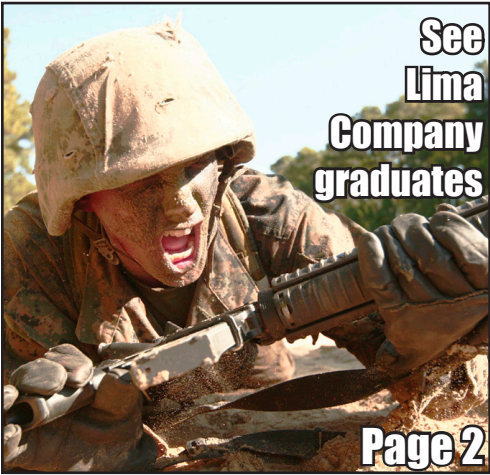


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



www.thebootonline.com www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland www.marines.com

Lima Co. recruits walk their post

Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Staff Writer

Marines watch over their base by continuously patrolling the perimeter and protecting it from possible threats, a skill they first learn during recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

From the first day of training, recruits take hourlong shifts, known as “fire watches,” making sure their squad bays are safe. During second phase, the bar is raised by having the recruits guard the entire battalion area, as well.

Interior guard requires the recruits to patrol in pairs, around each company at night, always keeping alert and challenging anyone they see during patrols.

“This is their time to show us everything we’ve taught them, all the procedures they have to take when commanding a post,” said Sgt. Jose Berrios, a drill instructor for Platoon 3013, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

When recruits see



Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

SEE GUARD PAGE 4

Rct. Adrian Ramsey, an 18-year-old from Philadelphia, ensures recruit gear is secured, Jan. 11, during interior guard training.

Officer candidate recruiters meet

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Public Affairs Chief

The Marines who find the future officers of the Corps kicked off 2012 by reflecting on the past year during their annual conference in Leesburg, Va., Jan. 9-10.

Seventy-four officer selection officers – including 39 from the Eastern Recruiting Region headquartered on Parris Island – used the event to recognize success and compare notes on how they attacked one of their highest priorities.

“The biggest challenge for last year was diversity,” said Maj. Christian

M. Kelley, assistant for officer procurement for 6th Marine Corps District, responsible for recruiting in the South.

After becoming commandant of the Marine Corps in 2010, Gen. James F. Amos directed recruiters to improve diversity throughout the officer ranks.

“The intent is to make the future of the Marine Corps mirror the future of American society,” said Capt. Connor Wentling, who works in the region’s officer procurement section.

During the conference, Amos re-emphasized the importance of building an officer force compara-

tive to the demographics of the nation as a whole.

“We have a connectedness to the American people that no other service has,” said Amos in a video message. “A diverse force helps guarantee our connectedness to the American people.”

In 2011, the Corps surpassed its goal of 1,650 candidates by commissioning 1,663 officers. Of those, 85 were black, 122 Hispanic and 99 from other minority groups, according to a Marine Corps Recruiting Command article from September 2011.

The Marine Corps is in-

SEE OFFICER PAGE 5



Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Rct. Andrew Sanctis, Platoon 3010, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, listens for the next set of orders from his drill instructor during drill practice, Jan. 24, at the battalion’s parade deck.

Recruit forgoes commission, enlists

Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer

A Marine from Platoon 3010, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, will graduate recruit training today, older and more experienced than many of his peers.

Pfc. Andrew Sanctis felt ready. He set off for recruit training at the age of 27 with numerous skills that he used to help him earn the title of Marine.

“I wanted to go into the military because of the opportunities it would open up for me,” said Sanctis, of Dayton, Ohio. “If I was going to go the military route, I wanted to be a part of the elite group – the Marines.”

Before he enlisted, he was a martial arts instructor while earning his bachelor’s degree. He began learning martial arts during college and obtained a black belt in jiu-jitsu and judo.

Through martial arts training and teaching, he said he gained patience, bearing, physical endurance and mental stamina.

“He’s definitely very mature,” said Staff Sgt. Javier Corcino, Sanctis’ senior drill instructor. “He’s been very focused since he got here.”

