



the KINTAI
shimbun

MAG-12 heads home for holidays after Wolmi-Do Fury

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Ho! Ho! Holy smokes! Iwakuni Fire Dept. provides hot tips

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SMMO dominates holiday basketball tournament

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These stories and more...

Dec. 21, 2007

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

COVER PHOTO

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Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

Cpl. Sterling L. Robertson, a powerliner for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212, instructs Capt. Olgierd J. Weiss, Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 pilot, with takeoff commands during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 at Kadena Air Base December 4. Service members from MAG-12 recently returned from the two-week deployment.

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PLUS:

Quick Shot Motophoto

Around The Corps Staff Page

Last edition of the Kintai Shimbun

The Kintai Shimbun staff is pleased to announce the weekly online newsletter will be coming to a newsstand near you Jan. 10. The same news, feature and sports coverage will soon be offered in a convenient and accessible newspaper format.

In an effort to prepare for the upcoming transition, the Kintai Shimbun will not be available for the next two weeks, however, current events will still be posted on the station's website at www.iwakuni.usmc.mil.

We've enjoyed serving you online, and now we look forward to being Iwakuni's paper-based top source of local information.

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.mcell.usmc.mil/perseus/se.ashx?s=4d192A5796A1C3908CA0730C5A46EED79>.

Name your newspaper!

The Public Affairs Office is interested in receiving the public's name ideas for the station newspaper.

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

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. 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.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

A wild boar believed to have swam from Hiroshima prefecture made its way to the seaplane ramp here Dec. 20.

Mike K. Gingles, station game warden and native of Shreveport, La., brought down the aggressive pig with a 12-gauge shotgun near the station port facility. According to Gingles, the pig's misfortune will be quite a blessing for some hungry Marines.

MAG-12 heads home for holidays after Wolmi-Do Fury

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

Marine Aircraft Group 12 wrapped up its last deployment of the year as members of the Ready Group made their way back from Okinawa to Iwakuni last week.

Arriving by plane and High Speed Vessel, the Marines and sailors from Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 212, 312 and 314 as well as Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and MAG-12 Headquarters Company concluded Exercise Wolmi Do-Fury 2007.

MAG-12 was successful in conducting the large-scale air-to-air and air-to-ground training objectives, said Lt. Col. Michael P. Antonio, MAG-12 operations officer and native of Coral Springs, Fla.

“We went down to Okinawa because they have the best training ranges in Japan,” he added. “Normally we don’t deploy all three (F/A-18) Hornet squadrons and an AV-

SEE HOME ON PAGE 4

Sgt. Jonathan Castro, a powerliner for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, tightens a bolt on a newly-replaced engine for an F/A-18 Hornet during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 at Kadena Air Base Dec. 4. Service members from Marine Aircraft Group 12 recently returned from the two-week deployment.



Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

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8B (Harrier II) squadron, so it's very rare we get the opportunity to do (this)."

During their stay in Okinawa, pilots honed the close air support (CAS), armed reconnaissance and offensive and defensive counter air skills crucial to handling any hostile contingency in the Southeast Asian theatre.

"It was remarkable in that there were three to four Marine squadrons working in close proximity and working together across a pretty big area," said Capt. Tom Cunningham, VMFA-212 F/A-18 pilot and native of Pensacola, Fla. "It was great because the MAG seldom works deployed like that.

"Working together was the biggest lesson," he added. "On the ground you had mission planning - spending the hours together face-to-face with the other squadrons - and then going out and flying different missions simultaneously."

Especially challenging for the pilots were the extended flight operations during the exercise's final days. The skies shook as MAG-12 provided 12-hour continuous close air support live fire and simulated urban CAS coverage. They also defended high-value assets for an additional six-hour period. In Iwakuni, an F/A-18 might aerial refuel once and continue on, making for a two-hour flight, Cunningham said.

"What was extraordinary about this (deployment) was that we were up there for long periods of time," he added. "To go hit the tanker not once, not twice but maybe four or five times just to stay up there and, in this case, shoot simulated

missiles downrange ... it was a little more tiring."

