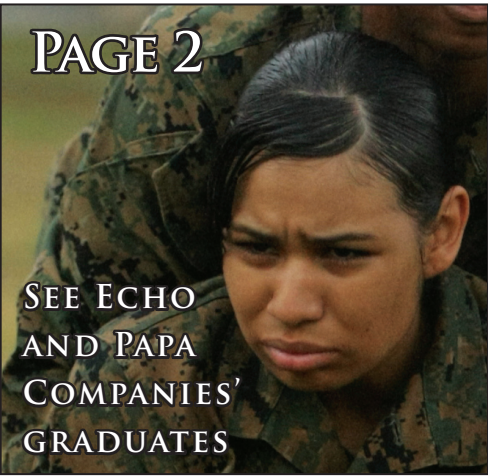


THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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WHY I
BECAME
A DRILL
INSTRUCTOR

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Staff Sgt. Kellee Marchiano joined the Marine Corps in August 2002 and became a drill instructor in April 2011. She currently trains recruits with Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion. Marchiano, a native of New Jersey, works as an ammunition technician off the drill field.

“I heard that they needed female drill instructors and my old company commander and my company first sergeant told me that I had the perfect personality for it and I was meant to do this. So they kind of talked me into it. I’m glad I did. It’s a good time and I enjoy training recruits to become Marines.”

Echo recruits learn to defend against CHEMICAL ATTACKS



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. James Fenell secures his mask before entering Parris Island’s gas chamber Jan. 7. Recruits were ordered to put on their masks in preparation for the gas chamber. Fenell, 18, is from Pittsburgh, and trained with Platoon 2017, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Alex Degroat, 19, Platoon 2021, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, stares down his opponent, **Rct. Garrett Notman, Platoon 2021,** during pugil stick training on Parris Island on Dec. 17, 2012. Degroat is from Newark, Del. Notman is from Stafford, Va. They are scheduled to graduate today.

Recruits face off in pugil stick training

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

The recruits of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, received their first taste of close-quarters combat as they fought each other during pugil stick training Dec. 17, 2012, on Parris Island.

The training gives recruits a chance to use the bayonet techniques they are taught against a living opponent.

Pugil stick training has been a part of recruit training as long as rifles and bayonets have been used in

SEE PUGIL PAGE 3

Recruits fire away on Parris Island rifle range



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Kevin Gilroy, 18, Platoon 2021, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fires his rifle during a rapid-fire exercise at the 300-yard line at Parris Island’s Starlite Rifle Range on Jan. 23. Gilroy is from New City, N.Y., and is scheduled to graduate today.

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Recruits of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fired their first rounds during the week of Jan. 21 in preparation for their marksmanship evaluation.

Recruits are taught the fundamentals of Marine Corps marksmanship and how to fire over long distances accurately, said Cpl. Jonathan Senters, 22, a marksmanship coach at Starlite Rifle Range.

For two weeks recruits trained to properly handle and fire their M16-A4 rifles from 200 to 500 yards in the standing, kneeling, sitting and prone firing positions. They even learned how to properly breathe when squeezing the trigger.

Recently recruits began using rifle combat optics because the Marine Corps now equips its rifles with them.

It is the first time ever holding a rifle for several recruits, which

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See the
faces of Echo
and Papa
companies

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Immigrant
enlists in Corps
to serve new home

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Echo & Papa Companies’ Graduates

Echo Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 2016

Pfc. Ryan H. Williams, New Orleans
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. David R. McFadden

Platoon 2018

Pfc. Carter A. High, Nashville, Tenn.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Romaine H. Mullings

Platoon 2021

Pfc. Brandon D. Adkins, Miamisburg, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Anthony E. Stockman

Platoon 2017

Pfc. Ryan M. Langham, Fort Myers, Fla.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Joseph Henderson

Platoon 2020

Pfc. Jerell A. Ragland, Springfield, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Mitchell P. Moore

Papa Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 4006

Pfc. Tara R. Wilcox, Augusta, Ga.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Leslie D. Moree

Platoon 4007

Pfc. Lausei S. Taua, Wahiawa, Hawaii
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Melissa A. Johnson

