

OKINAWA MARINE

MAY 27, 2011

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Marines conclude multinational match

Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PUCKAPUNYAL, Australia—The Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting 2011 came to a close here May 19, ending a three-week long marksmanship competition among 13 nations.

The annual meeting was designed to test the participants' combat marksmanship, build rapport among nations and provide a forum for the discussion of training techniques relating to combat marksmanship.

The competition included more than 100 events, allowing participants to test their skills with pistols, light machine guns and assault rifles on varied courses of fire, according to Staff Sgt. Benjamin Robinson, assistant staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Marines walked away with a trophy for their performance during the matches.

SEE AASAM PG 5



Australian Army Maj. Gen. David Morrison, right, commanding general, Forces Command, orders a bayonet charge in Puckapunyal, Australia, during the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting. The charge was carried out by U.S. Marines with Marine Shooting Detachment Australia, New Zealand Army soldiers and Australian Army soldiers. The three-week meeting, which ended May 19, pitted military representatives from partner nations in competition in a series of combat marksmanship events. Represented nations included Canada, France (French Forces New Caledonia), Indonesia, Timor Leste, Brunei, Netherlands, United States, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand as well as a contingent of Japanese observers. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Key leaders unite on Courtney



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., left, Okinawa Area Coordinator, III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general and Marine Corps Bases Japan commander, walks with Hirokazu Nakaima, governor of Okinawa, following a social lunch at Tengan Castle on Camp Courtney May 20. The lunch was an occasion intended to strengthen the relationship between Marine Corps and Okinawa leaders. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher

Marine's courage brings Spice smokers to justice

Staff Sgt. Michael Freeman
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Editor's note: The following story is true. Names have been changed or omitted to protect the anonymity of all parties involved.

"Keep your mouth shut! You didn't see a thing!" These are the kind of thinly-veiled threats one Marine here endured, prayed about and eventually found the moral courage to act upon by turning in fellow Marines who were using a barracks bathroom as a hideaway to smoke the illicit drug known as Spice.

John's story began weeks ago when another Marine, freshly out of the Camp Hansen brig where he served time on Spice-related charges, moved in to the room next door. They would be sharing a bathroom.

At first, all was quiet. After a few days though, John noticed his new neighbor seemed to be spending more and more time in the bathroom with the shower running. "The water was just running, and there was no other movement or sound," he said. "It started happening two or three times a day for long periods."

SEE SPICE PG 5

IN THIS ISSUE

BLACK KNIGHTS

Squadron training on Okinawa to advance its skill set within a different environment.

PG. 8



TYPHOON READINESS

Typhoon season begins June 1. Find TCCOR levels, disaster kit recommendations, ways to prepare and emergency contact details inside.

PG. 10

Memorial Day holiday message

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it was first called, was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by Gen. John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He called upon his soldiers to memorialize the fallen in their hearts and in ceremony. While it began as a time of remembrance and reconciliation after the Civil War, Memorial Day has continued to serve as a way to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

This Memorial Day, we pause to remember and reflect upon their sacrifices and remind ourselves of the selfless devotion demonstrated every day by American men and women in harm's way.

Since our Nation's birth, America's warriors have distinguished themselves with honor, courage and commitment on battlefields around the globe.

This Memorial Day, take some time to reflect upon their sacrifice and resolve to live up to their proud tradition of service.

Please keep safety in mind at all times over the holiday. Remember, you are ambassadors for our country and our Corps. Above all, take care of each other.

Semper Fidelis,

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr.



AROUND THE CORPS



Pfc. Tylynn J. Scoggins, left, an automatic rifleman, and Lance Cpl. Jason J. Mendez, a rifleman, both serving with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, the ground combat element for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, simulate a machine gun team during raid rehearsals at a mechanized raid course at Marine Corps Base Hawaii May 19. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan Carpenter*



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos held an end-of-game team meeting with the All-Marine sitting volleyball team during the Warrior Games, an Olympic-style competition for wounded, ill and injured military members, May 18, at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Marines beat the All-Air Force team in a best-of-three series in sitting volleyball. Amos told the Marines he's really proud of them and their success. *Photo by Sgt. Michael S. Cifuentes*



Lance Cpl. Romero Almanza from Battalion Landing Team 3/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., removes a roll cage from a light utility vehicle during an aerial transport exercise May 24. This is the first time that the Expeditionary Fire Support System has been loaded into an aircraft on the West Coast.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Claudia M. Palacios

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Hydrate to beat summer heat

Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

FLAG CONDITIONS

As temperatures rapidly increase on Okinawa, it is important for all personnel to pay close attention to the heat index and plan outdoor activities and training accordingly. Monitor the heat stress condition displayed by colored flags on each camp. The heat stress flag indicates what type of outdoor activity is authorized. Current flag conditions are also posted online at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhoki/pages/flagcondition.aspx.

NO FLAG | Less than 80 degrees
Normal training can be conducted for all personnel.

GREEN FLAG | 80-84.9 degrees
Personnel not acclimatized to the weather should use caution and take breaks as needed.

YELLOW FLAG | 85-87.9 degrees
Personnel not acclimatized should not do strenuous activities. All personnel should be cautious and take breaks.

RED FLAG | 88-89.9 degrees
Strenuous activities for all personnel are limited to mission essential activities.

BLACK FLAG | 90 degrees or more
Non-mission essential, outdoor activities must cease. No normal training.

CAMP HANSEN — Today begins the Critical Days of Summer campaign that will last through Labor Day weekend.

The goal of the Marine Corps Bases Japan Safety Office's campaign is to reduce the number of mishaps that occur during the summer months by focusing on a topic of safety each week. All Critical Days of Summer topics are important, however, hydration, this week's subject, is key when performing any activity.

Drinking adequate amounts of water will help prevent heat injuries, according to Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Wigmore, a hospital corpsman with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Medical Simulation Center.

There is not a set amount of water each person should drink; it varies from person to person, said Wigmore. A good rule of thumb is to consume at least 64 ounces of water daily and maintain adequate nutrition, he added.

Accomplishing full hydration during the day and during meals aids in preventing dehydration during strenuous activity, said Joe Botulinski, occupational safety and health specialist with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

For those who are not sure if they are properly hydrated,

there are a few methods they can use to test their hydration level.

An easy way to test the body's hydration level is to check the color of the urine, said Botulinski. Pale to light-yellow urine indicates an adequate level of hydration.

