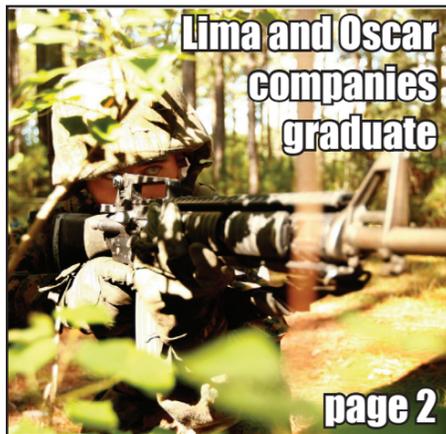


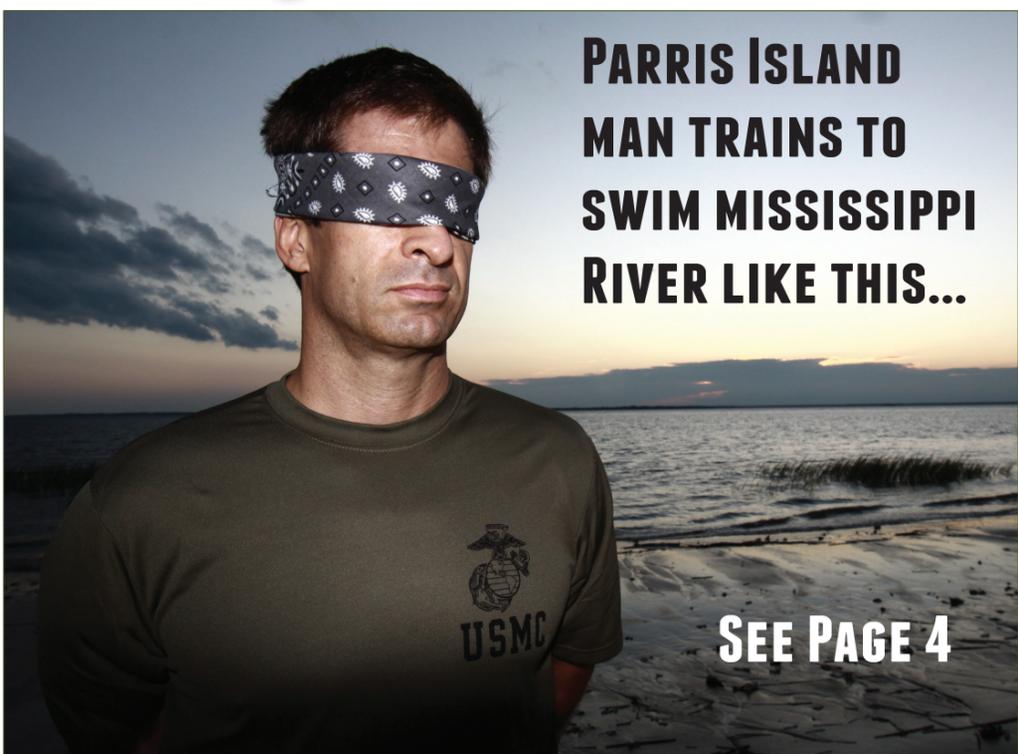
THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



www.thebootonline.com

www.marines.com

BLIND, SHACKLED AND 'UNSTOPPABLE'



Photos by Sgt. Russell Midori

Retired Marine, former Marine combat instructor of water survival and full-time adventure seeker, Jay Platt from Parris Island, is training to be the first person to swim across the Mississippi River blindfolded with his hands cuffed and his legs shackled.

From submarine to full Marine

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

Before his trip to the yellow footprints of Parris Island, one of today's graduates designed a human-powered submarine for his high school.

Pfc. Garrett Mastantuono, with Platoon 3081, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, took on the project in his hometown of Springhill, Fla. It took time, dedication and intelligence, not unlike his latest accomplishment of becoming a Marine.

"He and a group of kids worked on it for months and it turned out to be pretty successful," said Cindy Mastantuono, Garrett's mother. "They would work on it after school and on weekends - they put a lot into it."

As a high school student, the Marine designed the one-man submarine, called "Sea Wolf," after the Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit.

Sea Wolf boasts two
SEE SUBMARINE PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Pfc. Garrett Mastantuono, with Platoon 3081, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, designed the one-man submarine, called "Sea Wolf," as part of one of his high school projects.



Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Rct. Zachary Jones, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, drags a fellow recruit through the sand during an event at the Crucible at Page Field Oct. 13.

Lima faces toughest event in training

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

"It's hard, but that's what the training for the past 13 weeks has been for."

Lima Company's Marines tested their teamwork during the Crucible Oct. 13-15.