Although he loves teaching and martial arts, he said his passion is law enforcement, which is why he enlisted into the Corps to become a military

SEE ENLISTS PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Celebrating 69 years of female training

A celebration for the 69th anniversary of women in the Marine Corps is scheduled to take place Monday at the 4th Recruit Training Battalion on Parris Island from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

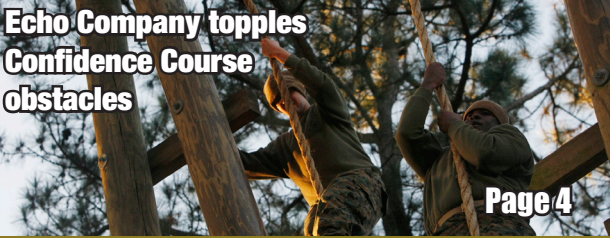
The day’s events include a morning colors ceremony, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, demonstrations, tours of the depot and squad bay and a time-capsule ceremony.

Notice to boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training Monday from 6 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edging 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



LIMA COMPANY GRADUATES

Company Honor Graduates

Pfc. Z. H. Davenport, Bladenboro, N.C.
Platoon 3008, Davenport was recruited by
Sgt. Rohr and trained by Sgt. Williams Jr.

Pfc. A. T. Jones, Piedmont, Ala.
Platoon 3009, Jones was recruited by
Sgt. Hammac and trained by Staff Sgt. Curry

Pfc. E. J. Mejia, Miami
Platoon 3010, Mejia was recruited by
Sgt. Beuno and trained by Staff Sgt. Corcino

Pfc. T. L. Chambers, Bluffton, S.C.
Platoon 3012, Chambers was recruited by
Sgt. Jennings and trained by Sgt. Johnson

Pfc. R. C. Bordi, Blackwood, N.J.
Platoon 3013, Bordi was recruited by
Staff Sgt. Griffis and trained by Sgt. Bogart

Platoon 3008

Pvt. N. E. Adams, Pfc. R. A. Alsept, Pvt. K. B. Anderson, Pfc. J. T. Bigford, Pvt. H. K. Blalock, Pvt. J. B. Bramlett, Pvt. B. E. Branbonilla, Pvt. L. C. Brantley Jr. , Pfc. T. F. Bridwell, Pfc. J. D. Brown, Pfc. J. D. Brown, Pvt. T. A. Caison, Pvt. D. A. Clay, Pfc. J. A. Crout, Pfc. Z. H. Davenport, Pvt. C. B. Davis, Pvt. N. J. Davis, Pfc. J. R. DelgadoPenaranda, Pvt. N. R. Drylie, Pfc. D. Duque, Pvt. T. S. Edwards, Pvt. T. L. Effler, Pfc. P. Figueroa, Pfc. C. T. Fox, Pvt. C. Fuller, Pvt. R. K. Garzone, Pvt. J. T. Gillard, Pvt. Y. Gomez, Pvt. A. Gonzalez, Pvt. F. X. Gonzalez, Pvt. D. M. Goolsby, Pvt. T. J. Griffin, Pvt. R. T. Harbin, Pfc. W. D. Hill, Pvt. C. R. Hoffmaster, Pvt. M. V. Huffstutler, Pfc. N. A. Hunt, Pvt. W. R. Jetter, Pfc. D. E. Johns, Pvt. B. K. Johnson, Pfc. M. M. Johnson, Pfc. K. M. Johnson, Pfc. C. J. Kelley, Pfc. S. E. Law, Pfc. C. X. Lawrence, Pvt. J. A. Lewis, Pvt. J. L. Liddle, Pvt. M. B. Mays, Pfc. L. E. Munoz, Pvt. P. M. O'Reilly, Pvt. J. D. Parrott, Pvt. Z. T. Pauley, Pfc. K. A. Phillips, Pvt. E. D. Rivera, Pfc. A. W. Robinson, Pfc. C. K. Rollins, Pfc. D. C. Ross, Pvt. M. G. Runyon, Pfc. M. T. Rutherford, Pvt. N. P. Sangphim, Pvt. M. P. Seaton, Pvt. T. L. Smiley, Pvt. I. C. Smith, Pvt. M. A. Smith, Pfc. D. J. Smith, Pvt. P. D. Speer, Pvt. S. W. Wing

