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OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 2, 2011

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Thai, US military restore services

Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

LOP BURI, Thailand – U.S. service members together with the Royal Thai Army assisted Thai citizens with cleaning a school here Nov. 20 in the aftermath of serious flooding that has affected much of the country.

In coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and the Royal Government of Thailand, U.S. Pacific Command directed theater service components to conduct joint operations in support of disaster assessment and relief operations in Thailand. Joint U.S. forces are continuing to support Thailand in its flood relief efforts.

More than 35 U.S. service members assisted members of the Royal Thai Army in cleaning the Sanamchai School of debris left from flood water inside the school's facilities. The work included wiping down furniture and scrubbing stains off walls caused by flood water.

“You can actually see on the walls where the water levels stopped and stayed for a while,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Love, radio chief with III Marine Expeditionary Force Flood Relief Command Element. “We moved a tree that had been
see **ASSIST** pg 5



U.S. service members assisting the local community remove fallen debris at the Sanamchai School in Lop Buri, Thailand, Nov. 20. U.S. service members together with the Royal Thai Army assisted Thai citizens with cleaning a school here Nov. 20 in the aftermath of serious flooding that has affected much of the country. U.S. forces continue to support the Royal Government of Thailand in its flood relief efforts. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez



Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, land on Ie Shima Nov. 28 in preparation for Ryukyu Warrior. The Marines were transported to Ie Shima via KC-130J Hercules cargo aircraft taking off from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma throughout the day. The exercise is an annual Marine air command and control systems training exercise, which gives squadrons and agencies within 1st MAW and units from other branches the opportunity to be involved in simulated exercises. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock

Marines land en masse on Ie Shima

Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IE SHIMA, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing boarded KC-130J Hercules cargo aircraft bound for Ie Shima Nov. 28

where they will participate in this year's iteration of Ryukyu Warrior.

The exercise is an annual Marine air command and control systems training evolution, which gives squadrons and personnel within
see **RYUKYU** pg 5

Marine aircraft refuel during midair training

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing conducted tactical aerial refueling training here Nov. 29.

During the training, two AV-8B Harriers with Marine Attack Squadron 214, joined KC-130J Hercules cargo aircraft from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 to transfer thousands of pounds of fuel to the aircraft.

VMA-214 is originally based out of Yuma, Ariz., and is currently attached to the aviation
see **REFUEL** pg 5

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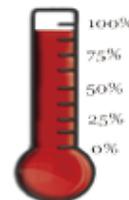


DESERT COMBAT TRAINING
During Enhanced Mojave Viper, Marines train with realistic special effects and new equipment.

PGS. 6-7

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Wednesday, approximately 93 percent of all personnel were contacted.



Tis the season to be merry

Christine Reed

Celebrating the holiday season can be a time of joy, thanks and goodwill toward our fellow Marines. However, it can also be a time of additional emotional stress; especially when you spend the holidays away from the ones most associated with traditional holiday

The true essence of the holiday season is not limited by one's geography, but rather the unlimited generosity of one's spirit.

jubilee — our friends and family. Unwanted stress during the holidays may not appear as obvious as our telltale on-the-job stressors that leave us with chronic aches and pains, mental overload and high blood pressure. Instead, holiday stress often manifests itself in quieter forms of subterfuge against our health like anxiety, depression and mood swings. These symptoms of seasonal stress can place our bodies at risk to further injuries and occasionally serve as a conduit to future, long-term stress effects.

In an effort to prevent seasonal stress this year, protect yourself from being vulnerable to the adverse effects during

the holiday hustle and bustle with a few stress tips and techniques. The first step is to be aware of your own individual stress indicators. Remember these symptoms

may revolve more around your overall mood and feelings instead of providing obvious physical warning signs. Next, make tangible goals to experience some good old-fashioned holiday cheer.

The true essence of the holiday season is not limited by one's geography, but rather the unlimited generosity of one's spirit. Whether this means staying connected with loved ones, volunteering to help those less fortunate, or replaying the movie Christmas Vacation, get involved in activities that remind you what the holidays are about. Finally, take care of yourself. Equip your mind, body and soul with the proper reserves by staying healthy to help ward off unwanted stress this year, and remember that an attitude of gratitude can go a long way.

Reed is the Counseling and Advocacy Program Prevention Specialist with Marine Corps Community Services.