The Crucible challenges recruits to take on leadership positions and display mental fortitude and physical toughness.

"It's hard, but that's what the training for the past 13 weeks has been for," said Pvt. DeAngelo Belton Platoon 3082, Lima Co. "Every recruit

takes a turn as a leader of some sort during the Crucible to test each one's ability to take up a leadership position on-the-fly. Drill instructors appoint leaders for each event and recruits take responsibility for planning simulated mis-

sions, supervising weapons maintenance, taking accountability of squad members, and providing situation reports, said Pvt. David Palevich, Plt. 3080.

The Crucible is designed

SEE LIMA PAGE 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Uniform Change

The Marine Corps will go sleeves-down starting Monday as a permanent change to the Marine utility uniform regulations. Marine Corps Administrative Message 621/11 was released Tuesday with the additions to Marine Corps Order P1020.34G.

Notice to Mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Oct. 26 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area, to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edding Creek, will be closed to boater traffic.

For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures, please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion Range Control at 228-3170.

This week in Parris Island history

On Oct. 25, 1915, the Navy awarded Parris Island to the Marine Corps and it was redesignated as Marine Barracks Port Royal. Administration of the Naval Disciplinary Barracks was transferred to the Headquarters Detachment of the newly designated Marine barracks Nov. 1 as Parris Island began to make Marines.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

6th MCD opens new exhibit



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Artillery Marines answer the call



Page 5

Facebook feature:



www.bit.ly/MCRDPI & Pg. 7

LIMA AND OSCAR COMPANIES GRADUATE

Lima Company honor graduates

Pfc. J. M. Jacobs, Dawsonville, Ga.
Jacobs was recruited by Sgt. B. J. King
and trained in Platoon 3080 by Sgt H. E. Shade

Pfc. W. T. Lackey, Oroville, Calif.
Lackey was recruited by Sgt. R. M. Ryan
and trained in Platoon 3082 by Staff Sgt N. P. Gregoire

Pfc. N. R. Brown, Birmingham, Ala.
Brown was recruited by Staff Sgt M. Gowdy III
and trained in Platoon 3081 by Staff Sgt. M. W. Moyer Jr.

Pfc. C. B. Jackson, Montezuma, Ga.
Jackson was recruited by Sgt. J. D. Munzy
and trained in Platoon 3084 by Sgt. J. R. Johnson

Pfc. J. C. Fullen II, Akron, Ohio
Fullen was recruited by Sgt. D. N. Plyler
and trained in Platoon 3085 by Staff Sgt. J. I. Curry

Pfc. D. A. Rosa, Bristol, N.H.
Rosa was recruited by Sgt. R. E. Godfrey
and trained in Platoon 3086 by Staff Sgt. J. E. Corcino

Oscar Company honor graduates

Pfc. S. N. Thiel, Freeport, Pa.
Thiel was recruited by Gunnery Sgt. Jordan
and trained in Platoon 4032 by Staff Sgt. K. D. Green

Pfc. S. N. Taylor, Ridgewood, N.J.
Taylor was recruited by Staff Sgt. Sosa
and trained in Platoon 4033 by Staff Sgt. M. E. Madrid

Platoon 3080

Pvt. J. W. Alexander
Pvt. P. I. Bartholdson
Pfc. D. T. Borders
Pvt. M. J. Burke
Pvt. C. M. Burnetsky
Pfc. J. S. Burnette
Pvt. R. Bush IV
Pvt. N. S. Calkins III
Pfc. G. L. Carroll
Pfc. J. L. Carter
Pfc. Z. T. Chap
Pvt. D. Christovale Jr.
Pvt. C. J. Clark
Pvt. J. R. Crawley
Pvt. M. A. Diallo
Pvt. G. S. Dubravcic
Pfc. D. J. Fambro
Pvt. D. R. Finklea
Pfc. J. W. Fraiser
Pvt. M. D. Franklin
Pfc. J. T. Gay
Pfc. J. M. Giannace
Pfc. K. E. Gilgeours Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Gould
Pfc. N. A. Grant
Pfc. T. C. Hall
Pfc. J. R. Hanson
Pfc. B. D. Harrison
Pvt. E. P. Harrison
Pfc. B. C. Hoffman
Pvt. C. M. Howell
Pvt. J. C. Isaacs
Pfc. J. M. Jacobs
Pvt. T. L. James
Pfc. R. J. Jones
Pfc. M. D. Keaton
Pvt. K. E. Lane
Pvt. B. I. Mangus
Pvt. Z. M. Maybank
Pfc. J. W. Moore
Pfc. B. G. Murphy
Pvt. C. L. Myers
Pfc. A. S. Olvera
Pvt. S. Olvera
Pfc. R. Olvera Jr.
Pvt. D. L. Palevich III
Pfc. J. B. Paradeses
Pfc. C. A. Peacock
Pvt. A. A. RamosGuillen
Pfc. T. D. Reid
Pvt. C. W. Robinson II
Pfc. D. L. Rufus
Pvt. C. R. Seger
Pvt. P. A. Sherman
Pfc. C. M. Sherman
Pvt. D. D. Shifflett
Pvt. M. A. Shifflett
Pvt. J. A. Simmons
Pvt. C. C. Sisk
Pfc. H. J. Smith
Pvt. C. E. Stewart
Pvt. A. M. Stresemann
Pvt. J. A. Taylor
Pvt. D. M. Travis
Pvt. K. D. Trenary
Pvt. J. P. Walker
Pfc. J. P. Walker

