

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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See Hotel and November companies' graduates

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Hotel, November Company

recruits crawl to finish line

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Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Michael Hutchins, 18, of Platoon 2085, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, lays in the prone position after crossing a log bridge during the day movement course on Parris Island on Sept. 25. The recruits are required to complete the combat training course as part of Basic Warrior Training held during the 9th week of recruit training. Hutchins, who is from Cumberland, Maine, is scheduled to graduate with his company today.

HOTEL COMPANY: TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, remembered the beginning of their journey as they came to their final hours as recruits during the Crucible at Parris Island's combat training area Oct. 11 and 12.

Having finally reached the last crucial hours before earning their Marine Corps

emblems, the recruits of Hotel Company reminisced back to the beginning of their journey to earn the title of Marine.

Staff Sgt. Carolina Andrade, a senior drill instructor at the recruit receiving building, said every enlisted Marine's story starts in the same place – standing on the yellow footprints.

Before leaving his home in Newnan, Ga., Pvt. Joseph Jackson's father looked

SEE TRANSFORMATION PAGE 3



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits stand on the yellow footprints on Parris Island. Every enlisted Marine's journey begins in the same traditional way – stepping on the legendary yellow footprints. Hotel Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Francisco Diazdiaz, Platoon 2084, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fires his rifle at a target 25 yards away during his combat firing practice at Hue City Range on Parris Island on Sept. 28. Diaz, a 27-year-old from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, is scheduled to graduate today.

Hotel fires away

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fired at close-range targets at Hue City range on Parris Island on Sept. 28 in order to prepare for combat.

Throughout training, recruits complete many different events that simulate combat. During the 9th

week of training, recruits have their first opportunity to fire at short distances, which helps prepare them for up close and personal encounters with the enemy.

The recruits fire a total of 50 rounds and wear Kevlar helmets, flak jackets and ammunition cartridge belts to simulate a combat load. They practice four different shooting drills and fire at slowly moving targets,

designed to induce critical thinking and decision making that may one day save their lives.

"We teach recruits the basics of shooting in a combat situation here," said Sgt. Brandon Rogers, a marksmanship coach at Hue City Range. "The basics are what they will use throughout their career."

Rogers, a 24-year-old

SEE FIRES PAGE 3

Marine earns title after 10 months on Parris Island

Hotel, November companies donate blood

Marines, sailors train with amphibious assault vehicles

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Hotel & November Companies' Graduates

Hotel Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. J. C. Nickell, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Platoon 2080, Nickell was recruited by
Sgt. Hyden and trained by Sgt. Skidmore

Pfc. L. M. Downs III, Pensacola, Fla.
Platoon 2082, Downs was recruited by
Sgt. Thorn and trained by Sgt. Lanier

Pfc. E. D. Taylor, Lusby, Md.
Platoon 2084, Taylor was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Johnson and trained by Sgt. Horcharik

Pfc. W. M. Watson, Lawrenceville, N.J.
Platoon 2086, Watson was recruited by
Sgt. Butler and trained by Staff Sgt. Sanders

Pfc. A. E. Torres Castro, Orlando, Fla.
Platoon 2081, Torres Castro was recruited by
Sgt. Stallworth and trained by Sgt. Martinez

Pfc. R. S. Collins, Mason, Ohio
Platoon 2083, Collins was recruited by
Sgt. Sanchez and trained by Staff Sgt. McCord

Pfc. N. L. Eddy, Kearneysville, W.Va.
Platoon 2085, Eddy was recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. Quack and trained by Sgt. Paulk

November Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. C. K. Bennett, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Platoon 4030, Bennett was recruited by
Sgt. Tristan and trained by Staff Sgt. Bibona

Pfc. A. L. Niupulusu, Pago Pago, American Samoa
Platoon 4031, Niupulusu was recruited by
Sgt. Gonzales and trained by Sgt. Smith

