

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

See how Carlos Company gets it done, Page 5



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Parris Island Marine Band



marches on in

Ohio

For story and more photos, see page 4

Cpl. Sarah Fiocco
Gunnery Sgt. David Wilson, drum major with the Parris Island Marine Band, leads the band in formation during the Rogues' Hollow Festival parade in Doylestown, Ohio Aug. 5. The band's weekend visit to Ohio additionally consisted of a visit to the Timken Grand Parade in Canton, Ohio.

PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCES VETERAN WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Karen Parrish
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced a series of administration initiatives to help military veterans find jobs.

During remarks at the Washington Navy Yard, the president proposed a set of tax credits for companies hiring veterans, announced a new task force

to develop reforms that will help service members transition to civilian jobs or higher education, and challenged industry to hire more veterans.

"Today's veterans are Americans who have done their duty," the commander in chief said. "They have fought our wars with valor, from the jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan."

But many of those veter-

ans find when they leave service that their military skills don't qualify them for civilian jobs, the president said.

Obama cited a former combat medic and a financial specialist as examples of veterans facing difficulties transferring military skills to the civilian market.

Nick Colgin deployed to Afghanistan as a combat

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Ceremony honors wounded vets

Story by Cpl. J Nava
News Designer

A ceremony to honor service members who have received the Purple Heart took place Monday at the Peatross Parade Deck.

The Lowcountry's Colonel Jimmie Leach Memorial Chapter of The Military Order of the Purple Heart spearheaded the ceremony and planned it to coincide with National Purple Heart Recognition Day, Aug. 7.

"The recognition day and the ceremony are in place to remember those that were wounded or killed in battle," said Tom Latendresse, senior vice commander for the local MOPH chapter. "The ceremony honors all those who have ever earned a Purple Heart."

The ceremony started with a color guard from Naval Hospital Beaufort presenting the national ensign and Navy flag, which was followed by the posting of the National Purple Heart flag.

"The flag is used to represent the unity of combat

SEE CEREMONY PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Colonel Jimmie Leach Memorial Chapter attend a Purple Heart ceremony at the Peatross Parade Deck, Aug. 8. The ceremony coincided with the Aug. 7 National Purple Heart Recognition Day.

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to Mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will conduct extended live-fire training Wednesday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area, to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edding Creek, will be closed to boater traffic.

For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures, please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion Range Control at 228-3170.

This week in Parris Island history

on Aug. 11, 1940, a devastating hurricane moved over Parris Island, according to Marine Corps History Division researcher Eugene Alvarez. Personnel were relocated to high areas and into permanent brick structures for protection against 104-mile per hour winds and tides that rose at least four feet. The waterfront base hospital was a specific concern. Its patients were transferred to other facilities.

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ALPHA & NOVEMBER COMPANY GRADUATES

Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion honor graduates

Pfc. D. K. Dupree, Marietta, Ga.
Platoon 1056, Dupree was recruited by
Sgt. T. Shirley and trained by Staff Sgt. T. A. Silas

Pfc. J. M. Lane, Springhill, Fla.
Platoon 1058, Lane was recruited by
Staff Sgt. A. Alicia and trained by Staff Sgt. C. R. Verrette

Pfc. D. S. Robarge, Naples N.Y.
Platoon 1061, Robarge was recruited by
Staff Sgt. D Hoover and trained by Staff Sgt. C. E. Kelley

Pfc. B. M. Ferry, Latrobe, Pa.
Platoon 1057, Ferry was recruited by
Sgt. C. Downs and trained by Sgt. J. A. Robinson

Pfc. K. W. Peach, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.
Platoon 1060, Peach was recruited by
Sgt. D. Buckles and trained by Sgt. L. A. Diaz

Pfc. M.A. Linenkemper, Clinton, Mass.
Platoon 1062, Linenkemper was recruited by
Sgt. J. Myers and trained by Staff Sgt. H. F. Franklin