AROUND THE CORPS



Sgt. William Thomas, left, an explosive ordnance technician, and Staff Sgt. Tim Harrison, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader, look over a small cache of improvised explosive device-making materials found in Kajaki Sofla, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 9. Thomas and Harrison respond to such calls on a daily basis in an effort to reduce the threat of IEDs in the area. Both Marines are operating in direct support of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. James Clark



A Marine assigned to the Marine Corps Training Division at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific jumps from a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, assigned to the Knightriders of Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 164 during a training exercise. The exercise was the conclusion of the Infantry Company Small Boat Raid Course. U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Tim Godbee



The 35th annual Buddy Bowl was held at the 11 Area Football Field on Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 26 culminating a \$42,000 fundraising effort to benefit injured troops and their families. The Buddy Bowl is unique because it is the only annual event in the U.S. to raise money for military and law enforcement and their families through a flag football tournament that includes both physically challenged and able-bodied participants. This year's event drew more than 350 participants. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michelle Mattei



Energy Conservation Tip

- Use natural daylight to reduce artificial lighting whenever possible and save as much as 60 percent in lighting costs.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

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DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

3rd Recon Marines, loved ones reunite

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — More than 34 Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion's advanced party returned to Okinawa Nov. 27, where they were met with open arms following a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"It has been hard for all of us here not having them around, but we are so proud of every one of them," said Elizabeth Myers, wife of Sgt. Andrew D. Myers, a reconnaissance Marine with 3rd Recon. Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Marines' mission while in Afghanistan was to maintain stability within Helmand province, according to Sgt. Patrick T. Washington, a reconnaissance Marine the battalion.

"I am just excited that they are home," said Myers. "I love my husband so much. I am so proud of him."

When the Marines arrived at Sangin Valley, they fought constantly to push the insurgents in the area out, according to Washington.

"After we pushed them out we had to fight to keep them out," said Washington. "It was difficult from time-to-time, but we know that this is what we joined to do and we do it well."

The Marines' time in the Sangin Valley had a positive impact on the relationship between the Afghan communities and U.S. military forces, according to Washington.

"I did see that we made a huge difference over there," said Washington. "We were constantly fighting to make sure those people were safe, and they trusted in us to do so."

"We are all happy to be back," he said.



Maj. Steven Prather is greeted by his family on Camp Schwab Nov. 27 after returning from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. Prather is the executive officer, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle



Service members sing Christmas carols to children at the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children during a community relations project located near Henoko Village Nov. 25. During the community relations project volunteers also handed out Christmas presents to the residents.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

Volunteers share holiday cheer, festivities at local children's home

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — Sixty Marines and sailors spread the merriment of the holiday season to the residents of the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children as part of a community relations project here Nov. 25.

The volunteers, who are assigned to 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, sang Christmas carols and shared lunch during the visit.

"The holiday season is all about the spirit of giving whether it's giving our time or making a donation," said Lt. Kyu Lee, the chaplain with 3rd Supply Battalion. "Another aspect of the holidays is the feeling of belonging to a family and while the residents don't speak the same language as us, we still want to make that connection with them."

A previous visit to the orphanage brought in 26 volunteers. Lee attributes the large turnout of participants in this event to the approaching Christmas holiday.

The volunteers engaged in board games and other forms of recreation such as soccer with the children.

"The children were shy



From left to right, Lance Corporals Christopher L. Byrd and Christopher Baez and Pfc. Charlia L. Thomas play board games with residents at the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children during a community relations visit located near Henoko Village Nov. 25.

at first, but once the Marines started interacting with them you could see how much fun they were having by their smiling faces," said Ayumi Miyagi, a social worker with the home.

After the volunteers and children became acquainted, Marines and sailors sang Christmas carols like "Jingle Bell Rock," "Here Comes Santa Clause" and "Silent Night."

"Everyone seemed to enjoy the songs we sang," said Lance Cpl. Parker A. Toliver, a supply clerk with the battalion. "Christmas caroling is one of the things people like to think about during the holidays."

"We've never had a shortage of volunteers," said Lt. Col. Robert T. Castro,

the commanding officer of 3rd Supply Battalion. "We have an English-Japanese exchange program, and this is not our first time working with the orphanage. We have plenty of people looking for the opportunity to improve the local community, whether by working with the local Japanese or with children."

