III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

# OKINAWA MARINE

MARCH 2, 2012

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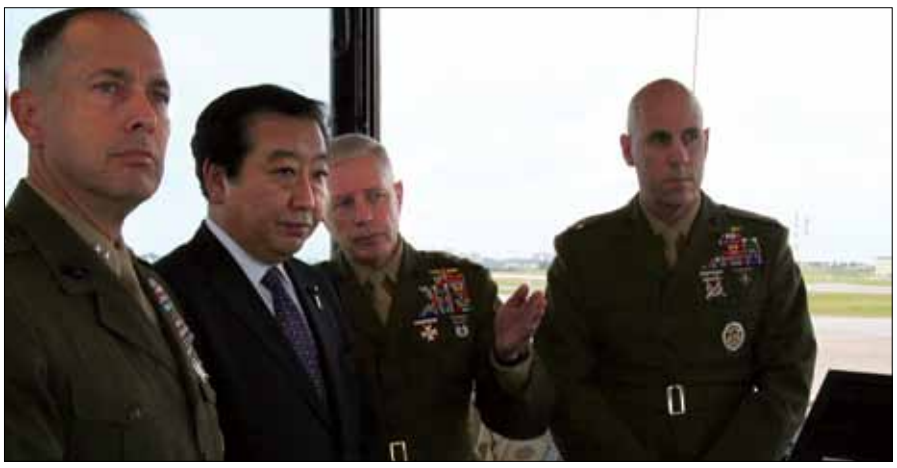
# Prime Minister visits



**Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., second from right, discusses principles of the Marine air-ground task force with Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko Noda, second from left, in the air traffic control tower on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Feb. 27. Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, far left, and Col. James G. Flynn took part in the discussion. The purpose of Nada's visit was to meet with Marine Corps leadership, receive a briefing about MCAS Futenma, and tour Camp Kinser. Glueck is III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Flynn is the commander of MCAS Futenma.** *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

# CLB-4 conducts convoy

**Cpl. Mark W. Stroud**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A Marine convoy delivered supplies to Forward Operating Bases Nolay and Whitehouse here during an operation Feb. 14-16.

The Marines, part of Combat Logistics Battalion 4, delivered supplies consisting of fuel, food and water to the Marines of 1st Battalion, 8th Marine

see **CLB-4** pg 5

# Professionals discuss air quality aboard camps

**1st Lt. Lindsay Pirek**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP BUTLER — Environmental specialists and public health professionals hosted open houses at Department of Defense Education Activity schools aboard several Marine camps on Okinawa Feb. 10-21.

During the open houses, members of the Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Environmental Office and Navy public health professionals provided parents and teachers information and addressed questions about indoor air quality and radon gas.

The health and environmental experts shared facts about radon and details of the sampling Marine

see **AIR** pg 5

# Bulk fuel Marines refuel Harriers on Ie Shima

**Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 refuel an AV-8B Harrier jet during a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28. The Harriers, part of Marine Attack Squadron 311, from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., are currently assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, through the Marine Corps' unit deployment program. MWSS-172 is part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st MAW, III MEF.**
*Photo by Pfc. Codey R. Underwood*

**SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7**

See The Source inside on joining Body By You bootcamp!

# Female Marines help shape Corps

**Sgt. Maj. Tamara L. Fode**

This April will mark the 24th year of my service to our great nation as a United States Marine, and every day I still consider it a privilege to don a uniform that unites each and every one of us in a very special way.

Since 1775, Marines have proven themselves to be an elite fighting force, and for 236 years those who have gone before us have fought in every clime and place as noted in the lyric of the Marines' Hymn.

As we enter the month of March, Women's History Month, I cannot help but to take the time to reflect on the women of our Corps, both past and present.

Only .06 percent of the United States population serve as Marines. Of that, only 6.2 percent are female Marines. Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson was the first woman to enlist Aug. 13, 1918, in the reserves followed by 305 other women during World War I. For the duration of the war, women filled administrative billets so male Marines could fight the war in France.

After World War I was over, female Marines were separated from the Corps and it wasn't until World War II that women were able to enlist once again to "Free a Man to Fight." In 1943, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established and June 12, 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act making women a permanent part of the Marine Corps.

During World War II, female Marines were able to perform a wider range of duties than during World War I. At war's end, Brig. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, the 18th commandant of the Marine Corps, stated that these women could "feel responsible for putting the 6th Marine Division in the field; for without the women filling jobs throughout the Marine Corps, there would not have been sufficient men available to form that division."

In 1950, the Women's Reserve was activated during the Korean War and billets for women continued to expand and have continued to do so to the present day. Approximately 2,700 female Marines served during the Vietnam War, and by 1975, the Corps approved female Marines to serve in most military occupational specialties except as infantrymen, artillerymen, pilots, air crew and armorers.

Over 1,000 female Marines were deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from 1990-1991. Female Marines now serve in 93 percent of all occupational fields and 62 percent of all billets alongside their male counterparts.

**"We must never forget that the uniform we wear washes away all differences as we serve together as United States Marines."**

Just as the great men of our Corps have carved their way through history leaving their indelible mark, in the past 94 years female Marines have done the same.

Female Marines began attending Marine combat training in 1997, allowing them the same combat training opportunities as men.

In 1943, Capt. Anne Lentz became the first woman to serve as a commissioned officer. In 1961, the first female Marine was promoted to sergeant major.

