movement course at a field training area Sept. 21 on Parris Island. These recruits had to make their way through the 800-meter combat training course without stopping. Delta Company is scheduled to graduate today.

## DELTA DEFEATS FINAL CHALLENGE: THE CRUCIBLE

Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz  
Staff Writer

For three months, the recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, trained their bodies and minds with the goal of becoming U.S. Marines. On Oct.

4, they finally put their training to the test during the Crucible. The Crucible is the final challenge of recruit training. The recruits spent three days overcoming obstacles through strength, teamwork and endurance.

“There are times in combat where you aren’t going to have time to rest,” said Staff. Sgt. Gustavo Ramos, a drill instructor with Platoon 1076. “We try to build their endurance and

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

A recruit guards his team during an event of the Crucible on Parris Island on Oct. 4. The recruits used their blouses to fashion makeshift stretchers to carry simulated casualties to safety. The recruits of Delta Company are scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Sgt. James Case, a 28-year-old drill instructor from Jackson, Mich., informs the newest recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, of what will be expected of them during recruit training. The new recruits arrived on Parris Island on July 16. Delta Company is scheduled to graduate today.

## Delta’s first night

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda  
Staff Writer

Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, began the transformation of its newest recruits on Parris Island on July 16.

Earlier that day, the recruits were civilians. They were used to doing what they wanted, when they wanted. After stepping on the yellow footprints that

symbolized their first steps to becoming a Marine, they were told how and when to do everything, from sitting in a chair to properly addressing the people around them.

“It’s nerve wracking,” said 19-year-old Pvt. Ruben PerezSantiago, of Platoon 1073, from Lorain, Ohio. “You want to move. You want to scratch

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US, Philippine Marines train together with nonlethal weaponry

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Marine undergoes dramatic weight loss to enlist

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# Delta Company's Graduates

## Honor Graduates

**Pfc. M. L. Jones**, Linden, N.C.

Platoon 1072, Jones was recruited by Sgt. Calleja and trained by Gunnery Sgt. Montanez

**Pfc. A. C. Rainey**, Tuscomb, Ala.

Platoon 1074, Rainey was recruited by Staff Sgt. Boggs and trained by Staff Sgt. Lowe

**Pfc. P. J. Maggio**, Westlong Branch, N.J.

Platoon 1077, Maggio was recruited by Sgt. Bowman and trained by Staff Sgt. Brock

**Pfc. M. M. Gilcreast**, Tampa, Fla.

Platoon 1073, Gilcreast was recruited by Sgt. Gomez and trained by Staff Sgt. Herrera

**Pfc. J. T. Uhrig**, Boston

Platoon 1076, Uhrig was recruited by Sgt. Caruso and trained by Staff Sgt. Collier

**Pfc. R. P. Bates**, Colwyn, Pa.

Platoon 1078, Chavez was recruited by Sgt. McConell and trained by Staff Sgt. Daniels

