

Recruit Training Command Great Lakes Illinois

I went to recruit training at the US Navy's recruit training command. This is where all the recruits that join the navy go for basic training. The first day I got there which was called I-Day or intake day we were checked in at MCPON Hall. Then we were marched from there to our "ship" which was the building our barracks was in. Once we arrived at our ship we walked in the front and were constantly being asked questions about the 11 general orders (know them). Then we were issued our yellow NSCC PT shirts and blue PT shorts, blankets and sheets, water bottle, ball cap, and your lifeline or notebook which contained everything you needed to know. We went to chow at 1700 (believe it or not the food wasn't terrible) and we only had 12 minutes to eat. The next day we woke up at 0600 and made our racks. After chow we marched all the way across the base to the barber shop. We all got our heads shaved. It like what a number 1 is when you go to a barber shop. For the first 2 days we were yelled at, marched around, and taught everything even how to fold clothes. Then on the night of the second day the 4 divisions were commissioned. Now the training would start. The third day was shooting day. We went to the shooting range and fired laser M-16's. They were real but we didn't shoot live rounds. The next day was firefighting day. The base actually has a firefighting trainer and we got to put out a real fire (That was my favorite part). I no that everyone that goes to boot camp is scared of PT so I'll tell you that at this boot camp we only did PT 2 days. One day we took the PT test which was 2 minutes to do however many sit-ups and pushups you could do. Then we had to run a mile in 15 minutes. The second day of PT was easier. We had to do a couple stations of running, pushups, curl ups and that's about it. We also only had one day of classroom training which was about naval history. The rest of the training was interactive. We also took the swim test at the pool which consisted of jumping of a 10 meter platform, swimming the length of the pool and floating for 5 minutes. One of the coolest things we were able to do was to do marlinspike training. Inside one of the buildings they have a fake ship equipped with lines, a bridge, sound powered telephones, and just about everything else a real ship has. We were able to simulate docking and casting off on this ship and it was very fun. The next day was graduation which everyone is ready for. It starts out with a pass in review, then awards, then the sailor's creed and anchors aweigh, then you are free to go. This boot camp was very intense and a few kids left and one tried to run away but now that I look back on it, it was the experience of a lifetime.