

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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## Alpha reaches the top



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Recruits from Platoon 1089, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, assist one another in climbing Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14.

**Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Recruits from Platoon 1089, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, made the final stride in recruit training as they worked together in small teams to complete the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14.

During the Crucible, recruits must complete six daytime events. One of these events, named Navarroarellano's Skyscraper, specifically test recruits' teamwork.

The recruits have 30 minutes to climb the tower, bringing all their gear and a dummy that simulates a casualty with them, said Sgt. Michael Allen, a drill in-

structor for Platoon 1089. Once at the top, they must then take the dummy and all their gear with them down the other side.

This task is not as physically challenging as other events in the Crucible, but it tests the recruits' teamwork and is meant to help recruits overcome their fears, Allen said.

"I was nervous as we started climbing the tower," said Rct. Javon Hunter, a 23-year-old, Platoon 1089 recruit from Durham, N.C. "But as we got higher and higher, I got more and more confident in myself and especially my team. I trusted they wouldn't let me fall."

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A recruit from Platoon 1089 lowers himself from the top of Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14



Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Pfcs. Brian and Matthew Lentz, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, graduate today after 13 weeks apart. The two brothers chose to go through training in separate platoons.

## Two brothers, one goal

**Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes**  
Staff Writer

Most recruits in training probably wish they had a familiar face beside them to make it easier, but for twin brothers graduating today, it was different.

Brian and Matthew Lentz, from Salisbury, N.C., arrived to recruit training on the buddy system, but were accidentally separated. When given the option to be placed together, they chose to remain

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## Call to duty still strong



Photo by Gary Higgins/The Patriot Ledger

From left: Pfc. Paul Souza, 18, Pfc. Joseph Pinto, 18, Pfc. Jamey Kerr, 18, and Pvt. Ryan Kliphan, 18, new Marines from Massachusetts.

**Lane Lambert**  
The Patriot Ledger

*Editors note: This article was published from The Patriot Ledger, a newspaper from Quincy, Mass, with consent from the author.*

QUINCY, Mass. - Late on a weekday afternoon, the Marine Corps recruiting office was full and busy. Four fit young South

Shore men were just back from boot camp. Three others bound for Parris Island in South Carolina were making preparatory visits with the office's four recruiting sergeants, two of whom were casually clad, the other two in dress blues for outside appointments.

The recruiters were easygoing but businesslike with the new Marines, who

answered every comment or question with, "Yes, staff sergeant." There's a big high-definition TV and a stack of DVD movies on one side of the room, but no one was watching.

The Marine office has shared a floor with Army, Navy and Air Force recruiters for years, but in October it became a full-fledged

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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Holiday commissary hours

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Commissary will be closed Nov. 24 and 25.

For questions regarding the commissary, please contact Cynthia Six at 228-3727.

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# ALPHA COMPANY GRADUATES

## Honor Graduates

**Pfc. D. W. Thomas**, Cumming, Ga.  
Platoon 1088, Thomas was recruited by  
Sgt. Buzaljko and trained by Sgt. Robinson

**Pfc. J. M. Galarowic**, Chelsea, Mich.  
Platoon 1089, Galarowic was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Davis and trained by Staff Sgt. Compton

**Pfc. M. N. Holmes**, Memphis, Tenn.  
Platoon 1090, Holmes was recruited by  
Sgt. Staggs and trained by Sgt. Halles

**Pfc. D. M. Bardin**, Sterlington, La.  
Platoon 1091, Bardin was recruited by  
Staff Sgt. Coon and trained by Staff Sgt. Silas

**Pfc. M. L. Jarvis**, Hartford, Conn.  
Platoon 1092, Jarvis was recruited by  
Sgt. Rodriguez and trained by Sgt. Diaz

**Pfc. L. W. Alexander**, Camp Hill, Pa.  
Platoon 1093, Alexander was recruited by  
Sgt. Scalf and trained by Staff Sgt. Howard

**Pfc. B. M. Evans**, Henderson, N.C.  
Platoon 1094 Evans was recruited by  
Gunnery Sgt. Rice and trained by Staff Sgt. Kelley