Margaret Brewer was the first female Marine general officer in 1978. In 1994, Brig. Gen. Carol A. Mutter was the first woman to command a Fleet Marine Force unit, 3rd Force Service Support Group, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in 1996. In 1995, the first female Marine pilot received her Naval flight wings.

Female Marines continue to break new ground in every clime and place as they have served side-by-side with their male counterparts in Iraq for the past 10 years and as they will continue to do so in Afghanistan.

During the month of March, we will celebrate the women of our great nation, but we must never forget the uniform we wear washes away all differences as we serve together as United States Marines answering the call of our Nation as America's 911 force. Semper Fidelis!

*Fode is the battalion sergeant major for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.*

## AROUND THE CORPS

**Marines and sailors with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit conduct annual chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 27. This annual training requirement refamiliarizes Marines with the use of the M50 joint service general purpose gas mask.** *Photo by Cpl. Michael Petersheim*

**Marines stand at parade rest during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Washington D.C., Feb. 23. The ceremony commemorated the 67th anniversary of the flag raising over Iwo Jima.** *Photo by Sophia Piellusch*

**Lance Cpl. Brandon Mann provides security with Ty, an improvised explosive device detection dog, during a patrol in Sre Kala, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 16. Marines and sailors with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted clearing and disrupting operations in and around the villages of Sre Kala and Paygel during Operation Highland Thunder. Mann is a dog handler with Company A, 1st LAR, Regimental Combat Team 5. 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines is also currently attached to RCT-5.** *Photo by Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez*

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Kinser
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**Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force are served a warrior's meal at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita Prefecture, Japan, Feb. 22. The meal was provided as a celebration for the successful completion of Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-4 by JGSDF members and the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** *Photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum*

# Japanese service members, Marines celebrate training

**Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

HIJUDAI MANEUVER AREA, OITA PREFECTURE, Japan — Food service specialists with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, prepared a warrior's meal for members of the Kyushu Defense Bureau, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's Western Army Artillery Unit and members of their battalion here Feb. 22.

The meal was designed to celebrate the successful completion of the live-fire portion of Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-4. It was also a way for the battalion, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, to express its appreciation to its hosts.

The unit conducts four artillery relocation training sessions annually at five different locations in mainland Japan to maintain proficiency in its primary mission of providing artillery fire to maneuver units.

During ARTP 11-4, the food service Marines were responsible for preparing two hot meals each day.

"We started at 3:30 a.m. and worked until 7 p.m. preparing food, getting it to the Marines, and then washing the dishes after," said Lance Cpl. Benjamin St. Clair, a food service specialist with the battalion. "I had to feed Marines and sailors from seven different locations."

The food service Marines were augmented by other Marines and sailors with the battalion to help prepare the warrior's meal.

"There was a lot that went into this meal," said Lance Cpl. Robert L. Chittenden, a food service specialist with the battalion. "All of the vegetables had to be prepared along with all of the meat that is being served."

The steaks and chicken were prepared on the grills while pretty much everything else was prepared inside, said St. Clair.

The menu consisted of steak, chicken, salad, hot dogs, hamburgers, assorted vegetables and various types of cake.

**Marines with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, prepare chicken for a warrior's meal at the Hijudai Maneuver Area Feb. 22. The meal was designed to celebrate the successful completion of the live-fire portion of ARTP 11-4 and exhibited the spirit of cooperation and strong alliance with Japan.**
*Photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum*

Near the end of the meal, the JGSDF and Kyushu Defense Bureau personnel provided wild boar miso soup for everyone.

The warrior's meal brought together all of the participants of ARTP 11-4 and exhibited the spirit of cooperation and strong alliance between host nation Japan and the Marines.

# Health insurance necessary for overseas visitors

**Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Recently, a non-dependent family member visiting loved ones on Okinawa experienced heart complications requiring a medical evacuation flight back to the United States. Without health care that provides coverage while traveling overseas, this sort of medical emergency could result in life-changing debt.

Many Americans visiting Okinawa are unaware their health insurance, whether public or private, may not cover injury or illness while traveling abroad.

Service members welcoming guests to the island are encouraged to insist their visitors inquire about the applicability of their current health care coverage while travelling overseas.

Without coverage abroad, there is the potential for visitors to find themselves in a situation where the health care required to meet their medical demands is either denied or causes a significant financial burden, said 1st Lt. Eric J. Langland, an installation law attorney for the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Staff Judge Advocate's office.

A medical evacuation flight for a non-dependent family member could cost a family a lot, according to Langland.

"Such flights can cost upwards of $10,000," he said.

If one's health insurance does not extend outside the United States, there are companies that offer traveler's health insurance, said Langland.

Travel insurance policies provide several types of coverage intended to fit the needs of different types of travelers and trips, including comprehensive travel medical insurance, emergency travel medical insurance and medical evacuation insurance.

In some cases, private health insurers do provide coverage overseas. If this is the case, guests visiting Okinawa should be sure to carry both their health insurance policy identity card and a claim form with them.

"It's highly recommended that visiting civilians have appropriate travel health insurance prior to visiting Okinawa," said Lt. Cmdr. Kinau Y. McCoy, the assistant director of health care business with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. "Visitors should also ensure that they have an adequate supply of medication before they leave abroad because the hospital does not sell medication."

It is also suggested that travelers complete routine and specialty care before leaving for travel overseas, said McCoy. Adequate medical preparation for a trip helps lessen the chances of needing medical assistance.