**Platoon 1072** Pfc. W. G. Abbott, Pfc. R. E. Baity, Pvt. F. Benavides, Pfc. K. R. Bonnell, Pfc. D. R. Brewer, Pvt. J. D. Brown, Pvt. W. H. Brown, Pvt. M. C. Brummett, Pfc. A. Cardenas, Pvt. J. W. Church, Pfc. J. R. Clark, Pvt. S. L. Clark, Pvt. L. R. Collins, Pfc. T. C. Conner, Pvt. B. M. Cook, Pfc. C. R. Covington, Pfc. P. H. Cowden III, Pfc. M. S. Crockett, Pvt. E. L. Cross, Pvt. S. D. Culpepper, Pfc. D. N. Dumont, Pvt. Z. T. Ferguson, Pvt. R. P. Fiegen, Pfc. D. A. Fillers, Pfc. B. P. Fisher, Pvt. D. M. Fox, Pvt. D. T. Frazier, Pvt. V. R. Garman, Pfc. M. C. Hailey Jr., Pvt. K. M. Hammer, Pfc. T. D. Hammonds, Pfc. B. L. Hardy, Pvt. J. D. Harrington, Pvt. E. Ignaciosimon, Pvt. K. D. Inmon, Pvt. M. L. Jones, Pvt. J. L. Jonesmedius Jr., Pfc. K. D. Joyce, Pvt. J. C. Joyner II, Pvt. M. C. Kaegebein, Pvt. J. A. Kapicka, Pvt. F. C. Korsgaard, Pfc. R. L. Krushelnisky, Pvt. L. A. Leggett, Pfc. R. C. Lewis Jr., Pvt. A. D. Liborio, Pfc. J. I. Love, Pfc. S. M. Lyons, Pvt. M. A. Magill, Pvt. K. W. Maille, Pfc. G. A. Martinez, Pfc. W. Mclawhorn, Pvt. C. J. Milojevich, Pfc. J. A. Moore Sr., Pvt. J. C. Moseley, Pfc. C. J. Navarro, Pvt. B. J. Obrien, Pvt. A. S. Ogletree, Pvt. C. P. Ott, Pfc. K. T. Pozorski, Pvt. R. T. Ragsdale, Pfc. J. C. Ramos, Pvt. J. W. Ranum, Pfc. A. P. Ray, Pvt. R. Renna III, Pvt. T. R. Richer, Pvt. J. Rodriguez, Pvt. C. W. Seal, Pfc. S. T. Sigmon, Pvt. J. K. Siironen, Pfc. M. R. Skeen, Pfc. R. K. Smith, Pfc. W. A. Steptoe Jr., Pvt. L. E. Sullivan, Pvt. A. B. Swaim, Pfc. P. B. Teague, Pfc. W. K. Thomas, Pvt. M. B. Thompson, Pfc. T. E. Tripp, Pfc. C. L. Tucker, Pfc. M. R. Vojnich, Pfc. K. D. Wagner, Pfc. T. S. Werle, Pvt. O. O. Williams Jr.

**Platoon 1073** Pvt. R. A. Alava, Pvt. T. D. Alligood, Pfc. B. W. Anderson, Pfc. K. G. Bisaccio, Pfc. J. M. Bremer, Pvt. J. T. Broxton, Pvt. J. R. Cancel, Pvt. O. C. Carnathan, Pvt. F. Castro, Pfc. A. Chmura, Pvt. M. J. Corona, Pvt. C. J. Cunningham, Pvt. G. T. Decicco, Pvt. D. L. Dickerson, Pvt. N. S. Dupont, Pvt. B. T. Foster, Pfc. D. L. Fowler, Pfc. N. R. Fox, Pvt. M. G. Francis, Pvt. J. A. Frank, Pvt. J. S. Gagliano, Pvt. D. S. Giebner, Pfc. M. G. Gilcreast, Pfc. C. J. Guilfoil, Pvt. W. C. Guy, Pfc. A. R. Haberkorn, Pfc. Z. T. Hannah, Pfc. P. A. Hernandezfuentes, Pvt. J. J. Herrington, Pfc. J. R. Hill, Pvt. J. E. Hood, Pfc. C. Z. Howard, Pvt. C. M. Johnson, Pvt. M. J. Johnson, Pvt. T. R. Johnson, Pvt. H. S. Lee, Pfc. J. M. Lee, Pfc. W. A. Lewis, Pfc. W. B. Litchmore, Pvt. R. S. Lyon, Pfc. A. C. Mabe, Pfc. S. Marcellus, Pfc. J. L. McLemore, Pfc. J. D. McNabb, Pvt. R. A. Meredith, Pvt. J. T. Minnoe, Pvt. I. Montgomery, Pvt. G. A. Montijo, Pvt. J. R. Moody, Pvt. J. J. Moore, Pvt. N. T. Moore, Pfc. D. B. Mosely, Pvt. M. V. Murkerson, Pfc. A. W. Omalley, Pfc. A. G. Padron, Pvt. R. PerezSantiago, Pfc. D. A. Pope, Pfc. J. M. Pope, Pfc. D. W. Radden, Pfc. B. M. Reed, Pvt. K. W. Rettinger, Pvt. R. W. Richardson, Pvt. C. D. Round, Pvt. M. R. Rowbotham, Pvt. B. L. Rumsey, Pvt. K. J. Saleski, Pvt. D. L. Saxe, Pfc. T. R. Seckinger, Pvt. J. L. Seward, Pfc. B. A. Shanahan, Pfc. J. D. Sims, Pvt. M. E. Smith, Pfc. J. W. Sowders, Pfc. J. T. Staland, Pfc. M. T. Stanley, Pfc. B. A. Stewart, Pvt. P. T. Stuber, Pvt. L. D. Thornton, Pvt. W. R. Welch, Pvt. D. White, Pfc. N. M. White, Pvt. J. O. Wilbanks

