

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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See
India
Company
graduates

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India pushes through the Crucible



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Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. D.J. Wooten stretches out to his fellow recruits of Platoon 3096, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, in an attempt to move an ammunition can along an obstacle during the Crucible at Page Field, Dec. 1.

Aussie earns EGA

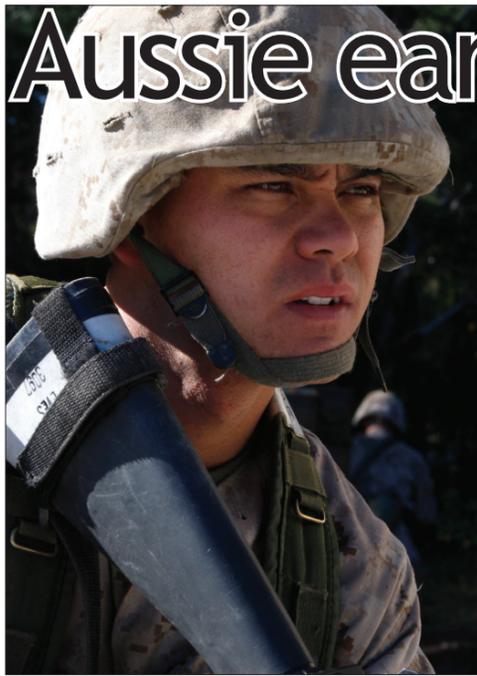


Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Pfc. Christopher Eves, India Company honor graduate, used to serve in the Australian Army as a lieutenant before enlisting into the Corps.

Lance Cpl.
F. J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Among the blur of green uniforms worn by new Marines at today's graduation, one holds four times as many awards.

Pfc. Christopher Eves, India Company honor graduate, not only wears the National Defense Medal, but the Australian Active Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and Australian Defense Medal – all earned during his six years of active service as a lieutenant in the Australian Army.

"If you asked me five years ago what my five-year plan was, it wasn't to join the Marines," Eves said. "Now, it's just getting through basic training and to achieve my goal - to earn my

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India trains as warriors during BWT

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

Recruits from India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, pressed through a challenging portion of recruit training called Basic Warrior Training.

On the first day of BWT, recruits are pitted against the Day Movement Course. The course is a fast-paced event in which recruits must assault an enemy target using everything they've learned.

The simulated combat in the course is designed to teach recruits how to follow orders while under physical and mental strain. Additionally, the course allows them to practice movement tactics such as crawling and walking with their rifles at the "ready."

"I had a pretty tough time with the course, but it helped me feel a lot more confident in myself and the other recruits in my platoon," said Rct. Christopher Hill, with Platoon 3096.

The recruits go through the course with their rifles, equipment and Kevlar helmets.

Recruits are ordered to make their way through the course as quickly as possible by their drill instructors and course proctors.

Each recruit starts the course by crawling through sand and under concertina wire.

Once they have completed that portion, recruits must "buddy rush" to their next objective. Buddy rushing, is

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Rct. Jovan Evans, with Platoon 3098, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, struggles to pull himself from underneath barbed wire while using his rifle to hold it up during the Day Movement Course in the first day of Basic Warrior Training. Nov. 17

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to Mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training Dec. 15 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.

Parris Island Marine Band free concert

The Parris Island Marine Band is scheduled to hold its 3rd Annual Low-country Christmas Concert, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Community Bible Church located at 638 Parris Island Gateway in Beaufort. The free performance will be Parris Island band's only holiday concert open to the public.

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gets an
upgrade

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linguist
teaches in
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CMC
spends
holiday
with
Marines

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INDIA COMPANY GRADUATES

Honor Graduates

Pfc. C. D. Hill, Smithfield, N.C.
Platoon 3096, Hill was recruited by
Staff Sgt. White and trained by Staff Sgt. Gentry

Pfc. A. D. Pagano, East Northport, N.Y.
Platoon 3098, Pagano was recruited by
Sgt. Rodriguez and trained by Staff Sgt. Guzman

Pfc. C.J. Wolfe, Dayton, Ohio
Platoon 3101, Wolfe was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Arroyo and trained by Sgt. Hernandez

Pfc. C. L. Eves, Marlinton, W.V.
Platoon 3097, Eves was recruited by
Sgt. Ready and trained by Staff Sgt. Farabee

Pfc. B. D. Fonville, Burlington, N.C.
Platoon 3100, Fonville was recruited by
Sgt. Manriquez and trained by Staff Sgt. Stewart

Pfc. J. J. Deterline, Roaring Spring, Pa.
Platoon 3102, Deterline was recruited by
Sgt. Roland and trained by Staff Sgt. Washington Jr.

