

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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See Mike Company's graduates

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Mike Company fires away

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Photo by Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Rct. Samuel Jenesty, Platoon 3082, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, shouts to his partner as they navigate the day movement course together during combat training Oct. 12 on Parris Island. Jenesty, an 18-year-old native of Pittsburgh, provided cover for his teammate as they advanced toward the end of the course. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Mike breezes through Confidence Course

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, assured themselves of their warrior prowess as they breezed through their second try on the Confidence Course on Parris Island on Oct. 18.

The Confidence Course presents recruits with an opportunity to face their fears and become strong, confident Marines.

According to Staff Sgt. Ronald Dorval, a drill instructor for Platoon 3082, recruits tend to get over their personal fears their first time through the course. When they have to go through the obstacles later in training, they are prepared and eager to take on the challenge.

The course consists of 15 unique obstacles that require recruits to climb ropes, weave through logs, swing across ditches or muscle their way up towering structures.

Pvt. Jerome Kershaw, Platoon 3081, said being on the course for the second time was an adrenaline rush because he knew what was expected of him.

Kershaw, a 19-year-old from Bainbridge, N.Y., said he did not have to worry about his fear of heights anymore. After going on obstacles such as the Stairway to Heaven the first

time on the course, he knew he could make it the second time.

Pvt. Damon Clark, Platoon 3081, and a 19-year-old from DuBois, Pa., said going through the course earlier in training made his second attempt an easy, yet reassuring endeavor.

Recruits of Mike Company showed no hesitancy as they fiercely conquered the obstacles of the Confidence Course.

Having overcome every obstacle placed in their path, these young men stand before the world today as Marines.

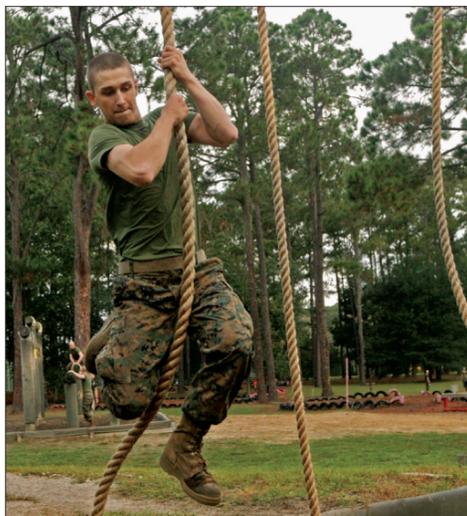


Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Rct. Christopher Williams, Platoon 3082, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, swings over a ditch during his second round on the Confidence Course on Parris Island on Oct. 18. Williams, an 18-year-old from Ashville, Ala., is scheduled to graduate today.

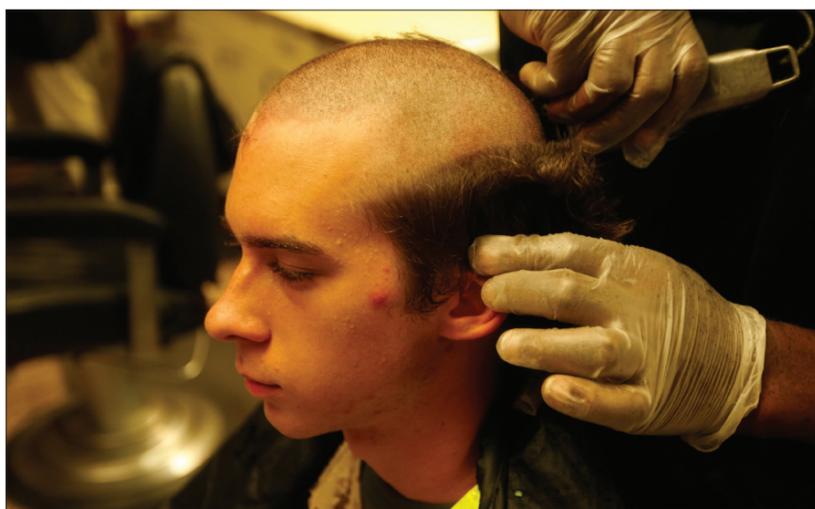


Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Aaron Blackmon, Platoon 3080, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, receives his first military haircut Aug. 6 on Parris Island. The 18-year-old from Lexington, N.C., will be required to have his hair cut throughout training. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Mike's first 24 hours

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, did not know what to expect for their first night on Parris Island on Aug. 6.