November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion honor graduates

Pfc. K. M. Argent, St. Claire Shores, Mich.
Platoon 4024, Argent was recruited by
Staff Sgt. R. Kirby and trained by Staff Sgt. E. B. Bonney

Pfc. L. Vasquez, Denver, Colo.
Platoon 4025, Vasquez was recruited by
Sgt. J. Muniz and trained by Staff Sgt. J. T. Lilly

Platoon 1056	Platoon 1057	Platoon 1058	Platoon 1060	Platoon 1061	Platoon 1062	Platoon 4024	Platoon 4025
Pvt. C. E. Allen	Pfc. D. M. Adams	Pfc. J. Barretomendez	Pvt. J. E. Abell	Pfc. J. K. Absher	Pvt. D. C. Belgrave	Pfc. T. N. Abdo	Pvt. O. A. Albert
Pfc. D. M. Andrews	Pvt. B. J. Artino	Pvt. J. L. Berrios	Pfc. M. I. Bagasao	Pvt. J. C. Allen	Pvt. J. A. Bernard	Pfc. S. A. Albin	Pfc. J. Aleshchenko
Pfc. K. A. Babcock	Pvt. C. M. Beard	Pfc. X. Q. Bonds	Pvt. C. L. Bair	Pvt. T. J. Archote	Pvt. A. P. Clark	Pfc. K. M. Argent	Pvt. Amadorgonzalez
Pfc. R. M. Barker	Pfc. M. G. Bellevue	Pvt. R. A. Brown	Pfc. W. Cho	Pvt. J. J. Arnone	Pfc. D. W. Clarke	Pfc. S. D. Atwood	Pvt. S. Arteaga
Pfc. M. A. Barnes	Pvt. B. A. Bradshaw	Pfc. S. P. Bucklew	Pvt. D. Covington III	Pfc. B. M. Bassett	Pvt. F. Cueto	Pvt. H. N. Banas	Pfc. S. E. Burgard
Pvt. E. Beck	Pfc. S. L. Chew	Pvt. K. Castroreyes	Pvt. A. D. Cravens	Pvt. N. S. Bengston	Pvt. N. E. Cullen	Pfc. T. M. Bragg	Pvt. B. N. Crona
Pfc. J. D. Belser	Pvt. R. J. Collins	Pvt. J. C. Curtiss	Pfc. K. M. Crouse	Pvt. D. L. Bethea Jr.	Pfc. V. J. Deluca IV	Pvt. A. A. Cameron	Pvt. J. I. Crowder
Pfc. K. Benitez Santos	Pvt. M. L. Cooper	Pfc. J. Dehorta	Pvt. J. H. Duong	Pvt. N. A. Burr	Pfc. M. Ferguson Jr	Pfc. J. R. Campos	Pvt. J. O. Davis
Pvt. D. J. Benjamin Jr.	Pfc. E. B. Creed	Pvt. J. R. Dindlebeck	Pvt. J. M. Dwyer	Pvt. R. A. Carroll IV	Pfc. D. G. Forde	Pfc. B. R. Clay	Pfc. J. Dejesus
Pvt. J. Burgamysosa	Pvt. D. C. Dwire	Pfc. A. M. Daugherty	Pvt. J. R. Fertig	Pvt. A. R. Chicaiza	Pvt. J. R. France	Pfc. F. M. Dago	Pfc. T. N. Diesel
Pfc. M. E. Callahan	Pvt. B. J. Engle	Pvt. M. D. Durham	Pfc. Z. L. Frazier	Pfc. M. A. Chilcott	Pfc. D. A. Freeman	Pvt. N. C. Feaser	Pfc. A. N. Dodson
Pfc. C. R. Caputo	Pvt. A. J. Ferguson	Pfc. J. M. Fell	Pfc. M. S. Gallivan	Pvt. D. Comisso	Pvt. K. M. Gibson	Pfc. S. R. Gibson	Pfc. S. A. Dodson
Pfc. P. V. Carelli Jr.	Pfc. B. M. Ferry	Pfc. K. D. Gutkowski	Pfc. J. D. Garneau	Pvt. K. R. Cushing	Pvt. C. A. Gilliam	Pfc. A. E. Gillespie	Pfc. J. D. Dunham
Pfc. D. J. Deal	Pfc. R. S. Fisher	Pvt. T. D. Hanson	Pfc. R. G. Hilt	Pvt. H. L. Dabich	Pvt. F. A. Gomez	Pfc. M. E. Greer	Pvt. E. J. Ferguson
