

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



See Kilo and November Company graduates

Page 2

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Kilo takes first steps in right direction



Page 6

Photo by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Rct. Austin Cottingham (left), a Bristow, Va., native, and Rct. James Salvo (right), a Philadelphia native, both with Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, practice land navigation skills at Elliot's Beach, Dec. 20. Land navigation is part of the Basic Warrior Training week of recruit training.

November Company sharpens combat marksmanship skills

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

"With a magazine of 11 rounds, load and make a 'condition-one weapon,'" shouted the Marine over the speakers at Khe Sahn rifle range. Each recruit from November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion burned through 120 rounds during their first

day of combat marksmanship shooting, Dec. 22. Every recruit must qualify on the first and second stages of firing before advancing in training and earning the title Marine. "All the initial knowledge and information I give them, they'll need for the second stage of fire and for combat. So this is intended for the rest of their Marine Corps

career," said Sgt. Matthew Santiago, a combat marksmanship trainer. "They're going to walk away with the skills to save their own and their buddies' lives with close-combat marksmanship." Before recruits fire a round, they sit through classes and learn about the weapons they will fire and the life of a 5.56 millimeter

SEE NOVEMBER PAGE 5



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Shawn Reed, a 19-year-old native of Beaufort, S.C., and recruit from Platoon 3000, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, keeps a low profile while crawling during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 22.

Parris Island EMT earns his EGA

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

A Beaufort, S.C., resident was born again from the sands of Parris Island when he earned his Eagle, Globe and Anchor, Jan. 7. Rct. Shawn Reed, Platoon 3000, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, lived in Beaufort and worked on Parris Island as an apprentice Emergency Medical Technician before he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

"My boss and family members worked on the island," Reed said. "I often came to the island and did hands-on training with the EMT at the fire station here." Reed said frequently seeing Marines around Beaufort and recruits on the island motivated him to change his career path and enlist. "Being from Beaufort, I saw the respect and prestige Marines were given, and I

SEE EMT PAGE 3



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits with November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, line up in front of their targets during the second stage of rifle qualification, Dec. 22, at the rifle range on Parris Island.

NEWS BRIEFS

Notice to Mariners

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training Jan. 18 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 228-3170.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Afghan troops become combat medics
Page 4



11th MEU learns safety on ship
Page 7



Recon Marines prepare for worst
Page 8

KILO AND NOVEMBER COMPANY GRADUATES

Kilo Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. R. A. GomezGarcia, Yonkers, N.Y.
Platoon 3000, GomezGarcia was recruited by
Sgt. Brodmerkel and trained by Staff Sgt. Roes

Pfc. J. W. Edwards, Fort Myers, Fla.
Platoon 3002, Edwards was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Christie III and trained by Gunnery Sgt. Justice

Pfc. Z. W. Franks, Newton, Mass.
Platoon 3005, Franks was recruited by
Sgt. Hoffman and trained by Staff Sgt. Downing

Pfc. C. G. Seaford, Aberdeen, N.C.
Platoon 3001, Seaford was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Morgan and trained by Gunnery Sgt. Jenkins

Pfc. D. A. Washington Jr., Toledo, Ohio
Platoon 3004, Washington was recruited by
Sgt. Robinson and trained by Sgt. Butler

Pfc. C. J. Riley, Clinton, N.J.
Platoon 3006, Riley was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Brown and trained by Staff Sgt. Files

November Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. R.D. Robles, Gilroy, Calif.
Platoon 4000, Robles was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Rocha and trained by Staff Sgt. Pacheco

Pfc. K. D. Butts, Maple Heights, Ohio
Platoon 4001, Butts was recruited by
Sgt. Hudson and trained by Sgt. Achterberg