During the first 24 hours, the recruits were subject to a number of check-in procedures in order to complete the receiving process. This is where their transformation from civilian to Marine began.

Recruits arrived around 7 p.m. and trickled in throughout the evening. The first night truly started when the recruits

stepped on the yellow footprints and had their first encounter with a drill instructor. One recruit said he would remember it for the rest of his life.

"Stepping on the yellow footprints was probably the most eerie, but awesome experience I've had in my entire life," said Pvt. Matthew Miller with Platoon 3081.

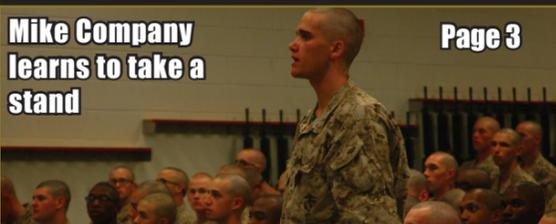
Recruits made brief, yet intense, phone calls home within their first hour of arriving at the receiving building.

SEE FIRST PAGE 3



Brothers train, graduate together

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Mike Company learns to take a stand

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Children celebrate Marine Corps' birthday

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Mike Company Graduates

Honor Graduates

Pfc. K. L. Register, Valdosta, Ga.
Platoon 3080, Register was recruited by
Sgt. Kaiahua and trained by Sgt. Barter

Pfc. T. E. Brainerd, Roswell, Ga.
Platoon 3082, Brainerd was recruited by
Sgt. McCoy and trained by Staff Sgt. Garrett

Pfc. F. T. Bergstrom, Springfield, Mass.
Platoon 3085, Bergstrom was recruited by
Sgt. McDonald and trained by Sgt. Greenfield

Pfc. E. M. Osborne, Jonesborough, Tenn.
Platoon 3081, Osborne was recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. King and trained by Staff Sgt. Bezada

Pfc. D. Z. Williams, Easton, Pa.
Platoon 3084, Williams was recruited by
Sgt. Morris and trained by Staff Sgt. Thomas

Pfc. M. R. Martinez, Naples, Fla.
Platoon 3086, Martinez was recruited by
Sgt. Smith and trained by Staff Sgt. Menziesandino

Platoon 3080 Pvt. T. A. Adams, Pfc. J. E. Allen III, Pfc. E. Arianas, Pfc. D. T. Armistead, Pvt. R. D. Attison, Pvt. R. B. Ayers, Pfc. B. M. Baldwin, Pvt. E. J. Ballard, Pvt. W. C. Beasley, Pfc. M. L. Bell, Pvt. A. L. Blackmon, Pfc. R. J. Bodie Jr., Pvt. A. K. Branam, Pfc. T. A. Brooks, Pvt. D. L. Brown Jr., Pvt. H. P. Carathers, Pvt. B. B. Casey, Pfc. L. M. Caskey, Pvt. R. Chau, Pfc. A. T. Chester, Pvt. L. E. Clemons, Pvt. C. N. Crumley, Pfc. J. E. Curry, Pvt. T. M. Damone, Pfc. Z. T. Deese, Pfc. A. M. Deida Almodovar, Pfc. D. J. Delesline, Pfc. A. F. Dravigny, Pfc. D. M. Ford, Pfc. R. M. Forsyth, Pfc. E. D. Garzon-Cuesta, Pfc. J. M. Gilbert, Pfc. A. L. Gillen, Pvt. D. M. Glover, Pvt. S. Gomez, Pfc. M. M. Griffith, Pfc. N. A. Hardison, Pvt. R. Hernandez, Pfc. Z. S. Hinkley, Pfc. D. Innocent, Pfc. K. Jardines, Pvt. T. K. Jones, Pvt. J. L. King, Pfc. C. K. Kirkland, Pvt. C. C. Lawrence, Pfc. A. R. Lee, Pvt. Z. T. Leonard, Pvt. D. G. Levine, Pfc. B. W. Long, Pfc. M. G. Long, Pvt. T. J. Longe-McCann, Pfc. J. D. Lynn, Pvt. J. E. Marker, Pvt. B. C. McCarter, Pvt. K. A. McKinney, Pvt. B. L. Medlin, Pfc. R. Melendez-Bonilla, Pfc. E. D. Moore, Pvt. M. A. Moore, Pvt. M. A. Morales, Pfc. J. D. Morris, Pvt. S. F. Muhammad, Pvt. C. A. Nipper, Pfc. C. M. O'Bourke, Pfc. J. Ortiz, Pfc. D. T. Perrone, Pvt. J. C. Phillips, Pvt. L. A. Pierce, Pfc. K. L. Register, Pfc. J. D. Ricks, Pvt. L. P. Roberts, Pvt. J. T. Rogers, Pvt. G. L. Rose, Pvt. T. K. Rosebrook, Pfc. M. A. Russ, Pfc. G. D. Smith Jr., Pvt. R. C. Smith, Pfc. W. A. Southern, Pvt. C. M. Spence, Pfc. T. H. Stanford Jr., Pvt. M. L. Stark, Pvt. Z. S. Stice, Pfc. S. J. Taylor, Pvt. C. A. Thrash, Pvt. D. A. Tillery II, Pvt. C. J. Townsend, Pvt. I. H. Trouilliere, Pfc. C. A. Vincent, Pfc. H. L. Walker, Pvt. A. N. Weatherford, Pvt. T. M. Weaver, Pvt. A. T. Weld, Pvt. J. D. Weld, Pfc. J. R. Wenzel

