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AMPHIB-SPS 12 comes to end



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

Marines wait at the Morehead City port while the USS Oak Hill carries in more than 150 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 274. The Marines returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Dec. 21, following a 3-month deployment with the Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station 12 to Honduras, Columbia and Guatemala.

USS OAK HILL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOREHEAD CITY N.C.

More than 700 Sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen and Coast Guardsmen aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) returned home to the Morehead City port, Dec. 21 following an 80-day deployment to Central and South America.

Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station 2012 departed Oct. 3 for its sixth deployment in seven years. Embarked was a Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment, a Navy Riverine Squadron and a Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The focus of this AMPHIB-SPS 12 mission was the disruption of illicit-trafficking in conjunction with U.S and partner nation law enforcement agencies in the Caribbean.

"The linkage between drugs, drug money and the rise of transnational criminal organizations directly undermines regional security and threatens the vital economic development on which all regional partners depend," said Rear Adm. Kurt Tidd, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet.

"Oak Hill brings the unique capabilities of an amphibious ship to help counter these non-traditional security threats," said Tidd.

The operations furthered the national strategy to combat transnational organized crime and narcotics trafficking. The TACLET successfully interdicted two shipments of contraband containing nearly 4,000 kilos of narcotics, detained 24 persons suspected of trafficking and provided an assist on a third. The estimated street value of the narcotics interdicted by the Oak Hill team was nearly $475 million dollars.



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

Marines and Sailors wait to unload heavy equipment off of the USS Oak Hill Dec. 21, following a 3-month deployment with the Southern Partnership Station 12. More than 150 Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

The Special-Purpose MAGTF conducted numerous construction projects and subject matter expert exchanges with partner nations marine, navy, riverine, coast guard and civilian security services in Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala.

"The Marines and Sailors of the Special-Purpose MAGTF performed brilliantly in the air, on land, and at sea over the past few months" said Lt. Col.

See **SPS 12** page A3



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

2nd Lt. Lloyd Hardee, a kennel master with the military working dogs, teaches students about the gear used by the handlers in a live demonstration for the Craven County Community College Criminal Justice Society Club Dec. 9. The working dogs demonstration included drug detection, an obstacle course and attack drills.

Dogs broaden students' horizons

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

MCAS CHERRY POINT



Cpl. Christopher Krupa, a military working dog handler, and his dog, Hrom, a Belgian Malinois, pass through the extensive gated passage to the training field. The students begin to look and point making comments under their breath as they stare at the dog in awe. Sgt. Shain Nickerson, a military working dog trainer, wearing bite protection armor, waits in the training field for Krupa and Hrom. The students are about to witness the raw power of the military working dogs.

The students from Craven County Community College, Criminal Justice Society Club came to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to watch a live demonstration of the air station's military working dogs in action Dec. 9.

The club takes frequent trips to destinations in Eastern North Carolina including gun ranges, prisons and the State Bureau of Investigation crime lab and other places that involve criminal justice.

"This club is meant to broaden the student's horizons after they get their degree," said club president Tim Meadows. "We are trying to go to as many places as we can. It doesn't matter if it's military or civilian, we just want to get them exposed to everything."

The working dogs demonstration included drug detection, an obstacle course and attack drills.

"It's good for people to come see what we do," said Nickerson. "There are a lot of myths that have evolved from our job, like training the dogs in foreign languages.

See **K-9** page A3

Treats for troops



LANCE CPL. ANDREA C. DICKERSON

Members of the neighboring community baked cookies of various shapes and flavors for service members aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, in support of the Military Affairs Committee's fifth annual Cookies for Troops held Dec. 22.

Cozy Christmas party turns ice cold



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 take the fourth annual polar bear plunge into the Neuse River at the HMLA-467 party at Miller's Landing Dec. 21. Lt. Col. William Bartolomea, the commanding officer of HMLA-467, was one of approximately 30 participants in the fourth annual polar bear plunge and said the experience was exhilarating.