At the end of the visit, the Marines and sailors waved goodbye and wished each other luck until next time.

"The best result to come from community relations projects like this is for the volunteers to build a bond with the children here and return during their free time and continue to build those connections," said Lee.

BRIEFS

WALK-IN FLU SHOTS AT CAMP FOSTER

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and Marine Corps Community Services Health Promotions will hold a walk-in seasonal flu immunization clinic and health fair Dec. 9 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Camp Foster Field House.

Flu shots will be available for anyone 6 months and older who are eligible for care at military healthcare facilities on Okinawa.

All participants should bring their identification cards. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by their parent or guardian.

For more details, call 643-7622.

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON III MEF BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band will perform "Spirit of the Season," a holiday concert on the following dates:

- Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Keystone Theater on Kadena Air Base
- Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater
- Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater

Tickets are free and available at the III MEF Band Hall, building 5907, located next to the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster. For more information, call 645-3919.

PACIFIC OKINAWA PLAYERS HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR UPCOMING PLAY

The Pacific Okinawa Players are seeking talented children age 8 to high school for Disney's "Alice in Wonderland, Junior." Register for an audition Dec. 3 at the Kadena Elementary School Cafeteria.

For more information, visit <http://pops-okinawa.org>.

ANNUAL AIR CONDITIONING SHUTOFF

Marine Corps Installations on Okinawa will shut off most air conditioning systems this winter to help meet U.S. energy law and conservation goals. Shutoff will begin early this month.

Fans and windows are the smart and efficient way to stay comfortable this winter. See MCBJO 5090.3A for details.



Post-9/11 GI Bill assists service members, families

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Johnson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Recent changes have been made to the Post-9/11 GI Bill taking the guesswork out of applying for and using the benefit.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of collective service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs officials.

Recent changes include; paying all public in-state tuition and fees, a \$17,500 tuition and fees cap per academic year for private and foreign schools, a housing allowance for students attending college solely via the internet, coverage of vocational/technical training, on-the-job-training, flight and correspondence training and national testing programs, said Robert R. Stenard, a supervisory guidance counselor with the Camp Foster Education Center.

"All tuition and fees will now be covered for all public in-state schools," he added. "Students

who are interested in attending private schools will now have \$17,500 per academic year for tuition and fees."

Before the recent changes, the Post-9/11 GI Bill covered tuition and fees up to the most expensive in-state public school. Fees and tuition for private schools were also matched with the most expensive in-state public school.

Service members interested in transferring their Post-9/11 GI Bill to their dependents must initiate a request through the transfer of education benefits website.

After the request is complete, service members need to bring a printed copy of the completed request to their career retention specialist.

"Once their request is complete online, they will come into our office to verify they have the obligated time in service," said Sgt. Richard G. Atkins, a career retention specialist with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "From there, we submit their request to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Once it has been reviewed, their benefits will be successfully transferred."

Individuals are required to complete six years in the armed

forces, active duty or reserve, and must already be obligated to four additional years before they are authorized to transfer.

After senior leaders recognized how long the process was taking to transfer benefits, they created a billet at HQMC to ensure service members' requests were being handled in a timely manner, added Atkins.

"Too many times before, the beneficiary had started schooling before the benefits were transferred, resulting in them paying out of pocket for classes," said Atkins. "I recommend waiting for the benefits to successfully transfer over before starting anything."

Dependents eligible to receive the Post-9/11 GI Bill are the service member's spouse, children or a family member that is enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System and is eligible for benefits at the time of transfer, according to DVA officials.

"These recent changes will help service members and their families receive the training they need to be successful and reach their goals," said Stenard.

For more information contact your career retention specialist or log on to www.gibill.va.gov.

Tramble honored, receives meritorious award



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri presents Sylana A. Tramble a meritorious civilian service medal citation on Camp Foster Nov. 23. Tramble was presented the medal for the work she accomplished in her three years as the director of the Civilian Human Resources Office. "We are here to recognize three years of superior service," said Talleri. "Her leadership directly enabled the seamless transition from Marine Corps Bases Japan to Marine Corps Installations Pacific." Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

Senior leaders serve holiday meals



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri serves Pfc. Travis Sain roasted ham during a Thanksgiving dinner at the Camp Foster Mess Hall Nov. 24. The general, along with other senior leaders on Okinawa, served the Thanksgiving meal to Marines and sailors celebrating the holiday away from home. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Sain is a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

REFUEL from pg 1

combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The in-air transfer of more than 6,000 pounds of fuel allows the Harrier pilots to continue training without losing valuable time associated with conducting a landing, increasing their flight time by hours, according to Cpl. Benjamin Lopez, a crew chief with VMGR-152.

