

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



SEE ALPHA
COMPANY'S
GRADUATES

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ALPHA CO. RECRUITS TAKE SHOT AT TITLE



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Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Recruits from Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, fire at targets from the 200-yard line Jan. 16 at Starlite Rifle Range on Parris Island. During qualification, recruits fire from the 200-, 300- and 500-yard lines in order to become proficient in firing their M16-A4 rifles. Every recruit must learn to fire a rifle not only as a graduation requirement, but also as a means to defend themselves and their fellow Marines. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, listen as their company commander, Capt. Patrick Murphy, teaches them about the importance of the core values of honor, courage and commitment during their introduction to core values class Dec. 4, 2012, at the Recruit Training Facility on Parris Island. Murphy, a 27-year-old from Greensboro, N.C., informed the recruits that they must emulate the values in everything they do during recruit training. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Parris Island recruits instilled with Marines' moral foundation

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, learned the essential values and ethics demanded of them if they hope to earn the title of Marine during a class Dec. 4, 2012, at the Recruit Training Facility on Parris Island.

At a time when even the youngest Marine's actions on the battlefield or on America's streets could cast a spotlight on the Corps, character development of recruits is arguably the most important objective of recruit training.

"These values and ethics have to be ingrained in everything they do here," said Capt. Patrick Murphy, company commander. "It isn't the rifle range that makes them Marines, and it isn't the [physical fitness test] score that makes them Marines – it's the core values."

Honor, courage and commitment are the Marine Corps' core values, and the recruits were tested on them throughout training.

"From the day we stepped on this island we have constantly been tested on these core values," said

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Maluda

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, charge one another during their practical application of bayonet techniques with pugil sticks in close-quarter combat Dec. 10, 2012, on Parris Island. Recruits fought each other in two 15-second bouts. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Recruits slash through bayonet assault training

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practiced bayonet techniques using pugil sticks to battle one another during training Dec. 10, 2012, on Parris Island.

Bayonets are typically a last-resort weapon, used during a final charge or when overrun and ammunition is gone. For today's Marines, bayonet techniques have been incorporated into other hand-to-hand fighting skills that make up the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Some recruits have never been in a fight before, said Sgt. Brandon Ireton, senior drill instructor for Platoon 1009. Pugil stick training is an opportunity for them to learn what it

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NEWS BRIEF

Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended 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, Edding Creek, and portions of the Broad River adjacent to Parris Island small-arms ranges, 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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Parris Island recruits complete Confidence Course

Alpha Company’s Graduates

Honor Graduates

Platoon 1008

Pfc. Casey N. Dodd, Alto, Ga.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Ryan G. Flohr

Platoon 1009

Pfc. Kyle D. Bogel, Claysburg, Pa.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Brandon A. Ireton

Platoon 1010

Pfc. Thomas P. O’Hare Jr., Lynn, Mass.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Feddyberto Herrera

Platoon 1012

Pfc. Lovepreet N. Singh, Youngstown, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Jason E. McKinley

Platoon 1013

Pfc. Brendan L. Hogan, Newport, N.H.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Carl E. Farmer Jr.

Platoon 1014

Pfc. Shawn T. Barnes, Salisbury, Md.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Victor A. Lucio