Platoon 3009

Pvt. J. P. Balles, Pvt. A. Batista, Pvt. C. M. Bolin, Pvt. B. L. Burgos, Pvt. G. F. Carlo, Pvt. C. G. Casteline, Pvt. R. Chacon, Pfc. T. J. Christman, Pfc. B. R. Clute, Pvt. E. S. Coast, Pvt. B. A. Cook, Pvt. D. D. Decomo, Pvt. J. H. Eaddy, Pvt. C. J. Fiero, Pfc. O. J. From, Pfc. D. M. Giliberti, Pfc. C. M. Gruenbaum, Pfc. J. C. Her, Pvt. L. R. Hillis, Pvt. B. M. Hitte, Pfc. N. Q. Hooks, Pfc. C. J. Houghtaling, Pvt. D. M. Huntt, Pvt. M. A. Hutchison, Pfc. M. Ibrahimahmat, Pvt. A. J. Jackson, Pfc. D. M. Jimenez, Pfc. A. T. Jones, Pvt. V. C. Jones, Pvt. T. S. Jones, Pvt. B. L. Jones Jr., Pfc. S. S. Kalinoff, Pfc. J. E. Kedzierski, Pvt. J. A. Kellum, Pvt. T. R. Knaul, Pfc. S. C. Knight, Pvt. R. Liskooka, Pvt. D. W. Losacano, Pvt. D. J. Maine, Pvt. B. C. Marcks, Pfc. J. M. May, Pvt. J. J. Melanson, Pvt. T. Mondragonarana, Pvt. N. G. Myers, Pvt. S. D. Olmedo, Pvt. J. W. Pasco, Pvt. B. D. Pena, Pvt. D. M. Petit, Pvt. T. A. Porter, Pvt. N. C. Rehbein, Pvt. R. O. Robinson, Pfc. T. T. Short, Pvt. C. L. Steenmeijer, Pvt. A. A. Stepanyan, Pfc. N. P. Summers, Pfc. J. M. Svenson, Pvt. B. P. Tate, Pfc. N. A. Theocles, Pfc. D. R. Vanhoven, Pvt. G. Walker IV, Pfc. T. A. Walton, Pvt. C. D. Warden, Pvt. Z. C. Watson, Pfc. B. R. Weagle, Pvt. J. P. Wichterman, Pvt. E. J. Wynter

Platoon 3010

Pfc. Y. Adan, Pvt. M. D. Annable, Pvt. A. W. Arnold, Pfc. J. J. Artrip, Pvt. C. D. Barnes Jr., Pfc. T. F. Bridwell, Pvt. D. G. Burnside, Pvt. J. D. Carter, Pvt. C. D. Cartrette, Pvt. J. K. Cool, Pvt. C. B. Daugherty, Pvt. M. A. Degregorio, Pvt. A. F. Delia, Pvt. D. T. Driscoll, Pfc. R. J. Fish Jr., Pvt. M. A. Flickinger, Pvt. M. J. Garcia, Pfc. B. P. Gevaert, Pfc. A. J. Green, Pfc. R. Hernandez Jr., Pvt. A. L. Hunter, Pvt. D. R. Kirby, Pvt. D. J. Komaromi, Pvt. K. G. Kramer, Pfc. C. M. Labrecque, Pvt. A. C. Lawrence, Pfc. T. J. Lee, Pfc. R. M. Leverenz, Pfc. C. J. Lilly, Pvt. M. J. Logsdon, Pvt. F. W. Luck, Pvt. R. J. Mahanay, Pvt. B. Mai, Pvt. B. L. Marion, Pvt. N. Martinez, Pfc. D. J. Matticola, Pvt. R. I. McDivitt, Pvt. S. S. McElhattan, Pvt. R. M. Mejia, Pfc. E. J. Mejia, Pvt. J. M. Metayer, Pvt. S. M. Monaghan, Pfc. G. A. Motepeque Jr., Pfc. C. A. Old, Pvt. J. C. Onoyeyan, Pvt. G. Pang, Pvt. B. C. Pasciolla, Pvt. G. A. Perez, Pvt. D. R. Rancourt, Pfc. D. M. Reckers, Pfc. A. L. Richardson, Pvt. A. RiveraBonilla, Pfc. C. S. Rogers, Pfc. A. D. Sanctis, Pfc. A. J. Shiffer, Pvt. B. K. Shourds, Pvt. D. S. Simmons, Pfc. B. H. Slack, Pfc. T. J. Stevens, Pvt. C. A. Stevens, Pvt. C. J. Stewart, Pfc. J. G. Sutton, Pvt. J. C. Thompson, Pvt. R. S. Tota, Pfc. M. J. Tremblay, Pvt. J. T. Ward, Pfc. J. K. Young