Pfc. T. R. Duncan	Pvt. P. Georgiandis	Pvt. J. T. Johnson	Pfc. J. D. Garneau	Pvt. R. D. Dearden	Pfc. J. A. Griffith	Pvt. E. C. Hall	Pvt. K. C. Fryer
Pfc. D. K. Dupree	Pfc. A. F. Gingras	Pvt. A. Koroma	Pvt. C. R. Johnson	Pfc. R. R. Dibiagio	Pfc. D. N. Harmon	Pfc. V. D. Hall	Pvt. B. E. Gasca
Pvt. J. T. Evans	Pvt. A. O. Gray	Pfc. J. H. Kriner	Pvt. L. D. Jones	Pvt. D. M. Dison	Pvt. M. K. Hawkins	Pfc. B. S. Hawkins	Pfc. M. E. Geil
Pvt. R. G. Filio	Pfc. S. N. Graziano	Pfc. D. M. Kuester	Pfc. A. Johnsonliddell	Pvt. R. C. Doell Jr.	Pfc. B. E. Hebert	Pfc. X. Hernandez	Pfc. L. N. James
Pvt. D. Gallagher III	Pfc. J. K. Guill	Pvt. R. A. Laberge	Pvt. K. J. Lengyel	Pvt. E. S. Dorsey	Pvt. J. F. Idrobo	Pvt. B. N. Houle	Pvt. R. J. Jimenez
Pfc. J. R. Garrett	Pfc. A. G. Hernandez	Pvt. J. F. Land	Pfc. C. W. Lynch	Pvt. E. M. Dudziak	Pvt. C. J. Johnson	Pfc. D. E. Howell	Pfc. K. E. Johnson
Pvt. D. S. Gentry	Pvt. S. C. Holcomb	Pfc. J. M. Lane	Pvt. N. C. Mancebo	Pvt. S. S. Gaffney	Pvt. H. J. Kim	Pfc. E. M. Howze	Pvt. A. K. Kasper
Pvt. R. F. Harris	Pvt. D. C. Horen	Pfc. E. R. Leary	Pfc. R. K. Martinez	Pfc. S. E. Gallagher	Pvt. R. T. Leary	Pvt. D. N. Kalasz	Pvt. L. Lewis
Pvt. J. L. Hernandez	Pvt. M. H. Kirk	Pvt. J. A. Maldonado	Pvt. J. T. Mcilhenry	Pfc. B. Gjeloshi	Pfc. M. Linenkemper	Pfc. S. L. Karl	Pvt. B. E. Mcguigan
Pvt. Ma. A. Johnson	Pvt. P. D. Livesay	Pvt. K. D. Martin	Pvt. J. T. Mcilhenry	Pvt. S. A. Griggs	Pvt. T. D. Mariotti	Pfc. G. S. Lewis	Pvt. A. Morales
Pfc. Mi. A. Johnson	Pvt. A. J. Matney	Pvt. S. C. McClure	Pfc. M. Ortizfelipe	Pvt. D. B. Hatch Jr.	Pfc. P. E. Masterman	Pvt. C. A. Loontjer	Pvt. S. A. Moran
Pfc. A. A. Kennedy	Pvt. D. P. Mcnamara	Pfc. R. McCormick	Pfc. K. W. Peach	Pvt. J. M. Hecht	Pvt. A. J. Mcintosh	Pvt. I. Lopez	Pvt. H. B. Morris
Pfc. B. C. Mackinnon	Pfc. T. S. Moll	Pvt. B. H. Morrell	Pfc. J. L. Perry	Pvt. M. A. Little Jr.	Pvt. K. A. Mcnamara	Pfc. S. M. Martinez	Pfc. A. Murillo
Pfc. J. A. Major	Pfc. J. B. Moore	Pfc. R. B. Palmer	Pvt. D. N. Phillips	Pfc. D. P. Lockart	Pvt. E. N. Mire	Pvt. T. N. Mattear	Pfc. S. M. Parrot
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Pvt. D. D. Prescott	Pfc. M. A. Pntarich	Pvt. G. E. Quashie	Pfc. A. A. Rockman	Pvt. M. R. Mcgrath	Pvt. R. C. Owens	Pfc. L. M. Mckenzie	Pvt. E. A. Raddatz
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THE PARRIS ISLAND
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Chaplain's Corner