Platoon 1008

Pvt. H. E. Adair, Pfc. M. Z. Archer, Pvt. K. D. Armstrong, Pfc. B. L. Ball, Pvt. S. V. Bankston, Pfc. L. K. Barrientos, Pfc. C. C. Brooks, Pvt. R. S. Carreras Jr., Pvt. D. D. Cash, Pfc. E. J. Chichka, Pvt. T. J. Clontz, Pvt. T. D. Crider, Pvt. N. M. Crutchfieldward, Pvt. P. H. Davis, Pfc. C. N. Dodd, Pfc. A. L. Edwards, Pfc. D. J. Fontenot, Pfc. D. J. Fries, Pvt. J. A. Gillard, Pfc. T. R. Glenn, Pvt. S. A. Griffith, Pvt. G. Z. Gruse, Pvt. R. T. Gwinn, Pfc. C. N. Hatton, Pvt. C. W. Hawkins, Pfc. M. C. Herron, Pvt. K. J. Hidalgo, Pfc. T. A. Hodges, Pfc. R. C. Horner, Pvt. C. B. Johnson, Pvt. D. W. Johnson, Pfc. K. J. Johnson, Pfc. C. P. Kavanaugh, Pvt. J. L. Keener, Pvt. M. A. Kelly, Pfc. A. B. Klein, Pvt. R. A. Kodirov, Pvt. C. W. Kwak, Pvt. J. L. Lawler, Pvt. H. S. Lee, Pfc. T. K. Legree, Pfc. R. P. Lennon, Pvt. D. A. Lewis, Pvt. W. M. Long, Pvt. J. L. Lucin, Pvt. J. C. Marcum, Pvt. T. D. McIntosh, Pvt. C. L. Miller, Pvt. J. L. Moore III, Pfc. I. P. Morgan IV, Pvt. J. B. Morlitz, Pvt. A. G. Neely, Pvt. L. D. Parrish, Pvt. J. W. Proveaux, Pvt. A. C. Quiroz, Pfc. T. J. Reed, Pfc. R. E. Rogers II, Pvt. N. C. Seelhammer, Pfc. J. W. Seivers, Pfc. B. A. Simmons, Pvt. L. E. Smith, Pfc. C. C. Trammell, Pvt. R. J. Wallick, Pfc. J. A. Weems, Pfc. S. I. Whitehead, Pfc. M. C. Wilton

Platoon 1009

Pfc. R. O. Armour III, Pvt. D. M. Arnold, Pvt. R. Autera, Pvt. J. D. Bark, Pvt. R. M. Bean, Pvt. M. A. Berrioshernandez, Pfc. K. J. Biggs, Pfc. K. D. Bogel, Pfc. C. J. Boles, Pvt. J. W. Brancifort, Pvt. C. L. Brink, Pvt. C. B. Brown, Pfc. D. T. Brown, Pfc. D. C. Brown, Pvt. T. W. Burr, Pvt. M. Cardenas, Pvt. S. S. Cihocki, Pfc. M. L. Cornett, Pvt. B. R. Corr Jr., Pvt. A. M. Cowley, Pvt. J. K. Dalton, Pvt. M. Davidson, Pvt. M. F. Dedivanaj, Pvt. R. A. Deforest, Pfc. T. P. Eggleston, Pvt. C. K. Eick, Pfc. N. A. Elflein, Pfc. S. C. Ellixson, Pfc. M. S. Ferreiraaspiazu, Pvt. G. L. Fine III, Pfc. J. T. Gatling, Pfc. W. M. Griffith Jr., Pvt. A. M. Grimes, Pvt. J. D. Gunn, Pvt. M. J. Guy, Pvt. C. A. Hall Jr., Pfc. B. J. Hall, Pvt. A. B. Hallquist, Pfc. M. M. Jackson, Pfc. M. M. Jackson, Pvt. Z. E. Jones, Pvt. J. M. Kaller, Pvt. R. Khuu, Pvt. J. D. Kingery, Pvt. C. A. Lemonte, Pvt. E. G. Liles, Pfc. T. M. Mason, Pvt. J. C. Matthews Jr., Pfc. Z. A. Mehl, Pvt. P. M. Munoz, Pfc. M. L. Njie, Pvt. K. Y. Ormsbee, Pvt. K. A. Parker, Pvt. C. P. Roberts, Pvt. K. T. Seiler, Pvt. T. A. Six, Pfc. J. D. Skinner, Pvt. K. F. Snell, Pfc. K. R. Storman II, Pvt. L. S. Tomlinson, Pvt. K. D. Venancio, Pvt. M. C. Walesch, Pvt. M. W. West, Pvt. Z. C. Wiegele, Pvt. E. K. Wirtz, Pvt. C. E. Young Jr.

