

OKINAWA MARINE

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

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3rd MEB leads multinational forces in amphibious assault during Cobra Gold



HAT YAO BEACH, Kingdom of Thailand — Royal Thai Marines, along with infantry Marines with the Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force, assault the beachhead here, in an amphibious assault Feb. 10, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Photo by Pfc. Mark W. Stroud SEE STORY AND PHOTOS PAGES 6-7

9th ESB departs for Forest Light

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NAHA MILITARY PORT, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, boarded a High Speed Vessel and departed to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to begin Exercise Forest Light Feb. 15.

Forest Light is an annual bilateral exercise between U.S. service members and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel.

“It’s important to go down

range with them and understand how they operate on a small-arms level,” said Capt. Thomas Tilque, battalion operations officer for Forest Light. “It will allow us to work better in case we (deploy together) to defend Japan”

Throughout the training, both forces will develop a better understanding of each other through conducting basic platoon-level infantry skills like small arms tactics, improvised explosive device training and live-fire exercises.

“If you put two groups of people

SEE **FOREST** PG 5

Amos: Return to frugal roots

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, delivered a speech Feb. 8 at the Marine Memorial Club in San Francisco highlighting his vision of returning the Corps to its frugal roots. The Commandant also discussed his recent planning guidance and compared the Marine Corps to a ‘middleweight’ force. He discussed the importance of building regionally-aligned Marine Expeditionary Brigade command elements that provide scalable, Joint Task Force-capable, crisis response command and control for our regional combatant commanders. To read the entire speech visit www.marines.mil, then follow the link to the Shultz Lecture Series Speech.

Official Marine Corps photo



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When weapons systems, big or small need repair, the gun doctor knows just what to do.

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The Homzy’s Celtics and Okinawa Heat show their skills and teamwork during the basketball season and a close championship game.

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Thesis from Thailand

From textbooks to action

Pfc. Mark W. Stroud

It was early December 2008 and I had never left the U.S., I was spending most of my time at the university library; a four-story labyrinth occupied by over-caf-feinated, next-generation worker bees. I was not there just for the books. I was there for the maze. I was hiding myself once more in my sophomore stomping grounds in the most remote corner of the third floor – the very quiet and very empty Eastern European history section.

The monotonous hum of the climate-control system pumping a constant flow of stale, humidity-controlled air designed to prolong the lives of the books was my only companion. My fellow students who ever-so-occasionally passed through did so with great care, moving slowly and deliberately as if afraid to disturb the silence that hung over the section.

I was attending James Madison University, the foreign affairs and governmental study sub-college of Michigan State University located in East Lansing, Mich. I had chosen James Madison because I wanted to be part of the process that drove the global economy that shaped history and decided the fortune of nations. I was two years into my international relations major and everything about college took a sudden turn. It was no longer high school continued, a good time with old friends when my largest worries involved romance or funding the weekend. The university had become what it was meant to be; a place dedicated to study and the workload threatened to drown me in the pages of archaic textbooks.

Suffering from growing concerns about my academic future, fueled by a poor sophomore year and the ever-growing demands of my course load, I had grown to view my most recent project as a chance to get back on track. It was a 20-page term paper that constituted the entire grade for the course. The subject of the paper was Thailand's plans to promote economic growth through technological innovation, a subject that I had not chosen.

Looking back, I had no way of knowing that in two years I would be writing one more paper, this time on the course my life had taken. I would not be writing this paper in a quiet sanctuary or solitude. I was not a college student anymore and I was not tucked away in the American heartland.

I wrote this paper as a U.S. Marine; a

combat correspondent in Pattaya, Thailand, listening to the very different hum of the bustling night streets, the sounds of clubs and bars that are still pounding bass and selling drinks to tourists when I began my morning workout. Instead of sitting at that library desk with the climate-controlled air, I was engulfed by the hot, humid air of Thailand. Instead of the quiet students carefully stepping through the library, I was surrounded by the constant drama of tourists stumbling from bar to bar.

I was in the country that had been the subject of my academic interest, a country that had once seemed a world away. It is a place that had for me existed only in the pages of journals and textbooks. Now, it is those hours spent huddled in the back of a library that seem distant and foreign.

My focus now is on Cobra Gold 2011, a multi-national annual training exercise that highlights the expeditionary fighting forces of the participating nations. My job is to document the exercise. I spend my days traveling around southern Thailand following the action, getting the story not from the preserved archaic textbooks of the library, but from the U.S. and Thai Marines on the ground in the action. I was on the beach for the mock amphibious assault and I was in the headquarters interviewing the commanding officers. My subjects did not exist in textbooks frozen in time; they were in front of me carrying out their plans in real time.

It was the events that were to follow the completion of my term paper that found me in the heart of Thailand living what once I had merely read about. I was placed on academic recess the semester following my term paper. It was a glorified one-year timeout that proved too much for my 21-year-old patience. Determined to find another way to participate in the international relations and foreign policy that interested me so much, I joined the Marine Corps. If I could not study it, I would live it.

