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OKINAWA MARINE

OCTOBER 28, 2011

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3MEF.MCIPAC

CFC-O '11 campaign continues

Lance Cpl. Tyler C. Vernaza

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — As of Oct. 24, Marine Corps Forces Japan had raised \$225,000 in the first four weeks of the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.

This year, the CFC-O is celebrating 50 years of service, raising money for approximately 3,500 approved charities, with the help of hundreds of local campaigns in federal workplaces around the world.

“This is a venue which the average person, who might not normally be associated with some charitable cause, can make contact with an organization that they can identify with,” said Capt. Christopher M. Eyre, a community area project officer with the CFC-O.

Through the CFC-O, Department of Defense employees and military personnel stationed overseas have the opportunity to contribute to programs that will directly improve the quality of life of overseas military communities, according to the CFC-O website.

“Service members serving overseas are able to make donations to family support and youth programs designed to improve the quality of life within military communities overseas,” said Lt. Col. James E. Howard, MCIPAC project officer for the 2011 CFC-O and political liaison with G-7 community policy, planning and liaison office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

“The CFC-O is basically a one-stop shop for charitable donations,” said Howard. “Everything from medical treatment, education programs and community support activities to a variety of humanitarian and disaster relief organizations still aiding the disaster-stricken areas in Japan.”

There are several ways to contribute, see **CFC-O** pg 5

3rd MEB leads beach assault

SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7



A U.S. Marine partners with an Armed Forces of the Philippines Marine during a mock mechanized amphibious assault Oct. 23 at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Republic of the Philippines. The assault was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, a bilateral, annual exercise focused on improving interoperability and readiness of U.S. and Philippine forces. The Marine is with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Garry J. Welch

Class helps spouses understand deployments, ease transitioning

Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — The III Marine Expeditionary Force family readiness officer, III MEF chaplain and a 3rd Marine Division representative, held the first Spouse Transition Too class Oct. 21 at the Camp Kinser Chapel.

The class was designed to help spouses of Marines and sailors understand their service members' experiences during deployments and how to help make the transition easier.

“Many Marines and sailors who return from a deployment experience some sort of operational stress whether it's (traumatic brain injury) or (post-traumatic stress disorder),” said Capt. David G. Kloak,

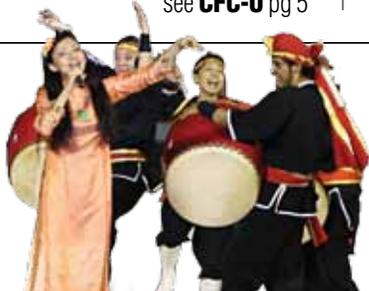
chaplain for III MEF. “This class will help inform the spouses of the different signs and symptoms and also help them understand what their wife or husband is going through.”

The class examines what service members go through before, during and after a deployment and the stress they experience.

“We want to reach out to the spouses and let them know how an active-duty member has to think when they are deployed,” said Denise Loftesnes, the III MEF FRO. “The spouses are usually the first to notice if something is wrong with their significant other, and we want them to know how to identify what it is and who they can call to ensure they get the right treatment.”

see **SPOUSE** pg 5

IN THIS ISSUE



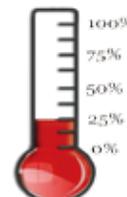
FESTIVAL REUNITES OKINAWANS

The 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival brought Okinawans living around the world together for four days of festivities.

PG. 8

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Wednesday, approximately 25 percent of all personnel were contacted.



RESTRAIN CHILDREN PROPERLY

Child car seats required for safety

1st Lt. Diana J. Salmela

Many new parents worry about the safety of their children and whether they have properly installed car seats in their vehicles.

Marines and Marine Corps families are governed by three main instructions regarding traffic safety: Department of Defense instructions 6055.4, Marine Corps Order 5100.19E and U.S. Forces Japan Instruction 31-205. When several orders vary by degrees of strictness, the Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Provost Marshal's Office will uphold the most restrictive of the three instructions, which in this case is the MCO 5100.19E.

USFJI 31-205 states: seat belts will be worn by all persons driving or riding in a privately owned vehicle or government vehicle on and off the installation. Outside U.S. installations and facilities, infant/child car seats are required in POVs for children 5 years old or under. Service components determine requirements within U.S. installations.

DOD instructions require all personnel in a moving motor vehicle on DOD installations to ensure operability and use of available installed occupant protective devices, such as restraints, air bags and child safety seats. This is required by the Code of Federal regulation, Part 571, Federal motor Vehicle Safety

Standards. However, DOD instructions also require all military personnel, all DOD civilians in duty status and all persons in a DOD-owned motor vehicle to wear seat belts on and off the installation.