"The purpose of AR training is to give pilots an understanding of how to refuel different aircraft," said Lopez. "Whether the aircraft is a helicopter or a jet, each type of aircraft comes with its own unique challenges. For example, the winds that blow from the spinning blades of a (helicopter) causes intense vibrations in a (KC-130J), while

the high-speed approach of a Harrier can cause a lot of shaking."

The KC-130J is also capable of refueling aircraft such as the MV-22 Osprey, UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-53 Super Stallion and the F/A-18D Hornet.

"It's important to offer AR capabilities to as many aircraft as possible," said Lance Cpl. Christian A. Garza, a loadmaster with VMGR-152. "There is no telling what kind of operations we may have in the future, so we are ready for anything now."

The KC-130J refueled the Harriers using the 'probe-and-drogue' method of aerial refueling. The refueling began with the KC-130J feeding out an 80-foot hose with a nozzle equipped with flaps to catch the wind. This allows

the hose to remain vertical for the receiving aircraft to catch using its probe, which is attached to the front of the aircraft.

"The flaps have a similar effect to sticking your arm out the window of your car," said Garza. "The air current created from traveling at high speeds causes the hose to lift."

In combat operations aerial refueling is important in providing and maintaining air-to-ground and air-to-air support, said Capt. Derek K. Johnson, a KC-130J pilot with VMGR-152.

"In the event that one of our combat patrols needs air support, having the increased flight range that aerial refueling gives could determine how an engagement ends," he added.

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1st MAW and units from other services the opportunity to be involved in simulated exercises, familiarize personnel with equipment, and give new Marines an opportunity to gain experience.

Pilots with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, flew six sorties, delivering personnel to the island in preparation for the exercise.

"When you are dealing with this amount of air traffic in one day, communication is key," said Lance Cpl. Dylan W. Lundquist, a range warden with the Operational Support Detachment Ie Shima. "We have to make sure everyone is safe and air traffic is running smoothly."

Ie Shima is a small island off the western coast of Okinawa typically used to conduct training exercises such as Harrier aircraft take-off and parachute operations, according to range personnel.

"This makes the job of range warden that much more important because it is one of the limited places in Okinawa where people can jump safely," said Lundquist.

As a range warden, safety is the number one priority as well as maintaining a healthy environment by adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and keeping in good standings with the community members, said Lundquist.

"We are the control on this range for units to be able to perform safely," said Cpl. Daniel J. Mull, chief range warden with OSD Ie Shima. "We have to make sure air traffic is safe, and Marines are helping protect the environment."

While air traffic was a major focal point for the day, another concern was getting the site set up, said Maj. Jason P. Kaufmann, operations officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st MAW, III MEF.

"Today, our main body of Marines arrived," said Kaufmann.

The Marines focus will be to keep accountability of all participants and equipment and getting the camp set up in a timely manner, said Kaufmann.

Numerous training events will be conducted during Ryukyu Warrior 12 to include a field mess evaluation, chemical biological readiness exercises and mass casualty drills conducted with Navy personnel with the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

"These exercises increase our Marines' combat readiness," said Capt. Aaron R. Krukow, operations officer for Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18. "We do not always train just with Marines, we train (with other services too). Ryukyu Warrior is a perfect example of that."

The exercise will begin Dec. 5 and continue through Dec. 8.

ASSIST from pg 1

knocked over from the flood, chopped the limbs down, and moved everything over to one area so they could easily access it to dispose of it later on."

The Thai citizens have been very appreciative, according to Navy Lt. Nicholas Fleming, an operations officer with the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Lassen.

"The fact that we were able to move all the debris out of their facilities and get it all cleaned up made them all very happy," said Fleming. "The governor even stopped by, came in to see what we were doing, and was very happy to see us."

Not only did the local community enjoy seeing U.S. service members, but even members of the Royal Thai Armed Forces were thankful for assistance.