Platoon 3081

Pvt. C. D. Alderman
Pvt. J. D. Allen
Pvt. J. M. Allman
Pfc. Z. J. Alsamman
Pvt. J. Arocho
Pfc. J. T. Arsenault
Pvt. D. M. Ashley
Pvt. O. H. Blair
Pfc. G. R. Brewer
Pvt. A. J. Brown
Pfc. N. R. Brown
Pfc. L. M. Burch
Pvt. T. L. Carr
Pvt. K. T. Clark
Pvt. T. J. Coleman
Pvt. B. P. Connors
Pfc. D. E. Decoursey
Pvt. C. B. Dill
Pvt. S. R. Dingess
Pvt. J. L. Dodds
Pfc. R. A. Estep II
Pvt. D. L. Estes
Pvt. C. R. Farmer Jr.
Pfc. J. M. Fowden
Pfc. J. A. Geligasegui
Pfc. R. A. Gocinski
Pvt. J. D. Graw
Pvt. R. A. Hall
Pvt. D. K. HallTurner
Pvt. M. M. Hardin
Pvt. K. R. Harrison
Pvt. C. W. Hayes
Pfc. D. C. Haynes
Pfc. D. L. Hogans
Pvt. B. M. Jeffers
Pvt. T. J. Jones
Pfc. C. N. Kaiden
Pvt. D. Krehbiel
Pvt. J. B. Lamattina
Pfc. W. P. Lloyd Jr.
Pfc. T. J. Malik
Pvt. J. A. Mamula
Pfc. J. A. Manco
Pfc. G. T. Mastantuono
Pvt. J. J. Matute
Pvt. C. A. McCloskey
Pvt. S. M. McComb
Pvt. P. J. McDonald
Pfc. J. D. McKinney
Pvt. C. C. McKnight
Pvt. C. A. Melber
Pvt. J. B. Ortega
Pvt. A. P. Osment
Pfc. M. C. Perry Jr.
Pvt. I. S. Pizano
Pvt. T. A. Rideout
Pfc. R. J. Rogers
Pfc. W. D. Ross
Pvt. R. L. SanabriaDiaz
Pfc. C. L. Sendall
Pvt. B. W. Sexton
Pfc. A. M. Simpson
Pvt. N. A. Smith
Pvt. J. C. Spears
Pvt. M. L. Stephens
Pfc. C. M. Strane
Pvt. T. J. Taylor
Pfc. A. T. Tompkins

Platoon 3082

Pvt. G. Aburto
Pfc. L. L. Anderkin
Pvt. A. J. Aponte
Pvt. C. T. Athorne
Pvt. A. C. Bejerano
Pvt. D. Bejarano
Pfc. D. P. Belton
Pvt. M. T. Benjamin
Pvt. C. W. Boone
Pfc. W. J. Bridges III
Pvt. J. A. Brumage
Pfc. J. A. Carhart
Pfc. B. C. Cobb
Pfc. G. S. Deatherage
Pvt. P. S. Delamarter
Pvt. C. E. Dorsogna
Pvt. J. A. Farrington
Pfc. S. D. Fernandez
Pvt. R. M. Fleischer
Pvt. D. J. Fletcher
Pfc. T. R. Fogg
Pvt. A. K. Fuller
Pfc. R. M. Grant
Pfc. D. T. Greene
Pfc. D. Guerra
Pfc. M. A. Host
Pvt. B. W. Hurd Jr.
Pfc. E. S. Ivanov
Pfc. J. A. Ketner
Pvt. J. M. King
Pfc. W. T. Lackey
Pvt. P. W. Lambert
Pfc. S. H. Lausier
Pfc. C. L. Legido
Pfc. N. W. Levesque
Pfc. R. O. Logsdon
Pfc. T. M. Ludy
Pvt. B. F. Mackie
Pfc. B. A. Maloney
Pvt. W. T. McInnes III
Pfc. K. S. McIee
Pvt. H. C. Meenach III
Pvt. D. T. Michael
Pvt. J. M. Mobley
Pvt. M. R. Morgan Jr.
Pvt. D. J. Oakley
Pvt. C. M. Onfroy
Pvt. D. L. Ponder
Pfc. J. A. Puma
Pvt. J. S. Rasado
Pfc. D. RodriguezCole
Pvt. R. Rolon Jr.
Pvt. E. Salgado
Pfc. C. A. Sanchez
Pvt. D. G. Sejas
Pvt. C. A. Shockley
Pvt. R. L. Simms III
Pfc. M. A. Sousa
Pvt. J. L. Spears
Pfc. R. M. Spencer
Pfc. B. R. Stern
Pvt. C. T. Swisher
Pvt. P. J. Timmons
Pfc. C. D. Tollison
Pvt. M. A. Truett
Pvt. Z. D. Vance
Pvt. W. B. Vincent
Pvt. B. H. Warden
Pvt. S. R. Weber
Pvt. K. A. Westfall
Pfc. T. D. Yancey

