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inside!

OKINAWA MARINE

NOVEMBER 4, 2011

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MCICOM commander visits



Lt. Col. Robert R. Piatt, left, points out the perimeter of Camp Schwab to Maj. Gen. James A. Kessler, commander, Marine Corps Installations Command, during a tour of the base Oct. 28. Kessler was on Okinawa as part of his tour of all Okinawa-based Marine Corps Installations Pacific bases Oct. 26-Nov. 1. "MCIPAC is committed to optimizing regional installation support to our operating forces," said Kessler, who is also the assistant deputy commandant for Installations and Logistics (Facilities), Headquarters Marine Corps. "We will do this by linking our operational requirements to our installation support functions. We are doing this now, and we'll be working very hard over the next year to fully develop our capability to oversee, direct and coordinate our installation support functions." Piatt is the Futenma relocation facility project management officer for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Photo by Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

1st MAW takes hard look at DUI

Capt. Paul L. Croom II

1ST MAW SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST

CAMP FOSTER — The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's initiative to root out substance abuse in every form has now turned its focus to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Service members and dependents in Okinawa have likely noticed the anti-spice public service announcement developed by Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, commanding general of 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force, airing regularly on American Forces Network Okinawa.

The message is part of the 1st MAW's "Not In My Corps" campaign, an initiative to fight illicit substance abuse. Beydler said 1st MAW has made progress on eradicating drugs during the past year. However, alcohol-related issues – drunk driving in particular – are also detrimental to individual and unit readiness.

"Regional security depends on Marines and sailors on Okinawa being ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Readiness is our fundamental responsibility," Beydler stated. "Alcohol abuse erodes responsiveness in individuals and (1st MAW) as a whole."

The blood-alcohol content limit allowed by Japanese regulation is 0.03 percent by volume, or approximately one drink, compared to the 0.08 percent limit in most of the United States. This disparity may contribute to U.S. personnel DUIs in Japan.

"Differences in BAC limits are absolutely no excuse for committing a DUI," says Staff Sgt. John Dorre, military policeman and accident investigations chief for the Provost Marshal's Office on Camp Foster. "The 0.03 BAC limit is briefed and stressed at the mandatory newcomer's orientation briefs to all incoming III Marine Expeditionary see **DUI** pg 5

MACS-4 enhances communication at LORE

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Marines with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 established a tactical air operations center here Oct. 24.

The mission of the TAOC was to support the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army during the quarterly Local Operational Readiness Exercise of the 18th Wing, U.S. Air Force, Oct. 26-28.

"The LORE affords all three services the opportunity to cross-train, hone joint integration and information exchange procedures, and maintain the high standards of the air defense and air control communities," said Maj. Anthony J. Rayome, operations officer with MACS-4, Marine

Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The squadron created the TAOC to include two tactical air operations modules, an AN/TPS-59 long-range surveillance radar, an air defense communications platform and the sector anti-air warfare facility.

"As an air defense and aviation command and control unit, the Marine Corps' TAOC is fully capable of integrating with the Air Force's 623rd Air Control Flight and the Army's 1-1 Air Defense Artillery (Patriot)," said Rayome.

The TAOC combined the Marine Corps' air controllers, Army Air Defense Artillery's control officers and the Air Force's air controllers to work see **LORE** pg 5



IN THIS
ISSUE

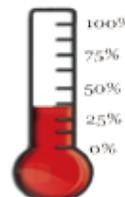
7TH COMM HEADS TO FIELD

Unit experiences the sting of urban combat during scenario using simulated rounds.

PG. 10

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Wednesday, approximately 34 percent of all personnel were contacted.



Wounded Warriors

Regiment embodies commitment to care

Gunnery Sgt. Bartholomew J. Harris

As Marines, we live by our motto "Semper Fidelis," which means always faithful.

We know that "once a Marine, always a Marine," and that we should "never forget who we are and what we represent."

It is important for all Marines, including sailors attached to or in support of Marine units, to know that "The Marine Corps takes care of its own."

As numerous Marine leaders have said: the Marine Corps' greatest assets are our Marines.

We have a proud history of taking care of our own, and the creation of the Wounded Warrior Regiment emphasizes our commitment to doing so. It is the embodiment of our intent to always take care of our individual Marines and sailors. The Corps takes its responsibility for caring for our wounded, ill and injured and their families very seriously.

The regiment's motto is "Etiam Pugna." This means "still in the fight."

We cater to wounded, ill and injured Marines. We ensure Marines get the treatment and care needed that will allow them to return to their

units as quickly as their medical conditions allow.

These wounded warriors are focused on their abilities and highly motivated to contribute to the Marine Corps' war fighting mission because they are still in the fight.

Our mission is to track and assist the healing process of the wounded Marines and sailors.

Support personnel at the WWR provide comprehensive non-medical care management to all wounded, ill and injured Marines, sailors attached to or in support of Marine units, and their family members.

This commitment is not for those wounded in combat alone; the regiment stands ready to provide support for all wounded, ill or injured Marines.

Whether a Marine is injured in a car accident or a training accident, contracts an illness or is wounded during combat operation, the WWR stands ready to provide non-medical care and assistance throughout the phases of recovery.

