

# OKINAWA MARINE

APRIL 27, 2012

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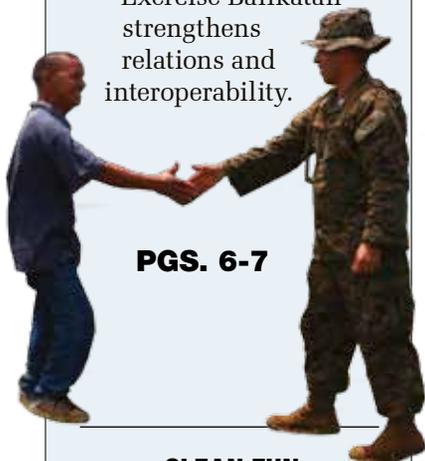
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**Lance Cpl. Alden Strodder is carried away from the scene of a simulated aircraft accident by two firefighters from the Kin Town Fire Department at Kin Blue Training Area April 25. Strodder, an aviation flight planner with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, acted as a role player during the combined-joint training exercise. The exercise was used to increase communication and enhance interoperability with emergency responders on Okinawa.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

## Japan-US response Exercise tests bilateral capabilities

**Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KIN BLUE — Civilian and military emergency responders took part in a downed aircraft exercise here April 25.

U.S. service members from the

Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force and emergency responders from the Ishikawa Police Station, Kin and Camp Hansen Fire Department and the Japan Coast Guard all participated in the event.

see **CAPABILITIES** pg 5

## Consulate, US military host 'Okinawan First' business fair

**Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CHATAN TOWN — Business leaders from around Okinawa gathered at the Nirai Center in Chatan Town for the "Okinawan First" business fair to learn about business opportunities with the U.S. armed forces April 18.

Contracting offices from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps delivered presentations concerning needs that could be met by Okinawa community businesses ranging from construction to office supply requirements.

"This fair is a collaborative effort between the 18th Wing on Kadena Air Base, the U.S. Consulate, local chambers of commerce with contracting offices and the Okinawa prefectural government," said U.S. Consul General Raymond F. Greene. "This gives us a chance to deepen the relationship between the local communities and the military installations."

see **FAIR** pg 5

## Marines hone tactics, techniques in outback

**Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber**

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

KANGAROO FLATS TRAINING AREA, Australia — Marines conducted a field-training exercise here April 16-20 to reinforce their knowledge of basic infantry tactics, techniques and procedures.

During the weeklong field exercise, the Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, trained at several different ranges where they executed combat marksmanship, foot patrols and ambushes to accustom themselves with operating in the Australia outback.

While on foot patrols, the Marines practiced land navigation, said 2nd Lt. Gregory Jurschak, platoon commander with the company. Additionally, the point man of each squad practiced identifying possible threats on each path, such as dangerous animals and potential combatants.

see **OUTBACK** pg 5



**Pfc. William J. Rogers peers through tall grass during a patrol at Kangaroo Flats Training Area, Australia, April 18. Rogers is a rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber

# HAZING

## Not Corps tradition

1st Sgt. Jacob J. Whitley

Hazing includes any conduct where a military member, regardless of service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful. Hazing wrecks esprit de corps and will not be tolerated in the Marine Corps. All Marines will be treated with dignity, care and respect. Marines need to be ever vigilant for signs of hazing within our ranks.

These "rites of passage" and initiations are unjustified because Marines have already received the title Marine and there is no other initiation. It is horrible when a group of individuals come to an agreement to do something malicious, but it is worse when one of those Marines has the courage to say no but is forced into it.

This does not exclude Marines willing to participate in cruel or harmful activities because they believe in these separate initiations. These abusive and oppressive activities are not Marine traditions and will not be tolerated, even if the victim is willing.

A victim who has reported hazing has to be completely removed from the scenario by command officials. The

victim will be separated from suspected offenders, and this often means the victim is physically taken away from his or her own unit. I know a Marine who is a victim of hazing, and that individual will never return to their job while stationed here. Hazing also weakens operational readiness of units in many ways. After hazing is reported, Marines often separate into cliques, taking away from unit cohesion.

During investigations, the question is asked, how many Marines participated

**These abusive and oppressive activities are not Marine traditions and will not be tolerated, even if the victim is willing.**

in the hazing? All of those Marines could be pulled from the fight. Hazing will cripple a unit. The Marine Corps is committed to both preventing hazing and holding transgressors accountable for hazing.

The bottom line is that every Marine needs to continue to respect

their brothers and sisters. There is no reason to force someone to do something that they don't want to do.

We signed on to follow the orders of the president of the United States and those appointed under him. If offenders and potential offenders can not do that, then they are the ones who need to leave the organization and not the victims of hazing.

