

OKINAWA MARINE

JULY 6, 2012

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3MEF.MCIPAC

IN THIS ISSUE

CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER: TRAMPOLINE SAFETY



PG. 3



KANADERU PARK FESTIVAL PROMOTES PARK AVENUE
PG. 4

DRY DECK LANDING AND WITHDRAWAL

Marines and sailors work together to update submarine operating procedures.

PGS. 6-7

STIMULATING THE MIND

Keeping children mentally engaged minimizes learning loss.

PG. 8

TYPHOON PREPARATION

MCAS Futenma prepares for destructive weather patterns.

PG. 9



IMPROVING DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSE
PG. 10

FOLLOW US ON MARINES.MIL



3rd MLG hails Nelson

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw relinquished command of 3rd Marine Logistics Group to Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson at a change of command ceremony at Camp Kinser July 3.

Crenshaw commanded 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force, since June 2010 and will next serve at the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

“This has been a very exciting tour for me,” said Crenshaw. “I would like to say that I am satisfied in the job these Marines and sailors have done in my time here. They responded in 2011 for operations in mainland Japan. They were attached to operational combat-ready units to fight terrorism in Afghanistan, they did it with combat logistics battalions, and see **MLG** pg 5



Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw passes the organizational color to Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson during the 3rd Marine Logistics Group change of command ceremony at Roberts Field at Camp Kinser July 3. Crenshaw commanded 3rd MLG since June 2010 and will next serve at the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Nelson previously was the commanding general of Training Command, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., since 2011. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

DOD, Japan proceed with Osprey fleet upgrade

Cheryl Pellerin
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Working closely with the Japanese government, the Department of Defense will replace CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters used by III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa with MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft.

At a Pentagon news conference June 29, U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta said U.S. officials have had very good discussions with their Japanese allies and have given them assurances regarding concerns about the aircraft’s safety record.

“But the important thing we felt was to be able to deploy these planes there, and that we will continue to brief them with regards to the operations of these planes,” Panetta said. “Actually, we think see **OSPREY** pg 5

III MEF leaders host 2012 Military Women’s Leadership Symposium

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — III Marine Expeditionary Force held the 2012 Women’s Leadership Symposium at Camp Hansen June 28.

The purpose of the seminar was to bring female service members on Okinawa together to discuss issues specific to their gender.

“I believe we stand on the verge of something very exciting,” said Col. Krista J. Crosetto, the opening speaker at the event and the assistant chief of staff, G-1, manpower, personnel and administration, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. “We have gathered here today to address and find the origins of (gender) issues.”

The symposium was geared toward female service members but did not exclude males. This gave an opportunity for senior enlisted and officers to give guidance



Master Gunnery Sgt. Danielle M. Hedges engages audience members during the 2012 Military Women’s Leadership Symposium at Camp Hansen June 28. The Symposium was hosted by III Marine Expeditionary Force to bring female service members together to discuss gender-specific issues. Hedges was a guest speaker at the symposium, and is the aviation supply chief for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

and advice on issues they faced and many they still face today, according to Lance Cpl. Carla C. Lowe, an attendee and a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. see **SYMPOSIUM** pg 5

Making opportunities

Sunny Series promotes basic life skills

Sarah Harrell

The exceptional family member program is designed to help Marines ensure the continuum of care is met for family members with special needs. Its primary purpose is to provide coordination and assistance throughout the assignment process, ensuring the availability and accessibility of necessary services for the family while meeting the mission of the Corps.

EFMP supports Marines and families on Okinawa with opportunities to participate in educational workshops and events throughout the year.

During the summer, EFMP offers families an opportunity to participate in the EFMP Exceptionally Sunny Series, a series of weeklong summer camps for children and families with special needs. The theme for the 4th annual Exceptionally Sunny Series is "Under the Sea," and program representatives are excited to partner with educational developmental intervention services.

EDIS offers help to children with special needs through federally mandated Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs and non-IDEA services. EDIS seeks to maximize the potential of children who are identified as at risk or potentially at risk for developmental delays through intervention and assistance.

Together, EFMP and EDIS provide children with an opportunity to participate in group activities which promote skills

helpful for academics, socialization and fitness through this year's Exceptionally Sunny Series.

The camp experience also allows children to engage in activities which promote social interaction, self-expression, emotional growth and cultural enrichment in a safe, fun and nurturing environment.

The program's administrators have successfully completed two weeks of the Exceptionally Sunny Series at Kadena Air Base and Camp Foster. Children created 3-D fish bowls, seashell necklaces, mosaic tile fish, cherry blossom trees and other arts and crafts projects. They also created posters,

wrote Sunny Series journals, and engaged in daily activities promoting math, reading and comprehension skills.

This year, there is also a Sunny Series for parents, which provides them an opportunity to participate in educational workshops geared towards challenging behaviors, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, keep children healthy in the digital age, depression, and teen angst.

Remaining EFMP Exceptionally Sunny Series camps are scheduled to be held at Camp McTureous July 9-13 and at Camp Kinser, July 16-20. For more information, participation guidelines and registration, call 645-9237 or visit www.mccsokinawa.com/efmp or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mccsokinawa.efmp.

Harrell is the EFMP training and outreach specialist.

