

# THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



SEE MIKE AND  
OSCAR COMPANIES'  
GRADUATES



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## MIKE RECRUITS BATTLE THROUGH COMBAT COURSE ON PARRIS ISLAND



SEE PAGE 6

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. James Brown, Platoon 3009, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, lies motionless but ready with his rifle as a simulated enemy flare burns bright on the night movement course Jan. 18 on Parris Island. Brown, 20, from Conway, N.C., had to wait until the flare burnt out before continuing down the course. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

## Oscar Co. recruits challenged on Confidence Course

Lance Cpl.  
David Bessey  
Staff Writer

Recruits of Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, faced their fears Dec. 5, 2012, as they were put to the challenge at the Confidence Course on Parris Island.

The purpose of the Confidence Course is to build confidence in a recruit's mental and physical capacities through the negotiation of obstacles that require strength, balance

and determination.

Every recruit will have the opportunity to attempt each of the 15 obstacles, which will require them to use proper technique and teamwork.

This was the recruits first of two attempts at the Confidence Course during training and is meant to help familiarize recruits with the obstacles, said Gunnery Sgt. Esther Henriquez, 30, a chief drill instructor of Oscar Company.

"We want them to gain

SEE CONFIDENCE PAGE 5



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Linda Grohman, 21, Platoon 4005, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, climbs down a rope net on Parris Island's Confidence Course on Dec. 5, 2012. Grohman is from San Antonio and is scheduled to graduate today.

## DEVOTED TO CHANGE

Young woman loses more than 70 lbs to enlist, earns place in Corps



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pvt. Anna Anorue, a graduate of Platoon 4004, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, weighed 220 pounds when she decided to join the Marine Corps. She worked with her recruiter to lose more than 70 pounds to be eligible to enlist. She earned her title Feb. 2 after her rigorous 12-week training on Parris Island.

Lance Cpl.  
Caitlin Maluda  
Staff Writer

A 19-year-old girl endured a life full of ridicule about her weight before losing more than 70 pounds to enlist in the Marine Corps.

Anorue was encouraged to join her school's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps after teachers noticed her poor performance in school. She had been constantly taunted by friends and family alike about her weight, making her feel unworthy and unwanted. Attending JROTC led a young, troubled girl from Charlotte, N.C., to seek

guidance in life. She soon turned toward military recruiting stations.

Anorue first spoke with a Marine recruiter in September 2011. She weighed 220 pounds and had been turned away by other military services. Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Elmore, Anorue's recruiter, said his initial impression of her was a broken-spirited young lady.

Anorue said she had been harassed about wanting to join the service by her family and classmates. They told her she would never make it into the service, she was not good enough and she could not lose the weight.

SEE CHANGE PAGE 5

## NEWS BRIEF

### Nearby urban training to have little impact on post-grad travel

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit is scheduled to train for its upcoming deployment in Ridgeland, S.C., located approximately 30 miles from Parris Island today, but the exercise shouldn't affect families driving home after graduation.

The urban combat training in Ridgeland will take place near Exit 22 of Interstate 95, between Exits 8 and 33, used most

commonly by travelers heading south or north, respectively.

However, military vehicles and Marines with weapons may be seen on public roads in the Beaufort area. No live ammunition will be used during the exercise.

The 26th MEU is based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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Recruits endure chemical defense training

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# Mike & Oscar Companies’ Graduates

## Mike Company Honor Graduates

**Platoon 3008**

Pfc. Alex S. Carroll, Snellville, Ga.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Antonio N. Iannone

**Platoon 3010**

Pfc. Guy A. Knight, Munford, Ala.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Frederick M. Worley II

**Platoon 3013**

Pfc. Brian E. Bloete, Rockaway, N.J.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Alvaro A. Menzies

**Platoon 3009**

Pfc. Carl E. Hill, Valdosta, Ga.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Mitchell T. Brown

**Platoon 3012**

Pfc. Chase P. Andrus, Ledyard, Conn.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jack E. Smith

**Platoon 3014**

Pfc. Ryan P. Silva, Farmingville, N.Y.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Coleman

## Oscar Company Honor Graduates

**Platoon 4004**

Pfc. Shannon L. McGowan, Bumpass, Va.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Gunnery Sgt. Sigrid A. Rivera

**Platoon 4005**

Pfc. Monica M. Rodriguez, Essington, Pa.  
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Adriana Carrillo

