

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Fox Company graduates

Page 2

www.thebootonline.com

www.marines.com

Fox fights through the Day Movement Course



Page 5

Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits from Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, use teamwork to crawl under concertina wire as part of the Day Movement Course, during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 15. The course is designed to teach recruits to effectively make decisions under stress.

Recruit trades keyboard for rifle

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers Staff Writer

Pfc. David Earley of Platoon 2001, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, earned his

Eagle, Globe and Anchor after completing the Crucible Dec. 31. But, this is not the first time he has worked for the Department of Defense.

The 24-year-old gave up a high profile job at

Navmar Applied Sciences Corporation as a software and security auditor to be an infantry assaultman for the Marine Corps.

"I would play the part of a foreign agent attempting to collect information from the company," Earley said. "Then I would tell them how I got in and how to tighten up their security."

Earley's previous employer has had contracts with the DOD since 1977 and is responsible for some of the unmanned aerial vehicles currently being used in Afghanistan and Iraq. Despite the success he had as a civilian contractor for a company with more than three decades of service to the U.S. military, Earley felt as if he needed to do more.

"Honestly, I felt a call by God to do something more than just sit on my butt," Earley said.

But recruit training on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is worlds away from the air-conditioned office buildings of Navmar in Earley's hometown of Philadelphia.

"It's not easy, but I

SEE RECRUIT PAGE 4



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Four Marines who trained at Montford Point, N.C., have breakfast with depot personnel during their first visit to Parris Island, Dec. 16.

Montford Point Marines visit depot for first time

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton Staff Writer

Four original Montford Point Marines visited Parris Island for the first time to see new Marines graduate recruit training, Dec. 16.

Between 1942 and 1949, these Marines were not trained at Parris Island or San Diego. They were segregated and received basic training at Montford Point, a facility established exclusively to train African-Americans at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The four Marines came to Parris Island to visit some of the landmarks and witness some of the ceremonies that they were not afforded the opportunity

to experience the first time around.

They started their day with breakfast at the Headquarters and Service Battalion mess hall before they took their seats as the guests of honor for the morning colors ceremony.

"We're here to honor the (World War II) vets of Montford Point," said Elijah Abram, quartermaster of Montford Point Marines Association, Beaufort chapter. "They're special because they fought two wars at once - racism and the Japanese."

"Montford Point Marines embodied honor, courage and commitment," he said. "Talking to these guys, they told

SEE MONTFORD PAGE 3

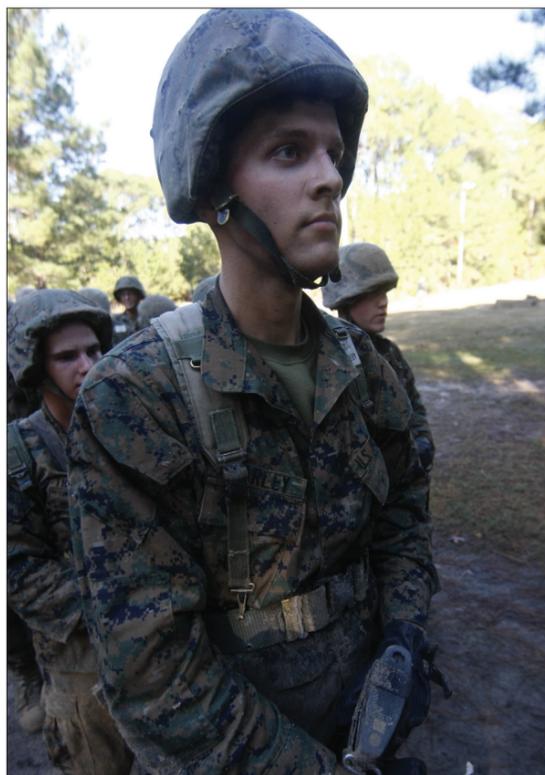


Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. David Earley, a 24-year-old from Philadelphia, with Platoon 2001, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, waits to traverse the Day Movement Course during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 15.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fox Company takes on the range

Page 4

Afghans and Marines patrol Helmand

Page 3

Best pictures of 2011

Page 6

FOX COMPANY GRADUATES

Honor Graduates

Pfc. E. J. Burchfield, Morristown, Tenn.
Platoon 2000, Burchfield was recruited by Sgt. Miller and trained by Staff Sgt. Thompson

Pfc. S. G. Heath, Hilliard, Ohio
Platoon 2002, Heath was recruited by Gunnery Sgt. Bolin and trained by Staff Sgt. Geddis

Pfc. D. J. Tanney, Bellefonte, Pa.
Platoon 2005, Tanney was recruited by Gunnery Sgt. Huddleston and trained by Staff Sgt. Canez

Pfc. N. A. Green, Saint Cloud, Fla.
Platoon 2001, Green was recruited by Staff Sgt. Logan and trained by Sgt. Wells

Pfc. C.R. Hubbell, Lafayette, La.
Platoon 2004, Hubbell was recruited by Sgt. Antunez and trained by Sgt. Dominguez

Pfc. A. Bardin, Sterlington, La.
Platoon 2006, Bardin was recruited by Staff Sgt. Canchucaja and trained by Staff Sgt. Mann