Platoon 1010

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THE PARRIS ISLAND

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Parris Island recruits learn importance of marksmanship

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

The recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, learned that to become a Marine, they must master rifle marksmanship during their time at the rifle range on Parris Island, S.C.

The phrase “every Marine a rifleman” is ingrained in every recruit that goes to the range. They learn the fundamentals of marksmanship for an entire week before firing a single bullet. The next week, they practice their form and fundamentals for four days before qualification day.

“The recruits being able to actively engage targets is more than just a qualification. It’s a Marine’s ability to defend himself and those around him,” said Cpl. Jonathan Senters, a coach on Parris Island’s Starlite Rifle Range. “They need to look at it as a skill they need to defend themselves, not just something they have to do in order to graduate.”

The recruits come back to the range for a third time several weeks later in order to enhance their combat firing skills even further.

For many recruits, boot camp is the first time they have ever fired a real weapon.

“I haven’t ever shot a weapon before, so I really paid attention in all the classes we sat through last week,” said Pvt. Tyler McIntosh, Platoon 1008. “I haven’t really had a lot of trouble firing this week because I studied so much.”

The training recruits receive using the M16-A4 rifles will serve them throughout their Marine Corps careers, and could possibly save their life or the Marine’s next to them.

McIntosh, an 18-year-old from Yorktown, Va., said it was a feeling of relief when he first fired his weapon. He said it was exciting to try something new, but he



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Rct. Tyler McIntosh, Platoon 1008, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, looks through his scope at his target Jan. 16 at Starlite Rifle Range on Parris Island. McIntosh, an 18-year-old from Yorktown, Va., said he was confident in his abilities despite the fact that he had never fired a weapon before coming to recruit training. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

was scared the recoil would be hard.

“The best advice I received from my coach was to not get nervous while shooting, because it will mess up where my shots go on the target,” said McIntosh.

“The recruits spend two weeks here because the Marine Corps’ job is to be a force in readiness,” said Senters, a 22-year-old native of Barbourville, Ky. “A Marine needs to know how to actively engage a target more than they need to know how to do anything else.”

Senters coached the Afghan army on marksmanship during his second deployment, then was stationed

here to coach recruits. He said he realizes the importance of the job, so he enjoys teaching the recruits.

“On my first deployment, I was the designated marksman, which was like the sniper for my squad. I had a precision weapon and had to make well-aimed shots to protect my fellow Marines,” said Senters.

The recruits of Alpha Company left the rifle range knowing how to effectively confront an enemy from up to 500 yards away with their M16-A4 rifles. They are now more prepared to serve Corps and country when the situation arises. They are scheduled to graduate today.



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MORAL
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Pfc. Cristian Espinal, a 23-year-old from Yonkers, N.Y., with Platoon 1012. “It takes honor to make sure that everyone is doing the right thing; it takes courage to even come to recruit training and do what we are doing; and it takes a lot of commitment to endure the stress and pain of being here.”

Murphy, a 27-year-old from Greensboro, N.C., emphasized the idea that what makes Marines are these values and ethics, which are carried in their minds and hearts.

“Recruit training, in my opinion, would be pointless without these values and ethics instilled in them,” Murphy said. “It would be like a summer camp. They would go back home more skilled, but not better people. These characteristics change them into better men and women.”

Recruits are taught the difference between right and wrong, and how to distinguish between the two in a difficult situation.

Murphy asked the recruits during

the class if it was right to steal. They all replied no, so Murphy changed the question. He then asked if it was right to steal if their children were starving. The recruits had a difficult time answering.

“Recruit training wouldn’t be the same if we didn’t talk about right versus wrong,” said Murphy. “We cannot take recruits from all over the country with different backgrounds and different cultures and expect to make a team of Marines that have the same values without these discussions.”

The recruits continued to build upon the foundation of their core values throughout recruit training.

“Initially, I do not expect the recruits to master these values, but I do expect them to be open to them,” said Murphy. “They will continue to master them through the next 70 training days.”

