

OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 23, 2011

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Marines reflect on achievements of 2011

1st Lt. Jordan Cochran
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — This was a year of new beginnings and new friendships.

During 2011, III Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Marine Division both received new commanding generals, Marine Corps Installations Pacific activated, and 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade reactivated as a permanent command element. Additionally, III MEF participated in more than 70 exercises throughout the Asia-Pacific region, building bilateral relationships with partner nations, developing greater interoperability, and sharing diverse skill sets.

Throughout the year, III MEF Marines deployed from Okinawa to support Operation Enduring Freedom, providing critical support to the offensive.

March 11, mainland Japan was hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami. Marines and sailors from Okinawa quickly responded, demonstrating the importance of the MEF as the “tip of the spear” in the Pacific. Later dubbed Operation Tomodachi, which is Japanese for “friend,” the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts included more than 1,000 Marines and sailors delivering supplies and aid to the hardest hit areas.

The strong relationship between III MEF, MCIPAC and Japan was evident in the



SEE PAGES 3-11 FOR A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR EACH UNIT

many joint celebrations and meetings. Two visits from Japanese foreign ministers and three visits by Japanese defense ministers were made to leadership on Okinawa, showing how important the Marine Corps is to security and stability in the region.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. assumed command of III MEF Jan. 7 by saying, “III MEF is known throughout the Corps as the tip of the spear, we are the ‘911 force’ of choice.”

February marked Exercise Cobra Gold’s 30th iteration,

bringing 24 nations together in Thailand to build relationships, train and increase interoperability.

III MEF would return to Thailand later in the year to assist in flood-relief efforts, after significant rainfall from the monsoon season resulted in flooding, affecting 8.2 million people.

During March and April, Marines deployed to Exercise Balikatan. During the exercise, U.S. and Philippine Armed Forces completed construction projects and provided medical, optometry

and dental care to 8,000 people.

During late spring and summer, Okinawa experienced several strong typhoons. They damaged some property but had minimal impact on the Corps’ ability to continue its mission, demonstrating Okinawa Marines’ ability to withstand adversity.

In September, Marine Corps Installations Pacific was activated with Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri at the helm. Talleri is also the commanding general of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

3rd MEB reactivated Dec. 13, establishing a permanent expeditionary command element in the Asia-Pacific region. 3rd MEB is positioned to help maintain theater security and strengthen relationships with partner countries through participation in exercises and relief operations.

This year, III MEF and MCIPAC demonstrated the value of a forward-presence in the Asia-Pacific region and are positioned to effectively respond to contingencies throughout the coming year.



2011
IN NUMBERS

more than 600 U.S. service members assisted in flood relief efforts in the Kingdom of Thailand

174,700 lbs water and rations provided in support of Operation Tomodachi

2,218 HMM-265 has flown sorties

\$13,605,000 Dollars raised by the CFC-Overseas

15,000 TOTS

3,380 UNITS OF BLOOD DONATED

1,130 Babies born at USNH VISIT Okinawa

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Looking ahead

2nd Lt. Evan Almaas

As we look back at the accomplishments and victories, small and large, of 2011, we should also look to the future. In life, our journey should always be onward and upward. We should always seek new challenges to overcome and strive for opportunities to make a difference.

To do this, we must establish a baseline. We cannot be effective without accurately perceiving our current state and then striving to improve.

At this point in the year, most of us are between fitness tests and are enjoying time with family and friends. However, soon physical fitness will again be at the forefront of our minds.

People often neglect their physical fitness during the holidays assuming that it can be regained with little effort, but this is not the case. According to one fitness expert, an athlete will experience 3 to 4 percent strength loss in the first week of inactivity. Over several weeks of holiday lethargy, this results in a significant hole to climb out of.

Twenty to 30 minutes of activity at least three days a week will allow an athlete to maintain their fitness. Adopt this plan during the holidays to set yourself up for success.