**Platoon 1074** Pvt. B. Acosta, Pfc. A. M. Acton, Pvt. W. M. Beckman, Pvt. J. A. Bolduc, Pvt. N. T. Boob, Pfc. J. M. Boston, Pvt. K. Brown, Pvt. Z. T. Buring, Pfc. J. P. Caporaso, Pvt. M. E. Carratura, Pfc. S. A. Casolo, Pvt. M. B. Chapman, Pvt. P. A. Cherwaty, Pfc. S. A. Ciejka, Pfc. G. G. Clark, Pvt. B. A. Collum, Pvt. J. J. Coots, Pfc. J. C. Copeland, Pvt. D. C. Critchfield, Pvt. E. M. Davison, Pvt. D. J. Difronzo, Pvt. J. E. Donofrio, Pvt. T. R. Dowty, Pvt. C. M. Durrett, Pfc. B. M. Eckerson, Pvt. F. M. Eitmiller, Pvt. N. J. Farkash, Pfc. J. T. Flynn, Pfc. W. C. Garcia, Pvt. J. A. Geckele, Pvt. A. C. Gomez, Pvt. J. R. Goodwin, Pfc. J. A. Goulette, Pvt. W. D. Grider, Pfc. W. L. Hill, Pfc. A. T. Holbroke, Pfc. J. M. Holt, Pfc. C. J. Holton, Pvt. R. T. Huffer, Pfc. H. C. Ingram, Pvt. F. J. Keating, Pvt. R. M. Kent, Pfc. A. J. Keshish, Pvt. A. R. Kirwan-Welsh, Pvt. E. L. Kress II, Pfc. T. J. Laxton, Pvt. C. D. Lucas, Pvt. C. A. Mahlenkamp, Pvt. R. C. Mankus, Pvt. R. D. Martin, Pvt. T. C. Mau, Pvt. D. S. McDaniel, Pvt. R. D. Mcintosh, Pvt. A. J. Mcpherson, Pvt. D. A. Mcphoy, Pfc. D. T. Miester, Pvt. J. Millan, Pfc. T. B. Morgan, Pfc. W. D. Nguyen, Pvt. T. A. Nix, Pvt. A. B. Paddock, Pfc. J. J. Perez, Pfc. B. R. Pillardi, Pfc. A. C. Rainey, Pvt. A. R. Ralacki, Pfc. J. A. Reid, Pfc. D. D. Rich, Pfc. N. R. Rodas, Pfc. M. W. Rodas, Pfc. R. A. Santiago, Pvt. L. W. Shaffer, Pfc. J. K. Scott, Pfc. S. L. Sherry, Pvt. R. C. Seigel, Pvt. J. J. Smith, Pvt. L. D. Smith, Pfc. T. J. Sparkman, Pvt. J. M. Sutton, Pfc. G. C. Thrower, Pfc. P. R. Tomassi, Pvt. M. A. Wachob, Pvt. B. C. Walk, Pvt. K. A. Walker, Pfc. J. M. Walton, Pvt. T. R. Wellington, Pvt. B. J. Wonderlich

