

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



SEE HOTEL  
COMPANY'S  
GRADUATES



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Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Pat Schetter, 21, Platoon 2013, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, instructs his partner how to get past a razor-wire obstacle during the day movement course at Parris Island's combat training area Jan. 7. The day movement course taught recruits how to move and communicate with each other to clear a series of obstacles. Schetter is from Cherry Hill, N.J., and is scheduled to graduate today.

## Hotel Company rushes through day movement course

Lance Cpl. David Bessey  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, sprinted to safety during the day movement course on Parris Island's Page Field on Jan. 7. Recruits navigated a simulated battlefield with another recruit maneuvering in short sprints and crawls over and under 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 day movement instructor. The course gave recruits a chance to take command and perform the fire team tactics. "It's everything I thought recruit training would be," said Pvt. Casey Shattuck, 19, Platoon 2012. "It instills the knowledge of a basic warrior." Recruits remained in constant communication with their partner as they advanced through the course. Failure to do so resulted in both recruits being sent back to the beginning to retry the course. "I learned that if we communicate how we were suppose to, then everything became easier," said Shat-

tuck, a native of San Antonio. As the recruits finished the short sprints in the wooded area of the course, they advanced with another recruit to the second half consisting of a series of obstacles. One such obstacle is called the tangle-wire. Recruits watched their step as they made 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. By using their peripheral vision to spot the wire, the recruits must keep their heads raised with their rifles held at eye level looking toward 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 ob-

stacles. 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. Allen Spain, 19, Platoon 2014, provides cover for his partner during the day movement course Jan. 7 at Parris Island's combat training area.

### Combat jobs for women 'right thing to do' says Corps' top general

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Marine Corps will continue to focus on combat readiness and generating combat-ready units in validating occupational standards, the service's top officer said Jan. 24. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced the end of the Defense Department policy that had barred women from serving in direct ground-combat positions Jan. 24. In a statement released after the announcement, Gen. James F. Amos said maintaining the highest levels of combat readiness and capitalizing upon every opportunity to enhance warfighting capabilities and the contributions of every Marine is "simply the right thing to do." "Our ongoing deliberate, measured and responsible approach to validate occupational

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Nicholas Styen, Platoon 2009, practices hand-to-hand combat against his opponent, Rct. Dalton Kling, Platoon 2008, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, on Dec. 3 on Parris Island. Styen, 19, from Pittsburgh, and Kling, 19, from St. Augustine, Fla., practiced applying pressure to each other's wrists to immobilize one another. Hotel Company is scheduled to graduate today.

## Hotel Co. recruits master hand-to-hand combat

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, learned how to defend themselves against an enemy using only their bare hands in Marine Corps Martial Arts class Dec. 3 on Parris Island. Recruits are taught Marine Corps martial arts techniques as part of becoming a well-rounded, basically trained Marine. They must understand how to properly use these common combat skills in order to graduate. The purpose of learning these skills is to be confident in one's ability to defend himself, said Sgt. Ryan Coil, a drill instructor for Platoon 2014. Recruits train to react to an attack, not freeze up. The recruits were given a step-by-step class on how to perform basic techniques to stop an opponent while unarmed. Each one focused

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct live-fire training Monday through Wednesday from 6 a.m. to midnight. 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.

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of women's  
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# Hotel Company Graduates

## Honor Graduates

### Platoon 2008

Pfc. Montrell R. Martin Jr., Philadelphia  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Aldo A. Verduzco

### Platoon 2009

Pfc. Ishman R. Davis, Plymouth, Mass.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Duane O. Smith

### Platoon 2010

Pfc. David Orley, Naples, Fla.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Wesley B. Paulk

### Platoon 2012

Pfc. Kyle T. Atchison, Silver Lake, Ohio  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. James P. McCord

### Platoon 2013

Pfc. Jacob P. Cooksey, La Plata, Md.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Mark A. Oropeza

### Platoon 2014

Pfc. Miroslav Bernkopf, Manchester, N.H.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Nicholas M. Lanier

## Platoon 2008

Pvt. N. I. Abdrahman, Pvt. C. J. Alphonse, Pvt. T. S. Atkinson, Pvt. C. H. Becker, Pfc. D. R. Bernard, Pvt. C. L. Bonner, Pvt. O. K. Brown, Pvt. D. L. Bryan, Pvt. F. Cardenas, Pvt. T. J. Chase, Pvt. A. Chhetri, Pfc. J. L. Cimo, Pfc. J. O. Coleman, Pvt. T. L. Cummings, Pfc. I. R. Cusaac, Pfc. J. C. Davis, Pfc. S. S. Davis, Pvt. T. T. Davis, Pvt. C. S. Dennis, Pvt. K. T. Driscoll, Pfc. E. B. Duncan, Pfc. P. B. Ellis, Pfc. R. S. Fernandez, Pvt. M. J. Ferris, Pfc. C. L. Fravel, Pfc. S. D. Freitas, Pfc. J. H. Gomez, Pfc. B. S. Gunn, Pfc. T. J. Hall, Pfc. J. E. Jackson, Pfc. R. S. Johnson, Pfc. J. C. Keller, Pfc. R. L. King, Pvt. D. W. Kling, Pvt. P. J. Loumakis, Pvt. M. V. Luna Jr., Pvt. R. J. Mabe, Pfc. M. R. Martin Jr., Pvt. S. J. McCormick, Pfc. J. E. Miffleton, Pvt. J. A. Mitchell, Pfc. B. M. Mohler, Pvt. T. C. Murch, Pvt. D. C. Owens II, Pvt. J. T. Page, Pvt. J. K. Pickles, Pvt. K. D. Pinkston, Pvt. C. G. Poland, Pvt. W. Ponce Gonzales, Pvt. J. A. Reyes Schwartzman, Pvt. J. L. Rice, Pvt. A. S. Robinson, Pvt. V. G. Singleton, Pfc. V. G. Snell, Pvt. D. D. Snow, Pvt. J. D. Spruiell Jr., Pvt. W. E. Spry, Pvt. R. G. Sturgill, Pvt. D. M. Tolbert, Pvt. J. D. Ward, Pvt. B. J. Watford, Pvt. C. T. Watson, Pvt. G. C. Weiss, Pfc. B. G. Wells, Pfc. T. G. West, Pvt. L. L. Zanders

## Platoon 2009

Pvt. J. T. Amell, Pvt. D. L. Bailey, Pfc. R. L. Baker III, Pvt. Z. J. Bergstrom, Pvt. M. J. Bouthillier II, Pvt. C. R. Brammer, Pvt. C. R. Brand, Pvt. C. A. Brenke, Pvt. K. V. Bryant, Pvt. M. Cabasquini Jr., Pfc. S. Carney, Pvt. C. Carrillocampos, Pvt. E. F. Cooper, Pvt. C. D. Corbett, Pfc. I. R. Davis, Pvt. J. M. Elston, Pvt. J. R. Espinoza, Pfc. B. M. Farrell, Pvt. J. S. Frank, Pfc. J. E. Geiermann, Pvt. D. M. Hakes II, Pvt. C. A. Harris, Pvt. B. A. Hinkle, Pvt. A. N. Hobson, Pvt. D. J. Holcomb Jr., Pvt. R. A. Jimenez Jr., Pfc. C. L. Jones, Pfc. W. L. Keller, Pvt. J. R. Kyle III, Pvt. T. J. Larkin, Pvt. D. D. Luke Jr., Pfc. A. F. Markosky, Pvt. J. J. Martin, Pvt. B. D. Martinez, Pvt. G. L. McNulty, Pvt. N. C. Messersmith, Pvt. S. W. Nabholz, Pvt. L. A. Naughton, Pfc. E. A. Ofori, Pvt. A. J. Olivas, Pvt. E. M. Perales, Pfc. B. K. Peterson, Pvt. D. J. Pokladowski, Pvt. S. M. Provenza, Pfc. R. L. Quick Jr., Pvt. G. Gaccuglia, Pfc. R. J. Ramsey, Pfc. M. T. Reilly, Pvt. T. M. Reynolds, Pvt. C. A. Rodriguezgomez, Pvt. E. C. Saintil, Pvt. D. M. Schulze, Pvt. J. L. Schwarzman, Pfc. M. J. Seppa, Pvt. A. B. Smith, Pfc. N. M. Styen, Pfc. M. B. Sutor, Pvt. Z. L. Sweat, Pvt. S. C. Tarnowski, Pvt. D. D. Taylor, Pvt. T. J. Thiedt, Pvt. J. E. Vannaken, Pvt. J. D. Wallis, Pvt. G. D. Ward, Pvt. W. A. Watson III, Pfc. T. C. Wentling

## Platoon 2010

Pfc. C. S. Acevedo, Pvt. O. J. Adorno, Pvt. H. R. Alberd, Pvt. J. M. Alvarezberrios, Pfc. E. Andre, Pvt. S. T. Anthony, Pvt. K. W. Balderelli, Pvt. B. D. Basar, Pvt. B. O. Batch, Pvt. H. B. Bellolozada, Pfc. T. A. Boudro, Pfc. C. R. Claytorpeterson, Pvt. N. G. Clifford, Pvt. A. D. Cox, Pfc. M. M. Cushing, Pfc. Z. M. Deluca, Pvt. K. P. Douet, Pfc. C. M. Dunaway, Pfc. K. A. Duplessis, Pvt. M. S. Falconer, Pvt. T. J. Franklin, Pfc. W. H. Freiberg, Pvt. P. Garcia, Pfc. M. J. Haines, Pvt. C. T. Hamilton, Pvt. S. M. Hanlon, Pvt. E. L. Hernandez, Pvt. D. Q. Holmes, Pfc. A. D. Holt, Pvt. A. L. Hudnall, Pfc. D. A. Jewell, Pvt. J. S. Keller, Pvt. S. P. King, Pvt. C. J. Kulcke, Pvt. D. L. Leblanc, Pvt. D. W. McEachron, Pvt. J. C. Moulton, Pvt. K. M. Mullings, Pfc. J. W. Noffsinger, Pfc. D. Orley, Pvt. J. O. Osorio, Pvt. C. Pastrana, Pfc. D. A. Penamoncada, Pvt. L. K. Pennington, Pfc. R. I. Rangel Jr., Pvt. M. D. Rippert, Pvt. D. J. Rivera, Pvt. R. E. Sassaman, Pvt. J. C. Schmidt, Pvt. E. T. Seidel, Pvt. Z. R. Sheets, Pvt. R. Singh, Pvt. D. T. Smith, Pfc. T. L. Smith, Pvt. D. W. Snawder, Pfc. A. Soto, Pfc. J. Torres, Pfc. R. L. Traylor, Pfc. K. N. Trout, Pvt. R. Ulloa, Pvt. E. Vega, Pvt. C. B. Wauchope, Pvt. M. A. Whitaker, Pfc. J. A. Whitehead, Pvt. J. D. Wilson

## Platoon 2012

Pvt. N. R. Amrein, Pvt. J. R. Arnett, Pvt. A. J. Aspirany, Pfc. K. T. Atchison, Pfc. J. R. Baker, Pfc. M. W. Barrett, Pvt. J. M. Beller, Pfc. R. P. Botting, Pvt. C. D. Bouchard, Pvt. A. J. Cable, Pvt. C. W. Cernik, Pfc. D. Charlot, Pvt. A. S. Cobb, Pvt. K. C. Corkery, Pvt. R. A. Cresci, Pvt. B. W. Cunningham, Pvt. M. P. Dantonio Jr., Pvt. M. J. Depp, Pfc. L. A. Diffenderfer, Pvt. T. J. Dooley, Pvt. M. M. Duffy, Pfc. C. R. Dunn, Pvt. J. P. Eckert, Pvt. N. A. Edwards, Pvt. J. L. Ferraro, Pvt. M. R. Fischer, Pvt. N. C. Gilmore, Pvt. J. T. Grady, Pvt. J. E. Green III, Pvt. E. E. Haddad, Pvt. J. D. Hamel, Pfc. R. E. James, Pfc. L. J. Jovelgarcia, Pvt. J. A. Lacher, Pvt. C. E. Lee, Pfc. S. A. Lewin, Pvt. B. L. Lyons Jr., Pvt. D. T. Mango, Pvt. A. M. Manigault, Pvt. J. J. Mayo, Pfc. P. R. McDonald, Pvt. F. J. Mitcho, Pfc. K. C. Moore, Pfc. S. T. Moore, Pvt. J. Moy, Pfc. S. R. Nanasi, Pvt. C. A. Niemynski, Pvt. J. L. Norton, Pfc. B. J. Powell, Pvt. P. W. Prescod, Pfc. J. R. Raisch, Pvt. M. A. Rauch, Pvt. J. H. Rivard, Pvt. R. R. Rivers, Pvt. J. T. Salmons, Pvt. J. A. Sanborn, Pfc. Z. M. Shaffer, Pvt. C. S. Shattuck II, Pfc. J. A. Smith, Pfc. M. I. Starks, Pvt. D. L. Stevens III, Pfc. H. A. Wagner, Pvt. C. G. Wigler II, Pvt. J. Z. Wilson, Pvt. T. L. Wilson, Pvt. J. C. Yates

## Platoon 2013

Pvt. M. R. Adams, Pvt. S. P. Allen Jr., Pvt. D. A. Armentrout, Pfc. T. V. Azongho, Pfc. J. M. Badali, Pvt. J. M. Biesecker, Pvt. S. A. Bowen, Pfc. G. M. Cangiano, Pfc. H. Castro, Pfc. W. J. Coleman, Pfc. J. P. Cooksey, Pvt. A. R. Coyne, Pvt. K. R. Crockett, Pfc. B. A. Cummings, Pfc. W. A. Davis, Pvt. A. J. French, Pvt. J. D. Gallo, Pvt. A. B. Garrett, Pfc. R. M. Gonzalezmedina, Pvt. M. A. Graham, Pvt. K. A. Guenther, Pfc. D. M. Haskins, Pvt. J. R. Heft, Pfc. J. M. Heinrich, Pvt. N. S. Howar, Pvt. J. D. Kershner, Pfc. A. B. Kilmon, Pvt. N. P. Kinevich, Pvt. S. M. Lee, Pvt. T. D. MacDonald, Pvt. C. B. Mancari, Pvt. D. C. Marchbank, Pvt. C. A. Mcllvried, Pvt. C. Y. McKelvey III, Pvt. J. A. McKenzie, Pvt. J. K. McMichael, Pvt. C. J. McVety, Pvt. J. Molina, Pvt. R. J. Morgan, Pfc. B. A. Murphy, Pvt. J. Narain, Pfc. V. C. Oddo, Pfc. M. J. O'Hara, Pvt. D. R. Oles, Pvt. A. A. Ostosmendoza, Pvt. S. A. Patalano, Pvt. S. T. Peterson, Pvt. J. P. Price, Pvt. A. M. Protin, Pfc. R. W. Rasiak, Pfc. J. N. Ray, Pvt. J. Reyes, Pfc. K. A. Ruiztorres, Pvt. D. B. Sanders, Pvt. P. K. Schetter, Pvt. Z. M. Sharpe, Pvt. K. J. Smith, Pvt. J. S. Spaulding, Pvt. W. R. Tovar, Pvt. Z. B. Turpening, Pfc. Z. J. Walker, Pvt. C. M. Watkins, Pvt. J. A. Wilt, Pvt. J. A. Zietz III

## Platoon 2014

Pvt. C. J. Arnold, Pvt. B. K. Austin, Pfc. M. Bernkopf, Pfc. T. J. Callahan, Pvt. H. N. Carlson, Pvt. T. B. Cherry, Pfc. A. M. Coffey, Pvt. C. J. Coleman, Pvt. E. C. Cottrell II, Pfc. A. B. Cutchens Jr., Pfc. R. N. Daniels Jr., Pvt. W. H. Dorsey, Pvt. R. T. Downing, Pvt. B. M. Dubzak, Pvt. J. R. Evans, Pvt. J. R. Fleming, Pfc. F. Fleurantin, Pvt. M. C. Fulghum, Pfc. D. L. Goodman Jr., Pvt. P. E. Gordon, Pfc. A. J. Green, Pvt. Z. B. Gresh, Pvt. O. A. Guillen, Pfc. D. E. Haney, Pvt. J. F. Henderson III, Pfc. Y. A. Hidalgo, Pvt. G. C. Kimmons, Pvt. E. C. Lin, Pfc. S. C. Loiselle, Pvt. C. S. Lunsford, Pvt. D. E. Lyons, Pfc. I. Maldonadomedina, Pvt. D. D. Mills, Pvt. J. O. Miranda, Pvt. T. G. Mizzell, Pvt. K. A. Montgomery, Pvt. S. R. Moore II, Pvt. A. L. Morreale, Pfc. J. N. Nealon, Pvt. M. Neptune, Pfc. L. M. Nortontinckney, Pfc. M. J. Pellegrini, Pvt. L. W. Peterson, Pvt. R. E. Pimentel, Pvt. D. A. Placke, Pvt. C. S. Recht, Pfc. B. A. Reid Jr., Pvt. R. J. Ridley, Pvt. C. D. Ross, Pfc. J. C. Runions, Pfc. G. K. Russell, Pvt. J. Z. Shell, Pfc. Z. B. Smith, Pvt. K. J. Smothers, Pfc. Z. T. Snyder, Pvt. A. S. Spain, Pvt. B. R. Stafford, Pvt. E. E. Telfer, Pvt. T. D. Thibo, Pvt. J. T. Thornhill, Pfc. D. L. Tucker, Pvt. K. L. Villalobos, Pvt. J. D. Wann Jr.

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# Hotel splashes toward success, learns water survival

**Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda**  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, learned the basics of swimming while loaded down with extra weight as they qualified in water survival at the recruit pool Dec. 3. on Parris Island, S.C.

Marines are amphibious warriors, and they must know the basic means of survival when in the water, said Sgt. Andrew Reddicks, a 21-year-old swim instructor from Chicago.

The recruits had to jump off a 10-foot-tall tower, swim 25 yards with and without a loaded pack, tread water for four minutes and remove a Kevlar helmet, flak jacket and rifle in a matter of 10 seconds while underwater in order to qualify.

The extra weight from the boots, camouflage uti-

ties and gear made swimming a challenge for these recruits.

There is less mobility and buoyancy when wearing the extra clothing or gear, said Rct. Christopher Mancari, Platoon 2013. He found it difficult to swim steadily carrying not only his own weight but the weight of the wet clothing and gear.

He said he was able to quickly adapt to the change in swimming technique and complete the swim qualification. He felt confident after going through the training that a Marine who had passed the same test would be able to save his life if the need arose, said the 19-year-old from Westfield, N.Y.

Other recruits, such as Rct. Casey Shattuck, Platoon 2012, expressed the same sentiment.

Shattuck, 19, from San Antonio, said he felt confident that if he was trapped in a



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

**Recruits of Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, swim 25 yards across the combat training tank while dragging packs during their swim qualification Dec. 3 on Parris Island. This allows recruits to show they can still swim even when burdened with extra gear. Hotel Company is scheduled to graduate today.**

situation where he could not save himself during an amphibious attack, that his fellow Marine would be able to get him to safety.

“I’ll never know when I will find myself in a situation that requires me to save someone or carry their weight,” said Mancari.

The recruits of Hotel Company left the pool with the training that may one day save their life or the life of a fellow Marine.

## HAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the manipulation of joints such as the wrist and shoulder.

The recruits learned that pressure placed at the right angle on a limb can easily cause an opponent to be at their mercy.

Manipulating someone’s wrist to inflict pain rather than striking them can be unexpected, said Pfc. Jeremy Torres, Platoon 2010. The 18-year-old from Staten Island, N.Y., said while practicing the techniques he learned he could quickly immobilize an opponent.

Hotel Company has learned to defend themselves with their only weapon being their trained mind and bodies.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

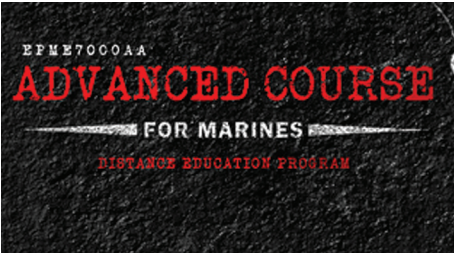
**Sgt. Andrew Smith, a drill instructor for Platoon 2010, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, corrects a recruit on the proper way to bend his partner's wrist during their martial arts training Dec. 3 on Parris Island.**

## WOMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

performance standards for all Marines is consistent with [the defense secretary’s] decision to rescind the direct combat exclusion rule for women,” the Marine Corps commandant said. “As our Corps moves forward with this process, our focus will remain on combat readiness and generating combat-ready units while simultaneously ensuring maximum success for every Marine.”

The talent pool from which officials select the Marine Corps’ finest warfighters will consist of all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, Amos added.







# ABOUT FACE

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# Hotel

**Pvt. Curtiss Coleman,** 18, Platoon 2014, joined the Marine Corps looking to find a new direction in his life.

“I wanted to join the Marine Corps to better myself and improve the direction I was going,” said Coleman. “I found myself in a life of only working in restaurants and I needed to make a change.”

He said the most difficult part of training was his swim evaluation.

“I just learned how to swim a week before arriving to recruit training,” he said. “It was the most physically exhausting thing I’ve done.”

Despite his struggle, Coleman can now stand tall and call himself a United States Marine.

The Jacksonville, Fla., native is slated to train as a motor transportation specialist and has big plans for the Corps beyond recruit training.

“I want to stay in as long as I can,” said Coleman.



Photos and text by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

**Pvt. Amrit Chhetri,** 21, Platoon 2008, has yearned for a chance to call himself a citizen of a country his entire life.

Chhetri grew up in Jhapa, Nepal. His family was exiled from the neighboring country of Bhutan, and he was denied citizenship in Nepal before moving to the United States approximately four years ago.

“I joined the Marine Corps to serve the country and earn my citizenship,” said Chhetri.

Chhetri had a hard time in recruit training but refused to give up.

“I struggled with breaking the language barrier and the mental stress of training,” he said.

Chhetri was awarded his United States citizenship during a naturalization ceremony Thursday on Parris Island.

He has plans to attend college after serving four years in the Corps, said Chhetri.

Chhetri is slated to be a legal administrator after completing Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, N.C.



**Pfc. Kyle Atchison,** 19, Platoon 2012, and a native of Silver Lake, Ohio, joined the Marine Corps because of a family lineage of military service.

“My family has always been a part of the military,” said Atchison. “However, no one has ever joined the Marine Corps.”

Though some recruits may struggle with the physical strain of recruit training, Atchison said the hardest part of training for him was just getting out of bed in the morning.

The former quarterback of Dixie State College in Utah can now call himself a first generation Marine in his military family.

“I like what Marines do,” said Atchison. “I plan to make a career out of the Marine Corps.”



**Pfc. Avery Coffey,** 19, Platoon 2014, Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, had a personal goal to be the best when he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

“I joined the hardest branch in the military so I could be the best I could be,” said Coffey.

The hardest thing he endured during recruit training was the Crucible.

“All the hiking and walking was just hard on your feet,” said Coffey.

Coffey has said he plans to stay in the Marine Corps as long as he can as he rises up the ranks.

He is scheduled to report for additional training at the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, N.C.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradley Church

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey sign a memorandum for a women in service review during a press conference with media at the Pentagon in Washington on Jan. 24. The memorandum rescinds the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule, which excluded women from assignment to units and positions whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground.

# Defense Department expands women’s combat roles

## Full implementation still years away

**Claudette Roulo**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced the end of the direct ground combat exclusion rule for female service members Jan. 24.

The change is intended to ensure the best qualified and most capable service members, regardless of gender, are available to carry out the mission, Panetta said.

“If members of our military can meet the qualifications for a job, then they should have the right to serve, regardless of creed, color, gender or sexual orientation,” he said.

The secretary also announced that the service branches will continue to move forward with a plan to eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service.

In a statement released following the announcement, President Barack Obama praised the decision.

“This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today’s military,” the president said.

The decision opens up about 237,000 positions to women – 184,000 in combat arms professions and 53,000 assignments that were closed based on unit type.

Women are an integral part of DOD’s ability to fulfill its mission, Panetta said.

“Over more than a decade of war, they have demonstrated courage, skill and patriotism, and 152 women in uniform have died serving this nation in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said.

The new policy is the culmination of a process that began last year, a senior defense official told reporters. More than 14,000 assignments in ground combat units or collocated with ground combat units were opened to women in February 2012.

That extension of women’s roles had a positive impact, Panetta said.

“Every time I’ve visited the war zone, met with troops, reviewed military operations, talked to wounded warriors, I have been impressed with the fact that everyone is committed to doing the job,” he said. “They are fighting and dying together. The time has come for our policies to recognize that reality.”

The change ensured sufficient female mid-grade and senior enlisted and officers were in place to guarantee successful integration of junior personnel, a senior defense official said.

The secretary has directed the military services to undertake an evaluation of all occupational performance standards to ensure they are up to date and gender-

neutral. Specialty schools will be included in the evaluation, a senior defense official said. The results of this evaluation are to be submitted to the defense secretary by May 15, while the entire process is to be completed by Jan. 1, 2016.

“We are all committed to implementing this change without compromising readiness or morale or our warfighting capabilities,” Panetta said. “For this change in policy to succeed, it must be done in a responsible, measured and a coherent way.”

Occupations and assignments will open incrementally, but “as expeditiously as possible,” a senior defense official said. “We would fully expect that ... we will open positions throughout the year as we go forward.”

Once the policy is fully implemented, military occupations will be closed to women only by exception, and only if approved by the defense secretary, a senior defense official said.

“I fundamentally believe that our military is more effective when success is based solely on ability, qualifications and on performance,” Panetta said.

“In life, as we all know, there are no guarantees of success,” he added. “Not everyone is going to be able to be a combat soldier. But everyone is entitled to a chance. By committing ourselves to that principle, we are renewing our commitment to the American values our service members fight and die to defend.”



FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday

Welcome to Family Orientation Day at Parris Island

6AM - 10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open

6AM - 6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open

7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop Open

7:30AM - 4PM.....Douglas Visitors’ Center Open - please register upon arrival Graduation Station (8AM - 4PM)

10AM - 12:00PM.....Marine Corps 101 Brief, including a “Behind the Scenes” tour, at Douglas Visitors’ Center

LUNCH.....Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club), Food Court, Subway, Golf Course

1:30PM - 3:00PM.....Family Orientation Brief at the Lyceum

5PM - 8PM.....Steak Night at Traditions ( Officer/SNCO Club), reservations required

Thursday

Welcome to Family Liberty Day at Parris Island

6AM - 4PM.....Douglas Visitors’ Center open - please register upon arrival

6AM - 10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open

6AM - 6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open

7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop Open

7AM.....Motivational Run - Peatross Parade Deck

8AM.....Depot Museum Opens

8AM - 9AM.....Marine Corps 101 Brief at the Douglas Visitors’ Center

8:15AM.....All Weather Training Facility (AWTF) Opens

9:30AM - 10AM.....Battalion Commander’s Brief to Families & Liberty Ceremony (AWTF)

10AM.....Liberty Begins

10AM - 2PM.....Marksmanship Training Unit Open House

10:30AM - 1PM.....Family Day Buffet at the Lyceum – new Marines eat for free!

2PM.....Warrior’s Prayer at the Recruit Chapel

3PM.....Liberty Ends

4PM - 4:30PM.....Command Reception with Depot Command Members at Traditions Lounge

4:30PM.....Command Welcome Remarks

4:45PM.....Family Day Dinner with Depot Command at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

Friday

Welcome to Graduation Day at Parris Island

6AM - 2PM.....Douglas Visitors’ Center open - please register upon arrival

6AM - 10PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open

6AM - 6PM.....Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open

7AM - 5PM.....Engraving Shop Open

7:45AM.....Morning Colors at Barrow Hall

9AM - 10AM.....Graduation at Peatross Parade Deck (weather permitting)

11AM - 1PM.....Lunch Buffet at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

For more information on MCRD Parris Island, please visit: [www.mcrdpi.usmc.mil](http://www.mcrdpi.usmc.mil)

Additionally, graduation week activities can be found at: [www.mccs-sc.com/recruitfamilies](http://www.mccs-sc.com/recruitfamilies)