"The hospital is authorized to provide medical treatment and hospitalization only to eligible beneficiaries," said McCoy.

For more information on medical services for visiting non-dependent family members or guests, visit www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhoki/Patients/Pages/VisitingCivilians.aspx.

## BRIEFS

### COURTNEY POWER OUTAGE MARCH 17

There will be a power outage affecting Camp Courtney east of Highway 75 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 17. This will not affect Camp McTureous.

For questions or concerns, contact camp operations at 622-9596.

### OKINAWA WIND SYMPHONY WINTER 2012 CONCERT

The Okinawa Wind Symphony Winter 2012 Concert will be held at the Ryukyu Middle School cafeteria on Kadena Air Base March 3 starting at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, e-mail okinawawindsymphony@yahoo.com.

### COLLEGE REGISTRATION NOW

Registration for Spring Session 2 college courses is happening now through March 16.

Lifelong Learning Education Centers can assist students with selecting the right courses for their career. Spring Session 2 classes last from March 19 to May 13.

For more details, visit your local education center or call 645-3486.

### MARINE CORPS FAMILY TEAM BUILDING BEYOND THE BRIEF SERIES

Join Marine Corps Family Team Building every Tuesday in March from 3-6 p.m. to cover topics tailored to home life during a deployment. The briefs are free and open to all status of forces agreement personnel. Registration is required.

March 6: "Should I stay or Should I go?" The brief covers the pros and cons of heading off island during a deployment.

March 13: "Financial Planning." Find the best use of extra deployment money for your family's specific needs.

March 20: "Coping with Stress and Adjusting Family Roles." Filling the roles of both husband and wife can be hard. Learn tips and techniques to help adapt.

March 27: "Safe and Sound at Home." Stay safe on Okinawa through storms, car trouble and nights home alone.

For more information or to register, contact 645-3689.

### GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE REMEMBRANCE READINGS

The SHINSAI: Theaters for Japan project will be featuring staged readings of several plays addressing issues Japan currently faces in light of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which struck mainland Japan March 11, 2011.

The event will take place March 11 from 4:30-6 p.m. in Koza at Okinawa City Chuushin Shigaichi Engeki Katsudou Center. The center's address is: Okinawa City, Chuoh 1-17-15 (near Chuoh Park Avenue).

For more information, e-mail awiddoes@gmail.com.

**TO SUBMIT A BRIEF,** *send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.*

# BlackBerry enables remote Internet

**Pfc. Ian M. McMahon**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**Marines can tether certain government-issued BlackBerrys to receive Internet access on their computer. Tethering can be a solution to connectivity issues in remote areas and during deployment.** *Photo illustration by Pfc. Ian M. McMahon*

CAMP FOSTER — Marines with certain government-issued BlackBerry smart phones on Okinawa now have the ability to use their device as a wireless modem to connect their government laptop computers to the Internet.

Though this capability, commonly referred to as tethering, has been available since February 2011, it is now becoming more prevalent.

Tethering is when a cell phone or other Internet-enabled mobile device is used as an access point to the Internet for another device.

The tethering capability allows users to connect their government notebook computer to the Internet and access the Navy-Marine Corps Intranet when a wired local area network connection is not available, according to Gregory R. Graham, a telephone control officer for the Marine Corps Base Wireless Telecommunications and Official Billing office, G-6, MCB Camp Butler.

"Having the capability to use a BlackBerry to access the Internet in remote locations is more than phenomenal in regards to mission accomplishment – it is a necessity," said Col. Douglas J. Wadsworth, the assistant wing commander for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Prior to the use of tethering, the only NMCI-approved wireless adapter for internet use via cellular networks, often referred to as air cards, were provided by continental U.S.-based carriers.

"There are several wireless network data card options currently approved for use with NMCI," said Graham. "However, the continental U.S.-based solutions are very expensive when used overseas. Continental U.S.-based service is billed with roaming data charges, which are approximately $20 a megabyte."

Transferring a typical portable document format or .pdf file, a two megabyte photograph or spreadsheet would cost approximately $40 using a continental U.S.-based service overseas. With tethering, users can send and receive unlimited data in Japan costing their unit a set rate of approximately $100 per month.

Users must be mindful of international data roaming charges when on deployment or temporary additional duty outside of Japan.

"Any wireless service, especially used outside Japan, has a significant potential for very high costs," said Graham. "Viewing or downloading an e-mail attachment could incur a roaming data cost."

When tethering outside Japan, users must manually select an approved partner carrier to receive a set daily data fee and avoid roaming charges, added Graham.

However, even with this discount plan, using the tethering service can cost units a great deal of money, he added.

In order to set up a government-issued BlackBerry smart phone for tethering to the NMCI network, users should visit their unit telecommunications control officer.

Additionally, the unit information systems coordinator will need to procure the tethering configuration service from NMCI and provide the technical support for the configuration.

To set up a device for tethering or for more information on the tethering capability, contact your unit telecommunications control office or the Marine Corps Base Wireless Telecommunications and Official Billing office at 645-0306.