SMP host Marines for dinner



LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

A volunteer with the Cherry Point Chapter of the Marine Corps League, dishes out turkey to Pfc. Javoc R. France, a student with the Center for Naval Aviation Tactical Training, during the Single Marine Program Christmas Dinner at Cunningham's Friday.

HMLA-467 takes on fourth annual polar bear plunge

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

MCAS CHERRY POINT

More than 150 guests look over the terrace at the bottom of the hill behind Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's Miller's Landing Dec. 21. The Marines give one last wave to their families and friends before running full stride into the frigid December waters of the Neuse River, leaving the warm and dry confines of Miller's Landing behind them. The nearly 30 Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 run 50 yards into the water before realizing that it is still only knee deep. Once they grasp their situation, they all drop into the water. Getting back on their feet as fast as gravity took them down, the Marines begin running back toward their loved ones.

Lt. Col. William Bartolomea, commanding officer of HMLA-467, was one of the participants in the fourth annual polar bear plunge.

"I'm not wildly excited about it," said Bartolomea. "But it's a tradition the first CO started, so I'll support it. I guess after it's over with we'll see how I feel about it."

Before the squadron celebration could draw to a close, some of the Marines had to take the traditional polar bear plunge.

"It was exhilarating," said Bartolomea. "We got off lucky with this warm weather though. As soon as you get out of the water it's a lot better, but it was pretty cold."

The Christmas party was also a celebration for the Marines and Sailors that had returned Dec. 11, from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"I am very impressed with the turnout," said Bartolomea. "I thought it was going to be good, but we have most of the squadron here and about 85 percent here that are back from the deployment."

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Toys for Tots tournament

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With your smartphone download a QR code reader and scan the code.



Courtesy Photo

Gunnery Sgt. Brian LaPointe, left, a native of El Paso, Texas, serves as the motor transportation company first sergeant for Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. LaPointe's son, Lance Cpl. Hugh Cuturia, is also deployed to Afghanistan as an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

Deployed US Marine father reflects on son's journey in Afghanistan

Cpl. Brian Adam Jones
2nd MAW(FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Sept. 11, 2001, was Hugh Cuturia's 8th birthday.

"I think that's when it actually struck," said his father, Brian LaPointe, a gunnery sergeant deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. "He was up, looking around for his presents. He came and got me and said something's wrong. I think it brought him to want to join the Marine Corps."

Cuturia is now 18, a Marine lance corporal serving on the front lines in Helmand province, Afghanistan, with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

"This is his very first time away from the family over the holidays," said LaPointe, a native of El Paso, Texas. "But in a way it's not, because he's got me out here."

Separated by just a stretch of Afghan desert, the father and son have been able to visit a couple of times since LaPointe arrived in theater in September.

"It's a lot of fun seeing him," LaPointe said. "I can see him wondering, 'Do I say Dad or Gunny?'"

"I'll settle for anything," LaPointe added, "I love the kid to death."

As an infantryman, Cuturia patrols a region that includes Afghanistan's Marjah district. Once a hotbed of insurgent violence, Marjah and the outlaying areas in southwestern Afghanistan have recently shown signs of tremendous progress.

"I don't like the job he's doing now, but a year ago it would have been a lot worse," said LaPointe, the motor transportation company first sergeant for Marine Wing Support Squadron 371.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 provides aviation ground support for coalition aircraft in southwestern Afghanistan, so much of LaPointe's work focuses on supporting frontline infantrymen like his son.

"We'll do convoys out to him and his guys," LaPointe said. "Everything that needs to get moved, everything that needs to be transported from site to site, we take care of it all."

LaPointe said having his son enter "the family business" has done great things for his character.

"As soon as he finished boot camp, he started talking like a man," LaPointe said. "The Marine Corps gave him that boost, it was what he needed to grow up."

Now father and son are together in Afghanistan, working as part of a coalition of NATO and Afghan forces determined to bring peace to the region.

