

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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COMPANY'S
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India Company Recruits rappel Parris Island's 47-ft tower



Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, trained to descend a cliff face or from a hovering helicopter while on the rappel tower Jan. 15 on Parris Island.

While Marines may never use the practiced skill in a battle zone the training on Parris Island helps recruits face another enemy – fear.

As Marines, they may find themselves in situations that will challenge their mental fortitude, but they must not let their fear get in the way of mission accomplishment, said Cpl. Matthew Wiringer, a rappelling instructor.

Pvt. Wesley Hess, Platoon 3017, mentioned that before recruit training, he was helping his grandfather fix the roof on his home when Hess fell backward off the roof into a thorn bush, slamming his head on the ground.

The 18-year-old from Mountville, Pa., said he was afraid of being off the ground after falling. However, Hess said he would not let his fear of heights stop him from training.

Hess climbed the stairs of the 47-foot tower and said when it was his turn to descend, he felt “petrified.” He said he thought his heart would stop as he looked toward the ground.

Recruits learn instant obedience to all orders, said Wiringer, 26, from Sterling Heights, Mich. He said they must complete their assigned mission regardless of how fearful they may be.

Hess expressed he wanted to get back up and do it again after he had made it to the ground. He said he was ready to face the next challenge.

Rct. Stephen Fernandez, Platoon 3018, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, makes his way down a wall of the rappel tower Jan. 15 on Parris Island. Fernandez, 19, from Port St. Lucie, Fla., descended the tower wall, simulating rappelling a cliff face. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.

SEE RAPPEL PAGE 3

India Company recruits qualify in basic swim survival training

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

The recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, qualified at the recruit pool the week of Jan. 7-11 on Parris Island, S.C., in order to earn the title that by definition means “of the sea.”

Marines are an amphibious force. Recruits learn the fundamentals of water survival as part of becoming basic Marines. However, this may be the hardest part of boot camp for those who do not know how to swim.

Pfc. Logan Hodges, Platoon 3020, said the event he had been dreading most in recruit training was swim qualification.

“When I was really little, I was in swim classes at



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

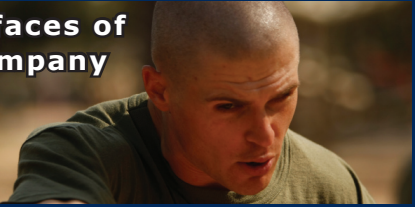
Sgt. Gregory Bogaczyk, a Marine swim instructor, demonstrates to recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, the correct way to float in the recruit pool Jan. 8 on Parris Island. Some recruits did not know how to swim, and some said they were nervous about their heads going underwater. Instructors spent one-on-one time with recruits to prepare them for their swim survival qualifications. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.

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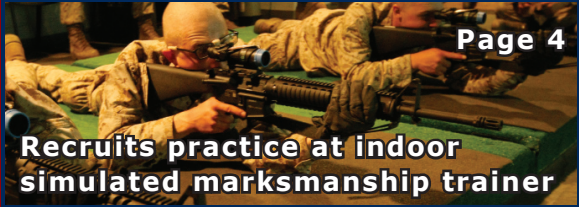
See the faces of
India Company

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Recruits practice at indoor
simulated marksmanship trainer



WHY I BECAME A DRILL INSTRUCTOR



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Staff Sgt. Tyler Crouch

joined the Marine Corps in October 2001 and became a drill instructor in December 2012. He currently trains recruits with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. Crouch, a native of Pensacola, Fla., works as a helicopter crew chief off the drill field.

“I decided to become a drill instructor to pay back the Marine Corps for what it’s done for me. My favorite part of being a drill instructor is influencing the future of the Marine Corps.”

India Company Graduates

Honor Graduates

Platoon 3016

Pfc. Caleb A. Frazeur, Alpharetta, Ga.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Miguel A. Fuentes

Platoon 3017

Pfc. Steven M. Rodriguez, Hammond, La.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Enrique L. Pacheco

Platoon 3018

Pfc. Daniel L. Phipps, Memphis, Tenn.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. David L. Dean Jr.