Platoon 3000

Pvt. I. C. Amicarelle, Pvt. E. W. Anderson, Pvt. R. T. Animashaun, Pfc. C. D. BarajasValencia, Pvt. C. J. Batchelor, Pfc. P. R. Behnke, Pvt. J. A. Bielenin, Pfc. S. A. Boothe, Pvt. W. J. Bostic, Pvt. P. B. Boyle, Pvt. T. L. Brewer, Pvt. J. T. Brown, Pvt. B. A. Burns, Pvt. M. A. Cameron, Pvt. Z. A. Chapman, Pfc. N. L. Cheatham, Pvt. A. D. Clementson, Pfc. J. C. Cogo, Pvt. J. K. Cool, Pvt. B. M. Dees, Pvt. D. T. Dehoff, Pvt. E. Desanctis, Pvt. G. R. Douglas, Pvt. J. E. Dozier, Pvt. N. T. Eidem, Pvt. D. R. Ellis, Pvt. E. A. Fleming, Pfc. R. A. GomezGarcia, Pvt. A. C. Green, Pvt. Z. C. Green, Pvt. T. M. Hendrix, Pvt. W. N. Hinkebein, Pvt. C. G. Keenan, Pvt. H. W. Kennard, Pvt. D. A. Kessler, Pvt. D. T. Krohn, Pfc. B. R. Lawson III, Pvt. M. V. Le, Pvt. R. W. Lue, Pvt. K. B. McCree, Pvt. C. A. McNeal, Pvt. K. C. Meehan, Pvt. J. F. MendozaDones, Pvt. P. S. Miller, Pfc. S. M. Mohamed II, Pfc. J. R. Moore, Pvt. J. N. Noel Jr., Pfc. A. D. Patterson, Pfc. C. R. Pharis, Pvt. J. H. Posey, Pvt. H. B. Ramsey, Pvt. S. C. Reed, Pfc. C. J. Reeder, Pvt. K. RiveraDelgado, Pvt. S. D. Roach, Pvt. P. A. Robinson, Pvt. R. W. Seibert, Pvt. J. A. Sennholtz, Pvt. D. E. Serra, Pvt. D. A. Simmons, Pvt. M. A. Smith, Pfc. V. D. Smith, Pfc. M. S. Smith, Pvt. Z. S. Strength, Pfc. A. C. Whitt

Platoon 3001

Pvt. R. W. Abell, Pvt. C. A. Baker, Pvt. F. M. Barker, Pvt. A. R. Bourne, Pvt. D. J. Bradley Jr., Pfc. J. R. Britt, Pvt. C. M. Bruce, Pfc. S. G. Bruton, Pvt. M. J. Cameron, Pvt. A. D. Cooper Jr., Pvt. B. J. Crotsley, Pvt. J. M. Dickey, Pfc. D. F. Eldridge Jr., Pvt. T. W. Engstrom II, Pfc. R. B. Flack, Pvt. J. V. Flora, Pvt. C. B. Fors, Pvt. B. W. Gordon, Pvt. J. L. Graham, Pvt. J. E. Guess III, Pfc. M. E. Hall, Pfc. J. E. Hammons, Pvt. D. L. Harmon III, Pfc. D. P. Helmer II, Pfc. C. A. Hinnant, Pvt. K. D. Hoover, Pvt. S. D. Hughes, Pvt. J. K. Johnson, Pvt. C. B. Jones, Pvt. J. D. Kaylor, Pvt. D. R. Kiser, Pvt. J. T. Long, Pvt. D. D. Matthews Jr., Pfc. D. L. McCarter Jr., Pvt. D. R. McGinnis, Pvt. A. T. McKenith, Pfc. K. P. Murdoch, Pfc. D. L. Murphy, Pfc. J. G. O'Dell, Pvt. K. M. Perkins, Pvt. Z. S. Pinson, Pvt. M. T. Pounds, Pfc. R. D. Ray, Pvt. B. M. Reynolds, Pvt. A. W. RomanoCaruso II, Pfc. N. J. Russo, Pfc. C. G. Seaford, Pfc. J. W. Seaman, Pvt. T. A. Shevlin, Pfc. J. G. Stroh, Pvt. H. J. Swaney, Pvt. C. P. Thompson, Pfc. E. J. Thorsen, Pvt. N. A. Torres Jr., Pfc. R. M. Vance, Pfc. J. E. Varnell Jr., Pvt. B. M. Vernon, Pvt. J. A. Vicars, Pvt. K. A. Weaver, Pvt. J. D. White, Pfc. N. P. Williamson, Pfc. S. J. Wingerter, Pfc. C. S. Winterton, Pvt. P. R. Woodard, Pfc. C. M. Yarborough