Wolmi-Do Fury would never have been possible without the assistance of the U.S. Air Force 18th Wing, which lodged, fed and fueled most of the Ready Group at Kadena Air Base.

"As far as joint-service operations, I think things have gone extremely well," said 1st Lt. William P. Grimes, MALS-12 aircraft maintenance officer and Raleigh, N.C., native. "We work down here in Kadena quite often, and I think that the integration between the two forces on the larger scale has gone very smoothly."

Pilots and aircrew weren't the only ones who assisted in Wolmi-Do Fury's success. Antonio said he couldn't be more pleased with the performance of the Marines and sailors who made it possible to move nearly 600 troops and 33 aircraft to Okinawa and back.

"We accomplished basically a deployment of a large majority of the MAG with no significant incidents," said Antonio.

"I think they performed outstanding. They got to execute something that we have rare opportunity to execute," he added. "We attempted to simulate (wartime operations) as much as possible; we accomplished that simulation, and the Marines did their job."

Cpl. Sterling L. Robertson, a powerliner for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212, stands by as Capt. Olgierd J. Weiss, Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 pilot, climbs out of the cockpit during Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 at Kadena Air Base Dec. 4.



Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

Yahata children experience ‘early Christmas’ aboard station

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
Shimbun staff

Marines, sailors and family members of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 shared station amenities and the holiday spirit with Japanese from Yahata Children’s Home in Hiroshima during an annual visit here Dec. 8.

Approximately 45 volunteers escorted the 51 foster children as they received gifts from “Santa Claus” at the exchange, ate lunch and toured the station.

Upon arriving at the Youth and Teen Center Saturday morning, the Japanese guests followed the service members to the exchange for one of the day’s highlights – a gift presentation from Santa Claus.

The participants formed a circle around Santa, making way for the children to approach him and claim their gifts, which were donated by station residents. During the procession, cameras flashed as the service members captured their guests’ joyful expressions.

“They were really excited about (the visit),” said Motoko Murakami, Yahata Children’s

Home director, who added that many of the children woke up early in anticipation of the event. “They kept asking me, ‘When are we going to leave?’”

Following the “early Christmas,” many of the participants treated their guests to lunch at Crossroads Mall. During the meal, the service members asked the children what they wanted to do.

“We’ve got an exciting day in front of us,” said Lance Cpl. Michael Houck, MWSS-171 combat engineer and native of Houston. “Right now we’re just getting some chow, then I think we’re going to head over to the racquetball courts and maybe the skate park.”

It was completely up to the sponsors and their guests to decide how to spend the rest of their time together before rallying back at Youth and Teen Center at 2 p.m. The sponsors took their guests to the library, the park and the Sakura Theater, where a Christmas play was scheduled. The most popular attraction was the station bowling center, which was occupied to capacity by early afternoon.



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Children from Yahata Children’s Home in Hiroshima open presents given to them by “Santa Claus” at the exchange here Dec. 8. The gifts were donated by station residents and were presented to 51 children from the foster home as part of an annual community relations project organized by the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 chaplain’s office.

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At the bowling center, the Marines and sailors enthusiastically offered tips and provided assistance to their young guests. Many of the children returned from the lane smiling or laughing before giving their sponsors a high-five.

Being responsible for a child's happiness was a rewarding and much-welcomed experience, according to Lance Cpl. Steve Moran, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator and native of St. Petersburg, Fla.

"I got a kid back home, but I'm not able to see him that much," said Moran. "I miss him and this kind of fills the void."

Following the tour the service members and their children returned to the event's starting point before saying their farewells.

"It's nice to do something for the community," said Moran. "(This event) has been a great experience."

Many station residents and organizations contributed to the success of the visit, according to Navy Lt. Gregg Peters, MWSS-171 chaplain and native of Kansas City, Mo., who organized the visit. Peters said he hopes the event gave the children a positive



Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Lance Cpl. Heather Mulder, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator and native of Longmont, Colo., watches as children from Yahata Children's Home in Hiroshima play at the park near the WaterWorks pool Dec 8. Marines, sailors and family members of MWSS-171 sponsored 51 children from the foster home as part of an annual community relations project organized by the squadron chaplain's office.

impression of the character of Americans and the U.S. military.

