

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

See Fox and November companies' graduates



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FOX COMPANY PULLS THROUGH



Page 3

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

From left, Rct. Dillon Nuzum, 18, from Philippi, W.Va., assists Rct. Matthew Russnogle, 19, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., in dragging Rct. Jon Chasteen, 19, from Rockcastle County, Ky., to safety as he acts as a casualty during the Crucible Nov. 29 on Parris Island, S.C. Recruits of Platoon 2099, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, demonstrated the practice of leaving no man behind as they dragged each "wounded" recruit to safety.

Fox stomps training

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

The recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, tested for their tan belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square on Oct. 12.

MCMAP helps form the foundation of every basically trained Marine, said Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Justice, 31, a martial arts instructor at Leatherneck Square. It teaches recruits the warrior ethos and the importance of mental,

physical and character discipline. The program began in 2001 to train Marines in unarmed combat, edged weapons and bayonet techniques. MCMAP also teaches the importance of character development, responsible use of force and leadership.

Recruits complete approximately 27.5 hours of MCMAP training before they test for their tan belts.

The evaluation is one of the graduation requirements recruits must pass

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Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, perform a stomp during their martial arts evaluation at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square on Oct. 12.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Kaylah Baggerly, Platoon 4036, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, climbs down the rope on the "Sky Scrapper" obstacle on the Confidence Course at Parris Island S.C., on Oct. 3. Baggerly, a 19-year-old from Camden County, Ga., is scheduled to graduate today.

November reaches peak

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, built self-confidence as they jumped, ran and climbed their way through the Confidence Course on Oct. 3 on Parris Island.

The Confidence Course consists of 15 different obstacles, each designed to test the recruits' stamina and strength. The course also ensures a confidence boost at the completion of each obstacle.

"Our main goal with the Confidence Course is to build the recruits' confidence," said Staff

Sgt. Carl Farmer, a martial arts instructor at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square. "Some recruits see obstacles and think they cannot possibly get over them. This course is designed to break that habit."

The "Slide for Life" is one of the obstacles the

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Marine snipers train alongside Kuwait Armed Forces

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Fox & November Companies' Graduates

Fox Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 2096
Pfc. Derek J. Howell, Ocala, Fla.

Platoon 2098
Pfc. Bronson E. Becker Jr., Lavale, Md.

Platoon 2100
Pfc. Kenneth R. Rienecker III, New York

Platoon 2102
Pfc. Kevin J. Malachefski, Toms River, N.J.

Platoon 2097
Pfc. Anthony J. Howard, Lynchburg, Va.

Platoon 2099
Pfc. Joseph P. Reardon, Sandwich, Mass.

Platoon 2101
Pfc. Garry M. Yarborough, Cleveland

November Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 4036
Pfc. Brittany G. Sanchez, Tampa, Fla.