MCO 5100.19E Child Restraints, states all children under age 4, or weighing less than 45 pounds, shall use an infant or child safety seat, approved by the Department of Transportation, while riding in a public motor vehicle on a DOD installation. Parents/guardians of newborn infants shall ensure that all newborns are placed in an approved infant safety seat prior to driving home from hospitals or clinics.

Children not in the above category must be secured by a standard safety belt. Restraint systems will be maintained in a serviceable condition and will be readily available for occupant use.

PMO may site vehicle operators for failure to properly restrain children while moving or failure of the operator or passenger to use available restraint devices while moving.

If you have questions about child restraints or unattended children in vehicles always refer back to the proper order or call PMO/Fire at 645-7441. Base Safety, your family readiness officer, child care providers or family advocacy can provide further guidance.

Salmela is a platoon commander with Military Police District North, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

PMO may site vehicle operators for failure to properly restrain children while moving or failure of the operator or passenger to use available restraint devices while moving.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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AROUND THE CORPS



A sailor guides a Joint Strike Fighter F-35B Lightning II test plane after a successful vertical landing, as a second test plane approaches the flight deck for landing on the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp during sea trials in the Atlantic Ocean Oct. 15. The F-35B was designed to perform Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing operations on STOVL capable ships and austere airfields. Photo By Mass Communication Specialist First Class Tommy Lamkin



Marines board a landing craft to depart the Republic of Djibouti, a country in the Horn of Africa, Oct. 12. The Marines spent six days in Djibouti conducting training exercises, such as squad and platoon attacks, night fire and mortar and demolition. The Marines are part of Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Dwight A. Henderson



A Marine explains the route for the run portion of an initial physical fitness test to students enrolled in the 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Corporal's Course aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 18. Upon graduation, the noncommissioned officers will have the tools needed to lead their Marines effectively. Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

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DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
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SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser
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Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Marines sweat for Kadena Special Olympics

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Roughly 200 Marines laced up their shoes to run with numerous members from the other U.S. military services and civilians in a jog-a-thon hosted by the Kadena Special Olympics at Marek Park here Oct. 19.

The jog-a-thon was to raise awareness and enthusiasm for the upcoming Kadena Special Olympics scheduled here Nov. 5.

During the 24-hour event, participants jogged around the Marek Park track.

“The will to compete and be recognized for giving maximum effort is felt universally through all people of the world,” said Navy Capt. Richard Weathers, Fleet Activities Okinawa commanding officer. “Everyone dreams of running through a crowd of wildly cheering people who are all there for you. It’s no small feat helping that dream become a reality



Col. Jeff K. Arrunda, Sgt. Maj. Mario A. Marquez and Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and their subordinate units, run in formation while singing cadence during a 24-hour jog-a-thon hosted by the Kadena Special Olympics at Marek Park aboard Kadena Air Base Oct. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

for our Special Olympians on Okinawa.”

Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, arrived in force to show support for the 24-hour event. They began the jog-a-thon by running together in formation singing cadence during the first six laps around the half-mile

track, said Lance Cpl. Jeysson Gomez, an administrative specialist with MAG-36.

“When we heard that the Special Olympics was hosting a 24-hour jog-a-thon ... we immediately had Marines signing up to participate,” said Gomez, who is also a MAG-36 Single Marine Program representative. “When word of it got to our sergeant

major, he wanted to make a statement that said ‘the Marines are here to show our support.’ What better way to do that than having a formation run and singing cadence?”

Competitors raced to meet certain goals, such as most miles ran as a team. However, this was not the majority of the participants’ main

reason in attending.

“For most people, coming out to the jog-a-thon was not about winning or trying to compete,” said Gomez. “It’s a very humbling feeling working with the Special Olympians. Seeing how strong they are despite their disabilities can be truly inspiring.”

The Special Olympics on Okinawa began in 1999 and is open to local and military community members. Volunteers can sign up for the Special Olympics up until the day of the event.

“Marines always do the right thing whether in combat, humanitarian or civil operations,” said Sgt. Maj. Mario A. Marquez, MAG-36 sergeant major. “Being a goodwill ambassador and contributing to the local community is part of living the core value of being an unselfish Marine. Coming out here and showing support for the full 24 hours is certainly an endurance challenge.”

To volunteer for the KSO, call 645-2625.

Tobacco cessation class encourages breaking habit

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Choate

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa’s Health Promotion Department, in conjunction with the Occupational Health Clinic, provides a tobacco cessation program to assist service members and their families with their battle against nicotine addiction.

The program provides classes every Tuesday morning at the hospital for those who are interested in decreasing their tobacco intake or would like to quit, said Joanne Haynes, a health promotions specialist with the hospital.