Satisfied

Chaplain Matthew Prince

Deputy RTR Chaplain

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." *John 6:35*

After five years in a good marriage and having two children, Penelope couldn't explain the sense of emptiness she was feeling. She had a great life. She had a loving husband, Roger. She had two wonderful children. She had a good job, a nice car and a beautiful home. Penelope had it all – the American dream. Yet, Penelope still craved something more and she could not put her finger on it.

One day Gloria, her neighbor, asked Penelope to attend a woman's night at her church. Gloria had asked in the past and Penelope had always said no, but this time Penelope went – perhaps just to get Gloria off her back. Perhaps because of that empty feeling inside of her.

That evening, the women at the church ate and talked and then the leader began the Bible study. She turned to *Matthew 5* and read these words from Jesus' sermon on the mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Penelope was startled. Is that my problem? She wondered. Is that why I feel so empty even when it looks like my life is so full? Am I hungering and thirsting for righteousness?

Everyone knows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty. In fact, we get hungry and thirsty at least three times a day - some of us maybe four or five times. Yet, after we eat and drink, we are satisfied at least until the next time.

But what if you ate, yet were always hungry. Or what if you drank but were never

filled? Many people are like this in the world. They are malnourished and dehydrated. They eat but feel empty. They drink but feel as if something is missing in their life. They are like the pirate in the first "Pirates of the Caribbean." He ate the apple but was never satisfied because he was the walking dead.

People are hungry and thirsty for righteousness. Many are starving and parched, even amid plenty. In their search for satisfaction, people stuff themselves with a steady diet of spiritual junk food. Sects and cults have never been more popular. People are gorging themselves on food with no nutritional value and guzzling drink that does not quench thirst. People seek gurus, read horoscopes and consult new age advisors, yet remain hungry. People are overweight today, yet dying from malnutrition. People are so busy that they fill up with the "Big Gulp" of family, work, school, activities but have no quiet time with God. They eat and drink food that is actually poisoning and killing them. And they plop down on the couch in front of a screen with 31 flavors of Baskin Robbins and have themselves a pity party.

You know how important it is to eat and drink properly. If you don't hydrate and eat your body will shut down. Your skin will become dry. Your urine will be a dark color. Your muscles will cramp. You may experience difficulty breathing or become disoriented. Your body temperature rises. At Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, drill instructors may stop recruit training because they are concerned with heatstroke or rhabdomyolysis, which could lead to kidney failure and even death. Proper food and water keep all of this from happening.

People were designed to be in a relationship with God. If they are not in that relationship, they will always feel empty. If you are not in that relationship, you will feel empty. Your body will shut down. It will in fact die eternally.

So what satisfies the hunger? Snickers? No. Only God, the bread of life, satisfies.

WORK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

medic with the 82nd Airborne Division, Obama said. During his tour, Colgin saved the life of a French soldier who was shot in the head, and helped 42 people escape from a flooding river.

