

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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Fox Company's 10 km hike



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Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Rct. Benjamin Martin, 18, Platoon 2029, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, adjusts his equipment during a conditioning hike Feb. 16 on Parris Island. Recruits carried 55 pounds of equipment in their packs along with their rifle and water sources. Martin is from Berryville, Va. Fox Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Oscar Company recruits operate firing pits, maintain range

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

With bullets zipping by overhead, recruits of Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, raised and lowered targets and marked shots on the rifle range Feb. 28 on Parris Island.

While in the relay operations area, most commonly known as “the pits,” recruits are responsible for operating and maintaining targets on the rifle range.

Recruits were split into two groups early in the morning: shooters and pit operators. The groups rotated after the first relays of shooters finished firing on the 200-, 300- and 500-yard lines.

While in the pits, recruits received a lesson on how to score targets. Recruits worked in pairs to ensure their target operated efficiently.

“The pits set the pace of the range,” said Sgt. Philip Hinde, 28, the pit senior operator. “If they run

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Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Beth Chambers, 19, Platoon 4010, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, places a white shot spotter in a target Feb. 28 on Parris Island. The spotters showed shooters where their bullets hit their target. Chambers is from Noblesville, Ind.

ABOUT FACES



Lance Cpl. Daniel Horvath

trained with Platoon 2026, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. He is 29 years old and is from Memphis, Tenn.

“I wanted to join because the Marine Corps always goes that extra distance to be extra fit and ready,” said Horvath.

“It’s something I’ve always strived for in my life.” Horvath’s outstanding performance in recruit training landed him a meritorious promotion to lance corporal.



Pfc. Peter Carlton

trained with Platoon 2030. He is a 19-year-old native of Kings Island, United Kingdom.

“When I moved here and fell in love with the United States, I just wanted to give back to the organization that brought me here.”

THE VERY BEGINNING

New recruits arrive on Parris Island for training



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Stephen Gilbert, 19, Platoon 2026, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, receives his first recruit haircut at Parris Island’s recruit receiving building Jan. 7. Males’ hair is shaved, in part, to strip away their civilian identity and is also easy to maintain and keep clean during training. Gilbert is from Granby, Conn.

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

It’s a feeling of an unfamiliar place. The tapping of footsteps is followed by commanding shouts to quickly move off the bus and step onto a series of yellow footprints.

Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, and Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, had just arrived for recruit training on Parris Island, S.C., on Jan. 7.

“The anticipation was the worst,” said Rct. Daryn DeMoss, 21, Platoon 2026. “The waiting ... it just kills you on the inside.”

The recruits were constantly bombarded by drill instructors’ commands from the moment they stepped off the bus.

For many recruits it was the first time they had been yelled at and ordered to perform tasks with instant obedience.

The recruits learned the basics of how they would act and carry themselves for the coming 13 weeks of training.

The instructors informed the recruits that

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NEWS BRIEF

Aerial spray over Parris Island

In an effort to control sand flea and mosquito populations, Parris Island is scheduled to be sprayed from planes April 8-11. Spraying will occur approximately two hours before sundown if weather permits.

The insecticides used present no threat to humans, plants or animals in the area and are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. However, beekeepers within a five-mile radius are urged to keep hives covered.

For more information, please contact James Clark at 843-228-3102 or Cynthia Zapotoczny at 843-228-4293 in the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office.

Fox & Oscar Companies’ Graduates

Fox Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 2024

Pfc. Joseph A. Yoder, Jacksonville, Fla.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Kenneth A. Melton

Platoon 2026

Lance Cpl. Daniel B. Horvath, Memphis, Tenn.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Trayvon T. Peterkins

Platoon 2029

Pfc. Mario A. Caprez, Akron, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Teal

Platoon 2025

Pfc. Eric R. Nelson, South Boston, Va.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Jason L. Harris

Platoon 2028

Pfc. Joseph M. Gomez, Miami
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Jesus Pedraza

Platoon 2030

Pfc. Conor J. Phillips, Ringwood, N.J.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Federico Vasquez

Oscar Company Honor Graduates

Platoon 4010

Pfc. Monica R. Jaquez, Amarillo, Texas
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Tamara J. Moody

Platoon 4011

Pfc. Shanta N. Hargis, Lacey, Wash.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Terika S. King