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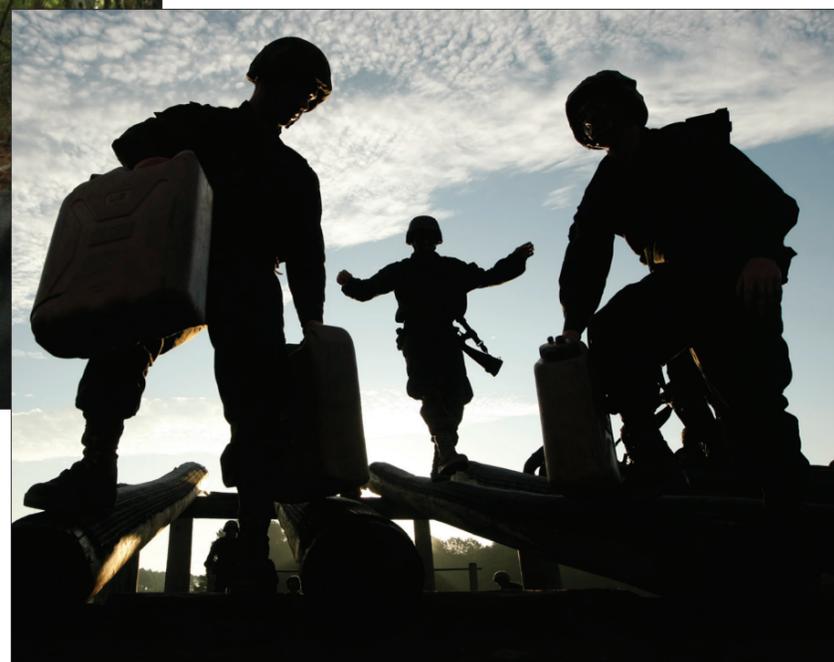
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Photos by Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Rct. Jake Coots of Platoon 1076, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, swings between tires on an obstacle on the Crucible on Parris Island on Oct. 4. Recruits had to swing between tires without touching the ground. Coots is a native of Panama City, Fla.

Recruits with Platoon 1076, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, assist each other while completing the enhanced obstacle course of the Crucible on Parris Island on Oct. 4. The recruits had to complete the course while carrying weapons and extra gear without dropping any equipment from the obstacles.



## CRUCIBLE

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teach them to have a combat mindset.”

One obstacle is called the Battle of An Nasiriyah, a version of the standard Marine Corps obstacle course that must be completed while carrying weapons and extra supplies. The recruits had to help one another cross each of the obstacles without dropping any of the equipment.

“We worked as a team and didn’t let anyone fall behind,” Woolbright, a 23-year-old native of Guntersville, Ala., said. “It’s been

hard, but it’s been fun.”

After finishing the course, the recruits had a brief break before moving into another round of obstacles.

Ramos, a 29-year-old native of Pomona, Calif., said the Crucible is rewarding for the drill instructors. After three months of nearly constant interaction with the recruits, the instructors finally get to see the recruits put the knowledge and skills they have learned to use.

“We get them as civilians,” Ramos said. “Once we get to the Crucible, we

really know what kind of impact we made on these recruits’ lives.”

At the end of the Crucible, the recruits completed a 15 km hike ending at the Iwo Jima flag raising statue. The recruits gathered around the statue and received their Marine Corps emblems, symbolizing the completion of their transformation into U.S. Marines.

“I’m definitely proud of the recruits I took out there,” Ramos said. “I am proud to have been a part of their lives.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Sgt. James Case, a 28-year-old drill instructor for recruit receiving, gives commands to the newest recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, on Parris Island on July 16. Delta Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Sgt. James Case, a Jackson, Mich., native directs Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion’s newest recruits to proceed to a room where they will each make their one and only phone call home July 16. The recruits call home to inform their families that they have arrived safely on Parris Island.

## RECEIVING

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your face, but you can’t.”

Sgt. Kadeem Walker, a drill instructor for recruit receiving, said recruits must be “zeroed out” of their civilian habits.

It’s all about discipline. The instant, willing obedience to all orders, and respect for authority are the backbone of discipline, said Walker.

Recruits must listen to the commands given by the drill instructors for almost every aspect of their daily lives. They are told when to stand, when to sit, even when to put on their left sock. They must learn what

is expected of them and how to react as quickly as possible to every order given.

During training, if recruits do not quickly learn what is expected of them, their time on Parris Island could be more difficult, Walker said.

The recruits come from different backgrounds, said Walker, a 27-year-old from Savannah, Ga. They bring different attitudes with them. Some are not used to people talking to them with authority.

Some recruits, like Nicholas Fox, of Platoon 1073, lived on their own before enlisting. Fox said he never had to ask for anything or answer to anyone.

“It’s definitely a different

lifestyle than I’m used to,” said Fox, an 18-year-old from Chesapeake, Va. “Before ... I didn’t have any rules. I did what I wanted. Now I have all these people in front of me to answer to.”

Although the recruits had been yelled at since their first step on the island, some remained optimistic.

Fox said he is looking forward to recruit training.