"He earned a Bronze Star for his actions," the president said. "But when Nick got back home to Wyoming, he couldn't get a job as a first responder."

Colgin had to take classes he easily could have taught before he could get a civilian job with the same duties he performed daily in Afghanistan, Obama said.

"If you can save a life in Afghanistan, you can save a life in an ambulance in Wyoming," he said.

Administration officials said a new task force, led by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, will develop reforms, including a "reverse boot camp," to ensure service members receive the training, education, and credentials they need to transition to the civilian workforce or to pursue higher education.

"In addition, we'll make it easier for veterans to go to their local, one-stop career center and get help pursuing a career that fits them best. These steps will help bridge part of

the gap between veterans looking for work and companies looking to hire," the president said.

The Labor Department will establish the centers to deliver career development and job search services to transitioning veterans, administration officials said.

"But that's only part of the equation. The other half is about encouraging companies to do their part," Obama said.

As incentive to hire veterans, the president proposed a new "Returning Heroes" tax credit for companies that hire unemployed veterans, and an increase in the existing tax credit for hiring disabled veterans.

The Returning Heroes credit would offer a maximum of \$2,400 for every short-term and \$4,800 for every long-term unemployed veteran hire, officials said.

A "Wounded Warriors" tax credit would increase the existing credit for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed for six months or more to a maximum of \$9,600 per veteran, and up to \$4,800 for all other veterans with a service-connected disability, officials added.

"Finally, we're challenging the private sector to hire or train 100,000 unem-

ployed post-9/11 veterans or their spouses by the end of 2013," Obama said.

Many companies already have hired or committed to hiring veterans as part of the "Joining Forces" campaign championed by first lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, the president said.

"Siemens, for example, recently met their goal of hiring 300 veterans, so they're aiming to hire 150 more by December," he said. "Microsoft is helping more than 10,000 veterans get IT-certified over the next two years. And, today, groups from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to Accenture to Lockheed Martin have all agreed to do their part to help veterans get back in the workforce."

Joining Forces will lead the veteran-hiring effort with businesses and industry, the president said.

"Today we're saying to our veterans, 'You fought for us, and now we're fighting for you – for the jobs and opportunities that you need to keep your families strong and to keep America competitive in the 21st century,'" Obama said. "And at a time when there is so much work to be done in this country, we need everyone's help to do it."



OFF Limits

Establishments

Under the authority established by Marine Corps Order 1620.2D and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Order 1620.1A, several establishments within the vicinity of the Eastern Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Naval Hospital Beaufort have been declared off limits. Any military personnel from these locations found in any of the off limits establishments may be subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The off limits establishments include:

- The Gold Club on Speedway Boulevard in Hardeeville, S.C.
- Citgo Gas Station on Savannah Highway in Port Royal, S.C.
- Al's Barbershop on Parris Island Gateway in Beaufort, S.C.
- Sexy by Nature on Riverwalk Boulevard in Okatie, S.C.
- The Corner Store (ABC Liquor Store) on Robert Smalls Parkway in Beaufort S.C.

These establishments have been deemed off limits in response to reports of conditions which adversely affect the safety, welfare and good order and discipline of Tri-Command military personnel.



Frank Short, a veteran Marine who served on Iwo Jima with the 5th Marine Division, stands at attention as the Parris Island Marine Band plays the "Marines Hymn," during the Rogues Hollow Festival parade in Doylestown, Ohio Aug. 5.



Gunnery Sgt. David Wilson, drum major with the Parris Island Marine Band, leads the band in formation during the Timken Grand Parade in Canton, Ohio Aug. 6. While in Ohio, the band performed in two separate parades.

Parris Island Marine Band performs in Ohio

Story and photos by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco
Staff Writer

The Parris Island Marine Band performed patriotic tunes during the Rogues' Hollow Festival parade in Doylestown, Ohio Aug. 5 and the Timken Grand Parade in Canton, Ohio Aug. 6.

