

FINAL ISSUE



THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



Let's Be Damned Sure That No Boy's Ghost Will Ever Say,
"If Your Training Program Had Only Done Its Job . . ."

Volume 65, Issue 14

FINAL EDITION

April 12, 2013



Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Dakota Payton, Platoon 3030, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, crawls through sand during the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Payton, 19, from Hampshire County, W.Va., edged toward a simulated casualty, stopping only when he heard the sound of a simulated machine gun. Kilo Company is scheduled to graduate today.

KILO COMPANY

RECRUITS' FINAL
HOURS BEFORE
EARNING
THEIR TITLE



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

Rct. Cody Preg drags Rct. Dale Rothey Jr., Platoon 3030, to safety as part of an exercise on the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Rothey, 22, from Elizabeth, Pa., acted as a casualty that Preg, 18, had to move to safety during the exercise. Kilo Company is scheduled to graduate today.



Farewell readers

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Public Affairs Chief

In your hands is the final edition of the Parris Island Boot, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot's base newspaper since 1943.

On behalf of everyone who's ever worked on the Boot, the current staff would like to thank all of our readers, past and present, for taking the time to read the articles and look at the photos that told the stories of the people of Parris Island and the important work of making Marines.

Like any paper, the Boot has had its shining moments of news coverage and its hackneyed space-fillers. It's reported the death of presidents and covered major changes to recruit training, as well as featured a Marine who rode a unicycle to work and even alerted readers of ferocious stray cats prowling the island only to be plucked by the talons of swooping owls and the tragedy of orphaned kittens left behind – no, seriously. That was an actual article.

To honor the occasion and remember our 70-year history, we've reproduced the original title banner, which included a motto stressing the life-and-death importance of the training at Parris Island, especially at a time when Marines were storming beaches in the Pacific. Who coined the phrase remains unclear, but the spirit of its message lives on today as drill instructors, many of them combat veterans, transform recruits into battlefield-bound Marines.

As one of the first Marine Corps bases to voluntarily close its newspaper, Parris Island's decision was necessary to expand and improve strategic efforts to reach the public via modern communication methods.

The Boot is published by the Parris Island's public affairs staff, whose primary audience is the general public. Reaching that audience is faster and quantifiable via digital platforms like Facebook, where more than 88,000 users across the globe follow Parris Island's page, compared to a weekly print publication of only several thousand copies that is only available at specific places for a limited amount of time.

The closure isn't the result of sequestration; the price of publishing the Boot is virtually free for the Marine Corps because advertisements sold by the civilian publisher defer the costs. However, the

SEE FAREWELL PAGE 5

Kilo recruits learn value of every shot

**Lance Cpl.
Caitlin Maluda**
Staff Writer

Recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, learned to value each shot they fired on the rifle range March 4-8 on Parris Island, as one day their shots may protect the lives of their fellow Marines and ultimately defend the nation.

Recruits must qualify with the M16-A4 rifle to graduate boot camp because every Marine is expected to be a rifleman. It is said Marines train how they fight, which is why recruits learn the importance of not just firing a weapon, but hitting their target.

If recruits are told they are shooting a target, they are going to shoot a target and think they are doing well, said Sgt.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, are shown their shots on targets after firing on the rifle range March 5 on Parris Island. The orange circle showed recruits the number of points they scored, whereas the black and white circles showed where their round hit. Kilo Company is scheduled to graduate today.

Richard Lacey, a primary marksmanship instructor. But, if they are taught that the target represents an enemy, they will learn the value of each shot they fire.

Recruits are given five days to hone their firing techniques and shooting

positions before spending a week firing on the range. In grass fields near the ranges, recruits must sit, lay, kneel and stand in each firing position for a number of hours so the positions feel natural when the time comes to shoot live

ammunition.

"I'd never shot a weapon before," said Pfc. Christopher Vega, Platoon 3030. "After all the practicing we did in the sitting, kneeling and

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See Kilo Company's
Graduates

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Kilo Co. recruits arrive for
training on Parris Island

Why I became a drill Instructor



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Sgt. Moises Espinal

joined the Marine Corps in July 2007 and became a drill instructor in August 2012. He currently trains recruits with Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. Espinal, a native of Long Beach, Miss., works as an infantry rifleman off the drill field.

"I wanted to give back to the Marine Corps ... pay it back for all the experiences I've had. It's my way of putting my footprint on the recruiting process."