Platoon 3081 Pvt. W. T. Ammon, Pfc. G. L. Appleford, Pfc. D. S. Blackburn, Pfc. L. K. Bobbitt, Pfc. A. P. Brightwell, Pfc. S. W. Brookover, Pfc. R. S. Brothers, Pvt. J. R. Brotosky, Pvt. A. T. Bushong, Pvt. C. M. Campbell, Pvt. D. M. Carlisle, Pvt. D. E. Chapman, Pvt. Q. D. Chavis, Pvt. T. R. Child, Pvt. D. G. Clark, Pfc. S. W. Crossman, Pvt. T. R. Cunningham, Pvt. C. G. Curtis, Pvt. M. C. D'Andrea, Pvt. M. L. Dashiell, Pfc. J. W. Davis, Pvt. N. De La Cruz, Pfc. K. T. Delvecchio, Pfc. S. M. Dennis, Pvt. M. D. Easterwood, Pvt. B. K. Ebersole, Pfc. J. H. Edwards, Pfc. M. I. Elias, Pfc. D. R. Fetters, Pfc. S. Fields, Pvt. C. M. Firmin, Pfc. R. D. Frantz, Pvt. O. L. Garris, Pvt. M. J. Germain, Pfc. T. A. Gillum, Pvt. T. W. Hales, Pvt. D. A. Hartman, Pfc. A. J. Herms, Pfc. W. T. Hines-Carraway, Pfc. B. C. Hinton, Pfc. E. L. Hotson, Pfc. D. L. Humphries, Pvt. J. K. Ianni, Pvt. M. P. Jacquemin, Pfc. D. W. Janz II, Pvt. J. W. Jespersen, Pfc. M. A. Johnson, Pfc. T. T. Johnson, Pfc. A. J. Keller, Pvt. J. C. Kershaw, Pfc. J. F. Krasinski, Pfc. K. R. Lancaster, Pfc. M. J. Latter, Pvt. S. D. Lockhart, Pvt. J. W. Martin, Pfc. P. J. Martin, Pfc. D. K. Matthews, Pvt. S. D. Mercer, Pvt. M. T. Miller, Pfc. R. O. Mitchell, Pvt. C. W. Morgan, Pvt. J. S. Murphy III, Pvt. M. R. Murphy, Pfc. A. D. Myers, Pvt. J. T. Nesser, Pfc. J. E. O'Connor, Pvt. K. A. Ornelas, Pfc. E. M. Osborne, Pfc. C. T. Oswalt, Pfc. M. Parker Jr., Pfc. A. Parsons, Pvt. D. R. Perrin Jr., Pvt. F. G. Presnell, Pfc. L. L. Richardson, Pvt. S. C. Robertson Jr., Pvt. T. J. Rockhill, Pvt. J. W. Ross, Pfc. D. H. Serrano III, Pfc. C. M. Staib, Pfc. N. M. Stinson, Pfc. R. S. Stone, Pvt. M. A. Sumrall, Pfc. D. S. Tadao, Pvt. C. S. Terrill, Pfc. L. S. Thomas, Pvt. T. A. Thomas, Pvt. K. K. Wonsowicz, Pvt. N. Z. Wyatt, Pfc. M. A. Wynne