Thousands of locals gathered at both parade sites to see the band march while they performed songs such as "Battle Cry of Freedom," "Semper Fidelis" and "Marines Hymn."

"They looked and sounded amazing," said Dennis Toth, parade chairman for the Rogues' Hollow Festival Parade. "Some people out there were 85-90 years old. There was an elderly woman who struggled to stand up when she saw them coming – just to put her hand on her chest."

As the band made their way down the streets of Ohio, crowds moved in waves to stand up and clap as they marched past.

"Most of the people here are locals, but some came from hours away just to see these guys perform," Toth said.

At the end of the Rogues' Hollow Festival parade, Frank Short, a Marine veteran who served on Iwo Jima with the 5th Marine Division, awarded a plaque to the band as a token of the town's appreciation.

"When Frank was asked to give that plaque to the band, he said something like this is right up there with getting married and coming home from Iwo Jima to be with his family," Toth said. "He said it was one of the proudest moments of his life. He had tears in his

eyes as they were marching past him."

The band wowed the crowd once again with their performance in the Timken Grand Parade the following day.

"It really made me proud to watch our men and women in uniform march in this parade," said Virginia Seixas, a Canton resident who attended the parade. "My grandson absolutely loved them. Once he saw them, he dragged me with him to follow them all the way to the end of the parade."

"There's just nothing like a person in uniform," she added.

While the band marched and played in the both parades seamlessly, Staff Sgt. Alan Phillips, the enlisted conductor and a trumpet player, said there's a lot of work that goes into a performance to make sure it goes off without a hitch.

"We start working on these kind of gigs about two months out," Phillips said. "But these performances give me and the whole band a sense of pride. It's great to see the whole community come out and support us for the simple fact that we're Marines."

"My favorite part of these performances is to see all of the [veterans] out there," Phillips said. "They're part of our Corps' history, and it makes me feel proud to know that we're also going to be a part of that history."

Similarly, Phillips said he couldn't be more proud of the band's performances in Ohio.

"We knocked it out of the ball park with these performances," Phillips said. "The Marines represented this band really well. We definitely left our mark on Ohio."



The Parris Island Marine Band marches in formation as they play patriotic tunes during the Timken Grand Parade in Canton, Ohio Aug. 6.



The Parris Island Marine Band marches in the Timken Grand Parade while performing patriotic tunes in Canton, Ohio Aug. 6.



Cpl. Ben McNichol, a trumpet player with the Parris Island Marine Band, plays the "Marines Hymn" as he marches in formation during the Rogues' Hollow Festival parade in Doylestown, Ohio Aug. 5.



Doylestown, Ohio, locals clap to the music of the Parris Island Marine Band as they march down one of the town's main roads Aug. 5. More than 4,000 people attended the Rogues' Hollow Festival parade and saw the band perform.

LATIN ROOTS HELP 'CARLOS' COMPANY MARINES SUCCEED IN HELMAND

Story and photos by
Cpl. Adam Leyendecker
// MEF (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Through the course of the recent Iraq wars, and now in Afghanistan, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, has literally grown up together, using their experiences from back home to unite and strengthen them on the battlefield.

Since deploying this past winter, Co. C has provided security in the area around Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province and made advancements in establishing relationships with local villagers.

Co. C, nicknamed 'Carlos', is a reserve unit from Corpus Christi and Harlingen, Texas. The Marines of Carlos Co. credit their common background as a contributor to their success. Unlike active duty Marines, who often switch units every three to four years, reservists typically stay with the same unit longer, so the company is full of familiar faces to the average Marine.

"Marines from our company are from Texas, we all have jobs in Texas, we have family in Texas, and we all train together in Texas," said Staff Sgt. Israel Maldonado, platoon commander for Headquarters Platoon, Carlos Co., and a native of Weslaco, Texas.

"We see each other all the time and stay together throughout our careers."

