

All new Source Inside!

OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 16, 2011

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3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade reactivated

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade reactivated during a ceremony here Dec. 13 as Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, the MEB's commanding general, uncased the colors.

3rd MEB, a part of III Marine Expeditionary Force, is standing up a permanent command element with 95 staff, said Timberlake, who is also the deputy commanding general of III MEF.

“The commandant of the Marine Corps’ guidance has been, ‘Today’s force for today’s crisis today,’” said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., III MEF commanding general, during the ceremony.

“When the crisis flag goes up, one way or the other (PACOM and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific are) going to turn to III MEF, and it’s going to be 3rd MEB that’s going to be out the door,” said Glueck. “It’s going to be 3rd MEB that is going to be moving out in under 24 hours.”

“And so Gen. Timberlake, my charge to you is: see **MEB** pg 5



Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake attaches a battle streamer to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade colors, signifying the reactivation of the brigade. The MEB provides combatant commanders with a scalable emergency-response capability throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Timberlake is the commanding general of the 3rd MEB and deputy commanding general for III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart

Generals visit exercise on Ie Shima

Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IE SHIMA, OKINAWA, Japan — Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing,

III MEF, arrived on Ie Shima Dec. 7 to show their support for Ryukyu Warrior 2012.

Ryukyu Warrior is an annual Marine air command and control systems training evolution, which gives squadrons and personnel within 1st MAW, and units from other services, the opportunity to familiarize

personnel with equipment and provide new Marines an opportunity to gain experience.

The generals landed on site via a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and began making their way through the training areas, speaking with Marines and sailors and observing different see **IE SHIMA** pg 5

Oki-Am Kai makes Tots bike donation



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck and Sadao Kudaka present a new bicycle to Staff Sgt. Angelico A. Carranza during the Okinawa-America Association’s holiday social held at the Laguna Garden Hotel on Okinawa Dec. 6. Oki-Am Kai raised ¥160,000 since last November and donated 16 bicycles to Toys for Tots. The generous donations directly benefit local orphanages, single parent charities and schools for the disabled, as well as select service members’ children. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kudaka is the chairman of Oki-Am Kai, and Carranza is the assistant Toys for Tots coordinator for Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

Recon Marines return from Afghanistan

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Approximately 175 Marines and sailors with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion returned here from a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Dec. 12.

The Marines, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were on a seven-month deployment to the Sangin Valley region of Afghanistan.

While deployed, the battalion’s mission was to perform counterinsurgency missions around the valley, said Cpl. Kenneth P. Corbin, a reconnaissanceman with the battalion.

“We completed this mission with a constant presence in the (combat) zone,” said Corbin. “An unrelenting engagement with the enemy helped stabilize the region.”

Some of their missions included humanitarian mapping and movement-to-contact with the enemy.

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IN THIS ISSUE



MARINES ROLL OUT

Marines conduct convoy training, responding to simulated improvised explosive devices.

PGS. 6-7

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Holiday Message

The winter holiday season is the time to celebrate individual and community traditions, recognize accomplishments, and reflect upon our many blessings. As 2011 draws to a close, make it your mission to spend quality time with family and friends to share in the spirit of giving and goodwill.

While for many the holiday season is a time of reunion and joy with loved ones, for others it can be a time of loneliness.

If you know a Marine, sailor or civilian co-worker who will be alone for the holidays, open your home and heart to them. Take care of each other as members of the extended III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific family. These actions will not only build community; they may also save lives.

Be proud of the hard work and dedication you have shown throughout this past year. Whether you contributed to our mission by providing installation support, working with partner nations during exercise, or conducting other operations, such as the relief efforts in Honshu, Japan, or Thailand, be proud of your service and accomplishments. Enter the new year refreshed, refocused and ready to make 2012 another successful year.

Liberty commences as follows:

The liberty period for III MEF/MCIPAC military personnel, to include those stationed on Hawaii is 4:30 p.m., Dec. 23, to 7:30 a.m., Dec. 28, and 4:30 p.m., Dec. 30, to 7:30 a.m., Jan. 4.

Supervisors of appropriated-fund employees may permit liberal leave procedures for their employees if mission and workload permit. For U.S. civilian employees, the observed holidays are Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, and a liberal leave policy will be in effect for Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. For Japanese civilian employees, the observed holidays are Dec. 29 and Jan. 3, and a liberal leave policy will be in effect Dec. 27.

During this holiday period, you are charged with the responsibility of ensuring every member of the III MEF and MCIPAC team returns safely from the holiday period. Look out for one another. Remember, you are ambassadors for our country and our Corps. You must always conduct yourselves with honor, courage and commitment.