### Platoon 1088

Pfc. N. Allerheiligen, Pvt. J. M. Austin, Pvt. T. K. Bazemore, Pvt. T. J. Beach, Pvt. D. S. Blasko, Pfc. T. D. Brown, Pvt. J. G. Carlton, Pvt. S. P. Cary, Pvt. R. E. Chappell, Pvt. B. A. Clark, Pvt. B. J. Clauto, Pvt. J. L. Cobbs, Pfc. J. H. Cockman, Pvt. D. M. Conte, Pvt. E. M. Contrell, Pvt. D. D. Davenport, Pvt. S. A. Defibaugh Jr., Pvt. R. S. Douglas, Pfc. E. D. Drewel, Pfc. A. Elliott Jr., Pvt. Q. L. English, Pvt. B. M. Frisbie, Pvt. B. S. Gilreath, Pfc. M. J. Gordan, Pfc. K. T. Hack, Pfc. J. P. Hall, Pfc. I. R. Hayescok, Pvt. J. L. Hicks, Pfc. K. P. Hohman, Pfc. J. A. Hunter, Pfc. J. D. Jodon, Pfc. M. J. Jones, Pvt. J. V. Kaufman, Pvt. M. V. Kent, Pvt. P. R. Kent, Pvt. G. L. Kline III, Pfc. M. P. Lentz, Pvt. B. J. Lewis, Pfc. L. G. Madrigal, Pvt. D. S. Madry, Pvt. A. G. Martini, Pvt. A. E. Mayo, Pvt. W. H. McBride, Pvt. Z. K. McDaniel, Pfc. Q. L. Miller, Pfc. D. Moore, Pfc. C. P. Newbern Jr., Pvt. M. J. Niklas, Pvt. W. M. Paine, Pfc. R. S. Perry, Pfc. W. E. Phares, Pvt. S. A. Pollard, Pfc. B. Porras, Pvt. C. W. Rue, Pfc. K. L. Sanders, Pfc. M. G. Schietzelt, Pvt. F. Schotte, Pvt. M. R. Sehm, Pvt. D. E. Seibert, Pvt. R. B. Seymour, Pvt. J. E. Shaffer, Pfc. D. D. Shankle, Pvt. J. D. Shaw, Pvt. J. D. Simmons, Pvt. C. C. Siezmore, Pvt. M. E. Snyder, Pvt. S. E. Spense, Pfc. R. J. Spino, Pvt. D. J. Summers, Pfc. D. W. Thomas, Pvt. M. D. Thorton, Pvt. Y. Tumukunde, Pvt. J. C. Turner, Pvt. B. A. Volpe, Pvt. T. R. Webb, Pvt. J. J. Welch, Pfc. R. M. Whittemore, Pvt. F. L. Willis, Pfc. C. R. York

### Platoon 1089

Pvt. N. M. Acenas, Pvt. C. O. Amerson, Pvt. T. C. Bleyer, Pvt. K. A. Bode, Pvt. C. R. Bollman, Pfc. R. J. Bowser, Pfc. C. Y. Brown, Pvt. J. M. Brown, Pvt. K. C. Calhoun, Pfc. M. R. Carr, Pvt. R. C. Chicata, Pvt. J. P. Dehass, Pvt. J. C. Endres, Pvt. E. M. Escobar, Pvt. J. M. Fishack, Pfc. J. M. Galarowic, Pvt. W. F. Gaskins, Pvt. L. M. Gonzalezsalgado, Pfc. G. P. Hamper, Pvt. M. R. Hensley, Pvt. M. E. Herold, Pvt. D. J. Hess, Pvt. E. D. Higdon, Pvt. J. J. Hill, Pfc. R. S. Hunt, Pfc. J. F. Hunter, Pvt. C. T. Inman, Pvt. B. T. Jackson, Pvt. M. Johnson, Pvt. D. A. Johnson, Pvt. S. C. Johnson, Pfc. W. B. Khounsavanh, Pvt. B. M. Kholer, Pfc. B. P. Lentz, Pvt. K. L. Little, Pfc. T. A. Lockard, Pfc. J. H. Long, Pvt. V. L. Mars, Pvt. J. C. McCleary, Pfc. K. T. Mellan, Pfc. G. N. Merigian, Pvt. D. D. Miller, Pvt. J. E. Monroe, Pvt. N. J. Monroe, Pvt. T. D. Moody, Pvt. H. L. Moore, Pfc. V. Moya, Pfc. E. A. Nichols, Pvt. D. P. Oaks, Pvt. C. J. Ogletree, Pfc. J. Z. Orr, Pvt. L. F. Paredes, Pvt. C. E. Parker, Pvt. L. D. Parnell, Pvt. C. C. Pendergrass, Pvt. A. D. Phelps, Pfc. C. R. Poore, Pfc. M. S. Pough, Pfc. M. A. Ramos, Pfc. C. A. Ross, Pfc. T. W. Ruff, Pvt. E. J. Sanchez, Pvt. J. J. Sanders, Pfc. J. E. Sculley, Pvt. J. R. Sekelsky, Pfc. R. D. Simmons, Pvt. J. E. Singletontolbert, Pvt. J. W. Sluss, Pvt. D. J. Smith, Pfc. E. M. Smith, Pfc. L. D. Smith, Pvt. D. D. Stewart, Pvt. J. B. Stroud, Pvt. C. L. Stubblefield, Pvt. W. D. Suarez, Pvt. T. W. Timmons, Pvt. Q. O. Tolar, Pfc. S. M. Turek, Pvt. A. M. Weis, Pfc. K. E. Williams, Pvt. K. V. Williams