Platoon 3012

Pvt. F. A. Alban, Pfc. P. L. Armstrong, Pvt. P. T. Barnes, Pvt. B. BerriosVelez, Pfc. J. M. Bolling Jr., Pfc. L. R. Brennan III, Pvt. A. B. Broussard, Pfc. M. Brown, Pfc. T. L. Chambers, Pvt. K. N. Chappa, Pfc. S. B. Chaverri, Pvt. K. S. Chunyo, Pvt. J. R. Clarkston, Pvt. A. J. Collins, Pfc. A. J. Collins Jr., Pvt. J. A. Cornatzer, Pvt. J. R. Cosden, Pvt. J. T. Crook, Pvt. J. D. Davis, Pfc. M. J. Digioia, Pvt. T. J. Donahue, Pfc. A. B. Dowdy, Pfc. I. A. Edwards, Pfc. W. M. Edwards III, Pvt. M. M. Ferris, Pvt. T. C. French, Pvt. G. M. Garcia, Pfc. C. R. Gardner II, Pvt. C. J. Gima, Pvt. J. D. Godboldo, Pvt. B. S. Hanicak Jr., Pvt. D. A. Hoffman, Pfc. J. W. Hulsey, Pfc. A. O. Jarrett, Pvt. P. D. Jones, Pfc. C. D. Kittrell, Pvt. R. C. Larrazabal, Pvt. D. K. Lawrence, Pvt. J. A. Lilga, Pfc. M. R. McKenzie, Pfc. R. Mitchell III, Pvt. D. P. Mrozowski, Pvt. J. E. Mullican, Pfc. A. M. Newcomer, Pvt. I. Pagangonzaga, Pvt. N. L. Paul, Pvt. J. L. Philipson, Pfc. J. L. Pryor, Pvt. S. T. Riley, Pvt. C. T. Robbins, Pfc. S. E. Rodriguez, Pfc. S. E. Samedy, Pvt. N. J. Scaduto, Pfc. E. J. Schloendorn, Pfc. J. W. Silvas, Pvt. H. M. Smith, Pvt. F. J. Sotolongo, Pvt. J. F. Spivey, Pvt. I. J. Stowearshall, Pvt. M. A. Sundeen, Pvt. T. R. Tabor, Pfc. J. M. Tanner, Pvt. S. A. Thompson, Pfc. F. N. Trull, Pvt. C. M. Wary, Pvt. R. C. Wells, Pfc. R. J. Wimmer

Platoon 3013

Pvt. J. J. Alonso, Pvt. M. E. Banton Jr., Pvt. Y. Barrie, Pfc. J. L. Bass, Pvt. R. E. Bell, Pfc. R. C. Bordi, Pvt. B. N. Breton, Pvt. N. A. Brown, Pvt. V. A. Brown, Pvt. J. B. Bugara, Pvt. L. A. CardonaMiranda, Pvt. G. W. Condry, Pvt. R. F. Coughlin, Pfc. S. B. Doghri, Pfc. G. C. Doret Jr., Pvt. E. J. Doro, Pvt. T. R. Duffey Jr., Pvt. J. T. Fida, Pvt. R. D. Figueroa, Pfc. K. S. Frank, Pfc. K. L. Frederick, Pvt. J. A. Fucci III, Pvt. T. J. Gardner, Pfc. R. L. Garrett II, Pvt. J. J. Golden, Pvt. J. M. Griffith, Pvt. M. E. Hanks, Pvt. J. J. Harper, Pfc. T. A. Hawkins Jr., Pvt. A. C. Jennings, Pfc. K. A. Johansen, Pvt. S. M. Lawlor, Pvt. C. G. Ledington, Pvt. A. K. Marquez, Pfc. J. M. McAtee, Pvt. M. M. McKenzie, Pfc. W. A. Molina, Pvt. J. Moralesromero, Pvt. A. L. Noel, Pfc. J. R. OceguelaAyala, Pfc. S. D. O'Flynn, Pvt. J. D. Painter, Pfc. A. D. Ramsey, Pvt. J. L. Raymond, Pvt. A. P. Raymond, Pvt. J. R. Rocha, Pvt. D. J. Rundio, Pvt. L. Saavedra, Pvt. E. C. Schellentragr, Pfc. M. P. Sheehan, Pvt. D. H. Shields, Pvt. B. L. Skipper, Pvt. C. V. Smith, Pvt. D. C. Smith Jr., Pfc. J. M. Spooner, Pvt. K. R. Steine III, Pvt. B. R. Tefft, Pvt. K. Tobo, Pfc. C. M. Twilley, Pvt. C. E. Valencia, Pvt. E. Y. Waddell, Pvt. R. A. Wan, Pfc. C. I. Waychoff, Pvt. C. J. Woodie, Pfc. J. A. Worrall Jr., Pvt. S. A. Yannetta Jr.

