



the **KINTAI**
shimbun

Aspiring scholars get schooled

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Yahata visit fosters foreign friendships

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

PMO Nation thrashes Crash Crew, 20-0

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

These stories and more...

Nov. 1, 2007

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

COVER PHOTO

College fair shows students array of institutions

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Striking performance at Sakura exposes violent truth

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Marauders celebrate Halloween family day

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Matthew C. Perry 7th-grader Shawn A. Eagmin talks with Northern Arizona University alumnus Lt. Cmdr. George Estrada and his 12-year-old son Christian at their display during a college fair at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 25.

Yahata's hearts, minds opened to America's squadron

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Annual visit brings tricks, treats to local preschoolers

by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

PMO Nation puts the cuffs on Crash Crew, 20-0

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

PLUS:

The Word Around The Corps

Staff Page Motophoto

College fair shows students array of institutions

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

When Diane L. Landean arrived in Iwakuni one year ago, she noticed something was missing.

“Last year when I moved here ... looking around I realized these kids don’t have access to college representatives like they would in the states,” said the Matthew C. Perry AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher and Orono, Maine, native. “Nobody really travels here because we’re in a remote area.”

But Landean wouldn’t let the air station’s location hamper this resource for her students. Thanks to the hard work of a group of teens here, many recently had the opportunity to get the inside scoop on more than 40 different universities during a college fair at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Thursday evening.

Nearly 200 attendees, including a group of 40 students from Sasebo, packed the ballroom to peruse the myriad of informational displays manned by Perry AVID students and

various air station university alumni volunteering for the event.

Beginning as a research project last year, the students compiled information on a university of their choice. After contacting the school and obtaining details on admissions and financial requirements, available majors and campus life, they constructed display boards to be presented at the college fair. Many also acquired literature and pamphlets available for interested visitors.

“Hopefully, they’re feeling a sense of accomplishment for putting something together and seeing it to fruition,” said Landean. “They’ve brought something to this community by way of information on the colleges.”

“The other thing is I hope that they get a deep appreciation for their college and what it takes to get in,” she added.

M.C. Perry 8th-grader and University of Florida hopeful Nick Vischof said he was happy to spend the evening sharing what he had learned about becoming a Gator.

“I learned that they let animals stay in some



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Yale alumni Jake and Elisha Brookover talk about their alma mater with a visitor at their display during a college fair at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 25.

dorms, and I really like dogs,” said the future veterinarian. “I also learned about things like athletics, life at the college, the campus and places there and admission

information ... just a better understanding of the college.”

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 3

COLLEGE, FROM PAGE 2

Middle and high school students weren't the only ones scoping out schools. Representatives from several on-station universities also took time to explain the tuition assistance process to military attendants.

"You can go out in town and buy groceries at great expense or you can go to the commissary. The same thing's true for tuition assistance," explained Russell E. Tate, station education services officer. "Nobody's forcing you to take tuition assistance, but if you don't you just gave away \$4,500 dollars you could have used for college."

According to Landean, the AVID program teaches note-taking, research and organizational skills to career and college-oriented 7th through 12th-graders and helps them look into career fields and colleges that fit their interests.

"(AVID) helps the students prepare now for what they need to be successful," Landean said.

Matthew C. Perry 7th-grader Shawn A. Eagmin talks with Northern Arizona University alumnus Lt. Cmdr. George Estrada and his 12-year-old son Christian at their display during a college fair at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Oct. 25.



Striking performance at Sakura exposes violent truth

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

One woman's monologue unveiled a dark reality to station residents Tuesday during the performance of "The Yellow Dress" at the Sakura Theater here.

The performance, coordinated by Shermona Hart, station victim advocate, is one from the Boston-based Deana's Educational Theater and reaches out to audiences in the United States, Europe and now active duty service members around the world about abusive relationships and domestic violence.

Hart says that for two years she has brought the performance here so that service members and their families can be exposed to the hazards of domestic violence.

"Marines are more 'hands-on' type of people," Hart said. "This performance shows them an up-close-and-personal example of relationship abuse."

The moving one-act play featured a thought-provoking story told by a young woman who fell victim to the horrors of dating violence, portrayed by Amie Brehm.