Platoon 4037
Pfc. Davonn S. Vong, Philadelphia

Platoon 2096 Pfc. K. J. Adams, Pvt. C. R. Addair, Pvt. W. A. Banks, Pfc. J. G. Betancourt, Pfc. D. S. Bragg, Pfc. J. R. Bray, Pfc. A. C. Brock, Pvt. D. C. Brooks Jr., Pfc. J. E. Caban, Pvt. E. J. Calixte, Pfc. D. A. Campbell, Pfc. C. B. Caskey, Pfc. B. L. Caudle, Pvt. D. O. Chambers, Pfc. R. M. Clements, Pfc. T. G. Conrad, Pvt. J. D. Cooper, Pvt. D. M. Coreasdeleon, Pvt. T. N. Davis, Pfc. E. R. DeGeorge, Pfc. J. M. Demitraszek III, Pfc. B. T. Dennis, Pvt. M. J. Dillard, Pfc. J. A. Dismuke, Pvt. M. A. Djibril, Pvt. P. L. DumontLopez, Pfc. C. J. Enser, Pfc. D. S. Falcone, Pvt. J. M. Fioritto Jr., Pvt. G. A. Fleming, Pvt. D. B. Flores, Pvt. M. R. Gochenaur, Pfc. A. D. Groseclose, Pfc. G. D. Hale, Pfc. J. K. Harris, Pvt. O. A. Hayles, Pfc. J. T. Hilbert, Pfc. C. D. Hill, Pfc. G. M. Holden, Pfc. D. J. Howell, Pvt. A. J. James, Pvt. A. S. Jordan, Pvt. J. A. Jordan, Pfc. B. E. Kanzig, Pfc. T. B. King, Pvt. A. V. Kokuev, Pfc. R. M. Kulcsar, Pvt. N. Law III, Pfc. J. G. Long, Pfc. M. T. Long, Pfc. D. C. Mahan, Pvt. C. T. Mathew, Pvt. C. B. McDonald, Pvt. T. A. Mcelwee, Pvt. J. P. MelendezVillanueva, Pvt. A. K. Miller, Pvt. M. J. Namura, Pvt. M. B. Neville, Pfc. A. H. Nguyen, Pvt. A. D. Nicholas, Pfc. H. W. Nolan, Pvt. T. U. Nwabeke, Pvt. J. A. Palmer, Pfc. A. C. Patrick, Pvt. J. C. Peeples, Pvt. J. I. Rachels, Pfc. N. R. Sanders, Pvt. J. R. Santos, Pfc. L. O. Santos, Pvt. R. A. Sarver, Pvt. A. R. Sexton, Pvt. T. E. Shorunke, Pfc. M. R. Souilliard, Pvt. K. J. Spivey, Pvt. K. R. Stephens, Pvt. O. D. Sterling, Pfc. C. A. Stevenson, Pfc. B. G. Taylor, Pfc. J. L. Thomas, Pfc. T. A. Thompson, Pvt. J. T. Tibbetts, Pvt. J. Tseten, Pvt. S. P. Tuten, Pvt. D. A. Welch, Pvt. C. West, Pfc. A. Wilson, Pvt. D. Yamasato, Pfc. J. E. Young

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Fox's finale

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, charged through the Crucible, knowing they were nearing the end of their three months of training on Parris Island, S.C., Nov. 29.

The Crucible is the final, culminating event of training, said Staff Sgt. Ronnie Mills, a drill instructor for Platoon 2099. It is the place where the recruits can apply the skills they had learned from the past three months.

The recruits began their hike to the Crucible around 2 a.m. Thoughts of finally earning their Eagle, Globe and Anchor came with an early start to their final task as recruits.

"Remembering stepping on the yellow footprints and how we had checked the training calendar and thought this day would never come ... to just wake up and know it is the day of the Crucible, it's like I can see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Pvt. Chad Butler, Platoon 2100.

He felt as if he had made

it to the end of a long journey as he prepared to take on any obstacle that tried to stop him from earning the title of Marine, said Butler, 20, from Baltimore.

The recruits have hiked more than 35 miles together, ran approximately 70 miles, become qualified with the M16-A4 service rifle and received basic warrior training over the past three months. These young men have been training for their final 54-hours as recruits since the day they stepped on the island.

The recruits have trained together and endured the same pains and challenges as the recruit beside them.

It is hard to believe these past three months are about to come to an end, said Pfc. Robert Bowden, Platoon 2100. He said becoming a Marine was not a dream anymore. His goal was finally within reach.

He was prepared to endure through any challenge that stood in the way of becoming a Marine, said Bowden, 19, from Gambrills, Md.

It was unbelievable that he was already on the crucible, said Pvt. Bryan Genthe. He knew he had to finish the Crucible. There was no question about it. The 18-year-old from Monroe Township, N.J., and Platoon 2100, said he had worked too hard the past three months for three days to stand in his way of finally becoming a Marine.

The Crucible is where they transform from recruits into Marines, said Mills, a 33-year-old from Barbourville, Ky. They employ all the leadership skills they have learned and put them to use here.

"With all the hard work I'd put in throughout training, I knew the Crucible couldn't defeat me," said Genthe. "This is the final step, and I'm ready for it."