# Camp Butler Chapel Youth Center opens

**David C. Hutchings welcomes members to the new Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Chapel Youth Center during its grand opening at Camp Foster Feb. 19. The center offers two classes, High Tide and Common Ground, where students receive gospel lessons, sing worship songs and play games. High Tide is for middle school students, and Common Ground is for high school students. The center also has the Refuge Café, which offers free coffee to students."The youth center and the café are designed to provide the students with a safe place to come on the weekends," said Hutchings. "It gives the students a place to call their own while providing them with an alternative to stay out of trouble." Hutchings is the youth pastor.**

**Navy Capt. Brenda F. BradleyDavila prepares to put her hand prints on the wall of the youth center during its grand opening on Camp Foster Feb. 19, making her an honorary member of the center. The students of the High Tide class, decorated the center by placing their handprints on the wall. "This center offers motivation, enlightenment, values and brings people together regardless of their denomination," said BradleyDavila. "This is a place of empowerment and gives students the opportunity to embrace their full potential." BradleyDavila is the chaplain for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.**

*Photos by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner*

**CLB-4** from pg 1

Regiment, at FOB Whitehouse and to 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, at FOB Nolay.

CLB-4, part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, while in garrison, but is currently assigned to 1st MLG (Forward) supporting combat operations. Both 1st Bn., 8th Marines, and 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, are part of II MEF (Fwd.).

The convoy was the first CLB-4 led during the battalion's deployment and went smoothly, according to Sgt. John L. Cheek, motor transport operator, Company B, CLB-4.

The Marines of CLB-4 previously participated in convoy operations as part of a transition program with their predecessors, CLB-6.

CLB-4 assumed responsibility for the area of operations Feb. 11 during a transfer of authority ceremony.

"The (transition period) was very important," said Cheek. "CLB-6 gave us a very good turnover … telling us about any hotspots on the routes and generally giving us very good information."

**CLB-4 Marines unload supplies using a palletized loading system on FOB Whitehouse Feb. 15. CLB-4 is attached to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).** *Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud*

Completing the first CLB-4-led convoy successfully helped the Marines start the deployment off on the right foot.

"It was important for us to start off operations well," said Cheek. "It sets the tone for the rest of the deployment. We made very good time and had no major maintenance issues."

Maintaining the vehicles in the harsh terrain and keeping convoy communications open were the main challenges the Marines faced, along with the threat of improvised explosive devices and small-arms fire along the routes, according to Cheek.

The convoy took advantage of the trip to return vehicles and equipment from the FOBs to Camp Leatherneck.

"The retrograde is coming, and we need to take advantage of every bit of empty bed-space that we can," said 1st Lt. Ryan L. Cornwell, convoy commander, Co. B. "If we don't haul it out now, we are going to be hauling it out later."

The Marines of CLB-4 take pride in being able to support the counter-insurgency operations both by delivering supplies and retrograding equipment, according to Cornwell.

"It is a privilege to directly support the boots on the ground," said Cornwell. "We take pride in making sure that the dismounts that are walking the streets of (Sangin, Afghanistan) everyday have everything they need to be successful."

**AIR** from pg 1

Corps and Naval Facilities Engineering Command performed for on-base DODEA schools.

"Radon gas is naturally-occurring and is found throughout the world," said Joseph E. Vogel, MCB Camp Butler environmental officer. "In enclosed spaces, like buildings, radon gas can reach high levels. Contact with high levels of radon gas over time can impact our health. We're committed to protecting indoor air quality."

NAVFAC representatives sampled air quality for radon gas in 406 ground-floor classrooms during January and February. Approximately 70 classrooms require response actions for elevated radon gas levels.

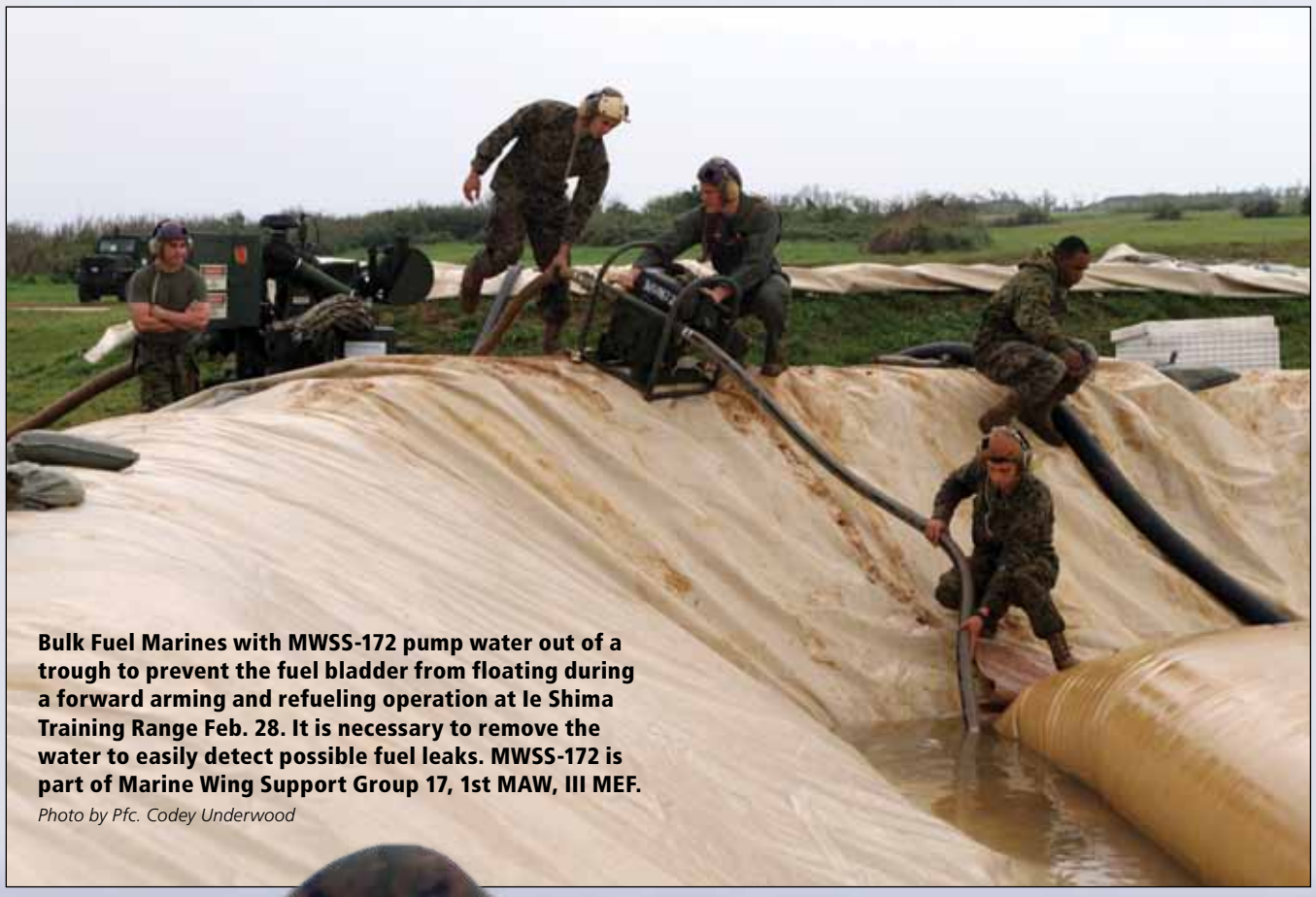
To reduce radon gas levels within these rooms, NAVFAC will install new and adjust existing ventilation systems. Although Navy regulations allow up to two years to complete corrective action, NAVFAC and the DODEA Okinawa School District are working to address as many of the rooms as possible by August.