### Platoon 3008

Pvt. C. D. Allen, Pfc. K. A. Anderson, Pvt. C. P. Angel, Pfc. K. D. Ambruster, Pvt. H. A. Bedoya, Pvt. M. W. Beedle, Pvt. J. M. Biggins, Pvt. K. A. Bond, Pfc. M. L. Bostic Jr., Pfc. D. G. Brieck, Pvt. R. K. Brock, Pvt. C. D. Bronson, Pvt. J. E. Brown IV, Pfc. P. Cabrera, Pvt. J. B. Camp, Pfc. A. S. Carroll, Pfc. B. M. Choroba, Pfc. T. J. Cole, Pvt. B. L. Cousens, Pvt. D. W. Dancy, Pfc. M. B. Danicki, Pfc. G. R. Davidson, Pvt. E. J. Davis, Pfc. J. A. Dehnke, Pvt. C. J. Dengler, Pvt. J. C. Draper, Pvt. S. R. Enders, Pvt. J. W. Erbele, Pfc. M. M. Fahey, Pvt. A. R. Farmer, Pvt. B. K. Fennell, Pvt. D. D. Frizzi, Pvt. M. D. Gibson, Pvt. J. S. Guarnieri, Pvt. R. L. Harshbarger, Pfc. T. R. Harvey, Pvt. J. A. Hudson, Pvt. M. T. Huff, Pfc. D. S. Hulbert, Pvt. M. D. Hutchins, Pfc. B. A. Jaggard, Pvt. T. E. Jones, Pfc. T. Lobato, Pvt. P. Ly, Pfc. T. K. Martens, Pfc. A. S. Martinez, Pvt. W. S. Measday V, Pvt. Z. T. Megela, Pfc. J. A. Mejia, Pfc. K. Q. Nguyen, Pfc. N. E. Orgera, Pvt. M. Palmer, Pvt. J. Parra Chavez, Pvt. M. F. Peterson, Pfc. C. J. Prairie II, Pfc. Q. T. Rigney, Pvt. J. F. Rivera, Pvt. N. M. Robinson Jr., Pfc. J. T. Robinson, Pvt. D. A. Rogers, Pvt. B. A. Sapp, Pvt. B. O. Savage, Pvt. T. J. Scrimo, Pfc. L. A. Severa, Pvt. J. R. Strong, Pfc. D. C. Swisher, Pfc. J. P. Thies, Pvt. N. Torrico, Pvt. A. Urrego, Pvt. M. J. Walters, Pfc. R. T. Walters, Pvt. J. S. Weaver, Pvt. J. S. White, Pvt. A. X. Wilson, Pfc. P. T. Young

### Platoon 3009

Pvt. F. B. Ard III, Pfc. J. M. Armstrong, Pfc. D. C. Arnold, Pfc. K. M. Barnes Jr., Pvt. B. S. Barr, Pfc. L. E. Barrett, Pvt. M. S. Beasley, Pvt. P. B. Beech, Pfc. A. T. Blair, Pvt. M. D. Brant, Pfc. J. E. Brown, Pvt. A. K. Bullard, Pvt. S. E. Burks, Pfc. A. D. Butler, Pvt. D. T. Carter, Pvt. K. B. Champion, Pvt. J. W. Cole, Pvt. L. R. Crespo, Pfc. I. J. De La Fuente, Pvt. M. J. Delaine, Pfc. A. A. Diaz-Meyer, Pfc. C. R. Dills, Pfc. M. R. Farr, Pfc. D. R. Fitzgerald, Pfc. M. J. Francis, Pfc. J. G. Franco, Pfc. T. D. Garner, Pfc. H. L. Gums III, Pfc. M. P. Harris, Pfc. C. E. Hill, Pvt. J. C. Kidder, Pfc. S. C. Kidney, Pfc. A. D. Kirk, Pvt. W. J. Knolle, Pfc. D. C. Leeks, Pvt. F. Leon Jr., Pvt. P. S. Lewis, Pvt. R. L. Malone Jr., Pvt. K. P. Mandal, Pfc. B. A. Mariacher, Pvt. W. J. Marsengill, Pvt. Z. D. Martynuik, Pfc. R. Mastache-Juarez, Pvt. C. C. Matthews, Pvt. R. L. McClanahan, Pfc. W. L. Medley III, Pvt. J. C. Mitchell, Pvt. N. L. Newby Jr., Pvt. R. B. Newsome, Pvt. J. S. Oertel, Pfc. D. A. Oquendo, Pvt. D. T. Pascal, Pfc. N. L. Redd, Pvt. K. J. Richardson, Pvt. N. C. Richardson, Pfc. K. M. Robbins, Pvt. J. L. Roberts, Pfc. B. M. Roper, Pvt. C. W. Royals, Pfc. C. D. Schneide, Pvt. H. J. Shoemaker, Pfc. C. E. Stevens, Pfc. N. A. Stone, Pvt. B. M. Thomas, Pfc. D. M. Turner, Pvt. C. A. Twitchell, Pvt. D. L. Tysor, Pfc. M. D. Urban, Pvt. G. E. VanCamp, Pvt. J. J. Vaughan, Pfc. T. D. Walker, Pfc. R. H. Williams, Pfc. S. E. Williams, Pvt. D. J. Wright