The course that had introduced me to Thailand, that assigned me the fateful term paper, was the last course I passed at MSU. In my term paper I argued that the Thai's main obstacle was convincing the foreign capital markets that they possessed a strong, stable government of good international standing with peer nations. Now, I am in Thailand working side-by-side with our Thai allies, helping them prove their military strength and their ability to fight side by side with their allies.



AROUND THE CORPS



U.S. Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, and soldiers with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, Western Army Infantry Regiment, paddle back to shore during combat rubber raiding craft training with Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., Feb. 10. The Marines and soldiers are participating in Exercise Iron Fist, a bilateral training exercise to strengthen the bond between U.S. and Japanese militaries. Photo by Cpl. Elyssa Quesada



U.S. Marines with Fox Battery, Company I, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Regimental Combat Team 2, fire the Expeditionary Fire Support System 120mm Mortar at Combat Outpost Ouellette, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 5. The fire mission was in support of Marine snipers protecting villagers from Taliban murder and intimidation in the area. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Bryce Piper



MV-22 Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif, recently flew to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. to practice landing in formations of three, a technique needed for troop insertions and extractions in hostile situations. Two of the aircraft are seen here as they fly over San Diego, Calif. Photo by Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot



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COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. John D. Norton

PRESS CHIEF Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster
DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

Base commanding general signs to initiate CPI



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, signs the third project execution letter for the Continuous Process Improvement Plan Feb. 11. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — When attention on deck was called, service members and Department of Defense civilians stood at attention as Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, entered the conference room Feb. 11.

Talleri kicked off the third round of the Continuous Process Improvement Plan managed by the Business Performance Office when he signed the project letter. The CPI plan consists of a group of process improvement projects aimed to streamline organizational activities and save time and resources as determined by the 11 goals contained in the Marine Corps Bases Japan Installation Strategic Plan.

“The plan contains significant changes on how we will achieve the goals identified within it and represents an initial effort encom-

passing all elements of MCBJ,” said Anna Wallace, management program analyst, Business Performance Office. “This plan was aligned with the Marine Corps Service Campaign Plan and the (III Marine Expeditionary Force) Campaign Plan and facilitates the attainment of required support levels for all assigned operating forces over the next five years.”

As the CPI Deployment champion, the commanding general is responsible for championing all CPI efforts across the command. The general’s signature on the project execution letter is consistent with the base order governing the CPI program and project execution and communicates strong executive commitment for improvement efforts.

Example projects include the implementation of web-based billing for on-base residents and an appointment-based system for identification cards at the Installation Personnel Administration Center.

“This reduced customer wait times from an average of 90 minutes to an average of nine minutes,” said Barry Henderson, business director, Business Performance Office. “This resulted in a substantial savings of approximately 13 man-years in 2009 equaling \$1.9 million is lost productivity returned to the MCB Butler and it’s DOD customer base.”

Henderson also said the improvement projects all have the end goal of improving the quality of life and customer support for service members and their families assigned to Okinawa.

“We believe it represents a good plan because it clearly links organizational improvement efforts to the overall strategy of the organization,” said Henderson. “(The project) demonstrates how we can improve support levels to operating forces and the base Marines, sailors and their family members who live and work aboard our camps.”

Green Line makes new route to Taiyo Golf Course

Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP BUTLER — The Green Line recently began offering a new shuttle service stop that will transport patrons to the Taiyo Golf Course during weekends and U.S. holidays.

Although currently in a test phase, the TGL offers this service from Camps Foster, Hansen and Courtney and will be running through the end of April.

According to Steve Nakashima, pro shop manager for Taiyo Golf Course, the golf course now offers a newly constructed driving range featuring 16 individual stalls for golfers to practice their swing.

“We offer a full service restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner (along with a) full service bar,” said Nicholas Brooks, club operations assistant for Taiyo Golf Course. “The restaurant is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and our bar closes at 11:30 p.m.”

“This test is to determine whether the Taiyo Golf Course route will continue to be a running route for The Green Line,” said Gary Snyder, deputy, Assistant Chief of Staff G-4, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. “It will help us find out if there is a true desire to travel to the golf course.”

Certain buses have already been rerouted to coincide with the new schedule that includes the golf course.

Personnel located on the southern camps, such as Camp Kinser, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Camp Lester and Kadena Air Base, must travel to Camp Foster and from there ride the number 4-C bus to the Taiyo Golf Course.

“We moved the bus times to a later time because we understand that not everyone likes to wake up early to catch the early morning tee-times,” said Snyder.

Personnel located on the northern camps,



The Green Line bus departs from the bus stop here to transport Marines and Status of Forces Agreement civilians to their designated destination. In addition to serving Marines by providing them transport to and from different camps on Okinawa and different locations inside the various camps, The Green Line now offers a new route transporting Marines to and from the Taiyo Golf Course in Uruma City near the Kurashiki Dam in central Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

such as Camp Schwab, must travel to Camp Hansen aboard the number 3 bus and depart Hansen to the Taiyo Golf Course aboard the number 4-T Bus.

Personnel located on Camp Courtney can travel to the Taiyo Golf Course aboard the regular weekend and holiday number 4-C bus from the bus stop adjacent to barracks 4300.

TGL needs about 50 percent of the seats on the bus to be utilized in order for them to use the newly developed route to the golf course

indefinitely, according to Snyder.