Prior to the open house meetings, affected DODEA schools sent letters home to the parents and sponsors of registered students. The letters provided assurance that the schools remain safe for teaching and learning until the mitigation work is complete. The letters also notified parents of the sampling, and indicated that the Marine Corps would share the sampling results with them.

"The open houses provided a forum to educate parents and allow them individual opportunities to ask us questions," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Daut, radiation health specialist, U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

"We truly appreciate how responsive and supportive the Marine Corps has been in helping to educate our employees and parents about radon and indoor air quality," said DODEA Okinawa Superintendent Martha Brown. "The open houses were a great way for everyone to better understand the situation and have their questions answered by professionals."

Parents and teachers who have questions regarding radon health risks can contact the Department of Public Health at the USNH Okinawa at 643-7555. For additional questions, contact the MCB Camp Butler Radon program manager at 645-0241.



**Bulk Fuel Marines with MWSS-172 pump water out of a trough to prevent the fuel bladder from floating during a forward arming and refueling operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28. It is necessary to remove the water to easily detect possible fuel leaks. MWSS-172 is part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st MAW, III MEF.** *Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood*

# Marines

**Pfc. Codey Underwood**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the AV-8B Harrier jets hovered over the airfield, Marines prepared to quickly and efficiently carry out the task in front of them. Pumping more than 130 gallons per minute, the Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 filled the Harrier jets with the fuel needed to complete the mission.

The squadron, part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28.

The Harriers, part of Marine Attack Squadron 311, from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., are currently assigned to 1st MAW through the Marine Corps' unit deployment program.

It takes roughly 10 to 15 minutes to fill a Harrier with fuel if

**Lance Cpl. Steven Gutierrez hauls a fuel hose onto the flightline during a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28. Gutierrez is a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.** *Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood*

**An AV-8B Harrier jet hovers over the airfield during a refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range of Marine Attack Squadron 311, from Marine Corps Air currently assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Mari through the Marine Corps' unit deployment program.** *P*

# master craft, fuel attack squadron

it is completely empty, said Sgt. Calvin L. Norwood, the FARP line safety noncommissioned officer for MWSS-172.

"With a partial tactical airfield fuel dispenser system and two 20-thousand-gallon bags of fuel, we were able to provide support to VMA-311 by fueling two aircraft at one time," said Norwood. "We are here to provide a service for the pilots, and we give them 100 percent every time."

The job of quick and efficient refueling is a group effort, requiring Marines of all backgrounds to play their part.

"The squadron consists of Marines from many different areas in the Marine Corps who come together and make our team," said Sgt. Edward S. Ramlal, the fuel team leader for MWSS-172. "We have bulk fuel specialists, motor transport operators, motor transport mechanics and field radio operators."

Fueling is necessary to ensure pilots are able to get off the ground and move the battle downrange, according to Lance Cpl. Joshua W. Koehler, a logistics vehicle systems operator with MWSS-172.

"The fueling section of the (aircraft wing) is a very big part of making sure things run smoothly," said Koehler.

All the Marines are necessary to ensure the forward arming and refueling point operation runs smoothly, according to Ramlal.

"Naturally, a FARP is a mobile refueling point which, when used in (combat), advances the battlefield further downrange by making the distance that the (aircraft) have to travel for fuel and armaments shorter," said Ramlal. "Here on Ie Shima, the FARP was intended to support Marine Attack Squadron 311 with the fuel necessary to carry out their operation and to give the Marines with MWSS-172 more hands-on experience."