Platoon 2080

Pfc. C. J. Adair, Pfc. N. S. Baas, Pvt. D. T. Bennett, Pfc. T. J. Broadwhalen, Pfc. K. B. Brown, Pfc. M. R. Button, Pvt. M. D. Byars, Pfc. S. P. Callahan, Pfc. B. E. Carter, Pfc. R. J. Cerrillo, Pfc. A. J. Ciine, Pfc. D. J. Colbert, Pfc. W. J. Corson, Pvt. B. R. Cosby, Pfc. T. M. Dabbondanza, Pvt. D. G. Davidson, Pvt. W. C. Davis, Pvt. T. C. Dunn, Pvt. T. T. Dusingberre, Pvt. T. W. Edgemon, Pvt. P. M. Edgy, Pvt. J. M. Fleemin, Pvt. H. J. Freeman, Pvt. W. K. Gardner, Pvt. B. S. Hagstrom, Pvt. B. W. Hand, Pfc. J. J. Hardy, Pvt. T. K. Hartman, Pvt. K. E. Herren, Pvt. C. W. Isenhardt, Pfc. D. T. Jackson, Pvt. J. C. Jackson, Pfc. C. L. Jimenez, Pvt. A. G. Johnson, Pvt. D. M. Jones, Pfc. G. J. Kaufmann, Pvt. T. M. Ledford, Pvt. J. D. Loera, Pvt. Z. R. Manning, Pfc. A. E. Masi, Pvt. W. A. Miller, Pfc. G. R. Moore, Pfc. E. A. Morris, Pfc. W. T. Mosebach, Pfc. D. B. Murphy, Pvt. P. E. Nelson, Pvt. D. L. Newman, Pfc. J. C. Nickell, Pfc. J. A. Nunn, Pvt. N. D. Orvis, Pvt. B. J. Osmer, Pfc. P. D. Potrzuski, Pvt. J. B. Ramos, Pfc. R. G. Ramsey, Pvt. C. W. Rettig, Pvt. B. A. Richardson, Pfc. R. K. Roberts, Pfc. C. M. Ruhlmcginnis, Pfc. R. A. Russell, Pfc. W. A. Sainthilaire, Pfc. A. C. Schermacher, Pvt. M. H. Schoonover, Pvt. J. K. Silva, Pvt. J. T. Simmons, Pvt. D. J. Slater, Pfc. J. A. Smallan, Pvt. B. T. Smith, Pvt. J. P. Smith, Pfc. J. L. Somerson, Pfc. J. L. Soto, Pvt. K. D. Tardiff, Pvt. D. J. Thomas, Pvt. J. A. Thompson, Pfc. M. B. Thorn, Pvt. J. Valenciavelasquez, Pvt. H. G. Varonechenard, Pfc. M. R. Vaughn, Pvt. J. C. Walker, Pfc. W. M. Watkins, Pfc. D. M. Wilkerson, Pvt. S. T. Williams, Pvt. A. M. Wrightalakbar

Platoon 2081

Pfc. J. D. Acosta, Pfc. J. O. Ajiboyiajagbe, Pvt. F. J. Alfaroalatero, Pfc. D. L. Arrington, Pvt. A. P. Askin, Pfc. C. J. Bellamy, Pvt. J. B. Bigger, Pfc. D. J. Boehle, Pfc. N. L. Broome, Pvt. L. J. Burger, Pvt. R. M. Campana, Pvt. C. M. Carrier, Pfc. B. N. Cashwell Jr., Pvt. R. J. Chapman, Pvt. W. E. Christian, Pfc. S. T. Cogdell, Pfc. B. M. Crissman, Pvt. D. Crosby, Pfc. D. Davis Jr., Pvt. B. W. Davorenali, Pfc. J. A. Delacruz, Pfc. J. L. Dicesare, Pfc. P. T. Dobson, Pvt. N. H. Durham, Pvt. J. C. Faulk Jr., Pvt. W. K. Ferrell, Pvt. W. J. Finnerty, Pvt. A. M. Ford, Pvt. S. A. Foster, Pfc. R. A. Graves, Pfc. E. F. Hairston, Pfc. J. J. Hammer, Pvt. X. J. Harrelrosalez, Pvt. K. C. Harris, Pfc. D. T. Hart, Pvt. A. F. Huddleston, Pvt. T. A. Humphries, Pvt. J. T. Johnson, Pvt. J. S. Jones, Pfc. M. A. Jones, Pvt. A. L. Judd, Pfc. A. T. Keel, Pvt. C. Kelsey, Pfc. D. N. Kirkman, Pfc. F. E. Klossing, Pvt. J. S. Knapp, Pfc. J. A. Kyle, Pfc. Z. C. Lagrand, Pvt. V. J. Magliolo, Pvt. T. B. Maniscalco, Pfc. B. C. Marion, Pfc. C. K. Matthews, Pfc. S. D. Mcleod, Pfc. T. R. Melton, Pfc. A. D. Morris, Pvt. M. T. Neesmith, Pvt. C. R. Norton, Pfc. A. S. Pacheco, Pfc. A. M. Phillips, Pvt. C. M. Pineault, Pvt. Z. S. Potter, Pvt. B. G. Quinones Jr., Pfc. G. E. Ricks, Pvt. C. R. Robinson, Pvt. B. M. Roemer, Pfc. E. Sanchezdominguez, Pvt. E. T. Smith, Pfc. J. A. Smith, Pfc. R. M. Smith, Pfc. C. W. Snow, Pvt. I. A. Spratley Jr., Pvt. C. D. Struthers, Pvt. C. W. Thomas, Pvt. Z. K. Thomas, Pvt. I. B. Thompson, Pfc. A. E. Torres Castro, Pfc. P. M. Urbanek, Pfc. T. M. Whittall, Pvt. P. A. Williams, Pfc. M. S. WilliamsWashington, Pvt. B. W. Wilson, Pfc. J. L. Woods