“We have only had about three riders use our service in the past two weekends,” said Snyder. “The Green Line is a great service and free transportation; a great benefit for the Marines.”

For more information on TGL and its services contact GME at 645-3843, or go online to www.marines.mil/unit/mcbbutler/Pages/TGL.

For more information on the Taiyo Golf Course, visit their website at www.mccsokina-wa.com/taiyo or www.facebook.com/taiyogo.

Bus Schedules to Taiyo Golf Course

Bus number 4-C from Camp Foster to Taiyo departure times:

11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:55 p.m., 3:55 p.m. and 4:55 p.m.

Return times:

12:50 p.m., 1:50 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 5:50 p.m. and 6:50 p.m.

Bus number 4-C from Camp Courtney to Taiyo departure times:

12:35 p.m., 1:35 p.m., 3:35 p.m., 5:35 p.m. and 6:35 p.m.

Return times:

12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Bus number 4-T from Camp Hansen to Taiyo departure times:

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Return times:

11:10 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 3:10 p.m., 5:10 p.m., 6:10 p.m. and 7:10 p.m.

BRIEFS

POST OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND

Marine Corps post offices will observe the President's Day holiday with adjusted hours as follows:

Feb. 21 - Closed for holiday.

Feb. 22 - Parcel pick-up from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., retail service from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more details, call 637-0124.

THE GREEN LINE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND

The Green Line will observe the President's Day holiday with adjusted hours as follows:

Feb. 19 - 10 a.m.-midnight

Feb. 20 - 10 a.m.-midnight

Feb. 21 - 10 a.m.-midnight

Feb. 22 - 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Normal hours resume Feb. 23.

For more information, call TGL Service Center at 645-3843.

CAMP FOSTER GATE CLOSURES DUE TO OKINAWA MARATHON

The route of the Okinawa Marathon held Feb. 20 will affect gates on Camp Foster. Gate 1 will be closed; Gate 1B (Sergeant Major Gate) will be closed; Gate 2 (PX Gate) will be open for left turn exit only from 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and Gate 8 (Plaza) will have limited entry and exit from 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and Gate 6 (Legion Gate) will be left and right turn only from 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

'SHORTCUT ROAD' CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN CAMPS COURTNEY AND MCTUREOUS

The narrow, unnamed road that serves as a "shortcut" between Camps Courtney and McTureous is currently unusable due to road construction which is scheduled to be completed Feb. 25. The construction will take place just north of the intersection between Highway 8 and the shortcut road. Personnel traveling between the two camps should use Highway 8 and Highway 75, which will remain open to all traffic. For more information, contact Camp Operations at 622-9596 or 622-7146.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Team Impact is coming to Okinawa to perform superhuman feats of strength at the Kadena Air Base National Prayer Breakfast March 10 at the Rocker Noncommissioned Officer Club starting at 7 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at Chapel 2 or from your first sergeant.

For more information, call 645-1288 or visit www.kadenachapel.org.

The Kadena Chapel is also organizing a community choir to perform during breakfast and are looking for volunteers.

For more information, call 634-1288 or e-mail patahand2praise@aol.com.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

MarAdmin: Marines must update MOL info by Feb 25

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines are required to update their personal information in the new Marine Online Mass Communication Solution by Feb. 25.

The goal of the MOL Mass Communication Solution is to help improve the way commanders and their family readiness officers effectively communicate with their Marines, spouses and families, said Gina Rabassi, family readiness officer for 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

To update their personal contact information, the Marine must first log on to www.mol.usmc.mil, then click on the 'Personal Info' tab. Then towards the bottom left of the page under the 'Personal Updates' section the Marine must click on the link titled 'Family Readiness.'

Married Marines must add their spouse first, then they may add their other contacts.

"As an institution, we owe it to our families to provide them the resources and information to deal with (the many challenges military families face with their Marine working long hours, going

on frequent deployments and moving every two-to-three years) in a successful and positive manner," said Lt. Col. Ricardo Miagany, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines.

"The mission of the Marine Corps is to make Marines and win battles," said Lt. Col. Terry Baggett, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. "We can't accomplish either of those functions efficiently if we focus solely on the Marine in uniform.

"If we ignore the personal and family aspects of our warriors, the challenges they face in those areas will affect their performance and interfere with mission accomplishment."

The MOL mass communication solution was implemented in select locations in October, but is now available for use by every unit and Marine.

The old Mass Communication Tool, which required the unit FRO to upload the Marine's information from handwritten forms, went offline for Marines who are not currently deployed Jan. 31. Those who are deployed have been given an extension until June.

"The Marine will be responsible for keeping the information

current, and each gaining command FRO will be able to access the new Marine's information without asking him or her to fill out the dreaded information sheet," she said. "It's a win-win situation for us all."

After inputting their personal contact information into the new system, each individual Marine will also be required to update that information within 10 days of checking into a new unit, but they are free to update it if the information changes.

With the new system Marines can add those they wish to be notified.

The MOL Mass Communication System is currently in Phase 1, where contacts only receive e-mails. When Phase 2 commences, they will also be able to receive text messages and recorded phone messages.