*Whitley is the Company B., Headquarters and Service Battalion, first sergeant.*

## AROUND THE CORPS



Cpl. Enrique Torres, right, helps Lance Cpl. Joseph Hevia climb onto a roof while searching a compound during Operation Zema Parma Sar Tera, which means, "Don't Tread On Me," in Helmand province's Garmisr district April 14. Torres is a squad leader and Hevia is a rifleman, both are with 1st Platoon, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder



Retired Gunnery Sgt. Thomas E. Williams fires a World War II flame thrower during the Fire Weapons From Marine Corps History event at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., April 13. The flamethrower, equipped with gasoline tanks and a gun group, was first used in combat on Guadalcanal in 1943. The weapon's primary use was against defensive positions such as bunkers. Williams is the director of the United States Marine Corps Historical Company. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chelsea Flowers



Marines with 4th Tank Battalion clean their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank April 13 after a day of training during Exercise Africa Lion 2012 in Morocco. AL '12 is a U.S. African Command-sponsored, Marine Forces Africa-led exercise involving various types of training including: a command post exercise, live-fire and maneuvering, peace keeping operations, an intelligence capacity building seminar, aerial refueling/low-level flight training, as well as medical and dental assistance projects. The annual exercise is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of both the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces and U.S. Marines' military tactics, techniques and procedures. 4th Tank Bn. is with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Tyler L. Main

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

# Marines plan, rig, execute fast-rope drills



**Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and the Jungle Warfare Training Center performed fast-rope drills at landing zone Hansen at Camp Hansen April 19.

During the drills, the Marines learned how to properly plan, rig and execute helicopter rope suspension techniques from instructors with Special Operations Training Group.

The Marines completed the fast-rope drills as the final part of a two-week helicopter rope suspension techniques course, said Sgt. John W. Hooser III, the lead HRST instructor with SOTG, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

“The Marines built up to the training by completing several exercises familiarizing them with all the operations of HRST,” said Hooser.

As part of the course, the Marines learned the basics of planning an HRST operation.

“HRST operations (allow Marines to be inserted into an area) where helicopter landing is not possible,” said Hooser. “The Marines learned how to coordinate all of the responsibilities to make an HRST operation possible.”

The students learned how to plan everything from coordinating with the helicopter crew to planning a landing zone. Before the students could execute the fast-rope techniques from a helicopter,

they practiced at a training tower.

“We needed to get ourselves familiarized with the techniques and commands of fast-roping before going out and doing the real thing,” said Cpl. Ryan K. Fitzgerald, a reconnaissance man with 3rd Recon. Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During the training, the students learned how to grasp the rope and control their descent, by wrapping their arms and legs around the rope, said Hooser.

“It is important for the students to learn to hang onto the rope before descending and not lunge or jump for it,” said Hooser. “This act ensures the Marines get (to) the ground safely.”

Once the Marines became proficient at the practice tower, they began live drills from a helicopter.

They started first at an elevation of 20 feet before moving to an elevation of 40 feet, descending two at a time to simulate real-world operations.

The Marines continued the drills until all of the students became efficient and comfortable with fast-roping, said Hooser.

After all Marines completed fast-roping drills several times, the HRST operation training course was complete.

“With the completion of this course, the Marines are now qualified to plan and execute HRST operations,” said Hooser. “They have the knowledge and skill to conduct HRST operations whenever and wherever they are needed.”

**Marines descend from a Navy H-60 Seahawk helicopter during fast-rope drills at landing zone Hansen on Camp Hansen April 19. During the training, Marines learned how to control their descent by wrapping their arms and legs around the rope and squeezing and loosening their grip to adjust their descent speed. The Marines are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

## Symposium displays high-tech training devices

**Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Department of Defense contractors and Marines with Combat Camera held a training symposium at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster April 18.

The symposium informed units on Okinawa about the training devices combat camera, part of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and DOD contractors have to offer.

“The training symposium shows what ground-training simulators are available for Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific,” said Bob R. Ledyard, the training systems liaison officer with Marine Corps Systems Command on Camp Hansen.

The symposium was open to all service members interested in the wide variety of high-tech training devices available.

“We have three major types of devices on Camp Hansen and Camp Foster,” said Anthony F. Woodard, the quality assurance evaluator for Combat Camera. “We have the virtual training devices, which include convoy simulators and deployable virtual training environments. We have the egress trainers where we teach Marines how to exit aircraft and vehicles when they are flipped over or submerged in water. For field-training exercises, we have contractors who offer simulated improvised explosive devices and weapons that fire simulation ammunition.”

By talking with the contractors, Marines saw how different training devices, such as simulated improvised explosive devices, could provide a safe training environment for their respective units.