Platoon 3096

Pvt. C. J. Anderson, Pfc. K. W. Apple III, Pfc. K. C. Baragona Jr., Pfc. Z. A. Barren, Pvt. T. W. Bowen, Pfc. F. L. Brasington, Pvt. T. J. Breedlove, Pfc. T. S. Calderon, Pfc. M. A. Callery, Pvt. S. J. Calloway, Pfc. P. E. Carpenter, Pvt. J. A. Cooper, Pfc. J. D. Cummings, Pvt. D. W. Curry III, Pfc. L. A. Davis, Pfc. J. R. Deguido, Pvt. S. G. Doty, Pfc. C. R. England, Pfc. S. K. Fernandez, Pvt. R. A. Freeman, Pvt. M. S. Garmon, Pfc. B. M. Goosey, Pvt. T. C. Hardy IV, Pvt. W. E. Henson III, Pfc. C. R. Hicks, Pvt. B. L. Hill, Pfc. C. S. Hill, Pfc. S. E. Hill, Pfc. G. S. Johnston, Pvt. T. Kawa, Pvt. T. E. Ketcham Jr., Pfc. M. A. Kirkpatrick, Pfc. D. K. Kwoczka, Pfc. A. M. Lenix, Pfc. N. J. Lindsay, Pfc. P. R. Little, Pfc. J. W. Locke, Pfc. B. N. Locklear, Pfc. J. K. Lord, Pvt. T. A. Lovelace, Pfc. B. J. Malek, Pvt. M. J. McDaniel, Pvt. J. A. Miller, Pfc. T. T. Mitchell, Pfc. R. T. Mohammed, Pvt. C. L. Mongo, Pvt. J. H. Montalvo, Pfc. M. K. Morris, Pvt. W. S. Nash, Pvt. T. M. Newton Jr., Pfc. J. Nguyen, Pvt. R. G. Ortiz, Pfc. C. M. Outlaw, Pfc. L. T. Parker, Pvt. C. B. Queen, Pfc. R. Ramos Jr., Pvt. J. D. Reel, Pvt. J. A. Ribron, Pvt. G. I. RodriguezRivera, Pfc. M. L. Ross, Pvt. J. Salvador, Pvt. S. A. Sanders, Pfc. W. W. Shaw Jr., Pvt. W. E. Simmons, Pfc. B. E. Smith, Pvt. C. R. Stiles, Pfc. S. R. Swanson, Pvt. C. M. Thomas, Pfc. S. G. Toles, Pfc. C. W. Toliver, Pfc. A. J. Torres, Pfc. M. S. Turner, Pfc. B. J. Waterlander, Pvt. C. P. Westray, Pvt. C. S. Wilder, Pvt. B. M. Wilson, Pvt. D. J. Wooten