May all Marines, sailors, civilians and families of III MEF and MCIPAC enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr.,
Commanding General of III Marine Expeditionary Force

Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri,
Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations
Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler



AROUND THE CORPS



Lance Cpl. John Lynch, a motor transport operator with 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, provides security during an air interdiction force mission at Khan-Neshin, Afghanistan, Dec. 7. The Marines were supporting an Afghan Border Police-led clearing operation in Khan-Neshin as part of the unit's counterinsurgency mission. 1st Bn., 25th Marines are supporting Regimental Combat Team 5. Photo by Alfred V. Lopez



Officer candidates charge through the water and endure the struggles of the new Montford Point Marine Challenge during Officer Candidates School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Dec. 9. This was the first time candidates negotiated the course designed to bring to life the hardships the first African-American Marines faced at Montford Point, which is now the site of Camp Johnson, N.C. Instituting this course at OCS is part of an ongoing effort by the commandant to secure the legacy of the Montford Point Marines and to promote one of his top priorities – greater diversity in the Corps. Photo by Sgt. Kuande Hall



Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors aboard USS Pearl Harbor stand in formation Dec. 7 during a 70th anniversary commemoration ceremony of the attack on Pearl Harbor while at sea. The unit embarked the USS Makin Island, USS New Orleans and USS Pearl Harbor in San Diego Nov. 14, beginning a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Middle East regions. Photo by Cpl. Tommy Huynh

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OKINAWA MARINE

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092

Corpsman selected for Sailor of Year

Brian J. Davis

USNH OKINAWA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP LESTER — Petty Officer 1st Class Scott A. Moore of U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, was selected as 2011 Navy Medicine West Sailor of the Year Nov. 10.



Petty Officer 1st Class
Scott A. Moore

Rear Adm. C. Forrest Faison III, commander, Navy Medicine West, announced the selection at the end of the annual Navy Medicine West Sailor of the Year competition held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam, located in Hawaii. Moore was selected from a group of 12 nominees from Navy Medicine West Military Treatment Facilities.

When Faison read the announcement, Moore was not quite sure how to react.

“I was absolutely speechless,” said Moore. “I’m still kind of numb.”

Moore currently serves as the Directorate of Surgical Services and Orthopedics Leading Petty Officer at USNH Okinawa, and considers his success to be directly related to the level of support he gets from all members of his chain of command.

“I couldn’t have done it without having great junior sailors as well as great leadership and mentors,” he said.

Selecting a winner was not an easy task, according to Master Chief Petty Officer Hosea Smith, USNH Okinawa Command Master Chief and selection board member for the competition.

“The 2011 Navy Medicine West Sailor of the Year competition was very tight,” said Smith. “All the candidates were stellar, probably the best I’ve seen at a Sailor of the Year board.”

During his career, Moore has served as an individual augmentee, deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also volunteered to participate in numerous rescue and casualty retrieval missions during relief efforts following Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina. He also embedded with the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division to conduct missions in New Orleans during Katrina relief operations.

The sailor attributes his success as a leader to the hard work and dedication of the people he leads.

“We wouldn’t be where we are as an organization without the junior sailors and what they do to complete the mission on a daily basis,” he said.

Moore is also the program director for the hospital’s Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course, and president of the command’s First Class Petty Officers Association. He holds a leadership position in the hospital’s color guard and is a member of the Command Retention Team. He also volunteers his time as a petty officer indoctrination training instructor, command recreation committee member and Basic Life Support trainer.

Although the other nominees were not selected, they can take pride in knowing that they reflect the best the Navy has to offer, according to Smith.

“I’m confident that when I retire, the Navy is going to be in good hands with the quality of the sailors that were present in this year’s competition,” he said.



U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa corpsmen unload a patient in critical care from a CH-46E Sea Knight Helicopter during a simulated contingency response exercise Dec. 8 at USNH Okinawa. The exercise provided the hospital the opportunity to train the staff in safely boarding a helicopter to offload patients, triage procedures and prioritization of injured personnel, and equipment setup and breakdown, said Capt. John P. Labanc, an oral surgeon with USNH Okinawa. Photos by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

USNH hosts disaster response exercise

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP LESTER — U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa hosted a disaster response exercise in conjunction with the Ryukyu Warrior 2012 exercise Dec. 8 to fulfill Navy Medicine and Joint Commission requirements to annually test the facility’s disaster-response plan.

The exercise was designed to test equipment and train personnel on procedures for managing a large number of patients coming to the hospital during a major emergency. The exercise included the main hospital, branch clinics and satellite facilities.

“The purpose of this exercise is to make sure the hospital is prepared to respond in the event of a disaster,” said Navy Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo, commanding officer of USNH Okinawa. “It is imperative that we test the capabilities of our staff to ensure that patients get the best care possible.”

The exercise provides health care providers the opportunity to sharpen their skills and identify deficiencies, said Aiyelawo.

“After reviewing after-action reports from previous disaster response exercises during the planning of this exercise it was concluded that the scenarios were not always as exact and detailed as they should be,” said Navy Capt. John P. Labanc, an oral surgeon with USNH Okinawa. “This year we compiled previous case files from actual patients to simulate more realistic injuries.”

The hospital compiled photos, notes and clinical information, to provide health care personnel with realistic situations to test advanced trauma



Cpl. Alexis Ojeda is treated for injuries by emergency-medical technicians at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa during a simulated contingency-response exercise Dec. 8. The exercise was designed to test equipment and to train personnel on procedures for managing a large number of patients coming to the hospital during a major emergency. Ojeda is a Marine Air-Ground Task Force plans clerk with Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

life support protocols.

“The contingency exercise tested the hospital as a whole,” said Labanc. “The whole staff was involved, including administration, laboratory, intensive care and security.”

The exercise began as simulated casualties from the concurrent Ryukyu Warrior exercise were transported to the hospital via helicopter. The simulated disaster took place at the Marine Corps training facility on Ie Shima.

Throughout the day, the hospital evaluated a number of processes, including patient tracking, internal communication as well as patient receiving and triage, said Aiyelawo.