### Platoon 3010

Pfc. J. R. Alley, Pvt. A. D. Artrip, Pvt. E. J Arvidson, Pvt. J. C. Baker, Pvt. A. J. Benoit, Pvt. N. A. Benway, Pfc. D. D. Brenes, Pvt. R. J. Buckner, Pvt. N. E Cabral, Pfc. J. G. Caro, Pvt. D. R. Carpino, Pfc. C. J. Chevere, Pvt. J. M. Collings, Pvt. J. A. Correa, Pvt. F. G. Crouse, Pfc. C. B. Dennis, Pfc. T. E. DeShields, Pvt. Z. T. Dinello, Pvt. B. T. Drinkard, Pvt. J. L. Duenas, Pvt. A. J. Ford, Pvt. S. T. Gallagher, Pfc. J. H. Gilmour, Pvt. J. M. Gonzalez, Pfc. V. T. Greenfield, Pfc. D. R. Heinle, Pvt. C. L. Hessler Jr., Pvt. D. L. Hoskins, Pfc. K. D. Hunt, Pvt. A. M. Inzaina, Pvt. W. C. Jarrell, Pvt. K. H. Jeffers, Pvt. C. R. Johnson, Pvt. M. N. Karim, Pvt. R. A. Kinchen, Pfc. G. A. Knight, Pvt. J. E. Kraft, Pvt. R. N. Laky, Pvt. L. A. Lara, Pfc. F. Laria Jr., Pfc. J. A. Lewis, Pvt. S. J. Marcum, Pfc. K. P. Nelson, Pfc. W. P. Nolen, Pvt. D. M. Paolucci, Pvt. C. D. Paro, Pfc. C. R. Pervenecki, Pvt. A. M. Peterson, Pfc. C. L. Peterson, Pvt. B. E. Pettaway Jr., Pvt. A. J. Pratt, Pfc. C. R. Quintanilla, Pfc. K. C. Rhoades, Pvt. Z. A. Richardson, Pvt. H. T. Rivera, Pvt. M. C. Rub, Pfc. N. A. Rupert, Pfc. J. R. Sawitsky, Pfc. Z. D. Sawitsky, Pfc. B. J. Scott, Pfc. D. C. Sessions, Pvt. T. C. Slatzer, Pvt. N. D. Snyder, Pfc. J. D. Strong, Pvt. H. E. Stuttler Jr., Pfc. J. V. Tim, Pvt. C. D. Timms, Pfc. M. Ventura, Pfc. J. D. Verity, Pvt. R. C. Vieira, Pvt. F. A. Vieux, Pfc. A. Wilson, Pfc. J. R. Winiarski, Pvt. K. C. Woods