“(The simulated IED) uses carbon dioxide and powder to simulate an explosion,” said Carlos Carrasco, an instructor with Katmai Simulation and Training on Camp Hansen. “There are no pyrotechnics involved.”

Katmai Simulation and Training offers training equipment, which simulates roadside bombs, as well as a simulated explosive vests, according to Carrasco.

“We train Marines so they can train their units,” said Carrasco. “We do



**Marines set up security after exiting the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer during a drill at Camp Hansen April 23. The Marines are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

not get into the tactics they will be using, but we instruct them on how the gear should be used. It only takes a five minute class for us to show someone how to properly use the gear.”

Safety is not the only advantage many of the training devices have to offer. “The biggest plus in having this type of training is the amount of money we can save by not actually having to use the (actual) equipment, ammunition or fuel,” said Woodard. “When we use our supporting arms virtual trainer, Marines are able to practice making calls for fire without needing an F/A-18 Hornet flying overhead, burning fuel, and dropping ordnance.”

The simulators, like the SAVT, enable Marines to get the same experience from a virtual environment as they would from a field-training exercise at less cost to the Marine Corps, said Ledyard.

“Saving the Marine Corps money and resources, as well as providing a safe training environment, is a huge benefit to the Marine Corps and should not be passed up while on Okinawa,” said Woodard.

## BRIEFS

## 2012 ROAD TAX COLLECTION

Personnel are required to pay road tax on all vehicles not de-registered before April 1. All 2012 road tax stickers must be displayed before June 1. Road taxes may be paid at the following updated locations and times:

- Camp Kinser Surfside: May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Kadena Keystone Theater: May 7, 8 and 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 9 from noon to 3:30 p.m., May 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Foster Theater: May 14-16, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Courtney Education Center: May 17-18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Torii Station Chapel Annex: May 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Hansen, The Palms: May 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Camp Schwab Camp Services: May 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The following original documents are required: military registration, 2011 road tax receipt, vehicle title, Japanese compulsory insurance and American insurance. Road taxes must be paid in Japanese yen only.

For more information, contact the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481/3963.

## PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CARP FESTIVAL

The Carp Festival will be held April 28 starting at 10 a.m. at the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Park Museum grounds, in Mabuni, Itoman City.

For more information, visit [www.peace-museum.pref.okinawa.jp/english/](http://www.peace-museum.pref.okinawa.jp/english/).

## DSTRESS LINE ROAD SHOW

The DSTRESS Line is an initiative to provide anonymous counseling services to Marines, attached sailors, and family members who want to speak with a peer. Individuals can call the DSTRESS Line and speak anonymously with another Marine, spouse, doctor or licensed behavioral health technician.

All Marines, sailors, families and civilian personnel are invited to attend briefs regarding the DSTRESS Line May 8 at the Southern Breeze room inside the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster:

- 2 p.m. - Overview and operating procedures for key influencers;
- 3 p.m. - Train-the-trainer brief;
- 6 p.m. - Family member brief.

Visit [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com) for more information.

**TO SUBMIT A BRIEF**, send an e-mail to [okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil](mailto: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.

## SQUARED AWAY

## NCOs first line of defense against hazing

Cpl. Garry J. Welch

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Noncommissioned officers are important assets to the Marine Corps. They work, teach and, in many cases, live alongside their junior Marines. Due to the close relationship NCOs have with their Marines, they are the first line of defense in stemming hazing.

Marine Corps Order 1700.28A, which defines hazing and the Marine Corps' intent on the issue, states that no Marine may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being conducted upon them.

Participating in any form of hazing may severely damage or even end a Marine's career. The consequences of hazing include potential administrative or disciplinary prosecution under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Whether it is coercing a Marine to do something they should not do, for example pushing a newly promoted Marine's chevrons into their skin or giving a newly promoted corporal their "blood stripe," the things that were once (and incorrectly) viewed by some as tradition are actually acts of hazing.

It is the job of NCOs to ensure their Marines are educated on the topic of hazing and how it affects the unit and what to do if they see it happen.

"The Marine Corps has only one initiation process and that begins when recruits step on the yellow footprints and ends when they earn the

title of United States Marine," said Sgt. Norris B. Avery, an air operations NCO with III MEF.

Although it is up to the NCOs to ensure their Marines are not being hazed, there are some occasions when the NCOs are hazing junior Marines.

"If someone superior to you is hazing you, you have to inform your command," said Cpl. John E. Hale, an administrative clerk with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "If it is a sergeant or staff NCO doing the hazing, inform someone higher in your chain of command so it can be dealt with."

In the end, it is every Marine's responsibility to make sure hazing incidents do not happen, and it is the responsibility of those who witness it, or are hazed themselves, to report the information pertaining to the incident to their command.

