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Fort Jackson, SC 29207

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Dear Family,

Today we completed Victory Tower, which is a 200ft obstacle course / jungle gym. The main part of it was rappelling, which I knew a little bit about because of the rock wall at the YMCA. We also did a one, two and three rope bridge.

The time here has been going by so fast! We have to go to the gas chamber and then we're done with Red Phase! The White Phase, which is next, is almost strictly BRM, or Basic Rifle Marksmanship. White Phase is about 4 weeks!

The Protestant service is really nice. The chaplain her is African and has a really cool accent. They also have music too, like Neighborhood Church.

Yes, I did get my M-16. We have blank adapters on them and we take them everywhere except P.T. We also got ballistic armor, Kevlar helmets, elbow pads and knee pads. We have to wear all of it while qualifying in the heat! :(We also got these cool safety glasses that are only one ounce, have no glare and won't scratch. I think our group is one of the first to get them because you can't buy them anywhere yet. (Have dad look up "Sawfly Eyewear System" by Revision Military)

As of late, I've been hearing from other privates that no one is missing their ninth week of basic training to make their AIT reporting date, and that those people with conflicting AIT reporting dates will have to go to AIT on the next training date. If that's true, I won't start AIT until mid-December, Awesome! I still have yet to check with drill sergeant Campbell, but I'll let you know for sure when I know.

Everyone in the barracks has had a head cold. Cummings was reading the smart book, and it says that 90% of all people in BCT get a respiratory illness. I've avoided going to sick call because you risk missing mandatory training to graduate. Luckily, drill sergeant Campbell gave me some cold tablets. Don't worry, I read the directions.

~ Kyle