Platoon 3002

Pvt. A. M. Addario, Pvt. E. Agbenor, Pvt. R. A. AlvarezMuniz, Pvt. C. A. Aupont, Pfc. L. D. Babilya, Pvt. M. C. Bacotti, Pvt. R. BaezDiaz, Pfc. D. E. Bottoni, Pfc. D. A. BravoOrtiz, Pvt. M. G. Campbell, Pvt. D. J. Canty, Pvt. V. A. Castillo, Pvt. D. J. Coderre, Pfc. A. Colon, Pfc. M. A. Cook, Pfc. C. C. Creswell, Pfc. D. L. Davis, Pfc. J. R. Deighan, Pvt. R. D. Dempsey, Pvt. D. D. Densten, Pfc. J. W. Edwards, Pfc. H. F. Ferrenberg Jr., Pvt. S. A. Fitzgerald, Pvt. J. W. Fitzwater, Pvt. T. L. Fletcher, Pvt. W. F. Fox IV, Pfc. A. W. Gabriel, Pvt. T. W. George, Pvt. J. E. Goldsmith, Pvt. E. P. Guaman, Pvt. A. A. Hahn, Pvt. J. C. Harman, Pvt. A. P. Headley Jr., Pvt. J. C. Hebblethwaite, Pvt. T. J. Hill, Pvt. I. C. Hobbs, Pfc. E. N. Hogge, Pvt. N. J. Horner, Pvt. A. S. Jenkins, Pvt. S. H. Kim, Pvt. W. J. Kima, Pvt. K. J. Lawrence, Pfc. L. E. LeonDelacruz, Pfc. S. A. MacLaughlin, Pfc. J. R. Martz, Pfc. A. J. Massart, Pfc. H. Z. Matthews, Pvt. L. MayendiaDelacruz, Pfc. D. T. Medford, Pfc. A. W. Miller, Pfc. B. Nguyen, Pvt. C. S. Overmyer, Pfc. C. A. Payton, Pvt. H. G. PerezRivera, Pvt. E. J. Pocatko, Pvt. A. P. Requimin, Pvt. E. D. Reynolds, Pfc. T. T. Reynolds, Pvt. B. E. Richardson, Pvt. F. A. Ruiz III, Pfc. A. SantiagoSegarra, Pvt. J. P. Smith, Pfc. M. C. Smith, Pfc. A. M. Valladares, Pfc. R. A. Vance, Pvt. C. E. Wells

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Platoon 4001

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THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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MCRD Parris Island
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More of the story



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Rct. Shawn Reed, a 19-year-old native of Beaufort, S.C., and recruit from Platoon 3000, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through trenches and under barbed wire during Basic Warrior Training at Page Field, Dec. 22.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wanted to be a part of that," Reed said.

He added said outsiders seeing recruit training can get a small glimpse into what it could be like going through training.

"There is a mythical element to recruit training," said Gunnery Sgt. Joel F. Carden Jr., Kilo Company chief drill instructor. "And when someone is around it all the time, it loses its mythical edge and it's easy to forget what the recruits are going through."

Even with his experiences of seeing and hearing what recruits do, nothing can truly prepare someone for how challenging recruit training can and will be, Reed said.

"I thought I knew a decent amount of the island and the training, and I thought it would be easier for me. I was wrong," Reed said. "Going through as a recruit

is a lot harder than I thought, and it has given me a lot more respect for the process."

Reed said his fellow recruits were constantly asking him about the island hoping to get insight into what was coming next.

Despite knowing the island very well after years of living just beyond the only connecting bridge, Reed admitted to not knowing what to expect.

"I know when we go somewhere where we are, but I can never guess what's coming next," Reed said. "They are constantly challenging us and surprising us."

Reed said that even though his journey here was more difficult than he had anticipated, it was well worth the struggle.

"I have more respect now for everything Marines do," Reed said. "I can't wait to walk across the parade deck and see my family in the stands."



Rct. Shawn Reed checks a wall for traps before climbing over it.



Rct. Shawn Reed crawls through trenches and under barbed wire.

Afghan soldiers complete combat medic course

Cpl. Alfred Lopez
1st Marine Division

CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Army in southern Helmand has added newly certified combat medics to its ranks.

Twenty-one soldiers with various kandaks, or battalions, of the 1st ANA Brigade, 215th Corps, graduated from the brigade's inaugural combat medics course, Jan. 7.