The camp experience also allows children to engage in activities which promote social interaction, self-expression, emotional growth and cultural enrichment in a safe, fun and nurturing environment.

AROUND THE CORPS



Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett personally thanks every Montford Point Marine in attendance before a Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony at the historic parade grounds of Marine Barracks Washington June 28. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African-American Marines received basic training at the segregated Montford Point, N.C., instead of the traditional boot camps at Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego, Calif. Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Ware



Maj. Victor M. Ruble and Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Martinez greet local children while patrolling through a bazaar in Nawa district, Afghanistan, June 26. The Marines conducted their final battlefield circulation of Marjah, Nawa, Garmsir and Khan Neshin districts, observing the progress made by Afghan security forces and district governments during the past year. Ruble is an effects officer. Martinez is a personal security detachment platoon commander. Both are assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5, 1st Marine Division (Forward). Photo by Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez



Marines remove a turret on an Assault Amphibious Vehicle during a scheduled maintenance stand-down in Kuwait June 24. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, along with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, is currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations as a theater reserve and crisis response force. The Marines are with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th MEU. Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Fisher

Telling the Marine Corps story through videos, photos and stories. See more online.

facebook



www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac

flickr



www.flickr.com/3mefpao

twitter



www.twitter.com/okinawamarines

YouTube



www.youtube.com/3mefpao

OKINAWA MARINE

The Okinawa Marine is published by Marine Corps Community Services under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Consolidated Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of military services stationed overseas, at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S.

Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler or Marine Corps Community Services of the products and services advertised.

Everything advertised in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are "official U.S. Marine Corps photos." For more information, e-mail usat.okinawamarine.mcb.fct@usmc.mil or write to us at Public Affairs Office, H&S BN MCB PAO, Unit 35002, FPO AP 96373-5002.

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lewis

DESIGN EDITORS Audra A. Satterlee and

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER

H&S Battalion MCB PAO

Unit 35002

FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

Marines train with Aussies

Cpl. Jonathan Wright

31ST MEU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SHOALWATER BAY, Australia — Marines hugged the walls inside buildings as they trained their eyes skyward from the edges of windows. The low hum that drove them to cover grew louder as high above the town hung the silhouette of an Australian unmanned aerial vehicle.

The Marines are with 3rd and Weapons platoons, Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. They have held defensive positions since June 27 at Raspberry Creek here during Exercise Hamel 2012, a multinational training exercise between Marine, Australian Army and New Zealand Army units.

Holed up in a simulated small town within Raspberry Creek with Australian assets serving as the local police force and civilian populace, Marines prepared for an impending attack from the Australian 1st Brigade.

"They're out there, but they're being very cautious in how they advance," said Lance Cpl. Luis Duran, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Company G, BLT 2/1, 31st MEU. "In the meantime, UAVs have been constantly flying overhead while small reconnaissance teams have been testing our defenses."

The exercise serves as the certification for operational deployment for 1st Brigade, which is tasked with pushing back and eliminating the



Marines conduct an immediate reaction drill in Shoalwater Bay, Australia, June 30. The Marines are with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan Wright

Marine and Australian contingent at Raspberry Creek.

As of July 1, all Marine and Aussie advances have been repelled back to Raspberry Creek, which serves as a dividing terrain feature between the opposing forces.

"I give it up to the Australians for treating this exercise like it is a real conflict," said Sgt. Jose Morales, a squad leader with the company. "Any procedures they would conduct in a combat environment are practiced, such as treatment of enemy prisoners of war. No corners are being cut in this exercise."

Though there have been small skirmishes outside Raspberry Creek lines, no major offensives have occurred. First Brigade has been preparing for the assault through use of continuous UAV surveillance, flyovers by jet aircraft and ground reconnaissance.

Using reconnaissance and

artillery assets of their own, the Marine and Aussie contingent has been fending off 1st Brigade's intelligence collection attempts and is keeping it at bay — for now.

"We've had the opportunity to continually reinforce the defenses in and around the town as we fend off 1st Brigade," said Lance Cpl. Theodore Kavich, a team leader with 3rd platoon.

Raspberry Creek is surrounded by a trench system, concertina wire and simulated mine fields. Inside the town lies more concertina wire and the Marines' reinforced defensive positions.

Marines will keep conducting immediate action drills throughout the town, but the continual threat of UAVs has kept them under the cover of buildings. Until 1st Brigade launches its offensive, Marines are keeping a vigilant eye on their surroundings.

Critical Days of Summer

Safety ... look beyond the horizon

Trampoline safety key this summer

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — As children take advantage of beautiful weather across Okinawa this summer, it is important to understand how to prevent injuries during outdoor recreation.

The trampoline has been providing high-flying excitement for children and adults since its modernization in 1934. However, serious injuries can result from its use without proper precautions.

Common injuries resulting from trampoline accidents include bumps, bruises, knee injuries, head trauma, fractures and broken bones.

It is recommended parents provide strict safety rules for children when using a trampoline.

"The one key preventative measure which should never be overlooked is adult supervision," said Daryl E. Avery, a supervisory safety and occupational specialist with the Marine Corps Base Installation Safety Office. "All parents should take the time to educate their kids about safety measures and help them understand life is more precious than a few minutes of risky fun."