"It's kind of weird seeing him," said LaPointe. "A couple of years ago, he was scared, driving a little Pontiac Fiero I bought him for his birthday. Now he's driving the lead vehicle on convoys."

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Scott Conway, commanding officer, Special-Purpose MAGTF. "We conducted vertical construction, infrastructure repairs, Marine Corps martial arts training, law enforcement exchanges, jungle warfare training, explosive ordnance disposal and improvised explosive device training, aerial detection and monitoring, and many other tasks while engaged with four of our partner nations.

"Despite coming together for the first time when we embarked for the mission, the Navy/Marine Corps team came together to accomplish more than many thought possible. I was equally impressed by our host nations' forces, and grateful for the opportunity to learn from them," said Conway.

The ship and her crew also conducted SMEEs with 22 Panamanian public security force members and hosted visits from VIPs from Colombia and Honduras, to include Maj. Gen. Luis Gomez, commander, Colombian Naval Infantry, and Rear Adm. Hernando Wills, Colombian Navy chief of operations.

Oak Hill was chosen for this mission because of its ability to carry, in addition to its normal crew, 400 combat-ready Marines, approximately 40 vehicles, and 40,000 cubic feet of cargo and equipment which can be transported by both helicopter and landing craft.

This deployment marks the first time an LSD has deployed with embarked helicopters. Since LSDs are not equipped to embark helicopters, the helicopter maintenance team from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, based in Norfolk, Va., had to take everything along with them that they would need on deployment. This included tools, repair parts, and gear to move and maintain the aging CH-46 helicopters.

In another first, Oak Hill embarked two armed River Patrol Boats from Riverine Squadron Three, Detachment 1, based in Yorktown, Va. for the deployment. The boats were stored aboard Oak Hill's boat deck and launched with the 30-ton crane. Originally built for river operations in Iraq, this deployment represents a new, viable mission for the boats. The RIVRON and Oak Hill team proved that RIVRON boats can effectively perform interdiction missions in rivers and coastal waters of Caribbean nations with the LSD serving as a supporting sea base.

"This deployment represents a new mission for amphibious ships," said Cmdr. David Bauer, Oak Hill commanding officer. "We found that an LSD can deploy with a wide variety of people and gear and effectively conduct the counter narcotics mission while at the same time supporting the Fourth Fleet Southern Partnership objectives and simultaneously being ready to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief duties.

"An ability to conduct simultaneous air, amphibious and maritime operations, combined with a large cargo and fuel capacity, gives the operational commander the flexibility, stay time and punch needed to deploy medium sized forces around the world with little outside logistics support. On this mission, we proved that Oak Hill could deploy with Marine, riverine, Coast Guard, Air Force and Army assets and truly become a global force for good in the Caribbean region," said Baeur.

AMPHIB-SPS 12 was also able to provide humanitarian assistance through its delivery of 95 pallets of Project Handclasp material, donated educational, humanitarian and goodwill material. During its SPS mission, Oak Hill personel stood ready as "first responders" to provide disaster relief throughout U.S. Southern Commands' area of responsibility.



Lance Cpl. Glen E. Santy

Marines wait at the Morehead City port while the USS Oak Hill carries in more than 150 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 274. The Marines returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Dec. 21, following a 3-month deployment with the Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station 12 to Honduras, Columbia and Guatemala.

"AMPHIB-SPS 12 was a collaborative effort with all the branches of the armed services represented and working together aboard Oak Hill, and we demonstrated the flexibility of the Navy's amphibious ships by stretching the mission beyond what the LSD was originally designed to do," said Capt. Arturo Garcia, AMPHIB-SPS 12 mission commander. "With the Special-Purpose MAGTF and its two CH-46E helicopters, two riverine patrol boats and two Coast Guard boats, we carried and employed a unique and diverse capability into the region. With hard work and dedication, we were able to successfully complete all assigned tasks."

Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the Caribbean and Central and South America. The mission's primary goal is information sharing with partner nation service members and civilians in the region.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the Caribbean Central and South American regions.