Platoon 2016

Pvt. J. A. Anglin, Pvt. D. E. Berliner, Pvt. J. R. Bernardi, Pvt. M. A. Brown, Pfc. F. D. Callhoun, Pvt. R. Chavez, Pvt. J. B. Clark, Pvt. D. M. Collins, Pfc. C. A. Cooper, Pfc. J. A. Coward, Pvt. C. L. Craine, Pvt. B. A. Davis, Pfc. J. J. Dickson, Pfc. M. J. Dopson, Pvt. C. L. Doyle, Pvt. J. F. Felix, Pfc. J. H. Freeman, Pvt. D. T. Gant, Pfc. G. Gonzalez, Pvt. R. M. Gonzalez, Pvt. J. M. Harris, Pvt. T. A. Hicks, Pvt. W. T. Hill, Pvt. J. T. Horton, Pfc. J. W. Hudson, Pfc. M. A. Hunter, Pvt. M. A. Jackson Jr., Pfc. Z. L. Jones, Pvt. M. J. Kusiolek, Pfc. T. J. Langendorfer, Pfc. L. D. Lanier, Pvt. J. A. Locklear, Pvt. J. M. Lynch, Pvt. T. R. Mahoney, Pvt. J. W. Marcial, Pvt. K. Martindale, Pvt. D. L. Melvin, Pfc. Z. T. Moore, Pvt. B. E. Newsome, Pfc. R. C. Penny, Pvt. B. J. Pruitt, Pvt. F. X. Racut, Pvt. T. H. Richards III, Pfc. M. A. Roberts, Pvt. G. C. Ross, Pvt. G. J. Sherman, Pfc. R. M. Silliker, Pvt. C. F. Soto, Pvt. Q. F. Spieght, Pvt. C. M. Summers, Pvt. D. L. Szamosi, Pfc. C. R. Threatt, Pvt. V. A. Tompkins, Pvt. D. A. Towery, Pvt. C. M. Turco, Pvt. R. P. Turner, Pvt. F. M. Nasr, Pvt. A. C. Vanover, Pvt. J. D. Williams, Pfc. R. H. Williams, Pvt. R. M. Wuellner

Platoon 2017

Pfc. A. J. Angel, Pvt. C. W. Baker, Pvt. L. A. Bastidascabrera, Pvt. J. C. Baumgardner, Pfc. M. K. Beliveau, Pvt. J. F. Blandino, Pvt. C. F. Boni, Pvt. J. A. Brown, Pvt. S. A. Brunson Jr., Pvt. B. C. Bruscia, Pfc. T. D. Buckley, Pfc. J. D. Byer, Pvt. T. B. Cabral, Pfc. D. J. Carey, Pfc. H. R. Chandler, Pvt. V. R. Cinque, Pfc. C. S. Crowell, Pfc. D. A. Cruzmitter, Pvt. D. M. Dematteo, Pvt. B. R. Desbrough, Pfc. D. A. Dodd, Pfc. N. J. Dye, Pfc. A. M. Haley, Pvt. K. J. Henson, Pfc. A. M. Hicar, Pvt. J. R. Johnson, Pvt. C. C. Kalis, Pvt. Z. A. Kordan, Pfc. R. M. Langham, Pfc. J. R. Larkins, Pvt. C. J. Messner, Pvt. H. M. Mosher, Pfc. B. S. Noffsinger, Pfc. R. D. Ostrowski, Pfc. J. E. Palmer Jr., Pfc. B. J. Pedraza, Pfc. G. R. Perkins, Pvt. D. R. Perry, Pfc. R. W. Perry, Pvt. A. E. Pesina, Pvt. M. T. Rand, Pfc. J. A. Rivera, Pvt. D. A. Rivere, Pvt. A. R. Sarrica, Pvt. P. K. Shaner, Pvt. I. T. Shonfelt, Pvt. K. B. Smith, Pfc. M. A. Smith, Pvt. C. J. Snyder, Pvt. W. M. Tate, Pvt. M. P. Vanjo, Pfc. W. K. Walker, Pvt. A. K. Ward Jr., Pvt. S. F. Washington, Pvt. T. B. Weathersby, Pvt. T. D. Whitley, Pvt. T. T. Williams, Pvt. W. S. Woodard Jr.