### Platoon 3012

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### Platoon 4005

Pfc. R. A. Acuff, Pvt. L. M. Albo, Pvt. D. J. Alvarado, Pfc. A. M. Arredondo, Pvt. S. L. Blendowski, Pvt. A. J. Brooks, Pfc. K. C. Cadenareyes, Pfc. K. V. Castellanosmorales, Pfc. C. L. Chaffee, Pvt. A. S. Chambers, Pvt. K. D. Cumiskey, Pvt. T. M. Elliott, Pvt. A. A. Fredericks, Pfc. I. G. Gaponoff, Pfc. L. Y. Grohman, Pfc. B. R. Grooms, Pvt. S. S. Grummert, Pvt. D. C. Hardin, Pvt. J. Haro, Pfc. K. N. Heasley, Pvt. K. V. Hernandez, Pvt. H. L. Jeppson, Pvt. K. Juneau, Pfc. A. C. Kaufman, Pfc. J. K. Larsen, Pfc. A. L. Leung, Pvt. L. R. Marquez, Pvt. C. F. Martinez, Pvt. B. M. Mejiasmariani, Pvt. B. R. Mendoza, Pfc. V. A. Meza, Pvt. K. D. Moreno, Pfc. S. M. Moore, Pvt. M. A. Mortson, Pfc. M. A. Munoz, Pvt. K. A. Onarheim, Pfc. Q. Peterman, Pvt. A. A. Polukhina, Pvt. M. R. Pond, Pvt. B. M. Reiser, Pfc. M. O. Rodriguez, Pfc. L. V. Rodriguez, Pfc. M. M. Rodriguez, Pfc. A. E. Salazar, Pfc. M. E. Sanchez, Pvt. C. N. Schelling, Pvt. S. D. Smith, Pvt. S. C. Spurlock, Pfc. S. L. Stachmus, Pvt. M. M. Stephens, Pvt. S. M. Strzelczyk, Pfc. C. C. Stubbs, Pfc. E. M. Vallejo, Pfc. B. Vang, Pvt. K. Vang, Pfc. A. H. Vavages, Pfc. R. A. Velasquezcampos, Pfc. A. E. Waldo, Pvt. J. K. Waldon, Pvt. S. J. Welch, Pfc. A. L. Wellman, Pfc. L. A. Wiley, Pvt. C. L. Williams, Pfc. C. E. Wilson

THE PARRIS ISLAND  
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# Recruits rise above fear on descent from rappel tower

**Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda**  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, overcame their fear of heights after descending the rappel tower Dec. 18 on Parris Island.

Recruits can descend the 47-foot tower two ways. The first requires recruits to go down a wall on the side of the tower, similar to going down a building or mountain face. For the second way, recruits stepped onto a metal bar, bent their knees, and launched themselves straight through the air and to the ground. This technique is similar to jumping from a helicopter's landing skid.

The recruits are typically scared about rappelling the tower because they have never done it before, said Cpl. Matthew Wiringer, a Marine who teaches rappelling.

"I was afraid of the rappel tower because it's hard to trust a little piece of rope as your only support system when you're 47 feet above the ground," said Pfc. Clarissa Harvey, Platoon 4004.

Recruits will face situations where they must overcome their fears, said Wiringer, 26, from Sterling Heights, Mich. If they hesitate in a com-

bat zone, their lives or the lives of others could be at risk.

Recruits face many challenges during training. Overcoming their fears will aid them in their futures as Marines. The hardest part for most is simply taking the step over the edge.

"When you look down, it seems like you're going to fall," said Harvey, 25, from Philadelphia. "You start to look down and you feel like you're unstable."

Harvey said she knew there was nothing to do but to go through with it.

"Why come here if you're not going to do everything they ask of you?" asked Harvey. "If you're scared, it's a good thing to do it. Overcoming our fears is a way of growing up, a step forward in life."

Harvey took her first step off the tower and quickly slid down the rope to the bottom. She said she felt a wave of relief and accomplishment hit her as she touched the ground, triumphing over her task.

The recruits of Oscar Company were able to put aside their fears and make their way down the tower. They have learned to put aside their own discomfort when it stands in the way of completing a mission. Today, they now walk across the Peatross Parade Deck as Marines.



Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

**Rct. Chewanda Roberts, Platoon 4004, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, steps down onto a bar simulating a helicopter's landing skid as she prepares to descend the rappel tower Dec. 18 on Parris Island. Some recruits faced a fear of heights as they rappelled the 47-foot tower. Oscar Company is scheduled to graduate today.**



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

**Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, rush out of the gas chamber Dec. 18 on Parris Island.**

## Mike Co. recruits breathe easier after gas mask training

**Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda**  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, overcame their fears of the unknown after learning how to properly wear their gas masks before going through the gas chamber Dec. 18 on Parris Island.

Familiarization with protective equipment, such as gas masks, is one of many common combat skills all recruits must learn before graduating as Marines.

Marines never know when they will encounter chemical or biological weapons in combat, said Cpl. Brandon Dockery, a chemical and biological defense instructor. This training is meant to help recruits become confident in their ability to survive in a contaminated environment.

The tear gas used in the chamber affects the body in many different ways. The gas causes a burning sensation on skin, watery eyes, nasal discharge and coughing.