K-9 from page A1

The demos give the students a chance to ask questions and see what we do with their own eyes."

After watching the dogs, the students were given a chance to ask questions about being a K-9 handler and take a closer look at the gear used in daily training.

"I think these students learned a lot and really enjoyed it," said retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Hunter, an instructor and advisor for the club. "My favorite part was seeing the capabilities of the working dogs."

"I couldn't believe how well the dogs responded to commands," said Alex Lehr, a student in the Criminal Justice Society Club. "This is something that I was interested in and this demo did nothing but reinforce my interests in this field."

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Unmanned helicopter makes first delivery for Marines in Afghanistan



Cpl. Justin Boling

Cpl. Justin Boling
2nd MAW(FWD)

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Unmanned systems have revolutionized combat aviation, providing a colossal advantage in the fight against terror with surveillance and close-air support.

Recently, a detachment of Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 in Afghanistan added aerial resupply to the list of UAV capabilities.

The detachment completed its first unmanned aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone using a helicopter in Afghanistan, Dec. 17.

"We delivered cargo today that was supposed to be delivered by convoy, now that convoy has three pallets that it does not have to carry," explained Maj. Kyle O'Connor, the officer in charge of the squadron's cargo resupply unmanned aerial system detachment.

The unmanned helicopter moved about 3,500 pounds of food and supplies to troops at Combat Outpost Payne. The helicopter, an unmanned variant of a K-MAX, completed the delivery in about an hour and a half.

"It is a milestone, certainly. We have delivered a lot of loads in the States during training, testing and evaluation," said Steven Athanas, a representative from Lockheed Martin. "Now that we have integrated it into the battlespace, we have gone from what you think can happen – to what can happen."

A human-piloted variant of the K-MAX helicopter was first developed in the 1990s. The manned version is used for heavy-lifting in corporate industry, including logging.

"This is a demonstration phase to test the true capabilities of this aircraft and how well it can perform its job in a combat environment," said O'Connor. "With every flight in theater we are collecting data, and at the end of the day we are going to look at all of that data and decide whether or not to make it a program of record."

"During this phase we will be making some adjustments to make it easier to use, but mostly I think the biggest adjustments will be seeing how many different ways we can use the unmanned aerial system," said Athanas.

At the end of a six-month assessment in Afghanistan, the Marine Corps will have the option to fully implement the platform.



Cpl. Justin Boling

A detachment of Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 in Afghanistan completed their first unmanned aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone, Dec. 17. The unmanned helicopter moved about 3,500 pounds of food and supplies from Camp Dwyer to troops at Combat Outpost Payne. The helicopter, an unmanned variant of the K-MAX, completed the delivery in about an hour and a half.

Operation Noel: Marine helicopters spread Christmas spirit in Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Christopher Flurry
2nd MAW(FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Capt. Jeff Barnes isn't really Santa Claus, but don't tell that to the Marines in Afghanistan.

"We are doing a care package delivery to austere [forward operating bases]," explained Barnes, a UH-1Y Huey pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369. "I think since there've been helicopters around – in Vietnam, in Iraq, here in Afghanistan – on Christmas Day, we've helped the guys on the ground enjoy the holiday."

So, early on Christmas morning, Barnes led a team of Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey helicopters from Camp Bastion in Afghanistan's Helmand province, en route to dozens of tiny combat outposts dotting the Helmand River.

"We're going to places you might have a squad, a company," said Barnes, a self-described 'Marine Brat,' whose family now lives in Las Vegas. "We picked places specifically because they're very austere. They don't get regular packages."

On a typical day, pilots like Barnes use their helicopters to provide close-air support for infantry Marines. The Marine Corps relies on Hueys and AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters to provide a watchful eye for the Marines patrolling through southwestern Afghanistan's villages and farms.

