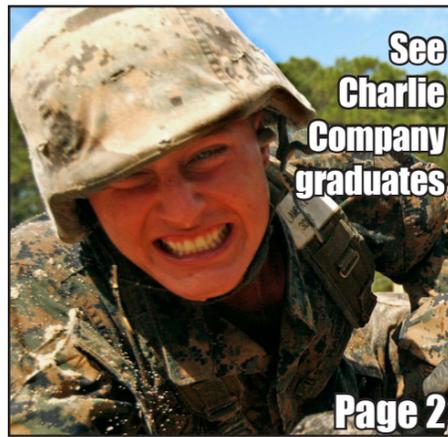


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See
Charlie
Company
graduates

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www.marines.com

Charlie stands firm during final drill



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Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Staff Sgt. Gerard Casimir, senior drill instructor for Platoon 1001, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, stands at attention in front of his platoon with his noncommissioned officer sword during their final drill evaluation at the Peatross Parade Deck, Jan. 11.

Daughter of former CG graduates recruit training

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

A meritorious private first class graduated recruit training, Jan. 13, from the same recruit depot her father commanded just last year.

Pfc. Laura Padilla, daughter of Brig. Gen. Frederick Padilla, graduated with

Platoon 4000, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion.

Laura showed her leadership potential in training, earning the spot of a squad leader and her rank.

"[Padilla] is really mature and a natural leader," said Staff Sgt. Sara Pacheco, her

SEE DAUGHTER PAGE 7



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Pfc. Laura Padilla, daughter of the former commanding general of Parris Island, Brig. Gen. Frederick Padilla, graduated from recruit training with Platoon 4000, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Jan. 13.

Appalachian hiker summits training



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Brandon McReynolds, Platoon 1000, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, flips over the high bar on the obstacle course at Page Field during the Crucible, Jan. 12.

Lance Cpl.
Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

During recruit training, recruits hike a total of 70 miles. One recruit, however, already knew he had this part of training in the bag.

Rct. Brandon McReynolds, Platoon 1000, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, hiked through 1,400 miles of Appalachian Mountains before he joined.

McReynolds, a 27-year-old native of Augusta, Ga., spent more than six months battling terrain and weather during his journey through the backbone of the East Coast.

"It required a lot of discipline," he said. "Sometimes it rained a lot, and it was very cold, but if

SEE HIKER PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to Mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training, Monday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 6:30 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 843-228-3170.

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CHARLIE COMPANY GRADUATES

Charlie Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. D. K. Albany, Dale, S.C.
Platoon 1000, Albany was recruited by
Sgt. Dawkins and trained by Staff Sgt. Roess

Pfc. L. M. Maccarini, Arlington, Va.
Platoon 1002, Maccarini was recruited by
Sgt. Castro and trained by Sgt. Wyatt

Pfc. O. Acosta Jr., Memphis, Tenn.
Platoon 1005, Acostawow was recruited by
Sgt. Bass and trained by Staff Sgt. Findlay

Lance Cpl. S. L. Wilkinson, Williamsburg, Va.
Platoon 1001, Wilkinson was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Lawton and trained by Staff Sgt. Casimir

Pfc. T. D. Parker, South Lyon, Mich.
Platoon 1004, Parker was recruited by
Sgt. Sundberg and trained by Sgt. Hernandez

Pfc. J. D. Davis, Memphis, Tenn.
Platoon 1006, Davis was recruited by
Sgt. Hardy and trained by Staff Sgt. O'Brian