Harris is the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa liaison for Wounded Warrior Battalion West. For more information about the Wounded Warrior Regiment, visit www.woundedwarriorregiment.org/index.cfm.



AROUND THE CORPS



Marines with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, take up positions and set an ambush for insurgents in Kajaki Sofla district, Afghanistan, Oct. 26. The Marines are operating in support of Operation Eastern Storm to drive out insurgents in the area. Photo by Cpl. James Clark



Amphibious assault vehicle crewmen from Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, make their way to the well deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima in the Atlantic Ocean Oct. 26. The AAVs practiced loading and off-loading from the Iwo Jima as part of the Amphibious Squadron, or PHIBRON, 8 and MEU Integration Exercise, known as PMINT. PMINT took place Oct. 24 to Nov. 3 and was focused on building the Navy-Marine relationships and practices necessary to conduct operations from the sea.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael J. Petersheim



Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville city officials lay wreaths at the base of the Beirut Memorial wall during the 25th annual Beirut Memorial Observance Ceremony Oct. 23. The ceremony was held at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, N.C., in honor of those lost in the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the Marine barracks. Photo by Cpl. Miranda Blackburn

MAIL TO:
Reservation 1
Attn: Social Office
P.O. Box 8070
Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Friend:

I hope you will help us honor our American heroes this holiday season by adding the final touches to the White House decorations.

We are asking kids like you, from military installations around the world, to create a holiday card that represents your parent who is serving our Nation. I encourage you to use your imagination, and include words, pictures, and drawings to create a holiday card that honors your brave mom or dad.

Thank you for helping with this fun project, and most of all for your family's courageous service to our Nation. I look forward to seeing the results of your creativity!

Sincerely,

Michelle Obama

The first lady is inviting military children from around the world to help decorate the White House for the holidays. Children may submit 5x8" handmade holiday cards with words of appreciation to honor their military parents. Participants are asked to mail holiday cards, along with information about where they are sending it from by Nov. 16.

OKINAWA MARINE

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OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER

H&S Battalion MCB PAO
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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Equipment strengthens link between air, ground

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing tested new technology here Oct. 28, that improves direct air support to troops on the ground.

Marines with Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force, tested the Marine air-ground task force aerial palette system/special airborne installation response system after receiving a week of instruction.

“The MAPS/SABIR system is a command and control system, which allows the Marines of the squadron to place a (direct air support center) in the air,” said Sgt. Steven M. Prats, an aviation communications system technician with MASS-2.

A DASC is a communications center that provides a direct link between troops on the ground conducting



A team of Marines from Marine Air Support Squadron 2 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 test the Marine air-ground task force aerial palette system/special airborne response system while mid-flight over Okinawa Oct. 28. MASS-2 is part of Marine Aircraft Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and VMGR-152 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW. Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

missions and support aircraft in the air.

The MASS-2 Marines worked alongside Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW, to seat the gear inside a KC-130J Hercules

tanker aircraft, so they could train with the new equipment. The system can be seated in any KC-130J as long as the aircraft is wired for it.

“Our unit is the first in the Marine Corps to get this type of gear,” said Master Sgt. Charles D. Kines, the

training and operations chief of MASS-2. “We’re definitely doing something big here.”

“This provides direct air support for (troops) on the ground. It strengthens our 911 force,” said Prats.

The system is set up on

two palettes. The first is for equipment such as servers and heavy-duty communication gear. The other palette is set up strictly for operators, allowing a team to communicate effectively with friendly forces on the ground and track their every move.

“This supports the mission by allowing faster response to whatever is going on,” said Prats. “It comes with eight, single-channel radios and incredible data capabilities.”

“(The system) was initially used for reconnaissance missions, but it can be beneficial to all forward-deployed units,” said Cpl. Jason L. Johnson, an airframes inspector with VMGR-152.

The MAPS/SABIR system will be tested in a real-world environment during upcoming exercises.

By doing so, system operators will be able to effectively work out any potential bugs within the new equipment, said Johnson.

Butler postal system offers holiday shipping tips, information

Sgt. Megan Angel

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — November is here and the holidays are right around the corner, which means busy times for the Marines and civilians who work within the Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Consolidated Postal System.

The post office is deluged with incoming and outgoing mail before the holiday season, which impacts mailing times, according to postal workers.

To help make the trip to the post office smooth and efficient and to ensure holiday gifts and greeting cards arrive safely and on time, the Camp Foster post office has offered some helpful tips and information.

Planning ahead plays a big role when sending gifts and greeting cards home for the holidays, said Gunnery Sgt. Shontate C. Morley, a postal finance officer with the post office.

Packing

Customers should ensure package contents are padded properly; bubble wrapping is preferred, said Morley. Contents should be secured, so the structure of the box will not be compromised.

“Knowing what can and cannot be shipped is the responsibility of the customer, as well,” said Morley.

The United States Postal Service lists the following as hazardous materials prohibited to ship: perfumes, nail polish, flea collars or flea sprays, aerosols, bleach, pool chemicals, paints, matches, batteries, fuels or gasoline, airbags, dry ice, mercury thermometers, cleaning supplies, items previously containing fuel, glues, fireworks and alcohol.