The hospital also had the opportunity to train the staff in how to safely approach and board a helicopter to remove patients safely, procedures for triage and prioritization of injured personnel, and proper equipment setup and breakdown, said Labanc.

“The contingency response exercise had a total number of 28 patients which had to be prioritized within four

categories,” said Labanc. “The patients were minimal, delayed, immediate or expectant. The hospital staff had to determine the patient’s status before determining their course of action.”

You never know how someone will react to a situation, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Elizabeth Gonzalez, command master chief executive assistant.

Being able to simulate realistic situations vice talking about them built the staff’s confidence in their abilities, according to Gonzalez.

“Major contingencies are not something we deal with everyday,” said Labanc. “We must be prepared for anything, at anytime.”

Exercises like this contingency exercise help establish proper procedures and identify any needs or discrepancies throughout the hospital, said Labanc.

“At the conclusion of it all, we focus on what is important and that is that the patients come first and we are able to provide them with the best care possible,” said Aiyelawo.

BRIEFS

SERVICE OFFERS SAFE WAY HOME

As the holiday season is upon us, it is important to be informed about alternative transportation options. Daiko service is available to transport individuals and their vehicles.

Customers will be driven in a taxi, while another driver follows with the customer's vehicle.

For service, call 645-8888 from on-base or 098-970-8888 from off-base.

POST OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

In recognition of Christmas and New Year's, all Marine Corps Installation Pacific Post Offices will observe the following holiday schedule:

- Dec. 24: Normal hours. Parcel pick-up and retail services will be available from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Dec. 25-26: Closed.
- Dec. 27: Normal hours. Parcel pick-up will be open from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and retail services from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Dec. 28: Closed.
- Dec. 29-30: Normal hours. Parcel pick-up will be open from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and retail services from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Dec. 31: Normal hours. Parcel pick-up and retail services will be open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Jan. 1-2: Closed.
- Jan. 3: Normal hours. Parcel pick-up open from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and retail services from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Jan. 4: Closed.

For more details, contact 637-2468.

THE GREEN LINE SURVEY

The Green Line will conduct its annual survey for calendar year 2011 to help understand how to better support Marines and sailors and make the most efficient use of assets. TGL annual survey will be available until Jan. 15.

The survey will be distributed via an e-mailed hyperlink. It will be available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TGL2011>.

OUTDOOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

On-base outside holiday lights may be displayed from dusk until 10 p.m. Lights, along with all other external holiday decorations, must be removed by the first week of January.

REGULATION FOR HEADPHONE USE

For safety and professional compliance with regulations, wearing headphones, earphones or other listening devices while operating a motor vehicle, jogging, running, walking, skateboarding, roller-skating or bicycling on or along streets and roadways on Marine Corps Installations is prohibited, except for on specifically approved locations.

For more information, see MCO 5100.19E USMC Traffic Safety Program Encl 2 (10),(g) and MCBJO P1120.1C Ch 7, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, 5013(1),(a) or contact the base safety office at 645-2651.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mccb.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.

Naha Air Base hosts annual air show

Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NAHA AIR BASE — The Japan Air Self-Defense Force opened its gates to the public for its annual Air Fiesta at the Naha Air Base Dec. 11.

"We hold this annual air show and fiesta to let this base be known to the public and show them what we do," said Maj. Gen. Masashi Yamada, the base general for Naha Air Base. "It also lets our personnel meet other self-defense personnel around the island and help them understand what they do."

Air Fiesta 2011 featured static and flight displays of the many aircraft used by the JASDF. The event also allowed U.S. service members to get a glimpse of what it is like on a Japanese military base.

"Attending festivals like this is a good way for me and my family to spend time together to see and learn about the local community," said Master Sgt. David S. Dickens, a facility engineer maintenance chief with Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Being able to go to a Japanese military base also allows me to see how they are alike and different from the American military."

The festival featured traditional Okinawan Eisa dancers, local singers, bands and performers.

"Coming out to celebrate this fiesta is another opportunity to work together with the Japan



A local veteran admires a Mitsubishi F-2 fighter on display at the Air Fiesta 2011 on Naha Air Base Dec. 11. Local community members and guests had a chance to take a look inside the static displays and see what it is like piloting the aircraft. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

Air Self-Defense Force as well as build relations between the U.S. and Japanese forces," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The commander of the JASDF 83rd Air Wing held a luncheon to honor and thank the service members, veterans and distinguished guest for attending and celebrating the festival.

"Celebrating the air show with the (JASDF) helps strengthen our relations with them and allow us to work closely together with their great air assets," said Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "I want to thank them for their service and

let them know they will always have a strong friend with the U.S. forces."

According to Yamada, the festival took about three months to plan and set everything up.

"I am happy to see a lot of the community come out and attend the festival," said Yamada. "This means they are interested to see who we are and what we do."

The Air Fiesta ended with an air show by the 83rd Air Wing's aerobatic demonstration team, the Blue Impulse.

"We have these flight displays to show the community our skills as pilots," said Yamada. "We hold this fiesta every year and I hope a lot of people come and see us again next year."