VMA-311 is currently working to become certified to fly with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to Ramlal.

**Marines with MWSS-172 prepare to refuel an AV-8B Harrier jet during a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28.**
*Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White*

"The airfield here on Ie Shima simulates the landing area on a carrier," said Ramlal. "It was selected for this operation because the pilots of the Harriers are required to obtain so many hours of training, including takeoffs and landings, before they become qualified to land on a carrier."

Providing the logistical support required for the pilots to accomplish this training is a large responsibility but one the bulk fuel Marines take a lot of pride in, Ramlal concluded.

**a forward arming and**
**e Feb. 28. The Harriers, part**
**Station Miramar, Calif., are**
**ne Expeditionary Force,**
*hoto by Pfc. Codey Underwood*

# Through the Sands of time

Mount Suribachi, which is known by most Americans as the location of the famous raising of the American flag during World War II, epitomizes for many Marines what it is to be a Marine. Mount Suribachi was claimed after four vigorous days of fighting during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The battle saw some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific theater and took place from Feb. 19 to March 26, 1945. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker*

## Today's Marines continue to honor Iwo Jima sacrifices

**Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

"As I stood at the top of Mount Suribachi and could see the black beach where my predecessors had once stormed, I could only imagine how brave those men had to be," said Cpl. Ethan T. Johnson, a combat reproduction specialist with Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "The majority of those Marines were young ... and saw their last days on this island."

Johnson, along with nearly 50 other Okinawa-based Marines, had the unique experience of flying to Iwo To, formally Iwo Jima, and walking the ground where Marines secured the beachhead and mountain during World War II.

The Battle of Iwo Jima, officially dubbed Operation Detachment, continues to play a huge roll in the Marine Corps today and still influences society's perception of the Marine Corps, according to Capt. Jonathan P. Stevens, counsel with the Legal Services Support Section, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

"The victory at Iwo Jima came to symbolize the Marine Corps' ability to fight and win in even the toughest conditions," he said.

The battle is known for some of the fiercest fighting throughout the Pacific theater and lasted from Feb. 19 to March 26, 1945. The 36-day battle took nearly 30,000 American and Japanese lives.

"The Japanese defenders were tough, well-trained men who had ample time to prepare their defensive positions," said Stevens. "Still, the Marines fought on; and no matter what was thrown at them, they exhibited the highest degree of strength, resolve and ability to overcome."

The Marines declared the island secured on March 26, 1945 after capturing more than 200 Japanese soldiers.

"It was a solemn moment to be standing on the summit of Mount Suribachi, in a place where so many Marines had given their lives for their country," said Stevens. "Even though I was there, I could not begin to imagine what it must have been like for those men. … It was the type of situation where you really needed to take a few moments to quietly reflect on what those men had done."

A total of 27 Medals of Honor were awarded as a result of the battle, which accounted for roughly a quarter of the Medals of Honor awarded during World War II.

**BATTLE OF IWO JIMA FACTS:**

- **Mount Suribachi was taken by the U.S. Marine Corps on the fourth day of fighting, Feb. 22, 1945.**
- **The raising of the second flag on top of Mount Suribachi took place on the fifth day of the 36-day battle and was captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.**
- **The battle, which was officially known as Operation Detachment, lasted from Feb. 19 through March 26, 1945.**
- **Approximately 30,000 American and Japanese lives were lost during the battle.**

***The annual veterans reunion of the Battle of Iwo Jima is scheduled for March 13. Look for related articles in upcoming Okinawa Marine issues.***

**The black beach on Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima, was stormed by thousands of U.S. Marines Feb. 19, 1945 during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Many relics of the war remain in the waters and scattered among the sands.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White*

"I kept in mind the immense sacrifice that was laid out on the battlefield before me," said Lance Cpl. Rafael Rodriguez, a legal services specialist with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Honor, courage and commitment really are the foundation of the Marine Corps, he added.

# Convention brings heroes, villains together

**Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

***As Darth Vader's eyes met Captain America's, it was unclear who would make the next move. Meanwhile, Super Mario and The Joker remained deep in conversation as the library full of science fiction and comic book characters set their differences aside and came together as one.***

For enthusiasts from across Okinawa, it was no ordinary day at the Camp Foster Library.

Superheroes, villains, cartoon and science fiction characters gathered for the 2nd annual Comic Convention at the Camp Foster Library Feb. 25. The event was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services librarians from different camps across Okinawa for comic-loving service members and their families.

"Our goal was to gather people with similar interests together," said Jeffrey B. Conner, a library supervisor for the event. "With being overseas and living in a different culture, events like these provide the opportunity for service members and their families to get a taste of home and see what the library has to offer."

The Comic-Con featured several different activities for attendees, including several discussion panels featuring different comics, an art contest, drawings, graphic novel discussions, gaming rooms, a photo booth and an audience-judged costume contest.

The audience judged the contest in three different categories: best child costume, best adult costume and best group costume.

"The contestants really stepped their game up this year," said Rebecca K. Baldwin, an MCCS library programmer who donned a Lady Sif costume from the movie "Thor" during the event.

**The Norris family shows off their prize-winning group costume depicting characters from the movie "The Last Airbender" during the 2nd annual Comic Convention at the Camp Foster Library Feb. 25. The event brought out many different creative costumes based on characters from movies, comic books and cartoons.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock*

"I loved the costumes and the enthusiasm, and hope people continue to look for what the library has to offer," she added.