"It is important for Marines to get on board and fill out their contact information correctly in MOL, in order to know their commanding officer's intent, vision and official messages," said Rabassi. "To be in the know after all, is empowerment in and of itself."

For more information contact your unit's family readiness officer or refer to Marine Administrative Message 076/11.

MASS-2 Marine first to be winged



Col. Dennis A. Crall, the Marine Air Control Group 18 commanding officer, congratulates Gunnery Sgt. Angel Rodriguez, middle, the Weapons Tactics Training Program Chief for Marine Air Support Squadron 2, MACG-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, on becoming the first Marine in his military occupational specialty to ever be awarded the Naval Aviation Observer wings. Crall, who was also awarded the wings, is the second Marine in his military occupational specialty to do so. Both Marines were presented their wings by Brig. Gen. William Beydler, right, in a ceremony on Camp Foster Feb. 10. Photo by Cpl. Aaron D. Hostutler

Training with tactical vehicles

New M-ATV training requirements keeps Marines safe, ready

Lance Cpl. Tyler C. Vernaza

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, received training on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicle at the III MEF Motor Transportation Training and Simulation Center Feb. 11, in preparation for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Throughout the week the Marines spent numerous hours in the classroom, learning about the M-ATV. Lessons included characteristics and nomenclature of the vehicle, rollover and egress procedures and day and night operations.

“Getting Marines trained is our top priority,” said Staff Sgt. James Turner, division licensing staff noncommissioned officer at III MEF Motor Transportation Training and Simulation Center. “Our instructors put in a lot of hours to get each Marine licensed and confident with the vehicles.”

Before receiving their licenses, each Marine individually accumulated 125 hours of driving time with the M-ATV, including on-base, off-base, on-road, off-road and day and night driving.

On the last day of training, the Marines took a written test, along with a driving test that graded smooth stopping, backing, and gauging spaces. During the driving portion, instructors quizzed the students on their overall knowledge of the vehicle while requiring them to remain focused.

“It’s important that Marines become familiar with this piece of equipment,” said Billy Darter, field service representative with Oshkosh Defense. “This vehicle is one of the better-made tactical vehicles the military uses.”



Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, prepare to take the driving portion of their license test at the III MEF Motor Transportation Training and Simulation Center to qualify for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicle license Feb. 11. Many of the Marines with 3rd Recon are participating in this training in preparation for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photos by Lance Cpl. Tyler C. Vernaza

The M-ATV has significant off-road ability that allows Marines to alter their routes, which can reduce operational predictability. Because the frame of the vehicle is held together by a series of bolts, the vehicle can be easily repaired after being hit by most types of improvised explosive devices.

“This truck is by far my favorite of the tactical vehicles I’ve driven. It has a lot of great safety features and its speed gives it the upper hand,” said Lance Cpl. Christian Greenough, motor transportation mechanic with 3rd Recon. Bn.

The safety features of this truck provides optimal survivability and mobility in a variety of combat operations that help Marines stay in the fight and come home safe, according to Darter.



The students participating in a driving course at the III Marine Expeditionary Force Motor Transportation Training and Simulation Center must learn a full curriculum before receiving a license, even if they are only receiving a temporary permit. All testing at the school house is done on base with licensed, authorized instructors.

FOREST FROM PG 1

together that don’t speak the same language but know the basics, then they can work together and forge those ties without depending on verbal communications,” said Tilque.

Although 9th ESB is an engineering battalion, they will operate as an infantry unit during the exercise.

“It’s a good opportunity for Marines,” said Tilque. “It’s good practice for when they go to Afghanistan.”

The exercise will also allow the Marines to gain more appreciation for operating in cold weather environments and become comfortable with cold-weather gear, said Tilque.

“Marines are issued many items and seldom use them,” said Tilque. “It’s a good opportunity for them to employ their cold weather gear.”

Marines with 9th ESB are excited and prepared for the exercise.

“Whether it’s a cold weather environment or whatever the circumstance, Marines can adapt and do their job,” said Lance Cpl. Jarrett Stelin, a food service specialist. “We’re always combat ready. This is what we do.”

During the exercise, the Marines will also be invited to spend liberty with their Japanese counterparts to build camaraderie and become accustomed to cultural differences. The exercise is scheduled to run through early March.



Lt. Col. Ted Adams, commander of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, inspects gear of the Marines departing for Exercise Forest Light Feb. 10. Adams thoroughly inspects the gear to ensure that Marines have the proper and serviceable equipment for the exercise. Exercise Forest Light is an annual bilateral exercise between U.S. Forces and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), and landing crafts air cushioned with Amphibious Squadron 11 make their way to the beach during a mock amphibious assault Feb. 10, in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Photo by Cpl. Michael A. Bianco

Beach quickly falls to multinational Marine assault during CG '11

Pfc. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

A joint multinational task force conducted an amphibious assault Feb. 11, capturing and securing a beachhead during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011, the 30th iteration of the annual multinational training exercise.

U.S. Marines and sailors with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force, along with Kingdom of Thailand and Republic of Korea Marines worked in concert to assault through the beach and secure objectives further inland as part of the training evolution designed to hone amphibious landing skills of the participating service members.