Another way to test the hydration level is to pinch the skin and pull it away from the body, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Sjostrom, a hospital corpsman with the Camp Hansen Medical Clinic. The skin should retract rapidly. If it retracts slowly, then hydration is needed.

"Exertional heat injuries occur commonly with Marines and sailors exerting themselves in hot and humid environments," said Botulinski. "Hot and humid weather during anytime of the day can be a contributing factor for possible heat-related injuries."

Muscle cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are all injuries that occur in a hot and humid climate like Japan, said Sjostrom. Muscle cramps are the least serious and occur frequently.

"Reoccurring injuries that happen due to lack of hydration during the summer months are (caused by) Marines not being aware of signs and symptoms of heat stress," added Botulinski.

Muscle cramps can be the body's way of telling a person

it is time slow down and drink water, added Sjostrom.

"Common sense and an understanding of the basic concepts of risk identification, prevention, and treatment of exertional heat injury are essential to effective unit readiness," Botulinski added.

One way to easily ensure unit effectiveness is to take proper precautions when conducting physical training.

"Before any type of unit PT or training operations in a hot environment is conducted, the heat index should be announced and appropriate countermeasures implemented," said Botulinski.

During the summer months, heat stress flags are posted throughout each camp.

There are four different heat stress flags: green, yellow, red and black. Each flag indicates a higher level of heat stress from green flag which is 80-84.9 degrees, yellow which is 85-87.9 degrees, red which is 88-89.9 degrees and black flag which is 90 degrees and above.

The heat stress flags aid in recognizing the possibilities of sustaining heat-related injuries, but the human body's reaction indicates when a heat-related injury is occurring, said Sjostrom.

For more information about hydration or the Critical Days of Summer campaign, call the MCBJ Safety Office at 645-3806.

New reenlistment procedures heighten competition

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines who want to reenlist will find they need to excel above their peers more than ever after a Marine administrative message regarding new reenlistment procedures was released May 11.

MARADMIN 273/11 specifies that the Marines who retain Marine Occupational Specialty "boat spaces" should be the most qualified instead of "first to volunteer."

"Due to the Marine Corps' high tempo, we want to keep the most qualified top notch Marines," said Master Sgt. Stuart Morvant, career retention specialist for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The Marine Corps is losing quality Marines with the first-come, first-serve submissions due to deployments."

New considerations for potential reenlistments have been made which include expanding the reenlistment submission timeframe, more thorough evaluations by commanders and offering lateral moves to highly technical MOSs to qualified candidates. In addition, commanding generals can request reenlistment approval

from Headquarters Marine Corps for qualified Marines after available spaces have been filled.

"The Marine Corps is responsible for ensuring that Marines are led by the best Marines our Corps can provide," stated the MARADMIN, which was approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. "To that end, the reenlistment process is amended to assist leaders in identifying those Marines who have excelled in relation to their peers and provide for higher competition in reenlisting."

Marines are now given 90 days to apply for reenlistment, from July 1-Sept. 30. Afterward, Headquarters Marine Corps will commence boards to determine the most qualified for fast-filling MOSs.

The new system breaks Marines into four tiers to determine the most qualified for retention.

Tier one Marines are eminently qualified. They do superior work in all duties; even extremely difficult and unusual tasks are assigned with confidence that they will be completed competently. These Marines also demonstrate positive effects on others by example and persuasion.

Tier two Marines are highly competitive. They do excellent work in regular duties but

need assistance in dealing with extremely difficult tasks or unusual assignments. They demonstrate reliability, good influence, sobriety, obedience and industry.

Tier three Marines are competitive. They can be depended upon to complete regular duties but usually needs assistance in dealing with problems that aren't routine.

Finally, Tier four Marines are below average and may not meet the minimum standards.

Highly-qualified Marines are offered a greater opportunity to execute a lateral move into high-demand/low-density jobs.

"HQMC has always offered lateral moves to highly-qualified Marines," said Sgt. Thomas Regan, career retention specialist for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "Traditionally, there are a few (Military Occupational Specialties) that are identified as high demand, low density MOSs, meaning that there are not enough people to meet the demand. This year, Marines qualifying for these MOSs will be identified in advance to help the Marine Corps better staff those crucial billets."

Morvant advises Marines wanting to reenlist for fiscal year 2012 to see their career planners as soon as possible.

BRIEFS

FLEA MARKETS CANCELLED

The flea market scheduled for this weekend on Camp Courtney are cancelled due to the predicted arrival of Typhoon Songda. The next MCCA flea market is scheduled for June 4-5 on Camp Foster from noon-3 p.m.

SCHWABFEST CANCELLED

Schwabfest, originally scheduled for May 28 on Camp Schwab is cancelled due to the predicted arrival of Typhoon Songda.

The next MCCA festival is scheduled for June 18 from 3-10 p.m. and June 19 from 1-10 p.m. at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

JUNE PARENTS' DAY/NIGHT OUT

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, next month's Parents' Day/Night Out is postponed until the second Saturday of June.

All Child Development Centers and School Age Centers will provide this service June 11, except Courtney CDC and McTureous SAC which will host theirs June 18. For more information, call 645-4505.

FUTENMA USO

The USO on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma has moved to a temporary location at the chow hall in Classroom 3. USOFutenma is undergoing construction to better accommodate the diverse audience that frequents the social hall, movie room and canteen.

Inside the updated center will be Nobu Curry, high-speed fiber internet, gaming consoles, a theater room and a stage for in-house music performances.

Although operations are now conducted out of the chow hall on Futenma, the center still provides the same services to the troops such as free food nights, internet, movies and phone calls.

For more details, contact 645-2957.

REMINDER: 2011 ROAD TAX DUE

Japan 2011 Road Tax payment is due and new decals should be placed on windows by July 31 due to an extension.

For more information on how to make payments and obtain decals, contact 645-7481 or 645-3963.

POST OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

In observance of Memorial Day, the following are the hours of operation for base post offices:

May 28: Parcel pick up will be open from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and retail services will be available from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 29-30: Closed

May 31: Parcel pick up will be open from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and retail services will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Normal business hours resume June 1.

For more information, call 637-0124.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mccb.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.

Marines prepare for NOLES '11

Sgt. Heather Brewer

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines and sailors with Special Operations Training Group and Military Police Support Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, participated in sustainment training here in preparation for the Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2011 May 23-26.