Other prohibited items include prescription drugs, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and handguns.

“If you’re not sure if what you’re sending is hazardous or prohibited, you can call any of the camp post offices,” said Lance Cpl. Jasmine M. Barrett, a postal clerk at the Camp Foster post office. “We are all very familiar with what can and cannot be mailed and can answer any questions people may have.”

Finally, keep in mind that oddly shaped and sized greeting cards may cost more than regular cards. Ensure sufficient postage is placed on greeting cards, said Morley.

Planning

Mailing packages before Thanksgiving allows ample time for them to arrive home, said Morley. Last-minute shoppers may want to use express mail.

At the Post Office

Customers should come ready to mail their parcels, said Morley. Customs declarations and address labels should be filled out completely. These forms are all available at any post office.

Parcels must be taped with all seams covered, Morley added. Packages with a commercial value should be mailed with postal insurance.

Hours of operation at all MCB Camp Butler post offices are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The finance office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MCB Camp Butler post office contact numbers:

- Camp Courtney: 622-4135
- Camp Foster: 645-5509
- Camp Hansen: 623-2385

- Camp Kinser: 637-1315
- Camp Schwab: 625-3655
- Marine Corps Air Station Futenma: 636-3144

“It is our mission to ensure that we exhaust all means to assist our customers in meeting their postal needs,” said Morley.

For more information on shipping and mailing costs and any other mailing inquiries, visit www.usps.com.



BRIEFS

MARINE CORPS TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign officially kicks off Nov. 5 at the Camp Foster Exchange at 11 a.m. and at the Kadena Air Base Exchange at 1 p.m. There will be a cake-cutting ceremony and the ceremonial donation of the first toy at both locations.

The program will begin accepting donations and is also looking for volunteers to assist in the collection of toys.

Support the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program by donating a new, unwrapped toy at a drop-off location on all military installations: Army Air Force exchanges, military chapels, Navy Federal Credit Union branches, Community Bank branches, community service centers or child development centers.

For more information, call 645-8068/8073.

PCS SHIPMENT REGULATIONS FOR FIREARMS AND BLADES

Privately owned firearms and ammunition cannot be shipped via household goods shipments or unaccompanied baggage shipments when executing a permanent change of station.

Possession or shipment from Okinawa of handguns, rifles, pellet guns, air guns, BB guns and their ammunition is not authorized. Swords, part of an official U.S. military uniform, can be shipped in household goods shipments or unaccompanied baggage shipments. If hand carried, they must be identified on the owner's travel orders. Most other swords and blades are not authorized in PCS shipments.

Other prohibited/restricted items include bows and arrows, daggers, double-edged knives, spring-loaded knives and switchblade knives.

For more details or clarification, call Camp Foster's distribution management office at 645-0922.

SEASONAL UNIFORM CHANGE MONDAY

Effective Nov. 7, the Marine Corps seasonal uniform change while in garrison will occur Marine Corps-wide. The uniform of the day will be the woodland pattern Marine Corps combat utility uniform with sleeves down or, when authorized for wear, green flight suits.

TUITION ASSISTANCE RESTORED

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance benefits have been restored to FY11 levels. Students can receive \$250 per semester hour for undergraduate and graduate courses and \$4,500 per year. Marines are encouraged to visit their local education center to have their TA recalculated and to seek reimbursement from their college or university if they incurred out-of-pocket expenses.

Marines are encouraged to meet with education center staff to assist them in utilizing their TA appropriately and with their academic goals in mind.

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.



Staff Sgt. Alexander J. Bush, a sousaphonist with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, plays music for a crowd of children from Zukeran Elementary School on Camp Foster Oct. 28 during the school's Red Ribbon Walk. The band played as the students participated in the walk, which led them around a football field to the theme of "stomp out drugs." Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

Youth celebrate red ribbon week

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Zukeran Elementary School students celebrated Red Ribbon Week here Oct. 24-28 as part of an awareness campaign for substance-abuse prevention.

Red Ribbon week is a national observance in memory of Enrique Camarena, an agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency and a Marine veteran, who gave his life fighting the battle against illegal drugs.

The week had daily themes to strengthen the students' anti-drug attitudes, said Jeanne Tsue-Grimes, a counselor at Zukeran Elementary School. They included wearing head bands and bandannas in a "band against drugs" and wearing clothes backwards to

"turn your backs on drugs."

Though Red Ribbon week is only one week out of the year, Zukeran Elementary School strives to spread the spirit of an anti-drug lifestyle year around, Tsue-Grimes said.

"The school gets counselors in the classrooms all year long to do presentations on how to cope with problems and certain situations students might encounter," said Glenda Hernandez, a teacher at the school. "We want to keep in their minds that drugs are not the way to solve their problems."

The school's Red Ribbon Week closing ceremony Oct. 28 included remarks from Cindy M. Templeton, the principal of the school, and a parade during which the students wore red for the "Red Ribbon Walk."

