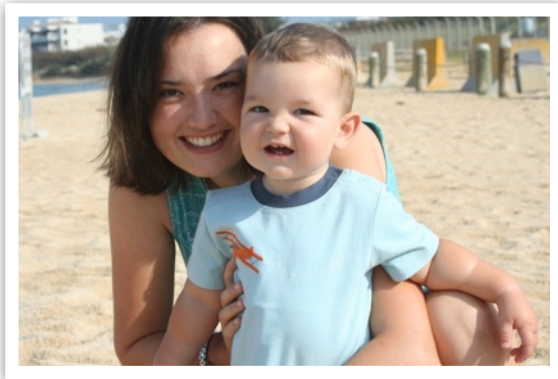


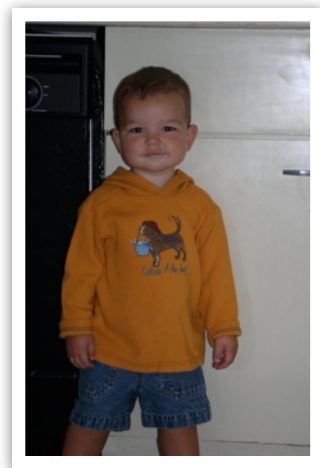
## Merry Christmas 2006!

So...where did we leave off? Last year when we wrote our letter we were waiting for our packers to come crate up our stuff for our move to Japan. We left the states (loaded down with 7 pieces of luggage, a car seat, a stroller, a dog crate with the worlds most high strung dog contained within, a toy bag, a diaper bag, and a partridge in a pear tree) on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec. for a trip that should have taken 24 hours and ended up taking three days. We arrived in Okinawa on Christmas

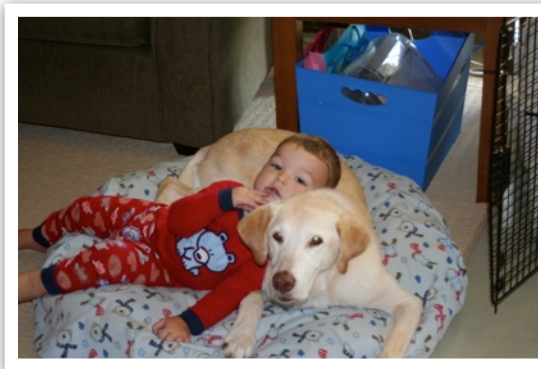


Eve wearing the same clothes we left in three days prior. Only one out of our 7 pieces of luggage arrived- the one with nothing else but dog food and diapers (yes- there must be a God!) The next morning we woke up to celebrate our very first Christmas in Japan. We both wonder where the last year has gone.

Nathan continues to astonish and amaze; it's so fun to watch him grow! While Lisa definitely misses the baby stage, PC loves the toddler stage. From crawling to walking to first words and tantrums- it's been a busy year. It's hard to believe we have a 17 month old. Nathan likes to pass the time driving in his Cozy Coupe (or as we like to call it the "Poop Coupe" since it seems to serve that purpose as well). He also likes to sit in the front seat of the (parked) car and "drive" but **only** if he has the keys in his little starfish hands. Other than that the toys he likes are anything but toys (the remotes, PC's cell phone, the computer mouse,



the keyboard, the buttons on the TV....yes- he is his father's son with a penchant for all things electronic). He LOVES Sandy and it should be no surprise to us that his first word (aside from "uh-oh") was "daaw-deee" (doggie). There is definitely an understanding between the two of them—a mutually beneficial relationship shall we say. Nathan shares any morsel of food he has with Sandy, and in return Sandy lets Nathan climb all over her, sit on her, pull on her ears, poke her in the eye...etc.



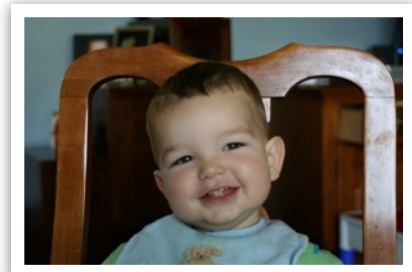
In between chasing after Nathan every day, Lisa is the bookkeeper at the Marine Thrift Shop, volunteers at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop, and attends various playgroups/get togethers with other moms. Like Nathan, Lisa has also learned some new skills in the last year including: knowing the complete theme songs to all of Nathan's favorite shows



(Elmo's World, Bear in the Big Blue House, and Blue's Clues), can recite most of his books from memory, and can readily identify several different types of military aircraft by sound alone.

PC has spent most of the year on Okinawa, with only a few month-long deployments to places like Korea and the Philippines. He's had his shares of ups and downs at work but mostly loves the fact that he has the opportunity to live on a beautiful island in a foreign country with his family. He spends

most of his free time trying to expose Nathan to new things like teriyaki-style mahi-mahi, kobe beef, yakisoba, etc. Oh, was that all food?



Well, now you know where both PC and Nathan's primary focus is!! Aside from the food, PC loves experiencing all things unique to Japan.



We can't write a Christmas letter without mentioning Sandy, so here's her little blurb. She spends most of her time eating out of Nathan's hand or begging to go on a walk or to the beach. She's actually gotten past a lot of her fears of the floors and now readily walks across slippery looking floors. Who would ever have guessed that?? Maybe the

torturous trip across the ocean cured her of some of her lifelong fears!

All in all, it's been a year full of watching Nathan grow into the wonderful boy that he is, sadness in losing a friend in war, happiness in saying welcome home to PC after deployments, realizing how wonderful our friends are, old memories of living in Colorado, and new memories of living in Japan. To all of you, we wish you much happiness and a wonderful New Year.



PC, Lisa, Nathan, Sandy