



the KINTAI
shimbun

One team, one fight: Marines, airmen team up

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Hospital corpsman uncovers dark depths of his history

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

H&HS comes out on top of hard-fought contest with PMO, 18-6

by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

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Dec. 14, 2007

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Commanding Officer, MCAS Iwakuni

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One team, one fight: Marines, airmen team up during Wolmi-Do Fury

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Wolmi-Do Fury ordnancemen build bombs rocking ranges

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Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Rivera, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor vehicle operator and Penuelas, Puerto Rico, native, retracts the "dead man" switch from an R-11 fuel truck while Sgt. Jonathan M. Milstead, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 aircraft mechanic inspects the F/A-18 being fueled on Kadena Air Base's flight line Dec. 6.

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Health announcement

The Branch Health Clinic is now offering flu shots/mist here from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, and Wednesdays from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. only.

For more information contact immunizations at 253-6326.

Lighten the Load Survey

The commanding general of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory is offering a survey to identify opportunities to reduce the combat load of Marines.

The purpose of the survey is to gain insight into a Marine's ability to execute combat tasks with varying combat loads and to identify key factors and decisions that contribute to the heavier combat loads Marines often carry today.

To access the survey, visit <https://www.survey.mccell.usmc.mil/perseus/se.ashx?s=4d192A5796A1C3908CA0730C5A46EED79>.

SMP orphanage toy delivery

The Single Marine Program is looking for volunteers to deliver toys to the children of the Garden of Light Orphanage on Saturday.

The bus will depart the Hornets Nest at 10 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. Sign-ups are offered at the Hornet's Nest to all single and unaccompanied service members.

Holiday Worship Schedule

The Marine Memorial Chapel will be hosting a few extra services here starting Dec. 16 due to the holiday season.

The services are:

Dec. 16: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program (during Protestant service)

Dec. 17-21: 7 - 7:30 p.m.

Catholic Sinbang Gabi (Gift Mass) (Small Chapel)

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

5 - 6 p.m.: Catholic Christmas Vigil Mass

6:30 - 8 p.m.: Protestant Christmas Eve Service

Midnight - 1 a.m.: Catholic Midnight Mass

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day 9 - 10 a.m.

Catholic Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve 10:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Protestant "Watch Night" Service

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day 9 - 10 a.m.

Catholic Mass, Mary, Mother of God

These services are in addition to the regular worship services. For more information, call the station chapel at 253-3371.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

A Christmas pageant presented by the Iwakuni Civic Theatre will be held at the Sakura Theater today at 7 p.m., Saturday at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is a story based on the book by Barbara Robinson. It is open to everyone.

Spouse Tuition Aid Program

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is offering Spouse Tuition Aid (STAP) to spouses of active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel accompanying the service member overseas with a grant of up to 50 percent of tuition cost, not to exceed \$350 per term for undergraduate students or \$400 per term for graduate students. Enrollment may be full or parttime. Call NMCRS for the required forms to apply for STAP and to make an appointment prior to Jan. 4, 2008. An award in one term is no guarantee of future awards.

Any spouse of an active duty Marine or sailor who is seeking his or her first degree (undergraduate or postgraduate) or a certificate in a specialized area who has accompanied the service member overseas is eligible to apply. For more information call 253-5311.

America's Squadron comes to the rescue: Marines to assist in water supply operation

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
Shimbun staff

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 here began mobilizing forces to supply water to Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo Monday.

Fifteen Marines and four Tactical Water Purification Systems (TWPS) from MWSS-171 will join approximately 15 Marines and six TWPS from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, based in Okinawa, to reduce the Sasebo base's dependence on the drought-ridden city of Sasebo's depleted water supply.

The group will utilize the water purification systems to turn surrounding seawater into 175,000 gallons of potable water daily, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert B. Hansill, MWSS-171 utilities officer and native of Lakeland, Fla.

The operation is the largest of its kind for MWSS-171, according to Hansill, who added that during annual required training exercises the Marines typically produce 20,000 gallons of potable water in a week.

During those exercises the Marines used the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU), which the squadron replaced with the twice-as-powerful TWPS less than a week ago. The TWPS incorporates advanced micro-filtration and high salt rejection technology and is capable of operating in extreme temperatures.

“(The TWPS) is a life-sustaining piece of gear,” said Hansill, who added that the squadron was fortunate to have received the system in time for the operation.

Though this is the first time the water purification system will be used by MWSS-171, Hansill doesn't foresee any problems.