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band played as the students participated in the walk, which led them around the football field to the theme "stomp out drugs." The walk looped around the school's running track with individual classes joining the walk at staggered times throughout the event

"Zukeran Elementary School believes that knowledge, awareness, and early intervention are critical for all students," said Tsue-Grimes. "It is our commitment that our students are in a safe and healthy environment, free to learn and flourish in school and the community."

Department of Defense Dependent Schools students at other schools on military installations on Okinawa also held a variety of events to support Red Ribbon Week.

LOGCOM leadership visits III MEF



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson talks with personnel at the motor pool of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, on Camp Foster during his visit to Okinawa Oct. 25. Hudson is the commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command located in Albany, Georgia. During his visit, Hudson met with commanders from III MEF to get an understanding of what MCLC can do to sustain the day-to-day operations of III MEF. "Our main focus here is how we are going to bring equipment back to Okinawa that III MEF gave up in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," Hudson said. Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

USO Futenma reopens



Col. James G. Flynn, center right, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma; Sgt. Maj. Brent L. Cook, far right, sergeant major of MCAS Futenma; and Freddie Cotton, center, manager of USO Futenma, chuckle when Robin Miller, far left, country director of USO Okinawa, pulls out a kama instead of ceremonial scissors to cut the ribbon signifying the reopening of USO Futenma on MCAS Futenma Oct. 28. The kama is a traditional Okinawan farming tool still in use today. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

DUI from pg 1

Force personnel on Okinawa. When someone gets a DUI, it means they decided to get behind the wheel after drinking."

Regardless of the reasons, Beydler deems DUI incidents "a leadership challenge" that requires dedicated energy from everyone across the wing, especially noncommissioned officers and staff noncommissioned officers.

"We must create and sustain an atmosphere where Marines and sailors consistently make the right decisions regarding alcohol use," he said.

Beydler plans to reward personnel who make the right decisions and to hold accountable those who drive intoxicated. He believes changing behavior begins with example-setting leadership, clear expectations, and consistent enforcement of the standards. Putting the idea into action, however, is inevitably more difficult.

"A Marine is not going to tell his friends it's time to go home after midnight or take a drunk Marine's keys if he or she sees officers and SNCOs getting DUIs," stated 1st Lt. Vincent DePinto, intelligence analysis officer, 1st MAW. "Okinawa is like a small town. Everyone knows when someone messes up. Officers and SNCOs cannot hold junior Marines to standards they themselves don't personally keep."

Small-unit leaders can prevent DUIs by knowing their personnel and looking out for their welfare, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Leonard Thomas, 1st MAW surgeon's office.

"The simple fact of knowing how your junior is doing at home and at work and keeping them informed on the consequences of alcohol-related incidents will help leaders mitigate DUIs," explained Thomas.

Lance Cpl. Dayne Barden, embarkation

clerk with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, believes planning ahead is also an important step in avoiding DUIs.

"Many times, Marines who like to drink a lot check out with other Marines who like to drink a lot," Barden said. "Having a designated individual with you who remains sober can prevent blurred judgment and poor decisions from the group."

For many, advice on preventing and combating DUIs begins to ring hollow with repetition. However, those who have endured the consequences of DUIs strongly caution against such complacency.

"The best advice I could give is to take a couple of minutes to think about your plans for the evening. Then, think about whether or not you are doing the right thing," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Howard, intelligence chief, MWSG-17.

Okinawa police cited Howard for DUI at a random stop in Chatan in August.

According to Howard, it can only take one uncharacteristic mistake for a DUI to impact anyone. Without proper prior planning, it only takes being at the wrong place at the wrong time, and that cannot always be avoided.

Although Beydler maintains oversight of only 1st MAW personnel, he stresses that his concern regarding DUI and all substance abuse extends to all Department of Defense personnel and dependents on Okinawa and will continue to make combating substance abuse a priority.

"We are a forward-deployed, expeditionary force in readiness. Being individually and collectively ready is what we are about," Beydler said. "That is what the American people want and expect. DUIs break the faith with those we serve."

LORE from pg 1

together using the Marine aviation command and control equipment, said Rayome.

The exercise gave Marines the opportunity to work with their military counterparts and promote better cohesion between the different units, said Lance Cpl. Charles J. Cieply, an aviation electronics control operator with the squadron.

"The tactical air operations center is leveraging its extensive data link communications capability to network together multiple surveillance and air defense radars throughout Okinawa to include the (airborne warning and control system), early warning radar and the Patriot radar sets," said Rayome.

The Air Force and Army surveillance platforms, together with the air surveillance and theater ballistic missile detection capabilities of the Marines' AN/TPS-59 radar, create an impressive integrated air defense system, said Rayome.

During the exercise, the Marine and Air Force controllers demonstrated joint interoperability by providing air control to multiple Air Force F-15s daily, said Rayome.

"In the past, the Marines of MACS-4 have never integrated into the LORE exercise as a whole," said Master Sgt. Troy B. Williams, the TAOC detachment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of MACS-4. "During this exercise, we (used) both our Marines and equipment, which makes this exercise a valuable experience."