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THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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MCRD Parris Island
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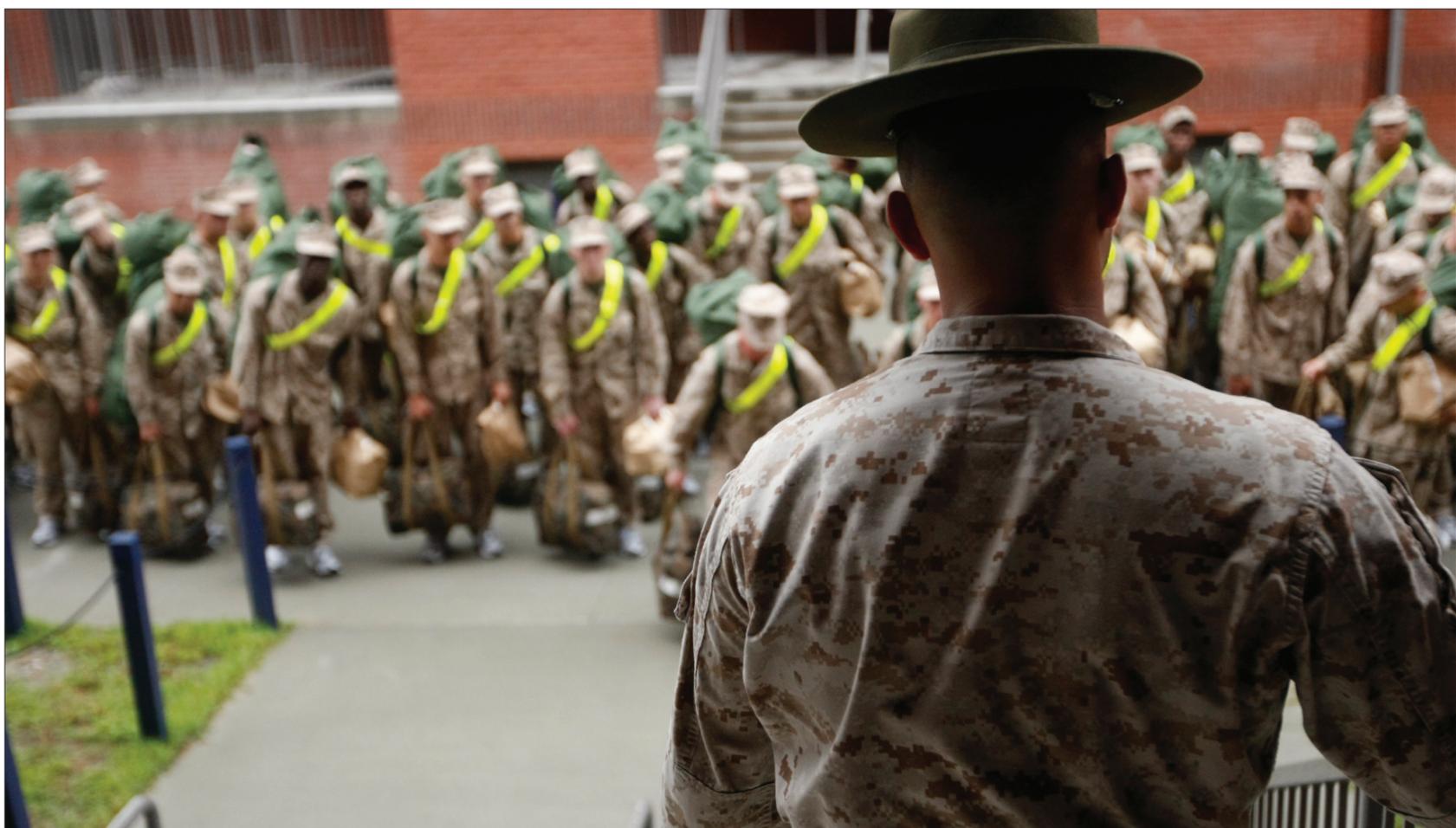


Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Sgt. Jose Arriaga, a drill instructor at the receiving building, speaks with the recruits of Platoon 3080, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, as they prepare to enter their squad bay Aug. 6 on Parris Island. The squad bay has been their home for the past three months. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

FIRST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Once I got on the phone, it all happened so fast,” said Miller, a 20-year-old from Mobile, Ala. “I couldn’t even hear myself because my family immediately started screaming through the phone ‘I love you,’ and I couldn’t say it back. I just had to scream what was on the board and hang up.”

Recruits then surrendered all contraband items and were sent to a separate room to be given their military clothing.