The recruits of Alpha Company went through various tests of their honor, courage and commitment during training, and even after graduating today and leaving Parris Island, the tests of character will continue every day they wear the uniform.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, learn the values of the Marine Corps and the difference between right and wrong during their introduction to core values class Dec. 4, 2012, at the Recruit Training Facility on Parris Island. The values and decision-making skills they learn here will guide them during training and throughout their Marine Corps careers. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

BAYONET
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is like to battle an opponent face-to-face and see how they handle getting knocked around a bit.

A pugil stick is a long stick with bulky padding on each end. Each end of the pugil stick represents the ends of a rifle with a bayonet. The red padded end of the stick represents the bayonet and signals a winning hit when used correctly.

Pfc. Lovepreet Singh, Platoon 1012, knelt outside the entrance to the combat training area, pugil stick in hand, as he went over his plan of attack for taking out his opponent.

He said he felt the adrenaline pump through his veins at the thought of getting into the fight. Singh said he would not hesitate to use the techniques he learned, as one day the same movements may save his life in combat.

Singh, 22, from Youngstown, Ohio, lost the first of two 15-second bouts after his opponent struck a winning blow.

Singh said it was scary to think that if that had been a real-life situation, he could be dead.

He said his training kicked in and he defeated his opponent in the last fight after his loss gave him an insight on his vulnerabilities.

Alpha Company recruits came to understand the techniques they were taught during training may one day save their lives. They have been taught the skills needed to successfully begin their lives as Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Andrew Hughes, Platoon 1014, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, waits his turn to run to participate in close-quarters combat training using pugil sticks Dec. 10, 2012, on Parris Island. Hughes, 19, from Langston, N.C.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Staff Sgt. Latoya Moffet, a receiving drill instructor, welcomes the newest recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Nov. 26, 2012, to Parris Island. One of the first lessons reinforced to recruits was respect for authority. This included responding to everything said to them without hesitation. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

THEIR FIRST STEPS

Alpha Co. recruits arrive on Parris Island for 13-week journey

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, welcomed its newest recruits to Parris Island on Nov. 26, 2012. That night, the recruits got their first impression of how the next 13 weeks would be spent after meeting their first drill instructor.

“Everything that comes out of your mouth should be loud and vicious,” shouted Sgt. James Case, a receiving drill instructor, as he addressed the recruits that stood before him in the receiving building.

The goal for a first interaction with the recruits is to cause stress and establish a sense of respect for authority, said Sgt. Jaime Andrade, a senior drill instructor for receiving.

“Am I really ready for this?” That was the thought Pvt. Larry Parrish, Platoon 1008, said was in his head as the bus pulled up next to the yellow footprints, which mark the beginning of the transformation to becoming a Marine.

He said he was shocked as the female drill instructor yanked open the van

doors and started yelling orders.

“She had an evil look on her face like she didn’t care about anything,” said Parrish, a 20-year-old from Valdosta, Ga.

Fierce, yet steel-faced – that was the first impression Pfc. Taylor Glenn had of a drill instructor. He described the experience as “surreal.”

“You don’t even have time to soak in what’s happening. You just do what you’re told,” said Glenn, Platoon 1008, and a native of Buford, Ga.

The drill instructors set the tone from the beginning that they are not there to be friends with the recruits. They are there to turn them into basically trained Marines.

They need to know they are here to accomplish one thing – to earn their Eagle, Globe and Anchor, said Andrade, a 26-year-old from Corona, Calif.

The recruits of Alpha Company received the same unforgettable introduction that every enlisted Marine before them has had to endure. They were met by drill instructors who sought only to mold them into Marines. Now, they stand next to those same men and women as their brothers and sisters in the Corps.




ABOUT FACES

Alpha Company

Pfc. Marcus Jackson, a 20-year-old Detroit native, trained at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., with his twin brother, Montel Jackson, in hopes of earning the title of United States Marine. Both Jackson brothers trained with Platoon 1009, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, and are scheduled to graduate today.


“I’ve been with my twin brother my whole life. We both joined the Marine Corps and chose different jobs as a way to part with each other and do something different,” he said. “I wanted to see what I was capable of by myself.”