### Platoon 1090

Pfc. J. A. Albino, Pvt. E. Alvarado Jr., Pvt. R. Alvarezrivera, Pvt. B. O. Armstead, Pvt. A. J. Atterbury, Pvt. R. D. Azmoudeh, Pfc. K. M. Bailey, Pfc. A. V. Bates, Pvt. S. A. Bates, Pvt. C. L. Beasley II, Pvt. K. L. Benderman Jr., Pfc. B. J. Bozeman, Pvt. G. L. Brabson II, Pvt. J. M. Brown IV, Pfc. T. J. Burgoyne, Pvt. R. A. Cardona, Pvt. N. T. Chufar, Pvt. D. L. Cunningham, Pvt. R. J. Daniels, Pvt. C. H. Davis, Pvt. M. J. Davis, Pvt. S. R. Dickerson, Pfc. D. P. Dobson, Pvt. J. D. Dotson, Pvt. S. K. Dotson, Pvt. D. L. Dover III, Pvt. R. C. Duff, Pvt. G. A. Frazier, Pvt. J. S. Gavilanes, Pvt. D. T. Green, Pfc. N. R. Green, Pvt. L. Guerra, Pfc. R. A. Ham, Pvt. D. L. Hardy, Pfc. B. W. Hatfield, Pvt. Q. V. Hoang, Pvt. K. Hodgesrittenhouse, Pfc. M. N. Holmes, Pfc. N. A. Howell, Pfc. D. S. Hunt, Pvt. K. Irizarrycastello, Pvt. J. M. Isom, Pfc. C. B. Kempf, Pvt. C. J. Kessler, Pfc. G. A. King, Pvt. B. K. Kobrzynski, Pvt. D. J. Lachance, Pvt. B. D. Lake, Pvt. S. C. Langlois, Pvt. B. J. Laughlin, Pvt. C. T. Laur, Pfc. J. M. Lima, Pfc. A. E. Liske, Pvt. J. D. Lopez, Pvt. J. D. Mann, Pvt. J. D. Matthews, Pvt. J. D. McLaurin, Pvt. A. J. Nelson, Pvt. J. R. O'Connor, Pfc. D. A. Perry, Pvt. J. W. Poindexter, Pvt. L. A. Roberts, Pfc. W. T. Rouse, Pfc. B. M. Ruprecht, Pfc. P. R. Sajous II, Pvt. S. A. Salomon, Pvt. R. A. Soto, Pfc. S. A. Spencer, Pvt. J. J. Squatriglia, Pvt. D. A. Swanson Jr., Pfc. N. L. Thompson, Pvt. N. W. Vannoy, Pfc. S. K. Walker Jr., Pvt. J. A. Watson, Pvt. D. E. Welch, Pvt. J. A. White, Pvt. S. T. Wiechert, Pvt. J. C. Zayasgonzalez, Pfc. M. C. Zwada

### Platoon 1091

Pfc. J. F. Acapulco, Pvt. R. Aguiarmilanes, Pvt. H. Aliceamejia, Pvt. N. A. Armbruster, Pfc. D. M. Bardin, Pfc. R. R. Barton, Pvt. C. N. Basil, Pfc. B. A. Bissol, Pvt. S. M. Brown, Pfc. L. A. Burgoshernandez, Pfc. S. L. Burkmier, Pfc. J. H. Cardonarodriguez, Pvt. J. M. Cascio, Pvt. J. Caybonilla, Pvt. D. K. Conklin, Pvt. J. D. Cumens, Pvt. C. C. Dennis Jr., Pvt. J. W. Deweese, Pvt. K. K. Driver, Pvt. A. G. Enamorado Jr., Pvt. A. J. Fenstermaker, Pvt. A. J. Gillespie, Pvt. J. D. Gonzalezmolina, Pvt. J. D. Graham, Pvt. W. E. Hospodor Jr., Pfc. C. G. Hudson, Pfc. C. L. Hutchcraft, Pfc. A. J. Kuley, Pvt. N. S. Lamoureux, Pvt. D. J. Levi, Pvt. B. L. Lewis, Pvt. Z. T. Longo, Pvt. J. A. Macumber, Pfc. R. G. Marston, Pvt. J. J. Meade, Pvt. G. J. Meekins Jr., Pvt. E. A. Melendezlopez, Pvt. R. T. Mellinger, Pvt. M. D. Merriett, Pvt. A. B. Moraes, Pvt. A. J. Moyer, Pfc. L. A. Ortizbenhumea, Pfc. H. F. Peek, Pfc. M. S. Peterson, Pfc. P. T. Pewitt, Pvt. L. A. Pinzon, Pvt. M. K. Polacheck, Pvt. T. M. Poole, Pvt. Z. O. Powell, Pvt. J. R. Przywara, Pvt. S. Quintero, Pvt. J. R. Rak, Pvt. A. P. Rayis, Pvt. T. J. Rinehart, Pvt. M. B. Robbison, Pvt. T. N. Roberts, Pvt. J. N. Robinson, Pfc. A. A. Rodriguezaviles, Pfc. J. Rosarioagosto, Pfc. E. M. Santiago, Pvt. J. E. Schade, Pvt. D. A. Schatzley, Pvt. J. L. Shaver, Pvt. J. W. Shirley, Pvt. D. L. Simmons, Pfc. B. S. Sirmans, Pfc. J. A. Smith, Pvt. M. J. Stevens, Pvt. S. R. Stillions, Pvt. N. A. Sweet, Pvt. M. A. Sylvia, Pvt. F. Themistol, Pvt. B. L. Tuman, Pvt. A. A. Velezquinones, Pvt. A. E. Vergara, Pvt. J. S. Vinson, Pfc. J. K. Walker, Pvt. J. S. Welk, Pvt. J. K. West, Pvt. B. C. Williams, Pvt. C. R. Wilson, Pvt. J. T. Wilson, Pfc. J. A. Wiserburn