“(It's what (the Marines) are being trained on in the schoolhouse,” said Hansill, who added the TWPS and ROWPU are very similar operationally.

The Marines' are scheduled to stay in Sasebo until April 30 but will be there as long as needed, according to Hansill.

“(The operation) brings attention to something we take for granted,” said Hansill: water.

Kintai Quick Shot Extended

Name your newspaper!

The Public Affairs Office will begin publishing a print newspaper starting Jan. 10 and is interested in receiving the public's ideas for a new name.

If you have any suggestions on what the station newspaper should be, call 253-5551 or e-mail us at IWKN_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil.

Iwakuni Police Increase Enforcement

Iwakuni Police Department increased enforcement of motor vehicle operators not making the temporary stop at railway crossings in Iwakuni and will issue tickets to violators. They are also concerned about vehicles parking illegally. They have recently focused their patrol units on these issues and are closely watching for violators.

They are not concerned about any particular demographic and they are not trying to warn MCAS Iwakuni personnel in an adversarial manner. Due to the friendly relationship between MCAS Iwakuni and local authorities, they simply want to inform us of their increased efforts to crackdown on violators and help us take notice in order to avoid a 9,000 yen ticket for not stopping at railway crossings and 15,000 yen ticket for the illegal parking.

One team, one fight: Marines, airmen team up during Wolmi-Do Fury

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – For the past two weeks, the air base here has hosted members of Marine Aircraft Group 12 during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007. The partnership has afforded a unique interservice training experience for Marines and airmen to work side by side and gain a better understanding of one another’s jobs.

The integration is especially evident on the flight line, where the two branches have joined forces to fuel the jets flying sorties. By overcoming the differences between their services and gaining hands-on experience with new equipment, these fuelers have become the embodiment of “one team, one fight.”

“The Marines have a different way of servicing their aircraft, and them coming here is teaching them how we service our aircraft,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Seniour Douglas, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron noncommissioned officer-in-charge of fuels distribution.

Although fueling jets is the main priority on

both sides, each service has its own way of going about the task.

“As far as the Marines, their (refueling areas) are based on combat support,” Douglas said. “They’re doing a lot of different things simultaneously and (are) more concerned with quick turnaround.”

“(The Air Force and Marines) have both made concessions and compromises to a certain extent so we both feel comfortable with what the other is doing,” the Dallas native added.

The leathernecks were quick to adapt to Air Force procedures and have learned a few lessons to share with refuelers back in Iwakuni.

“The Air Force here is really helping us out,” said Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Rivera, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor vehicle operator and native of Penuelas, Puerto Rico. “When we first got here, they were walking us through everything since the way they work over here is different.”

SEE TEAM ON PAGE 5



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Airman 1st Class Christina Flake, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distributor and native of Kelso, Wash., teaches Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Rivera, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor vehicle operator and Penuelas, Puerto Rico, native, some of the finer points of an R-11 fuel truck on Kadena Air Base’s flight line Dec. 6. Marine and Air Force refuelers teamed up to improve interoperability during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Cpl. Micah C. Martinez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist and Joshua, Texas, native, observes Airman 1st Class Luke Thompson, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distributor and native of Geneseo, Ill., fill an R-11 fuel truck on the Kadena Air Base flight line Dec. 6. Marine and Air Force refuelers teamed up to improve interoperability during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007.

TEAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“Marines pretty much train as they fight,” he added. “They may load ordnance while they’re fueling.” But the Air Force, he said, may separate those tasks.

Some changes have been quite welcome by Marines like Cpl. Micah C. Martinez, MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist and native of Joshua, Texas.

Kadena’s R-11 fuel trucks are an improvement over those in Iwakuni, said Martinez.

“They hold more fuel and they’re newer, but come on, the Air Force gets all the new stuff,” he added jokingly.

Douglas said he’s glad the fuelers had the opportunity to join forces, and looks forward to future integrations.

“We’re all brothers,” said Douglas.

“If this brings my younger troops closer together with (the) Marines, I know this will benefit us all in the long run,” he added.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

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Wolmi-Do Fury ordnancemen build bombs rocking ranges

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – IYOYAS (if you ain’t ordnance, you ain’t ...). It’s a credo some may find boastful, bigheaded or just plain blasphemous.

But for Sgt. Todd M. Reifsnyder, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 ordnance quality assurance safety observer (QUASO), IYOYAS is more than a statement of pride in his dangerous and often difficult profession. It’s a way of life.