"When they're older, I think they'll likely remember Americans as generous, caring

people."

Ho! Ho! Holy smokes! Iwakuni Fire Dept. provides hot tips for holiday safety

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

It's that time of year again Iwakuni: the holiday season, the season of giving. But is it also the season of fire safety hazards?

Iwakuni's fire safety advisors are providing station residents tips on how to stay safe this holiday season and avoid a flare-up of problems by taking necessary precautions.

In the Marine Corps, safety always plays a key factor in training and on the job. The home should be no different, according to Devin Johnston-Lee, station fire chief and native of Pearl Island, Hawaii. Johnston-Lee suggests a walk-through of the home to eliminate all safety hazards.

“With the extra electrical appliances, make sure you're not overdrawing the power,” said Johnston-Lee. “Make sure you don't have extension cords near water. Follow the instructions for live Christmas trees.”

The Iwakuni Fire Department has released a fire safety pamphlet with guidelines on keeping Christmas trees fire resistant. The handout outlines proper hydration of the

tree, control of the electric decorations and safe tree placement in a home.

Something as simple as ensuring the tree is placed away from heater outlets or fireplaces could mean the difference between enjoying a warm holiday and setting an entire house ablaze.

Other tips in the handout include the testing of all smoke detectors in homes. The fire department also stresses the importance of making a fire escape plan so everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency and how to contact the fire department.

“Most of what we respond to during this time of year has to do with people either overloading electrical outlets or leaving the stove unattended,” said Alvin M. Arita, assistant fire chief and native of Lihue, Hawaii. “In these situations, common sense can save money ... and lives.”

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of more than 400 people, injure 1,650 more and cause over \$990 million in damage in the United States.



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Station fire fighters inspect the laundry room of a Monzen housing area townhouse that caught fire on the night of Dec. 12, 2006.

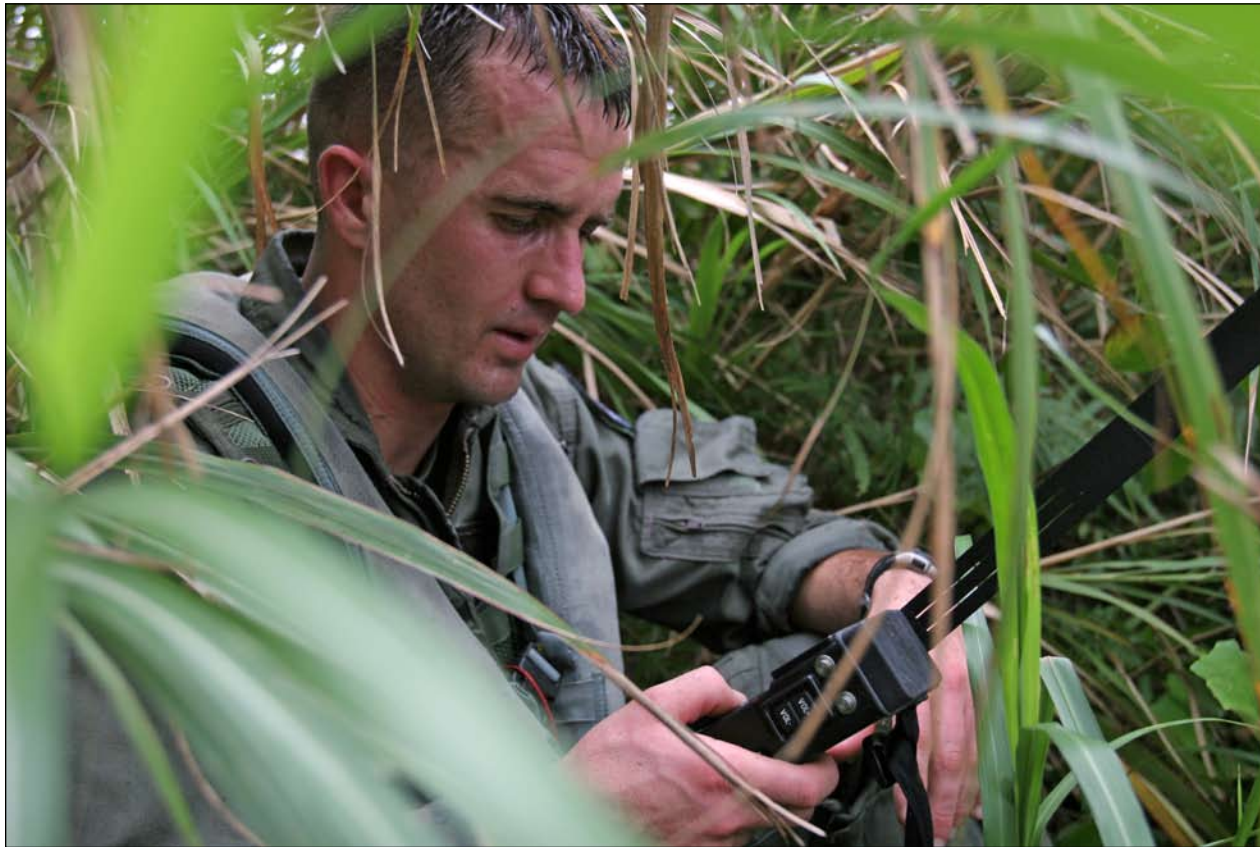
Last December, a fire broke out in the Monzen housing area, causing more than \$100,000 in damage.