Platoon 2082

Pvt. M. R. Albright, Pvt. B. A. Bauman, Pfc. A. R. Beauchamp, Pvt. J. E. Beaverson, Pvt. C. W. Bennett Jr., Pvt. B. J. Benz, Pvt. E. J. Bolger, Pvt. A. M. Borges, Pvt. M. A. Brown, Pvt. K. E. Burlas, Pfc. A. S. Byrne, Pfc. B. C. Caldwell II, Pvt. J. M. Cameron, Pvt. A. R. Carlin, Pfc. S. D. Carlson, Pfc. C. J. Ceballos, Pvt. A. R. Cleveland Jr., Pfc. I. L. Coates, Pfc. C. S. Constantino, Pvt. J. T. Conway Jr., Pfc. A. M. Cortessoto, Pvt. J. A. Coupland, Pvt. C. C. Cox, Pvt. A. J. Decker, Pvt. J. C. Deis, Pfc. A. M. Delong, Pvt. E. Diazrico, Pfc. C. J. Donohue, Pfc. L. M. Downs III, Pvt. C. R. Duncanunderwood, Pfc. C. R. Early Jr., Pvt. C. Filippone, Pfc. M. Flynn, Pvt. D. Frazier Jr., Pfc. J. C. Gainer, Pvt. M. A. Gay, Pvt. M. R. Graci, Pfc. J. S. Grems, Pfc. R. C. Harper, Pvt. B. W. Heard, Pvt. C. E. Henninber, Pvt. K. Ilva, Pvt. J. T. Kelly, Pvt. D. J. Kimmy, Pvt. M. J. Lentz Jr., Pvt. A. B. Lindsey, Pfc. F. H. Lloyd, Pfc. A. Lopez, Pvt. D. T. Loughlin, Pvt. D. R. Loughlin, Pvt. T. W. Lynch, Pvt. S. A. Marte, Pvt. S. T. Mclean, Pvt. S. G. Mcnamara, Pvt. C. P. Meldau, Pfc. L. Menezes, Pvt. K. A. Mills, Pvt. J. N. Montgomery, Pfc. D. P. North, Pvt. A. M. Pascoe, Pvt. J. A. Pascoe, Pfc. H. A. Peters, Pvt. A. J. Peth, Pfc. C. M. Piazza, Pvt. C. T. Pilch, Pvt. C. A. Price, Pvt. K. D. Ramsey, Pvt. M. T. Reese, Pvt. Z. G. Salazar, Pvt. N. T. Savage, Pfc. H. L. Schertzer, Pfc. C. R. Senyk, Pvt. Z. G. Shook, Pfc. A. R. StPierre, Pfc. D. J. Sweeney, Pfc. M. A. Swires, Pvt. C. E. Tech, Pvt. C. D. Thornton, Pvt. I. P. Tierney, Pfc. M. R. Trowbridge, Pfc. J. T. Varney, Pvt. D. C. Williamschameco, Pvt. J. A. Wulf, Pvt. T. M. Zelenka, Pvt. Z. Zickgraf

Platoon 2083

Pfc. B. T. Aldrich, Pvt. E. D. Allen Jr., Pvt. A. M. Amin, Pvt. R. J. Angevine, Pvt. R. J. Baduria, Pvt. K. M. Baldo, Pvt. N. T. Barnes, Pfc. J. E. Barry, Pfc. C. Battle, Pvt. J. R. Bauer, Pvt. D. R. Beach, Pfc. T. C. Beltz, Pfc. C. J. Bennett, Pfc. D. C. Biggs, Pvt. J. D. Blake, Pvt. S. R. Bohez, Pvt. R. J. Bowles Jr., Pvt. R. C. Bullock, Pvt. P. T. Carr, Pfc. C. P. Carrico, Pvt. C. C. Carroll, Pfc. T. M. Chamley, Pfc. B. W. Chearhart, Pfc. J. D. Clark, Pfc. R. S. Collins, Pfc. S. M. Converse, Pfc. J. W. Culpepper, Pfc. J. R. Daniels, Pvt. P. B. Daniels, Pvt. M. J. Davis, Pfc. J. L. Diaz, Pvt. L. M. Dowd, Pvt. R. M. Earle, Pfc. K. O. Echard, Pfc. B. B. Ekon, Pfc. W. D. Evans, Pvt. A. M. Flinn, Pvt. L. A. Fouts, Pvt. J. A. Garcia, Pfc. C. S. Garst, Pfc. D. Gomez, Pfc. D. A. Gonzalezwibling, Pvt. D. T. Grills, Pvt. Z. D. Haller, Pvt. D. R. Hamilton, Pvt. D. M. Hankerson, Pvt. J. F. Hanor, Pfc. R. C. Hendrix, Pvt. J. K. Henry, Pvt. A. S. Hickok, Pfc. J. A. Hook, Pvt. J. A. James, Pvt. S. M. Jessie, Pvt. D. L. Johnson, Pvt. Z. D. Kayrouz, Pfc. S. M. Kiernan, Pfc. D. T. Killingsworth, Pfc. A. P. Kogut, Pvt. A. M. Kuziel, Pfc. K. L. Lightfoot, Pfc. N. A. Maniewski, Pvt. S. W. Marchand, Pfc. P. A. McArdle, Pfc. S. P. McGoldrick, Pfc. J. C. McGrath, Pfc. S. R. McNeil, Pvt. H. J. Messer, Pvt. N. A. Miller, Pvt. N. J. Montgomery, Pvt. A. J. Moore, Pfc. D. J. Moriarty, Pfc. J. A. Perez-Tellez, Pvt. R. B. Peppers, Pvt. I. R. Phillips, Pvt. D. N. Rolin, Pfc. D. Q. Sanchez, Pfc. M. B. Segars, Pvt. W. F. Slaughter, Pvt. T. L. Smith, Pvt. M. J. Tarum, Pfc. M. D. Wells, Pfc. K. R. Welshans