JGSDF tours Butler's ordnance disposal unit



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Sgt. Maj. Masaki Ando, an explosive ordnance disposal sergeant, looks through the scope of a special application scoped rifle during the explosive ordnance disposal study tour of Camp Butler's EOD detachment Dec. 8. The annual study tour allows the Marine Corps EOD and JGSDF EOD to share their techniques and improve interoperability. The SASR is primarily used by EOD Marines to detonate improvised explosive devices at safe distances. Ando is part of the 101st EOD Unit, 15th Brigade, Western Army, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. Photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum

III MEF band hosts holiday concert

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove introduces the III Marine Expeditionary Force band during their "Spirit of The Season" holiday concert at the Camp Foster Theater Dec. 9. "The concert offers a variety of holiday songs that are recognizable but changed up in unique ways," said Cpl. John F. Geary, a trombone player with the band. "Audience members are quite pleased with how the songs turn out."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White



MEB from pg 1

Prepare the MEB to move out," he added.

Timberlake made a pledge of his own, not only to his boss, but to the Marines who serve under and with him.

"My pledge today, to Gen. Glueck, the Marines standing behind me and beside me, is that, sir, we will endeavor in everything we do to remain the force of choice for this combatant commander," said Timberlake.

3rd MEB will provide a scalable, standing, joint-capable, forward-deployed headquarters

element located in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

3rd MEB will enhance the Corps' expeditionary readiness by providing a force capable of leading amphibious operations, crisis-response and limited contingency operations, enabling the introduction of follow-on forces. This will increase theater security cooperation, strengthening of alliance relationships and supporting III MEF operational requirements.

3rd MEB has recently participated in numerous operations and exercises to include Operation

Tomodachi in mainland Japan, Exercise Cobra Gold in the Kingdom of Thailand and Amphibious Landing Exercise in the Republic of the Philippines.

The Asia-Pacific region is prone to severe weather conditions and natural disasters. The reestablishment of a command element enables rapid response and the ability to execute any mission when a situation arises.

The 3rd MEB has played a significant role in maintaining stability within the Asian-Pacific region in the past and is positioned to continue to do so in the future.

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aspects of the exercise, including the security communications facility, field mess and the camp commandant's headquarters.

"The visit shows the generals care about what (Marines) are doing out here during Ryukyu Warrior 2012," said Maj. Bryon S. deCastro, mission commander with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st MAW. "The Marines appreciate that."

During the exercise, Marines with MWSS-172 conducted numerous training exercises and reacted to scenarios to test their abilities in establishing a forward operations location, defending that location, and recovering after an attack, said deCastro.

Among the activities, Marines with the squadron conducted chemical biological radiological nuclear training, mass-casualty evacuations, aircraft rescue firefighting training, non-lethal weapons training and airborne training with members of the U.S. Army's Special Forces.

Ryukyu Warrior 2012 allowed Marines of MWSS-172 to better themselves and become more proficient, said Sgt. Eric D. Currier, camp commandant and a combat engineer with MWSS-172.

"This exercise gave us the opportunity to demonstrate our abilities in the field," said Capt. Mark A. Wlaschin, a logistics officer with MWSS-172. "We demonstrated that we are field capable by successfully establishing a site and operating it in full capacity while conducting training exercises."

Ryukyu Warrior 2012 took place from Dec. 5-8, but Marines with the squadron began setting up and preparing for the exercise weeks in advance to ensure the exercise was a success.

"A lot of milestones were hit for us during Ryukyu Warrior 2012," said Currier. "We were able to see how MWSS-172 operates with other units."

RETURN from pg 1

When conducting human-terrain mapping, the Marines visited villages and collected DNA, and mapped where people were living, Corbin said.

"We found out who the people were and what they did for a living," he said.

By collecting this data, the Marines were able to keep track of the villages surrounding them and the people in them, Corbin said. This helped the Marines monitor Taliban presence in the villages.

Out of all the missions conducted during the deployment, one stuck out in Corbin's mind.

"Operation Stone Pillar sticks out the most for me," Corbin said. "We swept villages, collecting biometric data for counterinsurgency missions."

During the mission, the Marines collected fingerprints and hair samples to identify the people living there and build a database.

"I enjoyed this mission because we got to interact with the people of the village," said Corbin. "The leaders of the village were cooperative and did everything they could to help."

Corbin said the people were happy they were there and exceptionally understanding of the procedures.

The deployment was a long one for the Marines of the battalion.

"We were busy all the time," said Cpl. Mark I. Henderson, a small-arms repairman for the



Marines and sailors are greeted by friends and family at the USO on Camp Schwab Dec. 12, after returning from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. The Marines and sailors are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

battalion. "Between missions we would get a couple hours of sleep then go back out ready for anything that was thrown at us."

Waiting at the airport for the Marines' return were retired and active-duty Marines on motorcycles. These Marines escorted the returning Marines from Kadena Air Base all the way to Camp Schwab to their awaiting friends and families.

"We are just glad they are back," said John Claffey, a retired master sergeant.

Any time a unit comes back from Afghanistan, a group of riders comes and welcomes back the

Marines, according to Claffey.

"Everyone has got to come home to something," said Claffey. "It is important to give thanks to the Marines and show we care."

After arriving at Camp Schwab, the Marines turned their weapons in to the armory and headed to the USO where friends and families awaited. There, the Marines shared an emotional welcome home.

"Everyone out there did their part," said Henderson. "I am glad we could help out a country in need and stabilize the region."

CLB-4 Marine



2nd Lt. Benjamin J. Gutek greets an actor portraying a civilian doctor during a convoy exercise at MAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 5. Building good relationships with the local community was one of the objectives of the training exercise. Gutek is a platoon commander with 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, CLB-4.