The recruits of Fox Company went to the Crucible with confidence and determination. These traits paid off as they accomplished their final task and finished their 54 hours of intense training as Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Dillon Nuzum, Platoon 2099, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, runs toward a recruit who is simulating a wounded Marine in need of help during the Crucible Nov. 29 on Parris Island, S.C. Nuzum, an 18-year-old from Philippi, W.Va., quickly took cover when he heard simulated gun shots before reaching the simulated victim and dragging him to safety.

STOMPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to become Marines. The evaluation is supervised by the martial arts instructors who taught the recruits over 23 days.

"We only teach the basics to recruits here," said Sgt. Dana Hine, 25, a martial arts instructor at Leatherneck Square. "This is only the beginning level of MCMAP."

Recruits were tested on upper and lower body strikes, counters, chokes, joint manipulations and bayonet and knife techniques.

"The drill instructors and the martial arts instructors walked

through all the moves with us during training," said Pvt. Jesse Carter, 18, of Platoon 2102, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. "They made sure we were doing them well. If we get attacked in a combat zone we need to know how to defend ourselves."

Recruits will have a chance to advance through the gray, green, brown and black belts later in their Marine Corps career once they graduate. Each level comes with more difficult techniques and more responsibility.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Jesse Carter, 18, of Platoon 2102, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, breaks free of a hold by Rct. Andrew Bond, 18, of Platoon 2102, during their martial arts evaluation at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square on Oct. 12. Carter is from Galion, Ohio. Bond is from Kittanning, Pa.



Photo by Cpl. Timothy Childers

Staff Sgt. Nathan C. Stocking, platoon sergeant, Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, assigned with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, instructs a member of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in basic marksmanship techniques at a firing range near Camp Buehring during Exercise Eager Mace 13 on Nov. 12. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps participated in the bilateral training exercise with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces Nov. 11-21. The purpose of the exercise was to expand levels of cooperation, enhance mutual maritime capabilities, and promote long-term regional stability and interoperability between U.S. forces and regional partners. Stocking, 29, is from Phoenix.

Marine snipers train alongside Kuwaiti Armed Forces

Cpl. Timothy Childers
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit

KUWAIT – Marines

shielded their eyes the best they could as a sand storm moved across the firing range. Wind-

speeds reached more than 30 mph, which made a dead-center shot at more than 500 yards seem impossible.

What may have seemed unfeasible was made achievable by the scout snipers of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, assigned with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. They flawlessly brought down targets at a firing range near Camp Buehring during Exercise Eager Mace 13 on Nov. 10.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps participated in an annual training exercise with Kuwaiti Armed Forces on Nov. 11-21 called Eager Mace. The purpose of this exercise was to expand levels of cooperation, enhance mutual maritime capabilities and promote long-term regional stability and interoperability between U.S. forces and regional partners.

During this training event, the Scout Sniper Platoon from Weapons

Company went to one of many firing ranges around Camp Buehring and trained alongside a Kuwaiti Armed Forces unit. The team helped teach some basic marksmanship skills to junior members of the Kuwaiti military.

“We assisted with teaching basic marksmanship skills for the Kuwaiti soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Nathan Stocking, platoon sergeant. “It’s good that we can train them, so that they have the capability to protect themselves.”

The real work was done within the Scout Sniper Platoon as it took advantage of the unique training opportunities the firing range provided.

“At the range, we practiced quite a lot of advanced marksmanship techniques in simulated combat surroundings,” said Stocking. “Camp Pendleton doesn’t facilitate this kind of training. Because of the range’s size and facilities, we

were allowed to practice more advanced drills that we wouldn’t be able to simulate at most [military] bases back home. As Marines, we know these techniques by the book, but we can truly prove the concept at this range.”

The range also provided a unique training environment, compared to the platoon’s home base of Camp Pendleton, Calif. The high winds, dust clouds and terrain features that comprise the region gave the snipers a new challenge to build on and improve their skills.

“I always enjoy an opportunity to train somewhere different,” said Cpl. Dakota Mortensen, a scout sniper with the platoon and a 25-year-old, Ephraim, Utah native. “We had an opportunity to zero our weapons to meet this type of environment. We can use the data we gathered to prepare us for any possible contingencies in the future.