Platoon 2018

Pfc. E. Andon, Pfc. B. S. Antoine, Pvt. N. J. Avery, Pfc. D. N. Baker, Pfc. F. K. Basile, Pvt. B. J. Bonifacio, Pvt. L. A. Broyles, Pvt. J. D. Butler, Pfc. P. K. Cammock, Pfc. N. D. Campbell, Pfc. J. M. Chandler, Pvt. A. M. Clark, Pvt. S. J. Davis, Pvt. C. Deleon, Pfc. D. S. Durham, Pfc. A. R. Elharden, Pvt. A. K. Flint, Pvt. C. D. Goodrow, Pvt. B. T. Harper, Pvt. L. J. Hasting, Pfc. C. A. High, Pfc. T. L. Hinkle, Pvt. B. D. Hornberger, Pvt. B. L. Huff, Pfc. H. C. Hughes, Pvt. N. B. Hughes, Pvt. M. Julve, Pfc. C. M. Kornrumpf, Pvt. M. K. Littrell, Pvt. E. E. Loxley, Pvt. L. A. Mellott, Pvt. B. D. Moore, Pvt. K. L. Morgan, Pvt. Z. K. Morgan, Pvt. A. E. Mosca, Pvt. D. Muzila, Pvt. S. C. Myers, Pfc. B. J. Nelson, Pvt. C. A. Newsome, Pvt. C. B. Nicklesguerra, Pvt. J. E. Ortiz, Pvt. F. D. Otero, Pfc. T. A. Perrigin, Pvt. C. D. Phenis, Pfc. D. L. Picklesimer, Pvt. D. C. Reed, Pfc. F. A. Reynosodiaz, Pvt. N. A. Ricks, Pvt. H. L. Roberts, Pfc. R. A. Rodriguezespada, Pvt. C. J. Seyerle, Pfc. D. A. Shane, Pvt. D. H. Simpson, Pfc. J. M. Terry, Pfc. R. L. Vaal, Pfc. A. E. Vazquezsolivan, Pvt. L. F. White, Pvt. J. S. Wilson, Pvt. A. A. Zamfino, Pvt. E. L. Zeller

Platoon 2020

Pfc. J. J. Atchue, Pvt. T. L. Baierwalter, Pvt. C. A. Barros Jr., Pvt. J. Batista, Pvt. M. E. Brousseau Jr., Pvt. R. M. Butterfield, Pvt. S. L. Calderon, Pvt. C. G. Clark, Pfc. J. E. Coneyboyd, Pfc. K. A. Cranford, Pvt. J. J. Cruz, Pfc. D. M. Dacruz, Pfc. T. D. Dahlgreen, Pvt. C. C. Davis, Pvt. E. R. Davis, Pvt. S. M. Deplato Jr., Pvt. D. B. Dunn, Pfc. C. M. Faust, Pfc. R. M. Felizclifford, Pvt. R. M. Fisher, Pfc. D. A. Flechler, Pvt. D. Freeman, Pvt. C. B. Gasperson, Pvt. A. P. Gingras, Pvt. H. J. Green, Pvt. P. J. Grimmer, Pvt. K. G. Hanuschak, Pfc. J. B. Harrison, Pvt. D. C. Hatten, Pfc. B. P. Herman, Pfc. T. R. Hoyt, Pfc. W. S. Hubbard, Pvt. C. A. Mann, Pfc. J. W. McGehee, Pvt. M. V. McMillion, Pvt. J. A. Mikeal, Pfc. J. W. Mills, Pvt. E. D. Montanye, Pvt. D. Moses, Pvt. B. S. Murphy, Pfc. A. S. Phankhamchit, Pfc. P. M. Phelan, Pfc. J. A. Ragland, Pvt. J. M. Reamer, Pvt. R. P. Reilly, Pvt. M. S. Risser, Pvt. M. B. Robinson, Pvt. T. M. Ruggeri, Pfc. J. L. Santiago, Pvt. E. A. Seagrave, Pfc. S. G. Shipley, Pvt. B. C. Singleton, Pfc. A. C. Trisler, Pvt. T. D. Vandesteene, Pvt. T. A. Vaughn, Pvt. W. J. Wagers, Pvt. T. A. Watson, Pvt. N. J. Westberg, Pvt. C. A. Winecoff, Pfc. Z. M. Woodworth, Pvt. P. B. Woodson, Pvt. J. W. Zhinin