"I really appreciate all the service members being here, especially in this area that has a school for children," said Special Col. Wittaya Wachirakul, J-3 Directorate, Royal Thai Armed Forces. "One thing I believe is when the Thai people come into trouble, the first country they think of is the U.S. and then you can see on their faces, not only the children but on the men and women around here, they feel happy the U.S. is helping, comfortable and safe because the U.S. came."



U.S. service members assist the local community in Lop Buri, Thailand, Nov. 20, by moving work benches that will be used for an electronic shop to repair flood-damaged appliances and electronics. U.S. forces are committed to supporting the Royal Government of Thailand in their flood relief efforts. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

Desert training continues



Lance Cpl. John A. Degmore during an improvised explosive device response drill at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. The drill included simulated wounds, explosions and was designed to offer Marines a realistic training experience they might encounter in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Degmore is a military police sergeant with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Special effects add new dimension to training

We train like we fight.

Marines have worked to make countless training evolutions more realistic based on this mantra and the San Diego-based special effects and acting company, Strategic Operations, has helped bring training experiences at Enhanced Mojave Viper closer to that of combat than ever before.

Combat Logistics Battalion 4 Marines participated in an improvised explosive device response drill that was enhanced by Strategic Operations at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 24.

“(Strategic Operations) added a new dimension to the training,” said Sgt. Patrick S. Wros, security leader, 2nd Platoon, Company B, CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “They added real people with real looking wounds ... it provided the Marines with a better idea of what they could face in country.”

The training was part of EMV, the battalion’s final training exercise before deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom early next year.

The IED response drill was made more realistic by special effects; including smoke, explosions, heavily-damaged tactical vehicles and professional actors with simulated wounds.

“The training provides good insight as to what is possible in (combat) and what the Marines will need to know to save each other’s lives,” said Capt. Victor V. Flores, commanding officer, Company B.

The fundamentals included skill sets that the Marines had been working on throughout EMV, such as sweeping the area for secondary IEDs, setting up security, establishing a casualty collection point, providing medical care for the casualties and reporting relevant information back to the combat operations center.

“(EMV) is cumulative,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew E. Danielson, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon. “Every exercise builds on the training events before it and incorporates all the different skills that were used in the past.”

Combining these skill sets into a single training evolution gave the Marines confidence they could respond to a hard-hit IED strike where a vehicle was immobilized or destroyed, according to Danielson.



Robert S. O’Malley acts as a casualty of an improvised explosive device during training with Combat Logistics Battalion 4 at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 24. O’Malley is a professional actor with Strategic Operations, an acting and special effects company that specializes in making military training more realistic. CLB-4 is assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Instructors known as coyotes with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group provided feedback to the Marines on their performance in the exercise.

“For most of our Marines (the deployment) is the first time they will see other Marines in harm’s way, that being combat,” said Flores. “Any after-action reports or lessons from those that have gone before them will help.”

The feedback from experienced instructors helped the Marines benefit from the realistic training and take one more step in preparing for their upcoming deployment.

“It was a reality check,” said Wros. “It gave the Marines the opportunity to think on their feet and apply the fundamentals of what they’ve learned.”

at Enhanced Mojave Viper

Stories and photos by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 4

Marines collect biometrics, evidence

Military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 4 participated in tactical site exploitation training at the training city of Wardah-Mir, Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 18.

The Marines conducted foot-patrols, room clearing and search operations where they collected biometric data and other evidence on citizens displaying suspicious behavior or possessing contraband.

"We are trying to give the Marines the skill set to assist the Afghan government in criminal prosecutions and to help teach the Afghan National Police these skills," said Patrick Garrahan, law enforcement professional, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, MAGCC Twentynine Palms.

Wardah-Mir is a city within MAGCC Twentynine Palms designed for the purpose of large-scale urban training operations and includes actors who portray both Afghan citizens and insurgents to give Marines a training environment similar to situations on the ground in Afghanistan, according to Garrahan.

The CLB-4 Marines, assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics

Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, worked with infantry Marines from 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, during the training evolution.

The ground and combat logistics Marines joined for the training evolution to learn a skill set that either group could be expected to use when forward deployed.

"Every day in Afghanistan, any Marine outside the wire has a chance to conduct TSE operations, and it is important they have a good knowledge of how to do that," said Garrahan.