Marines with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 perform maintenance on an AN/TPS-59 long-range surveillance radar while establishing a tactical air operations center on Kadana Air Base Oct. 24. The mission of the TAOC was to support the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army during the USAF 18th Wing's quarterly local operational readiness exercise Oct. 26-28. The squadron is a part of Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White



3rd MEB brings



Philippine Navy dentist Lt. Cmdr. Nelson Dela Cruz extracts a tooth from a woman at Quinlogan Elementary School, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 22. The 31st MEU Navy medical staff and Philippine military doctors provided screenings, consultations, prescriptions, dental examinations and tooth extractions to more than 2,000 local residents. Cruz is part of Dental Detachment, Naval Forces West, Armed Forces of the Philippines. *Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart*



U.S. and Philippine Marines load M107 high explosive rounds into an M777A2 howitzer at Fort Magsaysay, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 25. Marines assigned to BLT 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force are conducting familiarization training on the M777A2 howitzer as a part of PHIBLEX 2012. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner*



A Philippine Marine, left, and a U.S. Marine secure the beach during a boat raid at Taglawayan Beach, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 27. The raid was conducted during Landing Exercise 2012. The annual, bilateral exercise is designed to build interoperability between the U.S. Marine Corps and Philippine Marine Corps. The U.S. Marine is from Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner*

PHIBLEX 2012 to close



er during an artillery shoot at
tation, 7th Marines, provided
pl. Vernon T. Meekins



ucted as part of Amphibious
assigned to Battalion Landing

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

FORT BONIFACIO, Republic of the Philippines — U.S. and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel celebrated the conclusion of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012 during a closing ceremony at Fort Bonifacio here Oct. 28.

The ceremony culminated the 12-day exercise where Marines and sailors from 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and service members from the AFP trained together to improve interoperability, increase combat readiness, and continue to build professional relationships between the two countries.

Throughout the exercise, AFP and U.S. personnel conducted different training evolutions including an amphibious mechanized raid, boat raid, jungle warfare training and a variety of air training missions.

In addition, exercise participants

completed a series of civil-military operations, including engineering, dental and medical civic action projects.

“We conducted two engineering (civic action) programs, three medical (civic action) projects, where we treated a total of 4,260 patients, and three dental (civic action) projects, where we treated 852 patients,” said Capt. Alistair E. Howard, 3rd MEB civil affairs team leader overseeing the projects.

Other civic action projects included community relations activities where U.S. service members and their counterparts spent time with local children and interacted with the community throughout Luzon, which is in the northern part of the Philippines.

According to Howard, the U.S. service members distributed more than 1,500 notebooks, 1,000 pens and pencils, and 100 sports balls to various elementary schools during these events.

“We accomplished some great things, and it wasn’t just about the military

exercise itself,” said Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, commanding general of 3rd MEB. “Yes, we increased interoperability, and yes, we decreased our response time to certain scenarios; but perhaps more importantly, we were also able to conduct some medical and dental projects and serve over 5,000 patients.”

“I am delighted to join you for the closing of yet another successful PHIBLEX exercise, marking the 28th time our two countries have come together for this purpose,” said Harry K. Thomas Jr., the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, during the closing ceremonies.

The keynote speaker, Maj. Gen. Rustico O. Guerrero, the commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, said he was extremely impressed by the performance of both his Marines and U.S. service members.

“I want to share my warmest appreciation for you all,” he said. “I look forward to beautiful meetings and training opportunities in the future.”



A U.S. Marine guides a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element of the 31st MEU, to its landing position at Basa Airbase, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 21. The squadron provided air support during PHIBLEX 2012. Photo by Capt. Caleb D. Eames



Philippine Marine Staff Sgt. R. B. Barsenas, middle, instructs U.S. Marine combat engineers about building materials during renovations at Ranzang National High School, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 22. U.S. Marines together with Philippine Marines, installed a new ceiling, gutters, doors, windows and a water-catching tank. They also applied stucco to interior and exterior walls, painted inside and out, and built a two-stall bathroom. Barsenas is part of Marine Battalion Landing Team 12, Naval Forces West, Armed Forces of the Philippines. The U.S. Marine combat engineers are assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st MEU. Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart

Marines begin celebrating Corps' 236th birthday

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The trumpets sounded and the drums beat as the Marines slowly marched to center stage. The colors were staged and the band sounded for the cake detail to bring forth the masterpiece, a birthday cake marking the Marine Corps' 236th birthday.

In keeping with tradition, the unit's commanding officer cut a piece of the cake for the guest of honor first. He then cut a slice of cake for the oldest Marine present. After taking a bite of cake, the oldest Marine passed the slice to the youngest Marine, to symbolize the passing of knowledge and tradition from the older generation to the new.

This was the scene of 9th Engineer Support Battalion's Marine Corps birthday ball at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen Oct. 28 – a scene that will be repeated many times throughout November and into December – as other Marine units here celebrate the Corps' birth of Nov. 10, 1775.

"It's Marines that make the balls like this happen," said Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin, commanding officer of 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "In addition to the Marines, (Marine Corps Community Service) has a



Marines with 9th ESB stand at attention as the Marines' Hymn plays at 9th ESB's Marine Corps birthday ball at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen Oct. 29. This year marks the Corps' 236th birthday.

big part in the balls; for them, they are just getting started."

