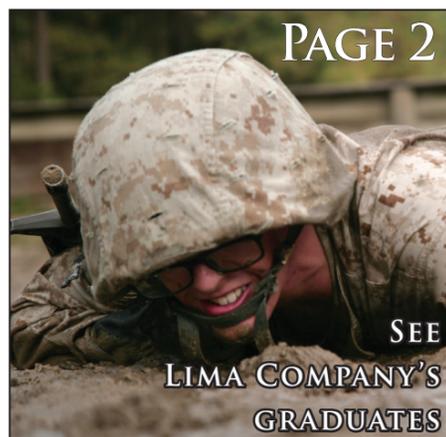


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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Lima Company: The first step in the journey

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, began their 13-week journey to become Marines when they stepped on the yellow footprints and first met a drill instructor Oct. 15 on Parris Island.

Every enlisted Marine's journey begins the same way. He or she arrives at a Marine Corps recruit depot and is not so pleasantly greeted by a drill instructor who yanks open the doors of the vehicle and orders the aspiring Marines out and onto the yellow footprints.

Everyone knows about the yellow footprints, said Pvt. Brandon Griffin, Platoon 3000. He said he feels Marine Corps tradition is kept alive through the footprints. Thousands of Marines have stepped on them before, giving hope that becoming a Marine is not an impossible goal to reach.

Some recruits remembered their first seconds on the island as some of the most tense they had to endure.

The moment the drill instructor jerked open the doors of the van was like the scene of a movie, said Griffin, a 17-year-old from Valdosta, Ga. He described the instructor as a "tall, ominous and intimidating figure."

The drill instructors who meet the recruits at the footprints make the first, and probably some of the



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

The young men of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stand on the yellow footprints as Staff Sgt. Carolina Andrade, a senior drill instructor at recruit receiving, welcomes them to Parris Island on Oct. 15. Each recruit's journey to become a Marine begins on the yellow footprints. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate today.

SEE STEPS PAGE 5

Lima Company recruits battle during pugil stick training



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, battle one another with pugil sticks during training Oct. 29 on Parris Island. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, had the opportunity to see how they would fare in a close-quarters fight during their first combative training session using pugil sticks Oct. 29 on Parris Island.

A Marine may not always have ammunition to take down

his enemy from a distance during combat. However, that does not mean his rifle is useless. Recruits use pugil sticks as a safe representation of a rifle with a bayonet to practice rifle-striking techniques.

Pfc. Kyle Kramer, Platoon 3005, said he felt the adrenaline pumping through his veins as he waited his turn to fight. He said he pictured his opponent as a threat that needed to be disposed.

SEE FIGHTS PAGE 4

Lima recruits learn Corps' core values

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of Platoon 3005, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, learned why commitment is an essential core value for anyone seeking to earn the title of U.S. Marine during an ethics discussion held Oct. 30 on Parris Island.

Instilling the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment is a primary objective of recruit training and begins immediately after recruits arrive on the depot.

"These discussions that I have with the recruits early in training are to make sure they learn what the Marine Corps is all about," said Sgt. Chris McMillan, the platoon's senior drill instructor. "If we didn't have these discussions, they would not take as much pride in earning the title U.S. Marine."

The recruits spend at least eight hours during their first three weeks of training learning these core values with their senior drill instructor and their company commander.

"These discussions with our senior drill instructor are very important and crucial to us becoming good Marines," said Pfc. Ryan Stahlecker, Platoon

3005, and an 18-year-old from Rochester, N.Y. "This is the time when we question our commitment to our decision to join the Marine Corps the most."

The senior drill instructor urged the recruits not to hold anything back during the discussion and assured them they would not be chastised for what they had to say.

McMillan, a 28-year-old from Tampa, Fla., said after having this discussion with his recruits, he hopes they will never give up, no matter how hard training may get for them.

These values are essential when it comes to the transformation from civilian to Marine, he said. Core values are what separate Marines from everyone else.

"They come from all over the country and some were raised with no morals. We need to be able to release them from here knowing they will always do the right thing when no one is looking," said McMillan.

The new Marines of Lima Company have shown their drill instructors and their fellow Marines they are committed to not only each other, but to the Marine Corps as well. They are scheduled to graduate today.