Platoon 2084

Pvt. L. M. Allemond, Pfc. J. Allen, Pfc. T. C. Alvarez, Pvt. T. M. Anderson, Pvt. S. A. Angell, Pvt. H. J. Antenor, Pvt. H. L. Aponterodriguez, Pvt. K. J. Arnold, Pvt. R. L. Ballam, Pvt. R. W. Ballard, Pvt. C. K. Baumann Jr., Pvt. R. A. Beaver, Pfc. J. M. Bell Jr., Pvt. D. W. Belton, Pvt. S. J. Berlin, Pvt. C. J. Brightman, Pfc. A. J. Broussard, Pfc. D. A. Burlingame III, Pfc. N. J. Cipolla, Pvt. P. E. Curley, Pvt. B. J. Davis, Pfc. J. D. Derosé, Pvt. F. X. Diazdiaz, Pvt. K. T. Dorman, Pvt. A. M. Downing, Pfc. R. J. Emile, Pfc. A. Fernandez, Pvt. D. J. Funez, Pvt. J. T. Gant, Pfc. P. K. Gehen Jr., Pvt. G. T. Gmeiner, Pvt. J. E. Gracia, Pvt. C. A. Griffith, Pvt. A. R. Gunnoe, Pfc. M. E. Gutierrez, Pvt. B. R. Hansen, Pvt. M. T. Hickey, Pfc. M. Horak, Pvt. J. M. James, Pfc. D. A. Jennings, Pvt. P. A. Jones, Pvt. M. E. Jonestrevino, Pfc. D. M. Kazich, Pfc. C. E. Keller, Pfc. D. J. Kramer, Pfc. R. L. Lemane, Pfc. J. C. Lewis, Pfc. S. A. Longchamp, Lance Cpl. J. S. McBee, Pvt. R. G. McCusker, Pvt. D. I. Mendoza, Pfc. R. S. Morgan, Pfc. C. T. Murphy Jr., Pvt. A. L. Myers, Pfc. S. S. Naber, Pvt. S. G. Neary, Pfc. D. T. Nguyen, Pfc. C. R. Nolen, Pvt. J. J. Obrecht, Pvt. L. M. Ocamposgill, Pfc. K. R. Oktavec, Pvt. L. B. Painter, Pfc. B. M. Park, Pvt. J. A. Pickering, Pvt. J. W. Post, Pvt. D. S. Ramirez, Pfc. C. J. Rawlins, Pfc. S. T. Renda, Pvt. C. A. Romero, Pvt. A. Salas, Pfc. K. M. Skodinski, Pvt. C. G. Smith, Pvt. R. R. Smith, Pvt. Z. S. Stephens, Pfc. E. D. Taylor, Pfc. R. A. Toussant, Pvt. D. L. Tran, Pfc. J. D. Wade, Pfc. G. S. Wagler Jr., Pvt. A. R. Walker, Pfc. J. P. Weaver, Pfc. R. D. Wise, Pvt. J. E. Wristen

Platoon 2085

Pfc. P. F. Adlum, Pvt. S. Beach, Pvt. J. T. Belk, Pvt. D. Bos, Pvt. Z. M. Brown, Pvt. T. J. Bullins, Pfc. N. A. Burcham, Pvt. S. P. Byrnes, Pvt. R. A. Caissie, Pfc. A. E. Callahan, Pvt. E. F. Campos, Pvt. B. P. Caporale, Pfc. J. T. Clark, Pvt. M. J. Cohen, Pvt. A. J. Collins, Pvt. K. Collingsworth, Pfc. R. D. Corbin, Pvt. J. M. Cotto, Pvt. I. E. Cruz, Pfc. M. H. Cugno, Pvt. Z. L. Davis, Pvt. S. L. Domenikos, Pvt. C. K. Durbin, Pfc. N. L. Eddy, Pfc. J. L. Erhart, Pvt. Z. T. Fahoury, Pvt. A. E. Garcigarridos, Pvt. A. P. Gillette, Pfc. K. M. Grady, Pfc. A. M. Hannon, Pvt. D. C. Hauth, Pvt. B. M. Hernandez, Pvt. M. P. Hutchins, Pfc. C. Izquierdo, Pfc. J. M. Jackson, Pfc. B. C. Johnson, Pfc. J. T. Laufer, Pvt. D. P. Lauser, Pvt. J. D. Leonard, Pvt. K. S. Loux, Pvt. J. P. Lozo, Pvt. A. G. Lumsden, Pfc. K. N. Mallonn, Pvt. R. L. Mank, Pvt. Z. Z. Martineau, Pfc. J. D. Matthews, Pfc. E. J. Maturana, Pvt. S. A. McCartney, Pvt. D. J. Messner, Pvt. J. M. Mitchell, Pvt. M. D. Mize Jr., Pvt. A. Montenero, Pvt. J. A. Moralesgarcia, Pvt. J. W. Mosley, Pvt. D. R. Murphy, Pfc. T. L. Orr, Pvt. C. L. Petrain, Pfc. K. J. Pope, Pfc. S. S. Rhodes, Pvt. C. T. Richmond, Pfc. N. A. Rivera, Pvt. D. J. Russell, Pvt. T. J. Sands, Pfc. H. Santos, Pvt. K. J. Schoppelrey, Pfc. J. O. Sindelar, Pvt. J. L. Sloan, Pvt. D. L. Smith III, Pfc. K. P. Stelplflug, Pfc. D. L. Taylor II, Pvt. T. N. Telshaw, Pfc. P. O. Terry, Pvt. R. E. Thompson Jr., Pvt. D. J. Troupe, Pvt. G. Vallejosmendoza, Pfc. T. W. Vensel, Pfc. M. K. Vollmer, Pvt. C. E. Weimer, Pfc. D. R. West, Pvt. D. E. Wilcox, Pfc. D. J. Wilson, Pfc. A. S. Witmoyer, Pvt. B. M. Wylde, Pvt. E. W. Youngmoore