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds
Commanding General
MCRD Parris Island
Eastern Recruiting Region

Published by the Savannah Morning News, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy or Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S. C., under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the

Public Affairs Director
Capt. Timothy Patrick

Deputy Director
1st Lt. Melanie Salinas

Public Affairs Chief
Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon

U.S. Marine Corps or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, the Marine Corps, the Navy, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S. C., Naval Hospital Beaufort, S. C., or the Savannah Morning News of the products or services advertised. Everything in this newspaper shall be made available for

Press Chief
Sgt. Jon Holmes

Social Media Chief
Cpl. J Nava

Design Editor
Cpl. Erin Tansey

purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the contractor shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. Editorial content (i.e., all content other than paid advertise-

Combat Correspondents
Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes
Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

ments) is edited, prepared and provided by the Parris Island Public Affairs Office. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to: The Boot, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 19660, MCRD/ERR, S.C. 29905, or at 843-228-2113. All queries concerning business matters or ads should be directed to the Savannah Morning News at 843-597-9100. To place a free classified ad with Bluffton Today, call 843-815-0800.

More of the story

ENLISTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

policeman.
“I’ve always had an interest in law enforcement and police work,” he said. “I dropped out of the [officer candidate program] because I wanted to do this for the job, not the money.”
Sanctis turned down the opportunity to become a commissioned officer because the job he wanted was not guaranteed, said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Schroeder, a recruiter from Dayton

and his first contact with an enlisted recruiter.
“He came in and said he wanted to do the officer [program] later because if he was going to be an officer, he should be enlisted first,” Schroeder said. “That way, he would know what it was like to be enlisted and be able to make good judgment calls as an officer.”
Because of his leadership skills, age and focus, he became an obvious person whom others in his platoon could turn to for help, Corcino said.
“Everyone has some-

thing to offer,” Sanctis said. “Even though I’m 10 years older than the majority of the platoon, I still take in what the others are saying and doing.”
Corcino said he would definitely be his go-to-guy if he ever had the opportunity to work for him after recruit training because he knows what it takes to get the mission accomplished.
“He’s going to be very successful in the Marine Corps,” Corcino said. “He’s the type of person who sees things through to the end.”

