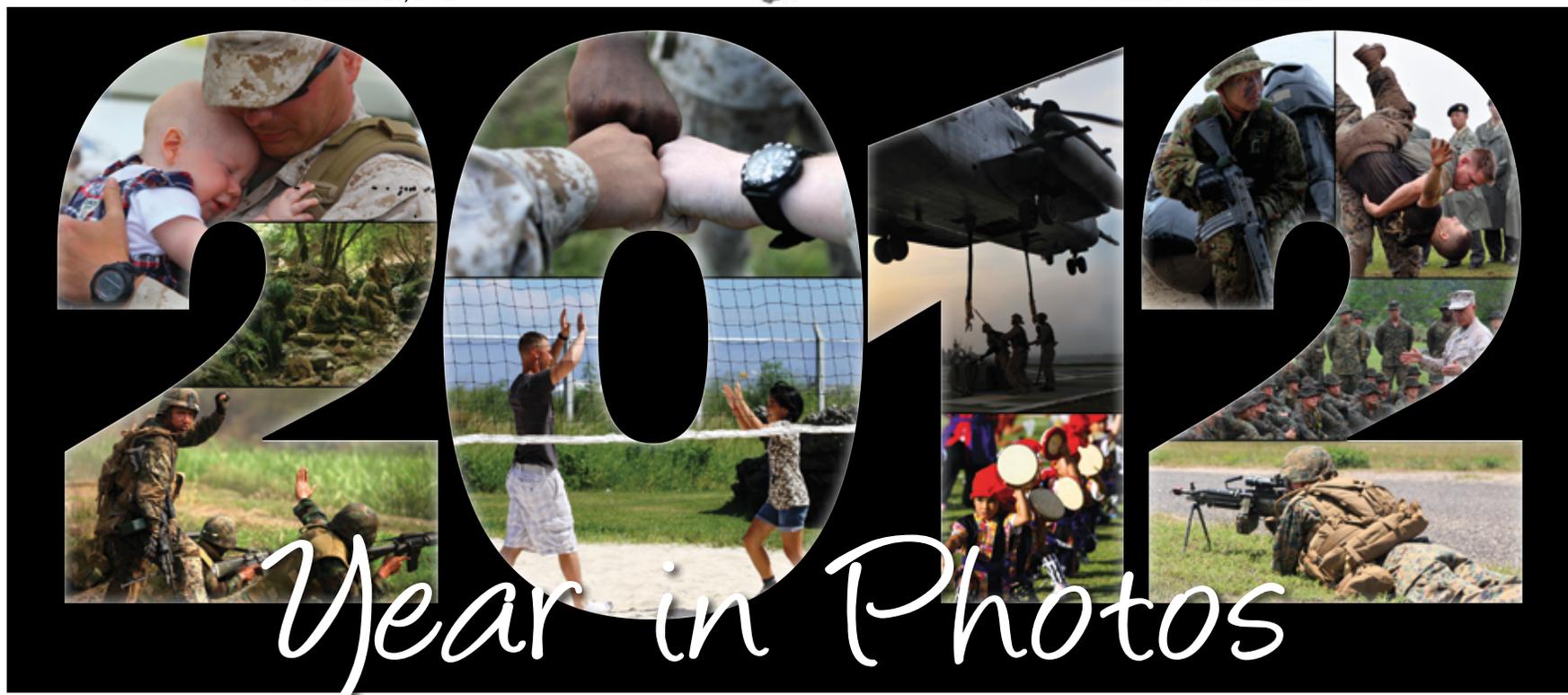


OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 21, 2012

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Marines demonstrate commitment to region

1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — President Barack Obama made clear where the military's focus will be in coming years during his remarks on the Strategic Defense Review Jan. 5 at the Pentagon.

“We will be strengthening our presence in the Asia-Pacific (region),” said Obama. “We’re going to continue investing in our critical partnerships and alliances.”

During 2012, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific spearheaded the military's reorientation to the Asia-Pacific region. Through one humanitarian and disaster relief operation and more than 60 theater security cooperation exercises throughout the region, III MEF and MCIPAC strengthened bilateral relationships, increased interoperability of forces, and exchanged critical skill sets with partner nations.

Additionally, III MEF deployed individual augments and units to provide critical support to Operation Enduring Freedom throughout the year.

On Dec. 4, the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Bopha, which left a path of destruction in its wake. On Dec. 8, III MEF was directed by U.S. Pacific Command to provide support to relief efforts. Planners with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, already in Manila planning for future training exercises, activated a forward command element and identified the need to bring in KC-130J Hercules aircraft to meet the request to transport relief supplies. Seven hours after being tasked, two KC-130Js arrived from Okinawa and began flying relief missions. III MEF conducted 22 flights and transported approximately 750,000 pounds of relief supplies Dec. 9-16 to assist recovery efforts.

The first MV-22B Ospreys to be based on Okinawa arrived Oct. 1, bringing a large increase in



Philippine service members and U.S. Marines off-load relief supplies from a U.S. Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft Dec. 15 at Davao International Airport, Mindanao, Republic of the Philippines. Marines supported Philippine-led relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Bopha, demonstrating the importance of forward-deployed Marine forces in the Asia-Pacific region. Photo by 1st. Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

capability, operational reach and flexibility to the Asia-Pacific region. The Osprey can travel approximately twice as fast and four times as far as the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter it is replacing.