### Platoon 1092

Pvt. M. P. Ahern, Pvt. E. K. Barrera, Pvt. N. R. Bauer, Pvt. A. Benitez, Pfc. D. R. Benningrice, Pvt. A. J. Blanchette, Pvt. M. H. Borja, Pvt. A. E. Bott, Pfc. D. T. Branch, Pfc. K. J. Brown, Pfc. D. G. Burger, Pvt. T. C. Butler, Pfc. P. Cabaj, Pvt. E. R. Cabrera, Pfc. J. C. Caraisco, Pvt. J. Chalifour, Pvt. T. R. Chireau, Pvt. A. W. Coulter, Pvt. J. M. Crosby, Pvt. S. O. Duncan, Pfc. J. K. Driskell, Pfc. E. M. Dzikowski, Pfc. A. D. Edwards, Pvt. J. A. Espinosa, Pfc. T. B. Ferrell, Pfc. A. S. Fluke, Pfc. R. F. Grove, Pvt. D. Hickman, Pfc. A. W. Hornbuckle, Pvt. J. E. Horne, Pvt. M. L. Jarvis, Pvt. M. W. Jasch, Pvt. E. L. Johannsen, Pfc. S. Joubert, Pvt. A. R. Kirsch, Pfc. R. A. Leblanc, Pvt. A. M. Lebrun, Pfc. J. Lee, Pfc. C. T. Lewis, Pfc. A. B. Lopatinsky, Pfc. L. A. McKinney, Pvt. K. A. Mejia, Pvt. J. J. Melendez, Pfc. E. D. Mendoza, Pfc. Y. A. Nazary, Pfc. S. L. Oberle, Pvt. B. J. Owens, Pvt. C. A. Paganrivera, Pvt. N. Panyavuthilert, Pvt. F. J. Pascale, Pvt. M. A. Paternostro, Pvt. K. J. Pellicci, Pvt. E. B. Perez, Pvt. J. L. Pernell, Pvt. N. J. Pesce, Pfc. M. M. Raneault, Pvt. J. Ramirez, Pvt. J. G. Reynolds, Pvt. D. J. Riccio, Pvt. T. A. Rice, Pfc. R. H. Ricelli, Pvt. J. T. Rodriguez, Pfc. A. S. Rosado, Pfc. M. D. Sami, Pvt. A. C. Scaggs, Pfc. Z. M. Sherman, Pfc. C. E. Talbot, Pvt. M. S. Teramu, Pvt. J. C. Thibodeau, Pvt. E. G. Tighe, Pvt. J. B. Vangelder, Pvt. M. A. Villano, Pvt. E. E. Walker, Pvt. G. T. Wierbicki, Pvt. S. G. Williams, Pvt. B. M. Zajac, Pfc. J. Zuza