Platoon 3097

Pfc. M. D. AllenCampbell, Pvt. D. D. Armstrong, Pvt. C. J. Bartolotta, Pvt. K. A. Beverstock, Pfc. C. J. Bolanos, Pfc. J. A. Bond II, Pvt. C. S. Borden, Pvt. K. C. Bradley Jr., Pvt. R. A. Bratcher, Pfc. T. D. Britton, Pfc. K. R. Brown, Pvt. N. J. Caskey, Pfc. M. L. Charleston, Pvt. R. V. Chavez, Pfc. C. L. Clark, Pfc. B. M. Cook, Pfc. M. J. Cooper, Pfc. T. J. Curran Jr., Pvt. J. R. Eldridge, Pfc. B. G. Emery, Pfc. B. J. Engell, Pfc. C. J. Eves, Pfc. S. A. Farley, Pvt. C. L. Fitzwater, Pvt. D. R. Fuhrken, Pvt. K. R. Garcia, Pvt. J. M. Gardner, Pvt. D. L. Gravely, Pvt. J. R. Grunskin, Pvt. R. A. Hammond, Pvt. A. S. Henderson, Pfc. J. L. Hernandez Jr., Pvt. T. A. Hogeland, Pvt. B. E. Hostutler, Pvt. D. Q. Hughey, Pfc. C. H. Ingram, Pfc. D. F. Irelan, Pfc. C. L. Jacks, Pfc. C. J. Johansen, Pfc. J. C. Jones, Pvt. E. J. Knipp, Pfc. A. M. Kranzman, Pvt. A. P. Labier, Pvt. D. J. Laboissiere, Pfc. Z. C. Lewis, Pvt. C. J. Lockett, Pvt. J. J. Mauldin, Pvt. J. K. McCombs, Pfc. N. J. McIntyre, Pvt. J. D. Meadows, Pvt. M. C. Meid, Pvt. J. L. Menard, Pvt. D. R. Methlie II, Pfc. H. J. Miller, Pfc. N. M. Miller, Pfc. C. I. Moore, Pfc. A. M. Mullen, Pfc. J. R. Murphy, Pvt. S. D. Paige, Pfc. F. T. Parker, Pvt. T. L. Parker Jr., Pvt. C. O. Payne, Pvt. E. Pearson, Pvt. D. L. Pearson, Pfc. B. M. Pettiford Jr., Pvt. G. K. Prince, Pvt. R. E. Rodriguez, Pvt. J. Rodriguez, Pvt. D. B. Rudder, Pfc. J. L. Rutledge, Pvt. D. A. Sanders, Pvt. T. M. Schramer, Pvt. M. A. Shinaberry, Pvt. E. D. Smith III, Pvt. C. L. Stidom, Pfc. J. C. Vazquez, Pvt. C. R. Woodberry, Pfc. A. D. Zalud

Platoon 3098

Pfc. I. T. Adam, Pvt. M. D. Adams Jr., Pvt. A. Adoyi, Pvt. B. M. Arnett, Pvt. S. H. Baez, Pfc. D. R. Bishop, Pvt. Y. G. Black Jr., Pvt. T. G. Brady, Pvt. J. J. Brea, Pfc. G. L. Buckley, Pvt. R. Campbell Jr., Pvt. C. S. Carnahan, Pvt. S. R. Casey, Pvt. S. J. Chesney, Pfc. B. P. Cook, Pvt. D. J. CoppingerDonovan, Pfc. J. M. Cotterman, Pvt. C. M. Craft, Pvt. K. T. DabneySingleton, Pvt. J. M. Donhner, Pvt. D. M. Donohue, Pvt. M. W. Doyle, Pvt. M. Dupont, Pvt. T. W. Edwards, Pvt. J. D. Evans, Pvt. S. A. Faulks, Pvt. B. L. Flanagan, Pfc. J. FloresPedraza, Pvt. J. A. Gantose, Pfc. D. W. Gatliff, Pvt. E. G. Gebo Jr., Pvt. R. G. Hall, Pfc. R. J. Hendershot, Pvt. M. P. Hennessy, Pfc. O. E. HernandezGarcia, Pvt. D. J. Hufford, Pvt. J. B. Hunt, Pfc. R. K. Jackson, Pvt. B. W. Kimble, Pvt. G. A. Kisner, Pfc. M. K. Korpalski, Pfc. E. D. Kreiser, Pvt. J. D. Lettrick, Pfc. S. Lin, Pvt. W. W. Lindner, Pvt. S. J. Lipke Jr., Pvt. B. E. Machczynski, Pvt. J. A. Makowski, Pvt. N. Martinez, Pvt. J. W. McIntyre, Pfc. B. T. McMullen, Pvt. X. Mercedes, Pfc. A. R. Miller, Pvt. R. H. Misa, Pvt. X. F. Montaie, Pfc. B. R. Morris, Pvt. T. D. Mozisek, Pvt. N. R. Nisbet, Pvt. C. F. Nusbaum, Pvt. A. E. Ochoa Jr., Pfc. P. J. Pagano, Pvt. J. M. Renshaw, Pvt. W. Rivas, Pvt. E. J. Rock, Pvt. M. Ruiz, Pvt. C. S. Schade, Pvt. Z. W. Scott, Pvt. J. C. Silver, Pfc. B. R. Smith, Pfc. E. R. Szymanski, Pvt. L. J. Tarez, Pfc. T. R. Trujillo, Pvt. J. T. Whiteman, Pvt. J. C. Willman, Pfc. E. A. Wood, Pvt. L. J. Wynn