"Marines can't just look away and pretend it didn't happen if they see someone getting hazed," said Cpl. Justin H. Garrard, the barracks manager with Company B, H&S Battalion, MCB Foster, III MEF. "It is everyone's responsibility to report hazing incidents

because you wouldn't want to be hazed, so why would you let it happen to someone else?"

According to MCO 1700.28A, all allegations of hazing will be investigated and violators will be subject to appropriate action, in order to ultimately prevent acts of hazing and ensure all Marines are treated with dignity and respect.

Hazing not only hurts the Marines being hazed and the unit, but it also contradicts everything the Marine Corps stands for and represents.

**No Marine may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them.**

MCO 1700.28A

## DISCUSSION BOARD: HAZING



Sgt. Travis C. Burch, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines

"Hazing affects every person in a unit from Pfc. to the Sergeant Major. Not only does it alienate someone from the unit and make them feel uncomfortable, it lowers morale and in the end effects mission accomplishment. Hazing can happen anywhere and should be watched for in all situations and units."



Cpl. Carlos H. Leza, 7th Communication Battalion

"NCOs should explain to the junior Marines what hazing is and what it does to Marines. Explain to them on a personal level with their own experiences and explain why hazing is bad. This method will hit home with junior Marines, and they will understand how hazing affects other Marines."



Cpl. Emily E. Monks, Special Operations Training Group

"NCOs should always be observant of their junior Marines and fellow NCOs. They should listen to how the junior Marines and NCOs are communicating to see if any mistreatment is happening."

To join the discussion, visit [www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac](http://www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac)

## Brief details drawdown



**Col. William A. Tosick II speaks with Marines at the Camp Foster Theater April 17. Tosick and other representatives from Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs conducted various briefings April 17-19 on Camp Fosters and Hansen concerning the active-duty force drawdown, promotion process and roles of various subordinate offices of Manpower Management. Manpower and Reserve Affairs is part of Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.**

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum*

### OUTBACK from pg 1

“The purpose of the patrols our Marines were conducting at Kangaroo Flats was really to get back to the basics as far as patrolling is concerned,” said Jurschak. “Most of my Marines have experience patrolling in Afghanistan and in combat environments, but the environment here in Australia is so different from a terrain and vegetation standpoint, it is forcing us to get back to the basics.”

The squads also watched out for ambushes, reacted to them, and fought their way through them if seen, said Jurschak.

The terrain at Kangaroo Flats, though rugged and unfamiliar to most of the Marines, provided many different training scenarios.

“The area had great training value to it,” said Gunnery Sgt. Bradley T. Pesek, a platoon sergeant with Company F. “It was very well-rounded and had good vegetation, hills and terrain for patrols and platoon movements.

“I think all the ranges provided great feedback, and it really helped us to work on our marksmanship,” said Pesek.

Australian pilots flew in support of the patrols, providing simulated close-air support and aerial reconnaissance.

The support of the pilots and helicopters added value to the training, said Pfc. John Sargent, a rifleman and team leader with the company.

“It definitely made it more realistic,” Sargent said. “We did land navigation through (rough terrain) while also being scouted in the air by the helicopter.”

“It was different than what we usually do, and that was my favorite part,” said Sargent.

“Overall, I would say this was just good training, period,” said Lance Cpl. John Nakamura, a machine gunner with Company F. “We were able to do some cool stuff and learn about terrain none of us are really familiar with. I think all the Marines in my peer group learned something new.”

### CAPABILITIES from pg 1

“The purpose of the exercise is to create a realistic emergency scenario and test our emergency response capabilities,” said Col. David W. DeTata, the Okinawa area field office director, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. “Exercises like this foster better communication and coordination between Japanese and U.S. responders. We have the opportunity to see how one another operates, while talking-out issues.”

Being prepared to respond rapidly and effectively when the need arises is invaluable, according to DeTata.

“Military and civil authorities need to be prepared to face any emergency that could occur on Okinawa,” said DeTata. The aircraft mishap exercise is a one possible scenario that we can train for, drill, and evaluate.”

Although the scenario simulates an aircraft accident, the training is intended to improve bilateral

### FAIR from pg 1

Representatives from Marine Corps Community Services, Defense Commissary Agency, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Marine Corps regional contracting office, 18th Wing contracting office, 18th Force Support Squadron, the Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East and the General Services Administration answered questions regarding goods and services that could be provided by locally-owned businesses.

“The Okinawa Industry Promotion Public Corporation, the chambers of commerce and our own people suggested we make changes to the setup and the venue for this year,” said Heather Dresser, economic officer at

the U.S. Consulate in Naha. “The only agency that was not here last year is the Defense Commissary Agency.”

The OIPPC played a huge role in this year’s event, said Dresser. It is supported by the prefectural government and is a perfect venue for the small and medium businesses in Okinawa to learn about and compete for U.S. contracts.