On Sunday, however, the Marine aviators' mission was different. Dubbed "Operation Noel," the Marine Corps Hueys lifted thousands of pounds of Christmas spirit – items like socks and toiletries, as well as letters, cards and even candy – to the grunts who call these small outposts home.

"The Marines are excited to be supporting our brothers and sisters [in the Marine Corps] in a very different way than we normally do," said Barnes. "It's a big privilege to be able to do a mission like this that's outside the realm of normal."

Lance Cpl. Andrew Harris is a UH-1Y Huey crew chief with the light attack helicopter squadron. Harris, nicknamed 'the best door-gunner in the Marine Corps' by his fellow Marines, flew with Barnes on the Christmas Day mission.

"I think it's really cool, we're trying to boost morale," said Harris. "We're trying to keep the family of the Marine Corps together, especially during the holidays."

"It's still Afghanistan. We still have to be prepared for the threat. That being said, it happens to be the 25th of December," said Barnes. "It's about spending Christmas with your family – your Marine Corps family."

At Kandahar Airfield, the detachment of Marines who fly and maintain the KC-130J Hercules took a short break on Christmas Day. Santa passed out stockings and the Marines shared a Christmas dinner.

Ten years ago, the airfield was captured by the Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, becoming a foothold in efforts to rout the Taliban from Afghanistan.

Since December 2001, the airfield has become a metropolis – host to tens of thousands of U.S. troops and their Afghan and coalition partners.

For the U.S. Marines, Kandahar is a central hub of fixed-wing aviation. Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier attack jets and KC-130J refueling and transport aircraft call Kandahar home, aircraft which launch daily to support combat operations in southwestern Afghanistan.

Gunnery Sgt. Charles V. Westall, the squadron gunnery sergeant for the detachment of aerial refueler transport Marines deployed to Afghanistan, said he believes taking time to remember the holidays is integral to keeping morale high for his Marines.

"It's important because celebrating holidays even when we are out here is a reminder why we do what we do," said Westall, deployed to Afghanistan with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152.

Westall, deployed from Okinawa, Japan, serves alongside Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, deployed from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Collectively, the Marines use the KC-130J Hercules – the Corps' largest aircraft – to provide aerial refueling, combat aerial resupply, and troop and cargo transport for the Marines in southwestern Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Flurry

Staff Sgt. Michael Evans, a crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, checks care packages loaded onto a Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sunday. The Marine Corps helicopter squadron flew thousands of pounds of care packages to infantry Marines at austere combat outposts in Afghanistan on Christmas Day.

"It's a reminder of why we became Marines in the first place," Westall continued. "So that our family and friends are able to celebrate the holidays – freely. It makes us happy to know they can, even if we are all the way out here in Kandahar, Afghanistan, away from our loved ones."

Marine finds familiar face in Afghanistan – his recruiter

Cpl. Brian Adam Jones
2nd MAW(FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Three years ago, Staff Sgt. James Pribyl, then a Marine Corps recruiter, met Ernest Wetzel at a public library in Wetzel's hometown of Woodstock, Conn.

"I was the new recruiter in town," said Pribyl, who was based in Worcester, Mass. "About three months after we met, he decided to join."

Now deployed to Afghanistan's Helmand province, Pribyl works alongside the young man he helped become a Marine.

"I never expected to see him again – it's hysterical," said Wetzel, now a corporal. "I've said it multiple times, 'Damn, I'm in a combat zone with my recruiter.'"

Both Marines serve with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, a squadron deployed from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., which provides aviation ground support for coalition aircraft operating in southwestern Afghanistan.

"It's one of the reasons I joined – to deploy. I just never expected it'd be with him," said Wetzel, who works as a maintenance management specialist with the squadron.

Wetzel's duties with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 include ensuring a steady supply of parts for the squadron's heavy equipment platoon. The platoon does everything from moving cargo to constructing helicopter landing zones.

"I'm the first enlisted Marine in my family," said Wetzel, a 2008 graduate of Woodstock Academy in Connecticut. "I met Staff Sgt. Pribyl and he didn't lie to me. He set me up with a good job."