Pfc. Montel Jackson, is scheduled to graduate today with his twin brother. However, the two chose to join the Corps for different reasons.

“My mom got into a really bad accident shortly after I graduated high school so I worked a full-time job with my brother to pay her bills,” he said. “After two years, I decided I wanted a faster pace in life, so I joined the Marine Corps.”

Jackson said he specifically chose the Marine Corps because he “wanted to do something different. I wanted something that would challenge me physically and mentally.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill




Pfc. Samuel Hannon, a 19-year-old native of Jeffersonville, Ind., with Platoon 1012, is scheduled to graduate today.

When asked why he set out to endure the nation’s toughest boot camp, Hannon explained it was for his loved ones at home.

“The toughest part of recruit training so far has been leaving home,” said Hannon. “This was the first time I’ve ever been away from home this long, and I want my family and friends to be proud of me when I go back.”

Pfc. Thomas O’Hare, a 23-year-old native of Lynn, Mass., with Platoon 1010, is scheduled to graduate today after his 13-week endeavor to earn the title. O’Hare spent the majority of his training days being his platoon’s guide, which is the head recruit.

“I attended West New England University and obtained a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice before deciding that I needed a change of scenery,” said O’Hare. “I went from working a full-time job with people older than me to being a recruit leading younger men to earn the title Marine, which gives me a sense of honor and pride.”



Alpha recruits gain confidence on Parris Island’s über-obstacle course

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The recruits of Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, proved they could conquer self-doubt after overcoming the challenges of the Confidence Course on Dec. 10, 2012, on Parris Island.

The course consisted of 15 obstacles, which require strength, balance and determination, thus building physical and mental confidence.

If they don’t have confidence, who is to say they will not cower in the face of danger, said Sgt. Joseph Galinak, 27, a drill instructor for Platoon 1008, and a native of Morris County, N.J., This course was their opportunity to prove they wanted to become strong, self-assured Marines.

“Heights make me nervous,” said Pfc. Kyle Johnson, Platoon 1008. “Going over the A-Frame made me more confident in myself.”

The A-Frame, or Tough One, required recruits to climb a rope onto a staggered log platform before climbing a wooden ladder to the obstacle’s peak, approximately 30 feet high, and descending a second rope to the ground.

Johnson, a 19-year-old from Natick, Mass., said his initial lack of confidence caused him to struggle with some of the obstacles, such as the Arm Stretcher,

an obstacle on the course that required upper-body strength to complete.

“They are going to be Marines,” said Galinak. “We are tasking them with going out and protecting the nation, our country, and if they don’t have confidence, how do we expect them to perform in battle or carry out humanitarian tasks?”

Some recruits grew tired and felt like giving up as they went through the obstacles, said Galinak. But if they start quitting on themselves here, they will do the same in the future.

Recruits are taught about esprit de corps early in training. This pride of belonging helped instill in recruits a warrior ethos, and a mental and physical toughness that did not allow recruits to want to quit on themselves.

“I’m not here to fail,” said Johnson. “I’m not here at Parris Island to be mediocre. I’m here to be the best so I will strive to be the best.”

The obstacles that previously looked “incredibly challenging” gave Johnson reason to be surprised with himself after he conquered them. He said his failures were in the past.

“I won’t let this course break me down,” said Johnson. “I’ve worked too hard to get here. So I know I can do this. I’m very confident.”

Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Joseph Lawler, Platoon 1008, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, maneuvers his way through the logs of the Weaver, an obstacle on the Confidence Course on Dec. 10, 2012, on Parris Island. Lawler, 21, from Auburn, Ga., had to go under the first log and over the next, repeating the sequence without falling off the obstacle. Alpha Company is scheduled to graduate today.

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
- 10am - 12pm.....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 - 3pm.....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 at 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 and Liberty Ceremony at AWTF
- 10am.....Liberty Begins
- 10am.....Marksmanship Training Unit Open House
- 10:30am - 1pm.....Family Day Buffet at the Lyceum - new Marines eat for FREE!
- 2pm.....Warrior’s Prayer at 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)