Platoon 2086

Pvt. C. O. Abdullah, Pvt. E. F. Acosta, Pfc. D. Alvarado, Pvt. A. L. Arnesen, Pvt. A. R. Bennet III, Pvt. M. L. Campanella, Pvt. E. J. Carino, Pvt. D. J. Cooper, Pvt. J. P. Davies, Pvt. J. Dejesus, Pvt. K. B. Detky, Pvt. A. J. Dishman, Pvt. J. S. Dixon, Pfc. J. D. Domachowski, Pfc. J. M. Drodzy, Pvt. J. C. Dunovant, Pvt. J. A. Dyson, Pvt. J. C. Eisenhart, Pvt. M. J. Engstrom, Pfc. J. J. Escobar, Pvt. A. M. Eyrich, Pvt. N. F. Ferreira, Pfc. D. E. Floresaguiar, Pvt. J. H. Frankel, Pvt. M. A. Gomez, Pfc. C. O. Grant, Pfc. D. M. Grayharriday, Pvt. J. J. Guevara, Pfc. J. W. Hash, Pvt. A. A. Hasib, Pvt. C. A. Henderson, Pvt. E. N. Heredia, Pvt. S. Z. Hodgson, Pvt. S. P. Hofmann, Pvt. A. O. Hoven, Pvt. M. C. Jackson, Pvt. R. Q. Johnson, Pvt. H. M. Jones, Pfc. S. J. Key, Pvt. S. H. Kim, Pvt. R. C. Little, Pfc. F. A. Ludovici, Pfc. P. F. Macedonio, Pvt. B. D. Magyor, Pvt. J. A. Mangual, Pfc. S. J. Martinelli, Pvt. P. D. Martins, Pvt. F. P. Marzio, Pvt. G. Matos, Pvt. A. M. McKeown, Pvt. T. A. Mckoy, Pvt. K. A. Melendez, Pfc. J. A. Michael, Pvt. I. Moctezumadelalanza, Pvt. M. M. Mora, Pvt. G. W. Moriarty, Pfc. C. Munson, Pfc. E. C. Oden IV, Pfc. F. D. Oteromunoz, Pvt. B. P. Otoole, Pvt. R. C. Paragian, Pvt. A. T. Parr, Pfc. C. X. Pastuisaca, Pvt. K. C. Paul, Pvt. J. J. Pitre, Pvt. J. O. Plumber, Pvt. C. Rebolledo, Pvt. R. B. Ridley, Pvt. M. R. Ritvocabezas, Pvt. W. Rodriguez, Pvt. M. S. Rolandpickens, Pvt. W. Rosario Jr., Pvt. M. A. Kalgado, Pvt. A. J. Savage, Pfc. K. C. Simmons, Pfc. P. A. Smile, Pvt. R. F. Soto Jr., Pvt. J. S. Toyos, Pvt. R. J. Ujvary, Pvt. R. M. Villalta, Pfc. W. M. Watson, Pfc. R. N. Whitbeck, Pvt. C. S. Wilson, Pvt. A. Yashinto Jr.

Platoon 4030

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Platoon 4031

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TRANSFORMATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him over, shook his hand and told his son “good luck,” and that he would never know fear again.

Jackson, 19, of Platoon 2080, held on to his father’s words from the moment he stepped onto the yellow footprints.

Jackson said stepping off the bus while a complete stranger angrily ordered him around opened his eyes to the reality of his situation. He said he felt extremely overwhelmed as he stood on the footprints.

For Pvt. Jacob Thompson of Platoon 2080, after stepping on the footprints, his first night on the island seemed to last forever.

However, as Thompson thought about how far he had come, and how close he was to the goal he had been working for, recruit training seemed to have flown by.

Andrade, a 29-year-old El Paso, Texas, native, said the Crucible is an important time because the transformation from recruit to Marine is “right around the corner.”

Thompson said he couldn’t wait to receive his Eagle, Globe and Anchor after the final hike of the Crucible, which would end his 12-week journey to become a Marine.

The recruits of Hotel Company have come a long way since arriving on the island. They have stepped on the yellow footprints, been given basic combat training, overcome mental and physical challenges and today stand before the world as Marines.