“The prefectural government was fully supportive of this effort,” said Greene.

The contracting offices want the best deal for every yen and dollar they spend, said Dresser. The U.S. armed forces want the best value possible for their contracts.

The fair provided valuable insight into military contracting for attendees.

emergency response capabilities for any crisis on Okinawa.

“When an emergency arises on Okinawa, it is not a Japanese problem or a U.S. problem,” said DeTata. “It is our problem, and we must face the situation together. This bilateral training helps hone our skill sets and build our relationships.

“This annual exercise definitely makes the community safer,” he added. “We are able to respond faster and more efficiently due to the training and coordination that was conducted at this event.”

The concern for the communities’ safety is the major driving force to why we conduct this operation in the first place, said DeTata

“We are thankful to the Okinawan people for their patience, understanding and contribution to the exercise,” said DeTata. “We are committed to training opportunities that help increase our ability to keep the Okinawan community safe.”



**Firefighters with the Kin Town Fire Department check Lance Cpl. Alden Strodder for injuries during a combined-joint exercise at the Kin Blue Training Area April 25. During the exercise, Strodder, an aviation flight planner with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, acted as an injured crew member in need of rescue by emergency responders. The combined-joint training exercise was used to increase communication and enhance interoperability with emergency responders on Okinawa to be better prepared in case of real-world emergencies.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning*

A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter flies over the flight line of Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, as part of BK 12. The helicopter is assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lyndel Johnson



Lance Cpl. Jaquelyn A. Bautista buries fiber-optic cables as a communications clerk with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Division that is working alongside CLB-3.

# Exercise Balikatan 2012 strengthens partnership



Philippine and U.S. Marine Corps Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting teams extinguish a fire during training on the Puerto Princesa Airport flight line in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. The exercise is part of Balikatan 2012, which is trained together with U.S. Marines in support of Balikatan 2012 Task Force Palawan. Exercise Balikatan 2012, in its 28th iteration, is an annual bilateral training exercise between the United States and the Philippines that increases the interoperability between the participating nations through joint planning, contingency operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The U.S. Marines are with Aviation Operations Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



...cable at the Crow Valley camp site April 8 in support of BK 12. Bautista, Battalion 3, is part of a communications embarkment team with 3rd

Photo by Cpl. Vanessa American Horse



Philippine Air Force pilot Lt. Arcy D. Arlellana and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David J. Lambert, discuss tips on how to improve their flying capabilities aboard the P-3C Orion at Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, April 18. The two conducted in-flight training in addition to discussing tactics on how to spot ships and gather information as part of BK 12. Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood

# Partnerships



...an, Republic of the Philippines, April 22. The firefighters between the U.S. and the Republic of the Philippines that. The Philippine team is with the Puerto Princesa Airport. ...nary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker



Philippine Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Adua, an engineer with Western Command, and Lance Cpl. Melinda L. Carbajal, a combat engineer assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, talk about the progress of their building project April 9 for Santa Cruz Elementary School in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, during BK 12. The school is one of five engineering civic assistance projects the island of Palawan will receive during the exercise. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Cashmere Jefferson



Philippine Army Capt. Earl Panganiban sits shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. military forces during the BK 12 humanitarian assistance and disaster relief academic day April 18 at Camp Aguinaldo, Republic of the Philippines. The term "Balikatan" in Tagalog means shoulder-to-shoulder. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Holzworth

# Marine families spend time with local children

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Parents crashed and children laughed as Marines and their families tested their skills with children from the local community at the bowling alley.

Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and 4th Marine Regiment invited children from a local orphanage to a fun day of bowling at the Camp Schwab Bowling Alley April 21.

Recon. Bn. and 4th Marines are part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The children are from the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children located in Henoko.

"We set this event up as part of the Month of the Military Child," said Bobette E. Rossiter, family readiness officer for 4th Marine Regiment. "We wanted to include the children of Nagomi in this celebration."

Nearly 30 Marines and family members joined with approximately 17 children from the home for the event, said Rossiter.

"There is a long history of good relations with the local community and Schwab," said Fumio Iha, community relations specialist and liaison officer for Camp Schwab. "For 10 years now the Marines and Henoko community have (had) seasonal events with each other."

The Marines wanted to show a gesture of goodwill to the children, said Iha.

"The children at the home do not have parents (that) they live with," said Iha. "It is good for the children to feel like they have a family. The American families provided that feeling for the children."

During the event, each military family was paired up with children to bowl with, said Rossiter.

"Some of the children had never bowled before," said Lt. Col. Brian A. Ross, the executive officer of 4th Marine Regiment. "The Marines and their families helped them out a lot understanding the game."

The language barrier did not seem to matter, said Rossiter. The children picked the game up very quickly.