Recruits received a cargo style bag, known as a sea bag, and filled it with their issued reflective safety belt, desert and woodland utility uniforms and caps, brown boot socks, under garments, physical training gear and boots.

The recruits carried their sea bags to a temporary holding room and set them down in rows of four, storing them before heading to their next destination.

In the rear of the receiving building, recruits are given items such as sun screen, bug spray, stationery for letters, foot powder and laundry detergent.

The recruits’ next step was to change out of their civil-

ian clothes. They were required to wear running shoes in place of boots. They had not yet earned the privilege of wearing the complete Marine Corps uniform.

Pfc. Julius Allen, an 18-year-old Ocala, Fla., native, of Platoon 3080, said he felt like he was putting on Marine Corps history when he wore his uniform for the first time. He said he realized what a big step he was taking into his future.

Dressed in their new uniforms, the male recruits lined up in a small barber shop. One by one they were given new military haircuts; bald.

With hundreds of recruits arriving throughout the night, simple processes took hours to complete, leading into the next day.

Miller said the night seemed to last forever. Recruits were repeatedly woken up as they fell asleep in their seats.

The next day the recruits visited the medical and dental facilities on base to get their records updated and filed away, and were taken to their last recruit supply point.

They received supplies such as magazines for their rifles, Marine Corps back packs, Kevlar helmets, ponchos, utility belts, gloves and other items needed for

their training.

With their back packs on and sea bags strapped to their fronts, the recruits of Mike Company walked from the receiving building to the battalion barracks. The large room, lined wall to wall with metal bunk beds, would be their home for the next 12 weeks.

The only squad bay Miller said he had ever seen was in a movie. His biggest surprise was the nonexistence of any type of privacy. He said even the restroom stalls lacked doors.

Once everything was packed away, the recruits were finally ordered to go to bed.

“When we finally got the chance to go to sleep, I was out in five seconds,” Miller said.

Once the lights were off, there was nothing else to do but sleep. The next morning began promptly at 4 a.m., and the recruits were ready to embark on another day of recruit training.

These young men came to Parris Island of their own accord, and were supplied with what they needed to make it through training. The first 24 hours were long and full of constant chaos, but it was the first 24 hours of the rest of their lives.

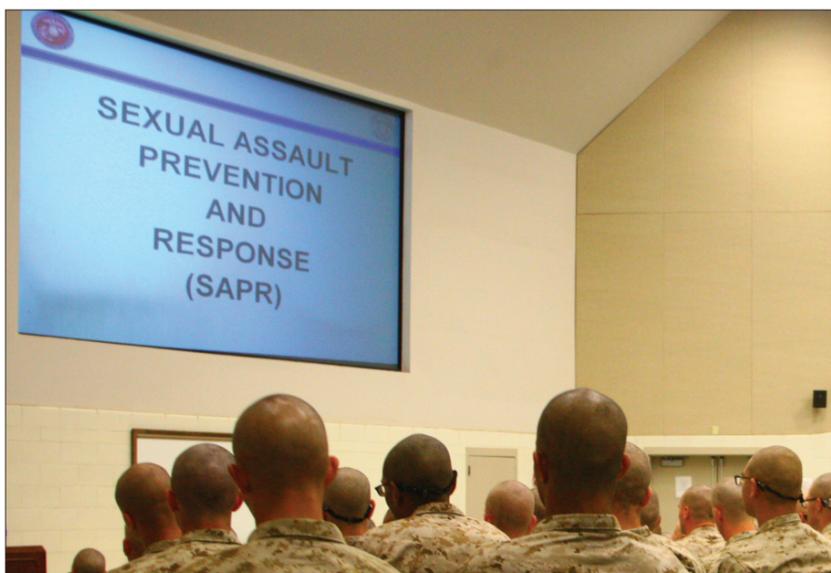


Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, get an introduction to the Marine Corps’ policy on sexual assault Aug. 24 at Parris Island’s Recruit Training Facility. They learned to identify, prevent and report sexual assault during the class. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Recruits of Mike Company learn to prevent sexual assault

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Staff Writer

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, received their first sexual assault prevention and response course at the Recruit Training Facility on Parris Island on Aug. 24 as an ongoing effort to end sexual assault in the Marine Corps.

In fiscal year 2011, 333 sexual assaults were reported in the Marine Corps. Even more assaults went unreported because of shame, embarrassment, fear of retaliation, or fear of disbelief or inaction, according to Gen. James T. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, in a message to Marines published June 20.