Platoon 3085

Pvt. E. A. Adams III
Pvt. S. A. Allen
Pvt. J. R. Anderson
Pfc. N. T. Beaver
Pvt. B. L. Bergdorf
Pvt. N. J. Bohrer
Pvt. D. M. Brotherton
Pvt. A. A. Caceres
Pfc. E. A. Carden
Pvt. L. T. Celentano
Pvt. A. B. Cool
Pvt. J. S. Decaprio
Pvt. A. C. Derby
Pvt. Z. S. Deweese
Pvt. J. S. Diehl
Pfc. D. S. Dizon
Pvt. J. D. Downey
Pvt. A. R. Durran
Pvt. D. M. Ellison
Pvt. B. J. Eppley
Pvt. J. E. Erdman
Pfc. J. F. Erdman
Pvt. K. T. Fina
Pfc. T. Franklin Jr.
Pfc. J. C. Fullen II
Pvt. J. P. Gambina
Pfc. C. T. Gauvey
Pfc. P. J. Genter
Pvt. N. L. Goss
Pvt. K. K. Griswold
Pvt. T. M. Hayden II
Pvt. J. A. Heinzman
Pvt. C. E. Hernandez
Pvt. H. G. Hippolite
Pvt. D. A. Hunsberger
Pfc. D. M. James
Pfc. D. C. Johnson
Pvt. R. E. Johnson
Pvt. S. J. Keating
Pfc. K. P. Kervick
Pvt. M. N. Kolasinski
Pfc. Z. F. Larkin
Pfc. F. Martinez Jr.
Pvt. J. R. McCaffrey
Pvt. J. J. McDonald
Pfc. D. R. Miller
Pvt. T. J. Miller
Pvt. E. Miranda
Pfc. D. M. Mongeon
Pvt. J. J. Munsun
Pvt. C. D. Myers
Pvt. C. J. Newswanger
Pvt. F. Ries
Pvt. L. RiveraSantiago
Pfc. S. R. Sager
Pvt. F. Salcedo
Pvt. J. D. Schneider
Pvt. B. M. Schornak
Pvt. K. A. Schuler
Pfc. B. E. Smith
Pvt. J. M. Sousa
Pfc. I. A. Spencer
Pvt. W. B. Stiriz
Pvt. M. S. Tasetano
Pfc. R. P. Timoney
Pvt. J. N. Tobash
Pvt. A. S. Travers
Pvt. V. P. Trembley
Pvt. Q. M. Wall
Pfc. C. G. Ward
Pvt. J. B. Williams