“I feel ordnance is the most demanding and toughest job out of any air wing job,” said the Levittown, Pa., native. “We definitely do the most labor - we work the hardest and longest hours. I mean, it can suck sometimes, but for the most part you feel like you did something at end of the day.”

“I’m building bombs,” he added. “I wouldn’t want to be doing anything else in aviation.”

Any of the dirty, tired ordnancemen working during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 will echo Reifsnyder’s sentiment. The deployment has given them the opportunity

to do what they do best: build the bombs and rockets wreaking havoc on Okinawa’s ranges.

Any piece of ordnance’s journey to the undercarriage of an F/A-18 begins at the remote 18th Munitions Squadron bomb dump. Nicknamed “Outlaw Territory,” the construction and storage place for tens of thousands of pounds of explosives is no more than a large slab of concrete surrounded by thick jungle vegetation. Ordnancemen working two shifts spend upwards of 12 hours a day here arranging and building their implements of destruction.

In the morning, the first crew arrives and checks the squadrons’ requests for ordnance needed that day. The Armament Weapons Support Equipment (AWSE) gear – trailers and cradles holding the finished bombs and rockets – bearing previous days’ builds must be moved and arranged so 7-ton trucks can transport the munitions to and from the flight line.

“When I come in the morning the first thing I do is make sure all my deliveries are in



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

(From left) Lance Cpl. Adam S. Rose, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ordnanceman and Corbin, Ky., native, and Cpl. David Hewitt, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 ordnanceman and native of Watertown, N.Y., load a one-ton high explosive bomb body onto an AWSE (Armament Weapons Support Equipment) bomb cradle at the Kadena Air Base 18th Munitions Squadron bomb dump during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 Dec. 4.

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Robert D. Hughes, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ordnanceman and Cincinnati native places set screws in a tail to be used on a one-ton high explosive bomb at the Kadena Air Base 18th Munitions Squadron bomb dump during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 Dec. 4.

BOMBS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

order so that I'm not missing anything," said Reifsnyder. "I start sending trucks out to the line ... and start checking requests."

Once everything is organized and all materials have been checked it's time to make some bombs. During the builds the ordnancemen fall under three categories: QUASO, team leader and team member.

QUASOs have the most knowledge and experience with munitions and oversee the whole build, said Reifsnyder. Second in charge are the team leaders who take accountability of the ordnance as well as teach and work with team members, who provide most of the labor for the process.

The Marines deal with a wide array of ordnance during the deployment. Whether they are pods holding seven rockets, 1,000-pound inert "dummy" bombs or massive one-ton high explosive units, special care must be taken to ensure each is built capable of carrying out its specific mission.

According to Sgt. Jonathan R. Caruthers, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 QUASO and native of Poca, W.Va., many of the bomb bodies are fitted with a tail assembly, fuse, arming switch and laser

or Global Positioning guidance system. The process requires physical and mental strength as well as strict attention to detail.

"Everything about these bombs is meticulously inventoried," said Caruthers. "When we issue a bomb to somebody we don't just issue a bomb. We issue a bomb body, a fuse, a 122 switch – we issue all the components."

"I like the brotherhood. You have all ranks out here having fun and supporting the air wing."

**-Cpl. David K. Myhre
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Ordnance team leader**

"It's a lot of grunt work, but it's also very technical," he added.

Wolmi-Do Fury is valuable training for the leathernecks, especially those less-experienced ordnancemen who don't have the opportunity to build in Iwakuni.

"Back in the rear we're mostly maintenance. We do a lot of cleaning and fixing gear," said Cpl. David K. Myhre, Marine Aviation

Logistics Squadron 12 ordnance team leader and native of Nampa, Idaho. "Out here, this is our actual job – building ordnance, building bombs and rockets."

"It's a good feeling to me, because once the pilots get their experience with (ordnance) here ... wherever we go we save lives, save our Marines," he added. "Our main objective is air support, so it's a good feeling supporting the ground troops."

One might assume from the ordnancemen's constant joking and teasing that these Marines have worked in Iwakuni together for years. Unit Deployment Program Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 312 and 314 bring ordnancemen from their home stations in Beaufort and Miramar, however, giving the Marines a chance to forge friendships from across the Corps.

"Most deployments I've been on there's always three to four different units all working together," said Reifsnyder.

"Ordnance is a small community. After one or two deployments with ordnance, you meet so many people you always see them again."