The U.S. is experiencing an economic slump. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in November unemployment was 8.6 percent nationwide and 23.7 percent among teenagers. The unavailability of civilian work has made military enlistment an increasingly attractive option

and career retention critical. As such, Marines and sailors should take every opportunity to increase their competitiveness. Personnel can take advantage of tuition assistance to earn college credit. Also, websites such as MarineNet and Marine Corps Institute, make it easy for Marines to increase their education, improving their eligibility for reenlistment.

As full-scale military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan winds down, the U.S. is changing focus to the Asia-Pacific region, as indicated by statements from the secretary of state and president. The commandant agrees.

"As we draw down (troops in Afghanistan) and we reorient the Marine Corps, it will be primarily to the Pacific," said Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, during a recent visit to Marines in Afghanistan. "The main focus of effort is going to be the Pacific for the Marines."

As we contemplate what 2012 will bring for each of us, we must also consider how the Marine Corps will change, and how we fit in to the new paradigm.

As Marines currently in the Pacific, now is the time to shine. We are the foundation that the Corps will use to strengthen its presence in the region.

As we look toward the horizon of the coming year, know that our actions, focus and dedication will be the deciding factor in the future of our bright Corps. By taking this as a personal call to action, we can ensure peace and stability for years to come.

Almaas is the press officer of the Okinawa Marine.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

III Marine Expeditionary Force

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., middle, commanding general of III MEF, receives the III MEF colors from outgoing Commanding General Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling, left, as former III MEF Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Fierle stands by to retrieve the colors from the new commander during a change of command ceremony Jan. 7 at the Camp Foster parade field. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher*



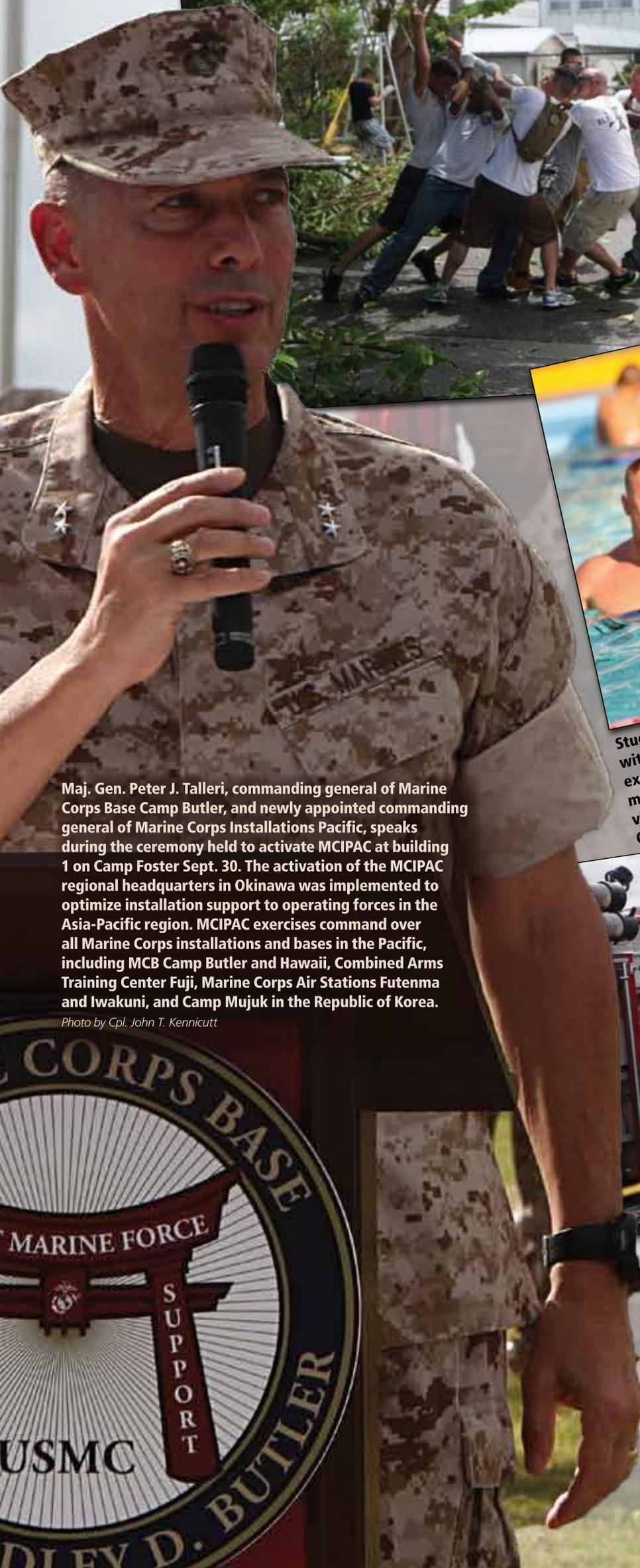
A humanitarian assistance survey team, consisting of nine Marines and one sailor from III MEF, boards a KC-130J Hercules cargo aircraft assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 at the flight line on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Oct. 15. The HAST traveled to areas in Thailand affected by monsoon flooding to conduct assessments and help determine potential humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support requirements. VMGR-152 is assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