This is also our first opportunity we’ve had on deployment to fire our weapons and knock the rust off.”

In order to hone their craft, the 14-man team conducted a number of maneuvers including unknown distance, limited exposure and movement to contact drills.

“I enjoyed being with the platoon and having all day to concentrate on shooting,” said Stocking, a 29-year-old Phoenix native. “We took the opportunity to find and correct deficiencies. Everyday we increased the distance, decreased the target size and changed weapon systems. By throwing different variables at the snipers we made it harder, but it made them better.”

By shooting all day, braving sand storms and an unfamiliar environment, the scout snipers were challenged, and were able to effectively train and learn alongside Kuwaiti soldiers.

Recruits use technology, train for success



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Maggie Vizinat, Platoon 4036, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, grips her rifle firmly and sights in on the target at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer on Parris Island, S.C., on Oct. 25. Vizinat, a 20-year-old from Lafayette, La., graduates today.

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, used wireless technology to boost their confidence in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer Oct. 25 on Parris Island, S.C.

Recruits spend roughly four hours a day learning and practicing the different shooting positions during their sixth week of training.

The recruits used the ISMT to show their Primary Marksmanship Instructors they correctly grasp the fundamentals of marksmanship by the end of the week.

"The ISMT lets us see the recruits' deficiencies before live firing starts," said Cpl. Brad-

ley Bruss, a PMI. "It also lets the recruits see how well they are applying what they have learned."

The ISMT uses wireless technology and a projector system to simulate firing at a real target at a predetermined distance. The rifles are loaded with magazines filled with compressed air to simulate recoil when firing at the targets.

The computer records where the recruits' shots hit, then the instructors assess the problems based off the placements of the shots.

Recruits do not have many chances to see how they are performing or to receive positive feedback. This is one of the few times where they have both.

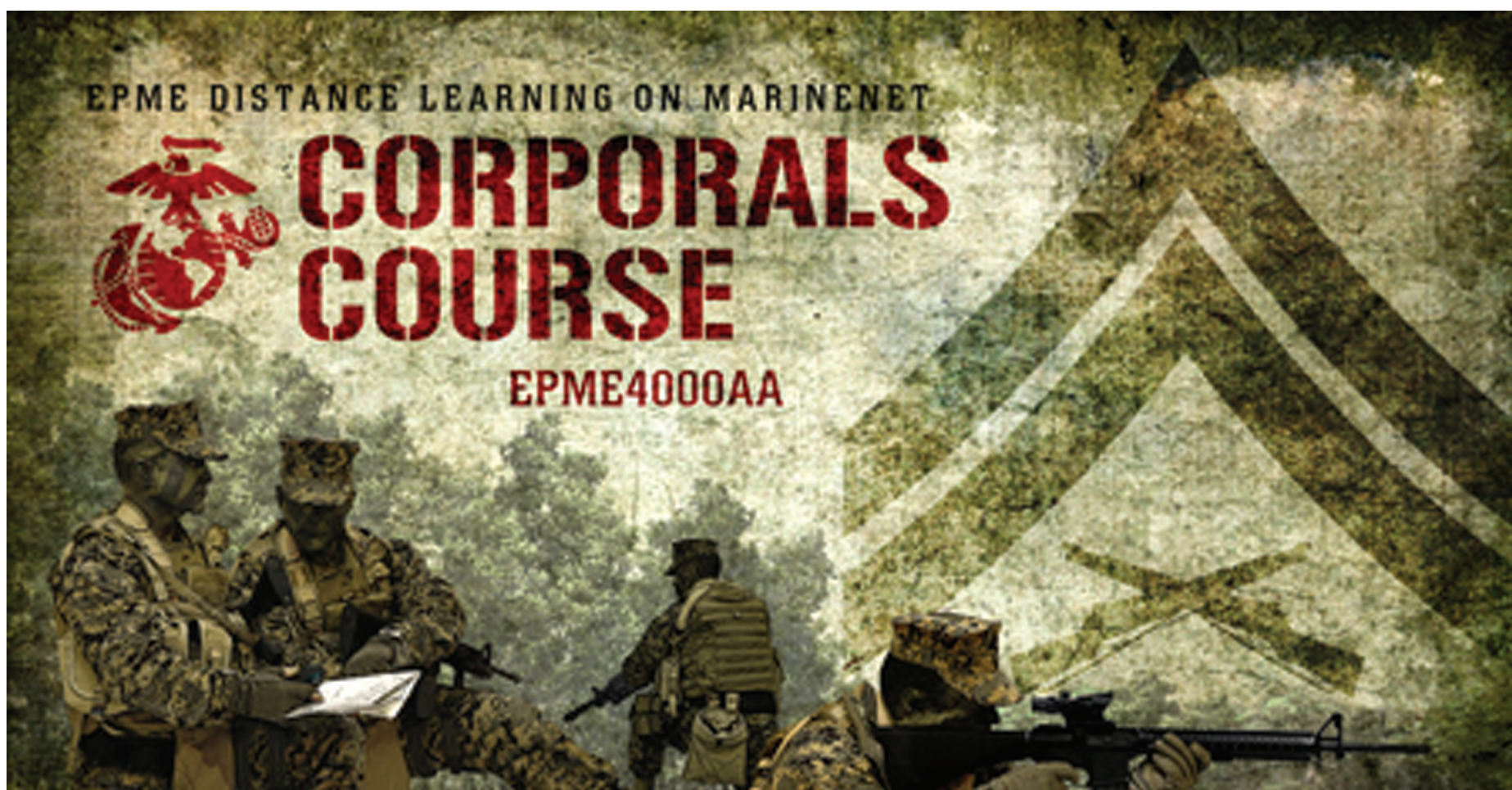
"The main goal of the ISMT is to identify and correct deficien-