Platoon 2021

Pfc. B. D. Adkins, Pvt. A. Andrade, Pfc. K. A. Beasley, Pvt. J. R. Bermudezrodriguez, Pvt. R. B. Bonds, Pvt. P. R. Browe II, Pvt. L. J. Buck III, Pfc. M. P. Clark, Pvt. C. Colson Jr., Pfc. T. R. Cook, Pvt. I. J. Corbett, Pvt. J. A. Cross, Pfc. R. A. Cruz, Pfc. A. J. Davis, Pfc. M. C. Davis, Pvt. A. S. Degroat, Pfc. S. Z. Devlin, Pvt. K. C. Drayton, Pfc. I. Driwech, Pfc. D. A. Fordhardy, Pfc. A. G. Foscue, Pfc. H. J. Gaonatorres, Pfc. R. A. Garcia Jr., Pvt. K. F. Gilroy Jr., Pvt. D. A. Gonzalez, Pvt. D. A. Gorst, Pvt. J. C. Grener, Pvt. S. K. Hannas, Pfc. T. Hilton, Pvt. J. A. Hurd, Pfc. B. G. Janesek, Pvt. R. D. Kelly, Pfc. R. Khrystin, Pfc. J. M. Kozub, Pvt. M. V. Larock, Pvt. R. A. Leopold Jr., Pvt. A. S. Maine, Pvt. S. E. Malon, Pvt. Z. T. McGee, Pvt. J. A. Montelione, Pvt. A. A. Muhidin, Pfc. D. J. Nairns, Pfc. G. J. Notman, Pfc. E. Penasanchez, Pvt. M. D. Perezfigueroa, Pvt. T. N. Perry, Pvt. M. V. Polichetti, Pvt. K. B. Powell, Pfc. F. A. Ramirez, Pvt. Z. T. Raymond, Pvt. J. M. Riccardo, Pvt. B. R. Riley, Pvt. B. R. Roberts, Pvt. J. A. Rodriguez, Pvt. C. Sandy Jr., Pfc. C. M. Sissick, Pvt. J. Skinnerklee, Pvt. A. R. Sokolowski, Pvt. S. A. Stricklin, Pvt. Z. L. Sumrall, Pvt. R. Tewari, Pfc. A. A. Torrico, Pvt. D. E. Uhl

Platoon 4006

Pfc. T. R. Allen, Pvt. S. R. Baker, Pvt. S. E. Beatty, Pvt. K. K. Becker, Pfc. M. H. Begaye, Pfc. Q. B. Berry, Pfc. C. A. Blood, Pfc. T. L. Broadway, Pvt. L. P. Burgos, Pvt. V. A. Corro, Pfc. L. E. Dcato, Pvt. K. D. Farmer, Pvt. S. M. Feist, Pfc. D. M. Ganzhorn, Pfc. N. A. Garcia, Pvt. N. C. Gateward, Pvt. R. D. Gram, Pvt. I. H. Greene, Pvt. A. M. Greenman, Pfc. E. N. Harris, Pvt. C. R. Hein, Pfc. K. S. Henderson, Pfc. B. M. Hughes, Pvt. T. I. Johnson, Pvt. B. K. Kaiser, Pfc. L. A. Kitchen, Pvt. M. E. Kramer, Pfc. K. B. Lamberth, Pvt. S. E. Lewis, Pfc. C. R. Martinez, Pfc. J. M. Martinez, Pfc. A. M. Mitchell, Pvt. H. A. Munoz, Pvt. S. E. Perkins, Pvt. B. Pierressaint, Pvt. C. M. Pintomorales, Pfc. J. L. Price, Pvt. G. C. Quire, Pvt. A. Ramirez, Pfc. Z. Ramirez, Pfc. S. A. Richardson, Pfc. C. M. Rodriguez, Pvt. M. N. Rodriguez, Pvt. T. V. Rodriguez, Pvt. M. A. Sevilla, Pvt. L. B. Sims, Pvt. H. L. Sommerville, Pfc. C. A. Swope, Pfc. D. L. Watt, Pvt. J. R. Webb, Pvt. L. G. White, Pfc. T. R. Wilcox, Pfc. C. R. Wilson