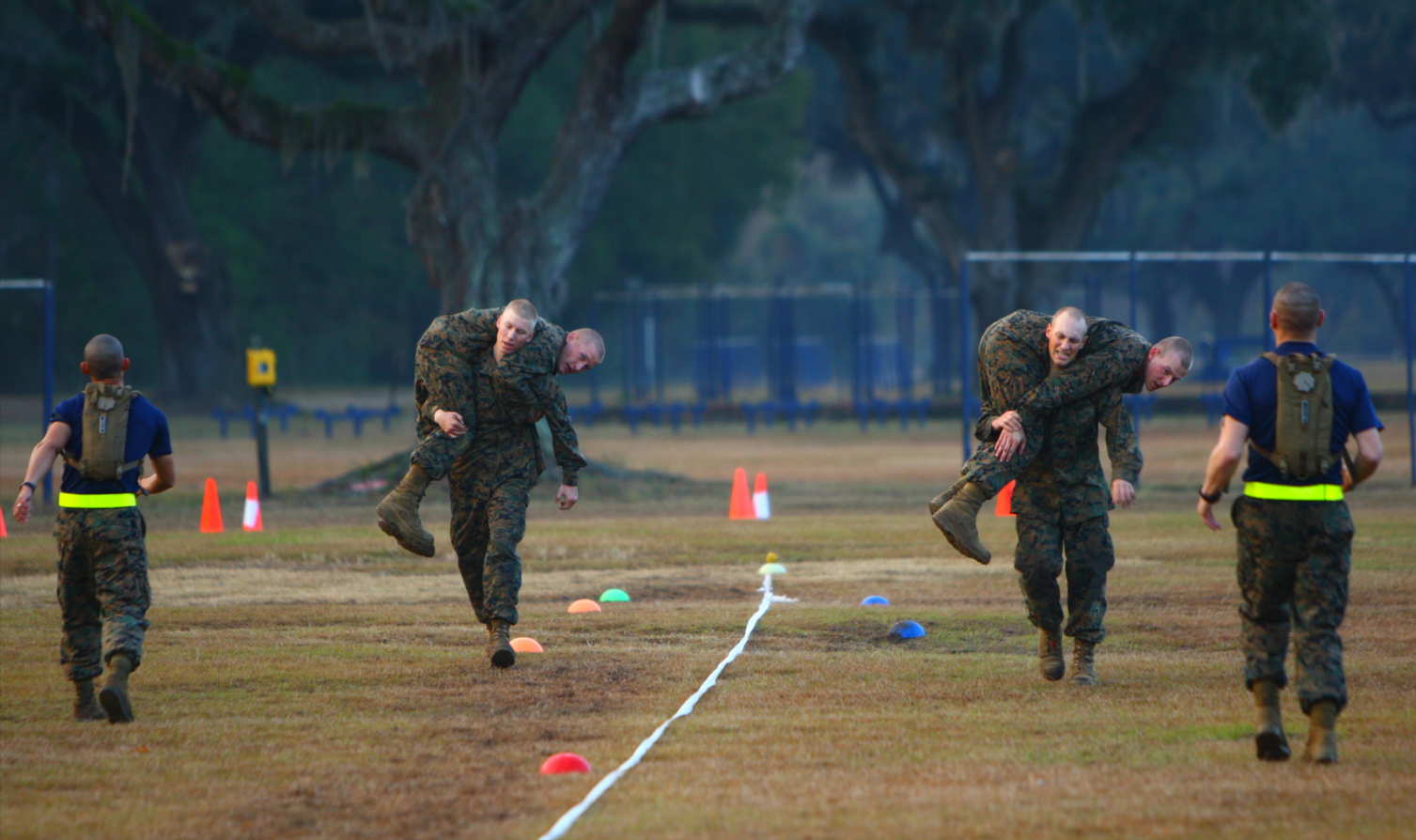


Photo by Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton

Rct. Andrew Sanctis, Platoon 3010, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, marches with his platoon during drill practice, Jan. 24, at the battalion’s parade deck.

Facebook spotlight: www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland *Lima Company shows combat readiness, fitness*

Part of the graduation requirements for recruits is passing the combat fitness test, which the recruits of Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, completed, Jan. 24. Similar to the physical fitness test they also must pass, recruits are put through a series of events that test their physical endurance.
The movement under fire, ammunition can lift and 800-meter dash make up the combat fitness test’s requirements.
The final fitness tests are ran in the third month of training. Once they have completed both tests, recruits begin their way to the Crucible and are one step closer to earning the title of Marine.



Echo Company topples fear, overcomes obstacles in Confidence Course

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

Not even the frost on the ground could stop the recruits from using teamwork, perseverance, initiative and a commitment to their fellow recruit to overcome the obstacles that lay ahead of them. The recruits from Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, traversed the obstacles of the Confidence Course at Leatherneck Square, Jan. 31. The Confidence Course is held in the wooded area of Leatherneck Square and is made up of a variety of obstacles that require recruits to climb tall wooden structures, shimmy across ropes over water and push themselves past

their comfort zone. “It’s not a graduation requirement, but it does tie into the core values of an individual,” said Capt. Darby Bodden, Echo Company’s follow series commander. “It can provide an indication that a recruit might need extra training.” The course is used for testing recruits, boosting confidence and dissolving fears. The obstacles included the “Weaver,” which has recruits suspended above the ground and weaving through wooden beams, the “A-frame” has recruits scale a 40-foot tower and climb down a rope and the “Slide-for-life,” where recruits must climb a tower and then use a rope to get over a large pool of water. “I was excited and nervous,”

said Rct. Jonathan Cobb, a 21-year-old recruit from Nashville, Tenn., and a recruit of Platoon 2026. “Once I was at the top of the tower it seemed a lot higher. Then, I had to reach out and grab the rope. That was the hardest part.” Drill instructors motivate the recruits to push through the obstacles. The small groups allow the drill instructors to work one-on-one with the recruits and more easily evaluate them to discern the ones needing help and the ones that may be ahead of the curve. “It’s not only a good activity to help build confidence, but it also lets you see which recruits have more confidence and would make good leaders,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jacob A.

Moor, senior drill instructor of Platoon 2026. Recruits said that it was both exciting and stressful while traversing the tall obstacles. “Now that I’ve done it, I know if I ever came upon something like this, I could do it,” Cobb said.



Rct. Jonathan Cobb, a 21-year-old recruit from Nashville, Tenn. and a recruit of Platoon 2026, shimmies over a pit of water using only two ropes at the course.



Recruits from Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, use a “brake” method to safely and quickly climb down the ropes of the “A-frame” during the Confidence Course at Leatherneck Square, Jan. 31.