Lance Cpl. Joel Juarez, a military working dog handler, Military Police Support Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, shows his dog Benny a route to be searched for simulated improvised explosive devices at Oura Wan beach on Camp Schwab July 26. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud*



French horn players from each of four participating bands kick off a combined concert in Sendai, Japan, Sept. 24. The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Central Band, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Central Band, III MEF Band and the U.S. Army Japan Band participated in the concert. The event was held in remembrance of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 11 and in honor of Operation Tomodachi, a Japan-U.S. combined humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation in mainland Japan following the devastating natural disaster. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan*

Marine Corps Installations Pacific



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and newly appointed commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, speaks during the ceremony held to activate MCIPAC at building 1 on Camp Foster Sept. 30. The activation of the MCIPAC regional headquarters in Okinawa was implemented to optimize installation support to operating forces in the Asia-Pacific region. MCIPAC exercises command over all Marine Corps installations and bases in the Pacific, including MCB Camp Butler and Hawaii, Combined Arms Training Center Fuji, Marine Corps Air Stations Futenma and Iwakuni, and Camp Mujuk in the Republic of Korea.

Photo by Cpl. John T. Kennicutt



Marines take down a tree at Takahara Elementary School in Okinawa City July 1. They volunteered to help clean up the schoolyard following Typhoon Songda, which struck Okinawa in late May. Marines regularly volunteer in the community, cleaning and tidying nursing homes and orphanages, and clearing debris from beaches and public areas.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



Students from Oshima district, Kesenuma City, Miyagi prefecture, play water games with Marines at a pool party on Camp Foster held as part of a four-day cultural exchange program that took place Aug. 6-9. The children, from some of the areas most affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 11, visited Okinawa to interact with Marines who supported the relief effort, known as Operation Tomodachi.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



Marine Corps Base Fire and Emergency Services respond to a fire in Chatan, located outside of Camp Foster, at the request of the Japanese police Oct. 26. MCB firefighters supported the Chatan Fire Department, according to Harry W. Farmer, Jr., deputy assistant chief of staff with G-3/5, MCB Camp Butler. The fire started in Daiwa Electrical Warehouse, an electronic warehouse off base, and spread to surrounding buildings. The MCB fire department dispatched two fire-engines and three support vehicles. Camp Foster's Provost Marshal's Office also responded with two vehicles, which helped control traffic and kept nearby civilians at a safe distance. The response demonstrated the success of a mutual-aid agreement with Chatan. "We have a great working relationship with the local fire departments near installations. (The) response was a textbook definition of how well that relationship works," said Scott Minakami, chief of the MCB Fire and Emergency Services.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberko

3RD MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE

A U.S. Marine partners with a Philippine Marine during a mock mechanized amphibious assault Oct. 23 at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Republic of the Philippines. The assault was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, a bilateral, annual exercise focused on improving interoperability and readiness of U.S. and Philippine forces. The Marine is with BLT 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st MEU, 3rd MEB (Forward).