"All families came on a volunteer basis," said Rossiter. "We gave the opportunity to the families, and none were hesitant to come out and join the fun."

When all the games were bowled, the families and children huddled together and thanked each other for the fun day. Rossiter then gave the children toys, blankets and candy donated by military families.

"This was a great opportunity for the Marines and families to work with and bring joy to the children," said Rossiter.



A Marine shows a child from the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children how to bowl at the Camp Schwab Bowling Alley April 21. The Marines who attended are assigned to 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. and 4th Marine Regiment, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

## Okinawans, Marines, sailors create stronger relationship



Cpl. Alex J. Brown wipes down windows at the Okinawa Children Development Center in Awase April 21. Marines and sailors with Marine Corps Air Station Futenma visited the center to spend time with the children and help clean. Brown is an aviation operations specialist with Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

It may have seemed like just another Saturday on Okinawa for some people, but for the children and employees at the Okinawa Children Development Center it was a day to remember.

Marines with Marine Corps Air Station Futenma volunteered their time to clean and play games at the center in Awase April 21.

As the Marines and sailors introduced themselves and spoke about where they were from, the children listened attentively with smiles on their faces.

"We come out here all the time," said Lt. Cmdr. Kobena K. Arthur, the command chaplain at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. "We come out here to let them know that Marines are here to help however possible and to establish a better relationship with the Okinawans."

In an effort to increase existing friendships with the community, Marines, sailors and one Japanese translator volunteered to help clean and play games with the children at the center.

"This is my second time here," said Cpl. Alex J. Brown, an aviation operation specialist with Headquarters & Headquarters

Squadron, MCAS Futenma. "I love to volunteer. It helps build a relationship with the (Okinawans). I really enjoyed it."

"People don't always get to see all the good stuff we do on the side when we volunteer and help out the community," said Cpl. Alvin K. Lee, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense chief, with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "I think Marines should do it more often to show the (Okinawans) we're friendly and compassionate and that we do care about them."

Volunteer opportunities for service members from the air station are often arranged by Arthur.

"Marines volunteer to help here all the time," said Arthur. "They love to come out and spend time with the kids and help them out however possible."

With one last song of "Old McDonald had a Farm" leaving a smile on the children's faces, another day of volunteering came to an end. Just before the Marines left the children, with smiles on their faces, the children gave the volunteers a token of appreciation: a bookmark with the words, thank you.

# Jazzing it up

## III MEF Band supports month of military child



**Cpl. Austin B. Parker explains how to read music to the children at the School Age Care Center on Camp Foster April 18. Parker is a trombone player with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band.**

*Photo courtesy of School Age Care Center*

**Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**D**rums resonated, horns rang out and children laughed and applauded while the III Marine Expeditionary Force party band performed.

The III MEF Band entertained the children at the School Age Care Center on Camp Foster April 18 in support of the Month of the Military Child.

The party band is a small ensemble, made up of members of the III MEF Band and performs traditional New Orleans-style music, as well as modern brass band songs.

The songs were selected because they are fun and uplifting, said Cpl. Jeshua E. Sosa, a percussionist with the party band.

The Month of the Military Child was established to applaud the sacrifices military children make on a daily basis.

"The children were excited and running around," said Sosa. "It is great to be able to play for kids and adults alike and see them enjoy the performance we put on for them."

"I felt that I was doing my job correctly because of all those happy faces," he said. "Overall, they were having fun and so was I."

Members of the party band agreed that they enjoyed performing for the children at the School Age Care Center.

"It was truly a golden opportunity to expose the kids to some new kinds of music, as well as to give them a break from their everyday routine and enjoy a

**"It was truly a golden opportunity to expose the kids to some new kinds of music, as well as to give them a break from their everyday routine and enjoy a performance."**

**Cpl. Daniel A. Muse**

performance," said Cpl. Daniel A. Muse, a percussionist with the party band.

Playing in support of the Month of the Military Child was a true privilege, according to Muse.

"We performed traditional New Orleans marches, such as 'When the Saints Go Marching In' and 'South Rampart Street Parade,'" said Muse. "We also performed some other popular tunes such as 'Mercy, Mercy, Mercy.'"

The performance was one of my all-time favorites because of the party band setting and being able to perform for the children, according to Muse.

"The kids were super energetic and participated in the show," said Muse. "At times they were cheering and screaming so loudly we could barely hear ourselves. It was a level of hype that we rarely get to see."



**Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band perform for children at the School Age Care Center on Camp Foster on April 18. The performance was held in support of the Month of the Military Child.** *Photo courtesy of School Age Care Center*

# 3rd MLG runs to stomp-out sexual assault

**Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Units within 3rd Marine Logistics Group participated in a run in recognition of sexual assault awareness month on Camp Kinser April 20.