Platoon 4007

Pvt. S. M. Arechiga, Pvt. S. N. Barnette, Pfc. A. V. Bravo, Pfc. S. N. Brown, Pvt. V. L. Burleson, Pfc. K. J. Castillo, Pfc. S. A. Cervantes, Pfc. T. C. Daniell, Pfc. E. M. Davenport, Pvt. D. E. Dorado, Pvt. T. Gifford, Pfc. N. M. Green, Pvt. K. I. Guevaraflares, Pvt. A. L. Gutenberg, Pfc. A. M. Heathman, Pfc. K. M. Hembree, Pvt. S. K. Hernandez, Pvt. K. M. Hicke, Pfc. A. D. Hinesbauch, Pvt. C. S. Holland, Pvt. R. R. Johnson, Pvt. K. P. Lane, Pfc. M. R. Lee, Pvt. J. D. Lewis, Pvt. M. G. Liuzzo, Pvt. A. M. Llamas, Pvt. C. Lopez, Pvt. C. I. Lyons, Pvt. S. R. Mason, Pfc. D. N. Meggerson, Pvt. A. M. Molina, Pvt. J. L. Morrill, Pvt. A. A. Nguyen, Pvt. B. Ortega, Pvt. V. R. Pascuite, Pfc. K. L. Portillo, Pfc. A. J. Proctor, Pvt. P. V. Quinteros, Pvt. I. Ramirez, Pfc. S. E. Rankin, Pvt. C. D. Ricketts, Pvt. M. I. Rocha, Pfc. L. Rodriguez, Pfc. L. T. Rodriguez, Pfc. J. Sanchez, Pfc. E. Santana, Pfc. A. N. Sheffer, Pfc. H. R. Souder, Pfc. L. S. Taua, Pfc. L. D. Titmus, Pvt. A. D. Tovarcarreon, Pfc. K. N. Warren

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More of the Story

PUGIL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

the Marine Corps, said Staff Sgt. James Murphy, 28, a martial arts instructor at Leatherneck Square. Today, bayonet training is incorporated into the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

“The Marine Corps is the only branch of service that still teaches its members bayonet techniques,” said Murphy, a native of Warren, Mass.

The threats of up-close combat are very real even on the modern battlefield in the 21st century.

In 2004, 20 British soldiers traveling in two armored vehicles were ambushed by approximately 100 Mahdi militiamen near the city of Amarah, Iraq. The soldiers set up defensive positions around their vehicles and fought until they were nearly out of ammunition. With no other choice, they were ordered to equip bayonets on their rifles, charged at the militiamen over 600 feet of open ground and engaged in close-quarters combat. While severely outnumbered, the British were able to rout the enemy combatants, killing 60 of them and forcing the rest to retreat.

On Parris Island, recruits are taught five offensive techniques and one defensive technique. The techniques are thrust, slash, horizontal and vertical butt-stroke, smash and disrupt.

Recruits are dressed in protective gear and given a padded stick that represents a rifle. Each end is color-coded; the red represents a bayonet and the black represents the rifle’s butt-stock.

Each recruit sparred against another recruit, of similar size and weight, in two 15-second rounds. Winning blows were determined based on severity of a strike and location. Instructors monitored the matches closely for safety.

“It was fun and really helped in learning the horizontal and vertical butt-strokes,” said Pvt. David Gant, 18,



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Carter High, 21, Platoon 2018, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, parries a strike from Rct. Thomas Ruggeri, 19, Platoon 2020, during pugil stick training at Parris Island's Leatherneck Square on Dec. 17, 2012. High, from Nashville, Tenn., and Ruggeri, from Palmer, Mass., are scheduled to graduate today.

Platoon 2016.

Gant was able to quickly overwhelm his opponent and quickly score a series of victories by applying the techniques he was taught, said the native of Ringgold, Ga.

The recruits of Echo Company had their first taste

of close-quarters combat inside the ring; however, it wouldn’t be their last. The skills they learned while competing in pugil stick training will help ensure they are ready for any situation when the order to “fix bayonets” is given.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Kevin Gilroy, 18, Platoon 2021, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, sights in on his target at the 300-yard line during a firing practice at Parris Island's Starlite Rifle Range on Jan. 23. Gilroy is from New City, N.Y.