Platoon 1000

Pfc. D. K. Albany, Pvt. C. W. Allen, Pvt. I. J. Bartonnelson, Pvt. A. J. Baxter, Pvt. E. R. Bechtel, Pvt. C. A. Bilodeau, Pvt. W. T. Blanton II, Pvt. C. T. Blevins, Pvt. R. M. Bonhoff Jr., Pfc. S. G. Bridges, Pfc. D. M. Chambers, Pfc. S. T. Cherney, Pvt. P. R. Childers, Pvt. C. R. Chinners, Pvt. A. K. Clark, Pfc. T. W. Coughlin, Pvt. C. J. Coyne, Pvt. J. T. Crump, Pvt. C. F. Dietrich, Pvt. T. H. Dunlap, Pvt. J. D. Ervin, Pvt. J. T. Fazio, Pvt. J. T. Ferreira, Pvt. R. L. Fields, Pvt. J. R. Gillenwater III, Pvt. B. W. Gleaton, Pvt. M. M. Goss, Pvt. J. N. Hall, Pvt. B. Hardin Jr., Pvt. R. S. Harrington IV, Pfc. M. D. Hedrick, Pvt. R. T. Hughes, Pvt. D. A. Jackson, Pvt. D. T. Johns, Pvt. W. I. Johnson, Pvt. J. V. Johnston, Pvt. C. D. Jones, Pvt. Z. W. Jones, Pvt. A. L. Lapratt, Pvt. I. K. Lundy, Pvt. S. A. MacLeod, Pfc. D. E. Manley, Pvt. B. B. McReynolds, Pvt. C. T. Miller, Pvt. R. A. Nichols, Pvt. T. A. Pinard, Pvt. T. A. Plotner, Pvt. M. T. Pratt, Pfc. E. Ramosrodriguez, Pvt. N. J. Ravenell, Pfc. J. I. Rayburn, Pvt. D. Riveravalladares, Pfc. R. L. Roberts II, Pfc. J. C. Rodriguez, Pfc. N. G. Rose, Pfc. M. S. Sanders, Pvt. F. M. Sebastian, Pvt. O. Sei, Pvt. B. M. Slater, Pfc. P. K. Stevens III, Pvt. C. L. Traylor, Pvt. D. C. Upchurch, Pfc. J. A. Waters, Pvt. R. T. Watlington

Platoon 1001

Pfc. S. Anderson, Pvt. A. R. Bacon, Pvt. A. J. Beauchene, Pvt. J. R. Bennett, Pfc. M. D. Biffar, Pvt. M. D. Bobzien, Pvt. I. T. Calloway, Pvt. Z. D. Claywell, Pfc. W. D. Colt, Pvt. E. P. Cooper, Pvt. C. A. Cameron, Pfc. C. J. Daugherty, Pvt. C. E. Dickens, Pvt. E. S. Doerr, Pvt. A. M. Dwaileebe, Pvt. H. G. Escuza, Pfc. E. J. Figueroa, Pvt. B. B. Fulton, Pvt. A. C. Gates, Pfc. J. R. Goda, Pfc. G. T. Goff Jr., Pvt. R. A. Guerra, Pvt. J. M. Hawkins, Pfc. A. A. Hernandez, Pfc. C. J. Hicks, Pvt. M. J. Higgason, Pvt. T. F. Igneri, Pvt. B. O. Johnston, Pvt. J. A. Krchnavy Jr., Pvt. D. C. Larrabee III, Pfc. J. E. Marquez, Pfc. C. N. McDowell, Pvt. R. C. McKenzie, Pfc. R. T. McMillen, Pvt. J. L. Medinatorres, Pvt. J. S. Miesner, Pvt. D. Z. Miller, Pvt. R. M. Ortega, Pvt. C. D. Owens, Pfc. D. M. Owens, Pfc. J. R. Park, Pfc. X. J. Perez, Pvt. D. G. Perkins, Pfc. J. L. Powell, Pvt. Z. A. Powell, Pfc. M. W. Pritchett, Pvt. S. A. Reddick, Pfc. B. A. Roth, Pvt. J. W. Russell, Pfc. T. M. Schmude, Pvt. A. R. Sharpless, Pfc. M. B. Shattle, Pvt. T. J. Stephenson, Pvt. C. J. Storey, Pvt. J. R. Sulik, Pvt. E. Valerio, Pvt. C. A. Viera, Pvt. N. A. Walsh, Pfc. N. A. Warren, Pfc. W. O. Wesson, Lcpl. S. L. Wilkinson