Platoon 2024

Pvt. F. G. Adu, Pvt. H. M. Ashley, Pvt. N. A. Basile, Pfc. N. A. Bills, Pvt. M. D. Borgstahl, Pfc. R. D. Bowles, Pfc. T. D. Brown Jr., Pfc. C. A. Bruce, Pvt. M. Cazafaulkner, Pfc. J. G. Charles, Pvt. M. C. Christy, Pfc. J. D. Clabough, Pfc. E. J. Dehosse, Pfc. A. I. Devries, Pvt. S. M. Dodson, Pfc. T. R. Duckett, Pfc. J. J. Dyer, Pvt. J. M. Eaglin, Pvt. J. D. Edens, Pvt. A. E. Exposito, Pfc. B. W. Fredrichs, Pfc. H. W. Gardner, Pfc. D. J. Grant, Pvt. A. M. Green, Pfc. O. N. Hawks, Pvt. J. L. Howard, Pfc. D. A. Huff, Pfc. M. J. Hurst, Pfc. W. A. Jackson, Pvt. R. G. Jamison, Pvt. Q. D. Jones, Pvt. T. W. Kadau, Pvt. J. L. Kenney, Pfc. C. King, Pfc. D. C. Kleer, Pfc. K. D. Knox, Pvt. J. W. Krick, Pvt. C. A. Laywell, Pfc. J. H. Le, Pvt. S. F. Lewis, Pvt. F. Magana Jr., Pfc. B. P. Mather, Pvt. B. M. McEvoy, Pfc. M. G. Murray, Pfc. N. L. Nelson, Pvt. D. V. Nisip, Pfc. K. L. O'Connor, Pvt. X. J. Owens, Pfc. D. A. Palmer, Pfc. J. J. Paramore, Pfc. C. C. Payton, Pvt. B. E. Proctor, Pfc. D. R. Proffitt, Pfc. J. T. Purello, Pvt. M. G. Queen, Pvt. W. A. Rakes, Pvt. A. S. Ramos, Pfc. J. C. Reintzell, Pvt. A. Robledozapata, Pvt. A. J. Rogers, Pfc. K. A. Saucier, Pfc. A. Z. Savage, Pfc. B. J. Shrout, Pfc. S. Silva, Pvt. O. Sosaflares, Pvt. J. M. Stiltner, Pvt. R. J. Strileckin, Pfc. R. L. Taylor Jr., Pvt. M. G. Taylor, Pvt. P. C. Thibedeau Jr., Pfc. M. H. Thorley, Pfc. J. L. Tipton, Pvt. T. J. Townsend, Pfc. T. D. Vanlandingham, Pfc. S. A. Voigt, Pvt. K. D. Whelan, Pvt. S. T. Williams, Pfc. T. M. Witherspoon, Pvt. A. B. Yang, Pfc. J. A. Yoder

Platoon 2025

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Platoon 4010

Pvt. A. Alvarez, Pfc. R. S. Ayala, Pvt. M. Bacott, Pvt. E. J. Banks, Pfc. C. M. Bevel, Pvt. B. E. Bishop, Pfc. J. L. Bridgman, Pvt. K. D. Bronston, Pfc. J. A. Cameron, Pvt. E. R. Cervantes, Pvt. B. A. Chambers, Pvt. S. M. Crosby, Pvt. S. R. Davis, Pfc. J. M. Delossantos, Pvt. N. J. Dillow, Pfc. K. Dodson, Pvt. K. D. Edmondson, Pvt. J. L. Ewing, Pvt. T. M. Gackenbach, Pfc. K. A. Grant, Pvt. A. N. Hanson, Pvt. T. A. Harvey, Pvt. K. E. Howard, Pvt. V. H. Hurteau, Pfc. M. R. Jaquez, Pvt. D. J. Johnson, Pvt. K. G. Jones, Pvt. D. L. Keene, Pvt. T. N. Lawrence, Pvt. K. S. Leon, Pvt. M. Leosalfaro, Pfc. D. S. Lighten, Pvt. A. M. Lotz, Pfc. C. C. Martin, Pvt. S. Y. Mendoza, Pfc. A. M. Murphy, Pfc. L. V. Nieto, Pfc. E. K. Pittman, Pvt. K. M. Ramos, Pvt. T. J. Reed, Pvt. A. C. Reese, Pfc. J. D. Robertson, Pfc. J. Rojas, Pvt. R. A. Ryan, Pvt. D. R. Sanders, Pvt. D. L. Sanderson, Pvt. K. D. Skalnik, Pfc. L. H. Souza, Pvt. C. V. Storey, Pvt. E. F. Tappe, Pfc. K. N. Thompson, Pvt. M. D. Washington, Pfc. C. A. Wauchope