RANGE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

was the case for Pvt. Ryan Butterfield, 18, Platoon 2020 and a native of Clarkston, Mich., who has only used a bow before while hunting.

Recruits are given one-on-one coaching from an instructor to hit their target accurately.

Pvt. Thomas Watson, 20, Platoon 2020, said the biggest struggle for him on the range was the kneeling position.

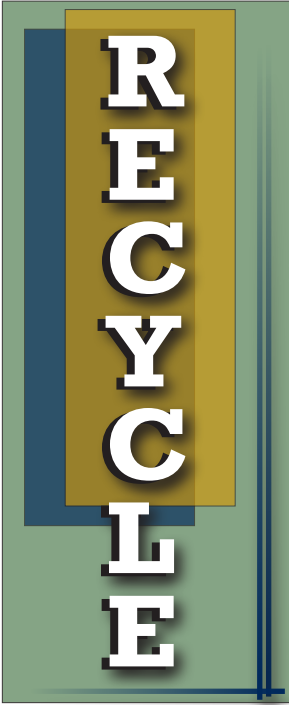
“My coach said to try and stay as low to the ground as possible,” said Watson, a Philadelphia native. “It helped create a solid base.”

Every Marine is a rifle-

man and recruits must achieve a qualifying marksmanship score during their firing evaluation to graduate recruit training.

Those who failed the initial firing evaluation received several chances to qualify the following week of training to redeem themselves on the range without being held back in training.

With rifle training behind them, the recruits of Echo Company placed their sights on today’s graduation as the newest generation of Marine riflemen.