Brehm, a Boston native, is one of only five actresses from DET to depict Anna, the female victim in the play, and has been acting the tragedy for more than a year.

The story of Anna is based on the true story of Deana Brisbois, who was believed to be killed by her boyfriend more than a decade ago, according to the DET Web site.

Brisbois was killed in a car accident while riding with her boyfriend who had been abusing her for the last two years of her life.

Brisbois' body was found after her boyfriend had claimed he fled the scene in panic. On her cheek were teeth marks believed to be from her boyfriend taking a bite out of her, and the results of a haircut when he whacked off chunks of Deana's head with a knife, reports stated.

Her boyfriend was subsequently jailed for two years on 32 unrelated assault and battery charges following the accident and was never charged with Brisbois' death.

The Brisbois' family developed "The Yellow Dress" play to mirror the story of the 23-

year-old Topsfield, Mass., girl and to reach out to young men and women about the subject using actresses depicting the role.

"I really feel like I'm reaching out and doing a great thing while pursuing my career as a professional actress," Brehm said. "Performing in front of Marines is interesting to say the least. They are more mature than high school students and far more interactive than college students."

Following the monologue, Brehm hosted a guided discussion on abusive relationships. Lance Cpl. Derek T. Rowe, Marine Aircraft Group 12 logistics clerk, said he was impressed by the concern of his peers.

"It's really important for us as Marines to be educated on this topic," said the Proctorville, Ohio native. "High school students haven't developed their personality all the way and college students are their own crowd as well. Service members come from all walks of life, so she's reaching out to all sorts of individuals."

Hart says the performance will stress awareness on the subject to an audience that needs

it more than they might think.

"Service members in Iwakuni are not immune this epidemic," said Hart, a Youngstown, Ohio native. "They think that because they're single, they're safe from any domestic violence and sexual assault. This is not the case."

Last year, there were 18 reported incidents of sexual assault aboard the air station according to a report from Marine and Family Services here.

Hart promotes all avenues for those seeking help and says all active duty members are obligated to report any incidents of domestic violence immediately in an effort to impede such acts.

"Call the (Provost Marshal's Office) and ask for a uniformed victim advocate," Hart said. "Those seeking information can come right to Marine and Family Services for help. We want everyone to know that we're willing to do this in support of them."

For more information on receiving help through Marine and Family Services, call 253-4526.

Marauders celebrate Halloween family day

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

“In this unit, we do a lot to improve quality of life with an emphasis on family,” said Lt. Col. Nicholas L. Knight, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer and native of Clarksville, Tenn., showing families that being part of the Marauders is being part of a large family.

Unit members and their families celebrated the MALS-12 Halloween family day Oct. 28, at the North Side football field here.

The event was coordinated by the Marauders Spouse’s Club as part of a strategic effort to improve the day-to-day lives of unit members. Anita E. Owens, MSC member and native of Greer, S.C., says the event helps to familiarize the families of the unit and to create significant friendships between families as well as unaccompanied unit members.

Owens, along with several other volunteers that make up the MSC coordinate and fund each event that takes place within the unit, raising money through baking sales and fund-raising activities.

“We’ve set up lots of events mainly for the children to have a great time and become acquainted with one another,” said Owens.

The event hosted activities for the whole family including a smorgasbord of home cooked treats and barbeque delights, costume contest, sumo-suit wrestling and words from the commanding officer.

Knight kicked off the family day by addressing unit personnel and their families about his enthusiastic desire to improve the day-to-day lives of his unit members.

“In the past, things were different for the Marauders,” said Knight. “Marines would leave for work before the sun came up and return home in the late hours of the evening. This type of schedule left no time for the family to be with its active duty member, who oftentimes was the head of the household.”

Knight said that the 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. work day was a direct result of his family-oriented game plan to improve quality of life



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Cpl. Xuan Q. Pham, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 legal administrative clerk and Houston native, paints the face of Kendall C. Burgo, MALS-12 family member and San Diego native, during the MALS-12 Halloween family day at the North Side football field here Oct. 28.

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Aliette M. Thompson is handed an air-filled poodle courtesy of a local balloon artist during the MALS-12 Halloween family day at the North Side football field here Oct. 28.