Marines with CLB-4 administer buddy aid to a simulated casualty who was wounded by an improvised explosive device during a convoy exercise at MAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 5 during Enhanced Mojave Viper.



A Marine provides aid to a simulated casualty during a convoy exercise at MAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 5 during Enhanced Mojave Viper.

s learn importance of versatility

A secondary improvised explosive device detonates near a disabled Combat Logistics Battalion 4 mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle during a convoy exercise at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 5. CLB-4 falls under Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Marines are competitive by nature and have a natural expectation to win every engagement scenario here at (Enhanced Mojave Viper),” said Capt. Donald L. Hotchkiss, commanding officer, Company A, Combat Logistics Battalion 4. “They soon find out that the training here is designed to make you lose, not because it is too difficult or unrealistic, but because it is more important to continue to improve ...

“(The training) is about staying hungry and never allowing them to peak on performance,” he added.

CLB-4 Marines were challenged to improve during an engagement scenario that played out during a supply convoy at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 5 during Enhanced Mojave Viper.

EMV is the battalion’s final training exercise before deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in early 2012.

Marines from the battalion, which falls under Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, pushed into a mock city to deliver supplies and develop relationships with local community leaders. During the mission, they responded to insurgent activity including improvised explosive devices and small-arms fire.

“How the events unfolded depended on (the Marines’) actions ... the training was (exercise force) driven,” said Cpl. Jesse B. Pelamati, instructor, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. “Whether they were hit by secondary IEDs depended on if they swept the area properly, and the actions of the locals depended on how the Marines interacted with them.”

The exercise took place at a training city at MAGCC and was complete with actors portraying local civilians and insurgents.

“(The training) is important because it teaches the Marines versatility and it teaches them to think, which is especially

important when dealing with civilians,” said 1st Lt. Margaret S. Adams, executive officer, Company A, CLB-4. “The civilians are our allies. Our interactions with them will help keep us alive.”

The Marines’ interactions with the civilians ranged from the convoy commander meeting with local leaders and dropping off supplies at a medical clinic to junior Marines interacting with civilians on the city streets, placing a premium on small-unit leadership.

“Small-unit leadership is huge because the (officers and staff noncommissioned officers) cannot be everywhere at once,” said Adams. “Every interaction, no matter how small, has a lasting impact, and the actions of lance corporals can win hearts and minds.”

The convoy was hit by a mock IED, which disabled one vehicle and wounded several Marines, moments after the Marines dropped off supplies to a local medical clinic. Marines responding to the explosion were hit by a secondary IED and small-arms fire.

Motor Transportation Marines are frequently required to make rapid transitions between fighting the enemy, providing logistical support to forward units, and interacting with civilians on the current battlefield, according to Adams.

“This training teaches the Marines to be able to (switch roles) rapidly, and that is a difficult thing to do and a very valuable skill set,” said Adams.

The Marines proceeded to suppress the incoming small-arms fire, collect the casualties, recover the disabled vehicle, and push out of the kill-zone to a field south of the city, where they established a security perimeter and landing zone for medical-evacuation helicopters.

The training incorporated elements of all of the exercises that the Marines had worked though up to that point during EMV, according to Pelamati.

The building-blocks approach to training will continue when the Marines work through a similar scenario using live ammunition in the coming week, he added.

The Marines grow more confident with every training exercise as they approach the end of EMV and the end of their pre-deployment training.

“Each day of rehearsals and every event allows our Marines to improve on previous scenarios and gain a new level of confidence that not only provides results in this demanding training environment, but will also carry over to our deployment and allow them to directly contribute to the overall counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan,” said Capt. Donald L. Hotchkiss, commanding officer, Company A. “The Marines of Company A ... have never been more confident and the connection developed over the past five months of rigorous training at Camp Fuji, Camp Mujuk and now (Twentynine Palms) will bond them together through their deployment, career and lives.”



Marines and an interpreter with CLB-4 explain to actors portraying civilians that they are sweeping the area for improvised explosive devices during a convoy exercise here Dec. 5. The actors had the option of helping or hindering the Marines by providing information about suspicious behavior if they felt the Marines were respectful.

3rd MLG exemplifies amphibious capabilities

Sgt. Megan Angel
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

In his planning guidance, the 35th commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, defines the Corps as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness – a balanced air-ground logistics team, forward-deployed and forward-engaged – shaping, training, deterring and responding to all manner of crises and contingencies.

As Marines are repositioned from the Middle East to the Pacific, Amos has refocused the Corps on its amphibious roots.

Leading the way in this effort, more than 200 Marines and sailors with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, returned from the Kingdom of Thailand Dec. 9 where they provided support and assistance to flood-relief operations.

In only 16 hours, the detachment of Marines safely loaded more than 1.5 million pounds of rolling stock, hose-reel systems, fuel pumps, medium tactical vehicle replacement trucks, forklifts and Humvees onto the USS Tortuga Nov. 18 and were underway toward Thailand, ready to assist in flood-relief operations, said Gunnery Sgt. Clayton G. Pettus, detachment gunnery sergeant, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

A detachment of Marines and two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, were also aboard the Tortuga.

Shortly after the Tortuga's arrival to the Port of Laem Chabang, Kingdom of Thailand, Nov. 25, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Kristie Kenney met with Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, III MEF flood relief command element commander and commanding general of 3rd MLG, Col. Clark D. Henderson, CLR-3 commanding officer, and Cmdr. Adrian D. Ragland, commanding officer of the Tortuga, to discuss how

the Marines and sailors could assist Thailand with flood-relief operations.