Immigrant enlists to serve her new home in Marine Corps

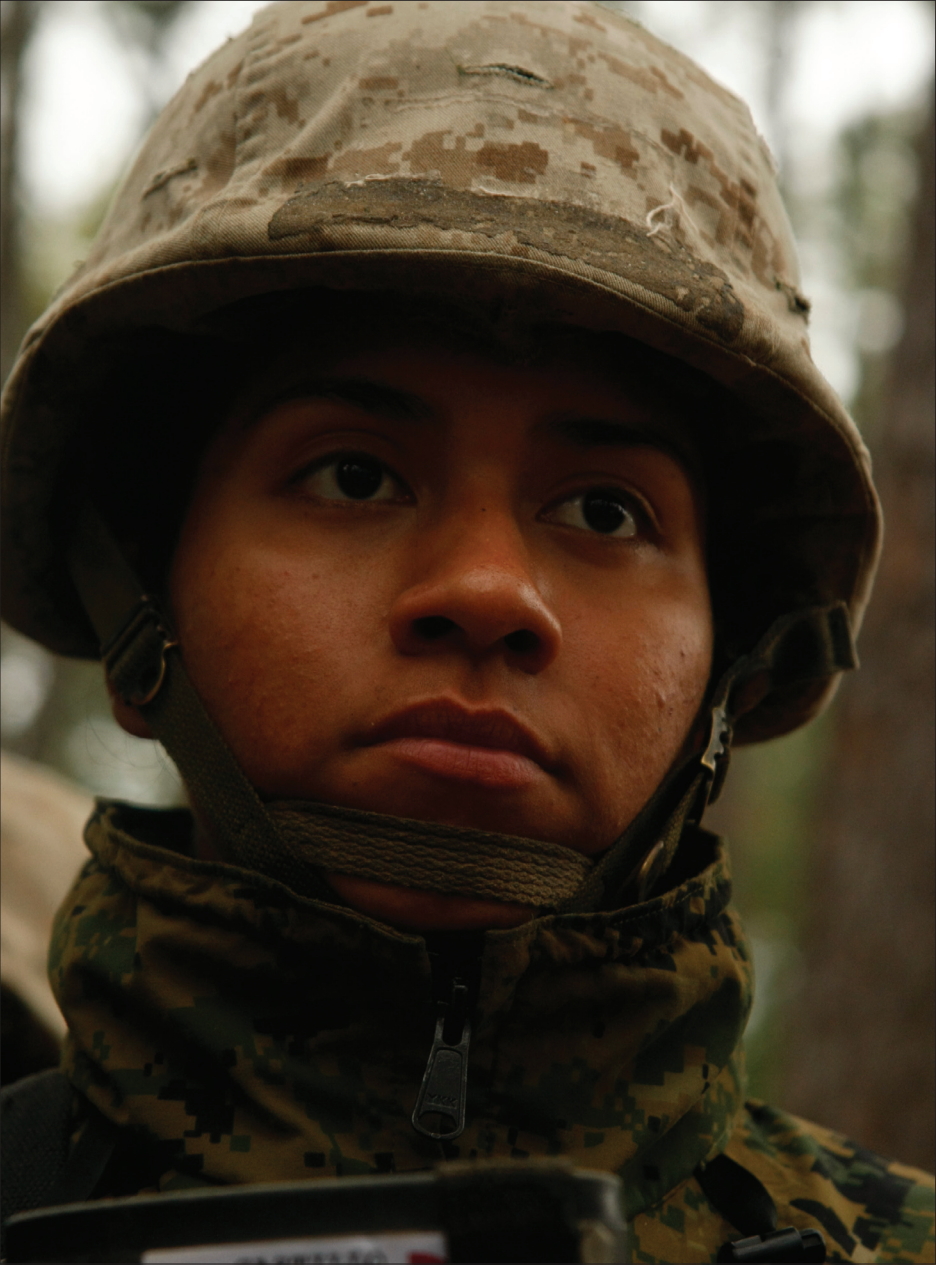


Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Rct. Kimberly Castillo, 22, Platoon 4007, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, has wanted to be a part of the U.S. armed forces since she was young. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in hopes of giving back to the country she now calls home after emigrating from Mexico. Castillo is from Groveland, Calif. Castillo is scheduled to graduate recruit training today.

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

One woman’s journey across the border has led to inspired patriotism to serve the country she now calls home.

Pfc. Kimberly Castillo, 22, Platoon 4007, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, has dreamt of the day she could call herself a United States Marine.

Castillo was originally from Colima, Mexico, and is currently from Groveland, Calif.

Castillo was 9 years old when she moved to the United States with her mother, stepfather and older sister. Her stepfather moved the family to the states to provide a better life and opportunities for his new family, Castillo said.

Castillo struggled to communicate with her new peers after arriving in the U.S. She was unable to speak any English and had to attend special classes when she was in the 4th grade. By the end of the same school year she was able to speak the language fluently and communicate with friends and teachers.

Her journey to join the Marine Corps began when she was a few years older. She saw a recruiting commercial of a man climbing a mountain and transforming into a Marine after reaching the top.

It was at that moment she knew she wanted to become a Marine.

After graduating high school at 17, she was ready and willing to enlist. However, she had a setback.

Castillo had to earn 15 college credits, due to a recruiting policy, to enlist because she graduated from a charter school and not a public school.

She attended college for the next few years, becoming a certified dental assistant.

In her mind something was just missing.

“I’ve just felt this calling to the Marine Corps and I had to take it,” said Castillo.

She finally enlisted June 13, 2012.

However, Castillo received mixed reactions when she told her family.

“My mom thought I was going to die like most mothers feel,” she said.

“I was a little surprised at first and as soon as she proved her dedication to it, we became very supportive,” said John Infelise, Castillo’s stepfather.

“She would go to the recruiter’s office twice a week, managed her diet and was constantly doing pushups and sit-ups to get herself in shape. That is all she cared about doing. She was that determined.”

All her hard work and determination paid off. Castillo achieved a near perfect score on her physical fitness test and perfect combat fitness test score, earning her an award for the company’s most fit Marine.

Castillo’s most difficult part of recruit training was being away from her family, she said.

“They are just very proud of me and have been inspired by my fight just to be here,” Castillo said.

Castillo is not yet a U.S. citizen and was not naturalized in the family day ceremony Thursday. However, she still wants to become a citizen and will pursue her goal after she arrives to her first duty station, she said.

Castillo is slated to be a motorized transportation specialist after graduating recruit training and has big plans for her future in the Marine Corps.

“I would like to make it a career,” Castillo said. “I just want to help people as much as I can.”

“I feel very blessed to be in the U.S. and to have all the freedoms this country provides. I just want to give back,” Castillo added. “I want to be the best as a Marine because they are the best in not just this country but the world.”