"When I first put the gas mask on, I was, to be honest, terrified," said Pfc. Guy Knight, Platoon 3010. "This is the part of boot camp I was most dreading. I couldn't wait to get it over with."

Once inside the chamber, recruits must all break their masks' airtight seal, exposing themselves briefly to the gas. Then, they have a mere nine seconds to reseal the mask and blow out any gas that got inside.

"When I got in there I started panicking," said Pfc. Albert Martinez, Platoon 3008. "I was prepared ... but I wasn't expecting my body's reaction."

He said he had trouble breathing and felt as if his throat had closed.

Martinez said he felt his only option to get away from the uncomfortable effects of the gas was to exit the chamber so he sprinted out the door and into the fresh morning air.

The instructors calmed Martinez down and sent him through the chamber for a second time. That time, he knew what to expect and was able to stay in the chamber until he showed he could properly clear the mask of tear gas.

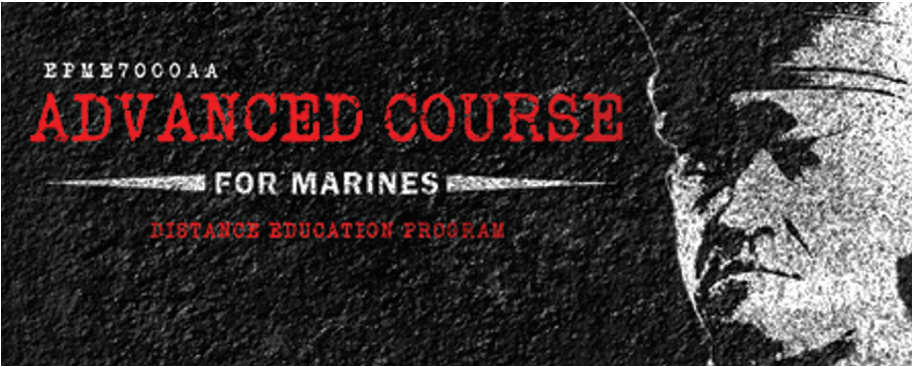
"We were prepared ... we knew what to expect," said Knight, 24, from Munford, Ala. "Still, you don't know how your body is going to react to the gas. It burnt my face a lot. I didn't expect that."

"I opened my eyes and that was a mistake," Knight added. "I took a semideep breath, which wasn't too smart either, but I knew how to clear the mask. So I cleared it and I was fine."

Knight said he felt a huge relief after seeing the chamber door open, signaling the recruits to exit the chamber. He said he felt accomplished, knowing that dreaded part of training was over.

Recruits received the basic instructions needed to protect themselves in a contaminated environment, said Dockery, 24, from Trinity, N.C. This training was all part of transforming the recruits into well-rounded, basically trained Marines.

The recruits of Mike Company entered the gas chamber unsure of how they would handle the affects of the gas and emerged with the confidence that they could accomplish anything required of them. They walk across Peatross Parade Deck as Marines, ready to face any challenge placed in their path.





# East Coast recruiters as Super Bowl color guard




Photo by Jennifer Villaume

New Orleans-based Marine recruiters, Staff Sgt. Warren Bernard, carrying the Marine Corps flag, and Staff Sgt. Adrian Munoz, second from right, stand centerfield during the national anthem as part of a joint service color guard performance during opening ceremonies for the Super Bowl XLVII at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans on Feb. 3. Bernard and Munoz, who recruit in the Big Easy as members of Recruiting Station Baton Rouge, were joined by two Marines from the Marine Forces Reserve band and six other local recruiters from other services.

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Retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Keller, who served as a drill instructor on Parris Island between 1945 and 1949, shakes hands with Maj. Chad Craven, director of the Drill Instructor School, during a tour of Parris Island with a group of veterans from Summit Place of Beaufort, S.C., on Feb. 5. Keller joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and served as an infantryman during World War II and was wounded several times in combat. He said the island looked newer than he remembered it, and the training has improved since his time on the drill field.



CHANGE  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“She had a desire to be a Marine,” said Elmore, 35, from St. Matthews, S.C. “She looked us in the face with tears in her eyes and told us she would do whatever it takes to lose the weight.”

The Marines at the recruiting station devised a diet and exercise plan for Anorue. She stayed faithful to the plan, exercising with the Marines whenever possible, even giving up her week-ends.

Anorue said she knew her goal was to become a Marine, even as her peers degraded her efforts to reach a healthy weight.