The three-day training evolution included classroom sessions, practical application of TSE and evidence processing, according to Garrahan.

The Marines practiced several TSE scenarios, including vehicle and home searches, where they also applied military operations in urban terrain techniques.

"We cordoned-off the area, provided perimeter security, and conducted room clearing before executing the TSE," said Sgt. Joseph R. Apsey, security team leader, Company B, CLB-4.

Suspects were processed using a

handheld interagency identity detection equipment system, which compared their biometric data, such as fingerprints and iris scans, to a central database, according to Apsey.

The system allows Marines to positively identify individuals wanted for questioning or detainment.

The Marines also collected and processed evidence, such as bomb-making materials, weapons and ordnance during the training.

Using TSE to gather and consolidate this evidence is a significant step toward catching bomb makers and intercepting bomb-making materials, which lowers the number of improvised explosives devices built and employed, according to Apsey.

The tactics and techniques the Marines learned during the course offer them another tool to help the government of Afghanistan and the Afghan National Police improve security in the country.

"The techniques we learned here will help us capture insurgents and track down the bigger fish, which will help us accomplish our overall mission of making Afghanistan more secure," said Apsey.

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Lance Cpl. Mary C. McKenna, center, uses a handheld interagency identity detection equipment system to scan the iris of a role player displaying suspicious behavior at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 18. The data would be entered into a biometrics database used to identify insurgents and criminals. McKenna is a military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Lt. Col. Alison J. MacBain talks to Marines during the Thanksgiving county fair at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 23. MacBain spoke about the upcoming holidays and the importance of remembering the most important support system available to Marines. "Even though we are far from home, this is a good way to reinforce that we can find support and strength in one another because we are like a family," she said. MacBain is the commanding officer of Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

MASS-2 hosts Thanksgiving county fair

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's sports field is normally filled with yells and cheers of competition, but on Nov. 23 it was filled with laughter, games and the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Marine Air Support Squadron 2, with the help of the Single Marine Program, held a Thanksgiving county fair for its Marines and families on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 23.

"This was a great way for us to spend time with the Marines and families," said Melissa Gates, a Marine spouse and participant. "It's a great chance to get to know one another, and it helps us show our support."

Not only did the event provide an opportunity for families to interact, but it also allowed the Marines to show their gratitude for their families.

"It's a great way to bring the families together and have a fun day," said Lt. Col. Alison J. MacBain, commanding officer, MASS-2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It's important to show our gratefulness to our families because a successful, good year is not possible without their support."

The Thanksgiving county fair boasted many different games and activities for the



Marines with Marine Air Support Squadron 2 enjoy a meal with their families during the Thanksgiving county fair on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 23. "When I was a private first class during my first tour on Okinawa, I went to similar events, which are a great way to break the holiday slump that many fall into," said Staff Sgt. Jesus M. Valle. The Marines and families spent the afternoon playing games, eating traditional Thanksgiving food, socializing, and remembering what they are thankful for this year. Valle is a motor transport maintenance chief for the squadron, which is assigned to Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

entire family, such as football, darts, three-legged races, egg toss, face painting, a bouncy house and a dunk tank.

"The squadron has a lot of deployments and training back-to-back," said Duane Burk, the family readiness officer for the squadron. "This fair is a good chance to refresh and relax before more training continues."

Being forward-deployed on Okinawa, many Marines do not have the ability to go home for the holidays, said Sgt. Steven Olson, a radio operator with MASS-2.

"Events like these help ease the weight of missing home because when we all come together we are like one big family," explained Olson.

Many Marines enjoy being around families

because it reminds them of home and helps ease some of the holiday blues, said Sgt. Jesus M. Valle, a motor transport maintenance chief with the squadron.

"When I was a private first class during my first tour on Okinawa, I went to similar events, which are a great way to break the holiday slump that many fall into," said Valle.

The SMP and Marine Corps Community Services offer many different events during the holiday season, similar to MASS-2's Thanksgiving county fair, to accommodate service members far from home.

"Even though we are far from home, this is a good way to reinforce that we can find support and strength in one another because we are like a family," said MacBain.

How merry Marines stole Christmas

CLR-37 Headquarters Company wins holiday float contest

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Michael Iams
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

A Dr. Seuss-inspired float with the Grinch at the reigns won top honors during the Camp Kinser Rock 'n' Roll parade on Camp Kinser Nov. 25.