The III MEF and MCIPAC team built on its strong relationship with the local community through numerous community relations events, joint meetings and exchanges of information and exercises between Marines and Japan Self-Defense Force members. Local mayors and Marine leaders signed agreements to allow Japanese citizens to evacuate and first-responders to pass through Marine Corps installations in the event of emergencies.

During Exercise Cobra Gold's 31st iteration in February, 10,000 service members from more than 17 countries trained together in the Kingdom of Thailand to enhance regional peace and security while benefitting the Thai community.

Approximately 200 Marines and sailors arrived in Australia's Northern Territory April 3 as the inaugural Marine Rotational Force-Darwin. During the rotation, the Marines and sailors trained alongside Australian Defence Force members, conducted community relations events, and participated in

training exercises in the region.

June 11 marked the return of the first infantry battalion to Okinawa under the unit deployment program in several years. The battalion took lessons learned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past decade and shared them with partner nations during exercises.

Okinawa experienced several strong typhoons in late spring and summer. However, the III MEF and MCIPAC team was well-prepared, and damage to property and the impact on the Corps' mission was minimal due to the vigilance of Okinawa's Marines, sailors and civilian employees.

Marines returned to the Pacific island of Tinian for several large-scale training exercises for the first time in over a decade. The local community responded overwhelmingly with support, and the island provided unique opportunities for III MEF to train in an expeditionary environment.

This year, III MEF and MCIPAC broke new ground in the Asia-Pacific region, sending a signal to the world that the U.S. is here and committed to a meaningful presence to ensure regional peace and stability.

2012 Year in Numbers

Marine Gift Shop donated more than \$45,600 back to community

160,000 Field Ration Meals prepared during exercises

Toys for Tots collected more than 6,154 toys

Armed Services Blood Bank Program collected 2,826 units of blood

13 Typhoons affected Okinawa

More than 1,097 babies born at the USNH Okinawa

\$13,583,953.85 Dollars raised by the CFC-Overseas

Resolutions for self-improvement take commitment

Staff Sgt. Kenneth G. Lewis Jr.

The tradition of New Year's resolutions is very important to many people. In the coming days, I am sure there will be much contemplation of life-altering resolutions and proclamations that such resolutions will bring profound change to their lives.

What I fail to understand is why people wait to adjust character flaws or correct unhealthy behavior. Some of us want to lose weight, while others set out to tailgate or curse less frequently during the upcoming year. Others among us resolve to make sweeping lifestyle or relationship changes that have a much deeper meaning. The problem lies not in the resolutions themselves, but in our failure to follow our goals through to completion.

There is no time like the present to implement change in our lives. Knowing yourself and seeking self-improvement are objectives Marines pursue inherently, or at least should. I consider self-improvement to be perhaps the most important of all the leadership principles. It reminds us to look inward and identify our own strengths and

weaknesses and to never rest on our laurels.

We have all had a little more time recently to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses. And while a few isolated incidents have demonstrated moments of weakness and reminded us there is room to improve, these incidents are not representative of the thousands of honorable Marines and sailors who behave and perform their duties in a manner that serves our country well. Time and time again, Marines and sailors demonstrate honor, courage and commitment while conducting bilateral training exercises, community relations events and humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region, providing steadfast service for the region and representing their families, communities and the U.S. proudly.

“Visualize yourself as you would be at the moment your resolution is achieved, and act in ways to help make that vision a reality.”

Aside from performing our responsibilities as U.S. service members, we have the rare opportunity to live abroad, on an island of all places, and experience the hospitality, patience and grace of the Japanese people and a culture that is vastly different from what we would experience back in the states.

Perhaps closing the 2012 chapter will serve as a springboard for some to implement positive change in their lives and U.S. service members will feel a sense of renewed responsibility to build upon our strengths and accomplishments. If you do make a resolution, resolve above all else not to let your motivation for self-improvement wane as the year progresses. Visualize yourself as you would be at the moment your resolution is achieved, and act in ways to help make that vision a reality.

Lewis is the press chief with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.



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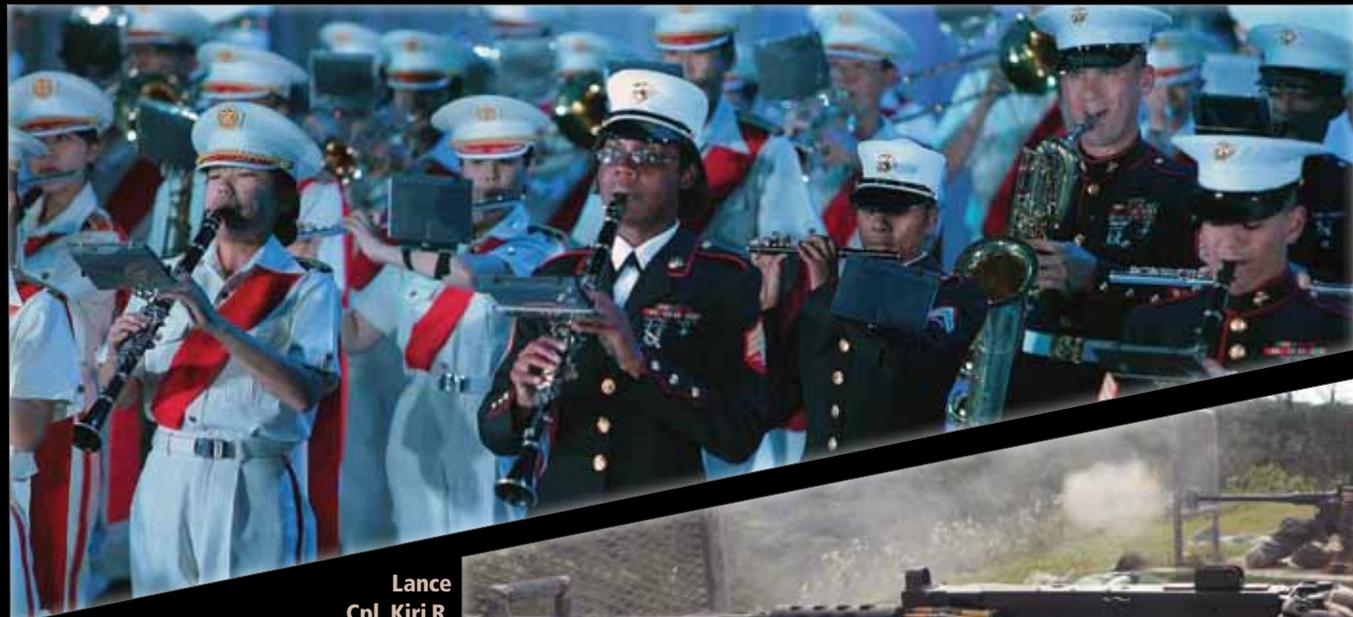
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III Marine Expeditionary Force



From left, Maj. Fletcher Tidwell, Maj. Jonathan Bossie and Staff Sgt. Kristopher Privitar watch CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters take off Sept. 24 from a training area in Guam during the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's certification exercise. Special Operations Training Group conducted the CERTEX, a series of specialized training packages in the Northern Mariana Islands designed by SOTG, to bring the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to a high state of readiness prior to its fall patrol. Due to its location, Guam offers the ability to host multilateral training on U.S. territory, providing a strategic advantage with developing or enhancing partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region and building multilateral capabilities. Tidwell, Bossie and Privitar are all with SOTG, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. The helicopters are with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, 31st MEU. Photo by Capt. Caleb D. Eames

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. addresses Marines, sailors and civilians during an all-hands reflection brief Oct. 25 at Camp Foster. Glueck visited all Marine installations on Okinawa Oct. 24-25 to emphasize service members' roles as ambassadors on Okinawa, reinforce the Marine Corps' core values, and highlight the positive relationship between the Okinawa community and Marine Corps. Glueck is the III MEF commanding general. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano



Marines of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band play side by side with numerous bands from the Japan Self-Defense Force Nov. 17 during the 2012 Japan Self-Defense Force marching festival at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo. The III MEF Band was selected as the Marine Corps' 2012 Band of the Year for its performances and efforts on Okinawa and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

Lance Cpl. Kiri R. Gibson fires a .50-caliber Browning machine gun with assistant gunner Lance Cpl. Steven L. Slone during live-fire training Nov. 28 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Gibson and Slone are both military policemen with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, which activated June 7 to improve law enforcement capabilities and support to III MEF as part of a Corpwide reorganization. The battalion is part of III MHG. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano





Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri says goodbye to children following a visit as he exits Oshima Elementary School Jan. 12 at Oshima Island, Miyagi prefecture, Japan. During the visit, nearly 30 members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and MCIPAC team visited Sendai International Airport and Oshima Island to allow key leadership the opportunity to meet with their Japanese counterparts and to review community recovery progress since the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami of March 11, 2011. Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez*

Marine Corps Installations Pacific



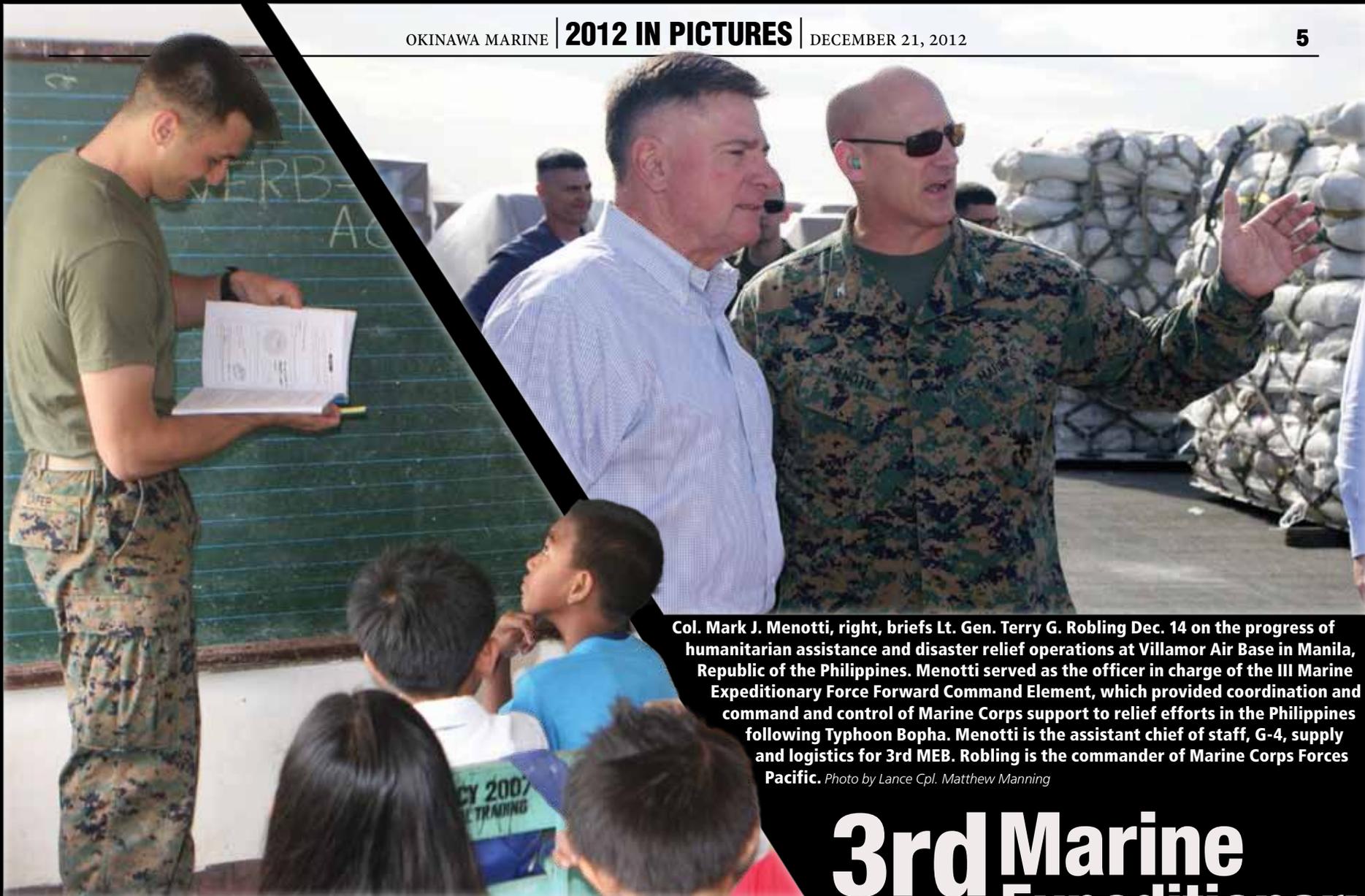
Ginowan City Mayor Atsushi Sakima, left, directs Japanese residents of Ginowan City and Chatan Town through an evacuation route at Camp Foster during a humanitarian assistance evacuation drill Sept. 12 as part of Exercise Constant Vigilance 2012. The drill provided the opportunity for approximately 70 Japanese residents and officials to use on-base evacuation routes and rehearse coordination with the U.S. military in the event of a tsunami striking Okinawa. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum*



Members of the Marine all-star baseball team and the Social Original Local Academy baseball team shake hands prior to a game Oct. 11 at Camp Foster. The Marines hosted the Social Original Local Academy to continue building rapport with the local community through a friendly competition. The Marines are with MCIPAC and III MEF. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan*



Two firefighters with the Kin Town Fire Department carry Lance Cpl. Alden Strodder away from the scene of a simulated aircraft accident April 25 at Kin Blue Training Area. Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Japanese emergency responders conducted multiple training events on different scenarios in 2012 to enhance interoperability and communication and coordination procedures. Strodder, an aviation flight planner with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC, acted as a mock casualty during an emergency training exercise. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning*



Col. Mark J. Menotti, right, briefs Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling Dec. 14 on the progress of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations at Villamor Air Base in Manila, Republic of the Philippines. Menotti served as the officer in charge of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Forward Command Element, which provided coordination and command and control of Marine Corps support to relief efforts in the Philippines following Typhoon Bopha. Menotti is the assistant chief of staff, G-4, supply and logistics for 3rd MEB. Robling is the commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gregory Lafer teaches a class Oct. 11 at Bahile Elementary School, Puerto Princesa, Republic of the Philippines, as part of PHIBLEX 2013. Marines and sailors helped teach English during one of many community relations events during PHIBLEX 2013. Lafer is a corpsman with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st MEU. 3rd MEB served as the command and control element for U.S. forces during PHIBLEX 2013.

Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade



Philippine Army Pfc. Jaymancio Pablo, right, and U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Alec Wines clear an M777A2 155 mm howitzer Oct. 10 at Fort Magsaysay, Republic of the Philippines. The training was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2013, a bilateral, annual training exercise, led by 3rd MEB, focused on strengthening interoperability between U.S. and Philippine forces. Pablo is an artilleryman with Bravo Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Battalion. Wines is a field artillery cannoneer with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, which was assigned to the 31st MEU.