Platoon 4011

Pvt. E. J. Aeilts, Pvt. N. M. Arellano, Pvt. E. M. Barnes, Pvt. M. J. Brandt, Pvt. A. B. Brown, Pfc. K. M. Brown, Pfc. V. Camachomonjaraz, Pvt. J. S. Carrillo, Pvt. S. N. Collins, Pfc. M. L. Couture, Pfc. S. G. Dano, Pfc. A. Y. Delarocagiron, Pfc. C. A. Delgadovaldez, Pfc. A. S. Etheridge, Pvt. S. N. Gardner, Pvt. A. Green, Pvt. S. A. Gullage, Pvt. K. A. Hallstrom, Pfc. S. N. Hargis, Pfc. A. N. Harrison, Pfc. L. J. Hernandez, Pvt. Y. C. Islas, Pfc. A. L. Krisko, Pfc. C. Lacher, Pvt. W. J. Love, Pvt. K. M. Lozen, Pvt. T. I. Martinez, Pvt. V. R. Martinez, Pvt. S. Miller, Pfc. Y. Moreno, Pvt. R. N. Newell, Pfc. A. G. Nowak, Pfc. A. R. Pajimula, Pfc. L. N. Perez, Pfc. I. K. Phadnis, Pvt. J. P. Powers, Pvt. M. M. Rightenour, Pfc. S. I. Ross, Pvt. M. Rueda, Pfc. T. R. Sahadeo, Pfc. J. K. Salas, Pfc. C. Sellers, Pvt. J. R. Simpson, Pvt. C. R. Smith, Pvt. C. N. Spitzley, Pvt. T. M. Twenty, Pvt. T. E. Taylor, Pvt. R. K. Theodosopoulos, Pvt. S. A. Tipton, Pvt. A. L. Tousey, Pfc. L. L. Trembley, Pfc. J. L. Vanmeerbeke, Pfc. K. N. Vanzant, Pfc. R. Viruel, Pfc. M. E. Wedding, Pfc. A. A. Williams, Pvt. R. L. Zwyer

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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RANGE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

slow then the entire range runs slow.”

Recruits on the firing line were dependent on the speedy service to score as much as possible.

“It’s fun working with another recruit,” said Pfc. Jessica Delossantos, 20, Platoon 4010. “We try to compete with each other and see who can get their target up first.”

The pits also serve as a test of the recruits’ understanding of one of the Marine Corps’ valued traits –integrity. During the rifle qualification, they are entrusted with keeping an accurate score of other shooters, said Hinde.

Instructors walk along the sides of the maintenance area to maintain safety and orderly conduct.

Recruits can be sent back in training as integrity violators if they are found altering score cards or falsely scoring targets.

The order to cease fire was heard overhead. The shooters had finished their day’s worth of practice and in the pits, the recruits had successfully kept the range’s operations moving as scheduled.

Oscar Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Rct. Tahira Lawrence, left, 17, Platoon 4010, Oscar Company, and Rct. Beth Chambers, 19, Platoon 4010, watch their target for bullet impacts during the 300-yard rapid-fire drill Feb. 28 on Parris Island. Shooters had one minute to fire 10 rounds during the rapid fire. Lawrence is from Hammond, Ill. Chambers is from Noblesville, Ind.



Photo by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Sgt. Malina Shippen, 30, a receiving drill instructor, inspects newly arrived recruits of Fox and Oscar Companies on Jan. 7 inside Parris Island’s receiving building. Shippen is a Philadelphia native.

BEGINNING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they would pass through two large silver doors to enter the recruit receiving building. However, the doors represented something also.

It represents the recruit’s new life.

“It’s a transformation from civilian to recruit,” said Staff Sgt. James Andrews, 27, a chief drill instructor. “They will pass through one time and one time only.”

Within minutes, recruits are segregated by gender and quickly placed into their respective platoons.

Their last verbal conversation home while in training was a scripted phone call to a parent or guardian no more than five sentences long. There were no hellos and there were no somber farewells. Recruits just state they

have arrived safely and are about to begin recruit training.

From that moment, the recruits were hustled through a series of rooms that continuously shed them of their individuality.

Males had their hair shaved for uniformity and hygienic reasons. They received their utility uniforms and their body care items.

Many did not sleep until the next day and their transformation had just barely begun.

“Making the transition is just one step closer to being a Marine,” said Pfc. Ezanderia Pittman, 19, Platoon 4010, Oscar Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, and a native of Winston-Salem, N.C. “It has to happen. It’s all I’ve wanted since I was 3-years-old.”



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

As the Defense Department recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent out a message April 2 addressing the importance of military personnel taking preventative measures to stop sexual assault.

Defense Secretary issues message on sexual assault awareness, prevention

Courtesy Story

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel issued a message to all members of the Defense Department on April 2, emphasizing that stopping sexual assault and supporting victims is everyone’s responsibility.

Below is the text of the secretary’s message:

This month, the Department of Defense observes Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the theme “We own it ... we’ll solve it ... together.”

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is an opportunity for the entire DoD community – service members, civilians, members of our families and leaders at every level – to underscore our commitment to eliminating the crime of sexual assault, supporting victims, and intervening when appropriate to help stop unsafe behavior.