“Sexual assault is an ugly mark on our proud reputation; it goes against everything we claim to be as United States Marines ... it is a crime,” the commandant wrote. “This crime is not only completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage and commitment, it is an affront to the basic American principles we so bravely defend.”

Gen. Michael W. Hagee, a former commandant of the Marine Corps, introduced mandatory sexual assault awareness and prevention training as part of enlisted recruit training and basic officer training on March 1, 2004, according to a message to

Marines published Feb. 25, 2004.

The recruits are taught how to report sexual assault, how to stop it and the repercussions during the class.

“These recruits need to be educated on sexual assault because if something happens to them, they need to know how to get the help they might need,” said 1st Sgt. Toshia Sundermier, an instructor from the Instructional Training Company.

“I think the most important thing taught in the class was how to report a sexual assault,” said Pfc. Fredrick Bergstrom, Platoon 3085, and a 28-year-old native of Gothenburg, Sweden. “The restricted report gives Marines a good, secretive opportunity to get the help they need.”

Marines have not always had the luxury of being properly educated on sexual assault.

“I didn’t get an introduction to sexual assault or how to report it when I came into the Marine Corps 22 years ago,” said Sundermier, a 43-year-old from Spokane, Wash. “We had incidents happening, but no one knew what to do.”

Sundermier said if the Marines don’t feel comfortable or educated enough to report a sexual assault, then the problem in the Marine Corps will never be solved.

Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, conduct combat training Oct. 12 at Parris Island's field training area. The recruits learned to advance toward the enemy in pairs, requiring one recruit to provide cover while the other sprints to a safer position. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

BASIC WARRIORS: Mike Company completes day movement course

Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Staff Writer

For the recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Basic Warrior Training was their first opportunity to put much of their combat training to use as they tested their skills on the day movement course Oct. 12.

The day movement course is designed to teach recruits how to safely maneuver through a combat zone as a team. It features walls that must be climbed, bridges that must be crossed and concertina wire obstacles that must be navigated.

"The course teaches them endurance, combat skills and how to work together," said Sgt. Anthony Iannone, a drill instructor for Platoon 3080. "They may have a few stragglers, but it's important they learn that they always go back for their buddy."

The recruits advanced through the course in teams of two, supporting each other and using joint efforts to conquer difficult obstacles.

One obstacle featured a long log stretched over a pit of water. Recruits had to cross the log while staying alert and aiming their rifles down to protect themselves and their partners from possible threats from below.

The Marines are notorious for running toward the sounds of danger, said Iannone, 27, from Rome, N.Y. Drill instructors instill that into the recruits today. No matter how chaotic a situation may be, Marines must stay together and continue to press forward as a team.

Pfc. Brett Long and Pfc. Kolby Register, Platoon 3080, were partners on the course. Long struggled on the log, falling into the water several times. When Long climbed out of the water, Register was there to help him.

"We have come so far together and become so close," said Register, a 20-year-old native of Valdosta, Ga. "If I'm in combat, I'm not going to let one of my brothers struggle to get out of trouble on his own. I am not going to leave him behind."

Another part of the course featured long segments of concertina wire that recruits needed to crawl under. Many recruits held the wire above their bodies as their

teammates safely crossed beneath.

When Long and Register reached the concertina wire, an instructor told them that Register was a casualty and would need to be dragged through the remainder of the course.

"In combat you may end up taking casualties," Iannone said. "At that point, you need to understand that you not only need to keep doing your job, you need to make sure you don't leave any Marines behind."

Long, a 19-year-old native of Canon, N.C., immediately rallied another team of recruits to help him get Register to safety. They helped Long lift the wire to keep Register safe as they dragged him out of the danger zone.

"That was amazing," Register said. "That course really brought us together."

Iannone said watching out for fellow Marines is one of the most important lessons drill instructors teach their recruits.

"We have to instill that every day," he said. "We teach them this is one team, one fight."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pvt. Aaron Weld, left, and Pvt. Justin Weld stand together as Marines after completing their 13-week journey together through recruit training. The Weld brothers are scheduled to graduate from Parris Island today with Platoon 3080, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Staff Writer

Looking forward to finally finishing high school, two brothers of Carrollton, Ga., were contemplating what to do with the rest of their lives.

Seeing the world around them and the problems within their community, Aaron and Justin Weld turned their thoughts toward an honorable future.