While the company shares a geographic tie, the Marines also share a cultural understanding. Ninety percent of Carlos Co. shares some form of Latino heritage, Maldonado said. The Marines get together for cook-outs and other functions on a weekly basis with one another back home. Several Marines in the company are related in some way, while others went to school together or played high school sports against one another.

The similarities don't end there. Many of the Marines in Carlos Co. are in some kind of law enforcement back in Texas. Almost all of them speak Spanish fluently.

Maldonado, who has been with the company for 10 years, played football

and attended grade school with Gunnery Sgt. Mario Moreno, platoon sergeant for 1st platoon. Maldonado and Moreno have taken their sons together to watch their favorite National Football League team, the Dallas Cowboys.

"Marines naturally are able to adapt and overcome together, but this particular unit is unique in that they all already know each other and have grown together," said 2nd Lt. Edward E. Arrington, platoon commander for 2nd platoon.

The Marines focus much of their training back home in Texas on infantry tactics, such as shooting ranges and land navigation. In addition to already being acclimated to the dry heat of Helmand province thanks to the similar climate back home, the Marines say this training has helped them be successful during this deployment.

"I don't know any company as close as Charlie Co.," said 1st Sgt. David M. Dyess, company first sergeant for Carlos Co. "Nobody can come between these Marines and their mission. They all know what [one] another is thinking."

The Marines in Carlos Co. deploy for their brother to the left and right of them, Maldonado said, whose son attends the school alongside children of other Marines in the company.

"Morale is very high here, and we help lift each other up," he explained. "We can literally ask how someone's family is doing because we actually know everyone's family on a personal level."

The Marines have remained close during their deployment, which may be a reason they've suffered no serious casualties despite hitting several improvised explosive devices and encountering insurgent attacks during their tour.

The company has managed operations around Camp Leatherneck, the largest coalition base in Helmand province, and has successfully limited any insurgent activities in the area.

Marines with Carlos Co. are scheduled to return to their families in the Lone Star state in the near future. However, most of the Marines will remain in touch with one another as friends, family or neighbors, until their next call to duty.



Marines with Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, talk with a local village elder outside Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, July 13. Many Marines with Company C, affectionately known as "Carlos," grew up together back in Texas.



Sgt. Felix Alvarez Jr., a vehicle commander with Company C and a native of Edinburg, Texas, provides security during Operation Frank Jr. outside of Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, July 13.



Marines with the Houston-based 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, patrol toward a compound of interest during Operation Frank Jr., in south Habib Abad, Helmand Province, July 13. During the operation, the Marines pushed through the battalion's area of operations to link up with British troops and search for suspicious activity.

More of the story



Photos by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Colonel Jimmie Leach Memorial Chapter salute the posting of the colors at a Purple Heart ceremony at the Peatross Parade Deck Aug. 8. Members of the organization are all wounded combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



Members of the MOPH place a wreath at the Purple Heart Monument during a ceremony on the Peatross Parade Deck Aug. 8.

CEREMONY

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wounded veterans from past and present conflicts," said Glenn Blackburn, former commander of the chapter.

Col. Benjamin Blankenship, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island operations officer, followed with a speech.

"We're truly honored and humbled to have you come out here today," Blankenship said, speaking to the veterans.

Members of the chapter, wounded combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, laid a wreath at the Purple Heart Memorial.

After the laying of the wreath a moment of silence followed, while a

chapel bell was slowly rung. Afterward a bugler played taps.

"This ceremony serves to remind us all of the sacrifices that have been made by service members," Blackburn said. "Especially those who have been in harm's way and been wounded or killed."

At the end of the ceremony, after the colors had been retired, Sgt. Maj. Dwayne Farr, Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major, played his rendition of "Amazing Grace" on the bag pipes.

"This ceremony not only recognizes those service members who have been wounded or killed in combat but also the valor and fidelity of all service members," Latendresse said.



Ruben Cedeno, a Marine veteran and member of the MOPH posts the national purple heart flag during the ceremony.