Platoon 3086

Pfc. N. R. Adams
Pvt. G. J. Alberto
Pfc. E. A. Alvarado
Pvt. G. J. Arnott
Pvt. J. A. Ball
Pvt. A. Baptiste Jr.
Pfc. P. Cabaj
Pfc. Z. A. Carnegie
Pvt. D. Carrillo
Pvt. K. Centeno
Pvt. S. Cho
Pvt. D. Cimillo
Pvt. A. M. Contreras
Pfc. E. L. Cooley
Pfc. T. Dechen
Pvt. J. M. Decker
Pfc. A. P. Delicio
Pvt. A. J. Dileo
Pvt. T. C. Douglas
Pfc. A. P. Dreslinski
Pvt. J. A. Drew
Pvt. P. FallasGonzalez
Pvt. D. W. Francois
Pfc. C. B. Greenhill
Pvt. B. E. Harris
Pvt. O. M. Helena
Pvt. S. J. Higgs
Pvt. J. W. Hixson
Pvt. A. O. Iglesias
Pfc. A. Kochanowicz
Pfc. T. A. Kolvenbach Jr.
Pvt. J. K. Kozarek
Pvt. D. Kraemer V
Pvt. T. J. Landry
Pfc. J. G. Marsillo
Pvt. C. R. McAbee
Pfc. D. Morse
Pfc. J. K. Nguyen
Pvt. N. G. Omerzu
Pfc. M. OsorioVelasquez
Pvt. P. Pearson
Pvt. J. R. Portillo
Pvt. J. J. Pullis
Pfc. S. Quiroz
Pfc. A. A. Ramirez
Pvt. M. M. Realista
Pfc. D. A. Rosa
Pvt. T. L. Sabin
Pfc. R. D. Smith
Pfc. P. F. Souza Jr.
Pvt. M. Switaj
Pvt. C. D. Tenkate
Pvt. B. P. Testa
Pvt. J. H. Thomas
Pvt. A. L. Valer
Pvt. E. J. Vazquez
Pvt. M. Veliz
Pvt. K. Veliz
Pvt. P. E. Verhey
Pfc. M. F. Vignuli
Pfc. C. A. Villalobos
Pfc. V. A. Villani
Pvt. C. Wagner
Pfc. C. R. Wallace
PFC. J. C. Warren
Pvt. A. D. Whittington
Pvt. T. M. Williams
Pvt. D. A. ZamoraCoelho

Platoon 4032

Pfc. K. R. Apodaca
Pvt. Y. E. Bautista
Pfc. D. R. Bleecher
Pvt. K. E. Burke
Pvt. G. Campos
Pvt. K. R. Centner
Pfc. B. E. Corso
Pvt. V. T. Crawford
Pfc. O. J. Davis
Pvt. A. L. Defazio
Pvt. J. C. Deloach
Pfc. M. E. Dunn
Pfc. M. K. Dwyer
Pvt. A. Foster
Pvt. S. C. Fries
Pvt. G. Gonzalez
Pvt. A. Halbower
Pvt. E. Hernandez
Pfc. M. N. Hitchcock
Pvt. K. M. Lee
Pfc. J. M. Lewis
Pfc. T. A. Mason
Pvt. N. O. Meredith
Pvt. B. A. Miller
Pfc. R. MondragonChavez
Pfc. E. N. Myers
Pvt. A. L. Nelson
Pvt. E. S. Newkirk
Pfc. D. R. Occuis
Pvt. P. M. Parson
Pfc. B. R. Rauth
Pfc. E. R. Robinson
Pfc. S. V. Roscoe
Pfc. C. Ruiz
Pvt. A. R. Sanchez
Pvt. A. M. Schleich
Pvt. J. S. Smith
Pfc. L. A. Soto
Pfc. V. K. Spence
Pfc. K. A. Spurr
Pvt. A. Torres
Pfc. E. VazquezaGuilera
Pfc. H. M. VillafaneDiaz
Pvt. B. K. Walker
Pvt. S. L. Williams
Pvt. K. A. Wittenbrook
Pvt. K. M. Zachary

Platoon 4033

Pfc. L. P. Aglar
Pvt. V. M. Ayala
Pfc. J. R. Banuelosroble
Pvt. J. A. Butler
Pfc. B. Carranza
Pfc. T. S. Edwards
Pfc. M. A. Frey
Pvt. E. I. Fuentes
Pvt. S. M. Hector
Pfc. A. R. Heidt
Pvt. T. A. Iglesias
Pvt. C. D. Jackson
Pvt. Z. Jouravska
Pfc. S. R. Kissinger
Pvt. L. L. Lares
Pvt. P. Lopez
Pvt. D. T. Ly
Pvt. K. J. Macias
Pvt. A. D. Meredith
Pvt. S. F. Middleton
Pfc. A. D. Miller
Pvt. R. S. Miranda
Pvt. I. Munoz
Pfc. E. MuratellaGutierrez
Pvt. K. D. Nugent
Pfc. J. A. Penado
Pfc. J. S. Pierre
Pfc. K. R. Plumb
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Pvt. M. G. Rivera
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Pfc. J. RodriguezBeltran
Pfc. K. F. Sablan
Pvt. K. Salcedo
Pvt. A. M. Schiller
Pvt. J. E. Sickler
Pvt. M. M. Stoia
Pfc. A. Tapia
Pfc. S. N. Taylor
Pvt. N. A. Thurber
Pvt. M. A. Torres
Pvt. A. D. White
Pvt. C. S. Wiggins
Pfc. J. M. Wilcoxin
Pfc. R. J. Yanez

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Commanding General
MCRD Parris Island
Eastern Recruiting Region

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Recruiting history display opens

The 6th Marine Corps District is slated to open its historical display of artifacts associated with recruiting Nov. 10 at the district's headquarters building.