"My brother had seen what the real world was like and realized it wasn't a good place to be," said Pvt. Aaron Weld, Platoon 3080, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. "It was hard to make a good living and to do the right thing. He convinced me to join [the Marine Corps] so I wouldn't drop out of school or hang out with the wrong crowd."

Aaron Weld, 18, and Justin Weld, 19, were inseparable growing up. Their close bond prompted the two to enlist in the Marine Corps only days apart.

Their mother, Sharon Weld, expressed how proud she was that her sons decided to enlist. However, with that excitement came an understandable fear.

"The first thing you think about when your children join the military is war and them having to go fight," said Sharon Weld, 38.

Their mother said her sons were never followers. Their strong personalities gave them the confidence to speak their minds when they thought something was wrong and not give into peer pressure while growing up.

"I know I'm qualified to do something to make my life better," said Justin Weld. "I

thought 'why not jump on it and see if I could overcome the challenge of becoming a United States Marine.'"

The brothers said when they researched the other branches, they did not find what they were looking for, and the organized competence of a Marine recruiter made their decision an easy one.

"It just made more sense to me to join the Marine Corps," said Aaron Weld. "The Marines have such a proud tradition, and they still make the same kind of strong men that all of America looks up to."

The two brothers saw a brighter future for themselves in the Marine Corps and took the opportunity to heart. Although the Weld family had their own business in construction, the brothers wanted to take their family name to a whole new level.

"It's not about money," said Aaron Weld. "We want to have a different part of our family – to start a name for ourselves."

Their mother said she knows they will be able to handle anything thrown at them, no matter how tough the task.

Justin Weld said that being in the same platoon as his brother was outstanding. The two worked well together and they felt their closeness positively influenced the bonds within the rest of their platoon.

Aaron Weld said that although he came to recruit training with one brother, he feels he will leave with 92.

The Marine Corps caught the attention of two young men who were eager to accept the challenge and today stand on the Peatross Parade Deck together as Marines.



Photo by Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Col. Rickey Grabowski, Parris Island chief of staff, gives a cupcake to a child at the Children's Marine Corps Birthday Celebration on Parris Island on Oct. 27. The celebration featured a cake-cutting ceremony to educate the children on the traditions their parents carry on as U.S. Marines.

Parris Island hosts Children's Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

Cpl. Tyler Reiriz
Staff Writer

Parris Island Marines got an opportunity to share their Marine Corps heritage with their families during the Children's Marine Corps Birthday Celebration on Parris Island on Oct. 27.

Among the recreational events were also educational opportunities. The Marine Corps Museum, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, and military police had displays to give kids a chance to learn more about the Corps their parents serve.

The celebration featured face painting, a clown and bounce houses for the children to play in.

"Our Marines often work long hours," said Col. Rickey Grabowski, Parris Island chief of staff. "They sometimes don't get a lot of chances to spend quality time with their children. This is a way to give back to those families."

The highlight of the celebration was a cake-cutting ceremony. Grabowski gave the children a lesson on the history and importance of the Marine Corps birthday before cutting the cake. Afterward, Grabowski and Sgt. Maj. Gary Buck, depot sergeant major, helped volunteers pass out cupcakes to the kids.

"Less than 1 percent of the American population serves in the armed forces," said Grabowski. "Our families sacrifice a lot. That's why we need these days. We do this to give back to them and give them a chance to relax and have fun."

Depot conducts anti-terrorism exercise

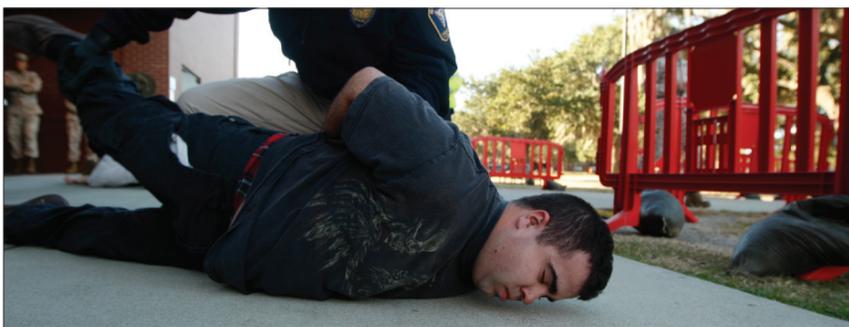


Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

Sgt. Joshua Powell, team leader for security screening, applies pressure to a fake gunshot wound on Seaman Manuel Michael, an acting victim of an anti-terrorism and force protection exercise that was conducted in the vicinity of the All-Weather Training Facility on Parris Island on Oct. 30. The exercise, which involved a gunman and three victims, was training for first responders and auxiliary security personnel on how to react should a shooting occur during a crowded event such as Family Day or graduation. The scenario involved Navy corpsmen, Marines and response personnel on the depot. "The more we train, the better we become," said Keith Henderson, depot anti-terrorism and force protection program manager.