Photo by Cpl. Garry J. Welch



Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake attaches a battle streamer to the 3rd MEB colors, signifying the reactivation of the brigade, during a ceremony on Camp Courtney Dec. 13. The MEB provides combatant commanders with a scalable emergency-response capability throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Timberlake is the commanding general of 3rd MEB and deputy commanding general for III MEF.

Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart



A corpsman arm wrestles with children at Alfonso XIII Elementary School, Quezon, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, at a community relations event Oct. 26 during PHIBLEX 2012. The school was the site of a community relations project between U.S. and Philippine Marines and sailors where they helped build a cement path and provided school and sports equipment. The project was part of an effort to increase readiness and interoperability between the U.S. and the government of the Republic of the Philippines and its military forces, who have worked together during this annual exercise for more than 28 years.

Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart



Royal Thai Marines, along with their U.S. Marine counterparts, assault the beachhead in Hat Yao Beach, Kingdom of Thailand, in an amphibious assault Feb. 10, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold is an annual, multilateral exercise in the Kingdom of Thailand focused on developing partner nation interoperability and relationships. The U.S. Marines are assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force

Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL EXERCISES, OPERATIONS

Gunnery Sgt. Victor Lopez, the scout sniper chief instructor with Weapons Platoon, Landing Force Company, 4th Marine Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, draws crosshairs on a board while Royal Thai Petty Officers 1st Class Ekapot Sengsie, left, and Nantawit Chunjan, right, get practice time as a sniper team May 12 at Sattahip Naval Base, Kingdom of Thailand. The Marines are participating in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, an exercise held between several southeastern Asian countries to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding, build trust between participating military forces, and increase their operational readiness.

Photo by Cpl. Aaron Hostutler



Royal Thai Marines, along with their U.S. Marine counterparts, participated in an amphibious assault Feb. 10 at Sattahip Beach, Kingdom of Thailand, in an amphibious assault exercise in the Kingdom of Thailand. The exercise is an annual, multilateral exercise in the Kingdom of Thailand to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding, build trust between participating military forces, and increase their operational readiness. The Marines are participating in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, an exercise held between several southeastern Asian countries to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding, build trust between participating military forces, and increase their operational readiness. (Forw...



A III MEF Marine speaks with survivors displaced by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami at a shelter facility located inside Watanoha Elementary School, Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture, Japan, March 23, during relief efforts known as Operation Tomodachi.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Steve Acuff

OPERATIONS



Australian Army Maj. Gen. David Morrison, right, commanding general, Forces Command, Australia, during the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting. The charge was carried out by U.S. Marines with Marine Shooting Detachment Australia, New Zealand Army soldiers and Australian Army soldiers. The three-week meeting, which ended May 19, involved military representatives from partner nations competing in a series of combat marksmanship events. Represented nations included Canada, France (French Forces New Caledonia), Indonesia, Timor Leste, Brunei, Netherlands, United States, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand as well as a contingent of Japanese observers. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



Marines assault the beachhead at Hat Yao, Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold 2011 focused on developing partner nations. The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (A-1), III MEF) is assigned to the exercise. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Residents waded in a flood-filled street in Pathum Thani, Kingdom of Thailand, Oct. 17. A U.S. humanitarian assessment survey team surveyed areas of Pathum Thani to assess flood damage and help determine what support III Marine Expeditionary Force could provide to the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Photo by Cpl. Robert J. Maurer

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group Airborne, conduct a fast-roping exercise from a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter at Torii Station Aug. 31. The CH-46E belongs to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

1st Marine Aircraft Wing



Marines with Engineer Operations Company and a soldier with the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division build a rebar support cage Sept. 18 in preparation for pouring the concrete ceiling of a school being built in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The construction was part of an engineering civic action project during Bangladesh Interoperability Program '11. The Marines are assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, 1st MAW. Photo by Sgt. Megan Angel