Kenney also addressed the Marines and sailors aboard Tortuga regarding the important role they were playing in the flood-relief efforts and praised their ability to quickly respond when called upon.

Marines with Bulk Fuel Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, part of 3rd MLG, were tasked with relief operations at the Royal Thailand Air Force maintenance facilities at the Don Mueang International Airport, said Chief Warrant Officer Julio C. Dominguez, Bulk Fuel Company commander. The assistance efforts conducted around the facilities were important in helping the RTAF resume normal operations.

Shortly after the tasking, the equipment was offloaded from the Tortuga and en route to the airport.

"Our mission was a success and the Marines performed admirably," said Dominguez. "They fought through the elements and faced unique challenges as a result of debris in the water; all of which had to be overcome with a little Marine ingenuity."

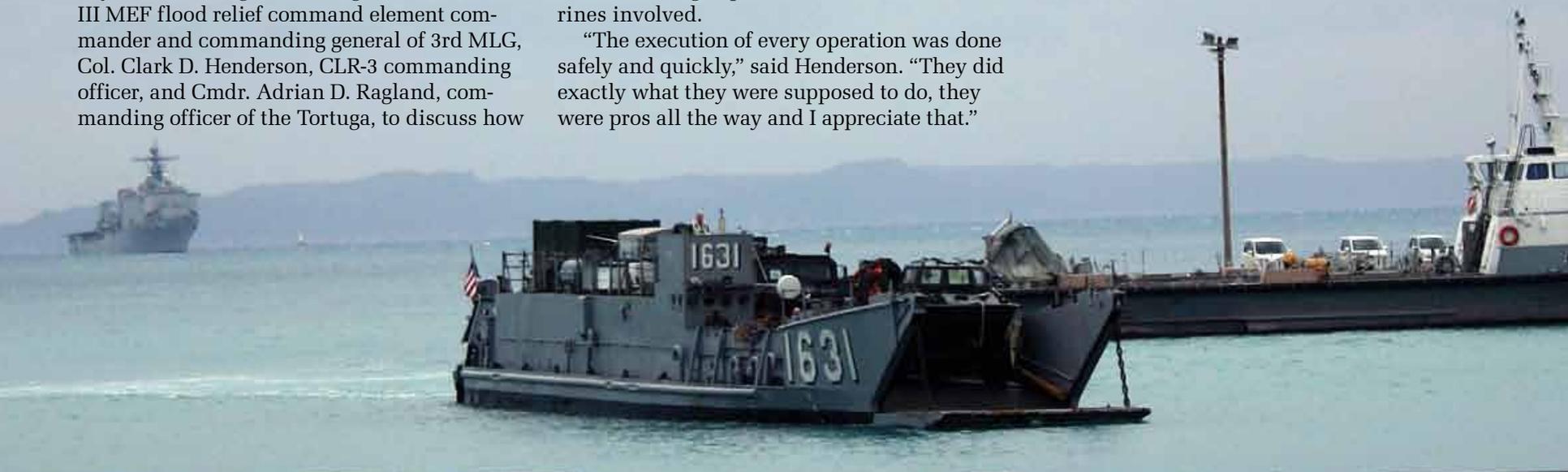
The Tortuga departed the Port of Laem Chabang Dec. 3 for her voyage back to Okinawa. Her ability to enable the Marines and sailors of the MLG to provide assistance to the Royal Government of Thailand goes hand-in-hand with the commandant's mission of reestablishing Marines in their traditional role as "fighters from the sea."

For many of these Marines, this was the first and may be the last time they will embark on a U.S. vessel and go to Thailand, added Dominguez. It was a very meaningful and rewarding experience for all of the Marines involved.

"The execution of every operation was done safely and quickly," said Henderson. "They did exactly what they were supposed to do, they were pros all the way and I appreciate that."



Marines with 3rd MLG disembark a U.S. Navy Landing Craft Utility at White Beach Naval Facility Dec. 9 after returning from the Kingdom of Thailand where they assisted with flood-relief operations. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher



A U.S. Navy Landing Craft Utility ferries 3rd MLG Marines and equipment from the USS Tortuga to White Beach Naval Facility on Okinawa Dec. 9. More than 200 Marines and sailors with the MLG deployed aboard the Tortuga Nov. 18 to provide support and assistance to the flood-relief operations in the Kingdom of Thailand. The 3rd MLG is part of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher



A Marine with 3rd MLG guides a medium tactical vehicle replacement truck onto a U.S. Navy Landing Craft Utility Dec. 9 to return it to shore. Photo by Sgt. Megan Angel



Corpsmen roll a victim onto a stretcher during a mass-casualty exercise on Camp Hansen Dec. 6. They were responding to a simulated attack with an improvised explosive device where they picked up the victims and brought them to the rear for proper care. The corpsmen are from 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

3rd Medical Battalion gets battlefield ready

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Corpsman!” The calls for corpsmen were coming from Marines on patrol. They had just been hit by an improvised explosive device. The corpsmen rushed over, stretchers in hand to bandage the wounded. With the victims stabilized, the corpsmen quickly brought them to the rear for treatment.

This was the scene as Navy corpsmen practiced battlefield medical skills during a mass-casualty exercise on Camp Hansen Dec. 6.