Platoon 2000

Pvt. A. I. Alfaro, Pfc. D. L. Bailiff, Pvt. J. K. Bartlett, Pvt. J. M. Benonis, Pfc. B. L. Bragg, Pfc. W. H. Bruce, Pvt. C. L. Bruguiera, Pfc. C. R. Bryant, Pfc. E. J. Burchfield, Pvt. T. C. Burke, Pfc. B. T. Burkes, Pvt. D. S. Cho, Pvt. T. M. Chum, Pvt. W. F. Coefield, Pvt. J. A. Darby, Pvt. B. C. Denham, Pvt. S. G. Duncan, Pvt. K. W. Earney, Pvt. T. N. Effler, Pfc. C. D. Evans, Pfc. B. J. Fitzpatrick, Pfc. J. T. Fleenor, Pfc. F. S. Frazier, Pfc. W. B. Giltz, Pfc. M. A. Gonzales, Pfc. J. D. Hadaway, Pfc. J. E. Hairston, Pvt. B. B. Hanners, Pvt. T. J. Holland, Pfc. A. T. Ibarra, Pfc. E. Jasarevic, Pfc. T. M. Jefferson, Pvt. E. N. Johnson, Pvt. E. J. Jones, Pfc. B. M. Kelly, Pvt. K. S. Kim, Pvt. D. E. King, Pvt. J. W. Lecroy, Pfc. A. E. Little, Pvt. M. S. Loggins, Pvt. H. M. Martinez, Pvt. M. S. McCoy, Pfc. M. J. Mongillo, Pvt. T. J. Morris, Pfc. T. C. Neel, Pvt. M. R. Oliver, Pvt. C. D. Osborn, Pfc. R. V. Payne, Pfc. J. A. Phillips, Pvt. M. L. Raburn, Pvt. M. T. Reno, Pvt. C. S. Richmond, Pvt. F. D. RodriguezMartin, Pfc. M. A. Rolek, Pfc. A. B. Rowan Jr., Pvt. J. D. Salley, Pfc. B. W. Schreiber, Pfc. R. M. Skipper, Pfc. D. L. Smith, Pvt. N. R. Smith, Pvt. D. Soto, Pvt. M. A. Spence, Pvt. Z. I. Stadler, Pvt. D. B. Stevenson Jr., Pfc. T. M. Stowers, Pvt. J. C. Strickland, Pvt. G. A. Tapia, Pvt. A. G. Thomas, Pvt. Y. E. TorresSanchez, Pfc. D. M. Turner, Pfc. R. D. West, Pvt. B. B. Wisniewski, Pvt. F. J. Zapata

Platoon 2001

Pvt. A. C. Baker, Pfc. K. S. Balcom II, Pvt. E. J. Barcomb Jr., Pvt. D. W. Battista, Pvt. J. A. Beck, Pfc. E. T. Brownlee, Pvt. M. J. Camacho, Pfc. D. R. Carter, Pvt. C. T. Chhor, Pvt. B. L. Circle, Pvt. T. Comer, Pvt. J. R. Cox, Pvt. E. J. Cruz, Pfc. A. M. Delattre, Pfc. C. G. Dudley, Pfc. R. J. Dussault, Pfc. D. J. Earley, Pvt. C. G. Elliott, Pvt. G. M. Ford, Pfc. D. O. Fox, Pvt. L. A. French, Pfc. E. B. Frost, Pvt. D. I. Fugate, Pfc. N. A. Green, Pvt. T. A. Gursky, Pvt. S. D. Harrison, Pvt. R. C. Haylett, Pfc. W. B. Hill Jr., Pfc. C. M. Hood, Pfc. A. P. Hubbell, Pfc. D. R. Huygens, Pfc. N. J. Iezzi, Pfc. J. J. Jarrettsoto, Pvt. C. E. Knotts, Pvt. T. C. Kochan, Pfc. E. F. Kokosky, Pfc. D. J. Lewis, Pfc. M. K. Lewis, Pvt. A. M. Limmellers, Pvt. R. A. Mason, Pvt. W. C. Matthews, Pvt. J. E. Mejia, Pvt. D. J. Merwin, Pfc. R. D. Metz, Pvt. V. M. Morel, Pfc. J. G. Mtanos, Pfc. H. G. Naymick, Pvt. J. A. Nieves Jr., Pvt. D. T. Ollivier, Pfc. D. Polonia, Pvt. A. F. Puerta, Pfc. A. C. Raptis, Pvt. J. W. Ream, Pfc. T. J. Rexer, Pfc. J. J. Ring, Pvt. G. G. Rivera, Pvt. M. A. Rivera, Pfc. P. A. Romerobernal, Pfc. N. Sanchez, Pvt. M. A. Schanz, Pvt. L. A. Scott, Pfc. B. D. Sitka, Pfc. S. H. Son, Pvt. D. T. Sorah, Pvt. J. R. Stolz, Pvt. J. M. Strong, Pvt. J. H. Swearingen, Pvt. J. A. Taylor, Pvt. J. R. Thompson, Pvt. M. F. Todd, Pvt. S. Torres Jr., Pvt. J. E. Watkins, Pvt. M. R. Yochum, Pvt. J. H. Zabrowsky