Marines with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, banded together to design and create a Christmas float for the annual parade, held to promote unit cohesion celebrate the Christmas holiday.

Sgt. Arthur F. Rodriguez and three other sergeants brainstormed the theme of their float. Rodriguez is a production and analysis chief with the company, part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The other sergeants and I threw ideas at each other trying to figure out what we should make for the parade," said Rodriguez. "We also got a few ideas from Marines who volunteered to participate in this parade."

Other Marines from the company volunteered their time to

decorate one of the unit's tactical vehicles for the parade.

"When I received the e-mail from Sgt. Rodriguez asking for volunteers, I immediately volunteered to help them make a float for the parade," said Lance Cpl. Amber N. Thornton, an administrative clerk with the company. "We put a lot of time and effort into creating this float and our costumes."

The Marines spent approximately six hours a day of their own time for a week setting up and decorating the float.

"Some of the Marines took time out of their weekend to come in and work on the float," said Rodriguez. "The most challenging part about creating (it) was making enough clearance for the vehicle to turn with the trailer attached without the boards breaking."

As the float rolled down the street, Marines dressed as Thing 1, Thing 2, the Cat in the Hat, the Grinch and other various characters from Dr. Seuss' children's books played a Christmas music and passed out candy to the spectators.



Lance Cpl. Amber N. Thornton passes out candy to spectators watching the floats made by the Marines roll down the street during the Camp Kinser Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Parade on Camp Kinser Nov. 25.

"It's fun to be a part of a function like this and be able to do something for the community," said Lance Cpl. Micah Dumais, a supply administration clerk with the company. "I love going out and bringing smiles to all the children's faces."

This parade was a great opportunity for the Marines to go out, have fun, and show their festive side, said Thornton.

"Seeing the excitement in the audience's eyes when they see the Grinch

roll by is the best reward we can receive," said Rodriguez.

At the end of the parade, the judges announced the company as the winners for the best float design.

"Even if we hadn't won, we had a lot of fun making this float and going around making the kids and their families smile," said Dumais. "I appreciate being able to be a part of the parade and doing what I can for the Marines, sailors and their families and for those who are not able to go home to see their family."

Seeing the excitement in the audience's eyes when they see the Grinch roll by is the best reward we can receive.

- Sgt. Arthur F. Rodriguez



Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 37's Headquarters Company showcase "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss as their float's theme during the Camp Kinser Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Parade on Camp Kinser Nov. 25. At the end of the parade, the judges announced the company as the winners for best float design. CLR-37 is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Artillerymen aim in during served weapons training

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines fired the M240G medium machine gun and the .50-caliber Browning machine gun to improve their fundamental knowledge of machine gunnery during Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-3 at the Combat Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 12.

The Marines were with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. ARTP is a regularly scheduled exercise which enhances the combat readiness of the battalion, while supporting

the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

"During the training the Marines practiced using machine guns to suppress the enemy," said 1st Lt. Richard C. Bussmann, assistant executive officer for Hotel Battery with the battalion. "They practiced suppression using 'talking guns'."

Talking guns is a technique where Marines use two machine guns to suppress the enemy, Bussmann said. This is achieved by alternating six- to eight-round bursts between the guns, maintaining constant suppression. This cycle repeats until the enemy threat is neutralized.

While firing, Marines also used the scanning technique of

suppression, Bussmann said. When using this, the guns traverse back and forth, denying the enemy the ability to run and take cover.

"The most important part of the training was learning the weapons," said Cpl. Jossie Roman, a field wireman with the battery. "It's important we learn the fundamentals so if the need to fire small-arms comes up, we are ready."

Artillery Marines must maintain proficiency with machine guns out of necessity, according to Bussmann.

"We train on machine guns because we have to provide our own security," he said. "We have to protect our own howitzers from the

enemy during combat operations."

According to Bussmann, when an artillery unit is deployed, it also sends out its own patrols and establishes its own quick reaction force.

"The Marines in the QRF are (identified early) so when the situation arises, they can pick up their weapons and neutralize the enemy, allowing the battery to displace quickly and away from the compromised position," Bussmann said.

According to Roman, small-arms training is just as important as training with the howitzers.

"This training may someday save one of the artillery Marine's lives while downrange," Roman said.