It is this sense of unity and camaraderie that endears the job to Myhre. "I like the brotherhood," he said. "You have all ranks out here having fun and supporting the air wing."

Iwakuni Civic Theatre to perform ‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever’

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
Shimbun staff

The Iwakuni Civic Theatre will bring the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” to life today through Sunday at the Sakura Theater here.

The play is based on the book written by Barbara Robinson in 1972 and is about a group of disruptive children who discover the meaning of Christmas when they participate in a church play about the birth of Christ.

The book has received rave reviews on Amazon.com with nearly every reviewer giving it five stars. Many said the story is hilarious and contains a powerful moral message.

Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$5.



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

The Bradleys have a discussion about the town church’s annual Christmas pageant during the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” In the play, Grace Bradley takes over as the pageant’s director when the usual director breaks her leg. Mrs. Bradley faces the difficult task of motivating the disruptive Herdmans. (From left to right: John Kenji Tolentino, Chastity Hercher and Christian Ayala.)



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Grace Bradley, Christmas pageant director, has a difficult time controlling the boisterous Herdman kids in the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” The Iwakuni Civic Theater is performing the show at the Sakura Theater today through Sunday. (From left to right, front row: Emily Schesser, Asia Zayas, Rachel Zalucki, Sean’ta Byrd, Sarah Bradley; back row: Christian Ayala, Emily Silva, Kate Cutshall, Zack Landean, Mitchell Pope, Bryan Cutshall; standing: Chastity Hercher.)

Hospital corpsman uncovers dark depths of his history

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

Most service members arriving here quickly realize that they have just landed in a fish bowl. It's a safe place. It's a fun place. It's been called the Marine Corps' "best kept secret." But it's no combat zone.

For Petty Officer 3rd Class Jae Y. Kwon, a 22-year-old hospital corpsman, arriving here was a dream come true. The Fallujah veteran said that these last two years of his career in the Navy will be a vacation.

Calm, cool and collected, Kwon wiped his hands clean after enjoying his plate of Kentucky Fried Chicken with fellow petty officers. Since his arrival in July, his warm, soft-spoken voice is one his co-workers have gotten used to. But few know his history as he rarely speaks of it. Now in an atmosphere with set hours and permanent personnel, he tries to recollect a time when the worst part of his job was doing his job.

November 2004, thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops executed the famous push



Photo courtesy of Petty Officer 3rd Class Jae Y. Kwon
(From left) Lance Cpl. George Payton, rifleman from 3rd Platoon, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment takes a breather with then- Seaman Jae Y. Kwon, a hospital corpsman from Ellicott City, Md. Kwon was attached to 3/5 during the November 2004 push into Fallujah City, Iraq.

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KWON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

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November 2004, thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops executed the famous push into Fallujah City, the insurgent-infested stronghold of violence at the time. Kwon was attached to the Pendleton-based 3rd Platoon, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Some might remember his role in a certain firefight that earned him a Navy

Achievement Medal with a Combat "V" for valor. (The story can be found by typing "Payton" in the Marine Corps News search engine on www.usmc.mil and clicking on the Dec. 4, 2004 article.)

His story is one of many acts of heroism seen during those times. As Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz once aptly described, uncommon valor was a common virtue. Kwon, was clearing buildings with 3/5 Marines during Operation Al Fajr Nov. 14. It was the last house before completing their objective that day. On the second story, Kwon's squad was attacked by a roomful of insurgents, mortally wounding his friend, Lance Cpl. George Payton. Armed with a shotgun, Kwon swung into action, leaping across a danger area to aid Payton. However, it wasn't the end of the day's bloody reality, according to Kwon.

"We took in a lot of casualties that month, six killed in action and say 20 or 30 wounded," Kwon said. "All I heard was, 'Corpsman up! Corpsman up!' During those times, I did what I had to do in the moment. There are no heroes, just professionals doing their job. I learned an important life lesson during those times: Stay alive. Live. I learned what it meant to care for the guy next to you and how dependant you can be on each other."

Like many, Kwon became permanently nestled in the comfort of his unit - his band of brothers. One life-long friend, former Marine Staff Sgt. Jesse M. Toland, now a Department of State contract security worker in Iraq, said in his eyes Kwon is a Marine and was treated as such.