Platoon 1002

Pvt. P. S. Bolster, Pvt. M. D. Boone, Pvt. V. F. Borges, Pvt. C. D. Brown, Pvt. M. D. Brown, Pvt. J. T. Burns, Pvt. D. R. Carr, Pvt. J. H. Clausen III, Pvt. S. A. Cleary, Pvt. M. E. Cobleigh, Pvt. C. M. Collins, Pvt. S. P. Connor, Pvt. I. Cruz Jr., Pvt. C. A. Daugherty, Pvt. T. S. Deeter, Pvt. D. J. Dickerson, Pvt. T. J. Durham, Pvt. N. Eshun, Pfc. F. B. Fenstermaker, Pfc. R. M. Frieders II, Pvt. D. T. Galloway, Pfc. A. D. Hamilton, Pvt. M. D. Hanuska, Pvt. E. J. Hernandez, Pvt. C. E. Hill, Pfc. R. C. Hillman, Pvt. D. J. Hughes, Pvt. D. J. Hunt, Pvt. D. R. Justice, Pvt. K. A. Karopchinsky, Pvt. A. N. Kester, Pfc. C. J. Kopko, Pvt. D. D. Lewis, Pfc. S. L. Lloyd, Pfc. A. C. Lough, Pfc. L. M. Maccarini, Pvt. F. D. Mathers, Pvt. C. M. Matyevich, Pvt. B. T. May, Pvt. B. K. McGee, Pvt. J. C. Medina, Pfc. B. J. Murphy, Pvt. J. A. Nichols Jr., Pvt. M. W. Palmer Jr., Pvt. D. M. Porter, Pvt. J. Price, Pfc. M. R. Rice, Pfc. R. M. Ritko, Pvt. A. Rodriguez, Pvt. N. E. Saindon, Pvt. T. M. Sheppard, Pvt. C. R. Snyder, Pvt. R. R. Snyder, Pvt. L. J. Stevens Jr., Pvt. C. Swatek, Pvt. C. M. Sylvester, Pvt. J. M. Terrible, Pvt. G. A. Thibodeaux, Pfc. E. S. Thompson, Pvt. D. J. Varian, Pfc. J. M. Walsh, Pvt. R. A. Walters Jr.

Platoon 1004

Pvt. I. N. Adkins, Pfc. S. R. Aguirrevalle, Pvt. F. J. Albelonavas, Pfc. Z. M. Arnold, Pfc. R. A. Barbosa, Pvt. D. P. Burtoncurry, Pfc. M. A. Chavez, Pvt. K. M. Christensen, Pvt. C. D. Cooper, Pvt. C. E. Cravenfalcon, Pfc. M. A. Dania, Pvt. T. M. Dean, Pvt. S. M. Degrande, Pfc. I. A. Evseev, Pvt. T. R. Fillinger, Pvt. R. M. Foret, Pvt. B. W. Fortney, Pfc. E. A. Fox, Pfc. C. H. Gomezortiz, Pvt. D. C. Haydel, Pfc. V. Hernandez, Pfc. A. H. Hill, Pvt. J. D. Hill, Pfc. T. J. Hughes, Pvt. D. J. Huse, Pvt. J. C. Jeising, Pvt. L. D. Johnson III, Pvt. R. O. Johnson, Pvt. Y. Joseph, Pvt. R. T. Keith, Pfc. L. E. Kennedy, Pvt. R. E. Kilgore Jr., Pfc. I. W. Klein, Pfc. A. D. Kromrey, Pvt. Y. H. Lee, Pvt. C. J. Lopez, Pvt. W. K. Louis, Pfc. M. C. MacCready, Pvt. J. A. Martin, Pvt. J. M. McLeod II, Pvt. M. W. Moore, Pfc. A. M. Moralesbrignoni, Pvt. J. L. Morkved, Pfc. T. C. Nguyen, Pfc. B. J. Niepokny Jr., Pfc. T. D. Parker, Pvt. D. A. Peaslee, Pfc. T. J. Ponte, Pfc. J. J. Robinson, Pvt. C. J. Russell, Pvt. J. C. Russell, Pvt. V. M. Saez, Pvt. C. J. Sandusky, Pfc. T. E. Sebastian, Pvt. M. D. Smith, Pfc. J. W. Soper, Pfc. J. A. Tompa, Pvt. F. Torres Jr., Pfc. J. A. Torres, Pfc. P. A. Turner, Pvt. P. L. Vega Jr., Pfc. P. Ventimiglia Jr., Pfc. K. D. Welch, Pfc. P. J. Wilson