Trampolines must have all safety devices attached, including netting and padding. The trampoline must also be in a fenced backyard according to Tami Lucht, acting facilities chief, Department of Defense housing office at Kadena Air Base.

Another important step is to read the manufacturer's safety and instruction manual before assembly.

"There is a very particular way to set up a trampoline," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher T. Manning, safety chief with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Serious injury can result if it is not set up correctly."

Establishing a one-child-at-a-time rule is a good way to prevent injury, as multiple jumpers increase the likelihood of collision injuries and accidental ejections, according to Avery.

"To help prevent accidents, I encourage children to jump more up and down than across the trampoline," said Manning. "I have seen children hit objects and break arms on concrete from miscalculating their jumps."

Be prepared for children to test the limits. Bravery can take over and they may try different things when parents are not around. Jumping onto the trampoline from the ground or roof is not recommended. Using trampolines as a diving platform into a pool or hopping to the ground also puts children at risk for injury.

"I recommend trampolines only for children and adults who know their limits," said Manning. "The trampoline can provide loads of summer fun for the whole family when used safely and correctly."

For more information on trampoline safety guidelines and procedures, contact the Marine Corps Base Installation Safety Office at 645-2670.

CG takes first flight in UH-1Y Venom



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. presents Sgt. Zachary A. Lucas with his challenge coin following Glueck's first flight aboard a UH-1Y Venom helicopter July 2. During the flight, the helicopter's crew briefed Glueck on the UH-1Y platform, which has a 125 percent higher payload capacity and a 50 percent range and maximum cruising speed increase over the previous UH-1N Iroquois platform. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, received new UH-1Y Venom helicopters at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 21 and 25. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Lucas is a helicopter crew chief with HMM-262. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

BRIEFS

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

A reminder to all newcomers: the blood-alcohol content for driving under the influence by Japanese regulation differs from most parts of the U.S. When driving off base in Okinawa, drivers with a BAC level of .03 percent or higher will be charged with driving under the influence by Japanese police.

Army and Air Force Exchange Services offer military members several transportation options on Okinawa, including a Daiko service, where two drivers and a taxi are dispatched to your location and one drives the customer's car to their final destination.

To reach AAFES' Daiko service, dial 645-8888 from on base or 098-970-8888 from a cell phone. These numbers are also located on the back of your status of forces agreement driver's license.

SEEKING HOMESTAY HOST FAMILIES

Families of the III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific community are invited to serve as hosts in a homestay program, part of a community relations project sponsored by III MEF/MCIPAC, Aug. 4-7. Families will host Japanese children or adult chaperones from Oshima Island in the Kesennuma City, Miyagi prefecture. This is the area where the 31st MEU contributed significantly to relief and recovery efforts during Operation Tomadachi.

This homestay program follows last year's very successful program. See the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q10m9I4IOYw.

A background check and other personal information will be required. Japanese language skills are not needed.

For more details, call 645-4220 or email robert.d.eldridge@usmc.mil. The deadline for sign-ups is July 19.

Officer Professional Military Education
Distance Education Program
Expeditionary Warfare School
Command and Staff College
Enroll for Fall Academic Year 2013 Seminars

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email 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.



Contestants take part in a hot dog-eating competition during the Kanaderu Park festival in Okinawa City June 30. The festival included the contest to encourage friendly competition between Okinawans and U.S. service members. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

Service members enjoy Park Ave festivities

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OKINAWA CITY — In the 1950s, Park Avenue was once one of the most crowded and popular areas for service members stationed on Okinawa. Formerly known as B.C. Street, or Business Center Street, it was a bustling hub for commerce. Now, more than 60 years later, area businesses are struggling. But that may be changing.

The Park Avenue business owners' association in Okinawa City held the Kanaderu Park festival to help revitalize the street formerly popular to U.S. service members June 30.

"Kanaderu means 'playing music,'" said Takeshi Shimabukuro, an event coordinator with the Park Avenue event promotion office. "We named this event Kanaderu because of the multiple music shops on this street."

Every three months, an event is held to bring business back to Park Avenue. Kanderu Park festival was scheduled to give service members an opportunity to celebrate Independence Day, according to Shimabukuro.

The festival was organized into a series of events and competitions for Okinawans and service members to either watch or participate.

"There are several bands and



Sailors from various units take part in a tug-of-war competition during the Kanaderu Park festival in Okinawa City June 30. The competition had four teams from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

dance teams performing to entertain those here," said Shimabukuro. "We also had a hot dog-eating competition open to the first ten people to sign up."

One event during the festival encouraged friendly competition among the contestants.

"We had a tug-of-war competition between the services represented," said 1st Lt. Daniel E. English, camp operations officer for Camp Courtney. "There were two teams from the Air Force, one team from the Navy and one team from the Marines. I am happy to say the Marines were able to walk away with the prize for winning."

Park Avenue used to be popular among service members and status of forces agreement personnel several decades ago, and

those at the festival would like to see this once again, according to English.

"This festival is a lot of fun," said Lance Cpl. Richard A. Harlow, data systems technician with Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Being able to see a part of town I have not heard of before and take part in the activities they have here is better than staying on base."