Kilo Company Graduates

Honor Graduates

Platoon 3024

Pfc. Garrett M. Wells, Harrisburg, N.C.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Schmitt

Platoon 3026

Pfc. Joseph R. Newton, Cincinnati
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Jonathan Herrera

Platoon 3029

Pfc. Justin M. Spalik, Binghamton, N.Y.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Jonathan D. Radu

Platoon 3025

Pfc. Colton M. Lowe, Wooster, Ohio
Senior Drill Instructor: Gunnery Sgt. Richard Brennan

Platoon 3028

Pfc. Garrett M. Glassman, Gulf Breeze, Fla.
Senior Drill Instructor: Sgt. Leroy McGee

Platoon 3030

Pfc. McKinley D. White, Roaring River, N.C.
Senior Drill Instructor: Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Rudd

Platoon 3024

Pvt. D. W. Bare, Pfc. A. J. Bartone, Pvt. J. V. Bennett, Pvt. T. M. Boling, Pvt. C. S. Buchanan, Pvt. G. S. Bull, Pfc. A. D. Carter, Pvt. R. S. Conrad, Pvt. V. O. Crockett, Pvt. D. A. Darst, Pvt. D. J. Davis, Pvt. F. L. Delawder Jr., Pvt. D. Diez, Pvt. M. Diodonet, Pvt. M. J. Duhon, Pvt. J. S. Eakle, Pvt. C. A. Eastland, Pfc. E. J. Ebbecke, Pfc. C. J. Evans, Pfc. M. A. Flores, Pfc. N. B. Fordham, Pfc. B. J. Garcia, Pfc. J. L. Gibson, Pfc. D. A. Gomez, Pvt. R. Gomez, Pvt. E. J. Gonzalez, Pvt. L. N. Gonzalez, Pvt. J. A. Gragg, Pfc. G. D. Griffith, Pvt. J. E. Hall, Pvt. C. R. Hooks Jr., Pvt. J. T. Hoyle, Pfc. D. A. Jones, Pfc. D. A. Knight, Pfc. I. G. Knott, Pfc. T. J. Larson, Pvt. D. S. Lee, Pvt. C. E. Lesley, Pfc. K. M. Lopez, Pfc. K. L. Loy, Pvt. D. D. Martini, Pfc. R. B. Mathis Jr., Pfc. B. D. McCain, Pfc. D. D. McLaughlin, Pvt. C. A. McTaggart, Pvt. M. J. Mercado-Molina, Pfc. J. V. Mercer, Pfc. L. Y. Miralles-Pupo, Pvt. A. Molina, Pvt. J. S. Moon, Pfc. M. J. Navarra, Pvt. R. G. Nieves, Pvt. R. A. Park, Pfc. E. R. Pence, Pvt. G. A. Provost, Pfc. D. Quijano, Pvt. R. A. Ramirez II, Pvt. C. A. Rausch, Pvt. C. W. Riddle, Pvt. O. Rodriguez, Pfc. E. W. Ross, Pfc. J. Salgado-Linares, Pfc. K. G. Sewall, Pfc. J. B. Sizelove, Pvt. D. J. Smith, Pfc. A. F. Sorbelli, Pfc. A. Srey, Pfc. E. T. Stonecypther, Pvt. J. R. Stucks, Pvt. R. A. Teruel Jr., Pvt. A. R. Thomas, Pfc. J. C. Tucker, Pfc. L. C. Tucker III, Pfc. E. Van Biljon, Pvt. R. Van Biljon, Pvt. C. M. Ward, Pfc. G. M. Wells, Pvt. T. R. Wiley, Pvt. J. A. Wilkins, Pvt. M. B. Winston, Pfc. T. P. Woollen, Pvt. J. M. Wright, Pfc. A. N. Yigdal