Platoon 3020

Pfc. Ian D. French, Annandale, Va,
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Brian A. DaRosa

Platoon 3021

Pfc. Alexander D. DeLosReyes, Amherst, N.Y.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Michael L. King

Platoon 3022

Pfc. Michael E. Wagner, South Plainfield, N.J.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jason T. Mathews

Platoon 3016

Pfc. C. R. Acuff, Pvt. P. N. Berger, Pvt. S. L. Birchell II, Pvt. C. D. Brown, Pfc. C. R. Cauley, Pvt. J. L. Chapman, Pvt. J. H. Collins, Pvt. N. R. Cunnien, Pfc. C. M. Davis, Pfc. W. D. Elrod, Pfc. J. J. Engelthaler Jr., Pvt. G. W. Evans, Pvt. T. L. Farr, Pfc. C. A. Frazeur, Pvt. J. Gonzalez, Pvt. J. M. Goodchild, Pfc. J. C. Goodner, Pvt. T. J. Goswick, Pvt. H. W. Greenaker IV, Pfc. J. A. Hance, Pvt. S. Hann, Pfc. D. M. Hardee, Pvt. C. D. Hogan, Pvt. R. H. Huffman, Pfc. S. T. Huguley, Pvt. J. E. Jobe, Pfc. R. M. Jones, Pvt. J. R. Jones Jr., Pfc. P. Koumphon, Pvt. C. A. Leake, Pvt. J. I. Leitzsey, Pvt. E. E. Lloyd, Pvt. A. H. Lumpkin, Pfc. J. L. Mack, Pfc. A. P. Mangan, Pvt. M. A. Marino, Pvt. S. K. Marshall, Pfc. J. C. McCormack, Pfc. V. T. Montesana, Pfc. C. J. Metrie, Pfc. S. J. Minchew, Pvt. Z. T. Miracle, Pvt. C. D. Mitchell, Pvt. B. A. Moreland, Pfc. J. M. Morrison, Pvt. D. E. Nigro, Pfc. J. Nunez, Pvt. D. D. Prewitt, Pvt. T. P. Rice, Pfc. D. J. Robbins, Pvt. C. V. Sarmiento, Pfc. A. J. Stanley, Pfc. C. J. Swearingen, Pfc. R. D. Templeton II, Pvt. A. M. Wagner, Pfc. W. N. White, Pfc. A. J. Williams, Pfc. T. J. Willis, Pvt. J. P. Wisecarver

Platoon 3017

Pfc. N. K. Abramowicz, Pvt. J. C. Beaird, Pfc. Z. J. Bellingham, Pvt. J. Bello, Pfc. J. R. Bowdoin, Pfc. N. M. Bowens, Pfc. D. C. Brannock, Pvt. N. L. Breland, Pvt. P. R. Burke, Pfc. G. T. Calvery, Pfc. S. Cardenas, Pvt. J. A. Cartwright, Pfc. J. V. Casella II, Pvt. J. L. Chandler, Pfc. P. Chavarria, Pfc. B. P. Conklin, Pfc. N. C. Dasch, Pvt. M. De La Rosa, Pvt. D. A. DiBenedetto, Pfc. C. B. Eades, Pfc. D. F. Fernandez, Pvt. D. M. Feters, Pvt. W. B. Floyd, Pfc. J. E. Foster, Pvt. T. A. Fugate, Pvt. D. P. Gerard, Pvt. J. S. Goemaat, Pfc. C. C. Griffith, Pfc. R. M. Harcourt III, Pvt. J. T. Harder, Pfc. J. M. Harris, Pvt. S. M. Hess, Pvt. W. S. Hess, Pfc. W. T. Hickok-Hayes, Pvt. V. A. Huaman, Pvt. S. C. Huntsinger, Pfc. M. W. Johnston, Pvt. T. R. Joyner, Pfc. I. M. Keyser, Pvt. B. M. Kogut, Pvt. C. G. Lott, Pvt. C. T. Machalk, Pvt. J. K. Mack, Pvt. J. Matos, Pvt. E. D. Mawyer Wyland, Pvt. C. P. McCartney, Pfc. M. E. Murnane, Pvt. J. K. Mushenski, Pfc. J. L. Rayburn, Pvt. R. K. Rayms-Keller, Pfc. S. M. Rodriguez, Pvt. T. H. Sullivan, Pvt. M. T. Trentman, Pvt. D. A. Voorhees