Platoon 3100

Pfc. G. R. AcostaVega, Pvt. D. AlvarezSerrano, Pfc. A. Anaya, Pvt. N. A. Anzelone, Pvt. J. P. Arbelaez, Pvt. R. AvilezBelmontez, Pvt. D. K. Benjamin, Pvt. B. A. Bond, Pvt. Z. L. Bradley, Pfc. A. R. Brown, Pvt. A. N. Brown, Pfc. C. J. Burkard, Pvt. D. M. Butler, Pvt. M. CamasRomero, Pfc. E. A. Carrasquillo, Pvt. C. J. Coggins, Pvt. C. Cordova, Pvt. A. Cortez, Pfc. B. J. Cuthbert, Pvt. M. L. Demeraski, Pvt. N. D. Deosaran, Pvt. B. S. Dupre, Pvt. J. D. Evans, Pfc. R. Flores, Pfc. B. D. Fonville, Pvt. K. M. Forst, Pvt. M. Franco, Pvt. C. M. Garber, Pvt. G. S. Girard, Pfc. M. M. Gladstone, Pvt. K. B. Gorkowski, Pvt. S. H. Harris, Pfc. W. H. Hart V, Pvt. D. C. Henry Jr., Pvt. J. D. Herriman, Pfc. J. T. Hickman, Pvt. D. K. Howse, Pvt. L. R. Ingram, Pvt. M. A. Kane, Pvt. N. M. Kaplan, Pvt. J. J. Ladd, Pvt. T. A. Lang, Pvt. N. R. Laracca, Pfc. K. C. Latessa Jr., Pvt. F. A. Lopez, Pvt. J. Ly, Pfc. S. M. Lydon, Pvt. S. T. Marsh, Pvt. J. L. Mathis, Pfc. K. T. McAden, Pvt. M. J. Meola, Pfc. M. A. Mohamed, Pvt. J. L. Moore, Pvt. C. J. Morris, Pvt. N. R. Morris, Pfc. R. J. Mosley, Pfc. W. A. Okeeffe, Pvt. J. Z. Parsons, Pvt. A. J. PatinoRamirez, Pfc. H. C. Pepper, Pvt. J. W. Phillips, Pvt. T. S. Polk, Pfc. J. J. , Roberson, Pvt. J. C. Rowe, Pvt. J. M. Schafer, Pvt. M. E. Schihl, Pfc. A. T. Sexton, Pvt. J. W. Smith, Pvt. J. M. Snyder, Pfc. M. A. Suarez, Pvt. C. B. Sweeney, Pvt. C. C. Tate, Pfc. Z. B. Wallace, Pfc. J. E. Watts Jr., Pvt. C. N. Weaver, Pfc. R. B. Worden, Pvt. R. D. Worley

Platoon 3101

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Platoon 3102

Pvt. Z. R. Aubin, Pfc. A. W. Baker, Pvt. J. A. Belliveau, Pvt. M. A. Berry, Pvt. R. S. Breen, Pvt. R. E. Bustillos, Pfc. J. Cabbagestalk, Pvt. J. T. Callis, Pfc. K. A. Capponcelli, Pvt. T. J. Chapman, Pfc. A. E. Chapman, Pfc. T. S. Clark, Pvt. Z. E. Cox, Pvt. M. A. Craig, Pvt. B. K. Dahl, Pvt. A. C. Decker, Pvt. M. F. Deleon, Pvt. J. E. Delzeith, Pfc. J. J. Deterline, Pvt. R. D. Dufresne, Pvt. E. D. Dutton, Pvt. S. L. Emrick, Pvt. K. L. Ezell, Pvt. C. A. Fischer, Pvt. J. J. Font, Pvt. C. A. Frazier, Pvt. J. R. Gilliland, Pvt. D. D. Goza, Pvt. C. J. Grupp, Pvt. A. Henry, Pvt. A. T. Hinton, Pvt. J. T. Hoehn, Pvt. T. J. Hollenkamp, Pvt. C. D. Hollifield Jr., Pvt. P. J. Hovis, Pvt. W. F. Ivey, Pvt. N. Jankovic, Pvt. M. J. Jones, Pvt. C. W. Kennedy, Pvt. Z. B. Kenny, Pvt. J. A. Kojeski, Pvt. Z. R. Kraus, Pvt. T. R. Lefevre, Pfc. N. V. Leone, Pfc. D. G. Liskiewicz, Pvt. J. B. Lopez, Pvt. R. G. McCormick, Pfc. A. P. McCullough, Pvt. C. J. McMahan, Pvt. T. R. Meyer, Pfc. D. T. Morris, Pvt. A. M. Norwald, Pfc. M. L. Phillips, Pfc. J. J. Pickens, Pvt. K. J. Poulin, Pfc. S. M. Riggles, Pvt. R. M. Rowlett Jr., Pfc. Z. J. Senter, Pvt. C. K. Smith, Pvt. P. M. Steinle, Pvt. K. M. Stephenson, Pvt. A. J. Sterk, Pfc. R. L. Sublett Jr., Pfc. M. D. Tackett, Pvt. R. T. Thiele, Pvt. B. M. Towers, Pvt. M. K. Ulatowski, Pvt. D. R. Updegraff, Pfc. C. D. Wadleigh, Pvt. K. D. Weir, Pvt. M. R. White, Pvt. K. R. Williams, Pfc. J. C. Willis, Pfc. C. W. Willson Jr., Pvt. B. O. Wiltz, Pvt. D. W. Zimmerman Jr., Pvt. M. J. Zwegat