The corpsmen and Marines with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were participating in mass-casualty drills and basic field medicine exercises to keep them prepared and ready for future deployments, said Navy Lt. Zachary M. Smith, the battalion’s assistant training and operations officer.

“We conducted a mass-casualty drill to simulate a real-life scenario,” said Smith. “(The scenario) was kept secret, so the corpsmen had to react just as they would in combat.”

The casualty scenario included 20 victims, played by Marines and sailors, who each had a symptom card, Smith said. On the card was a list of injuries they sustained, which they reported to the corpsmen when they arrived. Some victims had wounds caused by an improvised explosive device while others sustained gunfire wounds, he added.

Corpsmen are part of many foot patrols and convoys when deployed. In combat, they tend to see trauma and gun- and IED-inflicted wounds, according to Smith. During this training exercise, the corpsmen spent most of their time training on the things they may see when deployed, he added.

“After a quick triage of the victim and classifying the injury, the corpsmen brought the victim to the shock trauma platoon tent,” said Smith.

At the STP tent, casualties received hands-on first aid and a more exact diagnosis, according to Petty Officer 2nd Class Kingsley K. Agbitor, a surgical technician with the battalion.

“The STP is the first line of care for the victims,” said Agbitor. “We stabilize the patient (there) for further treatment.”

In the STP tent, the corpsmen treated wounds, checked vitals, and administered fluids intravenously.

After treatment at the STP, victims are rushed to the forward resuscitative surgical system tent, said Agbitor. In this tent, the victims are able to receive most surgical operations needed and more in-depth wound treatment.

“There are two beds with two doctors who are ready at all times for surgery,” said Smith.

Following treatment here, victims are then transported back to a hospital, Smith said.

“The field hospital is a very capable entity,” said Smith.

In the field, the capabilities include a STP for first aid, a FRSS for surgery, field lab for blood tests, X-ray machines and a mobile pharmacy.

“We have everything a free-standing hospital



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kingsley K. Agbitor shows how to properly apply a tourniquet during a mass-casualty exercise on Camp Hansen Dec. 6. Agbitor is a surgical technician with 3rd Medical Battalion.

has,” said Smith. “We can set up in one hour using only a Humvee and a trailer.”

Smith said that 3rd Med. Bn. is the level-two medical provider for all of III MEF. This classification requires the battalion to meet any trauma or surgery needs of III MEF.

“These exercises help us meet that mission,” Smith said. “With this training our corpsmen are fully prepared to go down range and bring Marines back alive.”

Troops tote Toys for Tots

Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

It is not unusual for Marines to step off for a hike before the sun rises. However, for nearly 200 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, this scenario included a different packing list. Instead of your typical field equipment, hygiene items and tents, these Marines filled their packs with toys.

The squadron of Marines, a part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the three-mile hike on Camp Foster Dec. 9 to celebrate the holidays, raise awareness for the Toys for Tots Program, help those less fortunate, and accomplish a required training event.

Although the Marines and sailors participating in the hike were not required to bring a donation, many made the choice to donate for personal reasons.

"After coming into work this morning and seeing all the toys gathered in the office, it hit me that there are a lot of people struggling during the holidays, and it made me feel good inside to be helping out," said Cpl. Nathan Lopez, a field wireman with MWSS-172.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Kadorn Phuorng, the squadron's training chief, this behavior was the norm of Marines with the unit.

"The Marines are very helpful and they are aware that there are families less fortunate than themselves," said Phuorng. "They were more than willing to help."

The squadron showed overwhelming support for the program with 240 Marines and sailors participating in the hike, collecting more than 250 toys, and filling each of the boxes provided by Toys for Tots program.

The Marines were well informed about the difficulties some families have, especially during this time of year, and the importance of giving when you have the opportunity," said Sgt. Clint Beldon, a career planner with MWSS-172. "Every little bit counts and the Marines were excited to participate."

The Marines conduct a squadron-wide event monthly and decided to incorporate Toys for Tots during this holiday season.

"We wanted to come together as a squadron, not only to conduct a hike, but also to focus on giving during this season," said Lt. Col. Darin J. Clarke, the commanding officer of the squadron. "Toys for Tots is a worthy cause."

Lt. Col. Darin J. Clarke, the commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 leads his Marines in a three-mile hike on Camp Foster Dec. 13. "We wanted to come together as a squadron not only to conduct a hike, but also to focus on giving during this season, and Toys for Tots is a worthy cause," said Clarke. MWSS-172 is a part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photos by Gunnery Sgt. Kadorn Phuorng



Master Sgt. Jason A. Bolyard, drops off his donation to a Toys for Tots drop-off location after completing a three-mile hike with the squadron on Camp Foster Dec. 13. More than 250 toys were collected, overflowing the boxes provided for the donations. Bolyard is an expeditionary airfield chief with MWSS-172.

In Theaters Now

DECEMBER 16 - 22

FOSTER

FRIDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 6 p.m.; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Johnny English Reborn (PG), noon; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; Shark Night (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Johnny English Reborn (PG), noon; New Year's Eve (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

FRIDAY Real Steel (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Ides of March (R), 4 p.m.; Money Ball (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Hugo (PG), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY - THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

FRIDAY Closed
SATURDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), noon, 3 p.m.; Johnny English Reborn (PG), 6 p.m.; Shark Night (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Thing (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.