Platoon 3025

Pfc. J. T. Audey, Pvt. J. S. Avery, Pvt. C. L. Bennett II, Pvt. C. W. Blais, Pvt. J. M. Bolafka, Pfc. W. J. Bostic Jr., Pvt. A. J. Bouton, Pvt. C. M. Brandenburg, Pvt. M. S. Brooks, Pvt. C. R. Brower, Pvt. Z. T. Brummett, Pfc. M. Cannon, Pfc. J. A. Caskey, Pfc. L. S. Cassar, Pvt. D. L. Cessna, Pvt. C. T. Coker, Pvt. N. T. Crance, Pvt. D. J. Dallape, Pfc. L. Demartino V, Pfc. J. A. Denero, Pvt. J. J. Dishler, Pfc. C. J. Dudoit, Pfc. A. J. Evans, Pvt. J. A. Evans, Pvt. J. M. Evans, Pvt. R. J. Favorite, Pvt. F. W. Fragoso-Maldonado, Pvt. C. J. Frasure, Pfc. B. J. Freudenberg, Pfc. J. D. Galloway, Pfc. A. J. Greenfield, Pvt. I. T. Grundvig, Pvt. Z. K. Guzdek, Pfc. E. R. Harcum, Pvt. L. D. Harris, Pvt. F. G. Hill, Pfc. G. D. Hofelich, Pfc. D. W. Honaker, Pfc. B. N. Householder, Pvt. C. C. Kelly, Pfc. J. M. Kemper, Pvt. N. J. King, Pfc. T. F. Knapp, Pfc. J. M. Kozusko, Pvt. C. P. Livers, Pfc. C. S. Loose, Pvt. J. A. Lopez, Pfc. C. M. Lowe, Pfc. W. J. Lucko, Pvt. J. C. McCue, Pfc. S. M. McQueen, Pvt. G. K. Miller, Pvt. R. A. Miller, Pvt. R. E. Miller IV, Pvt. J. R. Montgomery, Pvt. B. T. Morr, Pvt. M. Narvaez Jr., Pvt. M. A. Negron, Pvt. N. P. Onusic, Pvt. M. E. Parrish, Pfc. C. G. Reynolds Jr., Pvt. J. A. Riggs, Pfc. J. A. Robinson, Pfc. T. E. Sampson, Pfc. A. N. Santiago, Pvt. C. M. Sasser, Pfc. J. Saucedo, Pfc. M. N. Schuler, Pvt. C. S. See, Pfc. S. T. Silvaroli, Pvt. T. J. Smachetti, Pfc. G. R. Smith, Pfc. J. I. Stanford, Pvt. P. T. Strader, Pfc. T. A. Strasik, Pfc. E. D. Stringer, Pvt. B. M. Such, Pvt. C. J. Tate, Pvt. C. M. Thompson, Pvt. J. F. Thornton, Pfc. B. K. Thurston, Pvt. J. N. Torres, Pfc. D. E. Wargo, Pfc. R. M. Wilkinson, Pfc. M. J. Wolfe

Platoon 3026

Pvt. J. A. Abdalla, Pvt. S. R. Akin, Pfc. L. L. Amaro-Estrada, Pfc. D. N. Anderson, Pfc. M. Angjelovski, Pvt. T. J. Baker, Pfc. C. J. Bastian, Pvt. F. Benitez, Pvt. Q. D. Benson, Pvt. S. S. Bounds, Pvt. C. P. Braud Jr., Pvt. D. M. Brooks, Pvt. B. J. Bryant, Pvt. K. A. Caplinger, Pvt. D. D. Clavey-Reeves, Pfc. M. A. Davis-Scholle, Pfc. B. W. Debottis, Pvt. C. R. Diaz, Pfc. D. W. Disantis, Pfc. W. G. Dubinsky III, Pvt. M. D. Dunkum, Pvt. J. B. Escobar, Pvt. P. A. Faulkner, Pvt. T. G. Fitch, Pvt. J. S. Gatlin, Pvt. B. D. Gray, Pfc. C. L. Hall, Pvt. M. T. Hall, Pvt. Z. Z. Harrison, Pvt. Z. N. Heber, Pfc. D. T. Horning, Pvt. E. E. Hutchison, Pvt. S. T. Johnson, Pvt. C. W. Kelley, Pvt. K. R. Kuster, Pvt. C. A. Lasanta, Pvt. M. G. Mainegra, Pfc. T. S. Massey, Pvt. G. S. McFetridge, Pvt. J. B. McGill, Pvt. K. S. Meeks, Pfc. C. M. Milam, Pvt. T. S. Mischell, Pfc. T. E. Mooney, Pfc. R. W. Murphy, Pfc. J. R. Newton, Pfc. A. J. Osellame, Pvt. C. J. Pacheco, Pvt. H. M. Paiva, Pfc. C. T. Parker, Pfc. A. M. Paugh, Pvt. C. H. Pearson IV, Pvt. D. S. Phillips, Pvt. R. C. Phillips III, Pvt. A. M. Pimpinello Jr., Pfc. J. W. Poli, Pfc. S. T. Ptak, Pvt. T. L. Radcliff II, Pvt. D. S. Ramires, Pvt. J. T. Ray, Pvt. W. A. Reiter, Pvt. C. R. Ritzke, Pfc. D. J. Rivera-Zayas, Pvt. J. R. Rivers, Pvt. B. J. Romero, Pvt. E. A. Romero, Pfc. W. J. Romero-Tejada, Pvt. D. C. Ross, Pvt. D. G. Scott, Pfc. S. J. Sculac, Pfc. A. J. Seanor, Pfc. M. E. Serrano, Pfc. J. A. Spivey, Pvt. J. D. Thrasher, Pvt. J. G. Ulloa, Pvt. J. Z. Vaught, Pfc. A. R. Velasco Jr., Pfc. D. J. Weagle, Pvt. S. M. Whitfield, Pvt. T. M. Wingo, Pfc. D. M. Wuest, Pfc. R. T. Wynn, Pfc. W. W. Zaremba