It took her a year and a half to lose the weight needed to enlist in the Marines. She was in the delayed entry program for four months before arriving on Parris Island.

Anorue was given the chance to believe in herself, said Elmore. Anorue said she felt the Marines had become her family figures.

Through her devotion to losing the weight, Anorue had shown her com-

mitment to wanting to become a Marine and was deemed ready to go to recruit training.

“I don’t know how to quit,” said Anorue. “I don’t see anything worth going back to. Everything I want is in front of me.”

Anorue is truly an example of change, said Elmore. She did not want to let herself or others down. A timid girl became a confident young woman.

“I never want to do it again, ever. But it was worth it,” said Anorue, referring to recruit training. “It’s like I’ve really worked for something. I’m so used to running from everything if things got hard, but here you couldn’t run away. I just had to do it. And I did.”

Anorue is scheduled to graduate from Platoon 4004, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion today. She will attend Marine Corps combat training in Camp Lejeune, N.C., before continuing on to her occupational specialty school where she will train to become a communication electrician.

CONFIDENCE  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the confidence to complete an obstacle on their own,” said Henriquez, a native of Pasco, Wash.

One of the most common fears is a fear of heights. To help recruits overcome their fears, drill instructors do what they can to push recruits beyond their comfort zones.

“As crazy as it sounds, screaming and yelling helps,” said Henriquez. “It pushes them to go forward and realize that there is no giving up and no backing down.”

One of the most challenging obstacles for recruits is called Tough One, commonly known as the A-Frame. The 40-foot-tall wooden structure towers over the training area called Leatherneck Square and is the obstacle most recruits have the hardest time overcoming, said Henriquez.

“It was challenging,” said Pfc. Lauren Wiley, 23, Platoon 4005 and a native of Marquette, Mich. “It tested our mental and physical strength.”

In the end, the recruits overcame their fears and gained new confidence in themselves as they progressed through recruit training to their ultimate goal of becoming United States Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

**Rct. Aniva Brooks, 18, Platoon 4005, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, swings across the Arm Stretcher at the Confidence Course on Parris Island on Dec. 5, 2012. The Arm Stretcher has a series of inclines and declines that test a recruit’s upper-body and core strength. Brooks is from Seattle.**

ABOUT FACES

Mike Co.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

**Pvt. Matthew Ross**, Platoon 3014, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, said he joined the Marine Corps “to become a better person.”

The hardest part in training for the 20-year-old Spencer, Ohio, native was adapting to the environment, he said.

Ross said he believes the Corps was the best choice for him.

“I feel great. I feel a lot more confident in myself. I feel like I can do a whole lot more with my life now.”

Ross is scheduled to arrive at the School of Infantry on Camp Geiger, N.C., to train as an infantryman Feb. 18.



**Pfc. Aaron Barber**, Platoon 3013, said he joined the Corps to continue on his family’s legacy of generations of Marines.

“I have a history in my family. ... I wanted to carry on the traditions and the honor of earning the title,” Barber said.

Barber, a 19-year-old from Charlotte, N.C., is slated to attend Marine Combat Training Feb. 18 followed by occupational training to become a motor transport specialist.



**Pfc. Brian Bloete**, Platoon 3013, said he joined the Corps “to give back to the country of America that I love so much.”

He said no other branch of service crossed his mind when he decided to join the military, saying “the Marine Corps is the best.”

Bloete, 24, said the most challenging part of training for him was the constant movement and lack of rest.

However, overcoming the trials he faced has given Bloete a strong sense of pride.

“I feel accomplished. It’s something I’ve never done before. It’s the best feeling I’ve ever had in my life.”

The Rockaway, N.J., native is scheduled to begin training as a machine gunner at the School of Infantry on Feb. 18.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Joshua Draper, Platoon 3008, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, provides security as his fellow recruits make their way under a concertina wire obstacle on the day movement course on Jan. 18 on Parris Island. The recruits had been instructed to act as if they were being shot at by enemy troops during the training exercise. Therefore, at least one recruit had to provide security for his teammate at all times. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

# Mike Co. builds teamwork during combat test

## Communication, cohesion carry recruits through course

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda  
Staff Writer

The recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, learned the value of teamwork and communication while rushing, crawling and climbing through a simulated-combat course Jan. 18 on Parris Island.

The recruits went through the combat course twice, once during the day and once at night, to experience the difference between battling an enemy you can see and one you cannot. At night the only light was the moon and occasional simulated enemy flares.