NOLES '11, which is scheduled to take place May 30 - June 10 in Chonburi, Thailand, is U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific's premiere multilateral theater security cooperation event for non-lethal weapons and is designed to promote awareness of non-lethal weapons used to maintain order in low-intensity scenarios. Due to the significant variance of non-lethal weapons capabilities from country to country, the seminar seeks to improve interoperability between partner nations.

Non-lethal weapons are explicitly designed to incapacitate equipment and personnel while minimizing fatalities and permanent injuries.

"The capabilities of our non-lethal weapons in general are preferred during rescue missions, or for force protection in civil disturbances," said Capt. Jesse A. Atay, the assistant branch head of the Expeditionary Warfare Branch and the NOLES '11 detachment officer-in-charge. "They can also be used to control rioting prisoners of war or in situations during which civilians are used to mask a military attack."

The training was held to expose new personnel to non-lethal weapons and to reacquaint instructors with the courses before deploying in support of the exercise.

"We are conducting instructor sustainment training for all the courses we will be teaching while we are in Thailand," said Staff Sergeant Frederick Gladle, training chief for MP Support



Marines and sailors with Special Operations Training Group and Military Police Support Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, demonstrate how to operate an X-26 Taser during sustainment training on Camp Hansen May 23. Photo by Sgt. Heather Brewer

Company. "It refreshes the instructors on course criteria and allows them time to prepare course materials like handouts, waivers and equipment."

The four-day event included classes and practical application sessions given by current SOTG instructors on the human electro-muscular incapacitation device, also known as an X-26 Taser, and oleoresin capsicum spray, more commonly called OC spray.

"The training we are doing keeps our instructors proficient in their areas of expertise," said Sgt. Jason Davids, a squad leader with MP Support Company. "It also gives them a chance to impart their knowledge on these subjects to our assistant instructors who aren't yet certified."

Instructor sustainment and education was not the only goal, however.

"Having first-hand experiences with these weapons stops the fear of the unknown and lets the trainees know they will be able to get up afterward," said Gladle. "It gives them confidence that the weapon works while tempering that confidence with the knowledge of what their opponent feels when they use the weapon on someone."

For those who had never been tased, the experience was a bit

nerve-racking.

"This was the first time I've ever been through anything like that," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Byron Fjeld, a corpsman with SOTG here. "It was a pretty intense pain, but it was worth it. Now, if I have to treat people who have been tased or sprayed with OC, I will know what they are going through. I wouldn't do it again unless I had to though."

While participating in NOLES '11, the Marines and the Thai Army will conduct training events using tasers and OC spray, along with other military exercises.

"We'll be doing defensive tactics, military operations on urban terrain exercises, mechanical advantage control hold classes and courses on non-lethal munitions like crowd-dispersing rounds and 12-gauge bean-bag shotgun rounds alongside the Thai Army," said Gladle.

NOLES is an opportunity for all participating nations to strengthen military-to-military partnerships.

"These exercises strengthen our relationships with our partner nations," said Atay. "Shared training fosters camaraderie -- we will get to see how they do things, and they will get to see how we do things. We are really looking forward to the exchange of ideas in regards to non-lethal capabilities."

MAG-36 receives new commander



Arruda



Brassaw

Col. Jeff K. Arruda assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Col. Robert M. Brassaw during a ceremony at the MAG-36 hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 26. Brassaw has been the commanding officer of MAG-36 since 2009, and will be assuming duties at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command. Arruda's previous assignment was 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, where he served as the Inspector General since 2010.

SPICE FROM PG 1

Sometimes, he said, he could hear his neighbor leave the bathroom, but the sound of the shower continued to drone on. Eventually, someone would come back in, turn off the shower and retreat back to the connecting room.

It wasn't long before the mysterious activity increased. "I started hearing other voices in the bathroom," said John. "I started asking myself, 'Why is there a group of guys in the bathroom with the water running?'"

With each new incident, John became more suspicious and more pieces of the puzzle came to light. "I could hear lighters and smell smoke, but not cigarette smoke," said John. "It was different."

When John entered the bathroom after these incidents, he sometimes noticed ashes in the toilet or on the floor. He stopped hanging his towels in the bathroom because he could not stand the way they smelled anymore. Eventually, the bathroom crew grew either more confident or more careless and stopped trying to clean up after themselves altogether. Bath mats or towels were left pushed up against the base of the door to his room – to keep the smell of smoke from entering his room, he assumed.

When he alluded to the fact that he knew what they were doing, they threatened him – demanding he remain quiet about his suspicions or face consequences. John said, by that time, he was pretty sure he knew what was going on and said plenty of other Marines had their suspicions too. One even advised him to heed the perpetrators' warnings not to report his suspicions. "He told me I should just talk to the Marines and tell them to stop," said John. "He was afraid the 'higher-ups' would secure our liberty if we reported it."

John did not heed the threats though, or that Marine's advice. Instead, he decided to write an anonymous letter and submit it to his sergeant major and commanding officer through a trusted noncommissioned officer. "I knew if these guys got caught, and I didn't say anything, I would have been swept up in it and under suspicion as well," he said.

John waited and watched for a time, but the activity in his bathroom continued unchecked until the day came when

his CO walked past John's duty post on his way home for the evening.

"Excuse me, sir. I have a problem I need to talk about."

One week later, John had gone to sleep after standing duty. When he woke up, he could hear the voices in the bathroom again.

John picked up the phone and called the sergeant major. The sergeant major arrived a short time later, accompanied by a duty NCO and a Criminal Investigation Division agent. The Spice users were busted.

John said he acted out of a sense of duty, not only to his command, but to his fellow Marines as well. The Marine next door who had already served in the brig for getting mixed up with Spice was not the only one living in that room. He shared it with another young Marine, fresh from his military occupational specialty school, whom John had befriended. John said he worried about him often – about whether he would fall prey to peer pressure and the effects of the drug. Unfortunately, his concerns were valid. "That was one Marine I couldn't save in this whole ordeal," he said.

John felt that his own roommate's interests might be on the line if someone did not take action as well. "My roommate is a great guy," said John. "He just got his scuba certification; how would he be able to enjoy scuba diving if he was in the brig or on restriction?"