"It's different countries working together and accomplishing a single goal," said Capt. David Denial, company commander of Company E, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU. "The purpose is to understand each other and operate as a single solid force."

U.S. reconnaissance Marines with the Ground Combat Element, 31st MEU, hit the beach first, using combat rubber raiding crafts to make landfall and push inland to secure a perimeter.

Royal Thai Marine paratroopers then followed, inserting inland and reinforcing the security perimeter established by the initial wave of U.S. reconnaissance Marines.

Simulated close air support from AV-8B Harrier with the Air Combat Element, 31st MEU, and naval surface fire from Commander Task Force 76, Seventh Fleet, prepared the beach for the assault by the main body of the landing force. Controlled explosive charges were used to simulate the air and naval fire.

The MEU's Ground Combat Element, BLT, 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, utilized amphibious assault vehicles to move from ship-to-shore and assault the beach.

"Our roots as a Marine Corps are with the naval services. We go back to being aboard ship and being that naval fighting force," said 1st Lt. Garret Cross, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon,

Company E. "Our roots are with the amphibious landing and it's absolutely crucial that we keep practicing that so we never lose it."

Once dismounted from the AAVs, Marines from each country utilized fire-and-maneuver to bound forward and clear resistance before they set up a full security perimeter around the beach.

"(Our international counterparts) are very similar to our structure as an infantry platoon and infantry company," said Cross. "They have pretty much the same capability as far as weapons."

CH-46E Sea Knight and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters with the ACE, 31st MEU, along with helicopters from the Royal Thai Marines, inserted Marines inland, securing a landing zone near the objective. This landing zone was used to insert additional troops and supplies as necessary to secure and exploit the captured beachhead, as well as casualty evacuation operations.

"It helps us all the way from the planning process to the execution phase, just to work with foreign services, to work with the language gap," said Cross. "If we ever have to do this for real someday, this kind of exercise will definitely help."

For more about Cobra Gold 2011, visit www.marines.mil/cobragold2011 or www.facebook.com/exercisecobragold.



Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), move forward after an AV-8B Harrier jet completes a strafing run during a mock amphibious assault Feb. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Garry J. Welch



Cpl. Brandon Unis, an infantryman with Company G, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU, leaves the landing zone after a mock amphibious assault Feb. 10. Cobra Gold 2011 improves proficiency and interoperability between the U.S. Marine Corps and other nations. For decades, Thailand has hosted Cobra Gold, one of the largest land-based multinational exercises in the world.



Charges explode during a mock strafing run from AV-8B Harriers during an amphibious assault Feb. 10. The assault, supported by the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), Republic of Korea Marines, took place during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold started as a bilateral exercise between the U.S. Marine Corps and Thailand, but has since grown to include Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea as full participants. In addition to the participating nations, the U.S. Marine Corps and other nations are invited to observe. For more information, visit www.marines.mil/cg2011. Photo by Cpl. Michael A. Bianco



31st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
conducting a running drill during a



BY air, land sea



A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter provides security as an amphibious assault vehicle is driven onto the beachhead during an amphibious landing exercise Feb. 10. The multinational assault including Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand, and U.S. Marines and sailors, demonstrates participating nations' ability to conduct relevant and dynamic training, while strengthening relationships between the militaries and local communities. For three years, this is one of the largest, joint, combined military exercises in the world. *Photo by Cpl. Michael A. Bianco*



The exercise is carried out by Marines with the 31st MEU along with Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Korea. The exercise has been held between the Kingdom of Thailand and the U.S., but in 30 years has grown to include 15 other nations. For a complete list of participating countries



Royal Thai Marines provide security as an amphibious assault vehicle is driven onto the beachhead in a amphibious assault Feb. 10, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold is a regularly-scheduled multinational training exercise designed to improve partner nation interoperability. *Photo by Pfc. Mark W. Stroud*



Above: U.S. Navy Lt. Jason Dulac, right, a Chicago native and dentist with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, applies anesthetic to Piw Jairak during the first medical civic action project of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011 Feb. 5.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

Left: Korean Navy Lt. Chang Hyun Kim checks the eyes of a Thai Buddhist Monk at Ban Muang Rae School during a medical, dental and veterinary civic action project, Rayong Province, Khae Chamao District, Kingdom of Thailand Feb. 6. *Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart*

Engineering, medical projects press forward in Thailand

1st Lt. Scott Sasser
3RD MLG PAO

Marines and sailors assigned to the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force have been supporting the eight engineering and nine medical civic action projects being conducted throughout the Kingdom of Thailand as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011.

Humanitarian and civic assistance projects conducted by the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea and the United States armed forces will improve the quality of life and the general health and welfare of residents in the exercise areas.

Service members from all participating nations began constructing school buildings as early as Jan. 14 in an effort to support the region as well as develop military-to-community relationships, said 2nd Lt. Brittany Kirk, engineer liaison officer for the CJCMOTF. Multinational teams have since been working at the sites on a daily basis, and some of these projects are already nearing completion.