Sgt. Aaron Klopf, air traffic controller with HMM-265, MAG-36, utilizes a device to measure wind direction, elevation and barometric pressure, and then relays those measurements to the pilots of the KC-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft before the Marines conduct rapid ground refueling training on Ie Shima, Okinawa, Aug 11.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler C. Vernaza



A Marine with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, MAG-36, and a member of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force unload a barrel of kerosene at Ishinomaki Josi High School in Ishinomaki, Japan, March 19. The high school was converted into an aid and relief center for citizens affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which struck mainland Japan March 11. The Marine Corps responded to requests by the government of Japan to support the humanitarian-assistance efforts and delivered more than 100,000 pounds of food, fuel, water and supplies to areas of Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Denny



Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler and Marines with 1st MAW film a commercial at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flightline April 29. The commercial launched the next phase of the "Not in My Corps" campaign, which warns against the use of "spice," a synthetic drug that produces marijuana-like effects. Beydler is the commanding general of 1st MAW. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Griffin



An M1A1 Bangalore torpedo explodes at Range 400 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., as Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd MarDiv., known as the "Lava Dogs," conducts a company-sized live-fire maneuver exercise March 6. The unit practiced company operations while attacking a known enemy position. During the exercise, a combined anti-armor team reinforced the participating companies. Photo by Cpl. Colby Brown



U.S. Marine artillery cannoneers conduct live-fire drills with M777A2 155 mm howitzers as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-1 at the East Fuji Maneuver Area at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, June 21. The Marines were participating in ARTP 11-1 to maintain operational proficiency in support of the U.S.-Japan security alliance and regional stability. The cannoneers are with Romeo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd MarDiv. Photo by Cpl. John T. Kennicutt



Lance Cpl. Allen J. Henricks searches for enemy personnel before moving to clear a house during military operations in urban terrain training during Korean Interoperability Training Program 2011-1 April 10. MOUT training was one of the many aspects of KITP 2011-1 April 2 - May 8 at Camp Rodriguez, Republic of Korea. KITP 2011-1 is designed to strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance and operational readiness while promoting stability throughout the Korean peninsula. Henricks is a radar technician with 12th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), 3rd MarDiv. Photo by Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

Marines and sailors launch combat rubber raiding craft from a beach at Camp Schwab Aug. 9. While aboard the combat rubber raiding craft, they deployed diver propulsion devices to conduct covert insertion certification training. The Marines and sailors are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

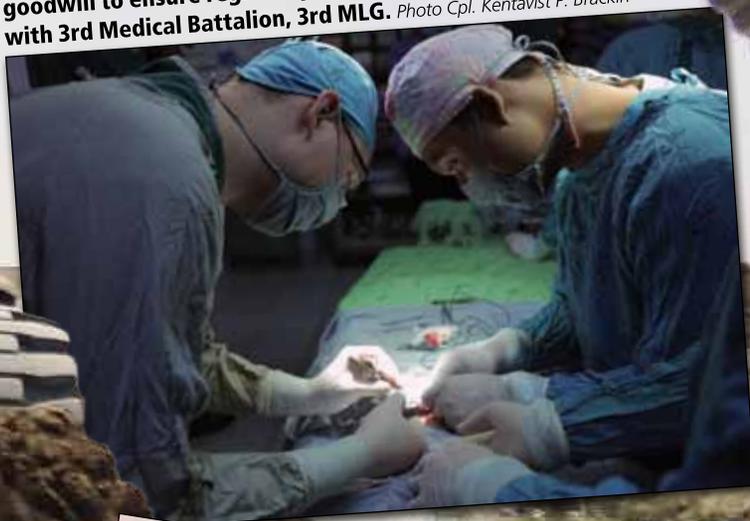
3RD MARINE DIVISION

Combat engineers and heavy-equipment operators with Combat Logistics Battalion 3 use their equipment to install metal culverts during a civil development project in Haji Hanif Khan, a small rural community in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 11. CLB-3 is part of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