The USFA maintains a Web site dedicated to holiday fire safety which the Iwakuni Fire Department recommends station residents visit to stay informed on the subject. Arita also said fire safety tips not only apply to those using on-base housing but to those living in the barracks as well.

Although many barracks regulations are present for fire prevention, many risks are still the same, especially with electrical decorations, he added.

To obtain a copy of the free fire safety pamphlet, stop by the Iwakuni Fire Department or contact the station fire chief by calling 253-3290. Also, to learn more about holiday fire safety go to the USFA Web site at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/>.

Lancer pilot simulates search and rescue during Wolmi-Do Fury



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Jeffrey J. Horton, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18C pilot and native of Union City, Mich., calls for a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter to pick him up during a search and rescue exercise in the thick brush of Okinawa's central training area Dec. 12.

**Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff**

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – “Tiger one one, Lancer one two.”

Sweat dripped off the pilot's nose as he sat hunched under the thick brush waiting for a response.

“Lancer one two, go ahead.”

“Tiger one one, Lancer one two North Pole - awaiting instructions.”

Calling for an air lift in the middle of a dense Okinawan jungle was the farthest thing from Capt. Jeffrey J. Horton's mind when he woke up Wednesday morning, but unbeknownst to the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18C pilot, a search and rescue exercise (SAREX) was in the works.

Exercise Wolmi-Do Fury 2007 wound down with a SAREX in Okinawa's remote central training area between Camps Hansen and Schwab Dec. 12.

Simulating the pilot's jet was shot down in a close air support mission, the exercise

required Horton to evade capture and navigate his way through 200 meters of seemingly impassable uphill jungle terrain.

The point of Wolmi-Do Fury was to strengthen Marine Aircraft Group 12's operational capabilities in the event of a regional conflict, and aircraft loss due to enemy fire is a possibility in such a scenario, said Navy Lt. Sean M. McCarthy, MAG-12 aeromedical safety officer in charge of the SAREX.

“Our pilots rarely train for evasion, land navigation and recovery,” added the Auburn, Mass., native.

“With where we are located and our responsibilities, it is essential that we include this routinely,” he added.

To keep the exercise as realistic as possible, McCarthy employed a location not easily traveled, a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter as the rescue element and, most importantly, an unassuming pilot.

“I showed up for a brief, was pulled aside

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and informed that I was part of a SAR exercise,” said Horton, a Union City, Mich., native.

“Anytime you don’t get to fly you’re a little upset,” he added, explaining his initial apprehension.