Platoon 2002

Pfc. B. A. Adamson, Pfc. M. A. Argento Jr., Pvt. S. J. Atkinson. Pvt. B. R. Bailey. Pvt. C. M. Brockjones. Pfc. M. Burgos, Pvt. J. E. Burkhalter, Pfc. C. D. Carter, Pvt. J. A. Chambers, Pvt. S. M. Collins Jr., Pfc. N. J. Constantino, Pvt. C. A. Craighead, Pvt. C. G. Cunningham, Pvt. P. J. Demarchi, Pfc. C. M. Detke, Pvt. K. A. Dryden, Pvt. J. C. Ellington, Pfc. R. C. Feller III, Pfc. M. R. French, Pvt. D. A. Glass, Pvt. D. D. Graves, Pvt. R. L. Hairfield, Pvt. K. R. Haley, Pfc. S. G. Heath, Pvt. D. E. Hennessey, Pvt. Z. A. , Hobbs, Pfc. D. W. Hood Jr., Pfc. R. T. Horne, Pvt. P. R. Hornsby, Pvt. D. A. Huskey, Pvt. D. A. Ibarra, Pfc. K. J. Ivy, Pfc. T. S. Jarvis, Pvt. J. M. Jones, Pvt. N. J. Keller, Pvt. D. L. Kelso, Pvt. A. J. Kemble, Pfc. J. B. Kight II, Pvt. R. J. Lapointe, Pfc. C. T. Levy, Pvt. B. O. Linder, Pvt. D. L. Lindsey, Pfc. N. Lopez, Pfc. P. G. Lopez, Pvt. M. W. Mallon, Pvt. P. T. Martin, Pvt. D. A. Mason, Pfc. D. A. McCaskill, Pfc. S. R. Messer, Pfc. A. L. Miller Jr., Pvt. A. M. Moore, Pvt. T. W. Moore, Pfc. R. D. Mullis Jr., Pvt. Y. Newell, Pfc. Z. T. Nowosielski, Pvt. T. L. Profit Jr., Pvt. A. H. Quinn, Pvt. M. J. Reso, Pvt. M. N. Rolon, Pfc. S. D. Shaw, Pvt. A. M. Shute Jr., Pvt. E. Z. Silva, Pvt. S. J. Stansberry, Pvt. M. D. Stout, Pfc. M. D. Thompson, Pfc. D. R. Thorpe, Pfc. S. T. Thorpe, Pvt. D. M. Toomer, Pvt. C. L. Tran, Pvt. T. N. Tripp, Pvt. A. J. Vazquez Jr., Pfc. T. E. Weyrich, Pfc. J. A. Wiley

Platoon 2004

Pfc. R. Abiocabrera, Pvt. T. A. Aldrich, Pvt. J. B. Araujo, Pvt. T. L. Barzar, Pfc. R. C. Bastow, Pfc. N. S. Bauer, Pvt. D. M. Beamenderfer, Pvt. J. E. Beesley, Pfc. J. D. Bentzsuaez, Pvt. E. S. Biddle, Pfc. C. A. Boeving, Pvt. A. M. Burns, Pvt. J. J. Carr, Pvt. D. M. Cimba, Pvt. J. T. Coon, Pfc. A. R. Correaslopez, Pvt. A. J. Crudale, Pvt. M. L. Dolagocoldoeira, Pfc. D. Fitzgerald, Pfc. S. Francois, Pvt. J. M. Fuller, Pvt. B. B. Gayle, Pfc. R. L. Giddings, Pfc. W. Gonzalezrosales, Pfc. G. P. Gray, Pvt. V. C. Hamlet, Pvt. J. G. Harris, Pvt. K. Ho, Pvt. J. M. Holder, Pvt. S. M. Holmes, Pfc. C. R. Hubbell, Pvt. K. B. Isaksen, Pvt. M. J. Jenkins, Pfc. J. H. Johnson, Pfc. B. D. Knitt, Pvt. J. B. Kramer, Pvt. C. L. Kroeker, Pvt. W. P. Lejeune, Pfc. J. P. Links, Pvt. Z. T. Long, Pvt. B. D. Majchrzak, Pfc. M. A. Maurice, Pvt. J. R. McGoff, Pvt. A. A. Melendez, Pfc. N. W. Merkley, Pvt. W. C. Newman, Pfc. A. S. Nielson, Pfc. D. W. Paoletti, Pvt. A. C. Parker, Pfc. R. J. Patino, Pfc. T. C. Pecharo, Pvt. J. L. Peralta, Pfc. J. R. Perez, Pvt. S. M. Powers, Pvt. L. T. Rannels, Pvt. R. J. Reed, Pvt. M. D. Rosegrant, Pfc. C. J. Ross, Pfc. H. A. Sanchez, Pfc. Y. J. Sanchezrodriguez, Pfc. T. J. Savard, Pvt. R. J. Schmidt Jr., Pvt. A. P. Smith, Pfc. C. A. Steele, Pfc. B. M. Sullivan, Pvt. M. B. Szczerba, Pvt. J. A. Torres, Pvt. T. J. Truax, Pfc. B. L. Underwood, Pvt. J. S. Velez, Pfc. F. M. Vera, Pfc. M. R. Victor Jr., Pfc. J. W. Whitney

Platoon 2005

Pvt. A. T. Adetola, Pvt. B. D. Beck, Pvt. M. Blackmon Jr., Pvt. M. A. Boucher, Pvt. P. A. Brady, Pfc. N. S. Brown, Pfc. G. H. Burgoa, Pvt. H. Burgos Jr., Pfc. C. M. Bynum, Pvt. D. M. Campbell, Pvt. R. J. Carparelli, Pvt. M. J. Cianflone, Pvt. T. G. Coley, Pfc. K. P. Corrigan, Pvt. R. K. Coveny, Pvt. J. V. Crandall, Pfc. T. S. Dietrich, Pfc. J. Donato, Pvt. B. R. Ferrie, Pvt. F. J. Figueroa, Pvt. P. T. Fitzgerald, Pvt. N. C. Garland, Pfc. M. R. Gatling, Pvt. J. L. Giani, Pvt. N. Gill, Pvt. D. X. Gombas, Pfc. M. A. Gregorek, Pfc. C. J. Guido, Pfc. A. B. Hill, Pvt. N. D. Hinton, Pvt. A. J. Hooben, Pvt. D. J. Johnson, Pfc. J. A. Killian, Pfc. W. M. Kirk, Pvt. J. C. Lefevre II, Pfc. R. L. Lewis, Pvt. V. Lopez, Pfc. R. A. Lulashi, Pvt. N. A. Luxama Jr., Pfc. A. J. Mastrangiola, Pvt. D. F. McMahon, Pfc. T. W. Morak, Pvt. D. S. Morris, Pfc. J. T. Neville, Pfc. J. D. Ney, Pvt. I. A. Noles, Pfc. G. N. Pace, Pfc. C. V. Pena, Pfc. R. A. Peralta, Pvt. R. P. Pinto, Pvt. E. W. Quint, Pvt. E. Ramosjoubert, Pfc. S. A. Remmy, Pvt. A. Rico, Pvt. I. Rodriguezrodriguez, Pfc. D. U. Rosa, Pfc. A. W. Santos, Pvt. D. K. Smith, Pfc. K. G. Smith, Pfc. T. J. Smith, Pvt. Q. T. Soloway, Pfc. J. D. Tanney, Pvt. E. Tomelic, Pfc. J. L. Torres, Pvt. M. C. Traveis, Pvt. S. T. Valliere, Pvt. J. M. Vandolan, Pfc. C. J. Vilchez, Pvt. M. R. Virgilito, Pvt. W. H. Wells, Pvt. K. J. Weston, Pvt. L. G. Yacono