Platoon 3018

Pvt. D. P. Baccigalopi, Pfc. D. P. Benson, Pvt. D. T. Boudreaux, Pfc. M. L. Bowersock, Pfc. J. G. Carlton, Pfc. N. A. Coleman, Pvt. H. W. Crider, Pvt. C. J. Davis, Pfc. N. A. Demulder, Pvt. N. M. Doyon, Pvt. T. W. Edmister, Pvt. A. J. Edwards Jr., Pfc. S. G. Fernandez, Pfc. D. K. Geiger, Pfc. J. Y. Graham, Pvt. E. Hajder, Pvt. M. A. Hallgren, Pfc. C. P. Hamilton, Pfc. Z. D. Hopkins, Pvt. P. T. Huynh, Pvt. A. J. Keene, Pfc. A. J. Lavoie, Pvt. A. M. Lenox, Pfc. A. R. Lopez, Pvt. M. D. Maclachlan, Pvt. C. R. Marshall Jr., Pvt. N. A. Martinez, Pvt. J. E. Martinez III, Pvt. P. S. Matthews IV, Pfc. K. T. Maurer, Pvt. A. G. Mensah, Pfc. S. D. Miller, Pvt. B. S. Mitchell, Pvt. B. A. Molano, Pvt. J. L. Muscat, Pvt. A. L. Nichols, Pfc. A. D. Noonan, Pvt. R. J. Parry, Pvt. T. H. Phillips, Pfc. D. L. Phipps, Pfc. G. J. Post, Pvt. H. A. Ramirez, Pvt. J. I. Reyes, Pvt. F. R. Robinson, Pfc. J. S. Sanchez, Pvt. C. B. Seaton, Pvt. R. D. Shores-Roos, Pvt. N. T. Spellman, Pvt. R. E. Spiker, Pfc. J. E. Thompson, Pvt. C. D. Tiburcio, Pvt. S. E. Tillery, Pvt. M. A. Tomasino, Pfc. A. J. Vorwald, Pfc. M. D. Williams, Pvt. K. J. Wilson

Platoon 3020

Pvt. K. M. D. Anderson, Pfc. D. D. Anyumba, Pfc. J. B. Ballard, Pvt. F. P. Bennett, Pvt. T. G. Boissonneault, Pvt. T. M. Brown, Pvt. D. W. Cassell, Pfc. J. E. Chamberlain, Pvt. J. T. Cleary, Pfc. V. R. Comegys-Davis, Pfc. B. A. De Leon, Pfc. S. O. Dishman, Pvt. M. K. Dobrinoff Jr., Pvt. B. N. Dockery, Pvt. T. A. Dubois, Pfc. B. M. Erway, Pvt. E. M. Evans, Pfc. K. W. Fagga, Pvt. D. J. Fischer, Pfc. I. D. French, Pfc. K. T. Golinsky, Pfc. M. R. Goodall, Pvt. J. E. Harris, Pfc. L. S. Hodges, Pvt. D. A. Hollar, Pvt. J. H. Horton, Pfc. J. M. Ingerson, Pvt. N. W. Ingraham, Pfc. T. E. Jenkins III, Pfc. J. E. Kavel, Pfc. K. J. Kirby, Pfc. M. R. Kubicsko, Pvt. C. D. Lanney, Pvt. E. N. Lavoie, Pfc. T. R. Lelievre, Pfc. A. M. Lewis, Pvt. D. S. Lewis, Pvt. M. J. Logan, Pvt. N. R. Lynn, Pvt. M. P. March Jr., Pvt. G. G. McIntosh, Pfc. J. L. Morgan, Pfc. M. R. Morin, Pvt. C. M. Pearson, Pvt. A. C. Rogers, Pvt. D. T. Roloff, Pvt. A. Sevyan, Pvt. K. L. Solomon, Pvt. I. C. Stevenson, Pvt. J. A. Terry, Pvt. J. T. Tierney, Pvt. J. P. Tompkins II, Pvt. J. G. Venoski IV, Pfc. L. J. Walker, Pvt. A. W. White, Pvt. A. C. Wiley, Pfc. D. E. Young