After donning his flight equipment, Horton and a small party drove to Camp Schwab where they boarded a covered 7-ton truck and departed for the central training area. Using only the gear on his person, Horton’s task was to locate the SARDOT – the predetermined rally point – and call in a CH-46 to pick him up.

“Before going into combat, you’re briefed on everything about the area, (like) things you can eat and things you can use to survive,” Horton said. “You also have certain extraction points.”

To reach the SARDOT codenamed North Pole, Horton relied on the tried and true field compass and a fairly newer piece of equipment – the AN/PRQ-7 Combat Survivor Evader Locator.

The PRQ-7 is extremely versatile in that it offers voice, encrypted text messaging, Global

Positioning and beacon capabilities, said McCarthy.

“It’s the newest combat air crew survival radio available to the Navy and Marine Corps,” he added. “VMFA-212 is the first squadron to own them permanently. Most squadrons only get them when they deploy.”

Horton wasn’t alone on his trek through the jungle. Ensuring the pilot stayed free of snakebites and sprained ankles was Petty Officer 3rd Class Ashley D. Peterson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 corpsman and native of Northwood, N.H. who said the SAREX was not only a good workout but a chance to gain insight into a pilot’s evasion process.

“It was good training for everyone out there. There was something to be learned from every aspect,” said Peterson. “I (saw) how much work it is for the pilot to actually navigate and stay off the main roads.

“It was very disorienting,” she added. “When we were going through the (vegetation) it kind of felt like we were getting somewhere, but when he checked the radio we hadn’t gotten that far at all.”

Though it took close to an hour of hiking and checking their coordinates, Horton found the



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Jeffrey J. Horton, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18C pilot and native of Union City, Mich., climbs aboard a CH-36 Sea Knight helicopter during a search and rescue exercise at Landing Zone Osprey in Okinawa’s central training area Dec 12.

SARDOT located at Landing Zone Osprey, called for extraction and was quickly picked up in the CH-46.

“This was good training for everyone,” said Horton. “It’s great when you can get everyone together and see how this works out.”

McCarthy said he feels the SAREX was a success, and with command support he

hopes to see similar training on upcoming deployments such as Exercises Foal Eagle in Korea and Cobra Gold in Thailand.

“We only directly affected one pilot today,” McCarthy said. “Right now in the exercise there are four squadrons directly involved. This pilot will come back and brief the others, but the best way to learn and gain confidence is to get the individual training.”

Career course graduates receive diplomas in Hansen ceremony

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa – The Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Career Course 1-08 came to a close Dec. 11, with a graduation ceremony at the Hansen Theater here.

The class of 62 staff sergeants successfully completed the seven-week course on war fighting, military studies and leadership with a 90.6 percent grade point average and 229 Physical Fitness Test average.

The course is designed to produce more proficient staff noncommissioned officers who will be a greater asset to their units and the Marine Corps, said Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Walker II, SNCO Academy Career Course chief instructor.

“With 62 students, there were several different (Military Occupational Specialties) here,” Walker said. “It made it very interesting with so many experiences and background expertise. They did very well adapting to one another and the curriculum.”

Participating in the course were 13 Iwakuni leathernecks. Staff Sgt. Chavali H. McIntosh, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation supply clerk, said each participant brought something different to the course.

“The past seven weeks have been about ... camaraderie with 61 other Marines and various MOSs,” said the Philadelphia native.

“There’s an old saying ‘there’s more than one way to skin a cat,’” McIntosh added. “The leadership styles I’ve observed are very diverse.”

Also diverse was the rigorous physical training regimen. In addition to Corps-standard crunches, pull-ups and three-mile runs, the course incorporated an array of combat conditioning exercises such as stretcher carries and buddy drags.

“It was really, really hard,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. Davis, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 ground data/communications maintenance technician and native of Opelika, Ala. “I think my PFT score went from ... the 240 range to a 279.”



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Graduates of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Career Course 1-08 from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni stand with Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 senior enlisted and native of Avon Park, Fla., after their ceremony at the Hansen Theater on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Dec. 11.

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Graduates of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Career Course 1-08 from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni stand with Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 senior enlisted and native of Avon Park, Fla., after their ceremony at the Hansen Theater on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Dec. 11.

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In addition to a stronger body, Davis said he's leaving the course with a more well-rounded military education, which encompasses both administrative and

combat-related responsibilities.

"It's such a broad (curriculum). We covered all kinds of things – stuff that I might not ever use but someday may need to," said Davis. "Nowadays you can't really tell what

you're going to need to do. An (administrative) guy might go to Iraq as an I.A. (individual augmentee) and fill a security billet, so he needs to know offense and defense tactics."

"It's a lot more tools in your toolbox," he added.

Guest speaker during the graduation was Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 senior enlisted and native of Avon Park, Fla., whose inspiring words drew a standing ovation from both audience members and graduates.

"Staff sergeants, my hope is that all of you realize how important it is where you're at today," Durham said. "It isn't the academy, it is not the building, it's not this graduation; it's these people – your comrades-in-arms – that have made it with you during the past weeks."

"I am honored to be here. I'm very proud to be included in your graduation," Durham added. "I thank you (on behalf) of those who will never forget the sacrifices of all Marines."



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 senior enlisted and native of Avon Park, Fla., speaks to graduates of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Career Course 1-08 during their ceremony at Hansen Theater on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Dec. 11.

SMMO dominates holiday basketball tournament



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Gregory Flowers, Show Me My Opponent (SMMO) power forward, flies up to the rim, scoring a goal during the Marine Corps Community Services Holiday Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Dec. 15.

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Show Me My Opponent (SMMO) went home Saturday night with the first-place trophy and a 4-0 record during the Marine Corps Community Services Holiday Basketball Tournament at IronWorks Gym.

The returning champs claimed victory after defeating the Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai, 70-37 in the final championship round. Travis L. Jenkins, SMMO point guard said the winning strategy was never contemplating defeat.

“Every game we expected a blowout, and that’s just about what we saw,” said the Pembroke Pines, Fla., native. “We were able to claim the No. 1 position in the fall, and this tournament is no different. We come to win.”

SMMO ranked as the top intramural team here during the fall and summer seasons, and the holiday tournament was once again testimony to their greatness.

“We’ve kept our team together for more

“Every game we expected a blowout, and that’s just about what we saw. We were able to claim the No. 1 position in the fall, and this tournament is no different. We come to win.”

- Travis L. Jenkins,
SMMO point guard

than two years now,” said Jenkins. “We’ve gotten used to each other and have become a more efficient team.”

Withstanding the test of time, SMMO tore through the tournament’s brackets, never losing a game. Although it seemed they would have met their match in the final round against the 5-2 high schoolers, Jenkins said they never lost sight of victory.

“I was impressed with how close the high school team came to winning,” said Jenkins. “Six games before the championship round are a lot even for us, and we’ve been doing this much longer than them.”

Aside from losing their first game against PMO, M.C. Perry kept its record clean throughout the tournament, seeing lopsided victories on its way to the final match.

“We just showed up to the tournament hoping they would let us play,” said Justin R. Clement, Samurai team captain and native of Amarillo, Texas. “When they let us compete, we gave it everything we had and ended up doing well. We had to play in every single round of the tournament, so by the end we were exhausted to the point of a loss.” Although M.C. Perry saw a thorough defeat in the last round earning second place in the tournament, its efforts didn’t go unnoticed.

“M.C. Perry did an outstanding job throughout the tournament; we hope to see them next year,” said Alex M. Perkins, MCCA event coordinator. “However, SMMO came to defend their title and that’s exactly what they did.”

For more information about MCCA intramural sports, contact Alex M. Perkins by calling 253-3067.



Matthew Bourgoin, a Matthew C. Perry preschooler, thinks hard about what he wants for Christmas while sitting next to Santa Claus at the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Christmas party at IronWorks Gym here Dec. 14.

Approximately 500 Marines, sailors and family members attended the party, which included a feast prepared by R.G Robinson Messhall staff and served by squadron leaders, raffle giveaways, bounce houses and plenty of Christmas music.