Platoon 2006

Pvt. C. A. Anderson, Pvt. C. M. Arias, Pvt. P. B. Aybar, Pfc. G. S. Bardin, Pfc. D. E. Baum, Pvt. H. J. Baus, Pvt. R. T. Benson, Pfc. R. T. Bowden, Pvt. S. D. Brooks, Pfc. C. M. Burgess, Pfc. C. C. Burk, Pvt. J. T. Casey, Pvt. M. A. Cortez, Pfc. L. A. Dedden, Pfc. J. C. Douglas, Pfc. M. L. Ferguson, Pfc. C. A. Ferreira, Pvt. C. N. Ferris, Pfc. B. A. Finch, Pfc. C. J. Foss, Pvt. A. C. French, Pvt. J. J. Gill, Pvt. C. E. Gyger, Pvt. P. R. Haass, Pvt. K. A. Hayden, Pfc. S. Hermann, Pvt. A. J. Hlywa, Pvt. K. J. Huff, Pvt. C. H. Hurd, Pvt. B. L. Keesee, Pvt. R. M. Kelly, Pvt. K. W. Kendrick, Pvt. M. A. Kimmel, Pvt. C. J. Kissel, Pfc. D. M. Knight, Pvt. J. E. Kolman, Pvt. A. J. Kruggel, Pfc. J. M. Larrabee, Pfc. R. T. Mann, Pvt. E. E. Marti, Pvt. W. R. Massey IV, Pfc. K. C. Mcvey, Pfc. C. J. Norville, Pvt. C. A. Parker, Pfc. E. W. Patchin, Pvt. N. J. Payan, Pfc. M. A. Payton, Pvt. M. T. Pillion, Pvt. N. D. Pugh, Pfc. A. B. Recato, Pvt. B. A. Reinhart, Pvt. J. Reyes, Pvt. M. D. Rhea, Pvt. D. A. Robert, Pfc. A. J. Rosarioroman, Pvt. D. G. Rudd, Pfc. L. Sanchez, Pfc. C. A. Schlake, Pfc. B. S. Schorr, Pvt. C. B. Shepherd, Pvt. D. C. Simpson, Pvt. J. M. Sipes, Pfc. M. C. Skodzinski, Pvt. R. R. Sok, Pvt. M. R. Spearen, Pfc. A. J. Sullivan, Pvt. J. C. Switzer, Pfc. C. R. Tarpey, Pvt. T. W. Tilbrook, Pvt. A. Toledo, Pfc. M. Torresramirez, Pvt. A. C. Tousley, Pvt. T. D. Wood, Pvt. J. K. Yarborough

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds
Commanding General
MCRD Parris Island
Eastern Recruiting Region

Public Affairs Director
Capt. Timothy Patrick

Deputy Director
1st Lt. Melanie Salinas

Public Affairs Chief
Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Press Chief
Cpl. J Nava

Social Media Chief
Cpl. J Nava

Design Editor
Cpl. Erin Tansey

Combat Correspondents
Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes
Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Published by the Savannah Morning News, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy or Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S. C., under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the

U.S. Marine Corps or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, the Marine Corps, the Navy, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S. C., Naval Hospital Beaufort, S. C., or the Savannah Morning News of the products or services advertised. Everything in this newspaper shall be made available for

purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the contractor shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. Editorial content (i.e., all content other than paid advertise-

ments) is edited, prepared and provided by the Parris Island Public Affairs Office. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to: The Boot, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 19660, MCRD/ERR, S.C. 29905, or at 843-228-2113. All queries concerning business matters or ads should be directed to the Savannah Morning News at 843-597-9100. To place a free classified ad with Bluffton Today, call 843-815-0800.

Operation Eagle Hunt takes flight

Cpl. Marco Mancha
2nd Marine Division

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines and Afghan National Security Forces filled the air with dust recently as dozens of their vehicles rolled into the desert. Afghan camouflage-painted humvees and small, green trucks with gun turrets led the way into the lower region of the province in search of insurgents.

The Afghan-led Operation Eagle Hunt was a small, shaping operation to clear the Taghaz area of southern Helmand in preparation for future counterinsurgency operations to expand Afghan-led security. Marines are providing support to the Afghans throughout these operations in order to assist Afghan efforts to expand security, stability and development in the province.

More than 75 U.S. troops, including a few improvised explosive device detect dogs, accompanied roughly 100 Afghan Border Police and Afghan Uniformed Police members during the operation. A majority of the U.S. personnel were the Marines and sailors of Border Advisor Team 1.

The BAT-1 mission was simple: advise their Afghan brothers in arms when necessary, assist with logistics, and accompany their Afghan counterparts on mounted and dismounted

partnered patrols.

The operation provided the Afghan members an opportunity to demonstrate for their Marine mentors, and the rest of the world, what they are capable of doing.