"Doc Kwon was a fellow brother in arms," said Toland, a Schenectady, N.Y., native. "Even as rounds were flying over our heads, he would take care of the wounded and keep us in the fight. He kicked down doors and cleared rooms as every Marine did, and at the end of a full day of operations he would attend to our Marines' medical needs."

"Doc," as most came to know him, was known for providing not only medical relief, but comic relief as well.

"Kwon was just a cool cat," said former Marine Sgt. Mason H. Fisher, a friend of Kwon who is now a union iron worker in Mohawk, N.Y. "He's the type of guy that can always make you laugh - have a talk with him and you'll forget about how bad things are as soon as you hear his goofy laugh. Don't let that fool you though, he's a killer."

It's hard to describe the type of life you live in an infantry unit, according to Fisher. For Kwon, transitioning back to the safe life

presented dozens of challenges.

"The kind of life you live, the expectations you have upon returning home, it's all indescribable," said Kwon. "You live, sleep, eat ... with these guys for months and then one day they die right next to you. You try to make sense of it and you try to grow, but you realize that this is your life and you have to stay alive too - take care of yourself."

Upon returning home to Camp Pendleton, Kwon battled a nicotine addiction and depression. Like most from his unit, coming home was a romanticized thought.

"You hope to come home and feel special and feel like you've accomplished something great," said Kwon. "I still felt young and I felt like there was nothing to turn to at that point so early in my career."

Kwon had just graduated Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton before he deployed to Iraq. The deployment was not only his first taste of action, but his first taste of the Marine Corps.

"I felt like I had been thrust into this situation," said Kwon. "Before the Navy, I guess you could say I was a lazy person."

KWON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

I never thought about what I was going to do or how I would end up. I just took what looked to be the most interesting job the Navy had for me. Seeing how Marines operated and living among them was a unique experience for me. It changed me forever.”

It’s a common story among service members. A child grows up in a one-parent home, joins the service and does amazing things. Kwon lived in a small home in Ellicott City, Md. His father worked in Korea while his mother raised him and his sister in the United States. He admits to joining the Navy in an attempt to evade attending college for fear of failure. However, with his experiences, he said he feels pursuing a career in medicine would only be fitting.

“After that firefight happened and I realized that I wasn’t going to be able to save this man, I felt helpless; I felt I wasn’t going to be able to do my job,” said Kwon. “It’s a terrible feeling. People are counting on you to be the one with the answers. At such an early point in my career, I didn’t have all the answers and I couldn’t save everyone. I knew that same night that I would try to help people for the rest of my career, be it in the Navy or as a civilian.”

“Doc Kwon will never be a civilian at heart,” said Toland. “Not with what he has experienced in his time serving in the military. He will bring his professionalism, honor and courage to the civilian world.”

Kwon has plans to take advantage of his Montgomery GI Bill and go to school near his hometown. As for the present situation, living in Iwakuni provides somewhat of a physical and mental break before the end of his enlistment.

“In my stay here, I don’t plan to forget about what I learned back with my 3/5 Marines,” said Kwon. “I do hope that I become more productive than I was upon returning to Camp Pendleton. Since my arrival, I quit smoking and I started running.”

Kwon has participated in many races in the local area. He joined the Iwakuni cross-country team and has plans to participate in a Miramar-held marathon with the team next spring.

“At such an early point in my career, I didn’t have all the answers and I couldn’t save everyone. I knew that same night that I would try to help people for the rest of my career, be it in the Navy or as a civilian.”

*- Petty Officer 3rd Class Jae Y. Kwon
Hospital corpsman*

“Running, I’ve learned, helps alleviate a lot of stress that comes from living in a new place and stress that builds up over time,” said Kwon. “It’s healthy and it makes me feel like I’m progressing as a person and

also becoming more popular around here – that’s always a good thing,” he said laughingly.

Kwon’s optimistic attitude has made him quite a few friends here, although he said when he arrived he was reluctant to speak to most people. The set hours and schedules took some getting used to, but he manages.

“He’s a hard worker who consistently conducts himself as a professional,” said Toland. “He has the courage and fortitude to do his job, no matter the task.”

Kwon works in the military medicine section of the Robert M. Casey Medical Clinic here. His story in no way makes him easy to pick out from a crowd; it didn’t change the look in his eye nor did it make him appear to be a hero. In his words, there are no heroes, just professionals doing their jobs.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jae Y. Kwon is a hospital corpsman from Ellicott City, Md. His story is like many Iraq veterans. His history doesn’t make him a hero, he said, because there are no heroes, just professionals doing their jobs.