The event brought out many different creative costumes from movies, comic books and cartoons, but it was a young Anakin Skywalker who proved herself as the audience favorite for the child costume contest.

Participants in the adult costume contest did not hold anything back as they displayed near-perfect replicas of their favorite science fiction characters, but in the end it was a strikingly accurate portrayal of the Batman villain "The Joker," by Hunter Burton, who was crowned best costume among adults.

While a majority of the annual Comic-Cons are held back in the U.S., for many service members and their families this was their first opportunity to attend one.

"I was excited to bring some of my friends who had never been to a Comic-Con before," said Branden L. Childers, a participant. "With this being my first Comic-Con on a military base, it was great to see both sides of the American and Japanese cultures."

The final costume event was the group contest, which was won by the Norris family for their depiction of characters from the movie "The Last Airbender."

"As long as we get turnouts like we did today, the annual Comic-Con will continue to come back again and again," said Baldwin.

# Students embrace local culture, tradition of Hinamatsuri

**Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

While stationed on Okinawa, service members are encouraged to experience as much Japanese culture as they can. During Hinamatsuri, or the Japanese doll festival, service members and their families will have the opportunity to join in an age-old tradition, which celebrates the growth and happiness of girls.

During the festival, Hina dolls, which can be made or purchased, are set up in homes, stores and shrines representing the hope that one's doll will bring peace and a future husband for their young daughter.

Aiding in the cultural development of service members and their families prior to the March 3 festival is Atsuko Kinjo, an intercultural coordinator with Marine Corps Community Services. Kinjo offers classes at several camps on Okinawa teaching participants how to construct Hina Dolls.

"I enjoy sharing my knowledge with everyone coming from America," said Kinjo. "I encourage service members and their families to get involved in different Japanese culture to give them a better understanding of the country they are living in."

The centuries-old festival traces back to the Edo Period, from 1603 to 1867, when the traditions included a ceremony in which the sins of the body were shifted to the doll, which was then put adrift on a river, washing away the sins.

"My family's goal coming out to Okinawa was to get the full experience of the country and culture," said Stephanie Blacketer, a classroom participant. "Last year, I could not explain to my daughter what (the festival) was all about. This year, I can."

**Hina dolls, shown here, represent the hope that the future will bring peace and a husband for one's young daughter.**

**Below: Atsuko Kinjo assists Krista Cala during a class held to teach participants how to properly construct Hina dolls at the Personal Services Center on Camp Foster Feb. 27. Kinjo is an intercultural instructor with Marine Corps Community Services and Cala is a classroom participant.**

The original dolls were made from straw and grass, but in recent years have been mass-produced and sold in stores. In Kinjo's classes, she provides hand-made washi paper for her participants to construct the dolls.

"In Japanese culture, this girls' day is a big day," said Michelle Lusk, a classroom participant. "I am happy to be a part of this and encourage others to see what the Japanese culture has to offer."

While the festival is traditionally a day of blessing, some think that leaving your Hina doll out past March 3 can bring bad luck to one's marital future, said Kinjo.

Testing this superstition would not be advised if one is looking for a husband, according to Kinjo.

The final element of the festival is a traditional meal eaten March 3, consisting of a salt-based soup called Hamaguri Ushiojiru, which contains clams still in the shell.

Clam shells in food are deemed the symbol of a united and peaceful couple because a pair of clam shells fits perfectly, and no pair but the original pair can do so, according to Kinjo.

David Campbell lunges to return a tennis ball during an island-wide tournament on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Feb. 25. The tournament showcased intermediate and advanced matches, which followed the rules and guidelines of the United States Tennis Association.

Tamario Mullins returns a tennis ball during an island-wide tennis tournament on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Feb. 25. The tournament gave tennis players an opportunity to showcase their skills. Mullins was one of six men who competed in the tournament.

# Tournament brings all levels of skill to courts

**Story and photos by Pfc. Codey Underwood**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Players showed their passion, talent and athleticism during an island-wide tennis tournament hosted by the Marine Corps Community Services at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Feb. 25.

The tournament showcased intermediate and advanced matches, which followed the rules and guidelines of the United States Tennis Association, said Yohandro Espinosa, a sports coordinator for MCCS.

"Advanced matches are for seasoned players, while intermediate matches are for the beginning or casual players," said Espinosa. "The skill classes are determined by the players."

The contestants competed for first and second place trophies. All of the matches were either men's or women's singles with no age limit, said Espinosa.

Ten players competed in the single-elimination tournaments organized by skill level and gender.

Daryl Perales claimed first place for the men's intermediate bracket, and William Barker was the runner-up. Sandra Perales took first place for the women's intermediate bracket, and Yoshiko Youngdano was the runner-up. The winner of the men's advanced bracket was Jose Ramos with Tamario Mullins as the runner-up. No women participated in the advanced bracket.

Unlike most of the other advanced players in the tournament, Ramos did not begin playing until after high school. It was then that he found his passion for tennis.

"Tennis is one of my favorite sports now," said Ramos. "During the weekends I like to spend a lot of time practicing on my skills or playing in tennis tournaments. I'm grateful that MCCS sponsored this tournament."

MCCS plans to sponsor more tennis tournaments throughout the year. For more information, visit www.mccsokinawa.com.