Photo by Sgt. Matthew Troyer

Col. John A. Ostrowski presents Royal Malaysian Navy Rear Adm. Nasaruddin Bin Othman a plaque Jan. 10 during the opening ceremony of Malaysia Staff Exercise 2012 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Marines and sailors of the 3rd MEB, along with members of the Malaysian Armed Forces and U.S. Pacific Command, conducted operational planning in order to improve interoperability between U.S. and Malaysian forces. Ostrowski is the chief of staff of 3rd MEB. Photo courtesy of Royal Malaysian Navy





Philippine service members and U.S. Marines off-load relief supplies from a U.S. Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft Dec. 15 at Davao International Airport, Mindanao, Republic of the Philippines. The supplies were taken to a central distribution hub, where Philippine government and nongovernment organizations transported them to displaced citizens in need as part of the collective relief effort in the wake of Typhoon Bopha. The aircraft and Marines are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. *Photo by 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd*



Members of the Mongolian Armed Forces present a cavalry demonstration Aug. 12 during the opening ceremony of Khaan Quest 2012 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. More than 1,000 service members from 10 countries participated in Khaan Quest 2012, which was designed to promote regional peace and security while strengthening multinational relations and participating nations' international peacekeeping operations. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning*

U.S. Navy Lt. Dennis O'Connor, right, demonstrates airway management techniques to members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces June 5 during Cambodia Medical Exercise 2012 at Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The exercise allowed both nations to conduct joint medical operations, improve interoperability, and foster good will. O'Connor is an emergency medical physician with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum



Republic of Korea Marine Corps Land .50-caliber machine gun as ROK and of Korea as part of Korean Marine E and U.S. Marines trained together to and U.S. Marine Corps forces. Yeon i Division. The U.S. Marines are with 1 Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by*



Asia- Exer



Marines launch a volley of mortar rounds for suppression during a live-fire exercise July 13 at Shoalwater Bay, Queensland, Australia, following the conclusion of Exercise Hamel 2012. Marines then conducted movement to contact drills, using what they learned from living in a woodland environment during Hamel 2012. The multinational exercise between the U.S. Marine Corps, Australian Army and New Zealand Army certified the Australian Army's 1st Brigade for an operational deployment. The Marines are with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Cpl. Jonathan Wright



U.S. Marines load into a French Armed Forces EC725 Caracal helicopter prior to helicopter raid training Oct. 24 during Exercise Croix du Sud in Kumac, New Caledonia. After being dropped in a landing zone, the Marines secured a simulated enemy compound as part of Croix du Sud's culminating field training exercise. During Croix du Sud, eight nations conducted training across the range of military operations to build interoperability and increase readiness. The Marines are with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

U.S. Marines observe Cpl. Park Seung Yeon fire a Browning machine gun July 23 at the Republic of Korea Marine Exchange Program 12-7. During KMEP 12-7, U.S. Marines observe July 23 at the Republic of Korea Marine Exchange Program 12-7. During KMEP 12-7, ROK Marines observe U.S. Marines fire a Browning machine gun to enhance the combined capabilities of ROK Marines with 8th Artillery Battalion, 2nd ROK Marine Regiment, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry



Pacific Region Exercises, Operations



A U.S. Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft refuels two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters under the watch of an AH-1W Super Cobra Sept. 28 during the 2012 Kaneohe Bay Air Show at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The air show celebrated the centennial of Marine Corps aviation.

Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder

A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter makes its last flight Nov. 26 over Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The last of the Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 flew to Camp Kinser Nov. 26-27 to await final disposition. VMM-265 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan*

An MV-22B Osprey takes off after landing support specialists attach a 7,000-pound cement block during dual-point external training Oct. 25 at Ie Shima. VMM-265 transitioned from the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter to the Osprey in 2012. The Osprey can travel twice as fast and four times farther than the CH-46E. The landing support specialists are with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. The pilots and crew are with VMM-265, MAG-36, 1st MAW.

Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

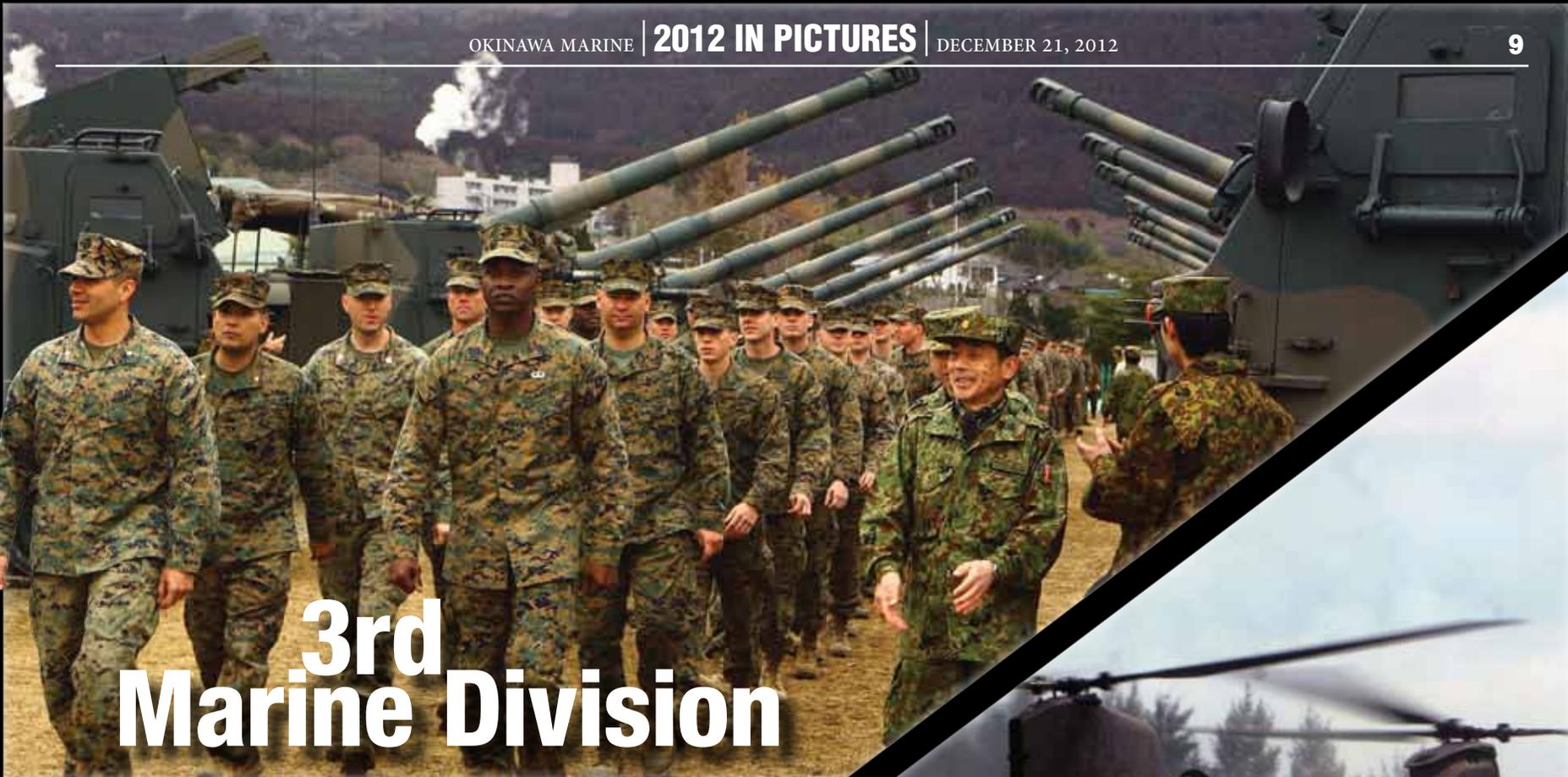


A KC-130J Hercules aircraft lands May 30 on North Field's Baker runway at Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The aircraft was the first to land on the runway since 1947. Geiger Fury and subsequent training events at Tinian increased aviation readiness and exercised the establishment of an expeditionary airfield in an austere environment. The aircraft is with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, MAG-36, 1st MAW.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer



1st Marine Aircraft Wing



3rd Marine Division

Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force greet Marines and sailors Feb. 26 at Camp Yufuin in Yufuin City, Oita prefecture, Japan. The JGSDF hosted an appreciation dinner to thank Marines for their efforts during Operation Tomodachi. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

Photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum



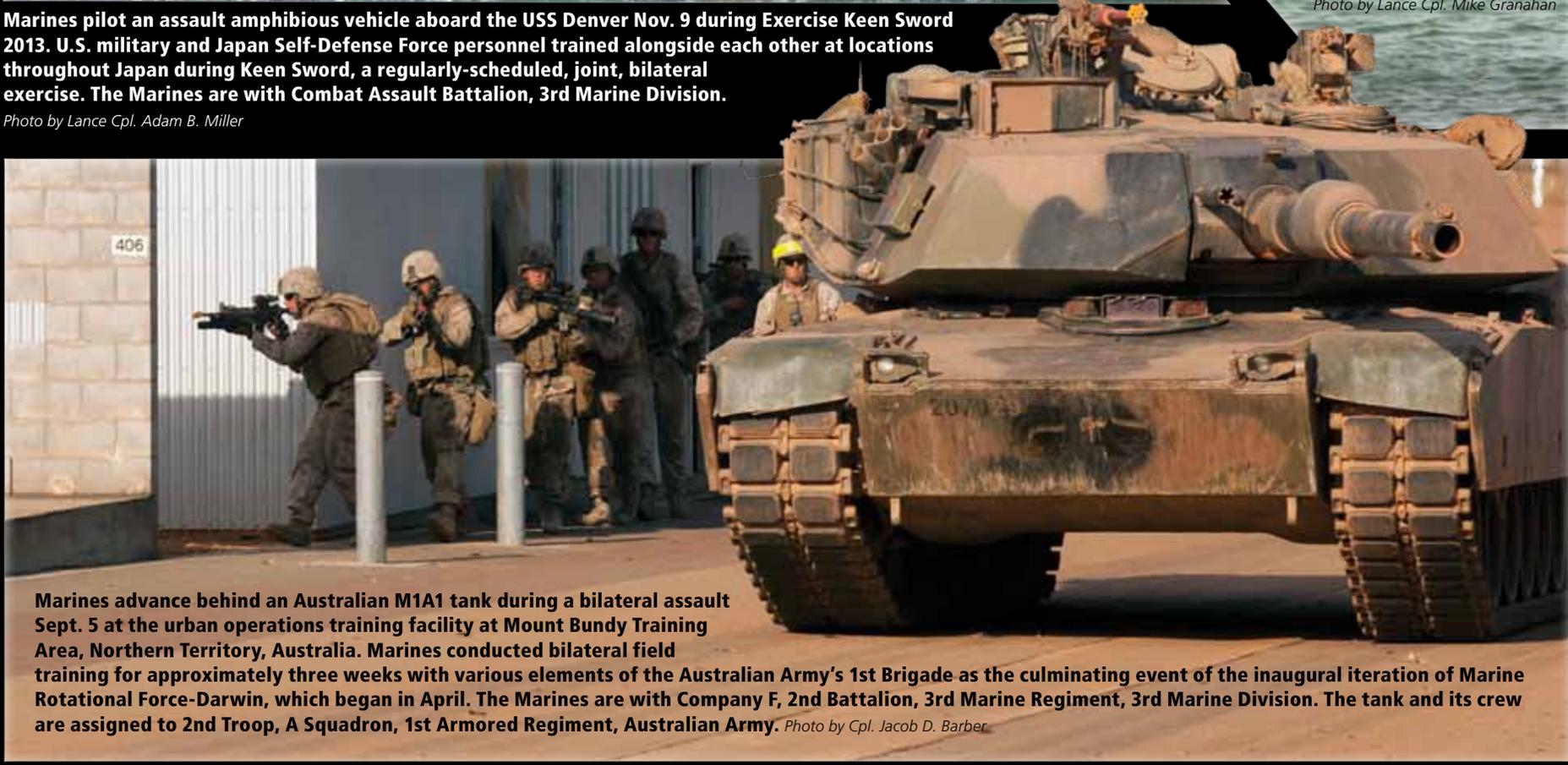
A CH-47 Chinook helicopter slows to 10 knots and hovers above the water while members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conduct helocast training with U.S. Marines Jan. 12 off the coast of Singapore. The training was part of Exercise Sandfisher, during which Marines and SAF members conducted bilateral amphibious reconnaissance and combat diving training to increase interoperability and sustain tactical proficiency. The Marines are with Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

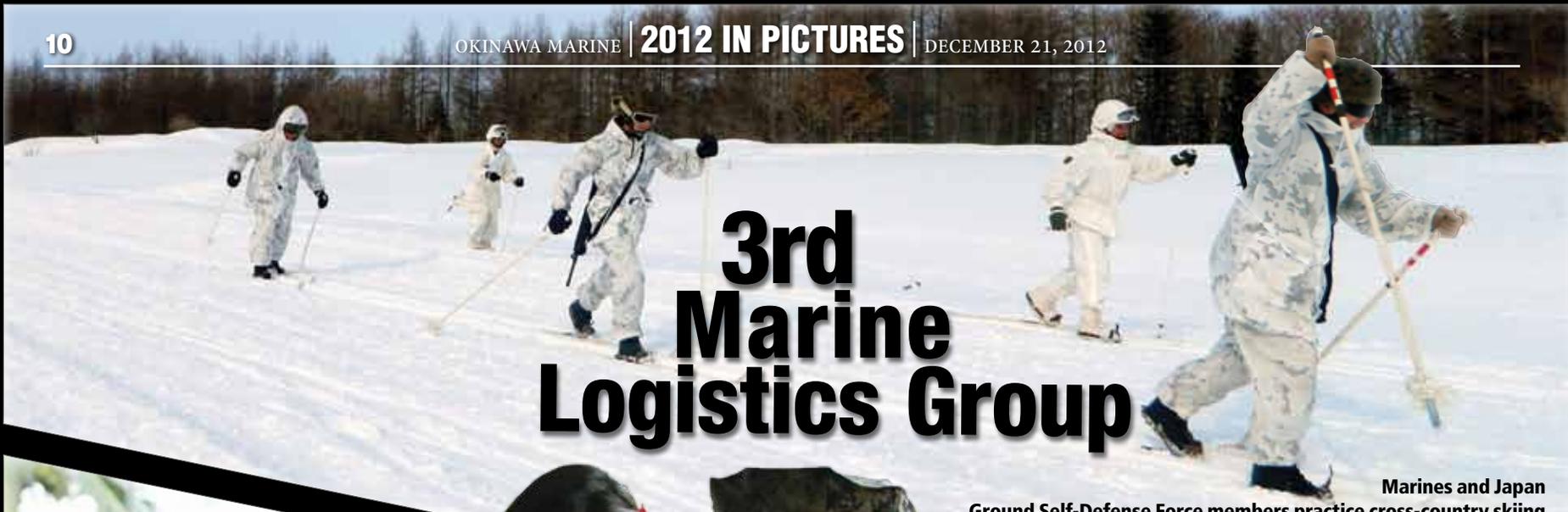


Marines pilot an assault amphibious vehicle aboard the USS Denver Nov. 9 during Exercise Keen Sword 2013. U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Force personnel trained alongside each other at locations throughout Japan during Keen Sword, a regularly-scheduled, joint, bilateral exercise. The Marines are with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller



Marines advance behind an Australian M1A1 tank during a bilateral assault Sept. 5 at the urban operations training facility at Mount Bundy Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia. Marines conducted bilateral field training for approximately three weeks with various elements of the Australian Army's 1st Brigade as the culminating event of the inaugural iteration of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, which began in April. The Marines are with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. The tank and its crew are assigned to 2nd Troop, A Squadron, 1st Armored Regiment, Australian Army. *Photo by Cpl. Jacob D. Barber*



3rd Marine Logistics Group

Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members practice cross-country skiing March 5 at the Yausubetsu Training Area, Hokkaido prefecture, Japan, during Exercise Forest Light 12-2. The Marines and JGSDF soldiers spent hours practicing different techniques taught by JGSDF ski instructors. The Marines are with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37, 3rd MLG.

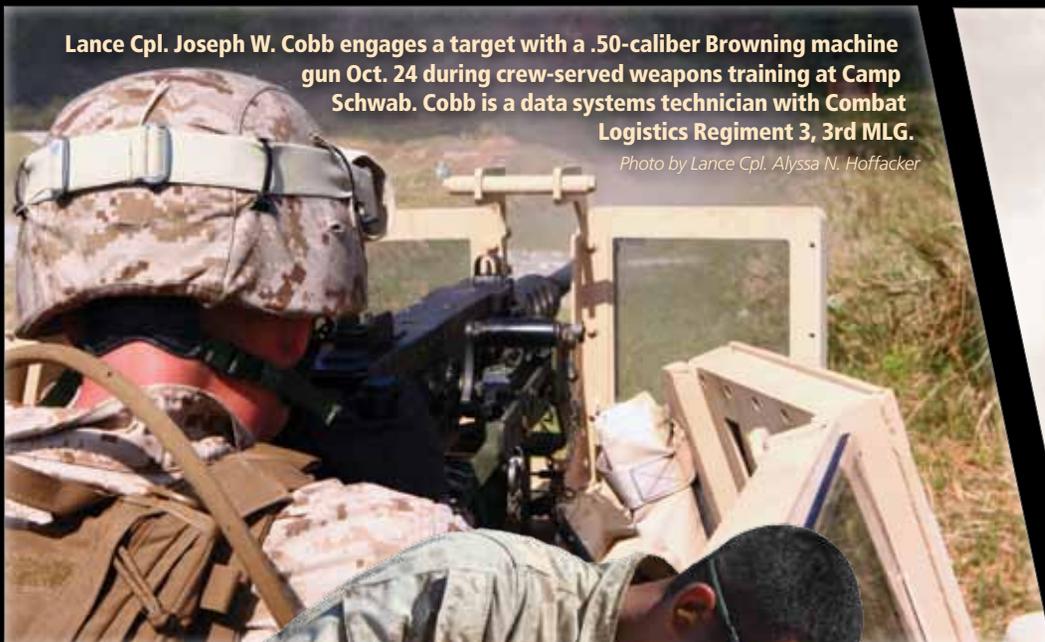
Photo by 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd



Navy Lt. Charlie Kinard checks an infant's vital signs during a medical civic action project Jan. 30 in Banmi district, Lop Buri province, Kingdom of Thailand. U.S. and Thai medical personnel treated approximately 200 members of the local community as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2012. Kinard is a nurse with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG. *Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Karen Persons*

Lance Cpl. Joseph W. Cobb engages a target with a .50-caliber Browning machine gun Oct. 24 during crew-served weapons training at Camp Schwab. Cobb is a data systems technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd MLG.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker



Lance Cpl. Michael H. Alfaro operates a miter saw Oct. 3 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Combat engineers repaired damaged huts in the CTA Oct. 2-5 to enhance military occupational specialty proficiency, enable future training evolutions, and build unit cohesion. Alfaro is a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle*



Marines recover a damaged mine roller during a combat logistics patrol May 30 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Marines are with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 3rd MLG, which was assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) for its deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the deployment, CLB-4 participated in the beginning stages of retrograding equipment from forward operating bases, conducted vehicle recovery and convoy operations, and transported and dispensed key supplies to Marines in the province. *Photo by Cpl. Mark Stroud*

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

Royal Thai Marines move into position as U.S. Marines provide cover fire during an amphibious assault rehearsal Feb. 9 at Hat Yao, Kingdom of Thailand. The Marines conducted the multilateral amphibious assault rehearsal with Royal Thai and Republic of Korea Marines during Exercise Cobra Gold 2012. CG 2012 demonstrated the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability and promote security and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. Marines are with the 31st MEU.

Photo by Cpl. Garry J. Welch



Lance Cpl. Ryan Petty poses with a child during a static display of CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters April 18 during the Atsugi Air Show at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan. The Marines' participation in the event came one year after their assistance to Japanese tsunami victims during Operation Tomodachi. Petty is a crew chief with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (REIN), 31st MEU. *Photo by Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.*

Lance Cpl. Devin Stewart familiarizes a Philippine soldier on the procedures for aiming an M777A2 155 mm howitzer during live-fire training Oct. 10 at Fort Magsaysay, Republic of the Philippines. The event was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, which was designed to increase the interoperability of U.S. and Philippine forces and strengthen their long-standing bond. Stewart is a cannoneer with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU. *Photo by Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.*



Marines and sailors execute a live-fire shoot Oct. 1 from the port side elevator of the USS Bonhomme Richard at sea. Marines and sailors engaged targets from five, 10, 15 and 20 yards to maintain their basic rifleman skills. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region. The Marines and sailors are with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st MEU. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey R. Underwood*