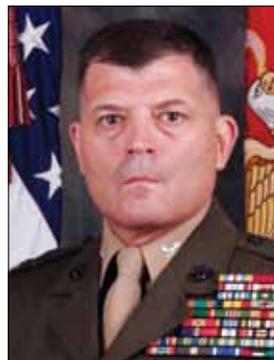
If there is an increase in the popularity of Park Avenue, other festivities will be held, according to Shimabukuro.

"We hope to see more business here from our American friends, and if business grows maybe we can host festivals for other holidays as well," said Shimabukuro.

HQSVC Bn welcomes Estes



Estes



Nanna

Col. Katherine J. Estes assumed command of Headquarters and Service Battalion from Col. Nicholas F. Nanna during a ceremony at Camp Foster June 29. Nanna commanded HQSVC Bn., Marine Corps Base Butler since August 2010 and will report to the Marine Air Ground Task Force Staff Training Program Center, Quantico, Va. Estes' previous assignment was as the staff judge advocate for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp Courtney.

Defense Minister Morimoto visits



From middle, Japan's Minister of Defense, Satoshi Morimoto; Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. and Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri attend a III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific briefing in the base emergency operations center at Camp Foster June 30. This was Morimoto's first visit to Okinawa as Japan's new Minister of Defense. Glueck is the commanding general of III MEF, and Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

MLG from pg 1

they did it with engineer support battalions. We were asked to go to Thailand to support the flood relief efforts and, these Marines and sailors were ready."

Nelson previously served as the commanding general of Training Command, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., since August 2011.

"It is an absolute honor to come back to Okinawa and take command of this unit," said Nelson. "To the Marines and sailors, I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks."

During the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, commented on the significance of the event.

"This is a big day for the MEF, the Crenshaws and the Nelsons," said Glueck. "The MLG has been a major contributing factor to what we have been able to do here in III MEF. Whether

it is in exercises, operations or flood relief, they have been there every single time. Brig. Gen. Crenshaw, as you move to the joint staff I wish you fair winds and following seas. Brig. Gen. Nelson, you have a great group of Marines and sailors here, and you have a great group of support personnel across the MEF that look forward to working with you."

Crenshaw showed his pride in 3rd MLG while turning over his command to Nelson.

"It is really unbelievable the performance these Marines and sailors have had over the past few years," said Crenshaw. "They are ready, they have been ready, and they will be ready tomorrow. What you are inheriting is a fantastic organization. These Marines and sailors are good, and they are good because of the leadership they have. These commanders who stand in front of you are the best we have. This is your command, they deserve the best in leadership and you will provide it to them. Lead them well."

SYMPOSIUM from pg 1

"This is not about women power, it's about empowering yourself," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Danielle M. Hendges, a guest speaker at the symposium and the aviation supply chief with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. "The uniform doesn't define you; it's what you do and how you grow that defines us."

The event was organized into four workshops addressing common issues found throughout the Marine Corps, said Master Sgt. Rafika O. Vann, the event organizer and equal opportunity advisor with III MEF.

"We don't want to discriminate against anyone; we are simply trying to get a better understanding of and find a common sense approach to addressing issues unique to the female gender," said Vann. "If gone unaddressed, (these issues could) affect our command climate and the entirety of the Marine Corps and Navy."

Most of the topics discussed were not specific to women but are often only addressed from a man's prospective, according to Vann. Women's views were openly voiced and expressed during the symposium.

"On any given day the male lance corporal or lieutenant has a 10 times greater chance to see a senior male than females have of seeing a senior female," said Vann. "The mentorship just isn't available as much for women. This is why the symposium is such an integral part of our (command) climate and is so important."

The attendees were mentored by 15 senior Marines and sailors who held the workshops, providing them with advice and wisdom they had gained during their time in the Marine Corps and Navy.

"This symposium was very empowering," said Lowe. "The fact that they took the time out of their day to give us guidance on leadership and to share their knowledge from their experiences was truly inspiring."

OSPREY from pg 1

we've reached a very good compromise here. I think we've been able to relieve their concerns with what we've presented them," Panetta continued.

"But we're going to continue to work with them. The good thing is that our ability to deploy these forces will certainly help us with regards to our whole rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific region."

Recent accidents involving a Marine Corps MV-22B and an Air Force CV-22 aircraft raised concerns about the fleet upgrade from the governor of Okinawa, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said June 20. Senior DOD officials briefed a Japanese delegation on the accidents at the Pentagon June 22.

On April 11, in Morocco, an MV-22B crashed while taking part in a bilateral military exercise. There were two casualties. Flight data indicates the aircraft performed as expected. In a statement, DOD officials said the U.S. Marine Corps determined the aircraft did not suffer a mechanical or material failure and there were no problems with the aircraft's safety.

Earlier this month, a CV-22 crashed during a training mission in Navarre, Fla., leaving five crew members injured. A preliminary review uncovered no information that would preclude the aircraft's continued operation, Pentagon officials said.

The DOD, including senior U.S. Air Force leaders, stands behind the CV-22's reliability and is convinced the aircraft is safe for operation, officials said in a statement.

The MV-22B Osprey operates with the speed and range of a turboprop, the maneuverability of a helicopter, and the ability to carry 24 Marine combat troops. It travels twice as fast and five times farther than previous helicopters.

The Air Force CV-22 Osprey is a special operations variant of the aircraft. Both aircraft variants can fly like an airplane and land like a helicopter.