This historical display is the first of its kind on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and has many prevalent items relating to recruiters and the work they have done for the Marine Corps since its inception at the legendary Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

In the following interview, Col. Paul Timoney, commanding officer of 6th Marine Corps District, offers his insight about how paying tribute to the history of recruiting is beneficial to the Marine Corps.

Why is the history of recruiting important to the Marine Corps, the depot and the district?

Recruiting the next generation of Marines first and foremost is vital to the Marine Corps. The daily efforts of the recruiters across the nation and the Marines who support them enable the Marine Corps to maintain the strength and integrity of our Marine Corps. The historical aspect of recruiting enables Marines and civilians alike to take a look at how the recruiting of Marines and the very essence of what we are looking for has not changed since 1775. In some of the first published recruiting posters, the Marine Corps has always sought the best this country has to offer. We have always been selective in who we recruit and how we recruit them. The words honor, courage and commitment have been exhibited in colorful and vibrant recruiting posters. There is a quote from an article in Leatherneck Magazine published in February 1932 that talks about the importance of Marine recruiting and states "the best place to start the doctrine of a good outfit was at the recruiting station." That remains true today.

Do you feel that you have accomplished what you set out to show about Marine Corps recruiting history through this exhibit?

It is not so much what we have set out to accomplish - it is more about bringing together in one place a history of recruiting. The district headquarters was an ideal location especially being located here on the depot. We actually flushed out our concept based on the work that has been done by other commands on the depot who have put together historical displays within their battalions. The 6th Marine Corps District recruiting historic display allows you to walk through recruiting history. Many of the posters and recruiting pamphlets on display allow visitors to get



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Master Sgt. Ramon Gallimore explains the history behind different artifacts at the 6th Marine Corps District historic display Oct. 7. The display is slated to be completed by Nov. 10, which is the Marine Corps Birthday.

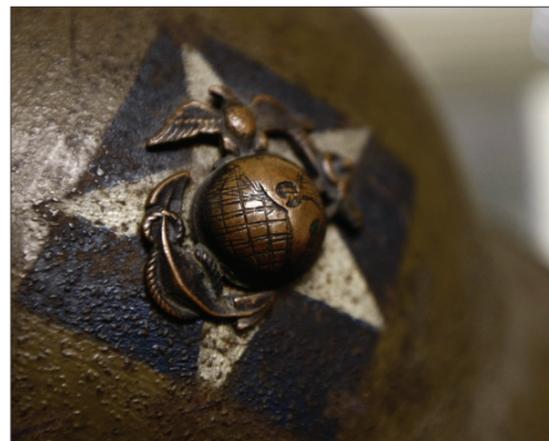
a firsthand feel on how we recruited in World War I through modern day. This collection has been cataloged by the National Museum of the Marine Corps and we have many of one-of-a-kind items.

How much time went into assembling the display?

It has taken about six months to carefully assemble this display and we were able to do it at minimal cost because most of the posters and pamphlets have been donated. We only had to purchase a few display cases.

Is there any other information or a final thought about this project you would like to share?

Preservation and education of any type of history in general is extremely important. A view into our past can often allow us to foresee our future. During World War I the Marine Corps carefully selected prospects from a large pool of applicants. According to Alan Alexerod's book "Miracle at Belleau Wood," it was because of the reputation of the Marine Corps and an opportunity for men to serve in an elite military organization. This set the condition for our recruiters to be very selective. Of the 239,274 who applied during the course of the war, just 60,189 were accepted as Marines. The modern day Marine Corps recruiting efforts mirror those of the recruiting efforts in 1918. The reputation of the Marine Corps and our elite nature still attracts young men and women across the nation to join our ranks.



The historic recruiting display, located in 6th Marine Corps District headquarters, will include an authentic World War II-era helmet. The display took almost six months to assemble.



Most of the historic recruiting-display artifacts were donated to 6th Marine Corps District, making the cost minimal. Col. Paul Timoney, commanding officer of the district said the only purchased items were a few display cases.

FORMER D.I. TO SWIM MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOUND, BLINDFOLDED

Sgt. Russell Midori
Press Chief

Nobody has ever crossed the Mississippi River blindfolded, handcuffed and shackled, but a Parris Island adventure seeker nicknamed "Mr. Unstoppable" is training to be the first.