He also notes that the command climate had much to do with him being able to muster the courage to come forward. His sergeant major had passed word in formations many times that the utmost confidentiality would be upheld for anyone who came forward with information that could help identify Spice users within the unit. "I heard about a couple of other guys who came forward and were taken care of by the sergeant major and the CO," said John. "I feel like their support took some weight off my shoulders. It made me feel like they really wanted to help me."

Since the incident, John's work environment has stabilized somewhat, but he said his unit still feels the impact of the poor decisions of a few of its members. "It affects our readiness," he said. "These Marines had important jobs to do. Now we have to pick up the slack."



Australian Army soldiers launch a javelin missile here May 12 as part of the Chongju firepower demonstration. The demonstration displayed Australia's combined arms arsenal and was viewed by military experts from around the world. Photos by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

AASAM FROM PG 1

The Marines of Marine Shooting Detachment Australia adapted their styles of shooting to fit the unique courses of fire here and engaged in an exchange of information with participating nations that was mutually beneficial, according to Robinson. The detachment was comprised of Marines from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Marine Corps Bases Japan as well as III MEF units based in Okinawa, and 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, based in Hawaii.

The events incorporated challenges that pushed shooters outside their comfort zones.

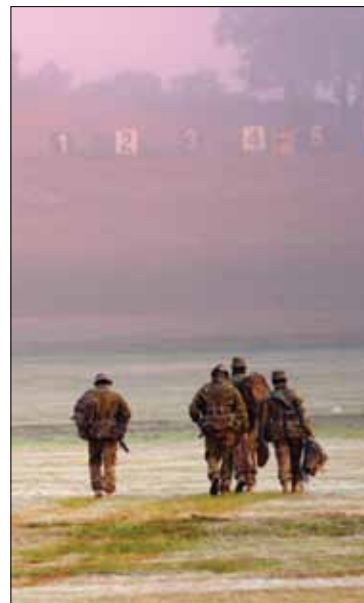
"One of the pistol events was a night shoot where there was almost no light at all. A lot of the Marines found that quite challenging," said Robinson. "We actually had our greatest success at that match thanks to (Sgt. Jonathan Shue, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Machine Shop, MALS-36)."

The events challenged the shooters to incorporate new elements while maintaining their fundamental skill set, according to Lt. Col. Mark D. Mackey, officer-in-charge, Marine Shooting Detachment Australia. Mackey is also the officer-in-charge of III MEF Civil Affairs.

"(Fundamental and combat marksmanship) complement each other, and in my humble opinion, you have to have that foundation of fundamental marksmanship to build upon to be successful," said Mackey. "If you don't have that sight-alignment, sight-picture, slow, steady trigger-squeeze training, then you are not going to be an effective combat shooter."

With unique challenges, the event promoted interoperability and the exchange of knowledge between nations, said Robinson.

"The key word is interoperability which was demonstrated by the last match where they put competitors from every country on a team, and they were able



Competitors walk through the morning frost onto the classification range here May 18 at the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting. The meeting is an annual, international combat-marksmanship competition hosted by the Australian Army and ran May 9-19.

to operate," said Robinson. "It will greatly assist our ability to work together in the future on anything from humanitarian assistance (missions) to combat operations."

The interpersonal relationships that allowed this type of teamwork between nations were also built upon during the competition, he said.

"You could see it from day one when everyone stuck to their own countrymen and by the end, everyone was friends," said Robinson. "Just by forging relationships now, it should assist everyone's ability to work together in the future."

The knowledge and experience the teams gained over the course of the match is only useful to parent nations if the shooters return to their countries and share their experience – something the Marine shooting detachment plans to do, according to Robinson.

"We need to take this experience back and build upon the Marine Corps' combat marksmanship," said Mackey.



Marines who notice suspicious activity have many options to choose from when seeking direction or advice about reporting their suspicions. One III MEF Marine recently displayed the mental and moral courage to say, "Not in my Corps," by turning in fellow Marines who were using a barracks bathroom as a hideaway to smoke the illicit drug known as Spice. Photo illustration by Sgt. Heather Brewer

Marines, sailors conduct r

Story and photos by Cpl. Aaron Hostutler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with Landing Force Company conducted a machine gun firing exercise May 23 aboard the USS Tortuga in the South China Sea.

Refreshing skills for Marines and introducing the weapon to sailors, shipboard training provides a productive means to utilize time while in transit.

Landing Force Company is the ground exercise force for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2011 and is comprised primarily of Marines from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment and 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th

Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve.

CARAT is an annual series of bilateral exercises held among the U.S. and Southeast Asian nations with the goals of enhancing regional cooperation, promoting mutual trust and understanding, and increasing operational readiness.

Augmented with staff from III Marine Expeditionary Force, these Marines are training with partner nations throughout the region in core military skills like combat marksmanship, military operations on urban terrain, martial arts, jungle warfare and first-aid.

"It's a requirement for all of these Marines to fire their weapon at least once a month," said Capt. Rudy Cazares, the Landing Force Company



Lance Cpl. Antonio Landaverde, automatic rifleman, Weapons Platoon, Landing Force Company, fires the M240B machine gun during a live-fire drill May 23 aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Tortuga.



Sailors aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Tortuga don protective equipment prior to conducting a machine gun live-fire drill May 23. Marines with Weapons Platoon, Landing Force Company, familiarized a group of sailors with the M240B machine gun.



machine gun drills aboard USS Tortuga

commander. "Doing these ranges also helps prepare the Marines for the bilateral training."

Cazares, former company commander for Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, is one of the few active duty Marines in Landing Force Company.

"I'm very happy I volunteered for this opportunity," Cazares said.

In addition to the Marines' training, 12 sailors from the USS Tortuga were familiarized with the M240B machine gun and given an opportunity to fire it.

"It was like an adrenaline rush. That's what I really liked about it," said Seaman Destinee Ramirez, operation specialist on the USS Tor-

tuga. "The fact that we got to step into the shoes of infantry Marines was really cool, and it was great that they showed us how to use the guns before we shot. I was so excited when I started shooting and I was hitting the target right where I was supposed to."

Familiarizing the sailors with the weapon was not solely to win the graces of Navy brethren; it also allowed Marines to rehearse instruction of this weapon before doing so with partner militaries.