### Platoon 1093

Pvt. S. D. Adams, Pvt. L. W. Alexander, Pvt. D. J. Alves, Pfc. J. Arias, Pvt. D. L. Benitez, Pvt. J. Bimenyimana, , Pvt. M. R. Boone, Pvt. M. S. Borres, Pfc. B. D. Brown, Pvt. C. W. Burton, Pfc. A. Camera, Pvt. N. A. Canalini, Pvt. M. R. Cantos, Pvt. C. J. Carson, Pfc. J. E. Clubb, Pvt. A. C. Crossan, Pfc. W. Y. Crucescocochachis, Pvt. N. J. Cusson, Pvt. K. Dandul, Pvt. J. K. Delgado, Pvt. J. P. Dellas, Pvt. J. D. Desimone, Pvt. T. F. Dewitt, Pvt. N. R. Dieumegarde, Pvt. N. J. Dimini, Pvt. C. Duran, Pvt. E. A. Estrada, Pvt. K. E. Estrada, Pvt. N. H. Fash, Pfc. B. W. Fauzio, Pvt. P. M. Filidis, Pvt. M. C. Foley, Pvt. B. C. Gale, Pvt. W. H. Gutierrez, Pvt. F. R. Houser, Pvt. D. K. Jensen, Pfc. K. D. Kamberger, Pvt. R. W. Kehlhem, Pvt. D. J. Kelly, Pfc. Z. D. Kuzmicz, Pvt. J. R. Labarge, Pfc. D. A. Ladendorf, Pvt. J. E. Leon, Pvt. S. M. Lopez, Pvt. L. J. Lucas, Pvt. B. P. McCulley, Pvt. R. C. Mefford, Pvt. R. A. Melara, Pfc. G. Menico, Pvt. C. M. Milligan, Pfc. K. H. Mirandachavez, Pfc. J. A. Molina, Pvt. D. A. Nibblins III, Pvt. F. F. Ortizespinosa, Pvt. H. Park, Pfc. M. C. Parton, Pfc. J. M. Pavese, Pvt. I. J. Pena, Pvt. J. A. Portillo, Pvt. B. A. Purnell Jr., Pvt. G. R. Reyescarmona, Pvt. B. P. Romulus, Pvt. J. A. Rowley, Pvt. R. F. Santiago, Pvt. M. P. Sheehan, Pvt. E. J. Silva, Pvt. D. F. Solis, Pvt. N. R. Standard, Pfc. E. J. Streiter, Pvt. D. A. Swilley, Pvt. S. A. Tanis, Pvt. J. Torres, Pvt. S. Torres, Pfc. D. C. Townsend, Pfc. J. J. Viall, Pvt. C. Wilkerson, Pvt. F. J. Wismer, Pfc. V. O. Zelaya

### Platoon 1094

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## THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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MCRD Parris Island  
Eastern Recruiting Region

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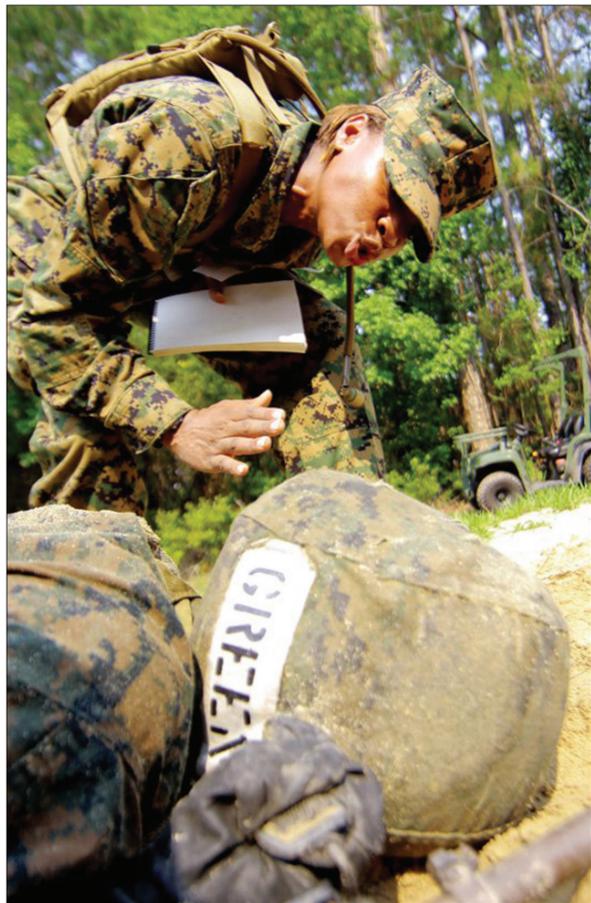
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## DUTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

station, after being a satellite of the Brockton office. That change is evidence that the Marines and other military services continue to draw more recruits than they can sign – despite a decade of war, lower enlistment quotas and the prospect of Defense Department budget cuts.

As the nation's economy slowly recovers from recession, recruiters are seeing more young men and women seeking stable employment and affordable educational opportunities. But they say that now, as ever, most of

those who enlist do so because they feel called to serve their country.

“The economy obviously plays into it,” Staff Sgt. Samuel Nadeau said. “But this is not about money. It’s about patriotism, and gaining maturity.”

Next door at the Air Force recruiting office, Sgt. Jason Wilbert said he’s signing up more college graduates these days, as civilian jobs remain tight. Even so, “service to country is still the first reason they come to us,” he said.

The decision was as simple as that to the four new Marines from Abington, Braintree and Weymouth,

all of whom graduated from high school this spring.

Pfc. Paul Souza was an all-star defenseman for the Braintree High hockey team. He could have pursued a college scholarship but quickly chose the Marines.

“I want to serve my country,” Souza said. “I want the challenge.”

Pfc. Jamey Kerr of Abington wasn’t interested in college. He said military service had been “in the back of my mind” since childhood. He chose the Marines because he considers it the toughest branch of the military – “the varsity,” as he put it.