Jay Platt, a former Marine combat instructor of water survival is confident he can complete the swim, partially because of his background in the military where he received and instructed water survival training.

"The swim I'll do in November is what you learn in the Marine Corps," Platt said. "It's called

a survival stroke. You want to do it as slowly as possible to expend as little energy as possible. As for my feet, I'll have to use a dolphin kick."

Platt said that in the old days, MCIWS instructors would blindfold themselves, tie their hands behind their backs, tie their feet together, and jump into the indoor pool from the rafters, demonstrating to the recruits they had nothing to fear in the water as long as they used an effective technique and remained relaxed.

"That's how I learned to swim this way," Platt said.

Platt was medically retired from the Marine

Corps as a gunnery sergeant in 1998, but went on to hike the Appalachian Trail and become one of only three men in history to complete the mile-and-a-half swim from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco in cuffs and shackles. But that time the cuffs were in front, and he didn't have a blindfold.

On this next objective, to counteract the blindfold, Platt will have a safety swimmer behind him who can offer verbal directions. Though the distance is only sixtenths of a mile, the southbound pull of the current will make the total swim an estimated 1.6 miles.

Still, Platt has to over-

come a great deal more than the distance, chains and cuffs to do what he does. He has a rare disease called Von Hippel Lindau Syndrome that caused him to go blind in his one eye in 1986, and he had the eye removed in 1995. He also survived spinal tumors, kidney cancer and four brain tumors.

One of his brain tumors, which is malignant, is still in his brain and affects his balance and speech. Still, this hasn't stopped him from touring the country as a successful motivational speaker.

Regarding the syndrome, Platt said "I wouldn't wish it on anyone, but it's made me a much better person. It gave me a better perspective and I appreciate life more."

Though his active service is behind him, he is still married to a Marine here and he speaks to wounded warriors to help them overcome adversities brought on by their injuries.

"Maybe they're missing a limb, but not only can they be parts of so-

ciety, but they can do all sorts of great things. I like to show people that no matter what obstacles are in your way you can

overcome them."

For more information about the swim or the charities it benefits, visit www.jayplatt.com



Jay Platt, a Parris Island resident, is one of only three people in the world to swim from Alcatraz to San Francisco with his hands and feet bound.



Photos special to The Boot

Jay Platt was a drill instructor with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, from August 1989 to August 1991.



Jay Platt poses for a picture during a hike on the Appalachian Trail January 1999. Nicknamed "Mr. Unstoppable," Platt has overcome several different cancers and continues to challenge himself physically.

Answering the call for fire



Marines with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire an M982 Excalibur round from an M777 howitzer during a recent fire support mission. In between fire missions, the Marines continue with daily life. They also mentor their Afghan National Army counterparts and constantly rehearse their positions to guarantee their artillery rounds hit their targets when coalition forces need their help.



M777 howitzers lie in wait at the end of another day, ready to send rounds down range at any moment. The artillerymen of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment are deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Cpl. Jeff Drew
2nd Marine Division

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The Marines of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, are always on stand by. At any moment, coalition units in the area could call for support, and the artillerymen must be ready.

These Marines fight a different battle. They rarely patrol the fields and farmlands of Helmand province. Their fight resides right on the gun line within their base. They know lives are on the line when they receive a request for fire.

“We get fire missions at any time,” said Staff Sgt. Dawud Hakim, platoon sergeant with the battery. “You stop everything.”

They live feet from their M777 howitzer artillery cannons to ensure swift

and timely movement to their weapons at a moment’s notice. However, in between missions, they still make time to enjoy the little things that make life agreeable.

The Marines watch movies, complete online courses through the Marine Corps Institute, read or play video games during their down time. The fire base also has a recreation center where the Marines and sailors can chat online with friends and family back in the United States.

The Marines must be ever-vigilant. Still, regardless of the day’s activities: while performing routine duties, in the middle of a meal, during a coveted conversation with a family member, or even while taking a shower. If the call for fire support comes, they must answer it.



Photos by Cpl. Jeff Drew

An M777 howitzer kicks rocks and dust into the air after firing during a recent mission. The Marines with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, stations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, remain undaunted as they listen to the recorder to see if they have another mission.



Cpl. Sarah Fiocco

Rct. Patrick Lambert drags Rct. Robert Simms through the sand during the Crucible Oct. 13. Throughout the course, instructors would designate recruits as simulated casualties, forcing their battle-buddies to adapt to changing scenarios.

LIMA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to challenge the recruits in ways they aren't used to being challenged. Taking the lead and acting on your own plans is new to the recruits and speaking to the drill instructors in a more frequent manner is especially challenging for some. Their ability to use what they have learned at Parris Island to adapt to the challenges is the final step in becoming a Marine.