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Pfc. Christopher Eves, India Company honor graduate, provides security as his team patrols Page Field. Eves started his military career when he was 18 and a lieutenant in the Australian Army. He later enlisted in the Marines after marrying a U.S. citizen and moved stateside.



Lt. Christopher Eves dons his Australian uniform.

Courtesy photo

AUSSIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

right in the Corps and earn my right in the country.”

After marrying a U.S. citizen, Eves decided to move stateside, where he made the decision to serve in the military once more.

“I’ve worked with different branches of the United States military before,” Eves said. “Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines – the choice was automatic. Marines seem to reflect more of the military experience that I was used to. Through the hard work and the initiative of the troops, you can see the quality of the Marines is much more superior to anything else in the United States.”

Although the military training was not easy, he said the hardest part was humbling himself back to a recruit level. Still, he excelled among his peers.

“He was a lot more advanced than the majority of the recruits. He was more tactically minded,” said Staff Sgt. Allen Farabee, his senior drill instructor. “I challenged him to do stuff harder than he had already done.”

Farabee recalled a conversation he had with Eves when he was the platoon guide. “I asked him, ‘Hey guide, how’s the training different between here and there?’ And he’d say, ‘Sir, this recruit has been challenged here more in the last three months than he ever was in the six years I spent in the Australian Army.’”

Farabee said even though the former Australian Army lieutenant had come to training on an open contract, he was given the job he wanted – infantryman – because of how he excelled in training.

“I enjoy that kind of training. It’s the lifestyle; if you’re going to be a bear, might as well be a grizzly,” Eves said. “A lot of people, when you join the military, you join to be attached to a trade, and then take it on the outside. I’ve decided with my military experience

that I want that to be my trade.”

Even as he spoke of his goals, his passion for his new life as a U.S. Marine resonated in his words – pride for his Corps and new country.

Eves said he is focused on taking his career one step at a time, starting with giving to the country.

“Christopher is way too humble to ever tell you of the sacrifices he has made for our relationship, for my family and now for a country he has only lived in for a year and a half,” said Sarah Eves, his wife.

With his father serving in both the British and Australian Armies, the new Marine moved around a lot as a child, Sarah Eves said. For the first time, Christopher Eves has something to belong to and some place to call home.

“His hard work, determination, values and faith in God will allow him to go anywhere and do anything he puts his mind to, including being an excellent Marine,” she said.



Lt. Christopher Eves, kneeling far right in the second row, poses with his unit in the Australian army.

Courtesy photo

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Mojave Viper enhances training

Lance Cpl.

Mark Stroud

Marine Corps Bases Japan

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — We train like we fight.

Marines have worked to make countless training evolutions more realistic based on this mantra and the San Diego-based special effects and acting company, Strategic Operations, helped bring training experiences at Enhanced Mojave Viper closer to that of combat than ever before.

Combat Logistics Battalion 4 Marines participated in an improvised explosive device response drill that was designed by Strategic Operations at Twentynine Palms, Nov. 24.

