

Thursday
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NE section

Fighter pilots visit Girl Scouts at Cardinal Pacelli School

Visit showed gratitude for
troop's donations of
cookies to USS Enterprise
in Afghanistan / 5



The Enquirer

MOUNT LOOKOUT Pilots visit Pacelli Scouts

On the afternoon of Sept. 14, 2011, you might have noticed a loud sound and a strange sight flying in the air over Mount Lookout. For the 91 Girl Scouts from Cardinal Pacelli School in Mount Lookout, their parents and siblings, they knew exactly what it was – a VFA 211 Super Hornet fighter jet coming to see them.

This big moment all started with a little thing – a Girl Scout cookie. The five different troops of Cardinal Pacelli took donations during the annual cookie sale this past January to buy boxes to cookies to send to our active duty military personnel. All-in-all, the girls sent almost 3,000 boxes of cookies that made their way into the hands of our brave men and women serving overseas. One of those shipments made their way to the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) during their combat tour in Afghanistan.

First-grade Brownie Scout Maria Vallota of Mount Lookout sold cookies to a generous neighbor, Tom Schramm. As a military mentor, Tom had a personal connection with the USS Enterprise – Lt. Brad Williams of West Chester Township, who was aboard the vessel – so Tom wanted to make sure his squadron received



Girl Scouts of Cardinal Pacelli pose with 2 fighter pilots during recent visit.

some of the cookies. Maria's troop decided to send all of their 350 donated boxes their troop sold to Brad and VFA 211, and the boxes arrived on board the Enterprise just two days after an R&R port call was cancelled and they had to return to the line. The cookies, along with lots of homemade cards and notes, were a much welcomed moral boost.

It might have ended there as the grateful sailors and Marines enjoyed the treats. Not so. The Enterprise returned in late Spring to Norfolk, and the Commanding Officer, CDR James McCall, decided that every member of Maria's troop would get a signed photo taken of a VFA Super Hornet over Afghanistan and would be delivered in person by Lt. Brad Williams. Maria's troop decid-

ed to include all the Girl Scouts of Cardinal Pacelli to experience this event with them because they all sent cookies to soldiers.

On an approved cross-country training flight flown by Brad Williams and LT Kenny Kapp, also a Cincinnati area native, the Super Hornet landed at Lunken Airfield.

Brad and Kenny answered questions from the girls for about 45 minutes, allowed them to walk around and touch the aircraft, and then posed with them for several photos.

Throughout the years, the different Girl Scouts troops of Pacelli have felt the gratefulness that our military for sending cookies, but nothing has been more palatable than having a fighter jet come thank them personally.

— Nicole Fredrick