"Most of the sailors we trained had never shot a machine gun before so it was brand new to them," said Cpl. Armando Castellanos, a automatic rifleman with Weapons Platoon who

taught the sailors about the weapons system before they shot. "Teaching a group of people I have never met and who have never used the machine gun helped build my confidence so that when we train with the next nation I'm even more prepared."

Marines and sailors participating in CARAT are proceeding to train with Indonesian defense forces next, continuing the tour within their area of operations.

"Learning how foreign nations operate is a cool experience," Castellanos said. "It's also cool knowing that I'm leaving a small part of me behind with the other militaries by teaching them how we operate."



Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Turner, left, hospital corpsman, landing force command element, checks a simulated victim for back injuries while Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Hernandez, hospital corpsman, landing force command element, rotates and immobilizes him. The corpsmen were conducting a casualty evacuation drill prior to a machine gun live-fire drill May 23 aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Tortuga.

Marines with Landing Force Company fire the M240B machine gun during a live-fire drill May 23 aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Tortuga. The Marines are participating in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2011. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held among U.S. and Southeast Asian defense forces with the goals of enhancing regional cooperation, promoting mutual trust and understanding, and increasing operational readiness. Augmented with staff from III Marine Expeditionary Force, the Marines comprising the landing force are volunteers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division and 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division.

Black Knights bring unique capabilities, history

Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, which arrived here April 1, has brought with it many capabilities and a forward presence of a combat-capable squadron to III Marine Expeditionary Force's area of operation.

Currently attached to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, as part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program, the Black Knights of VMFA-314 are deployed to Japan.

The UDP focuses on rotating combat-capable units to bases throughout Japan to bring a forward presence to the Pacific theater of operations, said Capt. Bradley Rothman, a F/A-18 Hornet pilot with the squadron.

"We are both a fighter and attack squadron," said Rothman. "We conduct three of the six functions of Marine aviation."

The six functions of Marine aviation are anti-air warfare, offensive air support, aerial reconnaissance, assault support, electronic warfare and control of



A Marine from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, stands by to direct the pilot to the Kadena Air Base runway May 24. The Black Knights of VMFA-314 are currently assigned to MAG-12 as part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Moore

aircraft and missiles.

Of the six functions of Marine aviation, VMFA-314 provides the Marine Corps with anti-air warfare, offensive air support and aerial reconnaissance.

Anti-air warfare destroys or reduces enemy air and missile threats, while aerial reconnaissance is used to gather tactical information on terrain, weather and the enemy situation.

Rothman defines offensive air support as anything done to destroy

the enemy's ability to fight. This includes close air support, which is the employment of ordnance in close proximity of ground forces with detailed integration.

"In combat, we are able to fight the enemy within visual range and beyond visual range," Rothman said.

VMFA-314 also conducts escort flights in and out of target areas, added Rothman. The squadron has the capability to provide air support to ground forces by dropping ordnance in a close but safe distance to

their position, he added.

As a pilot, Rothman is trained to use these techniques.

During his time with the squadron, he trained in Tampa Bay, Fla., and deployed in support of Operation Atlantic Strike and Operation Mountain Round Up.

Rothman said Japan offers the squadron another opportunity to advance its skill set and work in a different environment -- an environment many in the unit have never

experienced before.

This unit has a lot of history dating back to World War II and the Battle of Okinawa, said Staff Sgt. Phillip Tomaszweski, a maintenance controller with VMFA-314.

Tomaszweski has been a Black Knight for a collective time of more than 10 years, first attaching to the unit in 1997 to 2005, leaving the unit from 2006-2008 and returning from 2008 until now.

Tomaszweski has seen the capabilities of the squadron firsthand.

He was with the squadron during Operation Southern Watch where the squadron patrolled the southern half of Iraq following the Gulf War.

VMFA-314 has a tradition of high standards and excellent performance, said Rothman adding the unit takes its work seriously.

VMFA-314 is an integral part of the Marine Air Ground Task Force concept, coordinating and integrating with the ground combat element, said Rothman.

The Black Knights will aid in the mission readiness in this region, Rothman added.

Advanced course students beautify Okinawa by cleaning Araha Beach

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

More than 30 Marines from the Okinawa Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy's Advanced Course, class 4-11, volunteered to clean up trash and debris on Araha Beach, Okinawa, May 20.

The clean up is one of many community relations projects designed to involve Department of Defense personnel and their families in the local community and help keep the island clean.

Spearheaded by Ms. Hiroko Tomimura, the Camp Foster Community Relations representative, students from the course collected more than 100 bags of trash and miscellaneous debris from the shores of the beach.

Cleanups are important. We need to protect the important resources in Okinawa, said Tomimura.

Students from the SNCOA have been known for displays of selflessness such as these clean ups at least once each quarter, said Gunnery Sgt. David A. Luna, class first sergeant and assistant operations chief of 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expedition-

ary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Due to the tide being low, the Marines were able to extend their clean up efforts at distances reaching 200 meters beyond the shore line. After collecting as much trash as they could, the Marines also sorted combustible products from recyclable plastics and glass.

"It is crucial that we give back to the island of Okinawa so we show the people here that we're appreciative of our Corps being able to operate here," said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald E. Current Jr., a student in the class and the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of terrestrial platoon, 7th Communication Battalion, III MHG.

The gunnery sergeants displayed their enthusiasm for the project by dividing up into teams, and even competing with one another to see who could collect the most trash.

"Over the past few years in Okinawa, I haven't been able to really give back to the community," said Gunnery Sgt. Djon T. Johnson, a student in the course and the operations chief of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "Now that I do have the opportunity, I feel it's duly important to set the example for junior Marines."



Gunnery Sgts. Djon T. Johnson, right, operations chief of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Ronald E. Current Jr., staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of terrestrial platoon, 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, help clean up the coastal area during a community relations project at Araha Beach May 20. Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

Blood donations vital to Pacific Region

Cpl. Megan Angel

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The U.S. Pacific Command Armed Services Blood Bank Center on Camp Lester is the headquarters of blood operations and the main source of blood products for the entire Pacific theater. As part of the Armed Services Blood Program, the official U.S. military blood program, blood donations serve as a vital link to military service members and their families worldwide.

ASBBC provides blood products to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, USNH Guam, USNH Yokosuka, Misawa Air Base, Yokota Air Base and several other medical treatment facilities in the region. ASBBC Okinawa also provides blood health care service support to various Navy ships and military operations such as Exercises Cobra Gold and Balikatan.