cies while, at the same time, letting them see how they are doing," said Bruss, a 23-year-old from Tucson, Ariz. "It is practical application as well as a confidence booster."

The ISMT provides recruits with a realistic feel for the weapon.

"It felt like an actual weapon, and it had actual recoil," said Rct. Brandi Mason, Platoon 4037. "I feel ready to fire real rounds next week after practicing in the ISMT."

Spending long hours practicing the fundamentals of marksmanship, learning how to fire in the ISMT and qualifying during firing week are now just memories of obstacles overcome. November Company marches across the parade deck as the nation's newest Marines today.





Photos by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Rosio Surugui, Platoon 4036, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, swings from bar to bar on the "Arm Stretcher" on the Confidence Course at Parris Island, S.C., on Oct. 3. Surugui, an 18-year-old from Houston, is scheduled to graduate today.

PEAK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recruits must overcome in order to complete the course. It begins with a 37-foot climb up a set of stairs and then the recruits must pull themselves across an 85-foot long rope over a man-made water pit, with their backs to the ground the entire time.

"The recruits need to be able to get over their small fears, such as heights, in order for them to face their big-

ger fears," said Farmer, a 29-year-old from Gary, Ind.

Some recruits were frightened when they looked up at the towering hurdles, but others were ready to take on the new challenges.

"I was really excited when we were told that we were doing the Confidence Course," said Rct. Brittany Sanchez, Platoon 4036. "I love the feeling of getting over hard obstacles."

The "Arm Walk" is another obstacle that

some recruits said was particularly difficult during the Confidence Course. The obstacle consists of two parallel bars with which recruits must hold their bodies up and cross the other side.

The Marines of November Company have overcome many obstacles and trials during their time at Parris Island. They have proved they have what it takes to bear the title U.S. Marine.



Recruits of November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, practice their martial arts skills at Parris Island's Confidence Course on Oct. 3.

NEWS BRIEF

4th Annual Lowcountry Christmas Concert

The Parris Island Marine Band is scheduled to perform their 4th Annual Lowcountry Christmas Concert at the Community Bible Church in Beaufort on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

The band will be performing patriotic and holiday favorites such as "sleigh ride" and selections from the film "Polar Express." The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Parris Island Marine Band at 843-228-4925.