Platoon 3021

Pvt. R. L. Arrington III, Pfc. A. A. Austin, Pfc. C. M. Ball, Pvt. T. A. Basham, Pvt. Z. J. Bayne, Pvt. D. D. Benjamin, Pfc. J. E. Bomgardner, Pfc. K. J. Brusse, Pvt. A. D. Buckhalter, Pvt. G. M. Carter, Pfc. J. M. Colon III, Pvt. T. J. Dalton Jr., Pvt. S. D. Da Silva, Pfc. A. D. DeLosReyes, Pvt. Z. J. Deslandes, Pvt. W. A. Dotson, Pfc. D. D. Edder, Pfc. B. D. Green, Pvt. E. C. Green, Pvt. L. M. Jeske, Pfc. D. N. Kozen, Pfc. H. T. Krenisky, Pvt. A. J. Lenoir-Aiken, Pfc. R. A. Lorenzi, Pfc. J. T. Lyon, Pvt. E. J. Mackey, Pvt. R. J. Manuel, Pfc. R. P. Masters, Pvt. Q. C. Mitchell, Pfc. B. L. Moyers Jr., Pvt. C. T. Nurnberger, Pvt. L. T. Ohlson, Pvt. L. A. Polancoabreu, Pvt. J. P. Ramirez, Pvt. A. Q. Ramos, Pvt. S. L. Ray, Pfc. M. A. Redmond II, Pfc. D. R. Retamozo, Pvt. E. I. Romero, Pfc. J. S. Senanayake, Pvt. A. O. Sinclair, Pfc. K. K. Smalls, Pfc. J. P. Stanley, Pfc. M. A. Taggart, Pvt. A. Tapley, Pfc. T. J. Thomas, Pfc. L. N. Thompson, Pvt. J. A. Toney, Pvt. D. Trieu, Pvt. X. F. Ugalde, Pvt. Y. M. Vanderhourst, Pfc. A. Vasquez, Pvt. J. N. Wahmhoff, Pvt. C. N. Weaver, Pvt. Z. J. Wood, Pvt. E. S. Woolum, Pvt. J. A. Zullo

Platoon 3022

Pvt. A. K. Bogdanich, Pfc. C. P. Brady, Pvt. M. K. Bryant, Pfc. C. V. Buchanan, Pfc. B. C. Carlisle, Pfc. R. Castellanos, Pvt. M. D. Chavez, Pfc. K. S. Darby, Pvt. A. W. Decker, Pfc. D. F. DeVol, Pvt. C. K. Douglas, Pvt. S. M. Drake, Pvt. N. R. Emig, Pvt. M. Fabregat, Pvt. T. P. Fillion, Pfc. N. S. Gibson, Pvt. S. Gieco, Pvt. J. T. Gillen, Pvt. J. S. Goss, Pfc. J. B. Gunter, Pvt. T. C. Hall, Pvt. A. J. Hatter, Pfc. P. R. Hutchins, Pfc. N. J. Iacoves, Pvt. D. E. Lawler, Pvt. J. R. Lytle, Pfc. J. C. Malone, Pvt. F. L. Maness, Pvt. B. R. McLellan, Pfc. J. M. Miller, Pfc. S. J. Mills, Pvt. A. M. Montgomery, Pvt. M. M. Nicastro, Pvt. S. A. Nofitz, Pfc. N. A. Perry, Pvt. J. K. Peter, Pvt. I. A. Raasakka, Pvt. C. M. Reynolds, Pfc. J. J. Ringer, Pfc. J. T. Roberts, Pvt. B. N. Romeo, Pvt. B. J. Rosero, Pvt. P. J. Smith, Pvt. D. B. Spratley, Pfc. G. M. Sullivan, Pfc. R. P. Szelag, Pvt. Q. T. Terry, Pvt. T. A. Verzino, Pvt. R. P. Voght II, Pfc. M. E. Wagner, Pvt. B. J. Wallace, Pvt. K. E. Wallace, Pvt. C. I. Walton, Pvt. G. T. Whaley, Pfc. J. L. Wilhelm

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More of the Story

RAPPEL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unlike Hess, some recruits, such as Pvt. Chase Leake, Platoon 3016, claimed they had an irrational fear of heights. Leake, 19, from Palm Coast, Fla., said he expected the worst when climbing to the top of the tower.