Brothers in arms

Cpl. Billy Hall
2nd Marine Division

Two Iraqi men drove through the city streets of Anah, Iraq, when their suspicions were aroused. They'd made a commitment, and their brothers were counting on them to follow through with their duties.

Unfortunately for four men on the side of the road emplacing an improvised explosive device, the two men were off-duty Iraqi police who work hand-in-hand with Marines from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Task Force Wolfpack, Regimental Combat Team 2.

"This isn't meant for you," said one of the insurgents. "This is for the Marines."

With one man videotaping while the others concealed the IED, they thought this was a situation they could talk their way out of.

"The Marines are our brothers," said the off-duty Iraqi policeman. "We work with them, and you're going to jail."

The Iraqi police have trained with Marines and coalition forces for some time and were

anxious to prove they are ready and willing to maintain security and uphold the law in Anah.

After arresting the men, further investigation by the Iraqi police identified them as members of the area's most notorious terrorist cell.

"This was a pretty effective cell that had been operating in Anah for six to eight months," said Capt. Edward M. Biel, the commanding officer of Company K. "This one cell was responsible for some major actions going on here; to include sniper fire and placing command wire IEDs."

From the initial arrest to the investigation and then on to the Anah district judge, the Iraqis handled the entire case, which shows the overwhelming progress made since the arrival of coalition forces.

"That one wrap-up drove the nail home to not just us, but to all the people of the Anah district, that the (Iraqi police) are the real deal," Biel said. "These guys, no kidding, are here to maintain security and law and order in the area."



Cpl. Billy Hall

A Marine from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Task Force Wolfpack, Regimental Combat Team 2, talks with two Iraqi policemen before a foot patrol through Anah, Iraq. The bond formed between the Marines and Iraqi police has grown to a point where each has found a newfound respect for each other while striving together for the same cause.

The bond formed between the Marines and Iraqi police has grown to a point where each has discovered a newfound respect for each other while striving together for the same cause. As one cohesive team, they learn invaluable information from each other that

only strengthens their capabilities.

"We look at it as we're brothers together," Biel said. "We help them with some of

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the tactical expertise, and they help us understand their culture, people and community.”

With every positive step forward the Iraqi police take, the Marines from Company K are prepared to take a step back and watch the Iraqis take control of Anah.

“The (Iraqi police) have already demonstrated that they’re at a very advanced stage,” said Biel. “We’re getting to a point where we can slowly retrograde our forces, so the people can see the return to normalcy in everyday life. They’ll see their police in their own city and we’ll act more as a backstop, still going out on patrols with the police, so the people know we still care.”

The two Iraqi policemen accomplished more than just arresting a handful of insurgents that day. They set a precedent for the future and gave hope for all those who have a part in it.

A little girl goes to shake the hand of an Iraqi policeman outside a market in Anah, Iraq. With every positive step forward the Iraqi police take, the Marines from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Task Force Wolfpack, Regimental Combat Team 2, are prepared to take a step back and watch the Iraqis take control of Anah.



Cpl. Billy Hall



Henry Temple
Bay City, Mich.

“The greatest Christmas present I ever received was my wife. I met her on Christmas and married her on Christmas, and I’ll always remember it for that.”

Lt. Cmdr. Denis N. Cox
Columbus, Ohio

“The greatest gift I ever received was in 1989. It was the first Christmas after becoming a Christian, and up until that point I only thought that Christmas was about giving and receiving presents. It was that year that I had realized the true meaning of Christmas. God had come down and, shall we say, moved into the neighborhood.”



It is now the much-awaited season of giving, and once again we are faced with opening presents we’ve always wanted or faking a smile to make the giver feel better. If not something tangible, some may have received an interesting experience for Christmas as well. This week we hit the streets to find out...

What was your best Christmas present?



Cpl. Wayne H. Lukasik
Detroit

“During this time last year I was about to deploy to Iraq. I knew the only thing I wanted was to see my family back home. They let me go home for Christmas. Seeing my family was the best present anyone could have given me.”

Rona Martin
Manila, Philippines

“The best present I ever received was a diamond ring. Women love diamonds and jewelry. Everyone knows that.”





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