FAMILY, FROM PAGE 5

across the unit before he grabbed a plate for lunch. Lance Cpl. James J. Howard, ground support electrician, says feeding the families of MALS-12 requires a mouthful of different platters.

“We have face painting, ring tossing, balloon twisting and pumpkin carving booths set up for the families,” said Owens. “We want each family to know that we’re willing to come out here to support them.”

“To feed MALS-12 it takes 175 chicken legs, 175 ribs, 200 wieners and roughly 300 burgers. That’s not even counting the food that was brought to us by all the families.”

- Lance Cpl. James J. Howard

“To feed MALS-12 it takes 175 chicken legs, 175 ribs, 200 wieners and roughly 300 burgers,” said the Mt. Vernon, Texas, native while flipping sizzling slabs of meat. “That’s not even counting the food that was brought to us by all the families.”

Sitting atop the 60-foot-long table were dozens of pastries, casseroles and desserts from contributing families. Hungry guests filled their plates and chatted in the covered dining area while children indulged in the surrounding festivities.

The outing carried on until the sun set on the Sunday afternoon while unit members and families made their way home, each holding whatever their arms could carry in leftover food.

“Family days are good ways to get to know your work section outside of uniform,” said Howard. “You get to break bread with your fellow Marines and their families. It’s a refreshing experience.”



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Lance Cpl. James J. Howard (left), ground support electrician and Mt. Vernon Texas, native, turns over dozens of ribs before putting them at the mercy of hungry Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 service members and their families during the MALS-12 Halloween family day at the North Side football field here Oct. 28.

Yahata's hearts, minds opened to America's Squadron



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

A Yahata Children's Home resident winds up before throwing a baseball to a group of service members from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 during a community relations visit to the facility Oct. 27. MWSS-171 is actively involved with the home and regularly schedules community relations events where service members and the children interact.

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

If Lance Cpl. Carlos E. Serrano-Waters ever questioned his impact in Marine Wing Support Squadron 171's involvement with the Yahata Children's Home, his doubts were quelled when a wide-eyed youngster tugged at his pant leg Saturday morning.

"Last year at Christmastime when we adopted the kids for a day and brought them on base, I took these two around - took them to see Santa Claus and everything," said the Southgate, Mich., native, pointing at the pair whose holiday he'd helped brighten nearly a year ago.

"It's crazy seeing how big they've gotten. I'm surprised they still remember me," the bulk fuel specialist added. "This just makes you feel really good."

A group of service members headed by MWSS-171 chaplain, Lt. Gregg Peters, visited Yahata's facility in Hiroshima Saturday.

Yahata, which houses children who are wards of the state, has been enjoying a rich relationship with American military person-

nel almost as long as the institution's director Motoko Murakami can remember.

"My mother and father started the Yahata Orphanage in 1950, after the atomic bomb," Murakami said. "When I was in high school, a lot of people from base used to be here on the weekends to play with the children."

While some Marines and sailors began the day tossing a football or baseball with the energetic tykes, others fired up the grill and began cooking the hot dogs that Yahata youngsters would soon devour.

"It's my first time meeting the Marines," said 14-year-old Ryo Sakai. "I enjoy playing soccer with them, but I like the hot dogs the best."

While the kids had the opportunity to sample American food, the Japanese hosts prepared a large batch of yakisoba – fried noodles mixed with vegetables and pork – for the hungry volunteers.

"Who knows if any of these guys have had yakisoba before," said Peters, a native of

YAHATA, FROM PAGE 7

Kansas City, Mo. “Maybe they think, ‘I’ve never had Japanese food before. What do you get?’ Here’s an opportunity to get out and experience the culture of the community.”

After cleaning up what little remained of the lunch, several busses transported the group to Saiki Sports Park where the kids and adults played baseball, climbed on the playground equipment or simply hung out and enjoyed the fall day.

“It’s been fun playing with the kids,” said Lance Cpl. Ben S. Needle, MWSS-171 food service specialist and native of Weymouth, Mass. “It’s a good thing to come and give them something to look forward to.”

One could see by their expressions the only thing the children weren’t looking forward to was when it came time for the service members to load up the bus and head back to base.