“I feel as if the worst is going to happen,” said Leake. “I thought the tower would break or I would fall and die.”

He said he felt like a small child who could not do it on his own as Leake prepared to descend the tower. He said that with encouragement from the instructors on the tower he was able to face his fear and rappelled to the ground in a matter of seconds.

Not knowing he would be so afraid when he looked over the edge of the tower, Leake said he was even prouder of his accomplishment and his ability to face his fear.

“When times are stressful and Marines need to get things done, there shouldn’t be any hesitation about it,” said Wiringer. “That’s why we are Marines. We do what needs to be done, no questions asked.”

The recruits of India Company have faced many obstacles in training. These obstacles have tested their determination and dedication to becoming Marines.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Jordan Chandler, Platoon 3017, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, jumps from the rappel tower Jan. 15 on Parris Island. Chandler, 19, from Boynton Beach, Fla., rappelled the side of the tower without a wall, simulating jumping from an aircraft. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, tread water during their swim survival qualification Jan. 8 at the recruit pool on Parris Island. Recruits had to tread water for four minutes and were taught how to use their blouse as a flotation device by blowing air into it. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.

SWIM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the local pool and it just never worked out for me,” said Hodges, 19, from Portland, Tenn. “I couldn’t figure it out.”

Hodges said he worried about swimming with the extra gear on when he already had difficulty swimming in just traditional swimwear.

For most of the recruits, swimming while burdened with gear is a new experience, said Sgt. Michael Dolan, a Marine Corps swim instructor, 26, of Longmont, Colo. Often times even with practice they may not qualify the first day but they do qualify the second. They just needed time to acclimate.

When he first got in the pool, Pfc. Alexander DeLosReyes, Platoon 3021, said it was very different trying to swim in camouflage utilities and boots compared to just shorts. He said it was almost a shock trying to swim with the newfound resistance as the gear weighed him down.

DeLosReyes, 18, from Amherst, N.Y., and Hodges failed their assessment on the first try.

They did not let this discourage them from continuing and finally passing the swim evaluations.

Passing swim qualification feels incredible, said DeLosReyes. The instructors really helped by taking the time to teach recruits the techniques.

When a recruit fails a portion of the qualification, he or she is given one-on-one training with an instructor. The instructors take the time to help the recruits improve their swimming skills in a lower stress environment.

He said even though he failed to qualify the first time, after the instructors worked with him he understood the basics of swimming. Hodges said becoming a better swimmer was a big achievement for him.

The recruits of India Company learned the basics of swim survival and showed their determination to not give up. The challenge was one of many they faced to earn the title of Marine.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, practice their shooting techniques in the indoor simulated marksmanship trainer Jan. 24 on Parris Island. The recruits used electronically modified rifles and magazines filled with pressurized air, which gave the rifle a realistic recoil after each shot, to determine how to improve their technique before firing live rounds on the rifle range. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Recruits use tech to hit targets

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, prepared to shoot on the rifle range by first taking the time to focus on the fundamentals of marksmanship on a high-tech training tool Jan. 24 on Parris Island.

The indoor simulated marksmanship trainer is equipped with M16-A4 training rifles modified with Bluetooth technology and projector screens to help recruits improve their shooting methods.

Every Marine needs to know how to effectively shoot a rifle no matter what job they have, said Sgt. Richard Lacey, a primary marksmanship instructor. Any Marine could get into a firefight and has to know how to use the weapon.

Lacey, 26, from Moultrie, Ga., described the ISMT as a tool that allows instructors to adjust the recruits' firing positions and see exactly what they were doing wrong and why they were not hitting the center of the target. Recruits are given ample time to hone their shooting techniques before firing live rounds.