Photo by Cpl. Daniel Woodall

3rd Marine Logistics Group

Below, Navy Lt. Charles J. Siegert, left, a general surgeon, and Huot Vutha, right, a Cambodian surgery trainee, work alongside one another to perform a surgical operation on a baby at Children's Surgical Centre, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The surgical training was part of Cambodia Interoperability Program 2011, a regularly held exercise between the U.S. and Cambodian forces that gives both nations an opportunity to conduct joint medical and dental operations, improve interoperability through working together, and foster goodwill to ensure regional peace and stability. Siegert is with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd MLG. Photo Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin



Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group prepare to pump flood water from affected areas of the Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok Nov. 29. The III Marine Expeditionary Force Flood Relief Command Element directed personnel assisting the Royal Government of Thailand with flood-relief efforts.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez



A Japan Ground Self-Defense Force member demonstrates mine-sweeping techniques to the Marines of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG, during exercise Forest Light Feb. 22. Forest Light is an annual, bilateral exercise conducted by Japanese and U.S. service members to improve alliance relationships and security in the Pacific theater. Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

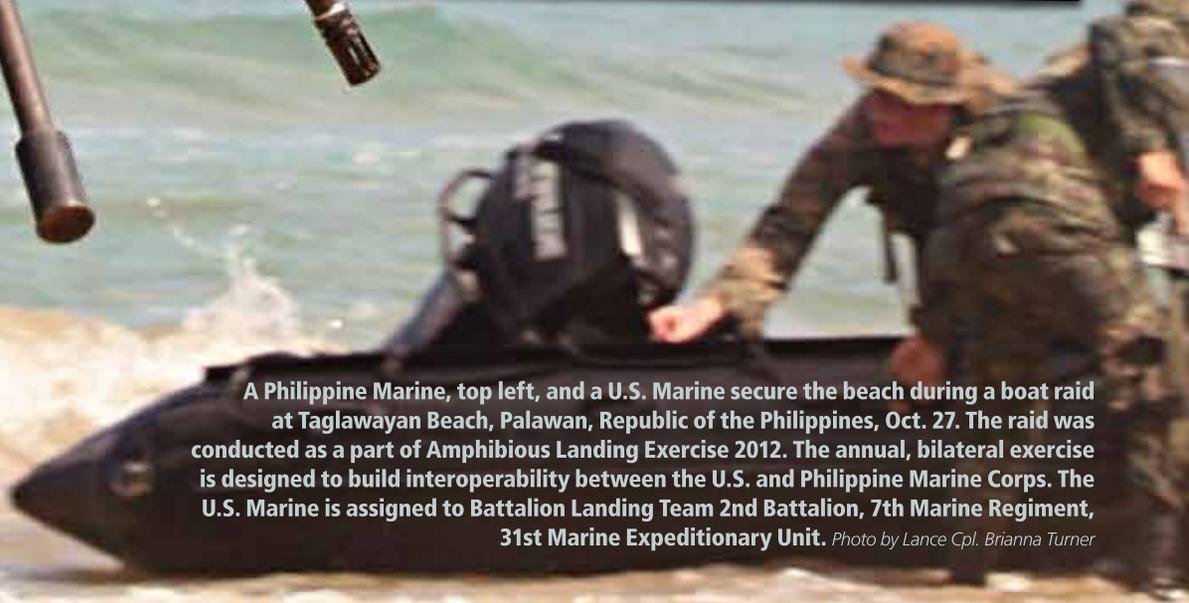


U.S. Marines assigned to Kilo Battery, an artillery unit temporarily assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, load M777A2 howitzers during PHIBLEX 2011 at Fort Magsaysay, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 25. Photo by Lance Cpl. Vernon T. Meekins