"Interacting with the children and speaking with the teachers at several of the sites has really shown me the positive impact we are having on



U.S. Navy Seaman Kenneth Ward, left, a Quilcene, Wash., native and steel worker with Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 11, 1st Naval Construction Division, U.S. Naval Construction Force, based in Gulfport, Miss., and Mia Jakaphan, a Chanyasirikul, Thailand native and engineer with Mobile Development Unit 34, cut steel for roofing at Pa Ka Mai School in Mae Sot Province, Kingdom of Thailand, Jan. 28, during an engineering project to build a new schoolhouse during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. The project, one of several humanitarian civic assistance projects taking place throughout Thailand, started recently and is scheduled to be completed Feb. 21. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe*

these communities," said Kirk. "I truly feel blessed to be here."

Schools are not the only focus of the CJCMOTF mission: medical, dental and veterinarian civic action projects are also being conducted throughout Thailand thanks to a multinational team spending more than two weeks traveling around the country, said Lt. Cmdr. Randy S. Dee, lead planner for the CJCMOTF. More than 2,000 patients

have already been seen at the first three sites in Chon Buri province and the team is preparing to conduct six more medical, dental, veterinarian civic action programs in other areas where they plan on seeing at least 1,000 patients at each location.

"With the help of the Thai military, local government officials, and in collaboration with our multinational partners, we have been very successful in letting the local popula-

tion know we are here to help," said Dee. "Together we are giving people in remote areas access to optometry, dental and other medical care that can possibly change their lives."

This is the first year the CJCMOTF has been a functional component of Cobra Gold meaning there are more civic action projects this year than ever before, said Maj. Matthew T. James, operations officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd

Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Working with the multinational forces is a great experience for me," said Royal Thai Special Col. Chanchai Romyen, CJCMOTF commander. "We learn from each other so everyone benefits."

For more information about Cobra Gold 2011 or the MDVCAP locations, visit www.marines.mil/CG2011 or www.facebook.com/ExerciseCobraGold.

1st MAW Marines, sailors provide help to local Thai women's center

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Miranda Blackburn
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

Marines and sailors participating in Exercise Cobra Gold 2011 visited Narisawat Welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women recently, as part of a community relations project.

Approximately 20 Marines and sailors went to the center to participate in this community relations project coordinated by 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force chaplains.

Cobra Gold 2011 is a regularly scheduled joint and combined exercise in the continuing series of U.S.-Thai military exercises designed to ensure regional peace by strengthening the bonds between the seven participating nations: Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Singapore, Japan, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and the U.S.

In addition to the participating nations, there are other nations observing. For a complete list of participating countries visit www.marines.mil/cg2011.

Community relations projects are just one part of the exercise which includes a staff exercise, field training exercise events and humanitarian civic assistance projects.

The women's center was established in 1966 to support disadvantaged women.

The center provides young women with a sense of independence by giving them spiritual rehabilitation, vocational training and non-formal education to reintegrate them into society.

Approximately 150 young women between the ages of 8-18 had the chance to interact with Marines and sailors by playing games, dancing and singing.

Once the activities began, the smiles were never ending.

"These (community relations projects) show the humanitarian side of the military," said Lance Cpl. Chalisa Thomas, a field wireman with MASS-2. "They have a less fortunate life than we do, and they should have a chance to at least have fun or be happy."

Thomas said she enjoyed interacting with the girls because she could tell that even her small actions were making a difference.

"Not only does it help the people, but you feel good too," she added. "Helping someone else, knowing that they're happy, makes me happy too."

Even though many of the girls couldn't speak English and only one service member in the group spoke Thai, the two groups still managed to communicate.

"Love isn't about giving things to people," said Cmdr. Dean Hoelz, chaplain for Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAW. "It isn't so much about what you say but what you do. Love really is like an action verb, and that's what our Marines and sailors demonstrated. They showed love to these kids, and everyone knew what it was."

By spending just a couple hours with these young women and donating some needed products to the center, service members built relationships and provided help and welfare to those who needed it most.



Lance Cpl. Chalisa Thomas, a field wireman with Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, dances with one of the girls from Narisawat Welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women during a community relations project Feb. 5. Narisawat Welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women provides young women with a sense of independence by giving them spiritual rehabilitation, vocational training, and non-formal education to reintegrate them into society.



Marines and sailors play tug-of-war with disadvantaged young women during a community relations project at the Narisawat Welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women Feb. 5. The women's center was established in 1966 to support disadvantaged women. The Marine and sailors were in Thailand for Exercise Cobra Gold 2011, a regularly scheduled multinational training exercise.

Paging Gun Doctor

Artillery Mechanic provides valuable weapon assistance

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jovane M. Holland

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

If a friend is feeling under the weather, they are taken to the doctor. If someone's dog isn't feeling well, a visit to the veterinarian is in order. If an M777 howitzer happens to be on the fritz, Cpl. Daniel Rivera is the man to call.

As a 2nd echelon artillery mechanic with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Rivera is like an on-call surgeon when it comes to the weapon system. He's responsible for troubleshooting errors, implementing solutions, and supervising operations to ensure Marines achieve mission accomplishment.

"It's basically my job to step in if a misfire occurs or the gun isn't operating properly," said Rivera, who has worked in his field for three years. "I oversee everything from gun levels and pressure to suspension, breach movements and recoil maintenance."

Marines qualified to conduct artillery maintenance are categorized into four echelons, explained Rivera.

