

SA Dylan Aldrich
Annapolis Division USNSCC
12 September 2008

Recruit Training Ft. Indiantown Gap

We all arrived to the training knowing little what to expect, yet as our company commanders screamed did our best to follow commands and not look like an idiot. We arrived on the first day to the Fort and went among all the barracks to the different stages of check-in. At last, we were assigned to our very own racks. As soon as we entered the barracks to drop our seabags, we were greeted by a cheery company commander with a lot to say. As we stood on the "line" we were indoctrinated as to what our experience in boot camp was to be like. All the recruits in my barracks had a few minutes to unpack and get acquainted. From then on, our daily routine became more and more evident.

Each day, like clockwork, all the recruits we awoken at 0430 to get dressed and ready for our daily PT session. Briefly, it consisted of normally callisthenic exercises, performed until and unless the PT leader was satisfied. For example, a short run to our warm-up spot, then stretching, "sun guides", push ups, sit ups, crunches, rock climbers, and then to close a 2 mile run. We were then herded back to the barracks for PT showers (a 30 second rinse). We then got dressed and formed up outside to march off to our morning chow, then off to classes. These classes consisted of basic, general knowledge of Navy terminology, classification, damage control, seamanship, among other topics. The classes were taught by various staff of the camp and officers. Each day, we sat in about six of these classes, with brief breaks in between each and the occasional meal. By the end of our day's classes, all the recruits were thoroughly prepared to get to bed. In the evening, we all would get chance to decompress for awhile: take showers, have "yo momma" competitions, and uniform care, or just hang out before taps. Taps was called promptly at 2100.

After a few days, my company commander appointed me the yeoman, and bestowed upon the privileges the position withheld. My responsibilities included giving a roll call report to the company commander, checking for gear adrift everywhere and doing everything last of the company. With these responsibilities, though, I was given privilege to command our company in the absence of company commander, a thoroughly rewarding power.

Another aspect of our daily affairs included the "guide-on wars". Each company was bestowed a guide on to keep and protect no matter what happened. Each company chose the biggest, strongest looking guy to hold onto the glorious pole. One by one each company lost its guide on and was forced to do something to retrieve it again. In the last week of boot camp the pennant race began. Each company was inspected daily on all aspects of barracks cleanliness, uniforms, military drill, and academic achievement. The goal was to obtain the most pennants by the last day to win the prized title of "Honor Company". Undoubtedly, my company, Delta Company, won this race by our extreme determination and perseverance, literally against all odds.

All the recruits got to know each other quite well by the end of the ordeal. All in all, we had a good amount fun together. We all took our final exam and passed, acquiring the ability to graduate. Boot camp was a great experience for me. I had a great time, and will likely never forget some of the experiences I had there. I made many good friends, and got to know many of the staff and got along great with all of them. In general, everyone was a comedian, and always

were we laughing. I learned many valuable things in boot camp, that I feel will give me a distinct advantage in boot camp later on. For all incoming recruits, Fort Indiantown Gap is a great choice for recruit training. I look forward to returning to the Fort to staff the camp.