Platoon 3028

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Platoon 3030

Pvt. D. M. Adams, Pvt. M. E. Adams, Pvt. Z. A. Allison, Pvt. K. D. Anderson, Pvt. B. J. Bennett, Pfc. E. R. Bierstine, Pvt. R. G. Bissonnette Jr., Pfc. J. H. Bridges, Pvt. K. L. Bryan III, Pvt. R. J. Burke, Pfc. D. J. Carranza-Kee, Pfc. E. Chow, Pvt. A. Ciceron, Pfc. M. J. Coffey, Pvt. J. J. Collins, Pvt. S. J. Connelly, Pvt. G. L. Constant, Pfc. J. D. Cummings, Pvt. T. G. Daines, Pvt. M. A. Decosimo, Pvt. J. D. Dodge, Pfc. A. J. Dunbar, Pvt. D. L. Durant, Pvt. C. J. Faison Jr., Pfc. L. E. Farley, Pfc. M. R. Farris II, Pfc. M. T. Festian II, Pvt. B. G. Fisher, Pfc. C. A. Freeman, Pfc. B. V. Galgay, Pvt. B. J. Garlitz, Pvt. J. C. Geoghagan, Pvt. A. A. Gonzalez, Pvt. R. B. Guaman-Lazaro, Pfc. A. L. Hall, Pvt. D. J. Helinski, Pvt. D. C. Helman, Pvt. C. N. Hernandez, Pfc. K. P. Hickey, Pvt. J. P. Kaufmann, Pvt. A. J. Lambert, Pvt. E. McCollum, Pfc. J. C. McQueen, Pfc. J. D. Mery, Pvt. A. W. Mitchell, Pfc. B. K. Oliver, Pvt. C. B. Palmer, Pvt. R. D. Pascal, Pvt. J. D. Patterson, Pvt. D. W. Payton, Pvt. D. J. Pomaville, Pvt. C. A. Preg, Pfc. A. F. Quarta Jr., Pvt. S. A. Reed, Pfc. I. Rodriguez, Pfc. D. R. Rothey, Pvt. C. W. Ruth, Pfc. C. R. Schalles, Pvt. N. A. Shaw, Pfc. M. A. Simpson, Pfc. K. P. Sizemore, Pvt. R. N. Smithen, Pvt. S. M. Spriestersbach, Pfc. L. A. Suriel, Pvt. M. J. Tarlton, Pfc. R. C. Taylor, Pvt. J. J. Tiers, Pfc. J. M. Tuz III, Pfc. L. J. Valentin-Zeno, Pfc. C. Vega, Pvt. F. J. Veltri, Pfc. O. Ventura, Pvt. M. A. Vespe, Pvt. E. L. Vickers, Pvt. A. J. Voorhees, Pvt. B. W. Walker, Pfc. D. J. Walsh, Pvt. Z. R. Ward, Pfc. M. D. White, Pvt. A. M. Wilson, Pfc. G. E. Wilson II, Pvt. G. M. Yodsnukis

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Photos by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. Dakota Bare, Platoon 3024, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, records his shots in his data book March 5 on Parris Island. Bare, 19, from Oxford, Fla., used the data book to keep track of his shots throughout the week. Kilo Company is scheduled to graduate today.