CRAWLING TO TITLE

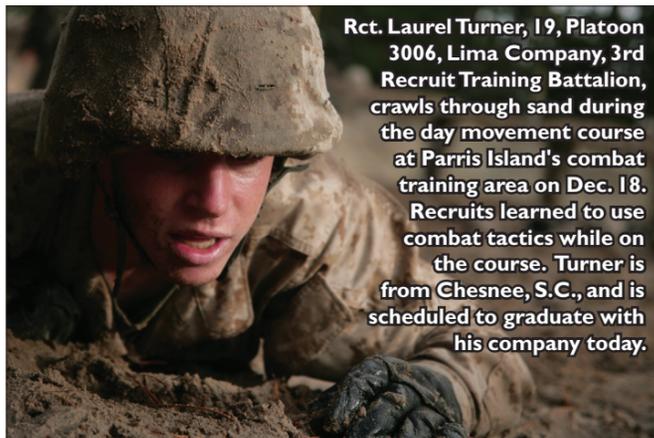
Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, dashed and inched their way through the day movement course at Parris Island's combat training area Dec. 18.

Recruits paired

up and navigated a simulated battle environment, maneuvering in short sprints and over obstacles.

"The tactics they learn here are the basics of how to shoot, move and communicate on the battlefield," said Sgt. Jason Boggess, 26, lead instructor at the



Rct. Laurel Turner, 19, Platoon 3006, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through sand during the day movement course at Parris Island's combat training area on Dec. 18. Recruits learned to use combat tactics while on the course. Turner is from Chesnee, S.C., and is scheduled to graduate with his company today.

Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

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New Marines become US citizens



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Marines with 31st MEU conduct live-fire exercise

Lima Company's Graduates

Honor Graduates

Platoon 3000

Pfc. Lorenzo G. Jackson III, Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Justin M. Blue

Platoon 3002

Pfc. Ryan J. Lash, Wernersville, Pa.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jarred J. Keffer

Platoon 3005

Pfc. Ryan M. Stahlecker, Pittsford, N.Y.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Christopher M. McMillan

Platoon 3001

Pfc. Jorje J. Chardon, Clintondale, N.Y.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Aaron W. Baisden

Platoon 3004

Pfc. Justin J. Bennett, Findlay, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Christian R. Appleman

Platoon 3006

Pfc. Christopher S. Miller, Middleburg, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jacob W. Verschage

Platoon 3000 Pvt. J. M. Adkins, Pvt. K. Alexander, Pvt. W. H. Armstrong, Pvt. D. L. Banks, Pvt. J. C. Barham, Pvt. J. C. Bishop, Pvt. J. C. Botsford, Pfc. B. D. Branch, Pfc. T. C. Bruce, Pfc. L. C. Carrera IV, Pfc. C. J. Carson, Pvt. J. A. Collums, Pfc. J. T. Commins, Pvt. J. M. Countryman, Pvt. C. M. Cremeens, Pvt. T. C. Davidson, Pvt. E. Del Carmen, Pvt. K. Edwards, Pfc. W. L. Ezell III, Pfc. K. J. Frady, Pfc. M. S. Francis, Pfc. A. E. Gloe, Pvt. B. W. Griffin, Pvt. B. J. Grombelski, Pfc. R. L. Gwinn, Pfc. L. R. Hargis, Pfc. T. D. Harvey, Pvt. W. C. Howell, Pvt. S. V. Infante, Pfc. L. G. Jackson III, Pvt. K. A. Javins-Wells, Pvt. Q. M. Johnson, Pvt. G. K. Ketcham, Pfc. J. A. Koziacki, Pvt. D. C. Latimer, Pfc. R. S. Lawrence Jr., Pfc. T. E. Madigan, Pvt. M. J. Mancuso, Pfc. J. E. Martin III, Pvt. J. D. Matson, Pfc. R. L. May, Pfc. A. S. McClary, Pvt. T. C. McComas, Pfc. W. R. McGowan II, Pfc. J. A. McGrath, Pvt. J. K. Morris, Pvt. D. Mosolov, Pfc. R. T. Myer, Pvt. M. J. Norman, Pvt. Q. J. Opel, Pvt. T. M. Penn, Pfc. J. F. Piedra-Castaneda, Pfc. K. L. Ramos, Pfc. J. W. Reily, Pvt. G. X. Rice, Pvt. K. E. Rice, Pvt. Z. D. Ripple, Pvt. D. L. Robinson, Pvt. S. Romero, Pfc. D. D. Santacruz, Pfc. C. A. Santiago-Ocasio, Pfc. T. P. Shattuck, Pvt. N. C. Spradley III, Pvt. N. P. Taylor, Pvt. W. A. Traugott, Pfc. M. A. Vazquez, Pvt. A. D. Vogel