Cpl. Sarah Fiocco

A recruit drags an ammunition can full of sand through a combat resupply course during the Crucible Oct. 13.



Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Joshua Mamula takes his position and provides security after going through of a concrete pipe while his fellow recruits follow him through the event at Page Field Oct. 13.



Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Wet sand spackles the crevices of a Lima Company recruit's boot as he gruelingly crawls through the grit-filled ditches of a Crucible event at Page Field Oct. 13.



Cpl. Sarah Fiocco

Recruits from Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, rush off a simulated helicopter to begin the Crucible, Oct. 13. During the course, recruits crawled through sand while dragging ammunition cans filled with sand.



Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Randy Sanabridiaz joins his group for a short break before an event of the Crucible begins at Page Field Oct. 13.



Cpl. Sarah Fiocco

Rct. Herbertg Menach crawls under barbed wire during a combat resupply course, Oct. 13.

SUBMARINE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wings on the sides of the body and a cabin large enough to fit one person on a bicycle that powers the craft.

Mastantuono said the diligence and dedication it took to build Sea Wolf benefited him in recruit training.

"It's been a long, strange trip," said the new Marine, setting out to become an electronics maintenance technician for the Corps. "Completing the project took determination and willpower which helped prepare me for boot camp."

Determination has always been one of his greatest assets, said Cindy Mastantuono.

"Whenever Garrett has set his mind to something he stays determined to do it," she explained about her son. "He's a good kid and I'm very proud."

Garrett Mastantuono experienced hardships in the delayed entry program because he suffered a broken femur from a

car accident.

"The recovery process was grueling," Mastantuono said during the first day of the Crucible. "After a while I got worried I wouldn't be able to go into the service."

The injury hindered him from military service for about two years, but he persevered through the long recovery to realize his dream of serving. He always wanted to be in the military, but was especially inspired by the attacks on 9/11.

"It wasn't to get revenge – just to make sure nothing like that happened again," Garrett said.

The young Marine plans to make a full career in the Corps with the love and support of his friends and family.

"I believe he would be nothing less than exceptional," said Brittany Mastantuono, Garrett's older sister. "With his dedication, commitment and passion I believe he would serve our country to the highest of standards. I couldn't be prouder of my baby brother."



Special to The Boot

"Sea Wolf" is a human-powered submarine that was designed by Pfc. Garrett Mastantuono, Platoon 3081, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, and used in the International Submarine Race while he was in high school. Mastantuono graduates recruit training today as one of the Corps' newest Marines.

Facebook spotlight: Lima and Oscar Company

For more visit www.bit.ly/MCRDPI



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

*Chaplain's Corner:**Fundamentals of Marksmanship*

Lt. Stephen Cloer
Chaplain

As the Marines of Weapons and Field Training Battalion work hard to train recruits on how to shoot their rifles effectively and put rounds on target, there is one thing I hear over and over again, "You must put into practice all of the fundamentals of marksmanship."

You can have all the heart and desire to put a round on target, but the way to make it happen is through the fundamentals. Without them, the shooter will certainly fail.

So what are these fundamentals? They are as follows: A slow steady trigger squeeze, controlled breathing, scope alignment, correct scope picture, follow through and stock weld eye relief, which is having a proper position when looking through the scope.

As the recruits send rounds down range, any mistake made is quickly seen by the instructors who are watching over their shoulders and can assist the recruit in correcting any one of these six fundamentals.

The recruit who is shooting may never realize the mistakes they are making. They need that expert eye to give them guidance until they can finally exercise all of the fundamentals on their own. When this happens, you

will have one lethal Marine on your hands.

What is true in fundamentals of marksmanship is also true for anything you do in life. If I want to run a marathon I must have a training plan, proper nutrition and hydration.

If a person is learning how to swim, they will need to learn how to control breathing, maintain proper body position, execute proper techniques, and achieve conditioning. If a person fails to learn to swim or complete the marathon, it is highly probable that they did not fully adhere to the fundamentals.

In what area of life do you need to go back and look at the fundamentals? How are you doing in finances, parenting, marriage, and other family relationships? How are you doing in handling being home after multiple deployments?

Sometimes we need that instructor who can look over our shoulder and see from an outside perspective which fundamentals we have started to ignore. These instructors can be a trusted friend, a mentor, a pastor, a chaplain, a counselor, a life coach, a psychologist or health provider.

Find them, talk to them, ask them to pray for you when appropriate, and gain their perspective. The result will be a stronger and more resilient individual and family.



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

A member of a rifle and pistol team from the 2010 Parris Island Intramural Rifle and Pistol competition fires in the sitting position.