Recruits from Echo Company, cross over water-filled trenches using two ropes.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers



(Left) Rct. Cody Steenmeijer, a 19-year-old from Moreland, Ga., and (Right) Rct. Brian Jones, a 19-year-old from Valleyhead, Ala., from Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, patrol the area, Jan. 11, during their interior guard tour.

Photo by Lance Cpl. F.J. Abundes

GUARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

someone during the patrol, they immediately seek cover and demand the individual to stop and identify himself. After the individual is identified, the recruit will order him to walk forward, and if they are an unfamiliar person, they are requested to place an identification card with a photograph on the ground and back away. While one recruit checks the card, the other remains behind cover and watches the individual for sign of attack. Once identified, the recruit allows the individual to continue on his way. This, at times, is a challenge for the recruits because the “strangers” are their drill instructors. “When you deploy, you are going to have some

kind of post,” Berrios said. “They need to know the procedures. They need to know what the escalation of force is.” The escalation of force is the procedure Marines use when a stranger is uncooperative. This escalation is designed to move from a verbal command up to physical manipulations, until the individual becomes cooperative. From there, if the individual attacks, Marines are allowed to block their hits, hit back and eventually fire if the individual has a weapon and there is potential for an injury. In training, however, Recruits never go past raising their voice. Their drill instructors challenge them to see how they recruits will react. After the recruits are posted, they are tested by their drill instructors, Berrios said. The goal is to

see how they react and if they use their training. The recruits must remain calm and keep their bearing, even though they are giving instructions to their drill instructors, he added. While it may be uncomfortable for them, the recruits understand that they must overcome their fear for the safety of their fellow Marines. But the recruits understand their duty is not a game. It is training for real-life scenarios. Standing watch is one of the biggest responsibilities Marine have when they get to the fleet, said Rct. Austin Jones, an 18-year-old from Piedmont, Ala. If a Marine falls asleep on duty, someone can sneak in and place a bomb at the gate. Learning how to properly stand guard now can save lives in the future.

Facebook spotlight: www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland



The real fight club: recruits take a stand, hand-to-hand



Recruits get three weeks of training through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program during their first month at Parris Island.

The instructors teach the recruits the specific moves for a tan belt, the basic level mandatory for graduation, along with the values and leadership traits that set Marines apart from the other services.

During these morning sessions, recruits learn up to five separate moves, which include chokes, take-downs, upper and lower body strikes and bayonet and rifle strikes.

Once the class is over, the instructor will bring the company together to review the lesson and pass on why it is important to practice and perfect these tactics, as well as the value.

Once recruits graduate from Parris Island and Marine Combat Training in Camp Geiger, N.C., they will get a chance to earn higher level belts, which increase in difficulty.

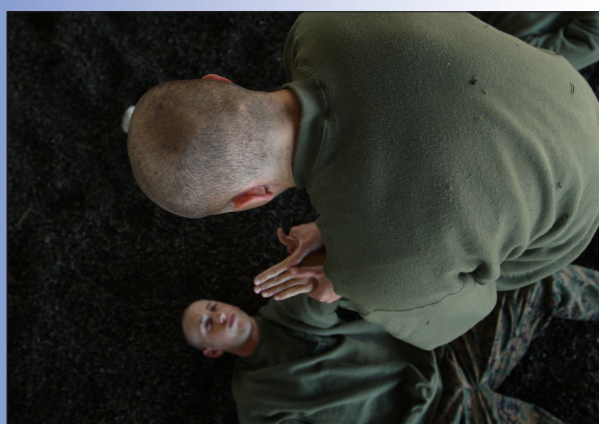


Photo by Lance Cpl. David Flynn

Brig. Gen. Lori E. Reynolds, commanding general of the Eastern Recruiting Region and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, speaks to ERR officer selection officers during the 2012 OSO Conference in Leesburg, Va., Jan. 10.

OFFICER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creasing efforts to raise awareness of officer opportunities throughout diverse communities and colleges with traditionally higher numbers of minorities. As a result, the recruiters can provide selection boards with a competitive pool of applicants from all segments of society.

Beyond diversity, officer selection presents different challenges compared to enlisted recruiting.

"You need to be sure the person you are sending

to (Officer Candidates School) is the right one," said Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, commanding general of the Western Recruiting Region and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. "You wouldn't want to subject your Marines to being led by an unqualified person."

Applicants are examined from a whole-person perspective, taking into account intangible characteristics such as moral character and leadership ability, besides just test scores and physical fitness.

"The quality that we're

getting of our young candidates is off the charts," said Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, depot commanding general who also leads the region, which includes most of the country east of the Mississippi River.

The conference allowed officers to share their individual experiences on what worked and ideas on how to be successful in 2012, said Kelley.

"Overall, it was a good experience," said Wentling. "It provides an opportunity for all the OSOs in the country to get together and meet one another."

"That kind of bonding is productive," echoed Kelley.

Across the country, the Marine Corps operates 72 offices focused on recruiting officers. Since a commission requires at least a bachelor's degree, most of these offices are located in large college towns. While officers make up approximately 10 percent of active-duty Marines, only about 4 percent of the recruiting force is focused on officer selection.

"Remember that what the Corps does is that we make Marines and we win battles. There's a very small number of our Corps who are responsible for making Marines, and an even smaller number who are responsible for marking Marine officers," said Reynolds, who once served as commanding officer of Recruiting Station Harrisburg in Pennsylvania.

The top officer from each of the ERR's three districts received awards at the conference for stellar performance in 2011. Capt. Jeffrey Potter from Hyattsville, Md., earned first place for 4th district. Capt. Ryan Romasko from Orlando, Fla., won

second for 6th district, and from 1st district, Capt. Matthew Cooney from Officer Selection Station Manhattan North in New York took third.

"What you are doing to further the Corps is so important. I'm not forget-

ting that," said Reynolds.

Editor's Note: Staff writer Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton and Lance Cpl. David Flynn with Marine Corps Recruit Command public affairs contributed to this report.



Tax Center Hours

**Hours for Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays:**
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hours for Wednesdays:
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Hours for Saturdays:
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Closed Sundays

The Parris Island Tax Center is now offering free tax re-
fund service to all active-duty service members, retired
service members, family members and Department of
Defense workers until April 20. The Tax Center is lo-
cated within the Depot Law Center.

Walk-in appointments are available during working
hours and Saturdays. Scheduled appointments are only
needed when requesting specific times and after work-
ing hours.

NATIONAL

SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
TM

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Family Day now extended to Wed.

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island’s expansion of Family Day kicked off Feb. 1.

The addition of Wednesday to the schedule is intended to educate families on their new Marines’ lifestyle with two informative classes and a tour of Parris Island.

“A couple months ago, the commandant addressed commanders throughout the Corps directing them to look for ways to make our family readiness programs even more robust,” explained Col. Benjamin Blankenship, depot operations officer.

“The expanded Family Day on Parris Island is our way of meeting the commandant’s intent by establishing the foundation for a greater degree of family integration within our Corps,” he added.

The addition was readily embraced by visitors to the depot.

“It was extremely helpful,” said Gary Beckner, a Family Day visitor from Liberty, W. Va. “It’s helping me learn a lot

about the Marine Corps.”

Beckner’s son graduated Feb. 3, and he came to the expanded Family Day to take part in the “Marine Corps 101” class and the tour of the depot.

The “Marine Corps 101” class is now available on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the visitors’ center. The class covers traditions, history and culture of the Corps.

Additionally on Wednesday, the depot holds a family orientation brief, scheduled from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the lyceum. The brief is intended to familiarize families with the Marine Corps lifestyle and help them know what to expect after Parris Island.

“The goal is to teach family members about the rich history and culture of the Marine Corps, as well as show families what is coming next for their new Marine,” said Ashley Houching, operations officer for local Marine Corps Community Services.

Apart from learning the history and traditions of the Corps, the class and orientation also give information regarding the more than 80 support ser-

vices offered by MCCA to Marines and their families.

Families are asked to register at the MCCA website to guarantee seating.

“We had more than 100 people show

up on Feb. 1,” said Kelly Jones, MCCA marketing technician. “We hope that the success continues, and we keep getting more people to come.”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Sylvia Sanchez, area coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina, speaks with the parents of Golf and Oscar Company graduates, Feb. 1 during the first extended Family Day.



Photo by Cpl. J Nava

Col. Benjamin Blankenship, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island operations officer, speaks with families of new Marines at the family orientation brief during the first extended Family Day, Feb. 1.



Photo by Cpl. J Nava

Families of new Marines listen to a message from Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, commander of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island at the family orientation brief during the first extended Family Day, Feb. 1.



Photo by Cpl. J Nava

Families of new Marines ride on a tram during their tour of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Feb. 1. These families attended the first extended Family Day on the Depot and recieved an extra day to soak in the Corps’ culture.