In response to remaining safety concerns, officials said, the MV-22B will not fly in Japan until results of the investigations are presented to the Japanese government in August. During this time, Japan will be the



MV-22B Ospreys land aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune during a training exercise June 18, 2010. The Osprey has logged more than 115,000 cumulative flight hours performing combat operations, humanitarian assistance, and test and evaluation missions. Photo by Cpl. Andrew Johnston

only location worldwide, including the continental United States, where MV-22B flight operations will be suspended, they added.

The MV-22B Osprey has an excellent safety record and has logged more than 115,000 flight hours, the DOD statement said. About a third of those flight hours were flown during the past two years, the statement continued, and the Osprey achieved these flight hours performing combat operations, humanitarian assistance, training and test evaluation missions.

Basing the Osprey will strengthen the U.S.'s ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and fulfill other alliance roles, the Pentagon statement said.

Marines exit the diving chamber and prepare to assemble a combat rubber reconnaissance craft aboard USS North Carolina during a training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam June 23.



Recon Marines interact, train with submariners

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. James Sauter

MCBH KANEHOE BAY

Marines had the unique opportunity to interact and train with their Navy brethren during dry deck landing and withdrawal training aboard the fast-attack submarine USS North Carolina at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 23.

Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the training exercise with the crew of the USS North Carolina to update and validate their part of the submarine standard operating procedures.

“With the Marine Corps focusing on our amphibious roots, (it’s important we place an emphasis) on our submarine training,” said Gunnery Sgt. Hunter Sorrells, company operations chief.

During the exercise, Marines and sailors worked hand in hand to learn how to store combat rubber reconnaissance craft in the submarine’s lockout chamber. The equipment had to be stored in such a way that it could be brought topside and assembled in a timely manner. The goal was to have all boats assembled and ready for launch within 15 minutes.

“Submarines are perfect platforms from which to launch amphibious reconnaissance operations,” said Sorrells. “Their ability to operate in littoral zones undetected extends our range and limits the distance needed to travel for insertion.”

The USS North Carolina is a Virginia class fast-attack submarine commissioned in 2008. Virginia class submarines are designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships, project naval firepower ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles, insert and retrieve special operations forces, carry out intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, support battle group operations, and engage in mine warfare.

“When it comes to the Navy-Marine Corps team, it’s essential that we work together,” said Navy Lt. Doug McKenzie, assistant engineer officer, USS North Carolina. “The Navy and Marine Corps share a common goal, and this training is a sound opportunity to (practice operations).”

“We spent a good amount of time this morning just talking about the layout and design of the operation and ensuring everyone (was on the same page),” said Sorrells. “The interoperability between the sub’s crew and our teams is crucial. Understanding what the sub needs

from us and vice versa is critical for a safe and effective evolution.”

From the moment the hatch to the lockout chamber opened to the moment Marines assembled a craft and started its engine, time was kept to track how quickly the Marines executed their mission. The first evolution lasted a little more than 20 minutes, while the following two improved to the goal of less than 15 minutes.

“It’s been a real fun and interesting time to see how these guys operate and work together to make the mission happen,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Joel Burchwen, machinist’s mate and Navy diver, USS North Carolina. “I never thought I would get an opportunity like this.”

“Effective communication between the crew and teams prior to and during the operation is what made today very successful,” said Sorrells. “We saw seamless integration, and we look forward to continuing the relationships built here today.”



Marines complete assembly of a combat rubber reconnaissance craft aboard USS North Carolina during a training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, June 23.



Marines and sailors work together to assemble a combat rubber reconnaissance craft aboard USS North Carolina during a training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, June 23. The Marines and sailors updated and validated their part of the submarine standard operating procedures.



reconnaissance craft aboard USS North Pearl Harbor-Hickam June 23.



During a training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam June 23, Marines are performing launching procedures during the exercise.



Marines assemble two combat rubber reconnaissance craft aboard USS North Carolina during a training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam June 23. The Reconnaissance Marines, based in Okinawa, Japan, were provided a unique opportunity to train aboard the submarine, a part of Submarine Squadron 1, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. USS North Carolina is designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships, project naval firepower ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles, insert and retrieve special operations forces, carry out intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, support battle group operations, and engage in mine warfare. The Marines are with Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Engaged youth remain sharp through summer

Marie Lewis
DODDS OKINAWA
DISTRICT NEWS LIAISON

When Susanna Clise is not caring for her 10-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son at home, she is juggling a classroom of kindergarten students as a teacher at Zukeran Elementary School.

Every fall, she notices some children have difficulty applying the skills they learned months prior in prekindergarten.

"They haven't retained the information," said Clise. "Our curriculum keeps getting more and more in-depth, and it's difficult to cover everything you need to cover if you're going back to review extensively."

Research consistently shows children who are mentally engaged during the summer months are better prepared for school and perform at a higher level than children who are not.

A recent study from the University of Missouri estimates summer learning loss for all students equals about one month on a grade-level equivalency scale in general. It also shows a loss of more than

two months on a grade-level equivalency scale for math skills.

Clise takes advantage of her teaching skills to help her children stay connected with their intellectual curiosity during the summer months. She requires them to read for at least 30 minutes daily and limits their time watching television to one hour on sunny days.