SHOT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prone, it felt like something I’d been doing for years.”

Marines are said to run toward the sound of chaos, deploying all over the world to meet the enemy. Every Marine must know how to use a rifle, which is why recruits are given a week and approximately 480 rounds each to fire and become proficient with their weapon.

If the instructors can get recruits to understand that one day it may not just be a target in front of them, but an enemy they need to take out, they can grasp the concept that their training could save the life of their fellow Marine in combat, said Lacey.

“If we teach them that way, they can be more confident when they do deploy,” said Lacey, 26, from Moultrie, Ga. “They will think ‘OK, I know I can employ this rifle to its capabilities; I can hold it to the standard it needs to

be held. I shot at boot camp like this; I know I can hit them.”

Marines must qualify with a rifle annually after recruit training.

“What it comes down to is being able to provide cover for your fellow brothers and sisters. You need to qualify,” said Vega, 23, from New York. “If you don’t qualify you’re undermining the efficiency ... and the overall effectiveness of your mission.”

A Marine in combat unable to use his weapon purposefully is taking a gun out of the fight and giving the enemy an advantage, said Lacey.

“That’s why we’re so hard on them when it’s time to qualify,” Lacey added.

Recruits of Kilo Company have been trained to defend the nation and one another. Today, they walked across the Peatross Parade Deck and toward their future as Marines.



Lance Cpl. Mark Garland, right, a range coach, assists Rct. Zachery Vaught, Platoon 3026, on his firing technique while on the rifle range March 5 on Parris Island. Garland, 22, from Maryville, Tenn., gave Vaught, 19, from Somerset, Ky., advice on how to obtain a stable firing position.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

The newest arrivals to Parris Island rush off a bus and onto the yellow footprints Jan. 14. These young men became the newest recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, where they would remain for 13 weeks in hopes of becoming members of the Corps. The company is scheduled to graduate today.

STEP ONE

Recruits begin journey on Parris Island

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

The anticipation vanished for recruits of Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, upon their unnerving arrival to Parris Island on Jan. 14.

Most of the young men who arrived that night had been told Marine Corps training would probably be one of the hardest things they would ever endure in life. However, not all of them understood what commitment they had made until after they were on the bus leaving home and on their way to the beginning of a new adventure.

Pfc. Dustin Lett, Platoon 3028, said he began to shake with trepidation when he saw a sign that indicated the bus was 20 miles away from Parris Island. He said he thought his heart would explode as he got closer to his final destination.

For many recruits, the short ride onto the island and to the receiving building is where they become aware that they were finally about to begin training.

“The bus driver said we were on Parris Island, and then the gate guards came onto the bus and told us to put our heads down, I just thought ‘things just got real,’” said Pvt. Matthew Hall, Platoon 3026, 19, from Wellsboro, Pa.

As the bus made its way across the causeway flanked by salt marshes and onto the island, Pfc. Larry Tucker III, Platoon 3024, asked himself what he had gotten into. The 19-year-old from Atlanta said he attempted to control his anticipation for what was to come.

“As soon as we pulled up and I saw a drill instructor I knew it was about to happen,” said Pvt. Christian See, Platoon 3025.

The 20-year-old from Mount Sterling, Ohio, said the drill instructor’s intensity, as he loudly ordered the

recruits out of the van and onto the yellow footprints, made the experience even more stirring.