Throughout the five-week course, instructors taught the eager ANA soldiers preventive medicine, supply procedures, patient aftercare and clinic operations and procedures, using hands-on, practical application methods.

"We also taught the soldiers how to treat patients at the point of injury," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Israel Rosa, a medical advisor with the Regimental Combat

Team 5 embedded training team and 26-year-old native of Stanton, Texas.

In addition to on-scene combat lifesaving techniques, students learned how to request a medical evacuation and provide continued care en-route to the next echelon of care.

"The medics have learned a basic skill set to provide critical care on the battlefield," said Chief Petty Officer Rob Longbottom, a chief medical advisor with Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and 35-year-old native of Alton, Ill. "They should strive now to develop this skill and share their knowledge with their peers."

The combat medic course is in the process of becoming an ANA operated course as the brigade's Marine and Navy advisors gradually shift into more of a supporting role.

"Now that we have successfully completed the first course, we can fine tune it and move forward with the next phase," explained Rosa.

The medical advisors selected two potential instructors from soldiers who demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the concept of combat lifesaving.

"Not only did they understand and demonstrate proficiency with basic medic skills, they also had an understanding of why certain procedures are done," Longbottom said. "They understand the 'reason behind the rhyme,' which is an important trait to possess as an instructor."

The completion of the course provides the brigade and its kandaks with more soldiers capable of providing critical, lifesaving care for their fellow soldiers operating in southern Helmand.

"The medics course will help us become more independent," explained Maj. Abdul Baqi, the surgeon in charge of medical operations with 1/215. "We will be able to treat our own soldiers with our own medics."



Photos by Cpl. Alfred Lopez

Afghan National Army medics with the 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, escort two ANA patients (center) toward an Afghan Air Force helicopter at a landing pad in Helmand province, Dec. 28, 2011. The two patients were part of the first independent Afghan National Security Forces medical evacuation.



Afghan National Army medics escort two ANA patients into an Afghan Air Force helicopter.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Recruits from November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, line up after a live-fire exercise at the rifle range on Parris Island, Dec. 22. The recruits fired their rifles for the second stage of rifle qualification, which is designed to be more combat oriented by making shooters wear helmets, equipment harnesses and body armor while firing at a close range.

NOVEMBER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

round after it has been fired.

The importance of them learning their introductory firing is because the Corps prides itself on every Marine being a rifleman, said Santiago, a 27-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y., native.

"The good part is that it's instant results. I'll get to see how they shoot the very next day," he added.

The three-day training event begins with a day of classes, followed by firing and ending with qualifications the third day.

"I consider this (course of fire) more important because the majority of combat marksmanship will be close combat," Santiago said.

Even in the classrooms, recruits are put into the combat mindset, he said. They wear all of the gear required to fire on the range as they learn more about the weapons they will fire.

Because shooting usually lasts about half a day, the recruits' drill instructors often pass on some of their own knowledge from their experiences once they return to their squad bays.

While firing, recruits have their equipment harnesses, Kevlar helmets, cartridge belts, tactical slings and flak jackets.

"With all the gear they're carrying, handling the rifle is a big difference," said Staff Sgt. Sara Pacheco, senior drill instructor of Platoon 4000. "The drill instructors teach them that their weapons are a part of them – that their weapons are their best friends and they should be comfortable with them."

Some recruits felt they benefitted from the tips and tricks given by their range coaches and drill instructors.

"I've become a lot more comfortable with my weapon since I first shot it," said Rct. Kiara Orosco, with Platoon 4000. "Every Marine is a rifleman. So we should be prepared for any type of situation."



A November Company recruit waits on the firing line to shoot.



Recruits fire thousands of rounds during the second stage of rifle qualification.



A range coach checks a recruit's rifle to make sure the barrel is free of rounds.



A recruit holds a magazine of rounds against the buttstock of her rifle while waiting to fire on the range.

Kilo Company keeps on right path

Lance Cpl.
F. J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Kilo Company recruits learned how to find their way from "Point A" to "Point B" the old-fashioned way during Basic Warrior Training, Dec. 20, 2011.

With compasses, protractors and maps in hand, they learned to

navigate the unknown land around them.