Platoon 3001 Pfc. M. E. Aihe Jr., Pvt. J. E. Barnett, Pvt. J. M. Branham, Pfc. K. A. Brown, Pvt. Z. D. Brown, Pvt. E. D. Campbell, Pfc. J. J. Chardon, Pvt. J. T. Childs, Pfc. W. E. Chrome, Pvt. T. W. Clark III, Pvt. J. H. Cox IV, Pvt. A. B. Daniel, Pfc. L. Davila Jr., Pvt. J. T. Dobbins, Pvt. G. S. Doyle III, Pvt. B. A. Drulard, Pvt. G. L. Elliott-Baker, Pvt. T. C. Elson, Pfc. A. F. Folkner, Pvt. D. G. Gibson, Pvt. J. D. Griffin, Pvt. C. R. Griggs, Pfc. J. E. Gustafson, Pvt. L. T. Hall, Pvt. J. D. Harris, Pvt. T. Haynes Jr., Pfc. B. K. Heller, Pfc. C. Hernandez, Pvt. D. L. Hickman, Pfc. A. J. Huckabee, Pvt. V. D. Key, Pvt. S. J. Lambert, Pfc. C. E. Layton, Pfc. R. C. Mattull, Pfc. M. A. Memnon, Pvt. J. K. Messina, Pvt. S. P. Milisits, Pvt. J. G. Moncayo, Pvt. L. D. Moon, Pfc. T. A. Motz, Pfc. W. N. Mullis, Pfc. B. M. Owens, Pvt. R. R. Palit, Pfc. N. P. Pfrimmer, Pvt. D. R. Porter, Pfc. S. G. Reyes-Centeno, Pvt. D. J. Roy, Pfc. C. D. Ruggles, Pvt. S. S. Samuelson, Pvt. J. D. Schaffer, Pvt. J. L. Smith III, Pfc. J. M. Smith, Pfc. J. M. Spangler, Pvt. K. Torrens-Melon, Pfc. F. R. Torres, Pvt. J. M. Troupe, Pvt. C. M. Vitacco, Pvt. T. J. Wheeler, Pvt. H. M. White, Pvt. J. S. William, Pvt. M. D. Williams, Pfc. D. P. Willis

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New program speeds citizenship for Parris Island grads

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Ten Marines – including nine who graduated boot camp the following day – were granted their U.S. citizenship during a ceremony Jan. 3 as part of a new program to naturalize new Marines before they leave Parris Island.

While fast-tracked citizenship has been available to service members for a decade, a standardized process for helping recruits claim the title of American citizen was launched Oct. 1, 2012.

On July 3, 2002, a presidential order issued by George W. Bush allowed noncitizens serving in the armed forces during a time of war to file for their U.S. citizenship immediately regardless of immigration status or length of residency.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, a section of the Department of Homeland Security that oversees legal immigration in the U.S., started a program with the military in 2009 with the goal of allowing military personnel to become U.S. citizens by the time they graduate basic training, said Sharon Scheidhauer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokeswoman.

Pfc. Dannie Wea, a recent graduate of Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, had no idea he would be able to earn his citizenship while in recruit training.

“I didn’t even know I’d be able to get my citizenship once I joined,” said Wea, a native of Monrovia, Liberia. “About three weeks into training, they took me to the [administrative] office and explained what was going on.

“... [To] finally get responsibility to become a United States citizen ... and becoming a U.S. Marine at the same time, what more could you ask for?” said Wea, 18, whose family currently resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Pvt. Marleni Cruz Carranza, a recent graduate of Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, was also unaware she would be able to gain her citizenship during training.

“It was just very shocking,” said Cruz Carranza, 18, a native of San Pedro, Honduras. “It’s all around really good, being a citizen, to actually be an American fighting ... it’s just really great. It feels awesome.”

Recruiters now help future recruits prepare applications for citizenship, which are collected once they arrive on Parris Island.

“We do the interviews and the biometrics and all the paperwork, waive their fees and expedite it. We rush it through the system because we know they are only here for a limited amount of time,” said Scheidhauer. “If they qualify ... the goal is to have them naturalized and then



Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pfc. Dannie Wea receives his U.S. citizenship during a naturalization ceremony held at the All-Weather Training Facility Jan. 3 on Parris Island, S.C. Wea, 18, originally from Monrovia, Liberia, came to the U.S. with his family at the age of 7. Wea graduated Marine Corps recruit training Jan. 4 with Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

for them to leave Parris Island as not only a Marine but as an American.”