The Stomp Out Sexual Assault Run was coordinated by Lt. Col. Gilbert A. Warner, the sexual assault response coordinator for 3rd MLG, in conjunction with 3rd MLG uniformed victim advocates to boost awareness among Marines and sailors about sexual assault.

Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG Headquarters Company, CLR 3 and CLR 37 were among the units that participated in the run.

“Our goal with this run was to bring the Marines together and explain to them that sexual assault is everyone’s problem, not just those who are involved,” said Warner. “In this brotherhood, we all

need to be accountable for each other.”

The run was approximately three miles and began at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser. After the run, Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commanding general of 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force, addressed the Marines and sailors about the importance of sexual assault awareness.

“Runs like these build camaraderie between the Marines and carry out a good purpose,” said Lance Cpl. Quincy A. Nelson, an administrative clerk with CLR 37. “As Marines we need to look out for each other as we fight this ongoing issue.”

For sexual assault awareness month, Warner has been working with 3rd MLG UVAs to schedule events throughout April for the Marines and sailors of 3rd MLG.

“As UVAs we are here to inform, support and refer,” said Staff Sgt. Clayton J. Sharples, a UVA for



**Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, right, with Lt. Col. Gilbert A. Warner, left, speaks during a formation after units of 3rd Marine Logistics Group conducted a run for sexual assault awareness month on Camp Kinser April 20. The Stomp Out Sexual Assault Run began at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser and was approximately three miles long. Crenshaw is the commanding general of 3rd MLG, III MEF. Warner is the sexual assault response coordinator for 3rd MLG, III MEF.** Courtesy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven A. Dennis

Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. “Our goal is to protect and provide resources for victims and spread the word about how to prevent sexual assault.”

During the event, there were several points that focused on the affects of

sexual assault, including the responsibility of everyone to do their part, the role alcohol plays in sexual assault, and the importance of an assault being reported, according to Warner.

“As a leader of Marines, I see being the SARC for

3rd MLG as a sacred responsibility,” said Warner. “The bottom line is no one joined the military to be sexually assaulted, and we need to convey the message again and again that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated.”

## Commander uses NFL experience to lead Marines

**Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Like many of us approaching a major decision in life, John E. Kasperski had to make a choice. After an impressive four years of college football at the University of Tulsa, Kasperski found himself at the New York Jets training camp.

Unfortunately, as the 1985 National Football League regular season approached, Kasperski was cut from the team. After returning to Tulsa to look for work, he realized he had two choices, either become tied down to a career in the civilian sector or join the military.

Within a year of being released, Kasperski was off to Marine Corps Officer’s Candidate School where he would later incorporate the things he knew and loved while on the football field into leading Marines. Kasperski never let being cut from the NFL hold him back from a life he could be proud of, and now he is the commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“There is a definite correlation between athletics and leading Marines,” said Kasperski. “In football, everyone on the field (is) an element to team success. The Marine Corps is the same way. We fight as one and everyone plays their part.”

While in college, Kasperski alternated between offensive guard and offensive tackle. After missing the NFL draft his senior year, he



**John E. Kasperski removes his helmet at the New York Jets training camp in 1985.** Courtesy photo

received an invitation to tryout with the New York Jets and the Denver Broncos.

“I went with the Jets because the opportunities were better for me,” said Kasperski. “The Broncos were inviting a lot more people to come to camp than the Jets were, so I had a better chance with the Jets.”

As the Jets prepared for the upcoming season, Kasperski was a part of the 60-man roster. After three preseason games, Kasperski was told that he was going to be cut from the team prior to the start of the regular season.

“I have no regrets about what happened,” said Kasperski. “There is a point when you reach your end, and then it’s time to move on.”

Kasperski returned home to Tulsa where for the first time in his life, he was searching for a job.

“I can remember sitting in these corporate job

interviews thinking I have the rest of my life to work a job like this,” said Kasperski. “I wanted to do something more exciting with my life.”

Twenty-six years later, he reflects on his decision to join the Marine Corps and has no regrets, according to Kasperski.

“The focus Col. Kasperski places on teamwork, camaraderie, shared hardships and success is without a doubt founded on his years as an upper tier team-oriented athlete,” said Lt. Col. Brian Clemens, executive officer of CLR-37. “(Professional football’s) loss was the Marine Corps’ gain with Col. Kasperski.”

Kasperski attended a fellowship at Pennsylvania State University in 2009, where he encouraged students to explore what the Marine Corps had to offer, reminding them that they had their entire lives ahead of them to work in the corporate world.

“Being a prior athlete has helped give me that common ground with my Marines, especially the junior ones,” said Kasperski.

This makes the C.O. more approachable due to the common ground that Marines share with athletes, agreed Pfc. Ronald J. Dodge, a military policeman with CLR-37.