"It's important for them to learn. That way they have that basic knowledge and skills before they get to [the School of Infantry]," said Cpl. Stewart Richardson, lead land navigation instructor.

"We're not always going to have a GPS when we're [deployed]," he

said. "Sometimes the batteries go dead or they break, so we have to bring in our compasses and maps to find our way around."

Richardson said land navigation is an in-depth process and takes time to be understood. The recruits spend half the day learning how to read maps, plot grid points on a map, find the distances between points and find the azimuths.

An azimuth is a unit of measurement used to determine the angle of movement, Richardson continued. In the afternoon, they put their skills to the test, find plotted points and write down the number painted on the ammunition can at the spot. The recruits must get two out of the three numbers correct to pass.

Not everyone can easily take what was taught and apply it in the field, said Richardson.

"Every little detail can change the course and where we end up," said Rct. James Salvo, Platoon 3005 and a 19-year-old from Philadelphia.

Salvo said mastering land navigation is important because one day it could save his life or others.

"If you need to be at a certain location at a certain time and you're off a few degrees, that could



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Sgt. Robbie Payne (right), lead Basic Warrior Training instructor, double checks Kilo Company recruits' plotted points, Dec. 20 at Elliot's Beach.

be the difference between being able to help someone out in the field or not," he said.

As outdated as land

navigation may seem, it is still an essential part in becoming a Marine.

"The Marine Corps is an expeditionary force

in readiness," Salvo said. "They deploy to anywhere in the world. You need to be ready to go anywhere at any time."



Recruits work on their land navigation skills in groups during Basic Warrior Training.



Rct. Nicholas Depriest, 24-year-old Lafayette, La., native aligns his fellow recruit to the sight on the compass to make sure the group was going the right direction.

Pushing past Workman's Weaver

Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, weaved their way toward the end of recruit training, Jan. 5 during the Crucible at Page Field.

Platoon 3001 took their turn completing the Workman's Weaver, an obstacle designed to challenge their ability to work as a unit.

"The purpose of the weaver is to assert some teamwork, communication skills and see how the recruits work together," said Gunnery Sgt. Randall Barlow, a drill instructor for the platoon.

The weaver, like many of the other Crucible events, forced the recruits to function as a team in a stressful situation and come together to accomplish the goal.

In this instance, recruits were instructed to transport weighted ammunition cans, their rifles and every member of the team through a series of logs. The logs are set up at an even incline and decline, making a large triangle with a safety net under the obstacle.

The recruits had to "weave" their way through the obstacle, meaning that they climbed over the top of one log and under the next, continuing the pattern until they reached their end.

"Figuring out how to get started was the hardest part," said Rct. Christopher Seaford, a 27-year-old Rochester, N.Y., native. "Once we got a groove and knew what was going on, it was all good from there."

The group took a few minutes to discuss the situation they faced. After preparing, they put their rifles away in stacks. They decided to climb the length of the weaver and then pass everything along, like an assembly line. Some recruits stood watch around the obstacle, while the rest prepared to climb

the weaver.

The fastest and strongest recruits were sent first. They quickly maneuvered through the weaver, ascending, then descending, the course.

"The plan started pretty well, but we weren't going fast enough," said Rct. Nathan Williamson, a 20-year-old Aberdeen, N.C., native.

Rolling over and under the logs took its toll on the recruits.

"There were more than a few times when I felt like giving up because my forearms and calves were sore, but I had to push through the pain," Williamson said.

If anyone failed the mission, he was not just letting himself down, he was also slowing down the group, Seaford said.

"You are not thinking about the pain," Seaford said. "You have to think of the platoon."

The recruits were able to efficiently implement their plan to finish the mission.

With one recruit on each log, they would simply pass the gear through the logs. The plan worked, and everything was passed through the course and nothing was dropped.

"They were working together and really had the desire to finish the obstacle," Barlow said.

As the recruits finished maneuvering through the course, they suddenly realized the recruits at the end were tired and needed help. The recruits that had finished could not climb the obstacle again, even if another person needed help getting over the last few logs.

In the end, the final member of the group, who was exhausted, failed to make it through the obstacle.

The recruits had come close to finishing the event, but not thinking out the plan sufficiently caused them to ultimately fail. Still, this was only halfway through the first day, and they had many more opportunities to prove that they could make it through and earn the title of Marine.