Afghan forces detained more than 100 local residents on allegations involving the growing and harvesting of illicit crops, such as poppy and marijuana, according to ABP officials. They also eliminated roughly 90 to 100 acres of hashish and confiscated at least 13 tractors in support of the Afghan government's efforts to prevent illicit crops.

Border Advisor Team 1 is currently assigned in support of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, 2nd Marine Division, which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command Southwest and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations. The unit is dedicated to securing the Afghan people, defeating insurgent forces, and enabling ANSF assumption of security responsibilities within its area of operations in order to support the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.



A Marine attached to Border Advisor Team 1 stands watch during the start of Operation Eagle Hunt, a shaping operation led by Afghan National Security Forces to search for insurgent forces in the area.



Photos by Cpl. Marco Mancha

Afghan Border Police members stand watch during the start of Operation Eagle Hunt. Marines and sailors from Border Advisor Team 1 were there to lend a helping hand to their Afghan counterparts during the operation.

MONTFORD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me it was a war they wanted to fight in for their country."

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, is seeking to recognize the service of the Montford Point Marines, anchor their legacy in the history of the Marine Corps, and highlight their contribution to the warfighting readiness and ethos of the Corps.

He outlined his intent for a number of institutional initiatives to teach current and future generations of Marines about the Montford Point Marines and their contributions to the evolution of

the Corps during the last half of the 20th century.

The commandant also pressed for the surviving members to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award. The vote passed in the House and the Senate in time for the 236th Marine Corps birthday and the bill was signed by the president before Thanksgiving.

"(The Montford Point Marines) answered our nation's call at a time when our society was deeply divided along racial lines," Amos stated in All-Marine Message 047/11. "As such, many of their contributions went unrecognized and many times they were not

given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots."

After the Montford Point Marines attended the colors ceremony they took a windshield tour of the depot and followed that with a graduation ceremony for several hundred new Marines.

"Montford Point is a part of Marine Corps history and we always like to have distinguishing visitors so the newer Marines can see it," said Staff Sgt. Leigh Ann Bibona, a Marine who helped coordinate the visit. "We want Marines to embrace every aspect of (being a Marine) and not just wear the uniform and go to work every

day. (The Montford Point Marines are) walking history."

All four of the Montford Point Marines visiting Parris Island were older than 80 and this was their first time witnessing a graduation on the depot.

"I think they thought the graduation was breathtaking," said Bibona, 28, of Delray Beach, Fla. "They're so grateful for the opportunity to be recognized for who they are."

The original intent for the Montford Point Marines was to discharge them after the war ended, but they proved themselves just as capable as all other Marines.

In July 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued

Executive Order 9981 negating segregation, and in September 1949, Montford Point was deactivated ending seven years of segregation. The camp was renamed Camp Johnson after Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, one of the first African-Americans to join the Marine Corps.

"We hear stories and we're taught about things that have taken place in the Marine Corps but it's another thing to be face-to-face with someone who was actually there," Bibona said.

The Marines ended their visit with a luncheon alongside Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, commanding general of the depot and

Eastern Recruiting Region, Sgt. Maj. Gary Buck, the depot sergeant major, and some more of the depot's top personnel.

"It is important to all Marines, past and present, that we honor (the Montford Point Marines') selfless service and sacrifice and fully embrace their storied contribution to the history of our Corps," Amos stated in the message. "It is our intent to anchor our Montford Point Marines firmly in our Corps' 236-year history, and to anchor it in such a way that every young man or woman joining our Corps today clearly understands the significance of the contribution of these great American patriots."

Fox Company heats up firing line



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

A recruit from Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fires his rifle with his range data book next to him at Chosin Rifle Range, Nov. 30. Recruits are taught to take constant notes and record their progress in range data books during firing to ensure the accuracy of their rifle sights.



Fox Company recruits stand at the entrance of the rifle range as drill instructors and armorers to ensure that all the recruits' rifles are oiled and ready to be fired.



Rct. David Earley sprints to the end of the Day Movement Course during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 15.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

Fox Company recruits had their first chance to fire their M16-A4 service rifle, Nov. 28 at the rifle range.

In 10 training days recruits are taken from being completely ignorant of Marine Corps firing techniques to finally proving their abilities with their rifles.

"No matter what (military occupational specialty) these recruits are, they will be riflemen first," said Staff Sgt. Scott S. Mann, senior drill instructor of Platoon 2006, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

The rifle range is not just another part of recruit training, but one of the stepping stones that builds each recruit's mentality as a Marine and hones their warfighting abilities, Mann added.

Despite the fact that there are just 10 training days devoted to this skill, recruits say each day is challenging and the training is effective.

Training as a rifleman requires that recruits follow instructions they are

given, Mann said. Sometimes the instructions can be tedious and physically taxing.

For the first five training days, known as 'grass week,' the recruits spent hours in uncomfortable firing positions to condition their bodies, said Rct. Darius Smith, an 18-year-old recruit from Newark, N.J., with Platoon 2005.

The recruits are taught the standing, kneeling, sitting and prone firing positions they would use on the range. For each person, the positions presented their own unique difficulties and discomforts.

After recruits learn how to properly fire from the different positions, they get a chance to put those skills to the test and fire the rifles for a qualifying score. For Fox Company recruits, that day was Dec. 2.

The recruits' rifle score is important, Mann said. It's part of their promotion score and it's integral if they want to advance their career.

"I've shot handguns as a civilian, but this is very different," Smith said. "They taught me well. I'll fire better next time."



Rct. Ryan Kelly, Platoon 2006 and a 21-year-old from Pike County, Pa., helps pick up all the empty cartridges, at Chosin Rifle Range, Nov. 30.



Fox Company recruits collectively fired 21,150 rounds during rifle qualification.

RECRUIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

keep thinking of my family and the people who are depending on me back home," Earley said. "That's what gets me through here."

Recruit training can be demanding in many ways, but Earley said the mentally fatiguing job of computer hacking helped prepare him for what would be required here.

"He does everything well. He is always on top of things and he is one of the smartest recruits in the platoon," said Rct. John Ring, a fellow recruit and 21-year-old native of Philadelphia.

Earley's sharp mind has helped him keep his job as the one and only scribe

for Platoon 2001, Ring said. "It has to take a lot of intelligence to be an engineer of any kind, but to be a computer hacker, he's got to be a pretty intelligent guy."

Not only does Earley have the smarts, but he has the motivation and drive to be a great Marine, according to his senior drill instructor.

"As a civilian contractor, he saw what the operating forces were doing and he wanted to give his piece back," said Sgt. Phillip Wells, Earley's senior drill instructor. "He saw the bigger picture."

"He wanted to do something better with his life. So he came here and he hit the ground running ever since," Wells said.

Fox shows true grit during Basic Warrior Training



Recruits with Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, walk through smoke and razor wire as part of the Day Movement Course during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 15. The course is designed to teach recruits how to effectively make decisions under physical and mental stress.

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

Fox Company crawled and rushed through the Day Movement Course during their Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 15.

The full course required the recruits to crawl underneath razor wire, through dirt, climb over walls and walk across log bridges. Each recruit had a buddy, and they depended on each other to accomplish the tasks.

"It was pretty challenging," said Rct. Anthony Miller, a 19-year-old with Platoon 2002. "It was also one of the most exciting things I've done here."

During the course, recruits are armed with their M16-A4 service rifles and wear their cartridge belts, helmets and harnesses.

Although crawling under razor wire with a mouthful of dirt seems challenging enough, there was much more to the course.

The recruits of Fox Company had to complete the course, which is the length of two football fields, under the stress of demanding drill instructors and the simulated sounds of machine-gun fire and explosions.

"This is the meat and potatoes of

why we came here," said Miller, of Annapolis, Md. "Going through the barbed wires, getting dirty and crawling through the mud is what drew me to the Marines."

The course teaches recruits how to move and think effectively in a team while under mental and physical stress. Many of them leave the site with rejuvenated motivation and a sense of pride.

"As soon as they're done they feel like they've accomplished something," said Staff Sgt. Baron Thompson, senior drill instructor of Platoon 2000. "They relate the experience to combat, and they feel like they've learned something."

The course is also designed to instill a sense of confidence, capability and trust among their comrades, Thompson said.

"I want them to walk away from this with confidence, endurance and the skill of knowing how to move under stressful situations like these," said Thompson, of Leavenworth, Kan.

At the end of the day, recruits walked away dirty and out of breathe, but one step closer to their final goal.

"By finishing this I know I'm one step closer to earning my (Marine Corps emblem) and seeing my family," Miller said.