From company, battalion and squadron-level all the way up to MEF-level, units will hold their own birthday balls to honor the Corps' continued service to America, according to Dianne Villalobos, account executive for MCCS Marketing.

"There will be 40 Marine Corps balls around Okinawa that we will set up; three in October, 35 in November and two in December," said Villalobos.

Preparing for that many celebrations takes a lot of preparation, according to Olena V. Napolitano, event planner for The Palms Club.

MCCS starts planning more than six months in advance and begins coordinating with individual units about two months before birthday ball season begins, according to Napolitano.

The III MEF Band also

has its part to play, as small ensembles from the band perform at most of the celebrations.

The band divides itself into three sections, two small concert bands and one brass quartet, according to Staff Sgt. Victoria R. Ortiz, assistant enlisted conductor for the band.

"Our main mission for the balls is to support the ceremonial music," said Ortiz. "With breaking up into groups, we are able to cover all the balls on Okinawa."

The band even supports some birthday balls at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on mainland Japan, Ortiz said.

According to Lance Cpl. Steven A. Root, a combat engineer with 9th ESB attending his third ball, the best part about the ball is having every rank come together in one place to celebrate together.



Boy Scouts render a scout salute to the American flag during the opening ceremony of the Ryukyu Rendezvous at Kin Blue Beach Oct. 29. During the rendezvous, the Boy Scouts taught the Cub Scouts the fundamentals of scouting. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

Boy scouts teach cub scouts

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

The scouts swarmed from their tents with the rising sun. The camp quickly came to life as they prepared the morning meal, cooking fires ignited, and the smell of breakfast filled the air. The scouts were ready to start the day.

Approximately 50 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, sons of service members stationed at various military installations on Okinawa, participated in the Ryukyu Rendezvous, an annual scouting event, at Kin Blue Beach Oct. 28-30.

The rendezvous' purpose was to bring the Boy Scouts, ages 13-18, and Cub Scouts, ages 5-13, together, so the Cub Scouts could learn from the Boy Scouts, said Kelly Johnson, the district commissioner for the Okinawa District, Far East Council, Boy Scouts of America.

During the trip, the Boy Scouts taught the Cub Scouts the fundamentals of scouting.

"The fundamentals of being a Boy Scout are: training leaders, first aid, swimming and making the boys self-reliant," said Daniel J. Richard, the district executive for the Okinawa District, Far East Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The scouts started the day with an opening ceremony including the posting of the American Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scouts' Oath. After the ceremony, they took part in a contest, challenging the scouts' knowledge.

The challenge was set up in similar fashion to CBS Television's *The Amazing Race*, said Johnson.

During the challenge, the Boy Scouts taught the younger boys four different scout skills: knot tying, stretcher making, starting a fire, and lashing. Each task was at a different location, requiring the scouts to use land navigation skills to get from station to station.

Each obstacle had its own challenges. The knot-tying station brought the challenge of executing all of the required knots within a limited amount of time. With the stretcher, it was being able to secure the blanket to the poles. Fire starting was challenging in that the scouts had to start one with one match and each additional match was counted against their time. Lastly, the lashing had the scouts bind logs together using ropes to make a platform to stand on.

"Best part about Boy Scouts for me is camping," said Anthony J. Keller, a 12-year-old Boy Scout with troop 110. "I like to be around other troop members doing all the fun activities."

"These camping trips give the (boys) the ability to showcase the skills that they know," said Johnson. "These skills that the Boy Scouts are teaching are the basic scout skills that the Cub Scouts will need to know."



2nd Lt. Rothana L. Um reads Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message at 9th Engineer Support Battalion's Marine Corps birthday ball at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen Oct. 28. Um is the adjutant for 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Lejeune was the 13th commandant of the Marine Corps.



Sgt. George M. Frasier uses a combat stance to absorb the recoil of an M1014 joint service combat shotgun at Landing Zone Wren in the Central Training Area Oct. 26. Frasier is with Special Operations Training Group. He was training with Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, for the day.

Military police, augmentation forces learn shotgun basics

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

Marines with Military Police Company and Camp Courtney Security Augmentation Forces improved their shotgun close-range, rapid target engagement abilities at Landing Zone Wren in the Central Training Area Oct. 28.

MP Co., Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Camp Courtney SAF, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, combined to put 66 Marines through an M1014 joint service combat shotgun course of fire as part of their unit training and readiness program.

“The purpose of the range was to help the Marines refine their handling and employment of the weapons system, as well as improve their proficiency and accuracy,” said 2nd Lt. Eric Russell, a platoon commander with MP Co.

The Marines of MP Co. became familiar with the M1014 shotgun to expand their operational capabilities in a forward-deployed environment and allow them to tailor their weapon to the requirements of each mission.

“As field MPs, we don’t operate the shotgun as much as SAF or (Provost Marshal’s Office MPs), but we still employ the weapon for clearing and breaching in country,” said Russell. “On raids, we can use the shotgun to shoot out the lock and hinges on a door and use the weapon for room clearing.”