She also finds creative ways to teach her children using activities they already enjoy.

When baking cookies, daughter Charleston and son Keagan read the recipes themselves.

"They're comprehending what they're reading and applying it," said Clise. "They solve math problems by measuring ingredients for the number of batches they want to bake."

Clise and her husband, Master Sgt. Charles A. Clise, the quality assurance chief with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, incorporate learning into their summer vacations as well.

When they returned to



Charleston D. Clise, right, shows Alex Harms locations on a map at Shuri Castle in Naha June 30. Charleston's mother Susanna finds creative ways to teach her children using activities they already enjoy. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

the U.S. to visit family last summer, they drove from Ohio to Florida, stopping at educational landmarks along the way. One of the landmarks was the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek in Hodgenville, Ky.

The children loved seeing the childhood home of the 16th president of the U.S., according to Clise.

"They saw where (Abraham Lincoln) grew up and how little the cabin was ... it was a reality check for my daughter," she said.

The trip to the memorial illustrates an important aspect of summer



Keagan P. Clise, right, and his friend Isaac Beem explore Shuri Castle in Naha June 30. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

learning – parent involvement, according to Dr. Debbie Carlson, the principal of Amelia Earhart Intermediate School.

"I think the important thing is that parents participate in the activity with their children," said Carlson during the Pacific edition of the Department of Defense Education Activity school talk, a monthly forum for the community to interact directly with DODEA leaders. "We shouldn't (always) send even middle school or high school students off to do things on their own. We should take the time to work with them."

Carlson stresses the need for students to keep a journal.

"Parents can help children develop ideas for writing topics by providing prompts," said Carlson. "They could be funny or educational prompts. The whole idea is to keep them writing."

Museums and historical sites abound on Okinawa and other nearby locations. Each provides

unique opportunities to write about the experience of living in a foreign country and the many unique aspects of the host nation culture.

Parents are always the first teacher and need to model healthy lifestyles for their children. DODEA educators recommend limiting time in front of the television or computer screen to no more than two hours each day in addition to daily reading and writing.

The Clise family understands the advantage it has living in an overseas environment and are always looking for new places to explore as a family.

"The children are having so much fun," said Clise. "They're learning and they don't even realize it."

For more information on how to keep your children mentally sharp this summer, visit <http://www.pac.dodea.edu/summer.html> or <http://www.pac.dodea.edu/summer.html>.



Susanna Clise and her son Keagan spend a summer day exploring Shuri Castle in Naha June 30. Susanna feels museums and historical sites provide unique opportunities for children living overseas. Susanna is a kindergarten teacher at Zukeran Elementary School. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry



Destructive weather preparation

Vehicles pass through standing water on the roadways at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in the aftermath of Typhoon Guchol June 21. The air station has emergency preparation plans in place for many destructive weather patterns including typhoons and flooding. It only takes 18 inches of water to float most vehicles, so drivers should never enter running water or drive where they cannot see the road through the water, according to Steven C. Koslowsky, safety director at MCAS Futenma. Photos courtesy of installation logistics and services, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma

MCAS Futenma secures station before typhoon

Sgt. Heather Brewer
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

When typhoons approach Okinawa, most Marines grab some Meals, Ready To Eat, head to the barracks and batten down the hatches.

For Marine Corps Air Station Futenma personnel, typhoon warnings carry a whole different meaning. An approaching typhoon means time spent preparing and securing the station and its valuable aircraft.

A typhoon is a strong tropical cyclone, which is a low-pressure system over tropical or subtropical waters with organized convection and definite cyclonic surface wind circulation, according to the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. A typhoon is characterized by heavy winds and rains, which leave a path of destruction in its wake.

Every possible precaution is taken at the station to fully prepare for a typhoon.

"We treat every destructive weather situation as a worst-case scenario because the preparation usually takes a number of days to complete," said Maj. Geoffrey Baum, airfield operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. "If we don't start early and plan for the worst, we could end up risking equipment, facilities or lives."

Air traffic control personnel begin to cancel flights during the



Floodwaters breach a building as a result of Typhoon Guchol at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 21. Mission accomplishment and safety are priorities in planning and executing preparations during any weather condition.

projected time of impact as the typhoon gets closer to the island.

"The operational units and staff of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing work collectively to determine courses of action and timelines for (the cessation of) squadron operations," said Baum. "The MAW then notifies MCAS Futenma of its plans. It really depends on (current) missions, but preparations begin when the storm is a few days out."

The airspace above the station is not the only dangerous area during a typhoon. At the air traffic control tower, Marines expeditiously prepare the station for potentially destructive weather.

"One of the steps in the process of securing the ATC tower

is to secure all electronics to prevent damage from water," said Stephen C. Negahnquet, the air traffic control training and standardization officer with airfield operations, H&HS, MCAS Futenma. "We also put storm shutters over the tower's windows and over the radar."

Limited space and the size of some aircraft require the station to send some assets to areas not in the path of the typhoon.

"The air station has a limited number of hangars capable of storing KC-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft during a typhoon and, at times, some hangars are undergoing maintenance, which prevents their use," said Baum. "(Aircraft) which are leaving will

typically fly off within the final 24 to 48 hours before the storm hits the island."