H&HS comes out on top of hard-fought contest with PMO, 18-6

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
Shimbun staff

With a merciless offensive attack, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron “Liberty Risk” ran away from the Provost Marshal’s Office 18-6 in intramural flag football action at the North side field here Tuesday.

H&HS’s potent duo, quarterback Marcus “Cap” Caporaso and running back Jason “E.T.” Etienne, combined a versatile offensive strategy with quickness and agility to outsmart and overrun their opponent.

Coming off its first loss of the season, H&HS (12-1) took advantage of its first possession of the game. Utilizing its nearly undefendable pass-run option play for large ground gains, H&HS took the ball the length of the field before Cap capped off the opening drive with a 5-yard touchdown pass to lineman Antwan Clay.

“I try to run outside and once they commit to me, I’ll pitch it,” said Caporaso, about H&HS’s signature option play. “When they start forgetting about me, then I just run.” To defend the run, the opponent typically

sacrifices its pass coverage, opening up the third option - throw the ball downfield, added Caporaso.

A failed extra-point attempt left H&HS with a 6-0 lead.

Both teams moved the ball during much of the remainder of the first half but were unable to create a momentum-building play until H&HS struck again two minutes before the break.

On third and goal, Cap was able to drop a pass into the hands of well-covered receiver Terrance Carty on a fade route to the rear right corner of the end zone. H&HS didn’t convert the extra point but took a 12-0 lead into the half.

During the break, H&HS coach Derrick Hart urged his pumped-up team to stay focused.

“Don’t relax. Keep bringing it to ‘em.”

To get back in the game, PMO needed to find a way out of its offensive rut. Because of its limited arsenal, PMO had to rely on its passing game.



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron “Liberty Risk” running back Jason “E.T.” Etienne jukes Provost Marshal’s Office defenders during an intramural flag football game at the North side field here Tuesday. H&HS defeated PMO 18-6 during the regular season game.

Heavily pressured, quarterback David Morse could barely find the time to deliver the ball to his receivers through the tight windows provided by H&HS’s smothering defense. On the final play of his team’s opening second-half drive, however, he delivered a 30-yard floater to receiver Ethan

Cherasia, whose outstretched arms pulled in the perfectly placed pass for a margin-narrowing touchdown.

Though unable to convert the extra point,

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FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

PMO cut its deficit in half.

With 14 minutes left, H&HS took possession of the ball and continued to deliver the plays they needed to ward off PMO’s energized defense. H&HS confidently marched down the field for what would have been a resounding answer to PMO’s score.

From PMO’s 10-yard line, Cap delivered a short pass to receiver Marice Jones along the left sideline. Jones was unable to gain control of the ball, however, and bobbled it into PMO linebacker James Walker’s hands in a tide-changing play.

A rejuvenated PMO team looked to capitalize on the turnover on its ensuing drive. Morse caught H&HS off-guard, connecting with multiple receivers to drive his team deep into H&HS territory. On the H&HS 15-yard line, PMO was threateningly close to a game-tying score when one of Morse’s bullet passes was tipped by the intended receiver. The ball ricocheted several feet into the air before falling into the hands of H&HS corner Jason Brown.

With the ball, H&HS continued to exploit its bread-and-butter option. H&HS consistently came up with drive-prolonging plays and ran



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Short in stature but not game, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron quarterback Marcus “Cap” Caporaso led the “Liberty Risk” to an 18-6 victory over the Provost Marshal’s Office Tuesday.

seven minutes off the clock in the process.

PMO kept H&HS out of the end zone until fourth and goal when, with excellent protection, Cap passed on his first two options before finding Jones in the back left

corner of the end zone.

Jones and his teammates leaped into the air in excitement.

“We just didn’t want to lose again,” said

Caporaso.

“They were ready to play; we weren’t,” said Ethan Cherasia, PMO receiver and cornerback.



Cpl. Steve Longoria (left), a native of San Benito, Texas, greets a toy contributor in front of the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) here Dec. 9 in his dress blue uniform as part of the 60th annual Toys for Tots campaign. Longoria voluntarily manned his post for two hours in hopes to inspire station residents to contribute toys to needy children across the Pacific, to whom the gifts will be donated.

Campaign contributions are still highly encouraged. Families are invited to deliver their gifts to donation box locations including the first floor of Building One, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 headquarters Building 128, Hornet's Nest, Marine Lounge and the MCX entrance. Marines wearing the dress blue uniform will continue to greet gift givers at the MCX entrance next weekend as well.