“I was with one kid the entire time, and when he was waving goodbye you could see in his face he wanted us to stay,” said Cpl. Joseph Knox, MWSS-171 bulk fuel specialist and native of Jefferson City, Tenn. “It was a sad goodbye, but we knew we’d be coming



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nwanajuobi Amara, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 corpsman and native of Bowie, Md., shows a Yahata Children’s Home resident how to write the Roman alphabet at the Saiki Sports Park in Hiroshima Oct. 27.

back soon.”

The visit won’t be the last time the kids see their American friends, however. Peters plans to continue the strong rapport MWSS-

171 has shared with the institution for nearly 10 years.

“We’ve maintained this relationship and kept coming here at least a couple times a

year,” Peters said. “We also have these same kids come down on base in December, so I think (the Marines and sailors) want to do something. They want to feel like they’ve had some kind of positive impact.”

Annual visit brings tricks, treats to local preschoolers

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

A clown, a vampire, a priest, an 80's glamour girl, a nun, a witch and a sumo wrestler walk into a classroom.

Though this may sound the beginning of a bad joke, the outcome was nothing short of success when a group of Marines here shared a beloved American holiday with some very excited Japanese youngsters.

Costumed members of station Expeditionary Airfield paid a visit to Ekimae preschool in downtown Iwakuni Monday to take part in an annual Halloween celebration.

EAF Marines have participated in community relations projects with the school for four years, and the fall visit is a favorite for both young and young at heart.

"These kids have nothing but energy; it's like they never run out of it," said Sgt. Jesse J. Marcellin, aircraft recovery specialist and native of Salt Lake City, who dressed as a nun for the event. "I'm a big fan of

volunteering out here."

At first, the four-through six-year-olds seemed a bit wary of some of the Marines' outrageous costumes. Staff Sgt. Marlon D. Goochey, EAF airfield control chief, soon found out the shyness would not last long.

The kids were quick to warm up to the Marines, said the native of Burwell, Neb., who wore a giant inflatable sumo suit for the event.

"They did like to punch my big belly a lot, but they're always like that," he added, laughing. "It's rewarding, and I had as much fun as the kids did."

For the visit, the children prepared homemade costumes worn in a downtown Halloween parade. Their efforts paid off as a procession of pumpkins, specters and superheroes weaved its way through the city, drawing smiles and applause from passersby and treats from several local shopkeepers.

"The children always have a lot of fun, and for some of them this is their first



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Children use Staff Sgt. Marlon D. Goochey, station expeditionary airfield control chief and Burwell, Neb., native, and his inflatable sumo suit as a punching bag during a recent visit to Ekimae preschool Oct. 29.

time celebrating Halloween," said Miyako Tachikawa, Ekimae principal.

Some students who have done this in the past

SEE EKIMAE, PAGE 10

EKIMAE, FROM PAGE 9

remember how much fun it is to dress up and get candy, and they can't wait to do it again, she added.

The day wrapped up as the kids took pictures with their new American friends and practiced a little English in classic Halloween form. With the words "trick or treat," EAF rewarded the tykes with two pieces of candy.

"Before, some of the kids were kind of scared (of the Marines)," said Tachikawa. "Now the kids can be involved with foreign people. They're even starting to learn some basic English like 'hi,' 'hello' or 'good morning.'"

One participant said he enjoyed his first opportunity to volunteer with the school, and hopes the youngsters gained not only a sugar rush, but a better impression of their American neighbors.

"I hope when we come out they see who we really are and what we really stand for as individuals," said Lance Cpl. Johan F. Keller, EAF aircraft recovery specialist and Old Bridge, N.J., native. "Here they get to see some of the great things we bring to this community."



Lance Cpl. Johan F. Keller, station Expeditionary Airfield aircraft recovery specialist and native of Old Bridge, N.J., dances with a group of children from Ekimae preschool in front of the YMCA building in downtown Iwakuni Oct. 29.

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

PMO NATION PUTS THE CUFFS ON CRASH CREW, 20-0

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
Shimbun staff

With an uncontested offensive performance Monday night, PMO nation silenced Crash Crew 20-0 during the fourth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season at the North Side football field here.

The victory improved PMO Nation's record to 3-1 and puts them into the No. 2 position in league standings thus far.