MP Co. Marines could also employ M1014s at entry control and vehicle checkpoints in forward-deployed environments similar to how SAF Marines provide gate security in garrison, according to Russell.

The Marines of SAF joined MP Co. to meet quarterly SAF shotgun qualification requirements, according to 2nd Lt. Daniel E. English, a platoon commander with SAF.

SAF carries the M1014 while augmenting existing Camp Courtney security at the gates



Cpl. Jason L. Wallace demonstrates handling of the M1014 joint service combat shotgun before the beginning of the second stage of fire at Landing Zone Wren in the Central Training Area Oct. 26. Wallace is a marksmanship coach with Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

and during patrols, according to Sgt. Tracy L. Jones, sergeant of the guard, SAF. Learning how to operate the shotgun is a part of every SAF Marine’s training, added Jones.

The shotgun training evolution consisted of both classroom and practical application sessions.

“We went over the nomenclature of the weapon, weapons function, (disassembly and assembly), weapons handling and immediate and remedial action for malfunctions in a classroom environment, before coming out here for the (familiarization fire),” said Russell.

The Marines of both units utilized the standing position to fire from ranges of 12- and 30-yards, using bird shot and slugs, to

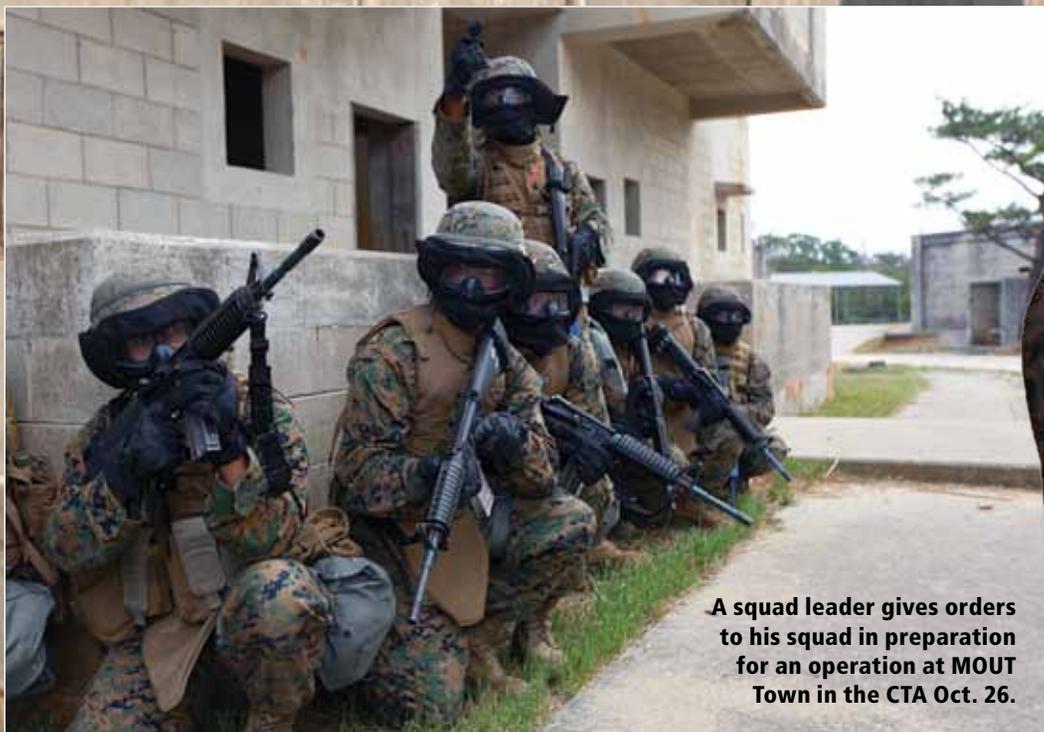
engage silhouette targets during the live fire.

The Marines would not use bird shot during security or combat operations, but would instead choose between buckshot and slug ammunition depending on mission requirements, according to English.

Being able to use specialized rounds depending on the operating environment adds to the versatility of the M1014 and grants the Marines of SAF and MP Co. an even greater ability to adapt to their environment, carrying the best weapons system possible for the mission, he said.

“We utilize weapons systems based on the mission,” said Russel. “The shotgun adds to our operational capabilities and allows us to tailor our weapons for the mission at hand.”

Only the shuffle of boots on pavement was heard as a squad of Marines crept down the street of Military Operations in Urban Terrain Town, clearing the building in a room-to-room pattern.



A squad leader gives orders to his squad in preparation for an operation at MOUT Town in the CTA Oct. 26.

A Marine fires at a target using the special effect small-arms marking systems, a simulated ammunition similar to paintballs, as he glides along a wall in Military Operations in Urban Terrain Town in the Central Training Area Oct. 26. Photos by

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

7th Communication takes training to field

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

A group of Marines pushed through what it thought was an uninhabited town only to be fired upon by deadly insurgents positioned in a dwelling on the right side of the road.

As the two columns of Marines moved further into town, they began receiving increased volumes of fire and quickly returned fire.

The squad of Marines partaking in this scenario was just a small part of the three companies formed specifically for a 7th Communication Battalion combat field exercise Oct. 23-28 at the military operations in urban terrain town in the Central Training Area.