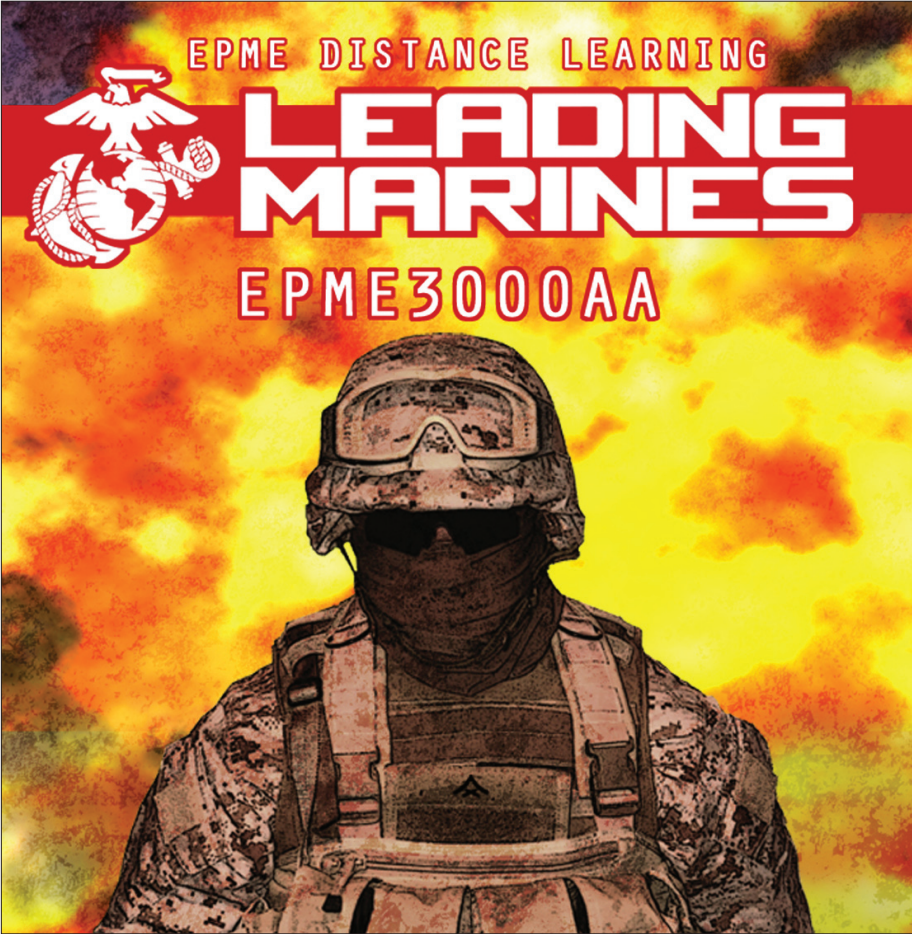
Many of the young men who arrived that night had waited weeks and even months before coming to recruit training.

“It didn’t feel real until the yellow footprints,” said Pfc. Christopher Bastian, Platoon 3026.

“One minute I’m sitting on the bus with my head down and the next there is a drill instructor yelling at us to get on the yellow footprints. That’s where everything became real to me,” said the 18-year-old from Waterloo, N.Y.

The journey to earn the title Marine began for the recruits that night.

These young men may have come to the island in the dark of night with heads bowed, but they will leave on graduation day with heads held high as confident new Marines.



FAREWELL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

manpower required to produce the Boot meant less people to focus on better tactics.

Public affairs Marines will still produce content, such as feature stories and photographs, which will be available online at such sites as Facebook, Marines.mil, the Defense Visual Information Distribution System website and a re-modeled Parris Island website currently in development.

The Boot’s sister newspaper at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, the Jet Stream, will continue weekly publication and will be distributed at select locations on Parris Island.

In October 1995, the staffs of the Boot and Jet Stream combined efforts to publish the Tri-Command Tribune, which also included coverage of the Naval Hospital Beaufort. The paper folded in December 2000 but continued to be published and distributed together under the former titles.

The Boot was launched Christmas Day in 1943. Back then, each issue cost a nickel. A photo of the first edition is displayed in the Parris Island Museum’s rotunda. The Parris Island library, as well as the Public Affairs Office, holds bound archives of most original issues as far back as 1944.

Between the establishment of Parris Island as the Corps’ recruit training depot and the Boot’s birth, several other short-lived publications came and went. In 1916, a magazine titled Semper Fidelis was published. During World War I, The Marine was on newsstands, and in 1926, The Parris Island News ran off the presses.

For most future content, follow Parris Island’s official Facebook page at: <http://facebook.com/ParrisIsland>.



The first issue of the Boot appeared Dec. 25, 1943.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

A long journey has brought Pvt. Roan Van Biljon, left, and his brother, Pfc. Ewald Van Biljon to their graduation today. The brothers immigrated to the United States from South Africa between 2000 and 2001. They trained together in Platoon 3024, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

South African brothers fight to join Corps

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda
Staff Writer

Two South African brothers, scheduled to graduate today, spent years trying to earn the right to be called not only Americans, but U.S. Marines.