RAV sweeps through Iraq, hundreds of Marines re-enlist

Lance Cpl. Charles McKelvey
II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

Making the decision to serve one's country as a United States Marine can be a life changing event. As the Marine Corps continues to maintain a high operational tempo, deciding to re-enlist for many Marines is a more difficult decision. However, it is a decision all Marines must make.

The importance of reaching out to deployed Marines during this crucial time in their career was recently recognized when a group of Marines from Manpower Management Enlistment Assignments arrived in Iraq. The visit would bring them to Al Anbar Province which is currently home to more than 24,000 Marines, mostly belonging to the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), commanded by Maj. Gen. W.E. Gaskin.

Led by Colonel Peter Ferraro and Sergeant Major Gary Weiser, their mission was cut and dry; help commanders retain their Marines. The MMEA Retention Assist Visit consisted of Career Retention Specialists and enlisted assignment monitors who worked as an integrated team to satisfy the needs of the

Marine Corps and the desires of the Marines and their families. The team's composition allows it to answer questions about re-enlistment and assignments and re-enlist Marines on the spot. What normally takes an average of 30 days to receive reenlistment authority and assignment orders can be accomplished in a few hours with the MMEA RAV.

While in Iraq the team visited 11 Forward Operating Bases including Camp Fallujah, Al Asad, Al Taqaddum, and Ramadi among others. Thanks to rotary wing support, the team managed to visit even the smallest bases such as Forward Operating Base in Hit occupied by 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

The RAV team conducted 2,213 interviews among 2,918 Marines who were reenlistment eligible and issued 464 sets of permanent change of station orders. The end results of the visit were impressive. A total of 715 Marines chose to stay Marine, and the numbers continue to rise as requests are still being processed, said Master Sgt. Mark H. McKay, CRS SNCOIC for II MEF (Fwd).

"Not only did we set a milestone with the amount of Marines who re-enlisted, we were



Lance Cpl. Charles McKelvey

Gen. James T. Conway congratulates Cpl. Keith A. Porter, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, shortly after re-enlisting 55 Marines in a single ceremony aboard Camp Fallujah, Nov. 23.

able to accommodate many of the Marines' requests," said McKay. "There were a lot of happy Marines walking away with duty stations they thought they never could get. Another benefit was we were able to assign

more than 100 Marines to special duty assignments such as Marine security guard, drill instructor, Marine combat instructor and recruiting duty."

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RAV CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

One of the highlights of the trip was a group of 55 Marines reenlisting before the Commandant of the Marine Corps General James T. Conway, and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlton W. Kent.

“This was a very memorable experience for the re-enlistees,” said Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia, sergeant major, II MEF (Fwd). “Also, this event provided the commandant and sergeant major a chance to be an ‘active’ part in the Marine’s careers, and, oh by the way, are the very ones who fought to get the large sums of money that our re-enlistees are banking.”

A retention visit to the Marines in al Anbar Province also met with success in July of 2007.

“The first time we held a RAV this year the results were phenomenal, said McKay. “We managed to re-enlist 1,025 Marines in a 16-day period.”

“Because the event was so successful the first time, we decided to hold a second RAV,” said

McKay. Since most infantry units deploy to Iraq for a seven month period, “We brought back RAV 2 because of a large majority of the units rotated back to the USA in the late fall,” he added.

Although the first trip resulted in more re-enlistments, this most recent visit proved to have a much higher Marine to re-enlistment ratio as there were less Marines throughout

“The first time we held a RAV this year the results were phenomenal. We managed to re-enlist 1,025 Marines in a 16-day period.”

**-Master Sgt. Mark H. McKay
Career Retention Specialist**

the battle space able to take the oath, said Battaglia. “Our Commanding General takes enlisted retention very seriously so everyone gets involved. A team effort, from the CRS’ to the Commander’s and their senior enlisted and from the

retention specialists to the MMEA team, statistics simply support the high morale.”

In total, 1,726 Marines reenlisted during the two visits from MMEA. II MEF Forward has reenlisted to date a total of 4,127 Marines. The end state to increasing the Marine Corps total end strength to 202,000 may not have come from the Anbar Province, but like the province itself, it’s proved to be the model example.



Lance Cpl. Charles McKelvey
Gen. James T. Conway re-enlists 55 Marines in a single ceremony aboard Camp Fallujah, Nov. 23.



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