Pfc. Joseph Pinto of

Weymouth dreamed of military service, too. Several cousins are in the Marines, and his grandfather served in the Army in the family’s homeland of Cape Verde. He didn’t need a school visit from a recruiter – he went to them and enlisted as a junior, then got senior-year tutoring from recruiter Staff Sgt. Axel Valentin.

Pinto does want to go to college later. For now, he said, “this is what I need to do.”

One of his high school buddies, Pvt. Ryan Kliphan, feels the same way. Kliphan – who went through 13 weeks of boot

camp with Pinto – thinks the service will boost his confidence, whether he stays in or returns to civilian life.

Recruiters say it’s an even bigger accomplishment these days for recruits like Souza and the others to qualify for enlistment. Annual quotas for all the services have been steadily dropping for years, and that means they can be “as selective as possible,” Nadeau said – much as elite colleges can pick and choose among students with the best résumés.

Souza, Kerr, Pinto and Kliphan were in elementary school during the

Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. They grew up with America at war, but they say those events had little influence on their decision to join the Marines.

All will soon be going to Camp Geiger in North Carolina for further infantry training – and for Kliphan, aviation mechanics instruction.

“I want to fight for my country,” Kliphan said, sitting with Kerr and Pinto on the office couch.

“What if there’s no fight?” Kerr asked.

“Whatever kind of fight it is,” Kliphan answered.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Recruits from Platoon 1089 assist one another in climbing Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14.



Sgt. Michael Allen, a drill instructor for Platoon 1089, reads the citation of Lance Cpl. Juana Navarro Arellano's actions and explains the rules to the obstacle, named after her, to his recruits, Nov. 14.



Recruits from Platoon 1089 carry a dummy, representing a casualty, while climbing Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14.

**ALPHA**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Navarroarellano's Skyscraper is practically impossible without teamwork, Allen said. A lot of recruits believe they know everything they're going to have to put forth when they get here until they are challenged with all the obstacles in the Crucible.

"I thought I knew a little bit about teamwork," said Rct. Dustin Johnson, Platoon 1089. "I've played sports that required teamwork, but nothing like the teamwork that's required here. If one person fails, the whole group fails."

In 2010, the names of many Crucible events were renamed to honor Marines

of more current conflicts. The tower was named after Lance Cpl. Juana Navarro Arellano, a Marine who died from wounds received in combat in Iraq in 2006.

Before and after climbing the tower the recruits were read a citation of Navarro Arellano's heroic actions in combat. They then discussed the importance of remembering Marines of the past.

"This is more their time, their generation. They can relate more to something that happened in 2006," Allen said. "They can think 'I was in middle school and there was Marines fighting and dying for our country. She did it, now I have to live on through her legacy.'"



A recruit from Platoon 1089 provides security behind Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14.

**"As we got higher and higher, I got more and more confident in myself and especially my team. I trusted they wouldn't let me fall."**

Rct. Javon Hunter, Platoon 1089



Recruits from Platoon 1089, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, use hand-and-arm signals to silently communicate as they scale Navarroarellano's Skyscraper during the Crucible at Page Field, Nov. 14. The tower specifically tests the recruits' teamwork abilities. The entire team has to climb up one side of the tower with all their equipment and a dummy that simulates a casualty. Once the recruits reach the top they have to climb down the opposite side with all the same things as before.

# Raids: from ship to shore

**Sgt. Richard Blumenstein**  
24th Marine Expeditionary Unit

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The mission is received: terrorist forces and a large amount of weapons have been identified in a town neighboring a previous objective.

Six hours later, the Marines are ready. Their gear has been checked and rechecked. All personnel for the mission have been identified and accounted for. Their roles, responsibilities and the scheme of maneuver have been briefed twice-over.

Assault amphibious vehicles carry the Marines through water to land, before finally arriving at the town. Security sets in — nothing comes into or goes out of the town, except the Marines.

The Marines assault and organized chaos ensues. The Marines stalk building to building, room to room, leaving their enemy combatants in a state of disarray as they mow them down with the sound of gunfire. Less than an hour later, the Marines regroup, get in their AAVs and egress from the town.

None of this is real. The bad guys: role players. The bullets: blanks. The mission: a training exercise put together by the Special Operations Training Group to help prepare the Marines and sailors of A Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, to serve as the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team's mechanized raid force.

The Marines spent Nov. 7-18 at various training sites throughout the base taking part in a mechanized raid course.

The company has the responsibility to insert into areas using AAVs, raid a target objective, and egress back to ship that the 24th MEU is embarked on. The Marines of 2nd Assault Amphibian Vehicle Platoon are attached to the company and serve as the company's transportation.

The training centered on all the intricacies involved with raids including military operations in urban terrain, understanding the roles and responsibilities of the company's platoons, and how to employ all available assets within the MEU's capabilities to ensure mission success.