Ewald Van Biljon, 25, and his younger brother Roan Van Biljon, 22, came with their family to America between 2000 and 2001, leaving the mining town of Nigel, South Africa, due to poor economic and education systems.

“We wouldn’t have been able to get the education there that we could have here,” said Roan Van Biljon. “Most people don’t even complete high school.”

Once the brothers arrived in the U.S., their father worked various jobs to support their family, including pouring approximately \$45,000 into annual medical expenses and paperwork to prevent deportation back to South Africa. The brothers said there was a time when their father took a night-shift job and they did not see each other for nearly three months.

The brothers’ biggest priority was to obtain the necessary credentials to be eligible to attend school and eventually land jobs.

The brothers attended school in Atlanta and did not speak English, although the language is spoken in South Africa. It took Roan Van Biljon only four months to learn to speak, write and read English fluently.

The family seemed to be mired

in unending paperwork as they renewed their working visas, Social Security cards and drivers’ licenses along with immigration papers.

Ewald Van Biljon first spoke with a recruiter in 2003 during his junior year of high school and learned joining the Marine Corps would be a difficult endeavor, given he first had to obtain a permanent residency card, or green card.

In the meantime, Ewald Van Biljon kept in contact with the Marines at the recruiting station and continued on to graduate high school in 2005 before attending college and earning an associate degree in science and automotive technology. The two-year course took him five years to complete as he worked full time to pay for the classes.

During this time, Roan Van Biljon was still in high school. In 2008, he too decided it was time to speak with a recruiter.

“I was originally planning on joining the Army,” said Roan Van Biljon. “But when I went to talk to the recruiters, they treated me like dirt, and when I walked out I ran into the (Marine) recruiter by accident – literally ran into him when I was walking out the door.”

Roan Van Biljon ended up speaking with the recruiter for more than an hour and decided he wanted to enlist in the Marine Corps.

“I joined purely for the discipline,” said Roan Van Biljon. “When I saw the Marines I liked the uniforms and they stood out.”

“My brother and I were always

talking about joining the military when we got our green cards,” the younger sibling added.

Ewald Van Biljon said he had wanted to go to recruit training for so long that when the brothers got their green cards Dec. 4, 2012, the first thing they did was notify their recruiter.

The brothers finally arrived at Parris Island on Jan. 14, 2013.

Still, being noncitizens posed an issue for the brothers; they were not eligible for many jobs offered by the Marine Corps. Ewald Van Biljon originally wanted to be a helicopter mechanic but settled for being a diesel mechanic instead. Roan Van Biljon wished to join the ranks of the military police but found himself signing up for infantry.

The brothers were assigned to Platoon 3024, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. After waiting so long to join the military together, the brothers said being able to earn the title side by side made the experience even more unforgettable.

“It’s like having my little piece of home here,” said Roan Van Biljon. “I have my brother. I can go talk to him. Everyone in the squad bay is family to me, but I’ll always have my brother, my legitimate brother with me.”

Ewald and Roan Van Biljon became U.S. citizens Thursday during a naturalization ceremony following the Family Day celebration.