A Marine fires an M240G medium machine gun at targets while his assistant gunner observes impacts at the Combat Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 12. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Artillery Marines conduct small-arms training to maintain their ability to defend gun positions from enemy threats. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.



In Theaters Now

DECEMBER 2 - 8

FOSTER

FRIDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 6 p.m.; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; Drive (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 1 p.m.; Happy Feet Two (PG), 4 p.m.; Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 50/50 (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

FRIDAY Hugo (PG) 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Abduction (PG13), 2 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 2 p.m.; Abduction (PG13) 6 p.m.
MONDAY Killer Elite (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

FRIDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 6 p.m.; Drive (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.; 50/50 (R), midnight
SUNDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), noon and 4 p.m., Dream House (PG13), 8 p.m.
MONDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 50/50 (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

FRIDAY Killer Elite (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Hugo (PG), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Abduction (PG13), 4 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

FRIDAY Drive (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Dream House (PG13), 3 p.m.; Drive (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Dream House (PG13), 3 p.m.; 50/50 (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Hugo (PG), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 50/50 (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

FRIDAY Drive (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Dream House (PG13), 2 p.m.; 50/50 (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Hugo (PG), 6 p.m.; Drive (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 50/50 (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

FRIDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Abduction (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Killer Elite (R), 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.shopmyexchange.com.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS



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

TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT: DEC. 9

• The SMP invites staff noncommissioned officers and officers to come out and play in the Toys For Tots Golf Tournament at the Taiyo Golf Course Dec. 9. Sign up by today with your SMP representative. Check-in time is 6 a.m., and the tournament begins at 7 a.m.

SMP BLACK AND WHITE CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY: DEC. 21

• Join the SMP for the SMP Black and White Christmas Dinner Party Dec. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Manza Beach Hotel. Come dressed to impress for an evening of fine dining, fun, prizes, dancing and entertainment. The event includes a dinner buffet, entertainment and transportation. A bus will leave the Semper Fit Gyms on Camp Foster at 3:50 p.m., MCAS Futenma at 4:05 p.m., Camp Kinser at 4:40 p.m., Camp Schwab at 3:40 p.m., Camp Hansen at 4:15 p.m. and Camp Courtney at 4:50 p.m. See your SMP representative by Dec. 7 to sign up. Space is limited to the first 500 registrants.

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

CHAPLAINS' GORNER



Volunteer work helps one to not only have an important reason to get up out of bed in the morning, but it is also a great way to conquer loneliness through interacting with other people.

Coping with loneliness

Lt. Cmdr. Kobena K. Arthur
MCAS FUTENMA CHAPLAIN

Loneliness hits everyone at one time or another. In fact, the holiday season is when people tend to report being most lonely. At any time of the year, however, loneliness can be a most serious challenge. All around the world people are lonely; it's a hard reality that all people face.

Fortunately, there are ways to cope. Norman Vincent Peale, the author of "The Power of Positive Thinking" has a few suggestions you may want to consider when dealing with your own periods of loneliness.

One of Peale's suggestions is that we look for any unexplored resources in order to help us cope with loneliness; and once they are discovered we can begin to experience more personal satisfaction within any current situation. Among the examples he gives are: filling our minds with interesting thoughts, doing interesting things such as reading a good book, showing more interest in and getting involved in what goes on in the world or in our communities.

Finally, and most importantly, Peale advises we share our time and talents with others through volunteer work at local schools, hospitals, nursing homes or charitable organizations. There are many of these opportunities on Okinawa! Volunteer work helps one to not only have an important reason to get up out of bed in the morning, but it is also a great way to conquer loneliness through interacting with other people. As a person of faith in God, I have found that getting involved with my church family is a wonderful blessing. If you are not a church attendee or a person of faith, you can also interact with people through other activities such as cooking or art classes. You may even choose to browse through bookstores or flea markets to get yourself talking with other people. The possibilities are endless.

Doing things with and for other people is about the greatest remedy there is to help one be less lonely and happier in life. In turn, you also make others less lonely and happier in their lives. If more people did this, loneliness would be more of a rarity and less of the norm for many of us!

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS
CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUND/CHAPEL.ASPX

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Yukuri hannashite kudasi?"

(pronounced you-ku-ri hon-na-shi-te ku-da-sigh)

It means, "Can you please say it slower?"