"As a battalion, we do two field training

exercises a year," said Lt. Col. Carlos O. Urbina, 7th Comm. Bn. commanding officer. "The Marines asked if we could do something less (military occupational specialty-specific) and more focused on Marine skills."

"(With this field exercise), we are not focusing on communications skills at all," said Sgt. Maj. John D. Calhoun, 7th Comm. Bn. sergeant major.

"We're here working on the basics that we're taught at (Marine Combat Training) and to learn new skills," Urbina added.

The training at MOUT town was just one of three training events in which the Marines participated. The other two were an unknown distance course, where they practiced squad and fire-team formations with live ammunition, and improvised explosive device training using metal detectors, which also included

instruction about detainee handling.

For the exercise, 7th Comm. Bn. was divided into three companies: Kilo, Lima and Mike Companies.

Each company then went through a different range each day. After training concluded each day, the Marines were transported back to Landing Zone Buzzard, where they stayed in two-man tents for a week.

The combat field training exercise gives the 7th Comm. Bn. Marines the opportunity to implement everything they hear about in combat zones, said Cpl. Maxine L. Bania, a motor transport mechanic with 7th Comm. Bn.

"It's nice for someone like me, who is usually in the rear, to get a chance to come out here," she added. "It's a great opportunity."

"Every Marine is a rifleman, and we never know where we're going to go," said Calhoun.

In Theaters Now

NOVEMBER 4 - 10

FOSTER

TODAY Real Steel (PG13), 6 p.m.; Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), noon; Apollo 18 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Real Steel (PG13), 6 p.m.; Warrior (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG), 1 p.m.; In Time (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Warrior (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY In Time (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

TODAY The Change Up (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY In Time (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Fright Night (R), 4 p.m.; Cowboys & Aliens (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Big Year (PG), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY Closed
SATURDAY Closed
SUNDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Warrior (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY In Time (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), 3 and 7 p.m.; Fright Night (R), midnight
SUNDAY The Big Year (PG), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Smurfs (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Warrior (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Bucky Larson: Born To Be A Star (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Warrior (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY In Time (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Bucky Larson: Born To Be A Star (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Warrior (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Big Year (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Warrior (PG13), 2 p.m.; Apollo 18 (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY In Time (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY In Time (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bucky Larson: Born To Be A Star (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Fright Night (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY The Smurfs (PG), 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.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

• Join the SMP for a free Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 23 from 2-10 p.m. at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen. There will be games, prizes, food and entertainment. Sign up ahead of time. Space is limited to the first 500 registered. Attendees must have their admittance ticket and a raffle ticket to attend the dinner. Register through a SMP representative or at the SMP office on Camp Foster.

SMP BLACK AND WHITE HOLIDAY DINNER FORMAL

• Join the SMP for the SMP Black and White Holiday Dinner Formal Dec. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Manza Beach Hotel. The event includes a dinner buffet, entertainment and transportation. A bus will leave the Semper Fit Gyms at Camp Foster at 3:50 p.m., MCAS Futenma at 4:05 p.m., Camp Kinser at 4:40 p.m., Camp Schwab at 3:40 p.m., Camp Hansen at 4:15 p.m. and Camp Courtney at 4:50 p.m. See your SMP representative by Dec. 7 to sign up. Space is limited to the first 500 registered.

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

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Yoroshiku onegaishimasu”

(pronounced yo-ro-sh-ku own-e-guy-she-mas)

It means, “How do you do” or “Nice to meet you” (with connotation of looking forward to meeting again)



CHAPLAINS' GORNER

When we learn to love them the way they are, not the way we wish they were; and only after learning this lesson, we are ready to accept and love others.

Learning love begins at home

Lt. Cmdr. Samuel E. Ravelo
12TH MARINE REGIMENT

I was 17 years old when I first arrived at Miami Jackson High School. Like so many other immigrants, I did not speak much English, so I was placed in special classes.

After I graduated from high school, I wanted to go to college, just as my father wanted. When I visited a college, I was strongly advised to take two years of basic English classes, but I thought I was already smart enough to take their regular classes.

To make a long story short, I spent four years of my life dropping out of classes because I did not have the full foundation of English language skills needed to keep my grades up. As a result, this diminished my ability to grow academically, and I did not succeed. I ended up finding my rescue by becoming a deck seaman on a U.S. Navy ship!

Through all this, I have learned that there is a strong correlation between my experience

in college and our need to learn the basics of human relations. ‘Relationships 101’ is a lesson that can only be taught at home where our parents and siblings are the professors.

The curriculum can be challenging; it consists of our differences, disagreements, acceptance and even rejection. However, when we learn to love them the way they are, not the way we wish they were; and only after learning this lesson, we are ready to accept and love others.

In my opinion, my faith in God has brought me a long way from being a deck seaman to now serving as a Navy chaplain, and I feel that the practice of faith can also take you further than you may think in your relationship with your parents and siblings.

It is also my opinion that such basic life experiences are what give us our strongest foundational lessons on relational growth with respect to spouses, children, friends, co-workers, neighbors and even strangers.

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