Recruits complete chemical warfare defense training

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

The recruits of Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, found confidence in their equipment after completing chemical warfare defense training Jan. 7 on Parris Island.

The purpose of the training is to ensure recruits know how to use gas masks if they become endangered by a chemical or biological attack, said Sgt. Jennifer Brozowsky, 31, a field training instructor at Parris Island’s combat training area and a native of Ojai, Calif.

The last major use of chemical weapons was during the closing days of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. Saddam Hussein ordered a chemical strike on the Kurdish town of Halabja. The attack killed approximately 5,000 people and caused injuries to nearly 10,000. This event prompted U.S. forces to carry chemical defense equipment during war with Iraq in 1991 and in 2003.

Recruits received a 40-minute class about the components of their mask, how it works and how to properly use it.

In the gas chamber, recruits were exposed to tear gas, a nonlethal choking agent, which is comprised of small crystals that cause skin irritation, watery eyes and nasal congestion. The mask’s filters capture the crystal fragments to provide breathable air.

Inside the chamber recruits are ordered to perform a series of exercises, such as jumping jacks and running in place to increase heart rate and simulate jarring that may be encountered under combat conditions. Instructors also have recruits shake their heads to show them that a proper seal can be maintained through motion.

“I was just wondering what was going to happen,” said Pfc. Dustin Shane, 23, Platoon 2018. “I didn’t think the gas was out and everything felt right.”

The order was given to break the protective seal of the mask.

“I could see the gas and then I started to feel it burn my eyes and throat,” said Shane, a native of Dixon, Tenn.

The instructors ordered the recruits to reseal their masks and quickly clear them of gas. To clear the mask the recruits blew the air out and inhaled fresh



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Rct. Jacques Felix, 19, Platoon 2016, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, takes a large breath after quickly removing his gas mask outside of Parris Island’s gas chamber Jan. 7. Recruits had been exposed to tear gas moments before exiting the chamber to familiarize them with the use of the gas mask. Felix is from Tampa, Fla.

filtered air.

“I just blew as hard as I could to clear it,” said Shane. “It actually worked!”

If a recruit panics, he is placed back inside the gas chamber again until he can complete the training, said Brozowsky.

The training the new Marines of Echo Company received will ensure they are capable of saving their lives if they ever are exposed to chemical and biological agents.

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Tuesday through Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek, and Edding Creek will be closed to boater traffic.

For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion Range Control at 228-3170.

EPME5000AA

SERGEANTS COURSE

AVAILABLE ON MARINET



ABOUT FACES

Echo & Papa Companies



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Pfc. Rigo Rodriguezspada, a 21-year-old native of Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico, spent 13 weeks on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in hopes of earning the title of United States Marine. Rodriguezspada trained with Platoon 2018, Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, and is scheduled to graduate today.

“This is the most disciplined and hardest branch in the military and I wanted to better myself to become more,” Rodriguezspada said.

His ultimate goal in the military is to one day be a fighter pilot. He is slated to be an aviation electronic technician after graduating recruit training and will report to Camp Geiger, N.C., for Marine Combat Training.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pfc. Laura Dcato, a 21-year-old native of Kissimmee, Fla., trained with Platoon 4006, Papa Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, and is scheduled to graduate today after 13 weeks on Parris Island.

“I joined the Marine Corps because I wanted to do something that would be challenging. I wanted to serve my country, but I wanted to be the best at it,” said Dcato.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pfc. Tara Wilcox, a 23-year-old native of Augusta, Ga., spent her time on Parris Island training with Platoon 4006 and is scheduled to graduate today.

“I joined the Marine Corps to be part of something bigger than myself, be part of a team and be part of a brotherhood and sisterhood. I was looking for discipline, honor, courage, commitment – everything the Marine Corps offers,” said Wilcox.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Pvt. Alexander Gingras, 19, is scheduled to graduate today after his three-month journey to become a Marine. Gingras trained with Platoon 2020.

“It’s been my dream since I was in high school. I just want to serve my country and be the best,” said Gingras.

“You’re just always doing something and being worn down,” Gingras added. “You’re held to a high standard and are expected to be perfect.”

Gingras, a native of Hadely, Mass., is slated to be a motorized transport specialist and said he hopes to one day be deployed to Afghanistan.

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)