KILO KILLS CRUCIBLE

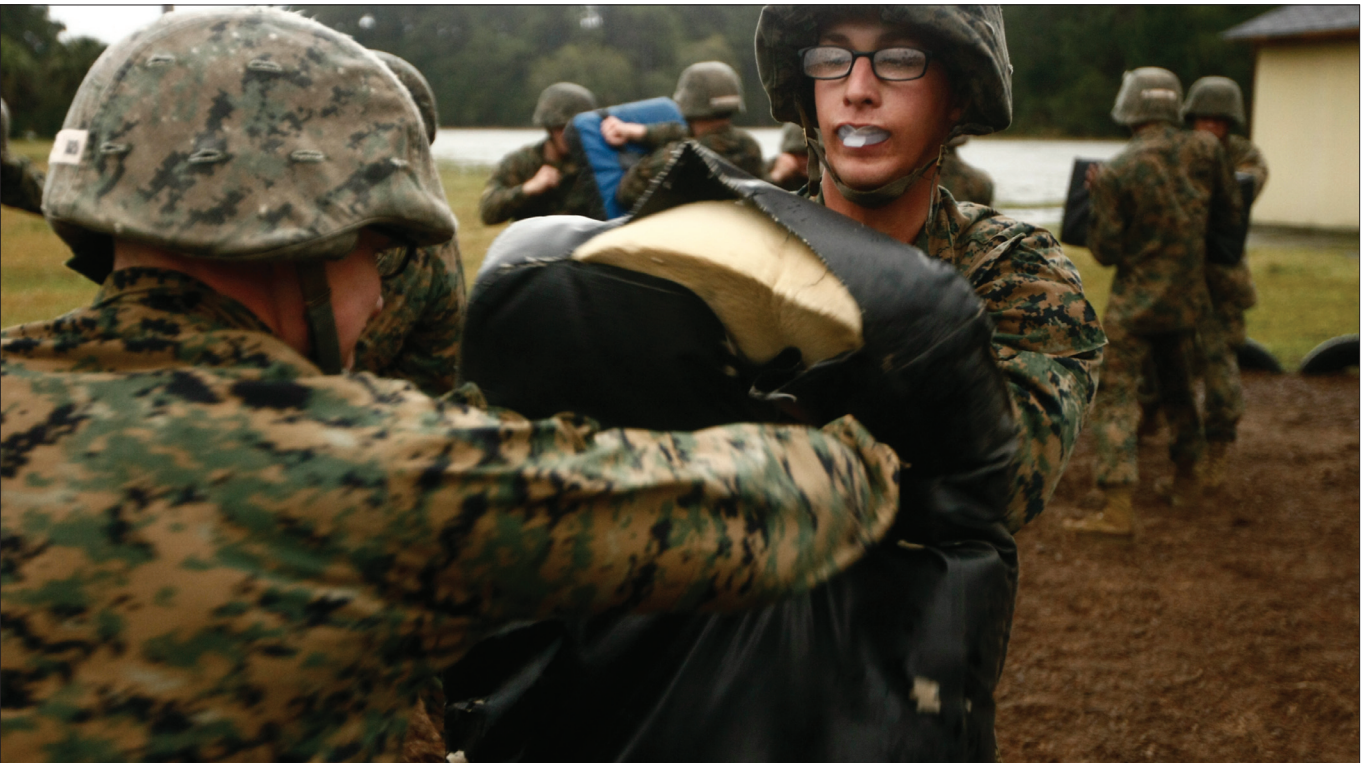
Rct. Gregory Yodsnukis, Platoon 3030, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, provides security for his fellow recruits as they complete an event during the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Yodsnukis, 20, a native of Scituate, Mass., is scheduled to graduate with his company today.



Rct. Jovany Ulloa, Platoon 3026, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, picks up a bayonet to attach to his rifle before going through the bayonet assault course during the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Ulloa, 20, from Miami, ran through the course as he slashed and stabbed various objects with the bayonet.



Rct. Aaron Yigdal, Platoon 3024, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, strikes a pad as part of a Marine Corps martial arts endurance event during the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Yigdal, 19, from Monroe Township, N.J., had to punch the pad until told to stop or perform a different technique.



Rct. Emmett Harcum, Platoon 3025, strikes a pad held by Rct. Benjamin Freudenberg, Platoon 3025, Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, during the Crucible on April 4 on Parris Island. Harcum, 20, from Clemson, S.C., and Freudenberg, 22, from Gloucester, Va., performed various Marine Corps martial arts techniques alongside their fellow recruits. Kilo Company is scheduled to graduate today.

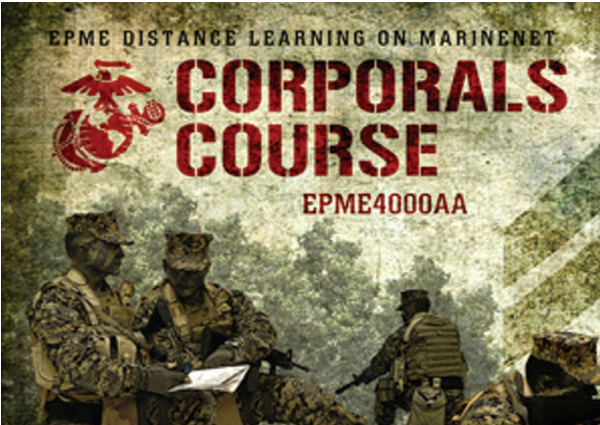


NEWS BRIEF

Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct extended live-fire training Monday from 6 a.m. to midnight, and pre dawn live-fire training Wednesday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Normal fire will resume afterward. 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 843-228-3170.



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)