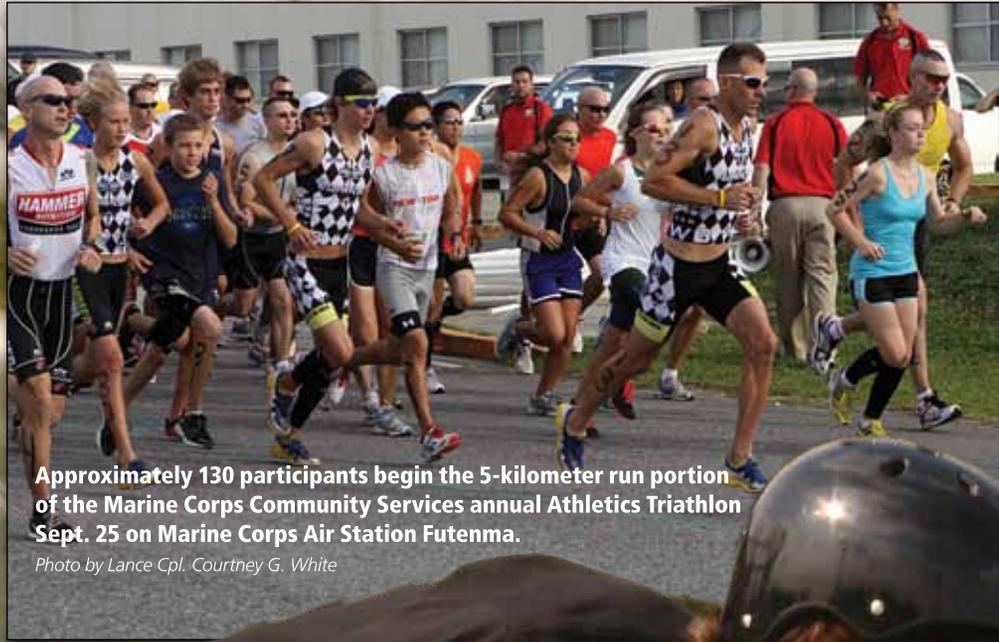


Marines with the 31st MEU, sailors with Amphibious Squadron 11, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and local citizens offload food and water from a U.S. Navy landing craft at Oshima, Japan, as part of Operation Tomodachi March 27. Operation Tomodachi describes the Japan-U.S. led relief effort for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck mainland Japan March 11. Photo by Capt. Caleb Eames

An amphibious assault vehicle with 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 31st MEU, disembarks from USNS 1st Lt. Jack Lummus as part of a maritime preposition force training evolution during Exercise Freedom Banner '11, which took place near Sattahip, Kingdom of Thailand, Jan. 22-25. The exercise demonstrated the Marine Corps and Navy's ability to project force anywhere in the world. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Pena



A Philippine Marine, top left, and a U.S. Marine secure the beach during a boat raid at Taglawayan Beach, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 27. The raid was conducted as a part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012. The annual, bilateral exercise is designed to build interoperability between the U.S. and Philippine Marine Corps. The U.S. Marine is assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



Approximately 130 participants begin the 5-kilometer run portion of the Marine Corps Community Services annual Athletics Triathlon Sept. 25 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White



Julian Royal, number 34, Falcons forward, shoots a basket as Donnelle Butler, number 2, Team of Champions' center, defends the goal during the 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Pacific-wide basketball tournament at the Camp Foster Fieldhouse Jan. 17.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez



Brian Comeaux, 16, a Camp Mctureaux resident, skates the ramps of the new skate park on Camp Mctureaux March 17. Comeaux was one of the first to try out the features of the new park. In-line skates, skate boards, BMX bikes and roller skates can be used in the park.

Photos by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher



Ricardo Miagany, left, attempts to block a head-butted soccer ball by Republic of Korea Marine Cpl. Jang Hyuk Jeen, during a field meet on Camp Rodriguez, Republic of Korea, April 23. The field meet was part of Korean Incremental Training Program 2011-2, a joint-service, bilateral training exercise between U.S. and ROK forces that is designed to strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance, while promoting stability throughout the Korean Peninsula.

Photo by Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin



Kevin Alleman, quarterback for the Marine Air Support Squadron 2 team, runs through multiple defenders during the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Flag Football Tournament held on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Sept. 12.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Manning

Sports Moments of 2011