"The blood that we collect for PACOM comes from blood drives conducted on Okinawa," said Douglas Kennedy, a blood donor recruiter with ASBBC. "The blood people decide to give during our blood drives save lives and supports over 175,000 service members, their families,



Petty Officer 1st Class Jun Villanueva, a medical lab technician with the U.S. Pacific Command Armed Services Blood Bank Center, collects individual vials during a blood donation by Pfc. Dewayne Schinault's at a blood drive at building 494 on Camp Foster May 17. Schinault, along with more than 60 Marines and sailors belonging to the Joint Reception Center, donated blood to ASBBC. More information on donating blood and upcoming blood drives is also available at www.militaryblood.dod.mil/okinawa or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/okinawablood.com. Photo by Cpl. Megan Angel

and (Department of Defense) civilians in the region."

ASBBC needs to collect approximately 300 blood units, per month, or 3,600 units per year, to support the need of blood products for PACOM's entire area of operations, said Kennedy. A unit of blood is equal to about a pint.

Blood and blood products are used for patients of all ages for many reasons. From cancer or surgical patients to those with battlefield injuries, military

members depend on blood donors every day.

Blood collected by ASBBC is also used by separating donations into red blood cells, platelets and plasma, said Petty Officer 1st Class Jun Villanueva, a medical lab technician with U.S. Pacific Command ASBBC.

"The blood donated at our blood drives stays within the military system," said Kennedy. "One donation can save up to three lives because we split whole

blood into the component parts that may go to several different patients in need."

Most healthy adults are eligible to give blood, however, there are several reasons a person may be deferred from donating -- temporarily, indefinitely or permanently. Deferral criteria was established for the protection of those donating and those receiving transfusions.

A deferral should not discourage donors from coming back or thinking they cannot help. Units and work sections can help by organizing a blood drive, said Kennedy.

ASBBC holds several blood drives every month at locations throughout the island. Walk-ins and appointments to donate blood are also available at the center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 6017 on Camp Lester.

"Lives are constantly saved throughout the Pacific because of the generous people here on Okinawa who choose to donate," said Kennedy. "We could never have too many donations."

For more information on how to donate or to organize a blood drive, contact Kennedy at the ASBBC at 643-7710 or 643-7737, or by e-mail at douglas.kennedy@med.navy.mil.

Families break bread with Marines during 'Taste of Home'

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The thick aroma of freshly home-cooked food, coupled with a sense of enjoyment, transformed a professional military classroom into a family gathering for single Marines and sailors during the Taste of Home hosted by the Unit and Family Readiness Office on Camp Kinser May 17.

Every quarter, volunteers with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, prepare homemade dishes to remind Marines and sailors that while their families may be thousands of miles away, they have a family within the Marine Corps, said Salina P. McBride, a unit and family readiness officer with the regiment.

The Unit and Family Readiness Program is designed to ensure Marines, sailors and family members are better equipped to deal with the stress of being forward-deployed to Okinawa and support activities which build camaraderie and unity among units stationed here.

"Being so far away from home is a sensitive subject for us," said Lance Cpl. Katrina Dunivan, an assistant unit and family readiness officer with Headquarters Company, CLR-37. "But the volunteers organized by the (Unit and Family Readiness Office) cook to ease that pain, like they were part of the family."

The event is also designed to build interpersonal relationships between single service members in the barracks and senior-leadership.

"The Taste of Home provides an excellent opportunity for senior-level leadership to bond with junior Marines and see how they are doing personally," said McBride.

During the event, service members played board games to create a sense of camaraderie.

"Playing games that would normally be played by a family is not



Staff Sgt. Carla Arana, a food service specialist with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Regiment, III Marine Expeditionary Force, serves a slice of pie to Sgt. Stephen Wallace, a radio technician with Communications Company, CLR-37, during the Taste of Home hosted by the Unit and Family Readiness Office on Camp Kinser May 17. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

something that happens every day," said Pfc. Samantha Evers, a food service specialist with Food Service Company, CLR-37. "We share a lot of laughs together and learn things about each other I wouldn't have learned in the workplace.

"I am very glad for the amount of success we have had with this event," said McBride. "Last quarter volunteers brought homemade pizzas, lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs."

TYPHOON readiness

Preparation crucial as typhoon season nears

Lance Cpl. Heather Choate
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — With typhoon season approaching, residents on Okinawa should begin to prepare for more than a little rain.

Typhoons, or cyclones, are violent tropical storms and consist of heavy rain and strong winds with the potential to injure people or destroy property. They are especially common in the China Sea and western regions of the Pacific Ocean, according to Glen U. Andrews, current operations and training officer with Marine Corps Bases Japan.

“The typhoon season that the U.S. military prepares for here lasts from June 1 through November 30 every year,” said Andrews. “This is when most typhoons form in the northwestern regions of the Pacific Ocean. An average of 21 such storms of tropical origin occur yearly.”

There are many ways to be prepared for any natural disaster, said Andrews. The first step is to make a plan and create a disaster kit.

“The importance of a disaster preparedness kit cannot be overstated when it comes to saving a life when a disaster strikes,” he said.

Once a typhoon is in the area, Andrews

recommends all personnel begin to conduct typhoon preparations in and around their quarters. During TCCOR 1 Caution, all personnel are advised to remain indoors, however, during TCCOR 1 Emergency, all personnel are required to stay indoors until TCCOR 1 Recovery.

“Everyone should remain calm (during a typhoon), review your disaster preparedness checklist and update your list with things you feel are important to you and your family,” said Andrews.

The Air Force 18th Wing commander is the TCCOR authority for all DOD facilities and personnel on Okinawa, per U.S. Forces Japan Instruction 15-4001.

According to this instruction, only the commander can give the all clear following a typhoon.

However, any camp commander can increase the TCCOR condition until they feel the camp is in a safe condition, according to Mike Lacey, the regional installation emergency manager for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

“After the typhoon has passed, an internal and external check on your quarters and property should be conducted for any damage,”

explained Andrews. “If necessary, contact the appropriate organization that needs to know about any significant damage, be it your housing agency, barracks manager or military housing emergency maintenance.”

To receive updates and monitor storm progress on Okinawa, log onto <http://weather.kadenaforcesupport.com>, www.usno.navy.mil/jtwc, tune into American Forces Network television and radio programming or call 634-4081.