Platoon 1005

Pfc. O. Acosta Jr., Pfc. D. F. Albinovelazquez, Pvt. N. R. Athorn, Pvt. C. A. Bachtel, Pvt. T. A. Barton, Pfc. C. M. Bortz, Pvt. T. C. Bovee, Pvt. V. M. Bustos, Pvt. S. S. Castillo, Pfc. B. C. Clegg, Pfc. G. C. Cornforth, Pfc. R. M. Delfino, Pvt. N. T. Delgado, Pvt. J. A. Demouy, Pvt. K. E. Fortune, Pfc. K. E. Fritz, Pvt. T. K. Fuller, Pvt. T. M. Grames, Pfc. M. Guerreroperez, Pvt. J. S. Holdorff, Pvt. C. E. Horth, Pvt. B. V. Jenkins, Pvt. D. J. Johnson, Pvt. R. W. Jones, Pfc. S. C. Joseph, Pvt. P. I. Kelly, Pvt. J. A. Kirk IV, Pvt. S. B. Kwiatkoski, Pvt. M. A. Lacey, Pvt. P. V. Leon, Pfc. M. M. Little, Pfc. T. L. Mangold, Pvt. R. D. Maylor III, Pfc. K. M. McDevitt, Pvt. G. Q. McLean, Pfc. M. B. Moran, Pvt. D. M. Moriarty, Pfc. A. J. Newman, Pvt. C. A. Noggle, Pfc. N. J. Ochse, Pvt. T. M. Olimpo, Pvt. T. A. Pasha, Pvt. J. T. Plant, Pvt. W. D. Polatnick, Pvt. S. M. Rastetter, Pvt. J. D. Reed, Pfc. D. A. Resto, Pvt. B. T. Rooney, Pfc. T. J. Rumsey, Pfc. J. Santoshernandez, Pvt. B. T. Schmidt, Pvt. C. G. Shellmanthomas, Pvt. J. L. Sifferlin, Pvt. S. P. Sternadel, Pvt. Z. A. Sunderman, Pvt. J. M. Taylor, Pvt. C. A. Thompson Jr., Pfc. E. Torres, Pvt. D. A. Walls, Pvt. R. J. Ward, Pfc. A. V. Weber, Pfc. A. M. Willis, Pvt. K. S. Willis