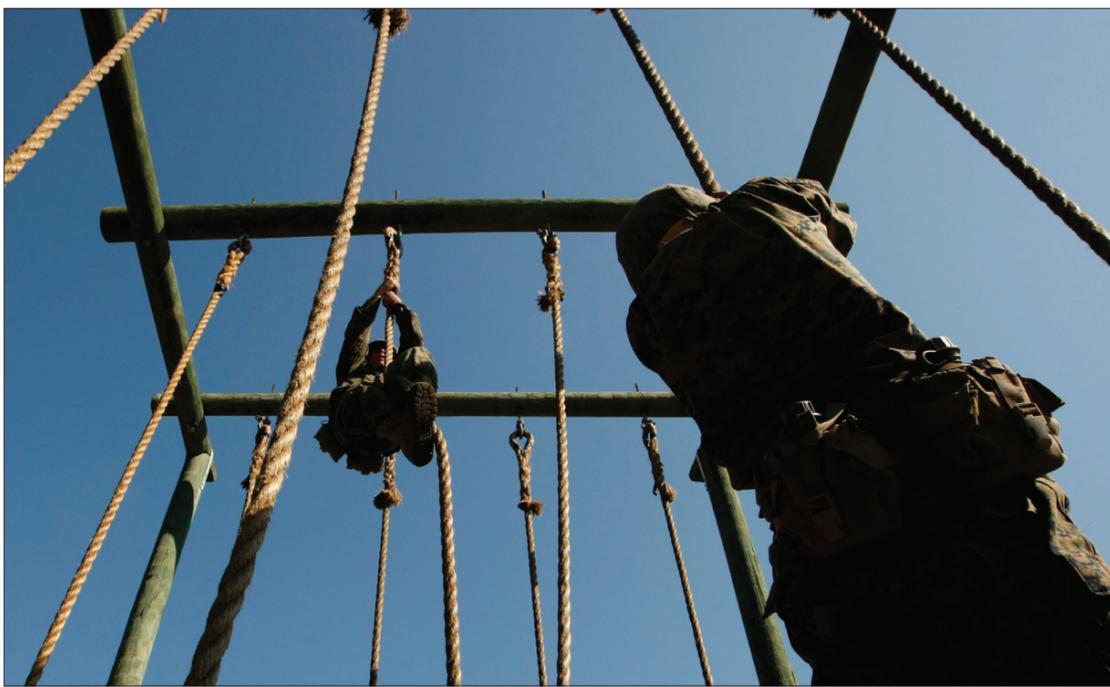


Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, climb the ropes while in full gear during the Crucible on Parris Island on Oct. 11. The Crucible is the culminating event of recruit training before the recruits claim the title of Marine. Hotel Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Preston Jones, Platoon 2084, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, aims and fires at his target on Hue City Range on Parris Island on Sept. 28. Jones, an 18-year-old from Ashburn, Va., is scheduled to graduate today.

FIRES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Ocala, Fla., said the four basic drills include controlled pair, failure to stop, head shot and box drills, all of which represent different combat-related situations. The targets are 25 yards away.

A controlled pair is two shots to the chest area of a target, and is normally the first “drill” a Marine uses in combat if an enemy is walking toward them, said Rogers.

When an enemy doesn’t stop after two shots to the chest, another shot is fired at either the head or the pelvic area, which recruits practice in the failure to stop drill.

“They could very possibly deal with more than one enemy at a time, which is what the box drill is for – firing two shots to the chest cavity at each enemy,” said Rogers.

“If they do not stop advancing toward you, we teach the recruits to drop to one knee and fire at either the head or the pelvis.”

After performing all the shooting drills, the recruits brace themselves for yet another kind of firing – shooting at a moving target 100 yards away.

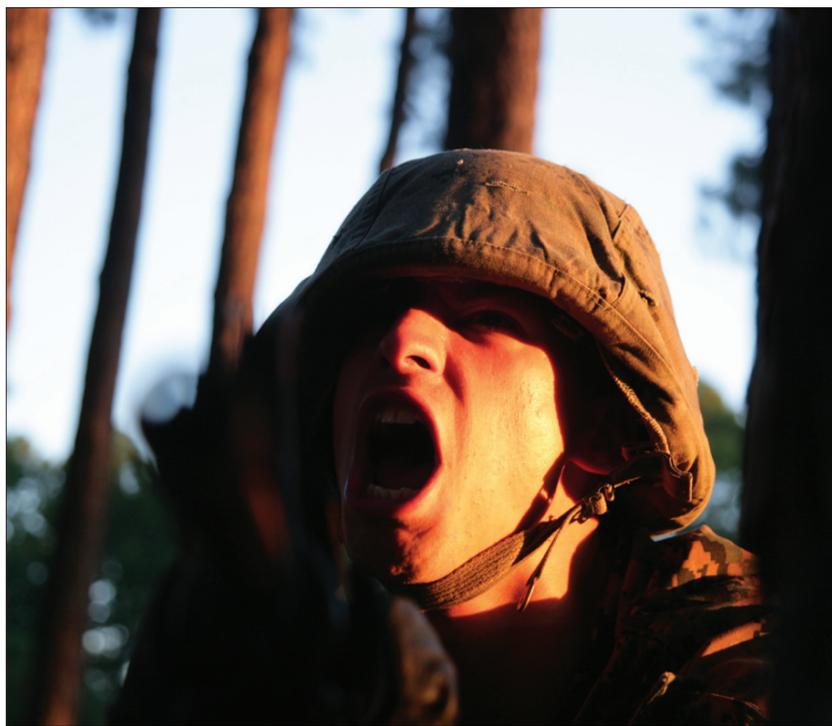
“It is so important that the recruits understand and grasp the concepts of firing at a moving target,” said Rogers. “The split-second decisions of when to fire could save their lives in combat.”