Marines prepare a defibrillator as Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Jordan, an acting victim for the anti-terrorism and force protection exercise, lies unconscious on the ground after a staged shooting in front of the All-Weather Training Facility on Parris Island on Oct. 30. During the exercise, Marines learned how to detain an armed gunman, aid injured bystanders and secure an area under threat.



Seaman Kevin Boudreau, acting gunman of the anti-terrorism and force protection exercise, lies on the ground in front of the All-Weather Training Facility on Oct. 30 while response personnel search for other weapons on his person. For the exercise, Boudreau casually approached the metal detector before getting involved in a verbal altercation with two other people waiting in line. Boudreau then proceeded to take out a faux gun and 'shoot' at them. He was hurriedly tackled to the ground by Marines and other response personnel who put him in handcuffs and confiscated his weapon. Other Marines proceeded to clear the area to ensure the safety of innocent bystanders.



Photo by Cpl. Tyler Bolken

Cpl. Joshua Murphy, an airframe mechanic with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, stands in front of one of the squadron's KC-130J Hercules on Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's flight line Oct. 29. Murphy, a native of Colton, Calif., recently rushed to the aid of a 19-year-old woman who was in a car accident in Newport, N.C. Murphy applied pressure to a wound on the young woman's head until paramedics arrived.

MARINE RUSHES TO LOCAL TEEN'S AID AFTER CAR ACCIDENT

Cpl. Tyler Bolken
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. – A Marine and his wife were chatting as they prepared for bed around 10 p.m. Oct. 23 when they heard the sound of squealing tires not far from their home in rural Newport, N.C., just east of the air station.

"It was an extremely loud screeching sound, followed by a few bangs and crashes," said Cpl. Joshua Murphy, an airframe mechanic at Cherry Point. "We stopped in mid sentence and just kind of stared at each other.

"My wife and I both knew it was an accident."

Murphy, a native of Colton, Calif., immediately told his wife to dial 911 before quickly grabbing his keys to drive toward the sounds of chaos.

According to police reports, a vehicle ran off the right side of a sharp curve on Lake Road, striking a street sign before impacting a tree and overturning onto its passenger side. No other cars were involved.

Murphy arrived at the scene and saw a totaled minivan less than a quarter mile from his home. It was pitch black outside, and he could only see what was in front of his headlights.

"You couldn't even tell where the front end was," said Murphy, adding that at this point, he was very concerned.

Scrambling across glass and rubble around the wreck, the Marine first checked the back of the vehicle to see if there were any children inside. There were not, but when he crawled inside, he saw the driver, a 19-year-old woman, hanging upside down and trapped between the driver's seat and the steering wheel.

Murphy got out from the back of the vehicle and rushed to the driver's side where the woman's hand was on top of the van outside of the window. He reached for her wrist to check her pulse but her hand slipped away. He then reached through the shattered windshield to feel her neck.

"She kind of started moving and moaning," he said. "I knew she was alive."

Murphy began clearing the debris around the young woman and checking her for injuries. He noticed blood dripping from her hair and quickly applied pressure to where he thought the wound was. As she hung upside down, she faded in and out of consciousness.

"I just kept talking to her and talking to her, trying to keep her awake," he said. Murphy ensured the woman stayed still while doing his best to keep her head elevated as well. He stayed with the young woman until paramedics arrived about 15

minutes later.

She was airlifted to Vident Memorial Hospital in Greenville, N.C., where she was treated for non life threatening injuries.

"Going out to the accident was never a question," said Murphy. "I couldn't just sit there. Somebody had to see if she was ok."

"His situational awareness, personally and professionally, is above and beyond. It sets a standard for Marines and eastern North Carolina," said Murphy's supervisor, Gunnery Sgt. Robert Cross.

Murphy said the guys at work are calling him a hero, but he humbly tells them he's just doing the same thing any of them would.

"That's who we're supposed to be as a Marine," he said. "We're there to help and to protect."

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to boaters

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