"The members of the gun team (1st echelon) are the first on the scene to troubleshoot when there's a problem with the howitzer. If they can't solve the problem, I step in," Rivera said. "If the damage is beyond my control, the 3rd echelon, heavy ordnance, is called in. When and if the repairs are considered too extensive, then the gun is sent to the 4th echelon, which is basically a repair shop where full maintenance can be applied."

To qualify as a 2nd echelon artillery mechanic,



Cpl. Daniel Rivera, left, an artillery mechanic with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, explains troubleshooting procedures to members of Gun Team 2 during a live-fire shoot in support of the Artillery Relocation Training Program at the Hijudi Training Area Feb. 8.

Rivera attended the two-month artillery technician course in Aberdeen, Md.

The course focused on two main objectives: taking the M777 howitzer apart, then reassembling it piece-by-piece. In the process, he learned the purpose and importance of each item.

"It's always easy to take something apart, but when it comes to putting it back together and having to account for each piece, it's really tough," said the Jacksonville, Fla. native.

The task took approximately a month and a half to complete, he added.

"It may not look like it, but the howitzer is a complex weapon which requires thorough knowledge to fix."

Rivera is aided in his troubleshooting by a portable computer which serves as a digital problem-solving companion, hooking up to the digital fire-control system attached to the howitzer and providing step-by-step instructions to aid in maintenance procedures.

However, the computer can't decipher every malfunction, Rivera said. Sometimes it comes down

to trial and error.

"A majority of the solutions I use on a daily basis were learned through on-the-job training," Rivera said. "Whether or not the computer can aid me in fixing a gun just depends on the situation."

After more than a dozen exercises and training events, Rivera says he still finds his job intriguing and relevant.

"Even though I did auto mechanic work before I came into the Marines, I never pictured myself working on a weapon this complex and expensive," said Rivera. "I feel accomplished knowing that my assistance ensures missions go smoothly and the goal is reached every time."

To the Marines Rivera assists in the field, he is not a distant repairman, only stepping in when there's a problem, but a valuable asset and productive member of the team.

"Even when the gun is firing perfectly, you can still find Rivera helping load rounds, run errands, whatever we need," said Cpl. Dennis Price, assistant chief, Gun Team 2, Bravo Battery, 3rd



Cpl. Daniel Rivera, an artillery mechanic with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, has worked in the artillery field performing malfunction maintenance on M777 howitzers for three years.

Bn., 12th Marines. "We consider him just as much a member of the team as anyone else."

Rivera recently reenlisted for his second term, and said his job is not only an important aspect of artillery, but a non-negotiable asset to the Marine Corps as a whole.

"Without gun doctors, Marines wouldn't be able to send rounds down range if they encounter a malfunction beyond their expertise," said Rivera. "Without rounds pushing out toward the target objective, the howitzer is just an 8,000-pound paperweight."

In Theaters Now FEB. 18 - FEB. 24

FOSTER

TODAY The Roommate (PG13), 6 p.m.; No Strings Attached (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Yogi Bear (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; No Strings Attached (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 1 p.m.; Just Go With It (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 1 p.m.; Little Fockers (PG13), 4 p.m.; No Strings Attached (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Little Fockers (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Just Go With It (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

TODAY Tron: Legacy (PG), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Just Go With It (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Tourist (PG13), 4 p.m.; Tron: Legacy (PG), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Rite (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Little Fockers (PG13), 6 p.m.; Unstoppable (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Rite (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Little Fockers (PG13), 2 p.m.; Morning Glory (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Just Go With It (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Just Go With It (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY For Colored Girls (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Roommate (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER

TODAY Yogi Bear (PG), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 3 p.m.; Little Fockers (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 3 p.m.; Little Fockers (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Just Go With It (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Little Fockers (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Yogi Bear (PG), 6 p.m.; Little Fockers (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Yogi Bear (PG), noon; The Roommate (PG13), 3, 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 1 p.m.; The Roommate (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Yogi Bear (PG), 3 p.m.; The Roommate (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Rite (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Rite (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Rite (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Just Go With It (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Tron: Legacy (PG), 2 p.m.; The Tourist (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Tron: Legacy (PG), 2 p.m.; The Rite (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY *Free Screening* Standing Ovation (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Roommate (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

SCHWAB

TODAY The Rite (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Tron: Legacy (PG), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY The Tourist (PG13), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
 (USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
 (USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
 (USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
 (USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.aafes.com.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS



For more information, or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Red Cross Carpet Auction:** Volunteer at the Red Cross Carpet Auction at the Camp Foster Community Center from noon to 7 p.m. Feb. 26. Volunteers will unload and load carpets and help display them during the auction.
- **Comic Con:** Volunteer to assist with arts and craft activities with children Feb. 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. at the Camp Foster Library and Education Center.
- **Kinser Elementary School Reading Program:** Volunteer at the Kinser Elementary School Reading Program on Camp Kinser each Friday from 8:45-11 a.m., except non-school days and half days. Volunteers will work under the direction of the classroom teacher and support students in reading, writing and arithmetic activities.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- *Catholic:* Mon-Fri, 11:45 a.m.; Sat, 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.
- *Christian Science:* Sun, 11 a.m., Bldg. 442
- *Eastern Orthodox:* Divine Liturgy, Sun, 9:30 a.m.; Vespers, Sat, 5 p.m.
- *Gospel:* Sun, 11:30 a.m.; 2nd, 3rd Sun, Children's Church, 11 a.m.
- *Jewish:* (Informal) 1st, 3rd Fri, 6:30 p.m.
- *Latter Day Saints:* Mon, 6:30 p.m.
- *Lutheran:* Sun, 5 p.m.
- *Muslim:* Prayer, Fri, 12:45 p.m.
- *Protestant:* Sun, 8:30 a.m.
- *Seventh Day Adventist:* Sat, 9:30 a.m., Torii Station 644-5701/644-4281

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- *Protestant:* Sun, 4 p.m.

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- *Non-Denominational:* Sun, 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun, 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- *Catholic:* Sun, 5 p.m., East Chapel
- *Latter Day Saints:* Wed, 6:30 p.m., Library
- *Protestant:* Sun, 11 a.m., West Chapel

CAMP McTUREOUS | 622-9350

- *Gospel:* Sun, 12:30 p.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- *Catholic:* Sun, noon
- *Protestant:* Sun, 9 a.m.

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- *Catholic:* Sun, 8 a.m., Mass, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 11:30 a.m.
- *Protestant:* Sun, 10:45 a.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

WWW.KADENACHAPEL.ORG

- *Catholic:* Sun, 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 11:45 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 4 p.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Daily Mass, Mon-Fri, 11:30 a.m., Chapel 1 Reconciliation, Sun, 3:15 p.m., Chapel 1
- *Contemporary:* Sun, 10 a.m., Chapel 1
- *Gospel:* Sun, 10:30 a.m., Chapel 3
- *Protestant Bible Institute:* Tues, 6 p.m., Chapel 1
- *Traditional:* Sun, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- *Wiccan/Pagan:* Sat, 2 p.m., Bldg. 856

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- *Contemporary:* Fri, 7 p.m.; Sun, 9 a.m.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS VISIT: WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCB/CHAPEL.ASPX

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Gomen nasai"
 (pronounced go-men nah-sigh)
 • It means "I'm sorry"

Okinawa Marine is now online

- www.marines.mil/unit/mcbjapan • www.facebook.com/iimef.mcbj
- www.flickr.com/3mefpao • www.youtube.com/3mefcpao





Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Christian Laney, jersey no. 14, Homzy Celtics, drives past Andre Peterson, Okinawa Heat, during the boy's 13-14-year-old youth basketball league championship game Feb. 12 at the Camp Foster Field House.

Youth basketball championship turns up heat



Gil Dyer, jersey no. 24, Okinawa Heat, towers over Homzy Celtics' Julian Parker, as they both jump for the ball at the start of the boy's 13-14-year-old youth basketball league championship game, Feb. 12 at the Camp Foster Field House.

After a long and competitive two months, the final two teams in the boy's 13 and 14-year-old youth basketball league came face-to-face in the last game of the season to fight for the championship Feb. 12 at the Camp Foster's Field House.

During the game, the Okinawa Heat didn't have enough fuel in their fire to triumph over the Homzy Celtics and their Irish luck.

But the win was by no means in the bag as the teams, both from Camp Foster, exchanged the lead several times throughout the game. It was the Celtics who had the lead at the end of the first half. But the Heat turned up the temperature in the second half taking the lead in the 3rd quarter with a score of 26-24.

But it was foul trouble for the Heat and accurate free throws from the Celtics that enabled them to extinguish the fire of the Okinawa Heat.

The Homzy Celtics defeated Okinawa Heat with a final score of 42-34, claiming the championship title.

"Both teams did a great job all season and played a very good game," said Tomas Homzy, coach for the Homzy Celtics.

The Heat and Celtics both had a record of seven wins and one loss for the season, each losing to each other earlier in the season.



Thomas Homzy, coach for the Homzy Celtics, congratulates his team in a huddle after winning the boy's 13-14-year-old youth basketball league championship game, Feb. 12 at the Camp Foster Field House.

"It felt like sweet revenge, beating (Okinawa Heat) in the last game," said Homzy.

"The wins and losses just tell you how good they are," said Ever Wong, sports specialist, Youth Sports, Marine Corps Community Service. "I think all the teams did an outstanding job."

According to Homzy, the Celtics attributed their win to well-shot free throws, consistently pushing the ball up the court and having no turnovers.

Okinawa Heat had an overall balanced team with players constantly moving, using their skills and playing as a team, said Tony Washington, coach for Okinawa Heat.

"I don't think we had any individual players carry the team," said Washington. "Of

course, some players may have stuck out more in some of the games, but it was from the help of their teammates."

"(The Celtics) did very well. They executed the plan set forth and did their best," said Homzy.

"Hopefully they improved in their skills, their leadership and the ability to work well with others," said Wong.

"I think what (the players) should take out of the season and the games they played is the camaraderie and the relationships they build with the other players," said Washington. "Whether you win first or second place, the relationship you develop with a teammate or the friendship you create, will last a lot longer than the trophy you receive."