“(Strategic Operations) added a new dimension to the training,” said Sgt. Patrick Wros, security leader with the battalion’s 2nd Platoon, Company B based in Okinawa, Japan. “They added real people with real looking wounds ... it provided the Ma-

rines with a better idea of what they could face in country.”

The training was part of Enhanced Mojave Viper, the battalion’s final training exercise before deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom early next year.

The IED response drill also included other special effects including smoke, explosions, heavily damaged tactical vehicles and professional actors with simulated wounds.

“The training provides good insight as to what is possible in (combat) and what the Marines will need to know to save each other’s lives,” said Capt. Victor Flores, commanding officer of Company B.

The fundamentals included skill sets that the Marines had been working on throughout EMV, such as sweeping the area for secondary IEDs, setting up security, establishing a casualty collection point, provid-

ing medical care for the casualties and reporting relevant information back to the combat operations center.

“(EMV) is cumulative,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew Danielson, platoon commander of 2nd Platoon. “Every exercise builds on the training events before it and incorporates all the different skills that were used in the past.”

Combining these skill sets into a single training evolution gave the Marines confidence that they could respond to a hard-hit IED strike where a vehicle was immobilized or destroyed, according to Danielson.

Instructors known as coyotes with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group provided feedback to the Marines on their performance in the exercise.

“For most of our Marines (the deployment) is the first time they will see other Marines in harm’s way, that being combat,” said Flores.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Mark Stroud

Robert O’Malley acts as a casualty of an improvised explosive device during training with Combat Logistics Battalion 4 at Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 24. O’Malley is a professional actor with Strategic Operations, an acting and special effects company that specializes in making military training more realistic.

“Any after-action reports or lessons from those that have gone before them will help.”

The feedback from experienced instructors

helped the Marines benefit from the realistic training and take one more step in preparing for their upcoming deployment.

“It was a reality check,”

said Wros. “It gave the Marines the opportunity to think on their feet and apply the fundamentals of what they’ve learned.”



Lance Cpl. John Degmore provides security during an improvised explosive device response drill at the event.

Afghan linguist returns home, aids Marines in Nawa

Lance Cpl.
Alfred Lopez
Marine Corps Bases Japan

NAWA DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan – She fights the war on terror in Afghanistan as passionately as the Marines in her Female Engagement Team. She makes sacrifices for America just like any uniformed service member.

Marzia Dawlatzai is a linguist with Female Engagement Team 13 and is currently serving both Afghanistan, her native land, and America, her adopted nation.

As a child, Dawlatzai grew up in Mazar e Sharif before moving to Kabul. Her family moved to the United States after the Afghan conflict with the Soviet Union because her parents wanted to get away from the hardships of post-war Afghanistan.

“Because of safety and security reasons, my family found it hard to live in Afghanistan,” explained Dawlatzai.

Adapting to American culture wasn’t difficult for her family. In fact, Dawlatzai found it relatively easy to maintain the culture she grew up with.

“After moving there, I found that Muslim communities are very happy,” Dawlatzai explained. “They keep with their all-Islamic practices, and there are even Islamic schools.”

“That’s what’s so beautiful about America,” she added. “You can keep your lifestyle, and plus you can achieve what you want to.”

After moving to America, Dawlatzai wasted no time seizing the opportunities before her.

“In the United States, you can do anything and be anybody,” said Dawlatzai.

She graduated in 2007 with her doctorate in philosophy of theology in Islamic studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana.

Dawlatzai has taken advantage of the opportunity she’s found in the U.S., opening up a restaurant, Mateo’s Mexican Grill and Cantina, and starting the nonprofit Afghan-Navajo County Food Bank.

But her real passion is for education. Before returning to Afghanistan, Dawlatzai taught online-classes on woman studies and family law in Islam. Even while working as a linguist, she has taken advantage of her time here, educating children in Nawa.

Dawlatzai wanted to be able to give back to her adopted nation, and help her native country at the same time. This desire led her to the Mission Essential Personnel Company in 2009, where she signed up to be a linguist.

“I really appreciate what my adopted homeland has done for me,” said Dawlatzai. “So, I decided to work with the Marine Corps.”

“I love working with Marines, especially with my team,” added Dawlatzai. “Working with them has made me a very humble and strong person.”