Pvt. Kier Dorman, Platoon 2084, said he thinks the drills will better prepare him for his future Marine Corps career.

The recruits of Hotel Company have displayed constant determination, tact and discipline throughout their training, and walk across the parade deck today as proud, accomplished Marines.



Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Rct. Dustin Murphy, 18, of Platoon 2085, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, crawls underneath concertina wire during a combat training course on Parris Island on Sept. 25. Recruits must use their rifles to push the wire above their bodies to be able to shimmy underneath safely. Murphy is from Ellsworth, Maine, and is scheduled to graduate with his company today.



Rct. Jarrett Erhart, 19, of Platoon 2085, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, shouts to another recruit to rush forward as Erhart provides cover during the day movement course on Parris Island on Sept 25. Recruits must maintain communication with each other to complete the course successfully. Erhart is from Voorhees, N.J.

Hotel, November companies crawl their way to title

Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, and November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, sprinted and crawled to safety during the day movement course at the field training area on Parris Island on Sept. 25.

Recruits navigated a simulated battle environment, maneuvering in short sprints and over and under obstacles.

"The tactics they learn here are the basics of how to shoot, move and communicate on the battlefield," said Sgt. Jason Boggess, 26, lead day movement instructor.

The course gave recruits a chance to take command and perform the fire team tactics they previously learned during Basic Warrior Training.

"I thought it was a good chance to learn small-unit leadership," said Rct. Evan Taylor, 18, of Platoon 2084 and a native of Lusby, Md. "It gave us a chance to take charge in a scenario we might face

someday."

Recruits remained in constant communication with their buddy as they advanced down the course. Failure to do so resulted in both recruits being sent back to the beginning to retry the course.

The recruits of November Company received sage advice from one of their drill instructors during the course.

"Females tend to not think they will be doing this kind of thing in the fleet and don't take it seriously," said Sgt. Ashley Mohr, 26, a drill instructor of Platoon 4031. "I give the recruits a real-life scenario to help them understand that the role of females in combat is changing."

As the recruits finished the short sprints in the wooded area of the course, they advanced with another recruit to the second half consisting of a series of obstacles.

One such obstacle is called the tangle-wire. Recruits watched their step as they made their way through a grid of razor wire less than a foot above ground masked by white smoke.

"The smoke is used to conceal the tangle-wire and forces recruits to pay attention to the tactics we teach them," said Boggess, a native of Stuart, Fla.

By using their peripheral vision to spot the wire, the recruits must keep their heads raised with their rifles held at eye level looking toward potential threats.

Many recruits found themselves struggling when they reached the next obstacle – a wall of spirally concertina wire.

Recruits must crawl under the wire using their rifle to push wire above their heads while slowly inching their way to the other side on their backs.

"It's used as a choke point," said Boggess. "It forces recruits to slow down."

When Rct. Francis Ludovici reached the other side of the obstacle he noticed his buddy was caught in the wire. The 18-year-old of Platoon 2086, and native of South Hampton, Pa., turned around and crawled back to assist his buddy.

"I went back to stick my rifle under the wire and lift it up and help him out," Ludovici said.

When the recruits finished clearing the obstacles they rushed to the finish, giving a sigh of relief.

The knowledge the recruits gained through the course will carry them through future training in the Marine Corps as they continue to sharpen their skills to work as a unit on the battlefield.

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MARINE BEATS ILLNESS, EARNS TITLE AFTER 10 MONTHS

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Lance Cpl. Jake McBee, 19, of Platoon 2084, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, is scheduled to graduate today after having been on Parris Island for approximately 10 months while recovering from pneumonia.

McBee always had an interest in joining the military and his time in a junior Marines program only inspired him more to join the Marine Corps, said McBee, a native of Gulfport, Miss.

"At first my family was against it, but now they fully support me," he said.

McBee was dropped from recruit training to Evaluation Holding Platoon, Special Training Company, in December due to a case of pneumonia.

However, McBee's condition did not improve. His illness progressively worsened until his left lung began to fill with reddish fluid. McBee was taken to the Branch Medical Clinic on three occasions to have the fluid drained.

Doctors extracted approximately 20 to 27 ounces of fluid from his lung in each session.

His condition worsened, resulting in a trapped lung, meaning his lung could no longer expand.

McBee was admitted to Naval Hospital Beaufort where doctors had to perform surgery to get his lung working properly.

Doctors cut into his lung and inserted a series of tubes to drain every bit of fluid inside, he said.

McBee remained in the hospital for a week before being sent back to Parris Island.

His case was scheduled to be evaluated by a medical board in Washington. The

board looked over his injuries to see if he needed to be separated from military service.

As the months went by, McBee finally received the news he had been dreading.

The board approved his separation.

All McBee wanted was to be a Marine and now it seemed as if his dream was going to be stripped from him.

McBee's family was allowed to visit Parris Island to see their son while he waited to be separated. After a conversation with his father, McBee decided he was going to fight against the board's decision to return to training, he said.

His father helped raise his spirit and convinced him to go on the offensive and do what it took to claim the title.

"I'm here now, so I might as well finish it," McBee said.

After seven months of healing, assembling evidence and fitness reports to prove that he was capable of returning to training, McBee began training with Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

"He's strong-willed," said Ron McBee, Jake McBee's father. "There is just no quit in him."

The new Marine has big plans for his future Corps career.

"I'm interested in being a drill instructor," said Jake McBee. "They are like a brotherhood within a brotherhood."

When Jake McBee leaves Parris Island he will report to Camp Geiger, N.C., for Marine Combat Training and then continue training as an aviation electronic technician.

Not only has he passed the trials of recruit training, but Jake McBee has overcome sickness and injury to claim the title of Marine.



Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Jake McBee, 19, of Platoon 2084, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, raises his rifle to eye level as he navigates a log bridge during a combat training course at the field training area on Parris Island on Sept. 25. McBee is scheduled to graduate today.



Rct. Jake McBee sprints to his next destination during a combat training course at the field training area on Parris Island on Sept. 25. McBee, a Gulfport, Miss., native, has spent 10 months on Parris Island due to a case of pneumonia that kept him from training,

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Monday through Wednesday 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.

Recruits give blood for overseas troops

Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Staff Writer

Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, and November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, donated blood that will be used by troops overseas at a drive held on Parris Island on Sept. 30.

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, head supervisor 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.

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. In about a week, the blood could arrive to service members in need in Afghanistan, Longacre said.

The center delivers blood to various locations overseas every week to service members, said Hawkins.

"It's a great idea because we're helping them and they're helping us," said Pfc. Ryan Ramsey, 18, of Platoon 2080, Hotel Company and a native of Cleveland, Tenn. "We're all away from our families but they're out there risking

their lives."

Parris Island donations make 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.

Additionally, more than 1,000 recruits were registered as future bone marrow donors who could help save service members in dire need of bone marrow.

Even as they walk across Peatross Parade Deck one last time, the Marines of Hotel and November Companies 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. Kaleb Mills, 19, of Platoon 2082, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, donates blood during a recruit blood drive at Parris Island's All-Weather Training Facility on Sept. 30. The blood recruits donate at the drive is sent overseas to assist troops in need.



Photo by Cpl. Michael Lockett

Marines of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, ride amphibious assault vehicles to their mechanized raid course Oct. 8 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Marines, sailors with 26th MEU begin training on mechanized raid course

Cpl. Michael Lockett

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Forming up at their armory long before the sun rose, the Marines and sailors of Company K drew weapons as autumn's cold winds blew, chilling the company as they shivered and stamped their feet, trying to warm up.

Weapons drawn and accountability complete, the Marines hiked out to rendezvous with amphibious assault vehicles boarding up and riding out to the training site under the cold grey skies as the engines of the vehicles roar in the damp morning.

The company from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, serving with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is currently taking part in a mechanized raid course designed to evaluate and certify them in

conducting a company-strength assault with tank and AAV support.

The Marines are focusing on refining their training, preparing to conduct their mission under a wide variety of circumstances.

"With a MEU, you have to be ready for anything. You could get dropped off in the middle of a jungle. You could get flown to Afghanistan right off the ship," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Walker, chief instructor with the Special Operations Training Group's mechanized raid course, from Colquitt County, Ga.

The first week of the course is mostly geared toward refining standard operating procedures.

"It gives us the ability to break down into task-specific elements and practice our

conduct during the raid," said 1st Lt. Grant Hundley, the company's executive officer, from Richmond, Va.

The raid is broken down in three parts. The assault element is comprised of the Marines who will breach and clear the target, subduing or eliminating resistance and sweeping the site for anything of interest. The support element has Marines ready to provide supporting fire, stretcher teams and other skills required depending on the specifics of a mission.

The third element is the security team, which is comprised of Marines, including the tanks and AAVs, who establish security at the site and allow those going in to accomplish their jobs.

A heavy raid force, complete with its tanks and AAVs, is an incredible amount of

firepower to put in one place.

"The raid is unique in that the ability to move from ship-to-shore and from shore-to-objective is entirely organic to the MEU," said Hundley. "The mechanized raid brings a lot to the MEU's courses of action when they receive tasking."

A lean and powerful force, Company K will be the MEU's mechanized raid company, the unit responsible for operating with the heavy iron if a situation requires it. With the completion of the course, these Marines will be able to do just that, applying the right level of force for the task at hand, balancing grace with power.

"They have to be able to do it all," said Walker. "Marines have to train to be ready for anything."

The 26th MEU is slated to deploy in 2013.