Platoon 1006

Pfc. P. Anderson, Pvt. L. Bahtijari, Pfc. S. E. Barnett, Pvt. C. P. Beausoleil, Pvt. R. K. Beniulus, Pvt. S. J. Bent, Pvt. E. Betancourt Jr., Pfc. B. A. Bolyard II, Pvt. J. L. Bourgoine, Pvt. S. Bueno, Pvt. E. S. Castillo, Pvt. R. B. Castillo, Pvt. J. G. Cepeda, Pvt. W. Chung, Pfc. J. M. Clarke, Pfc. R. L. Coleman, Pfc. F. Corniel, Pfc. J. E. CruzMartinez, Pfc. J. D. Davis, Pvt. S. O. Ellington, Pfc. T. J. Faenza, Pvt. D. D. FamiliaRodriguez, Pvt. C. D. Fernandez, Pvt. M. A. Frabotta, Pvt. J. M. Giacin, Pvt. J. D. Grazul, Pvt. N. D. Halbig, Pvt. K. J. Harris, Pfc. J. L. Hayes, Pvt. T. G. Howell, Pfc. J. M. Hughes, Pvt. A. K. Johnson, Pvt. A. J. Kraynick, Pvt. J. W. Large, Pvt. R. L. McNair, Pvt. S. P. Moller, Pvt. R. C. Murphy, Pfc. J. C. MuseDavis, Pvt. L. G. NicolasAboroa, Pvt. M. A. Nieves, Pvt. W. G. O'Hanian, Pvt. V. A. Pardee, Pvt. S. W. Parker, Pfc. V. F. Patricino, Pvt. J. X. Paulino, Pvt. B. A. Pendry, Pvt. C. D. Pleasant, Pfc. A. M. Prince, Pfc. J. L. Quinlivan Jr., Pfc. R. E. Richards, Pvt. X. M. Rosario, Pvt. M. S. Royes, Pvt. R. Santiago II, Pvt. T. M. Sineath, Pvt. E. H. Teixeira, Pvt. W. L. Thomas, Pvt. E. S. Torres, Pvt. D. R. Trott II, Pvt. N. E. Whited, Pvt. N. J. Wire, Pvt. F. A. Wirth, Pvt. S. T. Wood

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More of the story

HIKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you wanted to achieve the goal, you had to stick it out to the end.”

Traveling with two of his friends, McReynolds trekked from Springer Mountain in Georgia to

Mount Katahdin in Maine, stopping in cities such as Hot Springs, N.C., Hampton, Tenn., Glasgow, Va., and Tenaska, Va. The group began their trip April 21, 2010, and finished it Nov. 3, 2010.

“I told my family and friends I was going to ac-

complish the task, and I don’t back down from words like that,” he said. “It got really tough at times, but every day there was something there that would inspire me.”

The three friends endured some of the worst weather in the region, of-

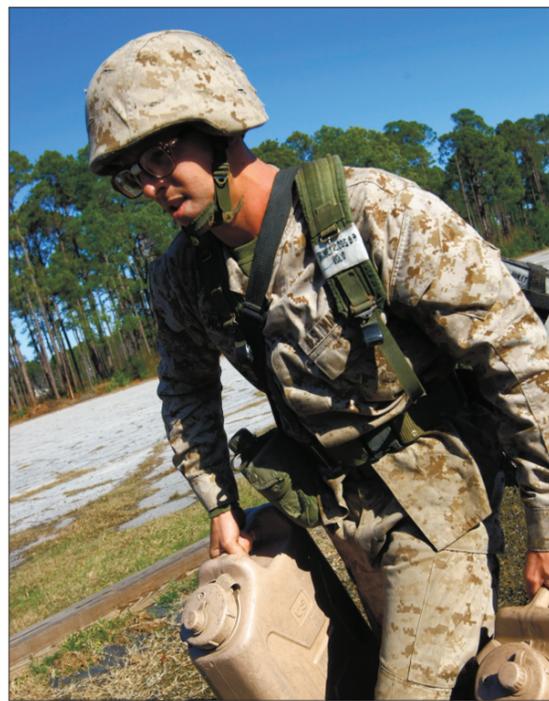
ten spending nights in the woods and mountains, McReynolds said.

“There were days when we were in the Northeast that it was just cold, rainy and wet,” he said. “There was no squad bay to go home to at the end of the day.”

Although there were similarities between the hike and recruit training, McReynolds believes recruit training has been a much tougher task than any he has ever embarked on.

“Boot camp is an absolute contrast from going through the hike. Boot camp has a complete lack of freedom,” he said. “That is definitely the most mentally tough part of this whole experience.”

Along with the experience gained from the challenges in his journey north, McReynolds said his father was also an inspiration not only to enlist as an infantryman, but to make it through recruit training.



Rct. Brandon McReynolds carries two water jugs through the obstacle course.

“I’ve always respected that,” he said. “He never the fact that my father pushed me to join the Marines, but I knew he did something that was very difficult and I looked up to him for him I was joining.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Brandon McReynolds, with Platoon 1000, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, reaches for a water jug, Jan. 12. McReynolds hiked 1,400 miles along the Appalachian Mountains before he joined the Marine Corps.