Dawlatzai does more than just translate for her Marine counterparts. She provides valuable cultural advice, especially about Afghan women and children, said Sgt. Lauren Nowak, team leader.

She currently teaches at Ekra Elementary School at Combat Outpost Reilly in Nawa. In addition to teaching students at the school, Dawlatzai also purchases clothing for them.

“She has a really good heart,” said Lance Cpl. Vicky Olivier, a team member. “She really has a passion for giving back to the Marine Corps, and especially to her own people.”

Dawlatzai will continue to educate the children of Nawa, serving with the Marines until the spring of next year.

“I’ve seen how much my life has changed with my opportunities, and I want to share the gift of education with Afghanistan,” she added.



Marzia Dawlatzai, a linguist with Female Engagement Team 13, currently attached to Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, teaches local Afghan students the Arabic alphabet during a class at Ekra Elementary School here, Dec. 1. Dawlatzai, from Phoenix, gives back to Afghanistan by educating women and children in Nawa district.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Alfred Lopez



Marzia Dawlatzai, speaks to a student during a class at Ekra Elementary School.

India overtakes the advanced obstacle course

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

India Company recruits faced the Crucible Dec. 1 through Dec. 3 at Page Field.

As the recruits prepared to take on one of the Crucible's challenges, an obstacle course that seemed similar to the ones they've done before, they had a wrench thrown in their normal strategy.

In their past experiences recruits did the course individually in physical training gear, consisting of shorts, a T-shirt and tennis shoes.

During this Crucible event, however, the recruits would face a course dubbed the advanced obstacle course.

During the course recruits were split into teams of four and given a random array of 30-pound ammunition cans and 5-gallon water jugs. They were

then instructed to carry the cans and jugs along with them through every obstacle in the course.

They also had to carry their own personal equipment including their rifle and were allotted 20 minutes to get themselves and the additional weight through the course.

Before they started the course, the recruits were given five minutes to design a plan of attack. If the recruits were insightful enough, this portion would help emphasize to them the importance of teamwork.

"Other times in boot camp it's helped to use teamwork," said 1st Lt. Greg Cummings, India Company lead series commander. "This time, they won't get through it without teamwork. It's imperative."

One recruit struggled with his team in the back of the course as he attempted time and time again to single handedly carry a water jug across a

balance beam.

"The obstacle course can be a struggle for some recruits," Cummings said. "You'll see one recruit with a water jug trying to do everything himself, because throughout bootcamp he has done everything himself. Now, he'll just fail over and over again until he realizes he can't do without the rest of his team."

The added difficulties of the course are meant to surprise the recruits and reinforce the team mentality in them.

"I've done the obstacle course before," said Rct. Cole Westray, Plt. 3096 as he grunted in effort, hefting an ammunition can over a wall. "This is much more challenging than before." Westray is from Forsyth, Ga., and is 20 years old.

"You've got to help each other out or you're just not going to make it in time," Westray added.



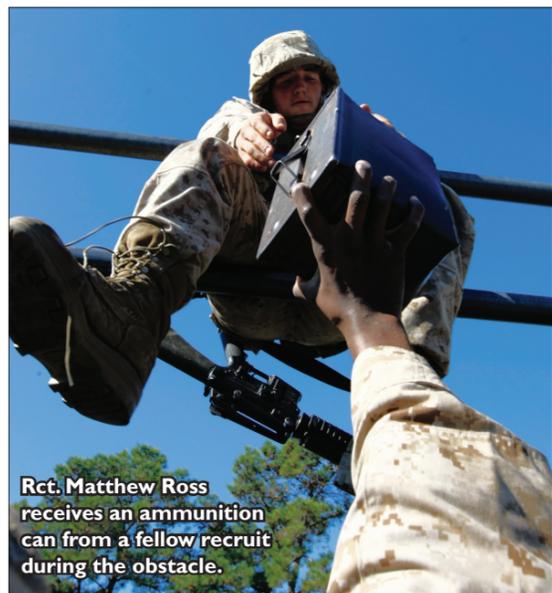
Recruits from Platoon 3096, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, help one another get an ammunition can over a high bar during the advanced obstacle course at the Crucible at Page Field, Dec. 1.



Rct. Matthew Ross, Platoon 3096, lifts an ammunition can over a pole to his fellow recruits on the advanced obstacle course during the Crucible.