No aircraft can land once the typhoon enters within a certain range of the air station, but some Marines remain on watch during destructive weather.

"Once we cross into tropical cyclone condition of readiness 1 caution, the airfield closes," said Baum. "However, our weather observers and forecasters stay on duty."

Other destructive weather patterns require preventative plans of action to be in place as well.

"When dealing with flooding, we ensure the units have sand bags and access to sand," said Staff Sgt. Felicia C. Contreras, a logistics chief with installation logistics and services, H&HS. "We also provide a dumping point for wood and metal, which helps the units and station prepare."

Mission accomplishment and safety are at the forefront of planning and executing preparations during any weather condition.

"Safety is a primary concern, but assuring our tenant units can continue to achieve their respective missions is the most important consideration," said Baum. "Real-world missions are ongoing and in most cases cannot afford to be put on hold. After the weather passes, we rapidly resume our mission in support of III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Installations Pacific and other agencies."

III MEF Marines sharpen fire support skills

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines of various III Marine Expeditionary Force units conducted fire-support rehearsal training at the combined arms staff trainer at Camp Hansen June 26.

During the training, Marines assigned to major subordinate commands worked together to increase their proficiency in calling for fire, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Willis L. Atkinson III, force fires chief with III MEF G-3, operations and training.

"We always have to do some type of fire-support coordination at the different exercises we (participate in)," said Atkinson. "Between artillery and air support, everyone here has something to do with calling in fire-support missions. We rehearse this repeatedly so when we go to an exercise and do this

for real, we already have our techniques, tactics and procedures set and can complete our job smoothly and efficiently."

Identifying enemy targets is the first step when making calls for fire, according to Maj. J. Todd Blacketer, air fires officer with III MEF G-3, operations and training.

"Once the Marines from 3rd Intelligence Battalion build a target package, they immediately send all the imagery and data from one entity to another," said Blacketer. "Depending on the situation, we can send the information all the way to a pilot of a close-air support-capable aircraft. Using this system increases the speed we engage targets of opportunity."

After enemy targets are identified, Marines from different cells in the CAST coordinate with each other to ensure safety of friendly forces while fire support is being provided.

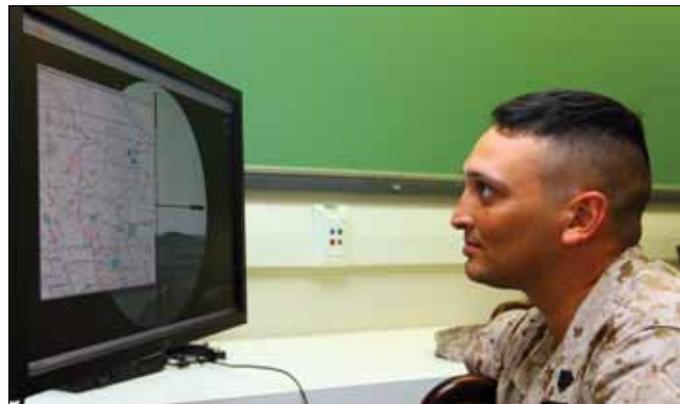
"We have a tactical air

director and rotary-wing air director who tell the aircraft where they need to go to provide fire support," said Sgt. James S. Zigga, air-support operations operator with Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. "When we receive a fire-support mission from other cells, our air director will clear the airspace so friendly artillery rounds and rockets will not hit our aircraft."

This coordination between ground combat elements and friendly aircraft is performed through a direct air-support center.

"The main purpose of the DASC is to help the ground units talk to and coordinate with air units," said Zigga. "We enable ground units to call for close-air support and get them the fire support they request. We are the in-between for air and ground (units)."

While training in the CAST, Marines are able to



Sgt. Jeffery S. Simmons Jr. uses the forward-observer viewer to locate targets during fire-support rehearsal training at the combined arms staff trainer at Camp Hansen June 26. The viewer simulates what a forward observer would see in the field. Simmons is a fire direction control specialist with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

work with Marines from different major subordinate commands.

"This training really helps us see the full aspect of our job," said Zigga. "In our normal field training, we do not have a fire-support coordination center with us, so we have to simulate the other fire-support cells. Being able to train with the other cells teaches us how to properly conduct

fire-support missions."

While this training is currently held semi-annually, Marines have high expectations for the future training opportunities.

"Hopefully, over the next couple of years this training will grow and we will take up the entire CAST facility and fill up every room with fire-support coordination cells," said Atkinson.

Red Cross Hospital briefs HADR fusion cell

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Dr. Hideaki Sasaki briefed members of the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief fusion cell during a meeting at the III Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters building at Camp Courtney to discuss disaster relief drills June 27.

Sasaki, the director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Okinawa Red Cross Hospital, briefed the cell on past and future training missions.

"We brought together our expertise and knowledge, and started some initial coordination," said Col. Robert P. Cote, assistant chief of staff, III MEF G-3, operations and training. "We know it is not if, but when Okinawa is going to get hit. We are having this meeting, so we can have a better disaster relief process."

Sasaki shared his ideas and plans for a better disaster relief response program, according to Cote.

"This program is a wonderful opportunity for the Japanese to work hand in hand with the Americans," said Sasaki.

Sasaki expressed gratitude for how well the two nations worked together during Operation Tomodachi.