Though the win was not a close one, both teams showed off a destructive defense, battling for control over the ball throughout the game.

"PMO Nation had the upper hand with possession throughout the first half," said David W. Morse, PMO Nation quarterback and Calhoun, Ga. native. "It was nearly a stalemate as far as defense goes, but near halftime we realized we needed to utilize our tight end and get the ball in the air."

With three minutes left in the first half, Joshua Shannon, Crash Crew coach, called a time-out to generate a new defensive strat-

egy, noting that PMO Nation had ceased their ground-and-pound tactics.

"They've been running the ball quite frequently," said Shannon. "Our safety needs to watch out for where the ball is going behind the line."

It was to no avail as the next play Adam Houser, PMO Nation wide receiver, caught a 22-yard pass with two minutes left before the half.

"I almost lost my footing but once I caught it and had possession, I tucked and ran it in before the end of the half," said Houser.

Halftime was Crash Crew's chance to rethink their defensive strategy. Words from the coach during the break suggested that they switch to a nickel formation, spreading out the defensive backs in the back-field.

Jeremy A. Sanchez, PMO Nation defensive end, said his team had a better chance of putting more points on the board in the second half if they attack the Crash Crew defense at its weakest spot.

"The second half is when Morse will feed off



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Adam Houser, PMO Nation wide receiver, lunges for a first down during the fourth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season between PMO Nation and Crash Crew at the North Side football field here Oct. 29.

of Crash Crew's weak safety," said the Bay City, Texas native.

Crash Crew's defense was shoved back 87 yards, ending in a 32-yard pass to Ethan

S. Cherasia, PMO Nation tight end out of Miami, for six points in the beginning of the second half.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 12

FOOTBALL, FROM PAGE 11

The extra point was run in by Jeremy A. Hernandez, PMO nation running back from Austin, Texas, putting the score at 14-0 with 11:26 left in the half.

The last part of the half was a battle for possession with small gains and frequent turnovers by both teams.

“It’s a battle of the defenses,” said Hernandez. “The only way we can get past their aggressive lineman is by throwing it down field.”

A 15-yard pass to Edward H. Sliwinski, PMO Nation center, with less than two minutes left on the clock put six more points on the board, forcing the referees to call the game.

“We came out today and did exactly like we practiced,” said Morse. “It’s obvious that we need to work on our running game, but either way we’re going to come back next week and be 4-1.”

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



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Jay Woods, PMO nation halfback, fights for a gain during the fourth game of the Marine Corps Community Services intramural flag football season between PMO Nation and Crash Crew at the North Side football field here Oct. 29.

Imported Italian heirlooms to be sold

The Chief Petty Officer's Association is scheduled to sell imported Italian decorator items of O&S Collectibles De L'Arte Italiana at the M.C. Perry High School Cafeteria Nov. 17 and 18.

Ceramics, porcelains with Swarovski Crystals and hand-made collectibles by Italian artisans are some of the items that will be for sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. over the weekend.

Marine Corps birthday luncheon

The North and Southside mess halls are scheduled to prepare a Marine Corps birthday meal for all station residents Nov. 7.

Grilled tenderloin steak, lobster tails, baked potatoes, corn on the cob and birthday cake are some of the menu items that will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Those paying with commuted rations will be charged \$6.05 for their meal and family members of the pay grade E-4 and below will be charged a discounted price of \$5.15.

FILAM hosting volleyball coaches meet

The Filipino/ American association is scheduled to host a volleyball coaches meeting Nov. 7 at the Crossroads Mall here.

The association is trying to set up a winter league that is slated to begin in November and is open to all personnel.

Visiting UMUC academic advisers

Station service members have a chance to meet with academic advisers Nov. 26 and 27 at Building 411.

It is advised that clients make their 30-minute appointments early to ensure the scheduled time is more convenient.

Necessary documentation to bring includes any prior University of Maryland University College evaluations, any transcripts from previous colleges and all training certificates from any military schools (for possible transfer credits).

Auditions for Christmas Extravaganza

Auditions for the Dec. 8 Christmas Extravaganza will be held at the Sakura Theater Nov. 18 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 19 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Nov. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The auditions are open for all SOFA status personnel in groups of five to 15 singers. A cash prize will be awarded to the best singing group. For more information, call 253-6745.