"At first I was muscling the weapon," said Pvt. Gerard McIntosh, Platoon 3020, 23, from Silver Spring, Md. "I was trying to push it into position, but then I just learned to kind of relax. When I actually applied the fundamentals, everything falls into place and you get that straight shot every single time."

Recruits said they felt at ease about going onto the rifle range after working on the simulator with their instructors.

Pvt. Trevor Boissonneault, Platoon 3020, said he felt more comfortable about qualifying on the rifle range

after seeing that all the practice they had been doing was paying off. He said that actually seeing his rounds hit the target was a confidence booster.

Boissonneault, 18, from Fairfield, Md., was not alone in feeling better about qualifying on the rifle range. McIntosh had only shot once or twice before training.

"After shooting in the ISMT, I think what I personally need to work on is taking my time, slowing down and breathing normally," said Boissonneault.

A Marine is a rifleman first. Learning how to shoot a target from as far as 500 yards away is part of becoming a well-rounded, basic Marine.

The recruits of India Company focused on their technique in the ISMT and fired true on the rifle range. They have been given the common combat skills that are necessary to be Marines.

Sequestration cuts Corps' budget 'into the bone'

Gen. James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Editor's Note: The following text is taken from White Letter 1-13 sent to all Marines on March 2 by the commandant on the effects of sequestration, which requires the Department of Defense to cut \$47 billion in spending before Sept. 30.

The sequestration provision under the Budget Control Act is in effect as of today. In short, this means a reduction of roughly \$1.4 billion to the Marine Corps for the remainder of the fiscal year, with reductions of slightly more than \$2 billion occurring in each of the next nine years.

As I testified before Congress last month, cuts of this magnitude, due to their timing and methodology, will significantly impact Marine Corps readiness, both short and long term.

The Marine Corps plays a special role in protecting our nation. We are America's crisis response force, the nation's insurance policy. We have a statutory responsibility to be the most ready when the nation is least ready. As such, we will preserve the readiness of our Marines engaged in combat, we will do our best to ensure that units preparing to deploy have the resources and training necessary for their next mission. The Marine Corps will remain ready to meet today's crisis, with today's force ... today!

In order to ensure our continued readiness, we must make sacrifices in other areas. As we adjust to the realities of sequestration, I am very concerned about the impact of such cutbacks on our active-duty and reserve Marines, our civilians and our families. While we are working hard to balance our myriad requirements, I want each of you to know that keeping faith with you and your families is a top priority of mine - I consider this a sacred responsibility. We are already a lean and frugal service, thus every reduction that we make from this point forward will cut into the bone - we are beyond muscle.

I was to assure each of you that despite today's fiscal challenges, we will remain the nation's "911 force." I ask that you stay focused on the mission while we work our way through the uncertainties of the future.

Sequestration to affect schools, commissaries

Jim Garamone
American Force Press Service

WASHINGTON - Department of Defense schools and commissaries will be affected by sequestration the Pentagon announced March 4.

Specific effects on the civilian personnel and operations at the three local schools for Beaufort-area military children and the commissary on Parris Island have not been determined yet.

The department will struggle to ensure Department of Defense Education Activity - which serves 84,000 students at 194 schools - maintains an accredited school year, said Pentagon Press Secretary George Little.

"We're mindful that we need to protect the education of military children," Little said.

Yet, teachers and support personnel at DODEA schools will be subject to the furlough. DOD civilian personnel will be furloughed one day a week from April through the end of September, unless Congress intervenes.

"We are going to do everything we can to manage the furlough process in a manner that enables

military children to receive an accredited school year for this academic year," he said.

Summer school will not be affected by furloughs, Little said, but the first month of the 2014 school year could be.