Rct. D.J. Wooten is aided by fellow recruits of Platoon 3096 as he attempts to climb over a wall.



Rct. Matthew Ross receives an ammunition can from a fellow recruit during the obstacle.



Recruits struggle to pass an ammunition can through the obstacle course during the Crucible.

Chaplain Corps celebrates 236



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

The United States Navy Chaplain Corps celebrated 236 years of service Dec. 2 at Traditions.

During the cake-cutting ceremony a piece of cake was presented to the highest in command, Navy Rear Adm. Gregory Horn, deputy chief of staff for reserve matters and director of religious programs, Marine Forces Reserves, the chaplain with most time in service, Navy Capt. James Hightower, assistant chief of staff for Religious Ministries at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, and to the chaplain with least time in service, Navy Lt. j.g. Twig Sergeant.





Photos by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits from India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, negotiate the obstacles of the Day Movement Course while others look on to learn from their mistakes Nov. 17. The Day Movement Course is on the first day of Basic Warrior Training and is designed to test recruits' abilities to concentrate on their mission while under physical stress and pressure from drill instructors.

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when a team of recruits splits, and one person rushes the objective while the other provides covering fire. They alternate roles and continue to cover ground until they have taken the objective.

After buddy rushing, the recruits then proceed to "day walk" through another sandy area. Day walking is when the recruits walk slowly with their rifles ready to fire. This allows them to observe their surroundings and remain ready to fight when necessary.

"It was hard, but it was fun too," said 20-year-old Hill, of Smithfield, N.C. "It was intense, and we had to rely on our partners to finish it."



Rct. Christopher Hill, from Platoon 3096, uses his rifle to lift low-hanging barbed wires to make his way through the course.

During the course's final portion, recruits must scurry through tunnels and remain wary of bombs or booby traps.

The instructors would order recruits back to the start of a portion of the football field-sized course if their movements were incorrect.

"I saw what all the other recruits were doing wrong so I'd learn from their mistakes," said Rct. Jovan Evans, with Plt. 3098. "During the course, I realized how

hard it was to concentrate on not making mistakes with your face in the sand."

The challenges of it tests recruits willpower and causes them to dig deep to accomplish the task at hand.

"I had to push through it to make it one step closer to seeing my family at graduation," said 19-year-old Evans, from Madison, Miss. "After that, I feel like I can take on anything boot camp throws at me."



Rct. Jovan Evans, from Platoon 3098, provides security before he and his partner move to the next obstacle of the course.



Recruits from Platoon 3096 communicate with one another to form a plan to accomplish the mission.

Holiday safety tips

- Link no more than three strings of holiday lights together. Make sure all lights and cords are secured and will not cause a trip hazard.
- Check all cords for breaks or visible wires before use.
- Keep live trees hydrated. Turn off lights at night and when the family is not home to lessen the chance of a fire.
- Never use real candles on trees. If real candles are used elsewhere in the house, do not leave them unattended.
- Some glass ornaments can be dangerous for young children. Keep them out of reach of children.
- Before going on a long trip, be sure to check the vehicle for any maintenance issues.
- Do not schedule a trip without factoring in rest stops, food and potential emergencies such as a flat tire.

CMC visits with Marines stationed abroad



The 35th commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, the 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, and staff, board a Ch-53 Sea Stallion helicopter at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 24, 2011. These leaders traveled to Afghanistan to visit deployed service members throughout Regional Command (West) and Regional Command (Southwest) for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Photo by Marine Sgt. Mallory VanderSchans



Photo by Army Sgt. April Campbell

Marines with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion listen as Gen. James Amos addresses them at Combat Outpost Alcatraz, Nov. 24. Amos said his most memorable holidays are spent with his fellow Marines while in harm's way. "It's the spirit of being together in combat and being together as a Marine Corps family even though we are away."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Miller

Gen. James Amos serves Thanksgiving supper to the Marines and sailors of Regimental Combat Team 5 during his visit to Helmand province, Afghanistan Nov. 24. Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett stopped at Camp Dwyer as part of their Thanksgiving tour visiting service members in southern Helmand province.

Gen. James Amos, speaks to Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment during a Thanksgiving day visit to Helmand province, Afghanistan Nov. 24. ▶



Photo by Cpl. Reese Lodder