



the KINTAI
shimbun

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by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

31st MEU kicks off Exercise Forest Light

by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

MAG-12 musters motivation

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Nov. 16, 2007

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

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Around The Corps

Volunteer opportunity

Volunteers are needed for the International Friendship Maple Tree Festival scheduled to take place at the Kintai Bridge Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers needed are women with Japanese kimonos and an elementary school student to publicly read in English.

For more information, contact Norio Okamoto at 090-4652-8494

Imported Italian heirlooms to be sold

The Chief Petty Officers 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.

Christmas Extravaganza Auditions

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.

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.

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.*

Commander's Corner audio online

Residents can now download from the station website (www.iwakuni.usmc.mil) the audio file of Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, answering questions from station residents and expressing his intentions for maintaining readiness, vigilance, and quality of life aboard station during Power 1575's Commander's Corner Nov. 5.

SNCO evening dress survey

All Marines may have an impact on changes to the Marine Corps staff noncommissioned officers' evening dress uniform by taking a survey at <https://www.hsisesurveys.com/usmc/sncousurvey/>.

A proposed modification to the SNCO evening dress jacket includes eliminating the bowtie and replacing it with a "standing collar and an open silhouette to provide a distinctive Marine Corps appearance apart from other services," according to the survey Web page. Those who take the survey will be able to voice their opinion to keep the current uniform or adopt the proposed changes.

Visiting UMUC academic advisors

Station service members have a chance to meet with academic advisors 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 school (for possible transfer credits).

Active Shield VIII: Japanese, American rescue forces work as one

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

With one arm pinned under a heavy piece of wood, a bleeding and disoriented Lance Cpl. Kenny R. Pearson lies amidst a pile of jagged rubble looking at the blue November sky. As shock sets in, the 22-year-old slowly closes his eyes and waits for the inevitable. Suddenly, a reassuring voice pulls him out of the daze. “You’re going to be okay, hang on,” the rescuer says as he squeezes Pearson’s free hand. Minutes later the Marine is strapped to a backboard and on his way to a nearby team of docs.

Although he was only an actor in a recent training evolution, Pearson, along with every resident here, is lucky a group of “guardian angels” is ready to spring to action at a moment’s notice.

A group of rescue and medical personnel conducted a mass-casualty drill at the Station Fire Department’s training area, which simulated an IED (improvised explosive device) detonation in a mid-rise near the Station Operations building Wednesday.

The events were just a portion of Active Shield VIII, an annual Japanese - American bilateral antiterrorism-force protection training exercise held here this year. Members of the fire department, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, and Branch Health Clinic all responded to extract and treat victims trapped under a mountain of concrete debris and atop a four-story wooden tower.

A terrorist faction coming on base and a subsequent IED explosion was the premise for Active Shield, said Devin Johnston-Lee, station fire chief and Pearl Island, Hawaii, native.

“It’s similar to what you’d seen at the World Trade Center and at Oklahoma City,” he added. “The easily removed victims are removed and treated, and those that are entrapped or encapsulated in the rubble from the building have to be extricated.”

The morning began as five “live” casualties, played by Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, were placed throughout the training area. Gory makeup coupled with the actors’ screams and moans made for a lifelike scenario requiring



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Lance Cpl. Jonathon T. Jackson, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue and fire fighting technician and native of Aurora, Ill., uses a torch to cut through a metal beam at the Station Fire Department’s training area here Nov. 14.

responders to delicately and expediently treat each victim.

“We were told exactly how to act with our

injuries,” said Pearson, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aviation meteorological equipment technician and

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Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Station firefighters attempt to move a large piece of concrete off a dummy at the fire department's training area Nov. 14. The fire department along with station rescue and medical personnel trained all day in conjunction with Exercise Active Shield VIII.

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native of Lakeview, S.C. "The (firefighter's) team was really quick and extremely careful with what they did and how they handled us. The medical team quickly diagnosed the situation and got us where we needed to be."