Together, we must work every day to instill a climate that does not tolerate or ignore sexist behavior, sexual harassment, or sexual assault. These have no place in the United States military and violate everything we stand for and the values we defend. Creating a culture free of the scourge of sexual assault requires establishing an environment where dignity and respect is afforded to all, and where diversity is celebrated as one of our greatest assets as a force.

We are strong because of our values of service, sacrifice and loyalty – and doing what is right. We watch out for each other and respect each other. By drawing on these strengths, we can and we must stop sexual assault within our ranks.

Remember, we own it ... we’ll solve it ... together.

Fewer furlough days announced for civilians

Nick Simeone

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has reduced the number of days hundreds of thousands of its civilian employees could be furloughed this year from 22 to 14, the Pentagon announced March 28.

The start of the furloughs will also be delayed until mid-to-late June, after more than 700,000 department employees receive furlough notices now set to go out in early May, said a senior Defense Department official.

Furloughs would happen over seven two-week pay periods until the end of September, when the current fiscal year ends, the senior official said, with employees likely to be told not to come to work for two days during each of those pay periods.

Congress has passed a continuing resolution March 21 that will fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year, but the Department of Defense still needs to make \$41 billion in spending cuts.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel characterized the reduced furloughs as well as a revised estimate of sequestration’s impact on the defense budget as good news.

“It reduces a shortfall at least in the operations budget,” said Hagel. “We came out better than we went in under the sequester, where it looks like our number is \$41 billion [in cuts] now versus the \$46 billion.”

But despite a Congressional reprieve, Hagel said the Pentagon is still going to be short at least \$22 billion for operations and maintenance, “and that means we are going to have to prioritize and make some cuts and do what we’ve got to do,” including making sharp reductions in base operating support and training for nondeployed units.

More critical in the long run, he said, is how budget cuts will affect readiness and the department’s overall mission. Because of that concern, he said he has directed Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct an intensive department-wide review

of U.S. strategic interests including how to protect the nation with fewer resources.

“How do we prioritize the threats and then the capabilities required to deal with threats?” he said. “There will be some significant changes, there’s no way around it.”

Dempsey said the department has already exhausted 80 percent of its operating funds halfway through the fiscal year and characterized the current budget situation as “not the deepest, but the steepest decline in our budget ever,” and warned it will affect military readiness into the future.

“We will have to trade at some level and to some degree our future readiness for current operations,” Dempsey said. “We can’t afford excess equipment. We can’t afford excess facilities. We have to reform how we buy weapons and services. We have to reduce redundancy. And we’ve got to change, at some level, our compensation structure.”



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Photos by Lance Cpl. David Bessey

Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, participate in a conditioning hike to the rifle range while carrying 55 pounds of equipment Feb. 16 on Parris Island. Fox Company is scheduled to graduate April 5.

STEP IT OUT

Fox Co. recruits complete 6.2-mile conditioning hike

Lance Cpl. David Bessey
Staff Writer

Recruits of Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, completed a conditioning hike Feb. 16 on Parris Island.

Recruits carried a 55-pound load with their rifle and water across 6.2 miles.

The purpose of conditioning hikes is to help physically prepare recruits for the Crucible, said Gunnery Sgt. Dandre Gillion, 35, a Fox Company chief drill instructor, and a Memphis, Tenn., native.

The Crucible is the culminating event and final test of recruit training. During the 54-hour event, recruits marched approximately 40 miles while carrying a maximum weight of 64 pounds.

Recruits learned how to properly pack their equipment and how to minimize the strain on their bodies while traveling long distances on foot.

Over the course of training, recruits completed a total of four conditioning hikes. Each hike increased in distance and weight carried.

At 6:30 a.m., recruits and their instructors began their journey on their third conditioning hike, moving across paved roads and dirt trails. Recruits shouted to communicate to others of potential holes or potential tripping hazards.

They received a 10-minute break at the halfway point to remove their equipment and replenish their water.

Pfc. Tony Brown, 19, Platoon 2024, began to feel the physical strain of the hike after the stop.

Brown tried to keep himself focused during the hike by reminding himself of the opportunity to be called a Marine.

He pushed through the pain even when he felt his leg beginning to cramp, said Brown, a native of Jacksonville, Fla.

At the end of each hike, recruits climbed a rope as part of the physical conditioning requirement of the training.

“It was harder than what was expected,” said Brown. “I’m just proud of myself and the platoon.”



Recruits of Fox Company trek across the grounds of Parris Island on Feb. 16 during a 6.2-mile conditioning hike. While in training, recruits complete four conditioning hikes, which gradually increased in distance and weight carried. Fox Company is scheduled to graduate April 5.