Toastmasters International hosts meet

Toastmasters International's next scheduled meetings will be Nov. 7 and 16 at Building 360 in the second floor conference room. The meetings are a free opportunity for station residents and English-speaking Japanese guests to practice public speaking. Call 253-4501 for more information.

Station CO to host town hall meeting

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, is scheduled to host a town hall meeting at the chapel here from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 20.

O'Halloran is also scheduled to appear on American Forces Network Iwakuni's "Commander's Corner" radio show at 10 a.m. Nov. 5 to address and respond to community issues.

Residents are encouraged to first send their concerns and recommendations through the interactive customer evaluation (ICE) prior to attending the town hall meeting to ensure prompt and adequate solutions.

- *To access the Town Hall Concerns Comment Card located on the ICE Web site, click the ICE icon located on the bottom-left side of the www.iwakuni.usmc.mil home page.*
- *Once loaded, scroll to the bottom and click Show all.*
- *Next, click Town Hall Concerns (Base Chapel) at the top of the comment card list.*
- *When filling out your concerns ensure recommendations for solving the problem are provided as well.*



Monica L. Groomes, her friend Kotomi Yamashiki and daughter Norkeshia Y. Groomes, all Iwakuni natives, creep through the spooky passageways of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 haunted house Oct. 31. The haunted house, involving each section of MALS-12, took approximately two weeks to set up, according to squadron members.

MARSOC looks for the right stuff

by Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson
Marine Forces Special
Operations Command

When most Marines enter the Corps, they have some idea of what they want to do while serving their country. Some envision themselves being a military policeman or working on aircraft. Others see themselves patrolling through the jungle with their rifle at the ready or being inserted into foreign territory by parachute under the cloak of darkness. Whatever the case, most are looking for a challenge. Some experienced Marines want to take that challenge to a unique new level and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command may provide what they are looking for.

To find these Marines and bring them into the special operations community, a dedicated team of Marines was established to run MARSOC's recruit, screen, assess and selection process.

Marine Special Operations Companies, built upon the heritage and specialized expertise of the legendary Marine Force Reconnaissance Companies, are conducting special reconnaissance and direct action missions against America's enemies in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, small teams of MARSOC Marines and Sailors draw upon 232 years of Marine Corps mastery of small wars when deployed to austere locations in Africa, South America and other foreign lands as part of a persistent engagement strategy designed to maintain stability, increase security and win wars before they ever begin.

Throughout the past year, MARSOC companies and teams deployed 18 times to carry out special operations missions worldwide. The mission list for the upcoming year is even longer, and as MARSOC builds toward full operational capability in September 2008, the demand for Marine Special Operations Forces continues to grow.

SEE MARSOC, PAGE 16



Official United States Marine Corps photograph

A Marine from Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, shares part of his Meal-Ready-to-Eat with a child in Africa. In addition to being technically and tactically proficient, Marines who enter MARSOC must also be able to make good decisions in ambiguous situations in order to forge lasting relationships with people they encounter on deployment. The language and culture skills-training received by MARSOC operators strengthens their contribution to a persistent engagement strategy designed to preserve and extend security in developing countries.

MARSOC, FROM PAGE 15

To meet that demand, MARSOC recruiters work tirelessly to find experienced and highly adaptive Marines who will be successful in screening, assessment and, eventually, with MARSOC. Recruiters visit units throughout the Marine Corps to present briefs, set up displays, and create and use various recruiting tools to raise interest in MARSOC. Interested candidates are then sent through the screening process.

The screening includes several steps. First, Marines conduct a physical fitness test. They must score at least a 225 and then pass a modified second-class swim qualification. Marines also take an aptitude test and are given a psychological evaluation.

After the screening, MARSOC candidates move on to an assessment course designed to test their mental agility, leadership ability, judgment and physical fitness. Marines and Sailors who demonstrate the ability and potential to excel at special operations missions during the assessment process are selected for assignment to MARSOC.

Marines and Sailors who are selected may be required to return to their units to finish out that obligation first, but once they receive orders to MARSOC, they will begin the

training pipeline. Starting in October 2008, all new MARSOC operators will attend an Individual Training Course designed to provide the baseline individual skills required by all MARSOC operators. Skills introduced during ITC include foreign language and culture, medical, communications, close quarter battle tactics and more.

“The training they get here is really going to help out the rest of the Marine Corps because, when they leave to other units, they take with them a wealth of knowledge and experience they can pass on to their junior Marines.”

Marines will then move on either to one of the Marine Special Operations Battalions or the Marine Special Operations Advisor Group and begin training with their company or team. The MSOBs and the MSOAG share similar mission sets but prioritize them differently. MSOAG focuses primarily on foreign internal defense missions, while MSOBs focus primarily on direct action and special reconnaissance. As MARSOC continues to grow, its companies and teams will

continue to develop capabilities in a wide range of SOF missions.

Staff Sgt. Melbin Medina, a recruiter with RSAS, said MARSOC Marines will have the opportunity to attend almost any advanced training course available. Training include special reconnaissance, airborne, combatant diver and assault climber, scout sniper as

- Staff Sgt. Melbin Medina

well as U.S. Army Ranger School. A large part of the training Marines receive is focused on culture and language skills. One unique aspect is language immersion. For example, when a team of Marines is assigned Russian as its language, then Marines from that team may go to Russia for three to four months to absorb the culture and improve their language skills.

“Our Marines learn so much about differ-

ent countries and get a great sense of how foreign militaries work,” said Medina. “The training they get here is really going to help out the rest of the Marine Corps because, when they leave to other units, they take with them a wealth of knowledge and experience they can pass on to their junior Marines.”

Medina, who was the chief weapons instructor with an MSOAG Team before being assigned to RSAS, said the Marines MARSOC wants are mature, intelligent and experienced. A special operations Marine needs to be able to build relationships, teach important tactics to foreign militaries, and also maintain the skills necessary to effectively conduct direct action and special reconnaissance missions when needed.

MARSOC’s RSAS team works hard to find Marines and Sailors who are looking for new challenges, and they work just as hard to ensure MARSOC and U.S. Special Operations Command have mature and intelligent personnel to handle the unique and integral role MARSOC plays in the Global War on Terrorism.

To learn more about what it takes to qualify as a MARSOC operator, contact the Marine Special Operations School at (910) 450-3349/3123 (DSN 750-3349/3123) or visit us online at www.marsoc.usmc.mil/recruiting.



David McNair
Albany, Ga.

“No, (Europeans) are too big of soccer fans over there. It just wouldn’t happen ... There’s too many (soccer) hooligans. They hate football, they hate that we even stole the word for it. (The NFL) might be over there for two or three more games and that will be it.”

Lance Cpl. Michael K. Reed
Rembert, S.C.

“I think it’s a good thing to open up (football) to new arenas. We should show other people about the true American sport of football and its spirit.”



On Oct. 28, the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins clashed in the first regular season NFL game outside North America at Wembley Stadium in London, England. With ticket prices fetching 66.50 to 133 euros (\$90 to \$180) per seat, the pairing of London’s 2nd and 3rd most popular American teams seemed to be a hot ticket among British spectators. This week we hit the streets to find out...

What do you think of the NFL’s decision to market to European audiences?



Sgt. Max A. Bonham
Auburn, Wash.

“The big sports (in America) are football and baseball, and in a lot of European countries their big sport is soccer. Maybe we can kind of open up the doors for another sport. That will give us that much more we have in common with the Europeans ... and maybe help make (football) a little more interesting.”

Sgt. Alan L. Whaley
Sebring, Fla.

“I think it’s a good thing because we used to have a European (football) league. The NBA started to recruit more players for their European league, so it’s a good way to venture out your market. I don’t think (football) will be as popular as soccer or rugby.”



STAFF

Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Public Affairs Chief

Master Sgt. John A. Cordero

Public Affairs Web Master

Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

Assistant Web Master

Yukie Wada

Layout and Design

Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Press Chief

Cpl. Luke Blom

Combat Correspondents

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Community Relations Chief

Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

Community Relations Specialist

Hiroko Soriki

Hiromi Kawamoto

Public Affairs Administrative Specialist

Hiroyasu Sumida

The Kintai Shimbun is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