Alongside Wea and Cruz Carranza were Pvt. Luis Hernandez Diaz, a native of San Miguel, El Salvador; Pvt. Seokjoo Kim, a native of Seoul, South Korea; Pvt. Edson Machado, a Rio de Janeiro native; Pvt. Deinier Pena Sanchez, a Havana native; Pvt. Jhonatan Reyna, a native of Aguascalientes, Mexico; Pfc. Ghislaine Songong Nguedjio, a Cameroon native; Pfc. Mauricio Flores Cruz, a native of Lima, Peru; and Sgt. Antonio Gomez, a native of Otlatepec, Mexico.

Parris Island plans to hold similar weekly naturalization ceremonies as necessary.



Pfc. Mauricio Flores Cruz stands with his family at the All-Weather Training Facility on Parris Island, S.C., after receiving his U.S. citizenship Jan. 3. Flores Cruz, 22, began his citizen application process while in recruit training. Flores Cruz, originally from Lima, Peru, graduated Marine Corps recruit training Jan. 4 with Golf Company.

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct live-fire training Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 6 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.

Marines and sailors conduct live-fire assault exercise



Photos by Lance Cpl. Katelyn Hunter

A rifleman with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, attached to 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, suppresses targets in a fortified position during a live-fire exercise on Camp Schwab, Japan, on Jan. 4. The Marines and sailors of the landing team trained to hone their combat skills in a jungle environment.

Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

CAMP SCHWAB, Japan - Maneuvering under the thunderous echoes emanating from mortar rounds hitting a fortified position ahead, the Marines bring the precision of an organized assault to the chaos of the battlefield.

Marines and sailors with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, serving with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a live-fire and maneuver exercise Jan. 4 in a collection of hills and valleys on Camp Schwab, Japan.

The Marines set out from their campsite one squad at a time to push their way through thick

foliage and deep mud on the way to the target.

"These Marines are switching from warfighting in the desert to fighting in a dense, wet and humid jungle," said Staff Sgt. Rick J. Meyers, a platoon sergeant with the battalion and a native of Riverbank, Calif. "Being out here for a couple of days and do-

ing nonstop training within this environment helps the Marines become more adept in the jungle."

The objective of the exercise was to assault a simulated enemy fortification, complete with concertina wire barriers and sand bag bunkers. This would be a daunting task for a lone rifle squad, but the Marines in the assault were supported by the combined effects of a 60 mm mortar team and a 240B machine-gun team.

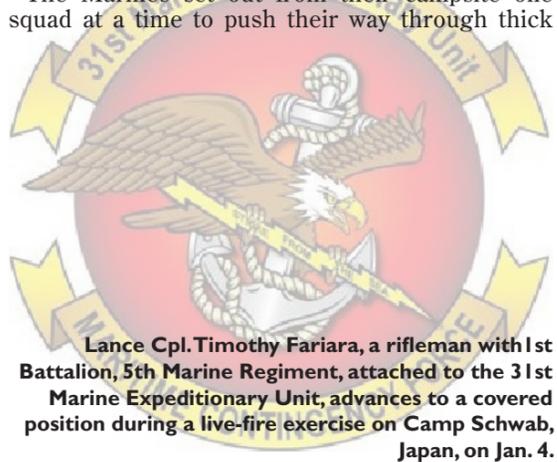
"You can never get enough really good training like this," said Pfc. Deron D. Evans, a rifleman with the team and a native of Stilwell, Okla. "We hardly ever get to break out every piece of the puzzle during training, but here we get to use every asset needed to take a fortified enemy position."

A bombardment of mortars kept the enemy in their bunkers as the rifle squads' engineers set explosive charges on the concertina wire barriers. Upon detonation, the wire separated, leaving a clear path to the enemy bunkers. With support from the machine-gun team, the Marine rifle squads made short work of the entrenched enemy.

Using live ammunition for the mortars, machine guns and rifles makes the training as realistic as possible for the Marines. Each element must be well-coordinated during the attack to avoid the danger of friendly fire.

"Every Marine must know their target and what is beyond it," said Capt. Adam C. Stiles, battalion commander and a native of Denver.

The training exercise is a part of the battalion's pre-deployment training package for the 31st MEU's spring deployment. The patrol will require the Marines and sailors of the landing team to execute and teach their capabilities in foreign countries, while learning new techniques and practices from allies during training.