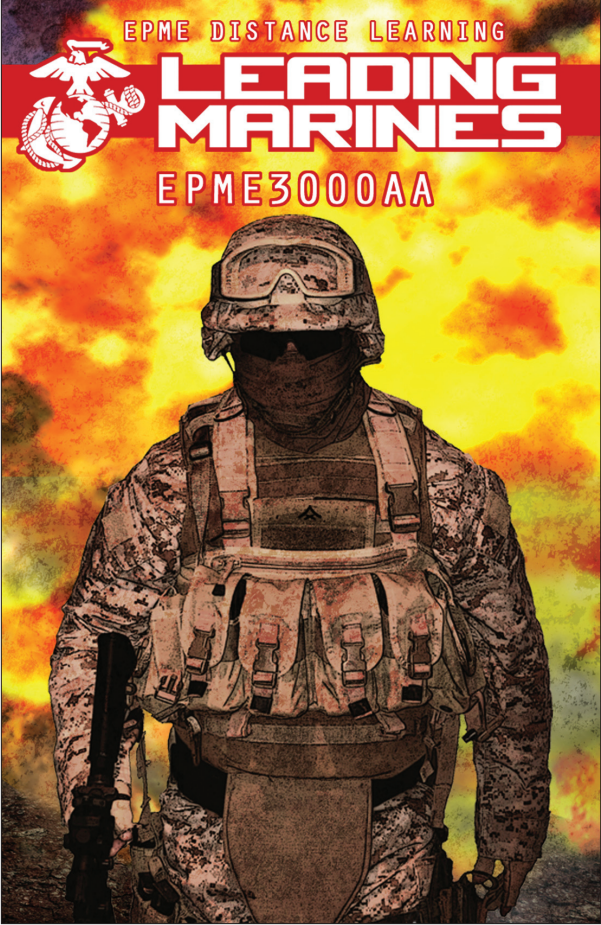
It's also "likely," he said, that the 247 commissaries worldwide will be forced to close one additional day each week. Commissaries are already closed Mondays.

Commissary workers also will be furloughed, Little said.

"This will cause pain," he said.

Furloughs will cut into commissary workers' paychecks, and for patrons, it means there will be one less day each week to shop at a military commissary. This would not start immediately but would kick in at the same time that furloughs begin - probably at the end of April.

Sequestration, which also will affect military readiness and operations, is "something we are going to have to manage, while we protect the country," Little said.





ABOUT FACES

India Company



Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Pfc. Daniel Phipps, an 26-year-old native of Memphis, Tenn., trained at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in hopes of earning the title of United States Marine. He trained with Platoon 3018, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, and is scheduled to graduate today.

“I decided to join the Marine Corps because I wanted to do something exciting while serving my God, my country and my family. I’ve always placed a strong emphasis on physical fitness and the Marines are the best at it.”





Pfc. Dakota Robbins, 20, is scheduled to graduate today after his three-month journey to become a Marine. Robbins trained with Platoon 3016.

“I decided to join the Marine Corps for financial stability and the benefits that will help out myself and my disabled veteran mother. It’s exciting, it’s different, it’s new – it’s exactly what I need,” Robbins said.

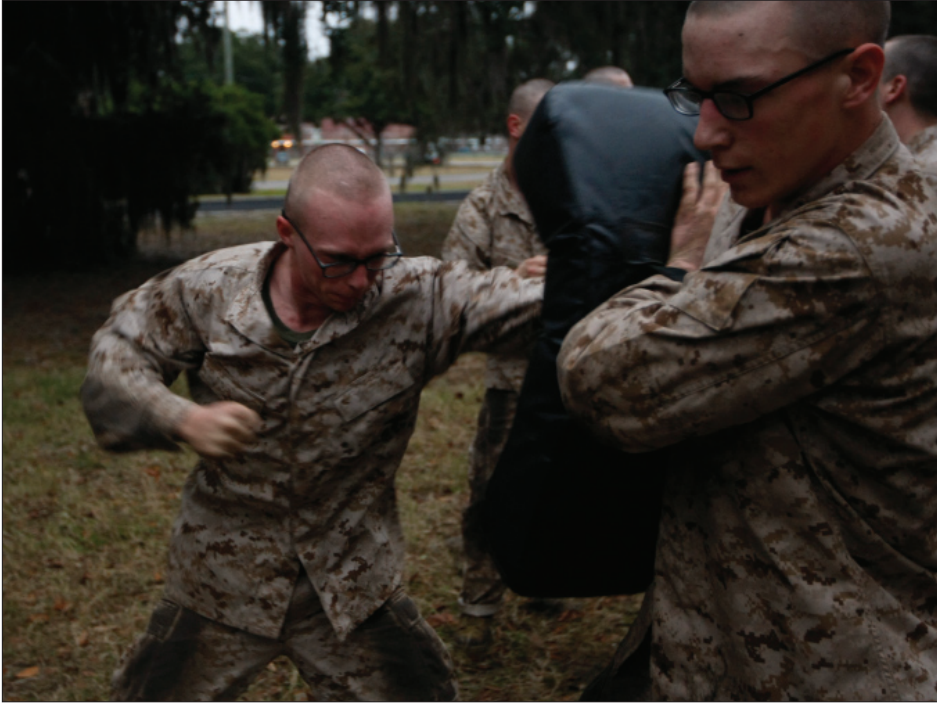
He is from Spring Hill, Fla.