“It’s something I really want to do. It’s a change, but it’s a better change,” said Fox.

The recruits have taken the first and most challenging step toward becoming Marines, and that alone shows their potential to make it through recruit training.





Photo by Lance Cpl David Bessey

Pfc. Cameron Howard, of Platoon 1073, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, lost approximately 110 pounds to join the Marine Corps. Howard, an 18-year-old native of Montgomery, Ala., is scheduled to graduate today.

# MARINE LOSES 110 POUNDS TO JOIN CORPS

**Lance Cpl. David Bessey**

Staff Writer

To push beyond one's own limits is something not many are willing to accomplish.

Pfc. Cameron Howard, 18, of Platoon 1073, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pushed himself to change both his body and lifestyle when he lost 110 pounds so he could enlist in the Marine Corps.

He was at his heaviest weight of 295 pounds when he graduated high school, Howard said.

Howard, a native of Montgomery, Ala., began his journey to join the Marine Corps when he met Capt. Lee Stuckey. The two met when Howard started mixed martial arts training at a local gym.

Stuckey informed him of the benefits of the Marine Corps, Howard said.

When Howard was denied a Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship, he turned toward the

idea of enlisting in the Marine Corps.

He knew he would have to drop a substantial amount of weight before submitting an enlistment package as a reservist.

"Capt. Stuckey gave me a meal plan to eat protein bars every two hours and small meals through the day," Howard said.

He said he also began a daily exercise routine.

Howard had to train hard to get his body to a point where he could sustain running for his targeted goal of three miles. He first began completing three miles by alternating between running and walking until he could run the full distance.

As his body began to acclimate to the daily routine, the weight began to shed quickly, Howard said.

"The biggest challenge was just keeping up to the plan and exercising," Howard said.

It took him approximately a year to lose all the necessary weight to finally enlist in the Marine Corps as an infantry reservist.

"I was amazed he found a healthy way to do

it," said Adele Howard, Cameron's mother. "He watched what he ate, joined a gym and just put his mind to it."

Even though he comes from a family of retired Air Force service members, his family supports his decision completely, said Cameron Howard.

"I'm super excited. We are a military family and we are thrilled he wanted to serve," said Adele Howard.

The biggest challenge for Cameron Howard in training has been moving fast and intense yelling, he said.

"When I was in my heavier days, I was lazy and I'm still struggling to get rid of that mentality," said Cameron Howard.

Cameron Howard will return to Montgomery after he completes recruit training. He plans to start college courses next year and become an officer in the Marine Corps.

Cameron Howard said he wants to help make the world a better place.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Oct. 15-17 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.

### Aerial spray over Parris Island

In an effort to control sand flea and mosquito populations, Parris Island is scheduled to undergo aerial spray activities during Oct. 15-18. Spray activities will occur approximately two hours before sundown if weather permits.

The insecticides used present no threat to humans, plants or animals in the area, and are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency; however, beekeepers within a five-mile radius are urged to keep hives covered.

Should you have any questions, please contact James Clark at 843-228-3102 or Cynthia Zapotoczny at 843-228-4293 in the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Andrew Swaim, of Platoon 1072, Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, provides protection for his fellow recruit during the day movement course at Parris Island's combat training area Sept. 21. Swaim, a 19-year-old from Raleigh, N.C., and his fellow recruit took turns sprinting forward, then quickly dropping to the ground to provide protection for one another. Delta Company is scheduled to graduate today.

# Delta recruits define endurance

**Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda**  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, tested their endurance on the day movement course on Parris Island on Sept. 21.

The course is more than a half-mile long and recruits had to find the discipline within themselves to keep moving forward and conquer the obstacles that stood in their way.

Endurance plays an important role in this kind of strenuous activity, said Sgt. Michael Mondt, a drill instructor for Platoon 1073.

Mondt explained how it is difficult to push through the lengthy course. He said that once the recruits begin tiring physically and mentally, it makes the obstacles a greater challenge.

The recruits made their way through the 800-meter sand-covered course. They crawled under concertina wire, climbed over walls, and walked across narrow log bridges while battling their quickly exhausting bodies. However, the re-

cruits had to move forward without stopping.

According to Mondt, a 27-year-old Kearney, Neb., native, the course allows recruits to practice the fundamentals of combat during their first combat-related training exercise.