"This course is meant to pretty much get the company into the raid mindset, as far as going ship to shore," said Gunnery Sgt. James Page, company gunnery sergeant. "It's an initiating package to get us ready for the MEU."

The two-week course helped the company develop the foundation for their standard operating procedures and develop cohesion amongst the Marines, according to Capt. Robert May, company commander.

"It solidifies the SOPs we've been working on the previous three or four months," May said. "We want



Photos by Sgt. Richard Blumenstein

**Marines with A Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, in assault amphibious vehicles, return from a simulated raid during the mechanized raid course, Nov. 15 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The mechanized raid course took place Nov. 7-18 to prepare the Marines and sailors of A Co. and the Assault Amphibian Platoon for their upcoming deployment as part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team.**

to codify all the information and make sure everything we've put in our previous SOP we can actually execute with."

In the first week of the course, the Marines divided into an assault element, support element and security element to focus on mission-specific tasks. In the second week of the course, the company took part in raid scenarios, facilitated by SOTG, similar to how they would actually receive missions. The Marines would receive the mission, then have six hours to plan and prepare before assaulting their objective.

The ability to understand how all their procedures apply to that six hour period is one of the most important things the Marines should take from the course, May said.

The mechanized raid course is the last of three raid courses the 24th MEU's ground combat element has completed to prepare them for deployment next year.



**Marines with A Company hold security while preparing to depart after conducting a simulated raid during a mechanized raid course, Nov. 15.**



Photos by Cpl. James Clark

Sgt. Chris Gonzalez, civil affairs team chief with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, speaks with a member of the Afghan Uniformed Police at the Kajaki Sofla bazaar, Nov. 5. Members of the AUP and their Marine counterparts took part in the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha, which encourages both reconciliation and charitable giving.

## Marines build ties during Islamic holiday

Cpl. James Clark  
Regimental Combat Team 8

KAJAKI SOFLA, Afghanistan - In celebration of Eid al-Adha, an Islamic holiday, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and Afghan National Security Forces took steps to foster ties with the local citizens of Kajaki Sofla.

The area had seen little evidence of the Afghan government in the past six years, and until the outset of Operation Eastern Storm, served as a safe haven and logistical hub for insurgent forces in Northern Helmand province.

The holiday, which spans multiple days, is a religious celebration with a focus on making amends with enemies, explained Sgt. Chris Gonzalez, civil affairs team chief with 4th Civil Affairs Group in support of the battalion.

"It's a day of reunion and reconciliation, with a focus on charitable giving, encouraging participants to give away 1 percent of wealth," said Gonzalez, who along with his team, joined members of the Afghan Uniformed Police in giving away rice and beans purchased from the Kajaki Sofla Bazaar.

"When you give rice and beans as opposed to money, you show you are respecting their wishes, and their culture," explained Gonzalez, addressing concerns brought up by the locals that the gap between the western and eastern cultures is an obstacle to overcome before there can be true cooperation between coalition forces, and the local populace.

"It's one of the things they ask us to do. Acknowledging and respecting culture, one of the things the children and elders alike have repeatedly asked us to do to," said Gonzalez.

Opting to donate food in lieu of money serves another purpose, Gonzalez said. Money can flood an area, and inevitably bring forth a landslide of short-term benefits, but what happens

when the strings tighten on the coin purse, when the money stops coming? Instead, civil affairs personnel like Gonzalez, focus on high-impact, low-income projects, where a smaller amount of money can go a longer way.

"We can give them money, but not if you look at setting them up for long-term success," said Gonzalez. "We're looking at the long-term goal of setting up processes. A good example is the canal project we are working on. It's supposed to help 4,000 families and all we're doing is supplying a tractor and a few other supplies. It costs minimal money and will have a high impact."

Civil projects like the construction of new canals and irrigation systems, wells and other forms of infrastructure form the bedrock for success in the area, but the pillars come from establishing strong ties between the local citizens and the local police – the one consistent representation of the Afghan government the people in Kajaki Sofla have.

"The relationship between Marines and the populace is important, but for long-term stability the relationship between ANSF and the local populace is critical," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez, and members of the Police Advisory Team, tasked with supporting their Afghan counterparts, hope by having the AUP participate in Eid, give away food to local children, and interact with shop keepers and customers at the bazaar, that these bonds will be forged.

"We're trying to put an AUP face on everything," said Lance Cpl. Justin Blosser, a police advisor, from Mansfield, Ohio, and a 2009 graduate of Madison Comprehensive High School. "They have to learn to do it on their own. We took that first step, then used AUP counterparts so he could put their face on what we're doing. You have to understand that it's not our house, it's theirs, and we're trying to build relationships on both sides."



Civil affairs Marines with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, meet with local elders during the holiday of Eid al-Adha, Nov. 7.



Lance Cpl. Justin Blosser, a police advisor, fills bags of rice and beans to be given away to locals at the Kajaki Sofla bazaar, Nov. 5 during the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha.