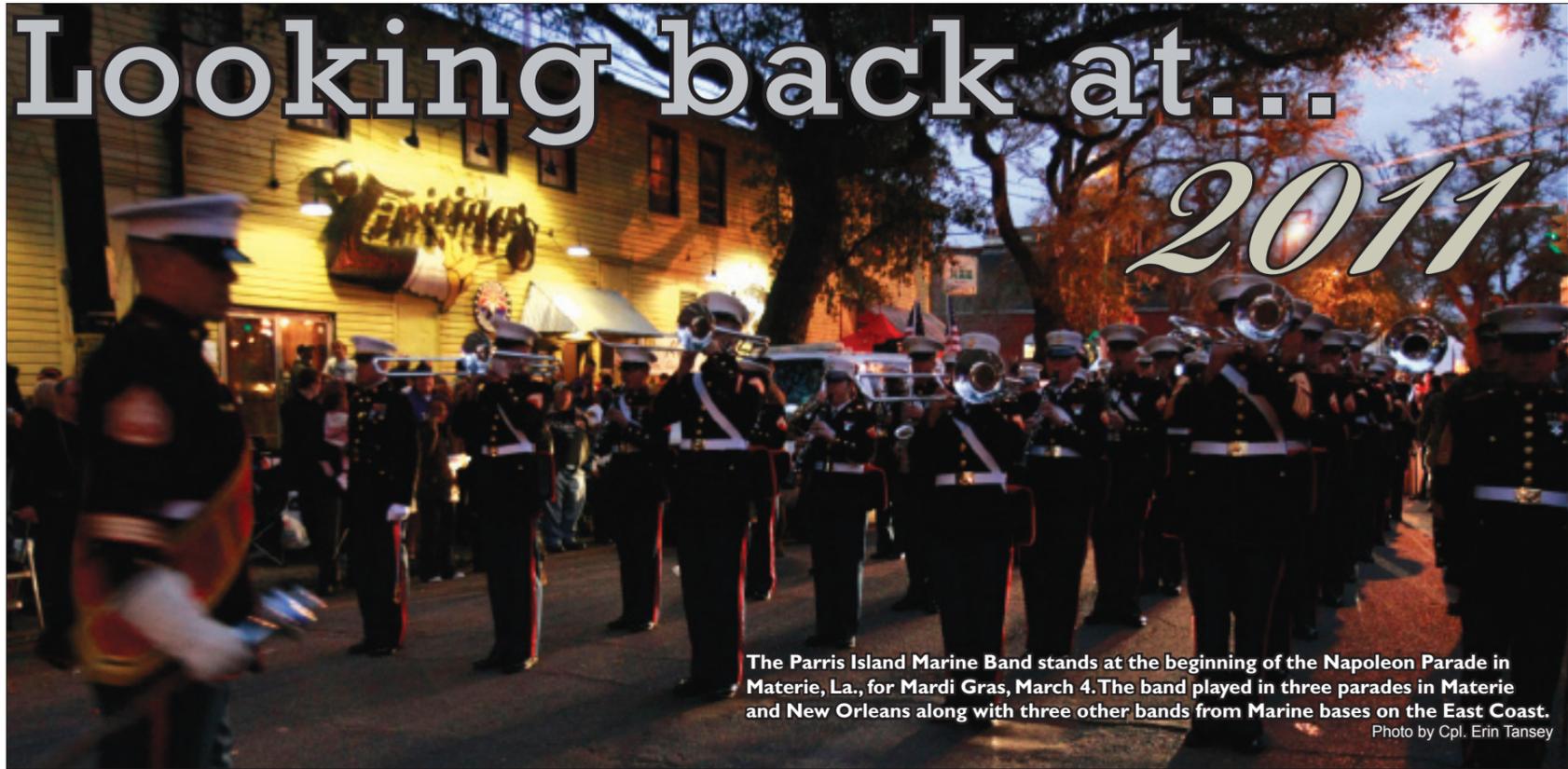


Photos by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits stand in formation before sprinting to the beginning of the course to start it a second time.



A recruit walks on a log traversing a ditch while keeping his rifle at the "alert carry" during the course. Recruits are taught to carry their rifles in this manner so they are always ready to engage enemy targets.



Looking back at... 2011

The Parris Island Marine Band stands at the beginning of the Napoleon Parade in Materie, La., for Mardi Gras, March 4. The band played in three parades in Materie and New Orleans along with three other bands from Marine bases on the East Coast.

Photo by Cpl. Erin Tansey



Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Two recruits forsake their pugil sticks and move into body sparring during a Crucible event on Page Field, Aug. 25. The recruits do this event despite their exhaustion from almost two days of constant movement and little sleep.

◀ A recruit walks through low barbed wire carrying his rifle as he makes his way through the Day Movement Course at Page Field, Oct. 6.



Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco

Sgt. Clay Bearman, a Marine with Headquarters and Service Battalion, climbs down the rope of the A-frame obstacle at the Confidence Course, March 2.

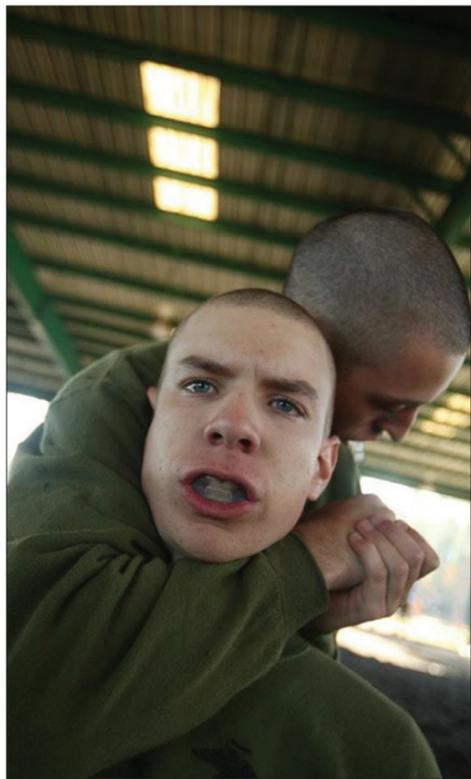


Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, practice choking techniques, Dec. 14. This specific session focused on how to apply and get out of chokeholds and how to counter enemy combatants.



Photo by Sgt. Russell Midori

Rct. Spencer Rodriguez of Platoon 1036, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion glances back to check if his fire team is ready to patrol an area, May 19.



Recruits from Platoon 3085, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stand at open ranks, Oct. 12 at the Peatross Parade Deck.

Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Combat engineers tear down patrol bases throughout Helmand province, paving way for Afghan pullout



Photos by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard

Sgt. Cody Palfreyman, a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, guides a bulldozer as it moves the berm surrounding a guard post at Firebase Saenz, in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Dec. 14. Saenz was the first of several patrol bases being demilitarized by the Battalion throughout the month of December.

Cpl. Bryan Nygaard

2nd Marine Logistics Group

FIREBASE SAENZ, Afghanistan — Firebase Saenz has been destroyed. Its defenses have been torn down and its walls have been completely leveled. This destruction was not caused by insurgents — it was the handiwork of Marines from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

With the recent reduction and reorganization of troops, Saenz is the first of several forward operating bases being demilitarized in Helmand province.

The firebase, which covered a little more than 11 acres of Afghan desert, was built more than a year ago and named after Sgt. Jose Saenz III who was killed in action, Aug. 9, 2010. During its existence, Saenz housed Marine artillery units armed with M777 howitzer cannons that provided indirect fire support for coalition ground forces operating in the northern half of Helmand province.

After convoying north from Camp Leatherneck, the Marines of 9th ESB worked diligently from Dec. 13-15 to properly dismantle the base and ensure that there was little, if any, footprint from the Marines.

“Even though it can be difficult [demilitarizing the base], you kind of just want to wreck the place, you know, have some fun with it,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Fassett, commander of 1st Platoon, A Company, 9th ESB, and a native of Princetown, N.Y. “But [the Marines] have been doing a good job taking everything down and making sure to keep it neat so it fits on the truck. We did the right job in terms of cleaning up after ourselves here in Afghanistan.”

Doing the right job included emptying sandbags, pushing down berms and coiling up hundreds of yards of razor-sharp concertina wire surrounding Saenz.

One of the more challenging tasks was dismantling the numerous HESCO barriers that made up the guard posts at each corner of the base. The barriers, named after the British company HESCO Bastion, are military fortifications that have seen extensive use in both Iraq and Afghanistan. A typical HESCO is 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide and is made of a collapsible wire mesh container with a heavy-duty fabric liner that is usually filled with sand.