Today, Kasperski roots for the Chicago Bears over the Jets but is even more passionate about college football and the Marine Corps.

“I have played at the highest level, played with future hall of famers and with future NFL coaches,” said Kasperski. “The Marine Corps has been great to me, and I don’t regret a single thing that happened.”

# In Theaters Now

**APRIL 27 - MAY 3**

## FOSTER

**TODAY** Three Stooges (PG), 6 p.m.; Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), noon; Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; Wanderlust (R), 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 1 p.m.; Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Lucky One (PG13), 7 p.m.

**MONDAY** Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY** American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY** The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.

## KADENA

**TODAY** Wanderlust (R), 6 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY** The Three Stooges (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 6 p.m.; Wanderlust (R), 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY** The Three Stooges (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Wanderlust (R), 7 p.m.

**MONDAY** Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY** American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY** The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.

## COURTNEY

**TODAY** The Lucky One (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY** Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 2 p.m.; Ghost Rider: Spirit of a Vengeance (PG13), 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Ghost Rider: Spirit of a Vengeance (PG13), 2 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 6 p.m.

**MONDAY** This Means War (R), 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY** Closed

**WEDNESDAY** The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** Closed

## FUTENMA

**TODAY** Ghost Rider: Spirit of a Vengeance (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY** The Lucky One (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Ghost Rider: Spirit of a Vengeance (PG13), 4 p.m.; Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 7 p.m.

**MONDAY** American Reunion (R), 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## KINSER

**TODAY** Act of Valor (R), 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 3 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 3 p.m.; Wanderlust (R), 6:30 p.m.

**MONDAY** Closed

**TUESDAY** Closed

**WEDNESDAY** The Lucky One (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY** Wanderlust (R), 6:30 p.m.

## HANSEN

**TODAY** Wanderlust (R), 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY** American Reunion (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Wanderlust (R), 2 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 5:30 p.m.

**MONDAY** The Lucky One (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY** The Lucky One (PG13), 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY** Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.

## SCHWAB

**TODAY** American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY** Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 5 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (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](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).



# SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

### OCEAN EXPO PARK - MAY 6

• Ocean Expo Park has many activities for sea-lovers to enjoy. One of its greatest features is the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan. Sign up by May 3. The bus will leave Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 8:30 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 9 a.m.

### SMP ULTIMATE FRISBEE SHOWDOWN - MAY 12

• Join us May 12 in the field next to Gunners Fitness Center for a Frisbee Showdown. Deadline to sign up to compete is May 4.

### PAINTBALL - MAY 26

• Join us for paintball May 26. Bus departs Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 7:30 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 8 a.m. Sign up deadline is May 17. There are 40 seats available. Bring your own water and snacks.

### 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:

“Ikura desu ka?”  
(pronounced: EE-koo-rah dehs kah)

It means,

“How much (money)?”



**April 16 - 20**

**RIFLE RANGE**

Staff Sgt. Raul Celado,  
3rd MLG, 341



# CHAPLAINS' CORNER

*“When you're faced with something you can't seem to do, remember this: how does a duck learn to swim?”*

## Perseverance always prevails

**Navy Lt. Robert J. Gelinas**

CAMP FOSTER CHAPLAIN

A very long time ago, a young man named Pablo would write letters to his uncle who lived in Madrid. Their correspondence would explore a variety of topics about life, family, work, politics, culture and even their favorite soccer clubs. But most of all, Pablo would turn to his uncle for his advice and wisdom since he had a unique way of looking at the world.

In one letter, Pablo described to his uncle how frustrated he was when he could not achieve a particular goal. “I feel like such a failure. What should I do, uncle?” asked the discouraged Pablo.

A week later, Pablo received his uncle's reply, “My dear Pablo, the answer to your problem is very easy.” And under these words, Pablo saw that his uncle had drawn a picture of a duck. “A duck,” he thought. “How are my problems going to be fixed by a duck?”

The next day, Pablo received a second letter from his uncle. “My dear nephew, when you're faced with something you can't seem to do, remember this: how does a duck learn to swim? It learns to swim ... by swimming!”

One of the most harmful agreements we can make with ourselves is that if we cannot do something perfectly, then it is not worth doing at all. We live in a culture that is demanding. There are consequences when we internalize a high-demand attitude. A more constructive outlook would be to believe that the most important thing that we can do is: try again.

After all, isn't that how Marines and sailors make it through boot camp? Isn't that how you learned how to ride a bike, play the piano, or make it past 30 rounds of zombie mode in “Black Ops?”

So what do you want to strengthen in your life? What are the goals you have set for yourself that are hard to achieve? Don't lose heart. Remember the duck and keep on swimming.