The victims were secured to a backboard and transported to a mobile decontamination center. Using a roller track similar to the kind found in airports or factory lines, the patients were slid into a tent in which ARFF personnel could spray off any contaminants from the explosion.

"The reason we send them through decon is to get rid of anything that may be harmful; that way the medics treating them don't have to worry about chemicals," said Lance Cpl. James W. Phelps, H&HS aircraft rescue and firefighting technician and Harrison, N.J., native. "At the end of the decon we had a corpsman standing with us, and (he) let us know where to carry the victim off to."

The first portion of the day's training concluded with the evacuation of 200-pound dummies from the fourth floor of the training tower. To do so, station firefighters strapped the casualties to a backboard and brought them down one-by-one with the assistance of a ladder truck.

"The guys did really well and the cooperation on-base was tight," said Johnston-Lee. "The residents of Iwakuni should feel safer because of the training we have. It's so realistic that when something does happen, whether manmade or natural, we can take care of it."

Later in the evening the firefighters gathered to finish the training and remove five dummies hidden amongst the training area's debris. It would take several hours and a variety of high-tech gadgets to locate and free the victims buried deep beneath a mass of tangled metal and concrete.

Cameras and listening devices are essential tools when going over the rubble and finding casualties, said Johnston-Lee. However, when a victim is unconscious, a special device originally developed for a different purpose can be used.

"Ground sonar comes from the oil industry — the technology used to find pockets of oil," he said. "They used the technology and tweaked it a little bit so we can pick up the air volume movement out of human lungs."

After marking the victims' location, the firefighters went to work using coring devices and air chisels to chip away at the

stone and create exits large enough to safely remove the dummies. Members of various fire departments throughout Yamaguchi Prefecture were in attendance to observe the extrication and tried their hand at removing a casualty from an overturned car buried in concrete.

"Yamaguchi Prefecture is a smaller prefecture in Japan, and the big cities like Tokyo and Osaka have better rescue techniques," said Tomoaki Nishioka, a rescuer from Sanyo Onoda City. "Nowadays, we have to practice newer forms of rescue to prepare for a big disaster like an earthquake."

"I'm very impressed with the equipment (in Iwakuni)," he added. "Tonight, the firefighters were able to see different rescue methods."

Though dirty, tired and half-deaf from the roar of sirens and machinery, Johnston-Lee sees the training as nothing short of success, and says he wouldn't trade his job for anything.

"Why do I do it? It's fun," he said with a smile. "I just haven't grown up. I can break windows, wear muddy shoes inside the house, play with water and not get in trouble."

31ST MEU KICKS OFF EXERCISE FOREST LIGHT 1-08 WITH CEREMONIAL ENTHUSIASM

Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

NIHONBARA TRAINING AREA, Okayama Prefecture, Japan (Nov. 11, 2007) – More than 120 Marines and sailors from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment were formally welcomed Nov. 11 during an opening ceremony and evening dinner held to kick off Exercise Forest Light 1-08.

The exercise, scheduled to last for two weeks from Nov. 11-24, is a semi-annual bilateral training event aimed at fostering interoperability between U.S. and Japanese ground forces while increasing infantry-related readiness.

The welcoming ceremony and evening gathering was hosted by the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's 15th Regiment, 14th Brigade, Japanese Middle Army.

The opening ceremony included words from Col. Hirofumi Hirotsuka, the 15th Regi-

ment commander and Exercise Forest Light training director, and from Lt. Col. Francis L. Donovan, commanding officer of BLT 2/1. Donovan said the training will be an opportunity for the Marines to benefit from one of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's top infantry units.

"While we aspire to learn about equipment, tactics and procedures, we look forward to the friendship and camaraderie that has been the hallmark of this exercise for many years," Donovan said.

Donovan added that the training demonstrates U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan against external aggression.

In the evening, the Marines were invited to attend a dinner at Camp Nihonbara to break the ice with their Japanese counterparts and allow them to build relationships prior to the coming week's events.

During the evening dinner ceremony, Hirotsuka said he is looking forward to once again working alongside the BLT.

"I feel confident in the support and training that our U.S. counterpart has to offer during this exercise," Hirotsuka said. "The relationship between the U.S. and Japanese battalions is a kind one."

Prefecture representatives and Japanese regimental staff members attended the evening gathering. Kind words from local officials including Hiroyuki Kuwayama, Tuyama City mayor, suggested an eager welcome of the BLT.

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Col. Hirofumi Hirotsuka, left, commanding officer, 15th Infantry Regiment, 14th Brigade, Japanese Middle Army and Exercise Forest Light training director, along with Lt. Col. Francis L. Donovan, right, commanding officer, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, address U.S. and Japanese troops Nov. 11 during the opening ceremony for Exercise Forest Light 1-08.



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

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“I can see that this training will be very beneficial in enhancing our Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force’s defensive skills,” Kuwayama said. “The Marine Corps is home to some of the finest and strongest warriors in the world.”

Japanese and American dinner guests became acquainted throughout the evening. Musical entertainment was provided by a small brass ensemble band followed by Japanese soldiers performing Tenrai Daiko, a style of Japanese ensemble drumming.

Donovan thanked local officials on their support and for a professional welcoming of the BLT.

“There is no better place to celebrate our 232nd birthday than ashore with our brothers, our fellow warriors in the Japanese Middle Army,” Donovan said. “Clearly, this will be a terrific exercise.”

Japanese Army Major Hideo Izumi, 3rd Company commander, 15th Infantry Regiment, Japanese Middle Army, returns to his post after welcoming Marines and sailors from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, the Battalion Landing Team of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.



The Marine Corps: A ‘band of brothers’ or group of gossips?

Master Sgt. John A. Cordero
Shimbun staff

Gossip is verbal dynamite. It has entertainment appeal, yet wields the power to divide people and destroy reputations. Gossip is prevalent throughout society. Much of what the media reports as news and what many daily conversations consist of qualifies as gossip. The only difference between gossip and news seems to be whether you hear it or tell it. The prevalence of gossip does not make it right.

Gossip has been defined as useless talk, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. It might even be called the art of saying nothing and leaving nothing unsaid. Gossip, or scuttlebutt in naval terminology, is anything that anyone says unnecessarily about someone that damages that one’s reputation in the minds of other people. Gossip is talking about someone’s weakness, faults, conduct, or even your low opinion about him or her to people who are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution. While gossip may be more than that, it certainly is not less.

There are three reasons why gossip, both the practice and tolerance of it, is wrong: it contradicts the core values of honor, courage and commitment; it violates several leadership traits and principles; and it can hurt the morale and cohesion of a unit.

We as Marines, regardless of our personal beliefs before joining the Marine Corps, have assumed the values and ethics of the Marine Corps, whether they be found in the oath of office or allegiance, Uniform Code of Military Justice, or code of conduct. Since we have voluntarily placed ourselves under all of the Marine Corps’ regulations and traditions, we should gladly embrace them for our good and the good of others.

Consider how lying and stealing relate to faithful submission to Marine Corps standards. While someone might not have thought lying and stealing were wrong before he joined the Marine Corps, he must now behave as if they are wrong if he intends to honor his commitment to the Marine Corps. Lying and stealing may seem like black and white issues for some people, but those same issues are gray areas for people who do not believe in absolute or universal truth but

accept that morality is relative.

Some people in a unit may not think it is wrong to take something that is unsecured. After all, somebody would have properly secured an item if he really did not want it taken, right? Other people may not think it is wrong to claim to be ill to avoid duty or physical training. Yet those actions hurt the people involved and reduce their unit’s readiness level.

Someone who is merely concerned with the letter of the law may claim Article 121 applies only to people who sign or make false official documents or statements or that any article in the UCMJ applies only to people who get caught.

But integrity demands that Marines obey all orders, regulations, and laws from the heart, not merely while knowing somebody else is watching.

The mandates of the UCMJ clearly have moral implications. And those ethical standards should not be viewed as chains that limit our freedom. They should be



Photo illustration by: Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.
Gossip has been defined as useless talk, especially about the personal or private affairs of others.

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valued as precious precepts that aid us in taking care of each other and accomplishing our missions. As we value them, we should not seek to obey merely the letter of the law; we should conform our behavior to the spirit of those standards. Conforming our behavior to the deeper meaning of standards may be seen by applying the principles of not lying or stealing to gossip. Passing on unnecessary information might not be lying as in making up an untruth, but it can do the same damage as a falsehood if it gives a false image about another person. And giving news may not be stealing as in taking something tangible from another person, but it can steal a person's reputation or peace of mind.

That gossip is contrary to the standards that promote good order and discipline may also be seen by looking at gossip in the light of such things as the Marine Corps' core values, leadership traits and principles, and the concept of the Marine Corps as a "band of brothers."

It is not honorable to unnecessarily speak poorly of other people. Nor is it courageous to sit idly by while someone unnecessarily defames someone else. To do so reveals a lack of commitment to our treasured motto "Semper Fidelis" — to be always faithful to

God, country, and the Marine Corps.

Anyone who considers the 14 leadership traits or the 11 leadership principles should conclude that there is no place for gossip in the practice of good leadership. For example, someone who is unselfish or loyal will not entertain himself or others at the expense of another Marine's reputation, whether that Marine is a superior, subordinate or peer. Speaking poorly of a Marine is not looking out for his or her welfare. Gossiping does not set a good example.

Gossip can hurt a unit's morale by dividing people. It can cause disharmony among people and can prejudice one person against another person. If you found out that someone had spoken badly about you behind your back, it would probably make you angry with that person. You might resent the person for wronging you. It could even lead to open hostility.

When someone speaks to us about someone else, those words stick in our minds and are

incorporated into our view of the person spoken of. Those words have the potential power to influence us for or against that person.

Anyone who values the mission and people of the Marine Corps, and who is serious about setting a good example, should not practice or tolerate gossip. On the contrary, we

should carefully weigh the effects that our words are going to have whenever we speak to or about other people. We should use the acronym THINK before we speak. Is what we want to say true, helpful, inspirational, necessary or kind?

Sometimes people repeat what they have heard without verifying whether it is true. Even

if it is true, it may not be helpful to repeat it. For example, a Marine shares his personal problems with another Marine. The second Marine then tells other Marines about the first Marine's problems. Spreading the information will not be helpful if the other Marines do not need to know the information and cannot help. In fact, the information may

cause the other Marines to look down upon him.

One way words can be helpful is if they inspire people to positive action. Sometimes words of rebuke and correction are also helpful. If a Marine consistently drops out of formation runs, a few strong words of encouragement, added with remedial physical training, may be the best thing for him. Yet many things that we speak are not necessary, especially unkind words. In this politically correct age, Marines often negatively refer to the Marine Corps as a "kinder and gentler Corps." There is, however, room for kindness in the Marine Corps. Kindness is not weakness, but strength shown in treating people respectfully, even when they might not deserve it.

Thinking before we speak can help us control our tongues -- a small but mighty tool. As leaders of Marines, we should be concerned about how our seniors, our subordinates, and we use words. We must be tactful in correcting seniors of their oral and moral errors. We must set the example for our contemporaries and subordinates by practicing self-control, refraining from that which is not profitable. Granted, gossip may not be the most pressing problem leaders face, but it can be very divisive. And anything that can affect a unit's morale and cohesion should and must be seriously dealt with.

MAG-12 musters motivation during Marine Corps birthday field meet

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Shimbun staff

It began as a distant rumble and shapeless green blur on the horizon, but as it neared one could make out the rhythmic pounding of feet and thunderous call-and-response of barbaric cadence. As the mob neared they picked up speed and erupted in a tumultuous war cry, the culmination of several hundred years of pride and aggression.

This wasn't a battle scene from the movie "Braveheart" but rather a group of Iwakuni leathernecks celebrating their birthday.

Members of Marine Aircraft Group 12 took to Penny Lake for a field meet in celebration of 232 years of Marine Corps heritage Nov. 8.

The birthday bash began with a motivational run from the station's north side to Building One, where the service members stood in formation for morning colors. After the flags were raised, they continued on to Penny Lake for a day of sports, barbecue and inter-unit camaraderie.

"This is just an opportunity for the entire

Ready Group to get all the squadrons together at least one day out of the year to remember those warriors that are deployed ... and for us to remember those that have given the ultimate sacrifice in the last 232 years," said Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr., MAG-12 sergeant major and native of Avon Park, Fla. "It's a preparatory phase for the cake cutting tomorrow and the yearly celebration we have."

MAG-12 Headquarters, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 212 and 312 all participated in the festivities ranging from traditional favorites like soccer, hot dogs and hamburgers, to not-so-traditional events like "dizzy izzy," Frisbee football and "own the bone."

"I was part of the dizzy izzy team, and that was a lot of fun," said Cpl. Adam M. Guringo, MAG-12 supply administration and operations clerk and native of Harrisburg, Pa. "It definitely added a variety and an element of goofiness to the regular sports."

Units divided into teams for each sport and were awarded points for each individual win. Before breaking for lunch, several



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

A formation of Marines and sailors from Marine Aircraft Group 12 makes its way toward Building One during a Marine Corps birthday run Nov. 8.

deadlocked teams settled the score with a tie-breaking round of "own the bone," a one-on-one tug-of-war match using an hourglass-shaped piece of hardened rope.

"We ended up playing ("own the bone") to see who came up on top," said 1st Lt. Kei Etter, MALS-12 aviation supply officer and

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native of Sasebo, Japan. “We were pretty disappointed we didn’t get to play (soccer) again, but we still did well. In my opinion, we totally dominated.”

Though MALS-12 succumbed to VMFA-212 in “own the bone,” the Mauraders’ spirits were still high.

“Some of our guys had never played soccer before, but we picked them up when they said they wanted to play,” Etter added. “It doesn’t matter how well you do or whether you win or not. That’s not the point of this whole thing. It’s all about building unit camaraderie ... and as long as we’re going out there playing our hearts out and doing our best, that’s all that matters.”

After the Ready Group let their lunches settle, it was time for the day’s last event - tug-of-war. Each squadron’s biggest and brawniest were represented in the double-elimination finale, and MAG-12 newcomers VMFA-312 proved they had what it took to be the group’s toughest squadron when the Checkerboards literally pulled victory from the hands of VMFA-212.

“The Checkerboards are known to go out and take first place in all that we do,” said Capt. Alexander Goodno, VMFA-312 F/A-



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 celebrate their victory as the overall winners of the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marine Corps birthday field meet at Penny Lake Nov. 8.

18 pilot and native of Candia, N.H. “(The Marine Corps birthday) is the first holiday we’ve had in a while, so it felt pretty good to get out there and kick some butt.”

Durham said the enthusiasm and team-building he witnessed during the field meet is the reason the event will continue for years

to come.

“The Marines have said it’s a great thing, that they’ve been glad to do it and that they’re motivated,” said Durham. “It’s been positive feedback from the squadrons, the (Unit Deployment Program) squadrons, the Navy personnel – this is just awesome stuff.”



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 members pull the tug-of-war victory from the hands of Marine Logistics Squadron 12 during the Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marine Corps birthday field meet at Penny Lake Nov. 8.



Station Commanding Officer Michael A. O'Halloran cuts a piece of birthday cake to be given to retired Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Runyon, the oldest Marine present, during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 2007 Marine Corps Ball at IronWorks Gym Nov. 10. Marine Corps Ball tradition dictates the oldest and youngest Marines present receive the first pieces of cake.



Photos by: Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Marine Corps Ball Adjutant 2nd Lt. Miguel A. Cruz reads Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message during the 2007 Marine Corps Ball at IronWorks Gym Nov. 8. Every year Lejeune's message is read at Marine Corps Balls worldwide.



Sgt. Patrick T. O'Brien, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Indoor Small Arms Range operations chief and native of Jacksonville, Fla., addresses attendees of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron 2007 Marine Corps Ball at IronWorks Gym Nov. 10. O'Brien recounted one of his experiences in Iraq and spoke on the importance of avoiding complacency.

A wreath for the fallen

**Gunnery Sgt. Will Price
Marine Barracks 8th & I**

**bugle call or not, your service, your
sacrifice, will be remembered.”**

More than 1,500 veterans, service members and spectators gathered at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 10 for a wreath-laying ceremony honoring fallen service members.

The ceremony, part of observances marking Veteran’s Day weekend and the 232nd birthday of the Marine Corps, was held in front of ANC’s Marine Corps War Memorial, and presided over by General James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps. The guest of honor for the ceremony was Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, H. C. “Barney” Barnum, Jr., deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs.

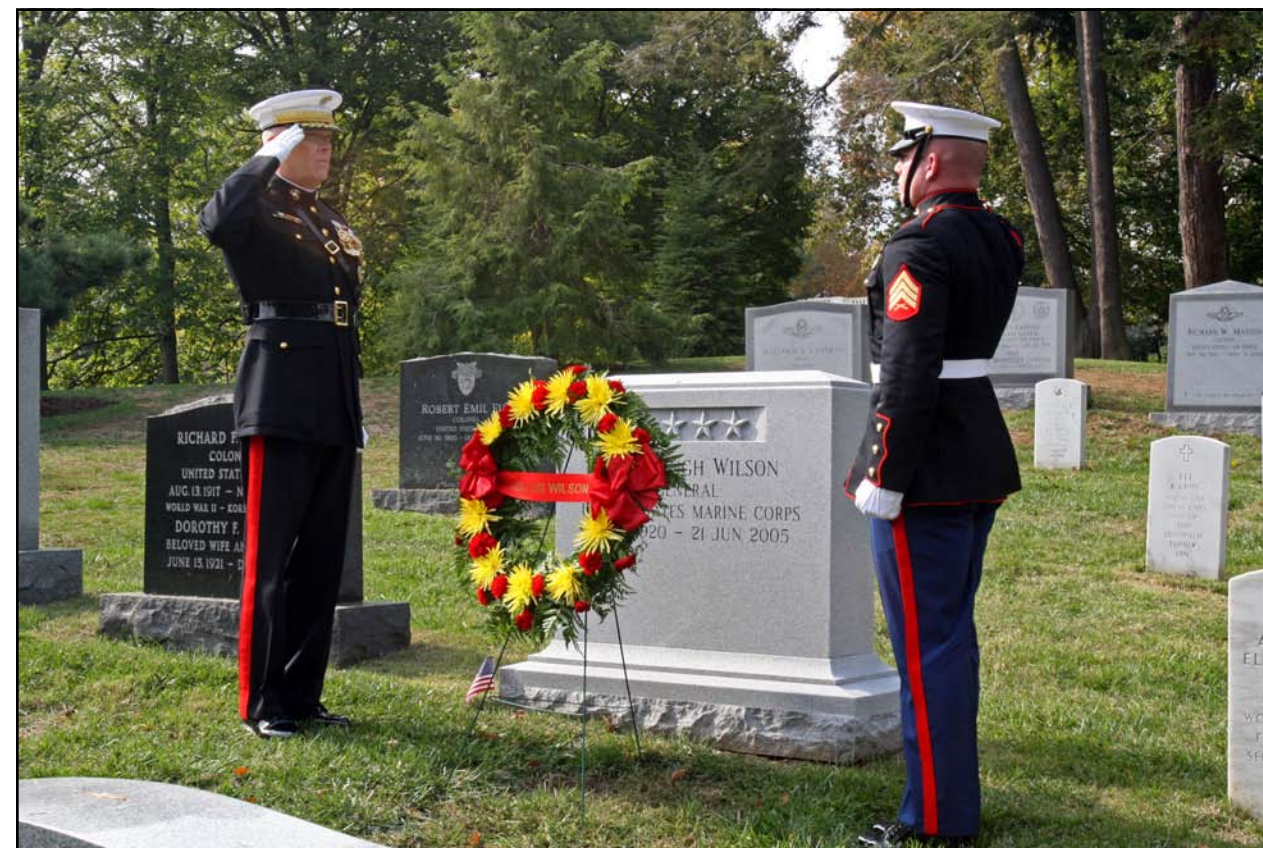
“We will also pause for a moment of silence, to remember those who have gone before us,” said Gen. Conway in his speech delivered at the ceremony. “That’s what Marines do, and that’s a very important part of the ceremony because it shows our young Marines that whether you’re in uniform or not, whether you have answered that final

Notable guests in attendance were the Honorable Donald C. Winter, secretary of the Navy, Retired Gen. P. X. Kelley, 28th CMC, Retired Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr., 30th CMC, Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations and Sgt Maj. Carlton Kent, 16th sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

Under a cloud-filled sky, Gen. Conway, Col. W. Blake Crowe, MBW commanding officer, and Col. Barnum saluted the wreath laid down in memory of all the Marines and Corpsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting their country’s freedoms.

“Today, in a very real sense, is a celebration, of those great young Americans of all services who have gone before and sacrificed to the utmost for this magnificent country,” Conway added.

During the ceremony, all observed with quiet respect the precision drill of the MBW parade staff, United States Marine Color Guard and four ceremonial marching platoons from Alpha and Bravo Companies,



Cpl. John J. Parry

Accompanied by a Marine Barracks Washington Body Bearer, Gen. James T. Conway, 34th commandant of the Marine Corps, honors Gen. Louis H. Wilson Jr., 26th CMC, Nov. 10. Wilson, a recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroism in defence of Guam in 1944, passed away in June 2005. During his tenure, he led the initial push to modernize the Marine Corps by strengthening the Marine Air Ground Task Force using integrated systems.

marching to somber arrangements performed by the “President’s Own” United States Marine Band, and the “Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

Wreath-laying ceremonies were also held at grave sites in Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Naval Academy cemetery, in Annapolis, Md., and at Oak Hill

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Lance Cpl. Jacob H. Harrer

In remembrance of the Marine Corp's great leaders, the Marines of Marine Barracks Washington laid wreaths at more than 20 grave sites of commandants and sergeants major of the Marine Corps Nov. 10. Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, 16th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Michael Watkins, sergeant major of Marine Barracks Washington, pay respects to former sergeants major of the Marine Corps.

FALLEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Cemetery and the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., honoring many former commandants and sergeants major of the Marine Corps.

Thus are the fallen members of the Marine family remembered and honored -- not just with a wreath, but with the eternal appreciation of the Corps, and nation -- for the freedoms they gave their lives to secure. Semper Fidelis!



Lance Cpl. Eric N. Carranza

In remembrance of the Marine Corp's great leaders, the Marines of Marine Barracks Washington laid wreaths at more than 20 grave sites of commandants and sergeants major of the Marine Corps Nov. 10. Marines pause to honor Col. John Harris, 6th commandant of the Marine Corps, at Oak Hill Cemetery.

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