Rct. Brandon McReynolds flips over the double high bars with a fellow recruit.

Recon Marines swiftly, silently dive into training

Marines with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, prepare to enter the water during the team dive training held aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 10. The team dive training helped prepare them for the upcoming amphibious training exercise Bold Alligator 2012.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Joshua Hines

Lance Cpl. Joshua Hines
2nd Marine Division

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A team of Marines, wearing diving gear, sits on the edge of the pier. Feet dangling, they stare out into the murky water. Safety checks done and masks strapped on, the Marines give the “OK” signal. With a forward roll and a splash, the dive begins.

This was the scene as Marines with C Company, 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, took part in two days of team dive training held at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 15-16.

The first day of training consisted of pool training for the Marines to familiarize themselves with the full face mask communication system and combat diver’s vest, both of which have never been used by many of the 26 Marines who underwent the training.

“You never want to use equipment without being confident and educated on how to use it first, which is why we conducted the pool training before using the equipment in an uncontrolled environment,” said Capt. Tommy Wallin, company executive officer.

The Marines began the second day by setting up the dive site, getting the boats

in the water and doing their safety checks before moving to do the team dive.

During the training, the teams dived twice, once during the day and once at night.

Each of the three diving teams consisted of a five-to-six-man group. During each dive, the teams conducted a “dog leg,” which is an underwater navigation exercise. The “dog leg” training required the Marines to travel underwater to four designated markers before returning to their beginning location.

“Knowing the equipment is incredibly important,” said Wallin, a native of Mountain Lake, N.J. “When you’re down there, your visibility is only about a foot, so you need to know where everything on your rig is at.”

The team dive training prepared the Marines for the upcoming amphibious training exercise Bold Alligator 2012.

“They’re doing really great so far,” said Gunnery Sgt. Cory Paskvan, a platoon sergeant with Force Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Recon Bn. “For some of them, this is their first time diving as a team, but they’re doing well, and this is great training. It’s important for the reconnaissance Marines to get back to their amphibious roots.”



Gunnery Sgt. Cory Paskvan does a safety check on a Marine's diving mask during the team dive training.



A Marine gives the “OK” signal during the team dive training.

Marines complete helicopter-raid training

Cpl. Jonathan Wright
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

IE SHIMA ISLAND, OKINAWA, Japan – They charged through the turbulent sea of grass under the thunderous rotor wash of a helicopter behind them, clutching their weapons and choosing the proper spots to take cover. Kneeling and steadying their sights on the tree line beyond, they remained aware of the positions of the Marines to their left and right. Once all were in place, the helicopters rose away, leaving the Marines to face one of their many predeployment trials: capturing an enemy encampment.

C Company from 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, which serves as the battalion landing team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, successfully executed a helicopter-raid exercise in Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 12. The exercise was in support of several weeks of training conducted before every 31st MEU deployment.

“Today we were conducting an amphibious and airborne assault against an enemy insurgent camp,”

said 2nd Lt. Joshua Elliott, platoon commander and assault element leader with the company. “They were harassing the local Ryukyu government, and our mission was to come in, cordon off the objectives. As the assault element, we would come in, breach any objectives, kill or capture the bad guys, conduct tactical site exploitation and extract with all our personnel.”

For the better part of a day, Marines armed with M249 squad automatic weapons and M16-A4 rifles overtook various enemy-held positions throughout the training area. Although the day’s operation was one in a long line of training scenarios, the Marines acted with a sense of urgency that is seen in actual combat conditions.

“This training prepares us for any action we might see on the MEU,” said Elliott. “We are America’s expeditionary force-in-readiness, ready to conduct those amphibious assaults, knock the door in and lead the way for follow-on forces. When we deploy with the MEU, we are ready for real-time objectives.”

Sgt. Rafael Navarrete, a squad leader with 2nd platoon, knows that while the training may be repetitive,

it is still worthwhile in the end.