## Medal of Honor recipient visits depot



Photos by Lance Cpl. Rodion S. Zabolotniy

Retired Capt. John J. McGinty III and Brig. Gen. Lori E. Reynolds, render honors during the national anthem on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Nov. 18. McGinty earned the Medal of Honor in 1966 for his actions while serving as a platoon leader in Vietnam. McGinty's platoon came under heavy fire when they were providing security for a larger element and was almost overrun. McGinty, who was wounded, rallied his men and routed the enemy after four hours of fighting. McGinty visited the depot as the parade reviewing official for the day's graduation ceremony.

# More than just a statue



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Parris Island's statue depicting Marines and a corpsman raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi is a replica of the original Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.

**Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton**  
Staff Writer

“Uncommon valor was a common virtue” – a quote by Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz, is etched in stone at the base of Parris Island's Marine Corps War Memorial. The monument depicts the legacy of the five Marines and one Navy corpsman who planted the American flag into the top of Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. It is a replica of the original in Arlington, Va. The original memorial was sculpted by Felix de Weldon in 1951 and was officially dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nov. 10, 1954 – the Corps' 179th birthday.

The memorial was sculpted from a famed photograph of the flag raising taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, Feb. 23, 1945.

Rosenthal was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for

photography later that year. The photograph quickly became one of the most iconic pictures in history.

Parris Island's replica statue was placed adjacent to the Peatross Parade Deck, Sept. 5, 1952. The statue stands at almost 8 feet tall from the top of the base to the highest hand on the flagpole.

In more recent years, the depot's memorial has served a more sacred purpose than the backdrop of hundreds of photos for visitors to the island.

The monument serves as the hallowed ground for the ceremonies in which recruits are handed their Eagle, Globe and Anchors by their drill instructors thus claiming the title Marine.

After three months of training and 54 hours of the Crucible, the recruits step onto the red bricks at the rear of the statue into a formation.

“When I was a recruit, we did it on family day on the parade deck,”

said Staff Sgt. Rayford Myers, drill master of 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, who earned his Marine Corps emblem nearly seven years ago. “You can tell by looking at the recruits' faces that doing it at any other time or place just wouldn't be fitting.”

When the ceremony switched from a public event to private, it became much more personal, said Myers, a 25-year-old from D.C.

“Most recruits come to tears during the ceremony,” he said. “And nobody wants to cry in front of their family.”

“At that moment, everything you've done over the past 64 training days hits you,” he added. “The memorial symbolizes the tradition of the Corps and everything the recruits went through. They gain a sense of pride, accomplishment and relief from the past three months of struggle and effort.”

## BROTHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with their platoons and endure the rest of the 13 weeks apart.

“Once we realized they were twins, we tried to put them in the same platoon,” said Staff Sgt. Cecil Compton, senior drill instructor for Platoon 1089, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “But they said no – they wanted to stay with their platoons. To me, that meant a lot because it showed pride in your unit.”

But for the Lentz brothers, having their own platoons was also another part of growing up.

“We've done everything together our whole lives,” said Pfc. Brian Lentz, Plt. 1089. “I just wanted to be separate from him in my own platoon and go through this without someone I knew when I first got there.”

The twins chose to enlist when they were 17 years old, while still in high school.

“Matthew is the one that early on I could tell

had a great interest in the military,” said Patricia Lentz, the new Marines' mother. “It was later that Brian showed that same interest.”

Although they shared the same interest in service, the 18-year-olds joined the Corps for different reasons.

“I decided that if I was going to join the military, I would do the hardest one to prove something about myself,” Brian Lentz said.

On the other hand, Pfc. Matthew Lentz, Plt. 1088, joined to be differ-

ent from his peers, who enlisted in the Army.

“People say ‘Once a Marine, always a Marine,’” he said. “It's a big deal to be a part of something that has such a big history.”

The Lentz brothers used that same pride to fuel them through recruit training.

Although it took a big toll physically and emotionally on the brothers, weakness could not be shown when competing against one another.

“They've always tried to be better than the

other,” Patricia Lentz said. “There's been that good, healthy competitive spirit all throughout their lives.”

The drill instructors also pushed the recruits to compete against each other to represent their platoons.

“They're all about competition against each other,” Compton said. “It's the identical twin thing; they're always trying to break away from one another. I think that's what has driven them through recruit training – to stand out.”

And even as the teens argued about who won what competition, one thing was clear: these two brothers were anything but identical.

“They have really done well to develop into their own person,” Patricia Lentz said. “They have been able to develop their own idea of who they are and what they want to do. That good, brotherly, competitive spirit is there, but they really, truly care about each other and they do get along pretty well.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Rct. Matthew Lentz, Platoon 1088, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, provides security for his fire team during the Crucible, Nov. 14.



Rct. Brian Lentz, Platoon 1089, boxes with his twin brother, Matthew Lentz, during the Crucible, Nov. 14.