Pribyl, the squadron's supply administration and operations chief, and a native of Centerport, N.Y., is responsible for making sure assets are ordered and received in a timely manner. This means Pribyl and Wetzel work closely together in a field Pribyl helped the young Marine get in to.



Cpl. Brian Adam Jones

Staff Sgt. James Pribyl, right, and Cpl. Ernest Wetzel work together in Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. More than three years ago, on recruiting duty in Massachusetts, Pribyl recruited Wetzel into the Marine Corps. Pribyl, a native of Centerport, N.Y., now serves as the squadron's supply administration and operations chief. Wetzel, a maintenance management specialist with the squadron, is from Woodstock, Conn. Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 provides aviation ground support for all air assets operating in southwestern Afghanistan.

"Supply and [maintenance management] work hand-in-hand, so I had a lot of friends who were [maintenance management], and I knew he would do well there," said Pribyl. "He wanted the military, it was just a manner of convincing him that the Marine Corps was the best."

"It didn't take long for that," Wetzel said.

Wetzel described Pribyl as a mentor to him in Afghanistan, but the staff sergeant spoke highly of the young corporal, as well.

"I knew he was going to be a good Marine," said Pribyl. "I've always said it, I always will."

Bowlers score Toys for Tots

Lance Cpl. Scott L. Tomaszycki
MCAS Cherry Point

Marines, Sailors and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point patrons bowled in the annual Toys for Tots bowling tournament Dec. 16 at the Stars n' Strikes Bowling Center here.

Sixty-two participants entered the tournament, each paying an entry fee of at least one toy donation. About 80 toys were collected prior to the tournament and 170 during, totaling approximately 250 toys delivered to the charity Dec. 19.

"It's local kids and local families that get the toys from what the bowlers donate," said James R. Sharp, manager of the bowling alley. "Also, there's no overhead, all the toys that come in go out, so it's a very good organization and a very good way to give during the Christmas time."

Toys for Tots, a charity organization officially endorsed by the Marine Corps and Marines across the country, holds toy collecting campaigns to provide Christmas presents for children of less fortunate families in their local areas.

Sharp said he and other bowlers like the Toys for Tots charity because of what it provides during a time when more and more families are less fortunate and unable to share gifts at Christmas.

One Marine brought a toy he had always wanted but didn't get, hoping to fulfill another child's hope.



"A small, simple toy can make the happiest child, so I brought something I always wanted but never got, a Play-Doh Drill n' Fill set. I always wanted that as a kid and never got it, so hopefully one child will be a very happy guy that he received that for Christmas," said Cpl. Shane J. Kurilla, an individual material readiness list manager for Marine Attack Squadron 231. "I'm happy to help out. I came because I thought I'd have some fun doing something that I love doing, bowling."

For people who still wish to donate, they can go to the website http://bit.ly/toysfortotslejeune.



Lance Cpl. Scott L. Tomaszycki

Aaron T. Finley, an employee at the Stars n' Strikes Bowling Center, bowls for a strike in the Toys for Tots bowling tournament Dec. 16. All participants donated at least one toy for the charity.



Lance Cpl. Scott L. Tomaszycki

The Stars n' Strikes Bowling Center held a Toys for Tots bowling tournament Dec. 16. Toys for Tots is a charity organization that provides toys to local children and is officially endorsed by the Marine Corps.



Lance Cpl. Scott L. Tomaszycki

Marines, Sailors and MCAS Cherry Point patrons bowl for the Toys for Tots charity at the Stars n' Strikes Bowling Center, Dec. 16. In all, approximately 250 toys were collected for the charity.



Lance Cpl. Scott L. Tomaszycki

Cpl. Shane J. Kurilla, an individual material readiness list manager for Marine Attack Squadron 231, bowls in the Toys for Tots bowling tournament at the Stars n' Strikes Bowling Center. In total, 62 bowlers participated in the tournament and tournament.