"The Japanese and U.S. forces were able to join together and help in the disaster relief," said Sasaki. "They should continue to do the same type of work in the future."

The group also talked about past and current operations in Japan.

"We discussed the state of Okinawa's preparedness for an emergency and opportunities for mutual cooperation in the future," said Dr. Robert D. Eldridge, deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs division, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Each prefecture in Japan is charged with creating policies regarding disasters, according to Eldridge.

"Okinawa has recently drawn out its plan for natural disasters on the island," said Eldridge. "This year it finalized the Okinawa area emergency evacuation plan."

There are certain agencies that respond to natural disasters, according to Sasaki. They include firefighters, police officers, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, the coast guard and the Red Cross.

The government of Japan set up the Japan disaster medical assistance team to help coordinate these agencies, according to Sasaki. The team is a trained, mobile, self-contained medical team that can act during a disaster to provide medical treatment in devastated areas.

"On Okinawa, there are 12 hospitals with 17 of these teams," said Sasaki. "Each contains a small team of two doctors, two nurses and two logisticians."

The agencies have been performing emergency drills on Okinawa to prepare for potential emergencies.

"In the last emergency drill in 2011, a Japan Air Self-Defense Force C-130 Hercules (aircraft) took a Red Cross medical team from Kyushu, Japan, and brought it into Naha," said Sasaki. "They were then loaded onto helicopters and brought out to care for simulated victims."

The drills will continue to happen throughout the island of Okinawa, according to Sasaki.

"It is my hope the Marines can join us during our drills in the effort to keep Okinawa safe," said Sasaki.



Dr. Hideaki Sasaki addresses members of the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief fusion cell during a meeting at the III Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters building on Camp Courtney June 27. Sasaki is the director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Okinawa Red Cross Hospital.

In Theaters Now

JULY 6 - 12

FOSTER

TODAY Brave (PG), 6 p.m.; Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Brave (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 6 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Brave (PG), 1 p.m.; Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY ThePirates! Band of Misfits (PG), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Brave (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Raven (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 6 p.m.; Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), noon; What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG13), 3 p.m.; Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), noon; Dark Shadows (PG13), 4 p.m.; Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 3 p.m.; Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
THURSDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 2 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 2 p.m.; Rock of Ages (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Raven (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY That's My Boy (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Safe (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Raven (R), 4 p.m.; Safe (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Rock of Ages (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Think Like A Man (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Think Like A Man (PG13), 3 p.m.; Dark Shadows (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 3 p.m.; Think Like A Man (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Brave (PG), 3 p.m.; Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY That's My Boy (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 6 p.m.; That's My Boy (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13), 2 p.m.; Dark Shadows (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13) 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13) 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Marvel's The Avengers (PG13) 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Rock of Ages (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Raven (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY That's My Boy (R), 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.

RYUKYU GLASS FACTORY AND PINEAPPLE PARK – JULY 14

- Spend July 14 making your own glass cups, key chains, jewelry and exploring a pineapple field. Transportation will be provided. Sign up by July 12.

OCEAN EXPO/PINEAPPLE PARK TRIP – JULY 21

- Ocean Expo Park has many activities for sea lovers to enjoy. One of its greatest features is the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan. Pineapple Park has many types of pineapples, which are used in the production of soap, cakes, candies and many other products. Sign up by July 19. The bus will leave Camp Kinser Gym at 9 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 9:30 a.m. Register and pay at 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:
 “Sayonara.”
 (pronounced: say-yoh-nah-rah)
 It means, “Good bye.”



June 18-22

RIFLE RANGE
 Lance Cpl. Damian Ramey,
 MCB, 337

June 25-29

RIFLE RANGE
 1st Lt. Joshua Willemson,
 MHG, 340



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“The family is recognizing its daily struggles but promising to overcome them together.”

Star-Spangled banner celebration

Lt. Kyu C. Lee
 SUPPLY BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Independence Day means different things to different people. Some Marines and sailors believe the Fourth of July symbolizes cold drinks, a long weekend, delicious food (usually a hearty barbecue) and spectacular fireworks.

Recently, I had a chance to talk with my assistant about Independence Day activities and his family's long tradition on this special day. While conversing with him, I found something we discussed particularly appealing. Here is a short summary of our talk.

“Hi, Cpl. Brown, what is your understanding of the Fourth of July and the best way to commemorate it?” He replied, “Sir, on that day my family gets together. It is like another day of thanksgiving. It means a lot since I am in the military. We always have a huge party. We sing the national anthem together and watch fireworks at night.”

Singing the national anthem together as a family got stuck in my head and resonated throughout the day because it is such a remarkable way of celebrating Independence Day. What is the national anthem? As one writer puts it, “A national anthem is a patriotic musical composition that evokes and eulogizes the history, traditions and struggles of its people.”

By singing the national anthem together, Cpl. Brown's family is expressing they are proud to be Americans. By singing Francis Scott Key's words in the “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the family chooses to be inspired by the stories of men and women who courageously fought in order to defend their freedom and rights. By singing the national anthem together, the family traces back to its history, tradition, and origins. Furthermore, the family is recognizing its daily struggles but promising to overcome them together. What a marvelous way to acknowledge and celebrate Independence Day!