Recruits go through the day and night movement course to gain a basic understanding of how to move against an enemy while under fire, said Sgt. Jason Boggess, an instructor on the course. This supports one of the main objectives of recruit training – learning common combat skills that every Marine must know.

The recruits made their way through the 800-meter course, designed to make them work as a team. They crawled through sand and under concertina wire, climbed over walls, scurried through culverts and across narrow log bridges - all the while battling their quickly exhausting bodies.

“The reason why there are so many obstacles is because in Afghanistan there are going to be more obstacles than we can put on the day movement course,” said Boggess. “We just try to give them a variety of different situations so they can have an idea of what they may end up seeing or facing.”

The recruits made their way in pairs across the wet sand, dropping behind any protection they could find. As one recruit continued forward, another guarded him.

The course required the recruits to use teamwork from start to finish, said Pfc. Kevin Robbins, Platoon 3009. He said the recruits had to trust their partner to make the path safe for them before alternating positions.

“Teamwork and communication are absolutely vital to the success of any mission that you do,” said Boggess, 26, from Stewart, Fla. “With the teamwork comes communication; you can’t do one without the other. You always want to use teamwork to repel the enemy’s assault.”

“It’s a mutual thing going on,” said Robbins, 27, from Statesboro, Ga. “I can’t get to point ‘A’ without him being at the starting point ready to go and vice versa.”

The sounds of simulated artillery fire and machine guns added to the realism as the recruits made their way through the course. Instructors set off smoke bombs



Rct. Kenneth Barnes, 19, from Bear Grass, N.C., assists his partner in lifting concertina wire off the ground so they may safely crawl under it on the day movement course Jan. 18 on Parris Island. Recruits of Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, used their rifles to lift the barbed wire. The company is scheduled to graduate today.

adding a literal fog of war. The recruits realized how important communication was with the noise of battle surrounding them.

“Even though there are no rounds going off today, you have to give orders to that person so they can hear over the artillery,” said Robbins. “You have to make sure your buddy is right there beside you at all times.”

Communication was essential. Without it, the recruits failed to work as a team. The drill instructors made sure those who did not work together received extra practice by having them restart the course. Some recruits were quick to figure out a strategy to push through.

Pfc. Darrius Arnold, Platoon 3009, said he and his partner used teamwork to crawl quickly under the concertina wire to avoid having to go back to the beginning of the obstacle.

He explained that the recruits had to keep their heads in the dirt, leaving them unable to see one another.

“My buddy and I yelled to one another as we moved to ensure that the other was still beside us. He would yell, ‘Are you next to me?’ and I would yell back ‘Yeah’. Then after he yelled ‘Ready, go!’ we would move together toward the end of the wire,” said Arnold, 18, from Virginia Beach, Va.

They finished the course tired but successfully gained not only battlefield skills but also the knowledge that communication and teamwork will help further them in their Marine Corps career.

Mike Company is scheduled to graduate today.