“You can rehearse a million times, but the plan is always going to change,” said Navarrete. “We always have to be prepared to make those adjustments on the move. Nothing’s going to go according to plan.”

To further enhance the training these Marines receive, role players are used as the enemy resistance rather than static targets. Having a retaliatory enemy adds to the quick reaction experience these Marines are expected to have.

“Having an opposition force adds that force-on-force realism,” said Navarrete. “Targets won’t allow you to see how the enemy might act. Role players make the training more realistic.”

As the events of the day drew to a close, not only were the people of the Ryukyu government safe from radicals, but the Marines of C Company further honed their skills before boarding ship.

“Overall, the Marines were able to adjust on the move and were keen to what the squad leaders and platoon commanders had to say,” said Navarrete. “The mission was a success.”



Sgt. Donald Christensen, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with C Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, moves into position as helicopters prepare to land during a predeployment exercise for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 12.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Vernon Meekins

Charlie displays instant obedience on the parade deck



Staff Sgt. Gerard Casimir, senior drill instructor for Platoon 1001, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, marches to the front of his platoon after inspecting his recruits' alignment during Charlie Company's final-drill evaluation at the Peatross Parade Deck, Jan. 11.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

Synchronized heel stomping, stone-like demeanors and in-beat rifle clanking emanated from the Peatross Parade Deck and discipline surrounding the center of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Jan. 11.

The platoons of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, competed against one another during their final-drill evaluation, the final test before heading to Page Field, where they were tested at the Crucible.

Final drill is the culmination of the numerous hours recruits spend learning marching maneuvers, more commonly

known to Marines as close-order drill.

Close-order drill teaches recruits how to move as a unit and execute their leader's commands precisely, similar to how they would in combat.

Final drill is not a test, nor is it about honors and titles, said Staff Sgt. Gerard Casimir, senior drill instructor for Platoon 1001. Not only does drill teach the recruits about discipline, it imbues every fiber of their being with hardened control.

Everything in drill is done with precise movements and exact timing after the order from the drill instructor is given. However, recruits may not initially understand the importance of this ceremonial marching.

"At first, it's surprising

to recruits how much we drill," Casimir said. "I break it down for them and explain why it's so important. Through drill, the recruits learn what discipline truly is. Discipline is about instant obedience to orders."

Shouting, physical training and firing their rifles are what most recruits say they thought recruit training would be all about. Drill was the last thing on their minds. Yet, it is a large aspect of what they do here. Drill helps bestow recruits with necessary knowledge and an understanding of the stic discipline that it takes to be a Marine.

"It helps recruits learn teamwork," Casimir said. "Drill cannot be done with one person."

Not only does drill teach recruits how to be Marines, but most everything else done in recruit training can be related to drill, Casimir said. Everything done in recruit training climaxes with two final challenges, the well-known Crucible, and the lesser-known, yet equally important, final-drill evaluation.

Drill instructors must take recruits, some who may have never seen drill before, and familiarize them to it. They do this in what some drill instructors say is the best way to learn.

The learning curve is steep, and the progress is clearly visible as training progresses, Casimir said.

"The easiest way to learn is through repetition. That's how we do it," he said.

Casimir said his recruits saw new first phase recruits practicing drill, and they asked him if their drill was ever that rough. They were bad back then, if not worse, he said.

While it may be a lot of work, there is a large payoff — the satisfaction of showcasing their newly honed drill skills.

"I love the intensity, especially when everybody comes together as a team," said Rct. Shane Wilkinson, a 22-year-old from Williamsburg, Va., and the guide for Platoon 1001. "It feels good when everyone is on board, and you can hear all the heels in unison."



Recruits from Platoon 1001 stand at the position of "left-shoulder arms" awaiting the next command from their senior drill instructor.



Recruits from Platoon 1001 perform the drill move "inspection arms" in unison.



Rct. Shane Wilkinson, a 22-year-old from Williamsburg, Va., with Platoon 1001, stands at "parade rest" with his platoon's guidon.