Lance Cpl. Timothy Fariara, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, advances to a covered position during a live-fire exercise on Camp Schwab, Japan, on Jan. 4.



FIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kramer said his motivation for training was to defend those that cannot defend themselves. These thoughts motivated Kramer to fight with the aggression he needed to strike a victory blow against his opponent.

Recruits practiced with pugil sticks four times during training. Each time helped them to become more proficient in defensive and offensive rifle techniques.

Marines train to overcome any challenge they may face, said Sgt. Tyler Montague, 25, a drill instructor for Platoon 3000 and a San Fran-

cisco native. These recruits will gain the knowledge and training to defeat the enemy.

Kramer said winning the fight made him more confident in himself and his abilities to protect those around him. He said there is nowhere else he would rather be than training to become a Marine.

The young men of Lima Company have earned the title of Marine after 13 weeks of intense training on Parris Island. They have steadily gained the knowledge needed to begin their lives in the Corps.

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, wait for the sound of a whistle to begin a round of combative training with pugil sticks Oct. 29 on Parris Island. Recruits practice close-range offensive and defensive techniques with a weapon during pugil stick bouts. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda



Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, yell "aye, sir!" to all statements made by their male drill instructor while on Parris Island on Oct. 15. Recruits must respond to every command or statement made by drill instructors in a loud, intense voice. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Drill instructor Sgt. James Case shouts orders to the new recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, as they prepare to make their phone calls home from Parris Island on Oct 15. Drill instructors immediately begin instilling discipline in the recruits the first day the recruits arrive on the depot. Lima Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Patrick Farmer and Rct. Ross Kantola, both from Platoon 3005, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, navigate a concrete cylinder as they advance through the day movement course at Parris Island's combat training area Dec. 18. Farmer, 21, is from Fowlerville, Mich., and Kantola, 19, is from Howell, Mich. They are both scheduled to graduate today.



TITLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

combat training area.

The course gave recruits a chance to take command and perform the fire team tactics they previously learned during Basic Warrior Training.

"It's tough. It's definitely the most practical part of training," said Pvt. Tucker MacGregor, 19, Platoon 3002. "It's just down and dirty."

Recruits remained in constant communication with their buddy as they advanced through the course. Failure to do so resulted in both recruits being sent back to the beginning to retry the course.

"You definitely have to pay attention," said Pvt. Timothy Lambert, 20, Platoon 3002, and a native of Reading, Pa.

As the recruits finished the short sprints in the wooded area, they advanced to the second half of the course consisting of a series of obstacles.

One such obstacle is called the tangle-wire. Recruits carefully stepped their way through a grid of razor wire less than a foot above ground masked by white smoke.

"The smoke is used to

conceal the tangle-wire and forces recruits to pay attention to the tactics we teach them," said Boggess, a native of Stuart, Fla.

The recruits used their peripheral vision to spot the wire while looking forward at potential threats.

Many recruits found themselves struggling when they reached the next obstacle – a spirally mess of concertina wire laid out on the ground.

Recruits crawled under the wire using their rifle to push the wire above their heads while slowly inching their way to the other side on their backs.

"It's used as a choke point," said Boggess. "It forces recruits to slow down."

Recruits sprint to the finish after clearing all the obstacles.

"This is what I thought recruit training was going to be all about," said MacGregor, a native of Madison, Conn.

The knowledge the recruits gained through the course will carry them through future training in the Marine Corps as they continue to sharpen their skills to work as a unit on the battlefield.

Rct. Jeffery Oliver, 19, Platoon 3005, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through mud while advancing through the day movement course Dec. 18 at Parris Island's combat training area. Recruits learned to stay low to the ground to remain undetected. Oliver is scheduled to graduate with his company today.

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In Remembrance ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Maluda

Attendants of the memorial ceremony for Cpl. Cameron Branum bow their heads in prayer Jan. 9 at the recruit chapel on Parris Island. Branum, 23, from Newalla, Okla., was killed in a motor vehicle accident Dec. 27, 2012. Branum was born May 15, 1989, in Oklahoma City. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps on Nov. 13, 2006. He earned his Eagle, Globe and Anchor upon his graduation from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., on July 19, 2007. Branum reported to Marine Corps Security Forces Feb. 3, 2008. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from February through September 2011. Upon his return, he was transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on March 31, 2012. His most recent assignment was police sergeant for Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion.