The program is important because tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of premature deaths among Americans, said Haynes.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 45.3 million people currently smoke cigarettes, and approximately 443,000 deaths occur annually due to cigarette smoking.

“This is where the tobacco cessation program comes in,” said Shirley Beasley-Posey, a wellness educator with Marine Corps Community Services’ Health Promotion Office. “The program aims to provide the service member with information

and a plan on how to become, and remain, successfully tobacco free.”

Individuals may use tobacco products as social habits or coping mechanisms to deal with certain stressors or problematic situations in life.

“Nicotine is an extremely addictive substance, making addiction the number one reason why people smoke,” said Beasley-Posey. “Smoking can also be a social habit. When others around you are smoking, you may feel like you should be doing the same. This feeling is known as peer pressure. Most people have a natural tendency to conform, which is an additional reason why people may decide to begin smoking.”

Tobacco use affects service members’ performance because it decreases stamina, conditioning, motor controls, lung capacity and night vision. Tobacco users are also at an increased risk for injuries and slower healing times, which can affect personal and unit readiness.

The tobacco cessation class offers the user information about the harmful effects of tobacco use and methods available to break the addiction. The class works with behavior modification and assists individuals in obtaining any needed medications, patches or gum that they may need to help break their habit.

“This program can benefit service members because we make it easy and convenient by offering walk-in appointments,” said Haynes. “We assist them in every aspect of breaking the addiction. This program also assists members with the depression and irritability that nicotine withdrawal can often times bring on.”

The program is available as a class or in individual sessions; however, preregistration is recommended for those looking to attend the class.

“We are very flexible in where we offer our classes,” said Beasley-Posey. “We can travel to them, or they are free to come to our location on Camp Foster. We have even held classes in the barracks.”

The third Thursday in November has been designated as The Great American Smokeout day by the American Cancer Society to encourage users to at least quit for a day, said Haynes. There will be an event held on Camp Lester for the Great American Smokeout for all status of forces agreement personnel Nov. 18.

For more information on tobacco cessation or the Great American Smokeout event, contact U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa’s Health Promotion Department at 643-7906 or walk into any Occupational Health Clinic.



Tobacco cessation, a program hosted by U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa’s Health Promotion Department and Occupational Health Clinic, helps status of forces agreement personnel interested in decreasing their tobacco intake or quitting. Classes are held every Tuesday morning at the hospital.

Photo illustrations by Lance Cpl. Heather N. Choate

BRIEFS

TRICK OR TREATING ON INSTALLATIONS

Trick or Treating is available on Camps Foster, Courtney, McTureous, Lester and Kinser as well as Kadena Air Base. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 31 at all locations.

For specific base information, contact your local Camp Services or Camp Operations.

WEARING MEMORIAL BRACELETS

Effective immediately, Marines and sailors under Marine Corps command are authorized to wear memorial bracelets. Bracelets memorializing prisoners of war, service members missing in action or killed in action, and those who died of wounds or injuries sustained in a combat theater are authorized.

Additional guidance detailing standardization and uniformity will be distributed through official correspondence.

L.I.N.K.S. FOR SPOUSES

Spouses are encouraged to come to Lifestyle Insights Networking Knowledge Skills for Spouses Nov. 3 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at building 5677 on Camp Foster.

Childcare can be reimbursed. Registration is required.

For more information, call 645-3698 or visit mccsokinawa.com/mcftb.

AIRPORT SECURITY INFORMATION

All status of forces agreement personnel arriving or departing Okinawa through Naha International Airport need to be careful to inspect articles in both carry-on and checked luggage.

Sharp instruments or tools used for cutting, objects with a distinct point or blunted edge, oxidizing substances, compressed gases, explosives and flammable liquids are prohibited aboard aircraft.

The military customs office at the Provost Marshal's Office on Camp Foster advises SOFA personnel to not transport knives in their checked or carry-on luggage.

For a complete listing of items unauthorized on a commercial airline or vessel, contact your installation's distribution management office.

TRAINING SIMULATOR GRAND OPENING

The Supporting Arms Virtual Trainer is scheduled to open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony 9 a.m. Nov. 3 at building 2450 on Camp Hansen. The device is designed to train Marines in call-for-fire procedures. Those with base access are welcome to attend.

For more information, call 623-2610 or 623-4317.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

If you are interested in a career in MOS 0211 as a counter intelligence/human intelligence specialist, there may be an opportunity for you.

For more information, contact 3rd Intelligence Battalion at 623-3096.

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

Unit employs state-of-the-art pump

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine bulk fuel specialists trained with 21 new and improved fuel pumps, capable of moving 600-gallons-per-minute, during a one-day course at the Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 fuels warehouse here Oct. 12.

Approximately 30 Marines from various bulk fuel units on island learned the different features of the new pump.

While the old pump and the new pump have many similarities, the new pump's features increase the pump's overall versatility, said Gunnery Sgt. Keith E. Dillon, an operations chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The new pump increases our overall operational capabilities," said Dillon.

The pumps used by bulk fuel Marines must be moved by a vehicle.

"The older pumps were less mobile," he said. "With these new pumps, we can attach it to 7-tons and Humvees, while the old ones can only attach to Humvees.

"This can save a lot of time," he added. "If all the Humvees are tasked on a different assignment, we can always pull up a 7-ton, which is just one of the time-saving features."

Another feature of the new pump is that its center of gravity is balanced, said Dillon.

"Having the weight balanced makes it easier to shift the pump into the right position," he added. "This relieves some of the strain from the six or seven Marines moving the pump."

The pump also comes with a feature that allows it to pass fuel into aircraft quickly after startup, rather than having to wait for it to warm up.

"The quick startup allows us to transfer fuel from the storage bladder to an awaiting vehicle without having to wait for the fuel to circulate through the pump," said Cpl. Jacob M. Ward, a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.

With the new pump's design, bulk fuel specialists are able to monitor the rate of fuel flowing to a vehicle and fuel pressure while keeping watch over the hose feed.

"If there is ever a problem with the pump, a light will turn on showing us what and where it happened," said Lance Cpl. Michael A. Miller, a bulk fuel specialist



Marines inspect a switch on a new fuel pump capable of moving 600-gallons-per-minute during an introductory training session at the fuel section warehouse on Camp Foster Oct. 12. The pump increases mobility, as it is towable by both a 7-ton truck and Humvee. The Marines are bulk fuel specialists with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

with MWSS-172. "The design of the pump will allow us to reach the problem easier than with older model pumps. The design is open in such a way that it lets us get to the guts of the pump with less hassle, and the course showed us how to get to those problem areas."

The new pump allows bulk fuel specialists to enhance expeditionary capabilities, according to Ward.

"Some of the equipment models in inventory were made in 1984, and now this piece of gear is the latest addition," said Dillon. "This new pump is a step further toward making bulk refueling more expedient and Marine Corps aviation more expedient as a whole."

Japan Minister of Foreign Affairs visits

Main Photo: Japan Minister of Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gemba walks to the air traffic control tower at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Oct. 19 with Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, commanding general of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and deputy commanding general of III MEF.

Inset Photo: Inside the tower, Gemba receives a briefing from Col. James G. Flynn, MCAS Futenma commanding officer. The purpose of Gemba's visit was to receive a base tour and mission briefing.

Main photo by Sgt. Megan A. Angel
Inset photo by Staff Sgt. Michael A. Freeman



MCB Fire Department responds to local fire



Marine Corps Base Fire Department responded to a fire in Chatan, located outside of Camp Foster, at the request of the Japanese police Oct. 26. MCB firefighters were providing support for the Chatan Fire Department, according to Harry W. Farmer, Jr., deputy assistant chief of staff with G-3/5, MCB Camp Butler. "Our crews worked side-by-side with host-nation firefighters. Our trucks supported theirs and their trucks supported ours," said Scott Minakami, the MCB Fire Department fire chief. The fire started in Daiwa Electrical Warehouse, an electronic warehouse off base, and spread to surrounding buildings. The MCB Fire Department dispatched two fire-engines and three support vehicles. Camp Foster's Provost Marshal's Office also responded with two vehicles, which helped control traffic and kept nearby civilians at a safe distance. The response demonstrated the success of a mutual-aid agreement with Chatan. "We have a great working relationship with the local fire departments near installations. (The) response was a textbook definition of how well that relationship works," Minakami said.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe

'Lights On' to finish homework

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Students, parents and Kishaba Youth Center staff celebrated achievements during a 'Lights On' ceremony at the youth center here Oct. 20.

The Zukeran students are part of Power Hour, a youth center program to encourage students to complete school homework assignments, said Shelly J. Smith, program assistant.

The Power Hour program, for 5th through 7th grade students ages 10-11, began in October 2000. It is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club and is held Monday through Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

"The students benefit from the program because they are able to complete their assignments before they go home," said Smith. "They also have help with their assignments. This allows them time to participate in other activities. They are also encouraged to read and play constructive games."

The students begin their homework at 2:30 p.m.,



Shelly J. Smith speaks to students, family members and guests, during the 'Lights On' ceremony at the Kishaba Youth Center on Camp Foster Oct. 20. Smith is an assistant with the Power Hour program, an initiative which allows students to receive help with homework and play educational games. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

continue until homework is completed, and then read for 15 minutes per day, said Smith. The students without homework receive educational worksheets to complete or play educational games.

The 'Lights On' ceremony highlighted the students' achievements, said Smith.

"This event was held to show appreciation to all our members who actively participate in Power Hour," said Smith.

Each student received certificates for their participation in the program.

The top students were recognized for their achievements, and the staff was recognized as well.

"I like 'Lights On' because of the open recreational time and games we play," said Dominick M. Kulzy, a 10-year-old fifth-grader at Zukeran Elementary School and Power Hour participant.

Power Hour makes every minute count for students, said Smith.

"This program will continue for any students who want to join," she added.

For more information, call 645-8012.

SPOUSE from pg 1

The class also covers the four R's of psychological first aid and how to enhance communication.

"The four R's of psych first-aid are recognize, remove, replenish and refer," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Gamble, lead petty officer for Division Mental Health, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "These help spouses know what to do when they see the signs of (operational stress) and help them communicate with (their recently-deployed spouse)."

The instructor presented real-world examples to give a better understanding of the issues returning service members face and how to find solutions.

"When the service members are deployed, they are

in what we call the '24/7 camouflage business suit' and are called by their rank all the time," said Gamble, explaining the class. "When they come home, we want to let them know it's OK to go back to 'Jack' or 'John' and back to a (noncombat) lifestyle."

The information spouses receive from the class enables them to help their active-duty spouse experience an easier transition from a deployment and know how to handle the stress, said Loftesnes.

At the end of the class, spouses have the opportunity to talk with the instructor and ask questions.

The FRO is the liaison between the military and civilian world, and spouses should contact their unit FRO for more information, said Gamble.

CFC-O from pg 1

including a mail-in pledge form and e-giving.

"Service members are able to go online, choose their charitable organization, and make a contribution electronically," said Howard.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, according to the CFC-O website. The CFC-O is specifically for those DOD employees and service members deployed overseas.

The CFC-O campaign will continue to run until Dec. 2. For more information about the program, contact your local CFC community area project officer or visit www.cfcoverseas.org.

Philippine, US

Story and photos by Cpl. Garry J. Welch

31ST MEU

The white water breaking against the front of the amphibious assault vehicles was the only visible clue they were approaching.

As they neared the shore, the AAVs spewed clouds of smoke to cover their final approach. Once they hit the beach, both U.S. and Philippine Marines poured out the back to secure the beachhead.

The Marines and sailors with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a bilateral, mock mechanized amphibious assault with their Filipino counterparts Oct. 23 at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Philippines.

The assault was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, an



An amphibious assault vehicle with BLT 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, makes its way ashore during the mock mechanized amphibious assault at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Philippines, Oct. 23, during PHIBLEX 2012.



Amphibious assault vehicles with BLT 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, trail smoke clouds as they power ashore during a mock mechanized amphibious assault at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Philippines, Oct. 23, during PHIBLEX 2012.



A Philippine Marine, left, and Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, provide security on a beach during a mock mechanized amphibious assault Oct. 23 at the Naval Training facility in San Miguel, Philippines. The assault was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, or PHIBLEX, a bilateral exercise conducted annually by the Republic of the Philippines and United States.

Marines storm beachhead

annual, bilateral exercise focused on improving interoperability and readiness of U.S. and Philippine forces.

During this year's exercise, more than 2,000 members of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and their Filipino counterparts are participating in a variety of training evolutions, including live-fire maneuvers and amphibious operations.

"Our objectives were to secure a beachhead and push inland utilizing support by fire positions, assaulting the enemy, and securing the area," said 1st Lt. Garret Shaw, a platoon commander with BLT 2nd Bn., 7th Marines.

After establishing a beachhead, the Marines of both nations boarded their AAVs and broke into three elements.

The first element set up blocking positions, providing security along the flanks of the beachhead. The second moved into position to provide support by fire as the third element pushed forward toward the final objective.

All three elements consisted of fully integrated squads of Philippine and U.S. Marines. The combined nations' service members overcame the language barrier quickly to accomplish the mission.

As Philippine and U.S. Marines moved forward and reacted to en-

emy fire, they communicated through hand signals.

"They were very professional," said Lance Cpl. Kyle L. Thompson, a radio operator with BLT 2nd Bn., 7th Marines. "We listened well to each other and learned from each other."

Working together in integrated squads to accomplish the mission was beneficial for both sides in many ways, according to Col. Andrew MacMannis, 31st MEU's commanding officer.

"One of the advantages we have when we come here is we get with the other services and other country's militaries and get the experience of learning what they know, as well as our partners learning what we know," said MacMannis. "The truth is, they have as much to teach us as we have to teach them."

With the objective and the mission complete, the Marines of the 31st MEU talked with the Philippine Marines about the mission.

"This training was good to refresh our Marines' skills with our U.S. counterparts," said Philippine Maj. Nilo Japzon, a spokesman for the Philippine Marines. "This was a good experience for both sides, and I'm looking forward to training with the U.S. Marines again."

As the Marines trained together, they greatly improved their interoperability between U.S. and Philippine forces, said MacMannis.

"Anytime you get together for training it helps improve relations," said MacMannis. "The biggest part of these exercises is just getting with your counterparts and getting to know them and seeing what you can learn from them, and what you can teach each other."

The amphibious training was just one part of PHIBLEX 2012, an annual training opportunity vital to maintaining the readiness and interoperability of the U.S. and the Republic of the Philippines military forces, he said.

Lance Cpl. Cody Lindeman, left, a machine gunner with BLT 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, communicates with a Philippine Marine during the mock mechanized amphibious assault at the Naval Training Facility in San Miguel, Philippines, Oct. 23, during PHIBLEX 2012.



Okinawans gather for 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival began in downtown Naha Oct. 13. Uchinanchu is Okinawan for “Okinawan people.”

The four-day festival is held to bring together those of Okinawan descent now living in other places around the world.

“My mother is a World War II Okinawan survivor, and we are here to celebrate and learn more about her heritage and her culture,” said Kathy Rye, a military spouse from Austin, Texas.

An estimated 6,000 Okinawans made their way here for the festival, which formally kicked off at Okinawa Cellular Baseball Stadium in Naha.

“This is the first time I have attended this festival,” said Ben Castro, a retired gunnery sergeant from San Antonio whose wife is Okinawan. “It’s great to be able to experience my wife’s culture and see all the performances, especially the Eisa dancers.”

The festival opened with the introduction of more than 30 countries and regions as well as guest speakers, such as the governors of Okinawa, Hawaii and Mato Grosso, Brazil.

“I was impressed by the speeches that were given and the identities of the countries Okinawans were living in,” said Mina Oshiro, a volunteer staff worker at the festival. “It surprised me to know there were Okinawans all over the world and in places I’ve

never heard of before.”

After the opening ceremony, live performances, such as singers and Eisa dancers made up of Okinawan participants from across the world, showcased Okinawan culture to the audience.

“Our favorite part about the festival is the Eisa dancers,” said Rye. “Hearing the beat of the drum and seeing the choreography of the dancers fills us with the spirit of Okinawa and makes us feel so energetic and happy.”

The festival also featured a dance and karate performance, an international friendship gateball tournament, karate and kobudo exchange exhibition and a world bazaar featuring delicacies from different parts of the world. Gateball is a mallet team sport similar to croquet. It is a fast-paced, non-contact, highly strategic team game, which can be played by anyone regardless of age or gender.

“My favorite part about the festival is the many people I get to meet that I would otherwise never have met,” said Oshiro. “It’s a great experience to meet new people and learn new cultures.”

The closing ceremony included remarks by many of the organizations and overseas participants followed by a live performance by Kazufumi Miyazawa, a Japanese rock band, Shokichi Kina, an Okinawan rock musician, Diamantes, an Okinawan Latin musician and Begin, a Japanese pop group.

“I love the Uchinanchu Festival, and it’s a great experience for my children,” said Rye. “I hope my children have a love of Okinawa like I do when my mom passed her experiences to me.”



Young Eisa dancers perform in front of an audience during the opening ceremony of the 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival at the Okinawa Cellular Baseball Stadium in downtown Naha Oct. 13.

Fireworks signal the end of the 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival at the Okinawa Cellular Baseball Stadium in downtown Naha Oct. 16. The closing ceremony included remarks by many organizations and overseas participants followed by a live musical performance by Kazufumi Miyazawa (The Boom), Shokichi Kina, Diamantes and Begin.



Lance Cpl. Shawn R. Schroeder, left, basic electrician, and Staff Sgt. Pete Leyva, electricians staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, repair a set of flood lights during a rapid-deployment exercise on Camp Foster Oct. 25. The operation was a training exercise designed to improve force readiness by simulating a rapid-deployment scenario. Both Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Mobility Exercise prepares MWSS-172 for rapid deployment

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 pulled out all the stops to conduct a mock squadron embarkation, a force-readiness exercise on Camp Foster Oct. 21-28.

The squadron, part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, practiced a rapid-deployment scenario to ensure their ability to quickly support 1st MAW's mission.

"The squadron must be operationally ready when called to support (Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW), and 1st MAW operations," said Chief Warrant Officer Kevin J. Warmath, embarkation officer, MWSS-172. "The scenario is designed to train, educate and exercise Marines in the embarkation of our squadron; from the identification, packing and staging (phases, to the) onward movement of gear."

The unit may be required to deploy on short notice in support of expeditionary operations in the region, he said.

"Readiness to deploy and having a plan to deploy is a mindset we are trying to instill into our Marines and sailors," said Lt. Col. Darin J. Clarke, commanding officer, MWSS-172. "We are currently forward deployed and we are strategically placed to support contingencies and operations in the (U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific's) area of responsibility."

The embarkation exercise was designed to realistically simulate the deployment of MWSS-172 in support of combat operations.

"It is easy to load things into containers and stage them for embark," said Maj. Jason P. Kaufmann, operations officer, MWSS-172. "We are taking this exercise a step further by planning and identifying capability sets and force flows, which drive the embarkation and satisfy operational requirements."

The Marines examined all individual and



Pfc. Megan L. Dehart, an embarkation clerk with MWSS-172, ground-guides a fork-lift, during a rapid-deployment on Camp Foster Oct. 25.

unit equipment during the exercise, as well as inspecting unit medical, security and family readiness.

"In order to sustain readiness, personnel have conducted an administrative and training review, and their individual equipment has been inspected and inventoried," said Clarke. "The squadron also embarked every piece of equipment according to capability sets identified through the Marine Corps planning process. Any shortfalls or deficiencies will be identified and submitted to higher headquarters for planning considerations."

Going through the exercise step-by-step allowed MWSS-172 leaders to identify areas in their current embarkation plan that could be improved.

The operation directly supported the squadron's mission, which is to support the

operational capabilities of 1st MAW.

"This exercise reinforces our mission and our purpose to each Marine who participates and witnesses it," said Kaufmann. "Beyond the intangible benefits, it identifies processes, timelines and checklists that will expedite the squadron's embarkation procedures should a real-world scenario require a rapid deployment."

This exercise, along with similar future training exercises, left the Marines ready to execute their mission, said Clarke.

"(The unit goal) is to be operationally ready to deploy the entire squadron within 96-hours of notification," said Clarke. "This exercise is the first of many like it. Readiness is not focused on the past but the future, and we will be operationally ready to support future operations."

Zukeran students tour Futenma fire department

Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Marine Corps Air Station Futenma fire department hosted about 40 kindergartners Oct. 20.

The students from Zukeran Elementary School, located on Camp Foster, took a field trip to the fire department as part of the school's fire safety week.

During the visit, the children learned about Marine firefighters.

"The students have been studying all week, learning fire safety, fire drills, finding safety routes in their homes, and learning the stop, drop and roll technique," said Angelia Hadley, a kindergarten teacher at Zukeran Elementary School. "They were excited to know they were coming out to see the firefighters and learn about the equipment they use."

The children were split into three groups and shown the equipment the firefighters use to put out fires.

"Some of the equipment we showed the kids were the cotton jacket hose, the bunker gear and the self-contained breathing apparatus we wear," said Lance Cpl. Philip Lancaster, a crew chief with Crash Fire Rescue, Headquarters



Lance Cpl. Brandon Hobbs, a firefighter crewman with Crash Fire Rescue, shows the bunker gear used when fighting fires to the children of Zukeran Elementary School at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma fire department Oct. 20. Hobbs is attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma.

The Marines also helped the children try on some of the equipment.

"The kids had a chance to play with the hoses, try on the suits and act like they were fire fighters," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Williams, a section leader with CFR, H&HS, MCAS Futenma.

"This field trip was very educational for our kids," said Tanya Heck, whose daughter, Thalina, attends Zukeran Elementary School. "They learned what the firefighters do and how they protect us from the fires."

"The kids really enjoyed themselves, especially when we let them try on some of our equipment," said Lancaster.

Interacting with the children was beneficial for the Marines too, said Williams.

Teaching the children about their jobs helps reinforce those skill sets in the Marines, said Williams.

"It is rewarding for me to see the children smile and enjoy themselves as we teach them our job," said Lancaster.

US Naval Hospital hosts 5k to raise breast cancer awareness

Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Pink was the color of choice for joggers at a 5-kilometer run/walk, which started at the Camp Lester Fitness Center Oct. 22.

The run/walk was hosted by the Breast Health Center at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa Health Promotions and was intended to raise awareness for breast cancer.

More than 150 people came together to participate in the run to raise awareness through family time and togetherness, according to Lt. Cmdr. Debra L. Baker, Laboratory Department head at the hospital.

Baker took part in the run and has participated in or assisted with breast health awareness events at previous duty stations.

"On island, there was great advertisement and support for this fun run," said Baker. "There were no gimmicks, registration fees, T-shirts, water-bottles. How amazing is it that over 150 people did this race out of sheer desire to accentuate awareness and get a nice morning workout?"

Participants and volunteers said they showed their support for many reasons, whether they had family or a friend with the illness.

"My motivation is to show (others) the support we have for people that may need it due to oneself having breast cancer or even those who may know someone who is going through or has had breast cancer," said Christine B. Barker, a mammography technician at the hospital.



Participants in the 5-kilometer run/walk to raise breast cancer awareness pass the finish line as volunteers cheer on Camp Lester Oct. 22. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

"This is my life's work," she said. "I am motivated to see this disease eradicated from this generation and all future generations. Until this happens, I am motivated to tell everyone on this island and everyone else I can possibly reach about this disease and what they must do to find it early enough to spare their life."

The Breast Health Center staff at the hospital is dedicated and committed to ensuring it cares for its patients in a professional, caring, timely and efficient manner, according to Barker.

"We opened the (Breast Health Center) in May 2010 and are very proud of it since women can come in with a problem and have everything taken care of right there," said Cmdr. Shelley K. Perkins, director of surgical services at the hospital.

The staff held a breast health center open house and staff appreciation day earlier in the month. The Breast Health Center also targets May as another time to screen heavily, since Mother's Day falls within the month.

"Our patients love it, and it takes some of the stress out of a potentially very stressful circumstance," said Perkins.

"We treat our patients as family because as a military community being far from home, we must take care of each other," said Barker.

The event was another opportunity to bring families together while gaining information about the disease, she said.

"Families are very important," said Barker. "Families need each other to get through challenges that face us each day. Having events like this that include all members of the family opens the opportunity to forget about our work and spend quality time together."

"This event hopefully raised questions about this disease and allowed those questions to be answered by the remarks given or the educational material that was provided," she added.

The event showed that the community is committed to sharing knowledge with each other with the hope that the information will have a snowball effect throughout the island and even reach home, said Barker.

"Life is one big race," said Baker. "We tend to forget the really important things in our lives as we are slaying the day-to-day dragons. We need to stop and remember how valuable every day is."

In Theaters Now

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3

FOSTER

TODAY The Big Year (PG), 6 p.m.; What's Your Number? (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; What's Your Number? (R), 6 p.m.; Final Destination 5 (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Smurfs (PG), 1 p.m.; Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY 30 Minutes or Less (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Cowboys & Aliens (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 30 Minutes or Less (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Closed
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; The Big Year (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Smurfs (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Smurfs (PG), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), 3 p.m.; Fright Night (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Smurfs (PG), 3 p.m.; Fright Night (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Smurfs (PG), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY 30 Minutes or Less (R), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY 30 Minutes or Less (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), 4 p.m.; 30 Minutes or Less (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Real Steel (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

TODAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), 2 p.m.; 30 Minutes or Less (R), 6 p.m. and midnight
SUNDAY Real Steel (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Fright Night (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Real Steel (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Captain America: First Avenger (PG13), 2 p.m.; Fright Night (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Fright Night (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.

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.

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Hagemay mashite”
 (pronounced ha-gee-may mash-te)
 It means, “Nice to meet you”
 (the first time meeting only)



CHAPLAINS' GORNER

Whatever we believe or do not believe about God, eventually life itself – plus the challenges of military service – will force us all to wrestle with tough questions.

Religious ministry team

Navy Lt. John W. Potter
 COMBAT LOGISTICS REGIMENT 3

Ever wonder what chaplains and religious program specialists do?

Like corpsmen, your religious ministry team considers it a great privilege to be sailors called to serve and train alongside Marines. RPs develop administrative and personnel skills that support the RMT, but they are also warrior-combatants who provide personal force protection to the chaplain.

Sometimes Marines are reluctant to talk to a chaplain because they think God or religion will be forced down their throat. You find a broader scope for such a conversation if you look at the four professional core capabilities that the Navy Chaplain Corps uses to define the chaplain's role in any unit:

1. To Provide ... for the spiritual needs of service members from the chaplain's own faith tradition.
2. To Facilitate ... religious and spiritual care for service members from other faith traditions or no faith tradition.
3. To Care ... for all service members and their families with compassion, creativity and patience, in accordance with the commander's

overall religious program.

4. To Advise ... the command on issues relating to morality, ethics, spiritual well-being, morale and the impact of religion on military operations.

The variety of approaches is key to your RMT utilizing the chaplain's spiritual expertise to address all manner of questions. Perspectives on meaning and purpose are important to explore with people who care about us and our ideas.

A great warrior-king once hinted that being ready for war involves more than just possessing the best equipment and enduring the most rigorous training. "The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue," Psalms 33:16-17.

Whatever we believe or do not believe about God, eventually life itself – plus the challenges of military service – will force us all to wrestle with tough questions. Chaplains love helping people search for answers in those times.

Why not go visit one of the many chapel services on Okinawa or talk to your chaplain about whatever difficult issues may be on your mind?

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