For more information or to create an emergency plan, visit www.ready.gov, www.redcross.org, www.fema.org or <http://72hours.org>.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

MCB HQSVCBN Command Duty Officer	645-7315
Base Officer of the Day	645-7218
Camp Foster Base Access Operator	098-892-5111
Military Police (from on-base)	911
Military Police (from off-base)	098-970-3423/3887
Ambulance and Fire Department	
(from on-base)	911
(from off-base)	098-83-7911
Kadena AB Access Operator	098-938-1111
U.S. Naval Hospital Emergency Room	
(from on-base)	643-7338/7433

READINESS LEVELS

Military installations use a system of nine typhoon readiness levels called Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness, commonly displayed as TCCOR levels, to inform personnel of the current typhoon threat and actions they should take. The conditions are:

TCCOR 4

Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 72 hours. TCCOR 4 will be continuously in effect as a minimum condition of readiness annually June 1-Nov. 30

- Stock up on food, bottled water, flashlights, candles and other typhoon supplies.
- Secure items inside before going on leave or temporary duty.

TCCOR 3

Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours.

- Inventory all supplies.
- Prepare and fill water containers.
- Select the most centralized room in the house for a living area during the storm.
- Fill privately owned vehicles with gas.
- Pre-position emergency supplies.
- Initiate a general clean-up around residence and office. Remove all loose items outside and secure those left outside. Civil engineers usually travel throughout the base to ensure items such as playground equipment are put away or secured, but this requires cooperation from base residents.

TCCOR 2

Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 24 hours.

- Continue to monitor storm progress.
- Locate all utility shut-off points and prepare for immediate shut-off if necessary.
- Re-check outside areas for loose items. Housing residents are responsible for securing their quarters and all items outside the home including outdoor toys, bicycles, barbecue grills, trash cans, tables and chairs. Residents in towers also need to bring items from the balconies inside.

TCCOR 1

Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours. All military installations will take preventative action in preparation of an imminent typhoon.

- Fill bathtub with water for sanitation needs.
- Move high-value items to a central point in quarters to prevent damage.
- Check emergency lights and flashlights.
- Limit outside activities.
- Continue to monitor storm progress.
- If a fire hazard exists or power fails, turn off electricity, water and gas until power returns.
- No school for Department of Defense Dependent Schools. Children return or remain at home.
- Refuse collection services stop. Occupants must secure garbage, cans and bulk items
- Alcohol consumption prohibited.

TCCOR 1 CAUTION

Destructive winds of 50 knots or more anticipated within 12 hours. Actual winds are 35 to 49-knots.

- Non-mission-essential personnel released to quarters
- Secure/sandbag exterior doors/windows.
- Turn off all non-essential electrical items.
- Discontinue outdoor activities except those in direct support of urgent military missions.
- The base exchange, commissary, gas stations and all AAFES facilities close.
- Alcohol consumption prohibited.

TCCOR 1 EMERGENCY

Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are occurring.

- All outside activities are prohibited.
- Stay tuned to American Forces Network radio and television channels.
- Alcohol consumption prohibited.

TCCOR 1 RECOVERY

Once destructive winds have subsided. Actual winds are 34 to 49 knots. Widespread damage and hazards may still exist.

- Non-essential functions remain closed.
- No outdoor activity is authorized other than workers from predesignated emergency crews.
- DoDDS schools remain closed.
- Alcohol consumption prohibited until command sounds normal liberty.

STORM WATCH

The base is still experiencing effects of the typhoon. A storm may still exist in a nearby location. Heightened alert status is necessary to rapidly establish regular TCCOR condition in case the storm changes course. Hazardous conditions may still exist due to storm damage.

- Commissary and exchange resume operations unless otherwise directed by installation commander.
- Everyone will return to work within two hours from the time Storm Watch is declared unless otherwise instructed by their commander.
- DoDDS teachers and staff will return to work during normal work hours, but students will not report until “All Clear” unless otherwise instructed.
- Alcohol consumption prohibited.

ALL CLEAR

All clear is announced by each camp commander as they declare hazards no longer exist. However, be alert to possible damage and hazardous road conditions. DoDDS teachers, staff and students will return to school during normal hours.

DISASTER KIT

BOTTLED WATER

- At least one gallon daily per person for up to seven days.

FOOD

- Stock enough food for at least seven days consisting of non-perishable packaged or canned foods and juices, and any special foods for infants or the elderly.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Non-electric can opener
- Gas-powered cooker with fuel
- Disposable plates and utensils
- Blankets and pillows
- Clothing to include rain gear and sturdy shoes
- First-aid kit
- Toiletries and hygiene items
- Flashlights and batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Whistle
- Fire extinguisher, matches
- Dust mask
- Charged cell phone, extra battery
- Cash (dollars and yen)
- Credit Cards (banks and bank teller machines may not be accessible)
- Prescription medications, and glasses
- Towels, rags and mops
- Keys, local maps
- Place important documents such as insurance papers, medical records, banking information and Social Security cards in a waterproof container

FOR THOSE WITH PETS

- Proper identification, immunization records and medications
- Ample food and water
- A carrier or cage
- A muzzle and leash

In Theaters Now

MAY 27 - JUNE 2

FOSTER

TODAY Priest (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Rango (PG), noon; Battle: Los Angeles (PG13) 3 p.m.; Fast Five (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Rango (PG13), 1 p.m.; Fast Five (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Fast Five (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

TODAY Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 12:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Paul (R), 4 p.m.; Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Thor (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Prom (PG), 6 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Thor (PG13), 6 p.m.; Sucker Punch (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Prom (PG), 2 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Priest (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER

TODAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 6:30 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Thor (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Priest (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Lincoln Lawyer (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Priest (PG13), noon, 3, 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Sucker Punch (PG13), 1 p.m.; Priest (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Priest (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Thor (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Thor (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Thor (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Thor (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Battle: Los Angeles (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Paul (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.

SMP SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - JUNE 10 - 12

• This tournament, held at the Camp Hansen parade deck, is open to teams island-wide. Team members should arrive at 6 a.m. and the games will start at 8:05 a.m. There will be a coach's meeting June 7 at 6 p.m. at the SMP office. The registration deadline is June 8 at the SMP office or via e-mail to kinchen@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org.