HANSEN

FRIDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 6 p.m.; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Johnny English Reborn (PG), noon; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; Shark Night (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Johnny English Reborn (PG), 2 p.m.; Shark Night (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Thing (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Shark Night (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER

FRIDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Happy Feet 2 (PG), 3 p.m.; Shark Night (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Johnny English Reborn (PG), 3 p.m.; The Thing (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Thing (R), 6:30 p.m.

COURTNEY

FRIDAY New Year's Eve (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Moneyball (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.; The Ides of March (R), midnight
SUNDAY Hugo (PG), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Arthur Christmas (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

SCHWAB

FRIDAY Hugo (PG), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Moneyball (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY The Ides of March (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.

CHAPEL HOLY DAYS, SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES, EVENTS



CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCB/CHAPEL.ASPX

Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass;
 7:30 p.m., Gospel/Protestant Christmas Eve Candle Light;
 Dec. 25- 8:30 a.m., Protestant Service;
 10 a.m., Catholic Mass, Solemnity of Christmas;
 11 a.m., Christian Science (Bldg 442);
 11:30 a.m., Gospel Service;
 4 p.m., Lutheran DVD Worship Service;
 Dec. 31- 10:30 p.m., Gospel/Protestant New Year's Eve Service;
 Dec. 31- 5 p.m., Catholic New Year's Eve Mass;
 Jan. 1- 8:30 a.m., Protestant Service;
 10 a.m., Catholic Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
 11 a.m., Christian Science (Bldg 442);
 11:30 a.m., Gospel Service;
 4 p.m., Lutheran DVD Worship Service
 • *Orthodox Chapel:*
 Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Reader's services;
 Dec. 25- 9:30 a.m., Reader's services;
 Dec. 31- 5 p.m., Reader's services;
 Jan. 1- 9:30 a.m., Reader's services;
 Jan. 6- 7:30 a.m., Royal Hours of Christmas;
 6:30 p.m., Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Christmas;
 Jan. 7- 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy of Christmas;
 Jan. 8- 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy;
 Jan. 14- 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord;
 Jan. 15- 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy;
 Jan. 18- 7:30 a.m., Royal Hours of Theophany;
 6:30 p.m., Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Theophany with Great Blessing of Waters

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

Dec. 25- 4 p.m., Protestant Service;
 Jan. 1- 4 p.m., Protestant Service

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

Dec. 20- 6 p.m., Catholic Advent Penance Service;
 Dec. 24- 6:30 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service (Joint McTureous and Courtney);
 Dec. 25- 8 a.m., Catholic Mass, Solemnity of Christmas;
 11 a.m., Protestant Christmas Day Service;
 Jan. 1- 8 a.m., Catholic Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
 11 a.m., Protestant New Year's Day Service

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

• *Hospital Chapel:*
 Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Non-denominational Service;
 Jan. 1- 9 a.m., Non-denominational Service;
 • *Lester Chapel:*
 Dec. 25- 10 a.m., Non-denominational Service;
 Jan. 1- 10 a.m., Non-denominational Service

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

Dec. 24- 6 p.m., Catholic Advent Penance Service;
 5 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service;
 Dec. 25- 9:30 a.m., Protestant Christmas Day Service;
 Noon, Catholic Mass, Solemnity of Christmas;
 Jan. 1- 9:30 a.m., Protestant Service;
 Noon, Catholic Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

Dec. 24- 6 p.m., Protestant Candlelight Service;
 Dec. 25- 9 a.m., Contemporary Worship;
 Noon, Catholic Mass, Solemnity of Christmas;
 Dec. 31- 6 p.m., New Year's Eve Service;
 Jan. 1- 9 a.m., Contemporary Worship;
 Noon, Catholic Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

CAMP MCTUREOUS | 622-9350

Dec. 25- 9:30 a.m., Protestant Christmas Day Service;
 12:30 p.m., Gospel Service;
 Jan. 1- 9:30 a.m., Protestant New Year's Day Service;
 12:30 p.m., Gospel Service

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

• *West Chapel:*
 Dec. 25- 11 a.m., Protestant Service;
 Jan. 1- 11 a.m., Protestant Service
 • *East Chapel:*
 Dec. 25- 10 a.m., Catholic Mass, Solemnity of Christmas;
 Jan. 1- 10 a.m., Catholic Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

WWW.KADENACHAPEL.ORG

• *Chapel 1:*
 Dec. 24- 4 and 6 p.m., Catholic Christmas Vigil;
 Midnight, Catholic Christmas Midnight Mass;
 7:30 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Services;
 Dec. 25- 10 a.m., Contemporary Worship Service;
 Dec. 31- 4 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass;
 Jan. 1- 11:45 a.m. and 4 p.m., Catholic Mass;
 10 a.m., Protestant Contemporary Worship Service
 • *Chapel 2:*
 Dec. 24- 5 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Services;
 Dec. 25- 9:30 a.m., Traditional Worship Service;
 Jan. 1- 9:30 a.m., Protestant Traditional Worship Service
 • *Chapel 3:*
 Dec. 25- 10:30 a.m., Gospel Worship Service;
 Jan. 1- 10:30 a.m., Protestant Gospel Worship Service

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Nihongo o benkyo shitai”
 (pronounced Knee-hone-go O ben-k-yo sh-tie)
 It means, “I want to learn Japanese”



Dec. 5 - 9

RIFLE RANGE
 Sgt. Daniel Maltx
 1st MAW, 342

PISTOL RANGE
 no detail