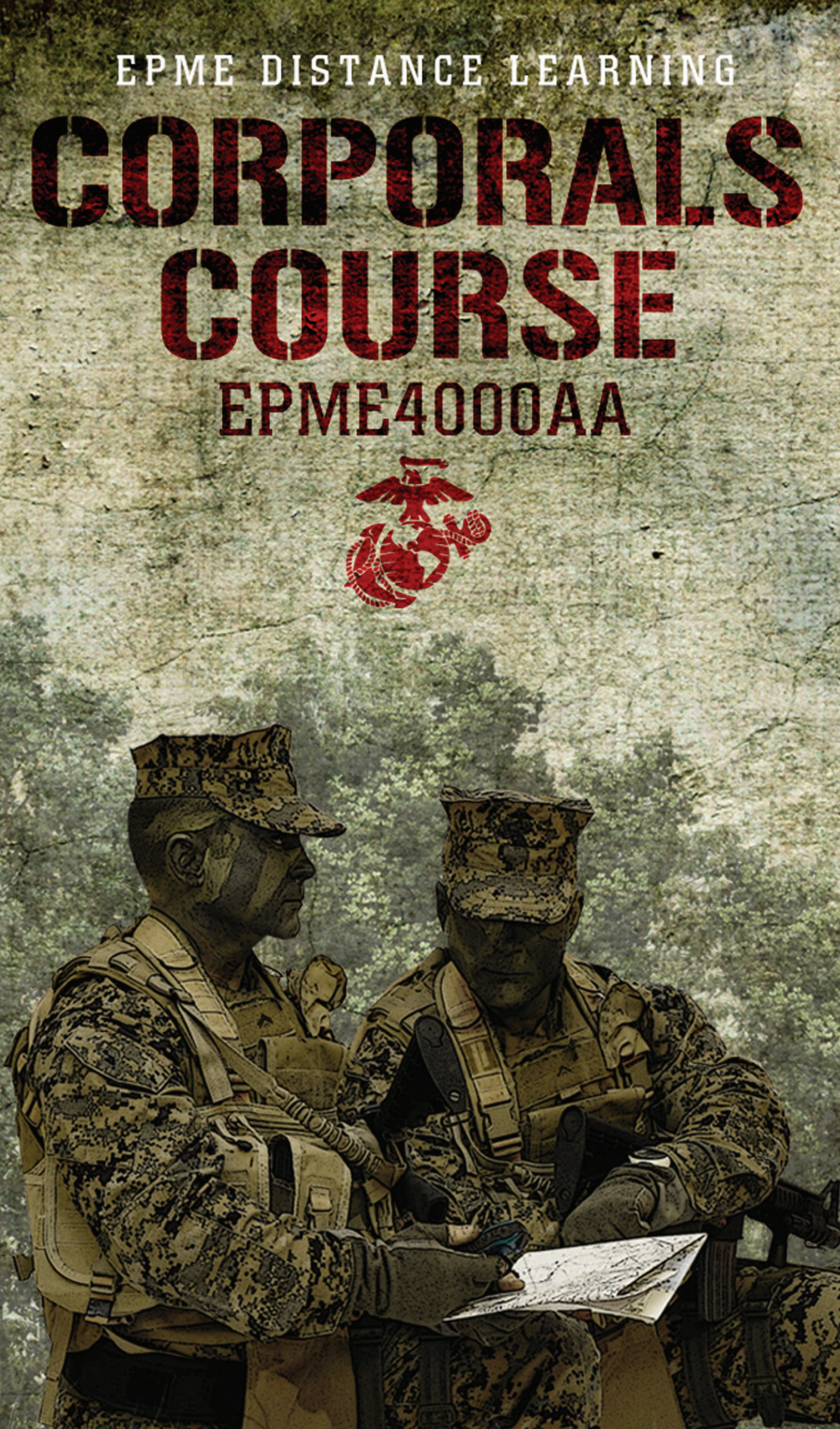






Photo by Lance Cpl. Octavia Davis

**Retired Marine Corps Capt. Rex Reed**, right, stands at the Peatross Parade Deck as the reviewing officer for Hotel Company’s graduation ceremony Feb. 1. Reed, 92, was an officer in World War II and is one of the few remaining veterans who served during that time. Reed graduated recruit training here in April 1944. Reed was stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for follow-on training, and in July 1944, attended a platoon leaders’ course in Quantico, Va., where he graduated as the honor graduate. In September 1944, he received a reserve commission to second lieutenant and completed reserve officer training in November 1944. From there, Reed went on to serve in places such as Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Guam as an operations and engineer officer. In August 1952, Reed was honorably discharged from active duty.



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cordially invites you to join in a  
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as we commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the official formation of the Marine Corps  
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(843) 228-4345

# Depot tax center open for free filing

**Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers**  
Staff Writer

The Parris Island tax center opened Jan. 30 to provide free income tax filing assistance to Beaufort-area military personnel.

The center, located in building 911, is available to active-duty service members, retirees and their family members for help with both state and federal returns.

The tax center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for walk-ins and appointments and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for appointments only. It will remain open un-

til April 20, three days after the official end of the tax season for any late appointments.

In coordination with the Internal Revenue Service, the Parris Island legal assistance office supervises the annual operation of the center, which is staffed by Marines as part of the federally sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, said Capt. Angel Alfaro, the center's officer in charge.

Last year, Parris Island tax preparers prepared 997 federal tax returns and 832 state returns that resulted in approximately \$2.6 million in refunds - saving personnel approximately \$160,000 in preparation fees, Al-

faro said.

The Marines assigned to the tax center have completed advanced tax preparer training, two levels of certification higher than is required through the VITA program, said Alfaro.

Users of the tax center are asked to bring their military identification, Social Security cards for each family member claimed on the return, W-2, W-2G, 1099-R and 1099-Misc forms, and any other documents that may relate to income, said Alfaro.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the tax center at 843-228-3906.





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