EXPO/PINEAPPLE PARK TRIP (NORTHERN CAMPS) - JUNE 11

• EXPO Park has many activities for sea-lovers to enjoy. One of Expo Park's 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 and many other products such as cakes and candies. All can be sampled and purchased during the tour. Sign up by June 9. Bus will leave Camp Hansen Semper Fit Gym at 9 a.m. and Camp Schwab Semper Fit Gym at 10 a.m.

SMP NEW REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING - JUNE 13

• This training will be held at the SMP main office on Camp Foster Building 5674 starting at 3 p.m.

SMP DISCOVER GOLF

• Free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors will be offered on the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. at Taiyo Golf Course. Participants will meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m. Lessons are provided on a space-available basis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• **Kinser Elementary School "Field Day:"** Volunteer to set up booths and do activities with the children from 8-10:45 a.m. May 27.

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

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- *Catholic:* Mon-Fri, 11:45 a.m.; Sat, 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.
- *Christian Science:* Sun, 11 a.m., Building 442
- *Eastern Orthodox:* Divine Liturgy, Sun, 9:30 a.m.; Vespers, Sat, 5 p.m.
- *Gospel:* Sun, 11:30 a.m.; 2nd, 3rd Sun, Children's Church, 11 a.m.
- *Jewish:* (Informal) Fri, 6:30 p.m.
- *Latter Day Saints:* Mon, 6:30 p.m.
- *Lutheran DVD Worship:* Sun, 4 p.m.
- *Muslim:* Prayer, Fri, 12:45 p.m.
- *Protestant:* Sun, 8:30 a.m.
- *Seventh Day Adventist:* Sat, 9:30 a.m., at Torii Station 644-5701/644-4281

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- *Catholic:* Sun, 5:30 p.m.
- *Protestant:* Sun, 4 p.m.

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- *Catholic:* Sun, 8 a.m.
- *Non-Denominational:* Sun, 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun, 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- *Catholic:* Sun, 8 a.m.
- *Protestant:* Sun, 10:45 a.m.

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- *Catholic:* Sun, 10 a.m., East Chapel
- *Latter Day Saints:* Wed, 6:30 p.m., Library
- *Protestant:* Sun, 11 a.m., West Chapel

CAMP McTUREOUS | 622-9350

- *Gospel:* Sun, 12:30 p.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- *Catholic:* Sun, noon
- *Protestant:* Sun, 9:30 a.m.

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- *Catholic:* Sun, noon
- *Contemporary:* Fri, 7 p.m.; Sun, 9 a.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

WWW.KADENACHAPEL.ORG

- *Catholic:* Sun, 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 11:45 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 4 p.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Daily Mass, Mon-Fri, 11:30 a.m., Chapel 1; Reconciliation, Sun, 3:15 p.m., Chapel 1
- *Contemporary:* Sun, 10 a.m., Chapel 1
- *Gospel:* Sun, 10:30 a.m., Chapel 3
- *Protestant Bible Institute:* Tues, 6 p.m., Chapel 1
- *Traditional:* Sun, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- *Wiccan/Pagan:* Sat, 2 p.m., Building 856

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS VISIT: WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Tasukete kudasai"
 (pronounced tas-u-kete ku-da-sigh)
 It means, "Please help!"



May 16 - May 20

Rifle Range
 Lance Cpl. Robbie Daniel,
 Marine Corps Base, 339

Pistol Range
 Capt. Alan L. Brittingham,
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 378

Marines test warrior spirit at Bushido Challenge

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

More than 150 Marines pushed themselves to the limit during the 2nd Annual Bushido Challenge at Camp Hansen May 20.

Hosted by the Single Marine Program, the Bushido Challenge combines eight events including a physical fitness test and combat fitness test to challenge the fitness of each team of four competitors.

"The word Bushido stands for 'the way of the warrior.' It comes from the days of the samurai," said Randy Mitchell, director of the Single Marine Program.

Mitchell said he and his staff designed the Bushido Challenge to push Marines and allow them to get some training.

"I wanted to come up with an idea that brought (Marines) out here for a reason," said Mitchell. "So, that's how this came about.

"It's not a strongman competition; it's not just a field meet," Mitchell explained. "This is an event built to focus on Marine Corps core competencies. Because we focus on events like the PFT and CFT, it affords command the opportunity to participate for training purposes."

The PFT was the first event in the day. The other events were: the CFT, straight-arm hang, shot put, kettle bell snatch, a swim and a course which featured a tire flip, water jug and sandbag transfer.

The last event was a puzzle assembly.

After completing the PFT, the teams choose what order to do the other events. The only stipulation was that all events had to be completed in seven hours.

"You (need) physical strength and definitely physical endurance to keep going through all the different challenges during the day," said Sgt. Edward Ballard, a member of "Rome 3," one of the teams participating in the challenge.

Ballard and his team heard about the Bushido Challenge two days before it took place.

"For us it was nothing, just another day," said Ballard jokingly.

As the participants made their way from



Marines conduct pull-ups as a part of the physical fitness test during the 2nd Annual Bushido Challenge May 20 at Camp Hansen. The Bushido Challenge is hosted by the Single Marine Program and combines eight events to push Marines physically and mentally.

one challenge to the next, the fatigue could be seen in their faces.

"This challenge is really forcing me to dig deep and see just how far I can push myself," said Cpl. Jerrell Jackson, a member of "The 4 Dudes from Schwab," another team participating in the challenge.

"They truly have the warrior spirit," said Mitchell about the Marines who competed. "To do a PFT, CFT, a swim portion, (straight-arm hang), tire flip, kettle bell and a shot put in one day and compete and come with the scores they're coming out with, that's the way of the warrior in my book."

Scores for the PFT and CFT included several perfect scores of 300. Each

of the other events had a maximum-point value. The most points any team could accumulate was 4,400.

Once each member of a team completed an event, their scores were added together creating a team composite score for that event.

The Bushido Challenge is an annual event and will be here next year to push Marines and test their warrior ethos, according to Mitchell.



Marines race from the start line of the three-mile run portion of a physical fitness test during the 2nd Annual Bushido Challenge May 20 at Camp Hansen. After the PFT, Marines were allotted the remainder of the seven-hour time limit to finish the day's events.



Lance Cpl. Tinashe Ngewenya, a member of "Beast Mode," a team participating in the 2nd Annual Bushido Challenge, sprints with ammunition cans during the Bushido Challenge at Camp Hansen May 20.