Photos by Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes

Recruits from Platoon 3001, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, pass rifles to one another over the Workman's Weaver, Jan. 5 during the Crucible. The weaver is one of the obstacles recruits originally saw on the Confidence Course earlier in training.



Kilo Company recruits pass an ammunition can under one of the weaver's logs. The cans weigh more than 30 pounds.



Kilo Company recruits ascend the Weaver, Jan. 5 during the Crucible.



Photos by Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans practice donning firefighting gear on the flight deck, Jan. 5 during firefighting training. The 11th MEU is currently deployed as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group as the U.S. Central Command theater reserve force.

11th MEU Marines learn shipboard damage control



▲ Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Nightengale teaches the Marines how to use an on-ship emergency fire hose.

Petty Officer 1st Class James Reams teaches the Marines how to properly wear an oxygen mask. ▶



Senior Chief Petty Officer Lawrence Lopez talks to Marines about the different safety aspects they were learning about.

Cpl. Ryan Carpenter
11th Marine Expeditionary Unit

ARABIAN SEA – Approximately 30 Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit learned emergency ship repair and firefighting skills aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans, Jan. 5 during a firefighting exercise.

Chief Petty Officer Jody Schilling, damage control chief for the ship, said the Marines were trained to augment the Navy's capabilities in case of emergencies.

The Marines' strength and quick decision making can be applied to damage control, he said.

"We have twice as many Marines on board as we do Navy," said Schilling. "We want to combine their skill set with ours and make a more effective team."

Instructors taught fire hose handling, donning firefighting gear, pipe patching and dewatering, a process that uses hoses and water pressure to create a vacuum and pump out water.

Schilling said his goal is to train a new group of Marines on basic

damage control every month.

Machine gunner Lance Cpl. Justin Mischloney said it's important for the Marines to know these skills.

Mischloney serves with L Company, 3rd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment, which serves as the battalion landing team for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"Marines are everywhere on the ship," said the 23-year-old Alpena, Mich., native. "No matter where something happens, there is going to be a Marine there to give a hand to the Navy."



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RECON MARINES, SAILOR CONDUCT CASUALTY-EVACUATION DRILLS

Photos by Sgt. Elyssa Quesada

Reconnaissance Marines with 3rd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment, which serves as the battalion landing team for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, carry a simulated casualty from a CH-46E Sea Knight with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 aboard USS Makin Island, Jan. 5 during a casualty-evacuation drill.

Sgt. Elyssa Quesada
11th Marine Expeditionary Unit

ARABIAN SEA – Reconnaissance Marines and a corpsman with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, which serves as the battalion landing team for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, participated in a casualty-evacuation drill aboard USS Makin Island in the Arabian Sea, Jan. 5 supported by a CH-46E Sea Knight from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268.

The drill built confidence and prepared team members to care for a casualty and return him safely to the ship, said platoon sergeant Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence T. O'Connor.

“Rehearsing as a team is important because we want everyone to come back alive,” said Cpl. Ryan Finn is native to Prague native and serves as a team medic. “We operate in small teams, and knowing the corpsman’s job allows us to take care of each other and provide aid when needed.”

The groups sustained simulated casualties, and each had 30 minutes to assess the patient, provide aid, call in air support for an evacuation, and provide extended care while traveling in a CH-46E before landing aboard Makin Island.

“It was a good opportunity for them to train under a stressful environment,” said O'Connor. “It opened up their eyes to realities they could face on a battlefield.”

Wounded team members wore makeup to give the training a sense of realism. Team medics tended to simulated amputated limbs, chest wounds and gunshot wounds while team members called in backup and provided security.

“Overall, the training was successful,” said Cpl. Peter Matlock, Matlock, 22, a San Francisco native, serves as radio operator for the platoon. “We were able to build more trust within the team and the medical field. We always train for the worst because if our medic or corpsman were to become a casualty, we can fill their spot and provide aid for the injured.”



Cpl. Ryan Finn provides aid for a simulated patient aboard a CH-46E Sea Knight.



Cpl. Christopher Collins provides security aboard USS Makin Island, Jan. 5 during a casualty-evacuation drill.



Sgt. Richard Eldemire calls in a CH-46E Sea Knight to evacuate a simulated casualty.