Recruits of Platoon 1006 perform the drill movement "eyes-right" while marching.



Rct. Joshua Marquez, with Platoon 1001, stands at "present-arms."

Charlie tackles advanced obstacles at Crucible

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

The recruits of Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pushed through the enhanced obstacle course, Jan. 12, as the clunks of heavy ammunition cans punctuated their efforts to complete the Crucible.

Every obstacle of the Crucible, to include this course, was designed to test the limits of recruits and keep them guessing as to what would be next.

"They have to take gear, water jugs and ammunition cans over the course. It's a mock mission where they resupply other units in need," said Sgt. Patrick Allen, a drill instructor for Platoon 1000.

The course is meant to throw a curve ball at recruits, Allen said. In the past, recruits would run

through the same type of obstacle course alone and would not carry gear.

"Any recruit can run through the obstacle course by this point in two to three minutes," said Rct. Ezequiel Ramosrodriguez, a 19-year-old from Duluth, Ga. "But when you add in teamwork, you have to make sure everyone is doing what they're supposed to as well as making sure you are doing your part and not letting anyone down."

The necessity of teamwork is the most consistent challenge recruits said they saw throughout the entire Crucible.

"The whole Crucible is based around teamwork," Allen said. "So, they're working within their fire team to get all the resupply gear to the other units."

Not only are recruits separated into fire teams – or teams of four – but as they continue through the Cru-

cible, one recruit is designated the fire team leader for a single event. The fire team leader is held responsible for the success of their team by planning, directing and participating in the event itself.

"As a leader, you can't get frustrated," Ramosrodriguez said. "You make the plan and if it doesn't work, you have to make a new plan on your toes and be able to adapt and execute it right then."

Rct. Ezequiel Ramosrodriguez, a 19-year-old from Duluth, Ga., Platoon 1000, receives a water jug from a fellow recruit.

Rct. Ezequiel Ramosrodriguez climbs down one of the ropes after completing the enhanced obstacle course.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Tyler Plotner, an 18-year-old from Monroe N.C., with Platoon 1000, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, carefully lowers himself from a high bar at the enhanced obstacle course during the Crucible at Page Field, Jan. 12.

Rct. Brandon McReynolds with Platoon 1000 helps a fellow recruit climb a high log.



DAUGHTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

senior drill instructor. "You can kind of tell she grew up around the Marine Corps, but there's still things she doesn't know."

Pacheco explained how it is hard to expect things from recruits who come from military parents.

"Some of them are bad, some of them are good, so you just go into it with no expectations," she said. "They'll mold into whatever they mold into."

"I always wanted to join the military," Laura said. "I chose the Marines because I grew up in that lifestyle, and also because my dad is the only Marine in the family, and it would be really cool to be there alongside him."

"He talked to me about

it a few months ago, and I decided that I wanted to do it," Laura said. "It's something I've wanted to do for a while, not only because I want to serve my country, but I have a lot of younger brothers and sisters I would like to set an example for."

Laura worked hard to earn the title Marine, Pacheco said. She was physically and mentally strong, compassionate and took care of the other recruits.

"She's the type of person who tries to find [common ground] with everyone," said Pfc. Rachel Robles, Laura's closest friend throughout training.

Robles said Laura showed patience when dealing with fellow recruits and always listened to what they had to say.

"Dealing with everyone's personalities, it can be overwhelming and when she sees herself get stressed out, she steps back until she calms down," Robles said.

But Robles said Laura always knew how to take herself out of the equation and put the unit and her teammates first.

Laura is currently headed to Marine Combat Training in Camp Lejeune, N.C., after which she will go to her military occupational specialty school. She is going to be in the Marine Corps Reserves, during which she hopes to go to college.

"I'm not exactly sure whether or not I want to go into an officer program because I'm starting to like the enlisted side more and more," she said.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Pfc. Laura Padilla, daughter of the former commanding general of Parris Island, Brig. Gen. Frederick Padilla, graduated from recruit training, Jan. 13.