If the recruits did not complete an obstacle the correct way they were told to restart the course.

Pfc. Matthew Jones, of Platoon 1072, said that the course was intense and exhausting, challenging both his mind and body.

"After all the training we've done, you'd think we'd be used to the conditioning," said Jones, a 22-year-old Linden, N.C., native. "But once you go through it, you start to realize how mentally stressful it can be if you don't do everything right."

Pfc. Stephen Sigmon, of Platoon 1072, said he thought of quitting, but had to find the will to keep going.

"You have to have the discipline within yourself to know that you've made it this far into training," said Sigmon, a 23-year-old from Fort Worth, Tex-

as. "It's there within you. You just have to reach down deep and grab it."

After making it halfway through the course and being told to redo the obstacles multiple times, Jones said he nearly reached his physical limits.

"I just wanted to lay down and catch my breath," said Jones. "But the end was just so close, and I just kept pushing myself. When I got to the end, I felt relieved."

The course set new standards for the recruits and tested their will to finish.

"They're going to look back at this day as one of the harder ones in boot camp," said Mondt. "Everything after this is going to be like 'this isn't that demanding. It's not the day movement course, it isn't that hard, and if I can do that, I can do just about anything.'"

The recruits of Delta Company finished the course covered in sand and sweat. Today, they finish recruit training, and stand proudly in front of the world as Marines.



A Philippine soldier fires a nonlethal 40 mm round from a grenade launcher while a Marine with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, observes during nonlethal weapons training in Crow Valley, Philippines, on Oct. 8. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood

## Marines, Philippine infantry train with nonlethal weapons

CROW VALLEY, Philippines – Digging into the sand, deep in the volcano scarred valley, warriors from opposite sides of the world learn nonlethal weaponry together.

Marines and sailors with the Maritime Raid Force, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, trained alongside Philippine marines from the 71st Reconnaissance Company, 7th Infantry Division, to sharpen skills in nonlethal weapons and tactics at Crow Valley, Philippines on Oct. 8.

Nonlethal capabilities provide the user another option of force by reducing the loss of life and collateral damage. Due to their unique skills and missions, the Marines may find themselves needing this capability during regular operations.

"We provide external security for blocking positions and for the raid force going on to the hit site," said Sgt. Matthew Hart, a squad leader with

MRF and a native of Bothel, Wash. "It is important for us to understand that we cannot always use lethal force for every situation. So, when civilians come up, we need to understand these tactics as well to be just as effective."

The Marines and sailors learned four weapon systems, all with enough force to slow or stop the target. The items fired during the training were a Taser, compressed air rifle, Stingball grenade, rubber shotgun rounds and nonlethal 40mm ammunition.

"This training ... allows us to have another way to prevent situations from escalating," said Cpl. Kenneth Bubier, a squad leader with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, III Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and a native of Barstow, Calif. "There were four different weapons, and three of them I had never worked with, so it was interesting."

The X26 Taser is a handheld weapon that launches two tethered barbs,

delivering 50,000 volts through the target's body. A compressed-air powered rifle, the FN 303 delivers a blunt impact oleoresin capsicum round. The Stingball grenade, larger than the fragmentation grenade, projects rubber pellets that can strike multiple targets at one time. Fired from a shotgun, the nonlethal rounds deliver blunt trauma to the target, effectively suppressing the individual. The nonlethal 40 mm munitions, the largest of the four rounds fired from the M203 grenade launcher, send a rubber round to the target.

"These weapon systems are something that my Marines do not work with often," said Master Sgt. Narciso Aromin, the platoon sergeant with 71st Reconnaissance Company, 7th Infantry Division, and a native of San Jose City, Philippines. "Having this training gives us the ability to use these weapon systems, allowing us to stop riots or situations escalating out

of hand."

The Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU are conducting the 29th iteration of the amphibious landing exercise alongside their Philippine marine counterparts to further improve interoperability and maintain their long standing relationship.

"Training with the Philippine marines is something that my Marines don't get the chance to do often and may not ever get the chance to do again," said Hart. "It is interesting learning the ways they train and [the Philippine marines] learning how we train. We actually come up with some interesting ways of doing things after training with them."

The 31st MEU will continue to train alongside the Philippine marines for the duration of the two-week exercise. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