INDIA CO. MARTIAL ARTS ENDURANCE COURSE



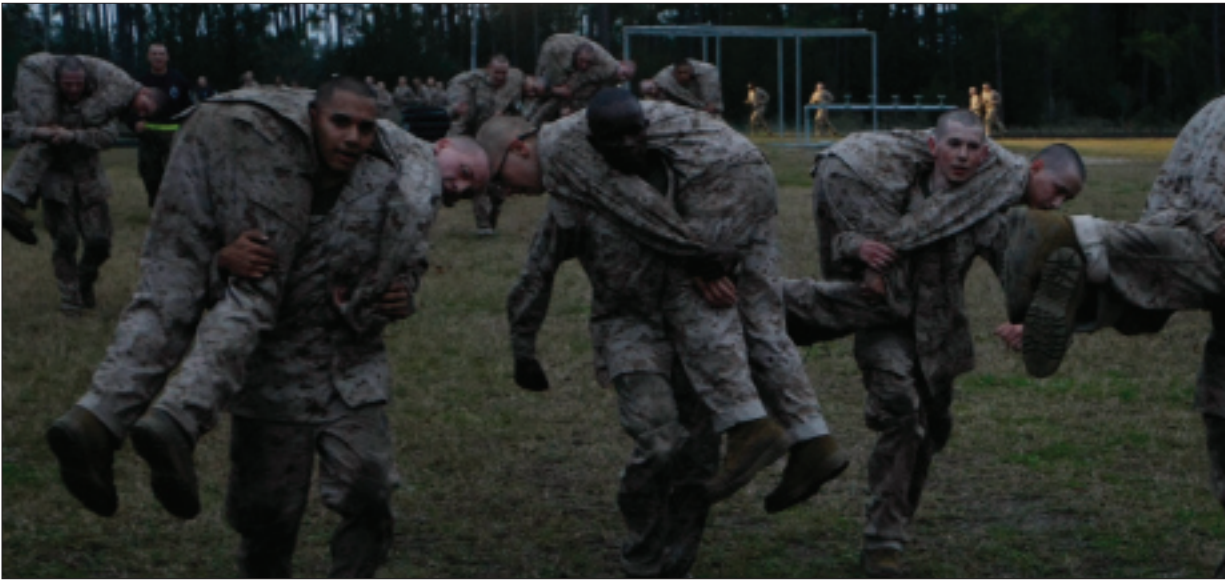
Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Connor Hamilton, 20, from Laconia, N.H., Platoon 3018, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, drags **Rct. Pleasant Matthews**, 18, from Baton Rouge, La., Platoon 3018, during the Marine Corps martial arts combat endurance course at a combat training area Jan. 3 on Parris Island. The purpose of the course was to keep recruits moving at all times while practicing martial arts techniques. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Rct. Shawn Dishman, Platoon 3020, strikes **Rct. Joseph Kavel**, Platoon 3020, during the Marine Corps martial arts combat endurance course Jan. 3 on Parris Island. Dishman, 19, from Somerset, Ky., and Kavel, 18, from Pittsburgh, practiced martial arts techniques during the rigorous course. The recruits did not receive any breaks, building their physical endurance. India Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Recruits from India Company carry a buddy across their shoulders through a portion of the Marine Corps martial arts combat endurance course at a combat training area Jan. 3 on Parris Island. Recruits carried or dragged one another throughout portions of the course, simulating carrying an injured Marine to safety. India 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)