The Marines used tractors, forklifts, electric saws, shovels, pick axes, bolt cutters, knives and their hands to rip apart the HESCO barriers that once

protected the Marines at Saenz from explosive blasts and small-arms fire.

“It’s pretty tedious work for myself and the other Marines,” said Lance Cpl. Zachary Couch, a combat engineer and a native of Alton, Ill.

The Marines that were equipped with the electric saws were able to cut through the wire mesh with relative ease compared to the bolt cutters. The sparks they produced lit up the evening sky and resembled Fourth of July fireworks.

As darkness fell, the Marines used the headlights from the tractors to aid them in their disassembly of the barriers. As they continued working deep into the night, the temperature dropped below 20 degrees, forcing them to put on more and more warming layers.

A little bit before midnight, the Marines called it a day. There were no tents to house them in so they slept inside of the armored vehicles that brought them up to Saenz. Several Marines would cram into one vehicle and sleep in some very awkward and uncomfortable positions on top of their packs and body armor. The more Marines that crammed into a vehicle, the warmer it got inside.

The Marines woke up the next morning, the sun shone on their weather-beaten faces that were still covered with sand from the day before. They grabbed their tools and slowly made their way back to where they had left off the night before.

During the night, the bulldozers had pushed over and flattened the berms that made up the walls of the base, thereby removing protection from any possible insurgent fire. From then on, the Marines had to wear their helmets and body armor. Although it made it slightly more difficult for the Marines to accomplish their duties, it did increase their protection against any possible enemy fire.

Cpl. James Hernandez, a fire team leader in A Company, was still sore from the day before and recovering from small burns inflicted by the sparks that the electric saw created. With fatigue wearing on the Marines under his charge, the Goodyear, Ariz., native would frequently gather them around him and offer some words of encouragement and motivation.

“I hate the cold,” said Hernandez. “It just gets to you after a while. That’s when all the morale starts going down, when it starts getting cold, or in the morning, trying to get everyone out of the racks or out of the vehicles, which are a little bit warmer

than outside.

“It gets kind of tiring every once in a while, trying to figure out how to keep the morale up and try to keep them going as fast as they’ve been going ... it wears you out a little bit.”

Lance Cpl. Tameka Demps, a combat engineer in A Company, finds her motivation in the work that she does.

“I just like to work. I like to be busy,” said the Las Vegas native. “If I stop, I just, I don’t know — I feel like I’m not doing anything. I like doing this. It’s exhausting, but it’s fun.”

Standing at barely 5 feet tall, Demps was constantly working, picking up pieces of HESCO that probably weighed as much as she does. Over time, her pace slowed down a bit, but she would never be seen with idle hands. Once all the work was completed, she grabbed a trash bag and began picking up small pieces of trash that were on the ground.

“It’s just helping out with the main mission,” said Demps. “We finish this base, we go on to the next one — we can get this deployment over with and go home.”

Once the Marines of 9th ESB finished dismantling Saenz, they headed toward the next patrol base. They worked through Christmas and New Year’s, dismantling more patrol bases while navigating roads that are laced with improvised explosive devices.



Cpl. James Hernandez, a combat engineer, uses an electric saw to dismantle a HESCO barrier at Firebase Saenz, Helmand province, Dec. 13.



Lance Cpl. Tameka Demps, a combat engineer, holds a pair of bolt cutters as she looks for a HESCO barrier to dismantle at Firebase Saenz, Helmand province.



Photos by Lance Cpl. David J. Adams

Marine scout swimmers with 1st Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, provide security for a beach assault in Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 20. The Marines were practicing their landing techniques in preparation for the MEU's upcoming deployment.

MEU Marines practice landing techniques

Cpl. Garry J. Welch
31st MEU

KIN BLUE TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, Japan — They approach from the sea under the cover of darkness. The crashing waves mask the sound of their engines as they near the shoreline. More than a dozen small, rubber craft prepare to unleash Marines for a surprise assault.

This is the mission A Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, also called the MEU's "Boat Company," executed.

To prepare the Marines and sailors of Boat Company for their mission, they spent Dec. 20 using combat rubber raiding craft to practice landing techniques. Until their arrival in Okinawa, equipment issues had kept the company from this type of training for months.

"We are out here practicing the basics of landing a raid force on the beach," said Lance Cpl. Gregory A. Gute, a scout swimmer with 1st Platoon, A Company. "We were starting from 1,100 meters offshore and finished by securing the beach."

The Marines were able to polish their skills as they conducted the drill multiple times, each time focusing on standard operating procedures and coordination of command and control.

"The Marines did really well today," said Capt. Jonathan Joannides, company commander and a Minnesota native. "They knew how to do everything we have to do during an operation. It was just a matter of getting back to the basics."

As the day progressed and more landing drills were completed, the Marines were able to focus more on their technical skills like the crew's actions within the boat and details of the assault once on land.

"We were really just trying to ensure everyone was on the same page today, and by the end we had fundamentally refreshed our skills. Our boat crews were operating smoothly as a team," said Joannides.

Joannides went on to say the Marines specialize in conducting what is known as clandestine landings. They are typically launched from ships and come off the horizon toward the shore.

"During an actual operation we would be doing this at night to utilize the dark as our cover because of the vulnerability of our boats," said Joannides. "Today we are practicing during the day to get back that muscle memory and ensure the successful completion of future operations."

1st Platoon, A Company, is currently preparing to support the 31st MEU during its next deployment.



Marines with 1st Platoon, get in combat rubber raiding craft to assault a beach, Dec. 20.



Scout swimmer Lance Cpl. Lance C. Coolidge, a with 1st Platoon, provides security for a beach assault.