# In Theaters Now

## MARCH 2 - MARCH 8

### FOSTER

**TODAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 6 p.m.; This Means War (R), 9 p.m.
**SATURDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; We Bought a Zoo (PG), 6 p.m.; Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol (PG13), 9 p.m.
**SUNDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.
**MONDAY** We Bought a Zoo (PG), 7 p.m.
**TUESDAY** The Sitter (R), 7 p.m.
**WEDNESDAY** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG13), 7 p.m.
**THURSDAY** Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.

### KADENA

**TODAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), noon 6 and 9 p.m.
**SATURDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; This Means War (R), 9 p.m.
**SUNDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; This Means War (R), 7 p.m.
**MONDAY** This Means War (R), 7 p.m.
**TUESDAY** Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol (PG13), 7 p.m.
**WEDNESDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 7 p.m.
**THURSDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 7 p.m.

### COURTNEY

**TODAY** Act of Valor (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
**SATURDAY** Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G), 2 p.m.; We Bought a Zoo (PG), 6 p.m.
**SUNDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 2 and 6 p.m.
**MONDAY** We Bought a Zoo (PG), 7 p.m.
**TUESDAY** Closed
**WEDNESDAY** This Means War (R), 7 p.m.
**THURSDAY** Closed

### FUTENMA

**TODAY** We Bought a Zoo (PG), 6:30 p.m.
**SATURDAY** Act of Valor (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
**SUNDAY** We Bought a Zoo (PG), 4 p.m.; Red Tails (PG13), 7 p.m.
**MONDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 6:30 p.m.
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

### KINSER

**TODAY** Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
**SATURDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 3 p.m.; Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
**SUNDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 3 p.m.; Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
**MONDAY** Closed
**TUESDAY** Closed
**WEDNESDAY** Act of Valor (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
**THURSDAY** The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG), 6:30 p.m.

### HANSEN

**TODAY** Underworld Awakening (R), 7:30 p.m.
**SATURDAY** Closed
**SUNDAY** Closed
**MONDAY** Closed
**TUESDAY** Closed
**WEDNESDAY** Man on a Ledge (PG13), 7 p.m.
**THURSDAY** Red Tails (PG13), 7 p.m.

### SCHWAB

**TODAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 7 p.m.
**SATURDAY** We Bought a Zoo (PG), 5 p.m.
**SUNDAY** Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 5 p.m.
**MONDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

### THEATER DIRECTORY

**CAMP FOSTER** 645-3465
**KADENA AIR BASE** 634-1869
**(USO NIGHT)** 632-8781
**MCAS FUTENMA** 636-3890
**(USO NIGHT)** 636-2113
**CAMP COURTNEY** 622-9616
**CAMP HANSEN** 623-4564
**(USO NIGHT)** 623-5011
**CAMP KINSER** 637-2177
**CAMP SCHWAB** 625-2333
**(USO NIGHT)** 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.

# SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

**DRAGON BOAT TEAM**

• It's that time of year – dragon boat time! The Single Marine Program is looking for motivated single Marines and sailors to join the 2012 dragon boat team and participate in the Annual Naha Dragon Boat Race May 5. Teams consist of 37 members each. The SMP team will be trained again by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force team. Practices will be held at the White Beach Naval Facility every Wednesday in March and two days per week in April. Transportation will be provided to all team members. Do not miss out on this opportunity to participate in Okinawan culture and be part of the best dragon boat team on island. Contact 645-3681 for more information.

**BUSHIDO CHALLENGE - MAY 18**

• The Bushido Challenge tests physical and combat fitness with competitions including a tire flip, dead hang, shot put and other events. This challenge is open to teams of four, of which at least one team member must be a single or unaccompanied Marine or sailor. To sign up, contact the SMP office.

**DISCOVER GOLF - FREE GOLF LESSONS**

• Taiyo Golf Course is hosting free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

# Japanese phrase of the week:

"Ogenki desu ka?"
(pronounced:
oh-ghen-kee
dehs kah)

It means,
"How have you been?"

"Umaku itte imasu"
(pronounced:
oo-mah-koo eet-teh
ee-mahs)

It means,
"Quite well"

# CHAPLAINS' CORNER

*Humility gives us the power and strength to ask for the help we oftentimes desperately need.*

## Humility – The Forgotten Virtue

**Chaplain Wesley Scholtz**
MCAS FUTENMA, H&HS

We live in and are expected to thrive in an environment that puts a premium on the virtues of strength, endurance and might. This expectation is good as it pushes us to excel and be the best Marines or sailors we are called to be.

At the same time, there are times in our lives when just "rubbing dirt" in a wound and moving on does not address our needs. As the pendulum on the spectrum of virtues swings to strength, we often forget other virtues on the opposite end of the spectrum that we should seek to master as well.

One virtue that we often forget to live out, that is just as important as others, is the virtue of humility.

Why is humility important and what does it do for us? Humility opens avenues for us to ask for help when we need it. One cannot imagine a shipmate lying on the battlefield after having received a wound from combat and not asking for help. In the same way, everyday life, deployed or not, brings out wounds that are just as real and require the proper method for healing. Not all of us have the skill set necessary to bring this healing about; however, all of us need to heal.

Humility gives us the power and strength to ask for the help we oftentimes desperately need. So, be the humble person that is strong enough to ask for help. Whether you are a spouse on island trying to make sense of it all or a single service person sitting in the barracks missing home, it is important to have the humility to ask for and receive the help you need.

Chaplains are here because we love you and want to be a resource to help you and your family heal, whenever needed.

When people cultivate this virtue of humility, we become whole, both physically and spiritually, and are more able to grow to be the person that we are called to be.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX