

All new Source Inside!

OKINAWA MARINE

NOVEMBER 9, 2011

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3MEF.MCIPAC



Marines and sailors attached to III Marine Expeditionary Force disembark a C-130J Hercules aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma after returning from Bangkok, Nov. 5. The service members comprised the humanitarian assistance survey team that was sent to Thailand Oct. 15 and spent three weeks assessing areas flooded by recent heavy rainfall to determine the amount and type of U.S. aid needed. "The assessment team brought vital information and reassurance to the people of Thailand during these historic floods," said Kristie Kenney, the U.S. ambassador to Thailand. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

ROK ambassador to Japan visits MCAS Futenma

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — The Republic of Korea's ambassador to Japan paid a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 2.

Ambassador Shin Kak Soo was given an in-depth tour of the installation and was briefed by the air station commanding officer and his staff. The visit was designed to strengthen the bilateral partnership between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

"This continues to solidify our relationship with the Republic of Korea," said Col. James G. Flynn, commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. "We have an important role to play in the defense and humanitarian support to the Pacific theater."

see ROK pg 5

HAST returns from Thailand

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — A humanitarian assistance survey team returned here from Bangkok Nov. 5.

The team of nine Marines and one sailor from III Marine Expeditionary Force assessed the areas flooded by recent heavy rainfall Oct. 15 to Nov. 5. Their efforts helped determine humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

support requirements.

"Since their arrival in mid-October, the U.S. Marines' HAST has been the face of American help for millions of Thais," said Kristie Kenney, the U.S. ambassador to Thailand.

see HAST pg 5

Simulator enables call-for-fire training

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

CAMP HANSEN — Marine leaders and civilian contractors from around Okinawa joined together to unveil the first supporting arms virtual trainer here Nov. 3.

The trainer enables real-time simulation based call-for-fire training for units on island.

"The SAVT training device provides a hands-on, mission-based training environment that fully replicates the entire close-air-support mission," said Andrew S. Pulido, an SAVT operator.

"It simulates the training scenarios that require the placement of tactical ordnance on

trainee-selected targets using joint service-approved close-air-support procedures and surface-indirect-fire procedures," he explained.

SAVT provides two training environments: the primary display and the integrated after-action review room, according to SAVT operating staff. These two environments enable real-time training, followed by a review of successful and unsuccessful procedures used.

The trainer uses Naval surface-fire support, artillery and mortars to perform destruction, neutralization, suppression, illumination and coordinated illumination, interdiction and harassment-fire missions.

see SAVT pg 5



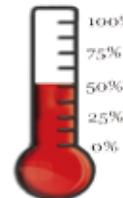
Republic of Korea Ambassador Shin Kak Soo is greeted by Col. James G. Flynn during a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 2. The visit was meant to familiarize Soo with Marine operations on Okinawa and strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Republic of Korea. Soo is the Republic of Korea's ambassador to Japan, and Flynn is the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

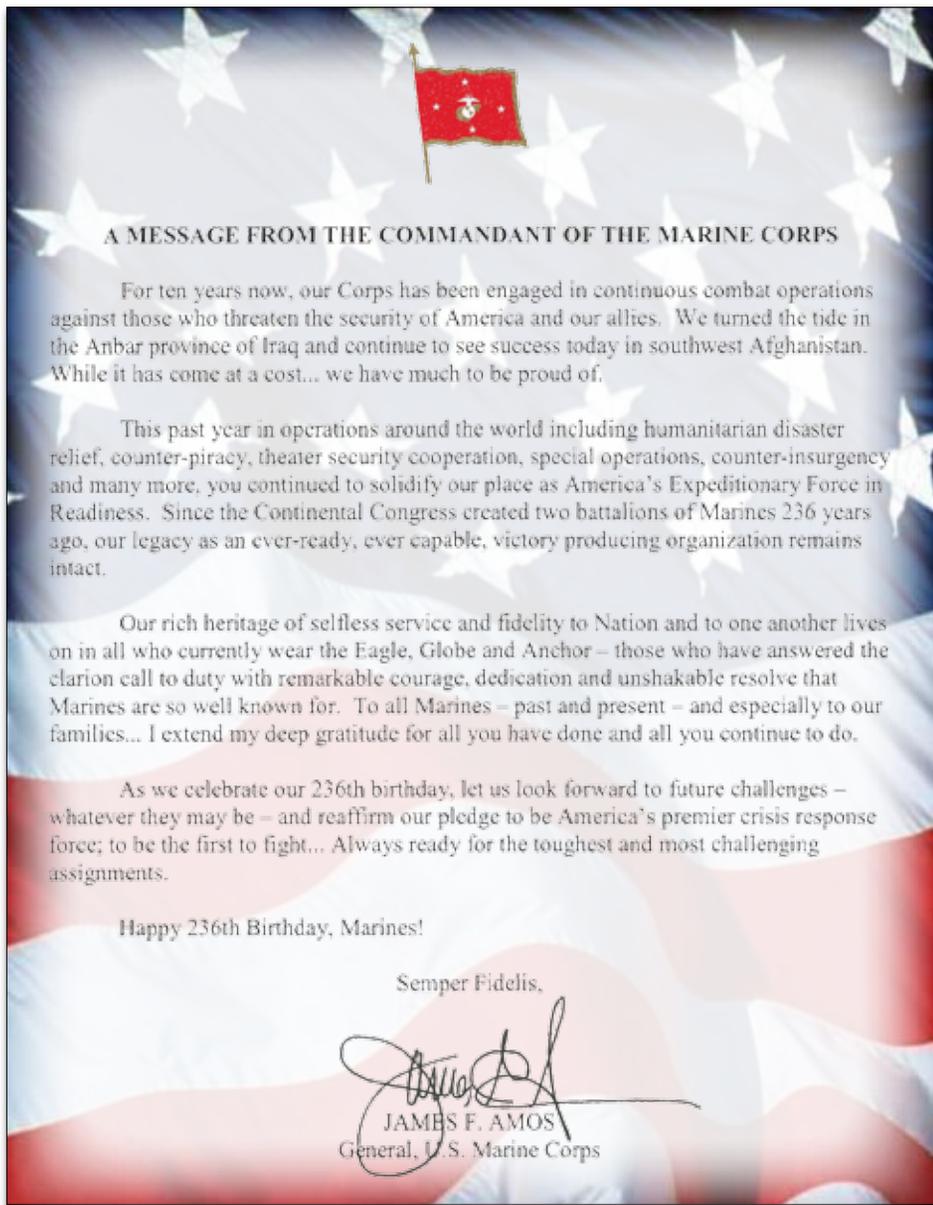
IN THIS ISSUE

Happy Birthday 236th MARINES

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Monday, approximately 52 percent of all personnel were contacted.





A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For ten years now, our Corps has been engaged in continuous combat operations against those who threaten the security of America and our allies. We turned the tide in the Anbar province of Iraq and continue to see success today in southwest Afghanistan. While it has come at a cost... we have much to be proud of.

This past year in operations around the world including humanitarian disaster relief, counter-piracy, theater security cooperation, special operations, counter-insurgency and many more, you continued to solidify our place as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Since the Continental Congress created two battalions of Marines 236 years ago, our legacy as an ever-ready, ever capable, victory producing organization remains intact.

Our rich heritage of selfless service and fidelity to Nation and to one another lives on in all who currently wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor – those who have answered the clarion call to duty with remarkable courage, dedication and unshakable resolve that Marines are so well known for. To all Marines – past and present – and especially to our families... I extend my deep gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do.

As we celebrate our 236th birthday, let us look forward to future challenges – whatever they may be – and reaffirm our pledge to be America's premier crisis response force; to be the first to fight... Always ready for the toughest and most challenging assignments.

Happy 236th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,



JAMES F. AMOS
General, U.S. Marine Corps

Join Okinawa Marine online 

- www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac
- www.youtube.com/3mefcpao
- www.twitter.com/okinawamarines
- www.flickr.com/3mefpao

Off Limits Establishments

Off-limits establishments are in effect for all status of forces agreement personnel attached to or accompanying III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific personnel on Okinawa. This includes all military members, civilian personnel (including contractors), and all family members in accordance with Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5420.2A.

- Stoner's Den
- Samurai King
- Hotel Takahara
- Ground Tobacco Shop
- Shampoo
- Bernard's Garage
- Tokyo Shoten Bookstores
- Yoshihara Red Light District
- Events hosted by Parties International

OKINAWA MARINE

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

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

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

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler or Marine Corps Community Services of the products and services advertised.

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

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



AROUND THE CORPS



Marines fire a 120 mm towed rifled mortar system, known as an expeditionary fire-support system, at Range Mortar Position-5 aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 2. The live-fire was held as a part of a field training exercise designed to sharpen the skills of Marines for their upcoming deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Marines are assigned to Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, which is attached to the 24th MEU. Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael J. Petersheim



Cpl. Shaun Pennington, a system communicator with 2nd Marine Division (Forward), receives a participation medal after crossing the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon Forward aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 30. More than 300 coalition service members participated in the marathon, which has been held annually aboard Camp Leatherneck since 2009. The race is a satellite version of the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., one of the most popular marathons in the U.S. Photo by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard



Ten Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, along with more than 50 service members from across North Carolina and South Carolina and a group of soldiers in Afghanistan, connected through a live satellite feed, to re-enlist Oct. 30 at the Minnesota Vikings - Carolina Panthers National Football League Military Appreciation Day game at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C. Photo by Sgt. Bryan A. Peterson

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 2nd Lt. Evan A. Almaas

PRESS CHIEF Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER
H&S Battalion MCB PAO
Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU
Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

MCU plans to improve education

Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Murray speaks to officers attending the Expeditionary Warfare School through the College of Distance Education and Training, part of the Marine Corps University, during a brief at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster Nov. 5. During the brief, Murray discussed the benefits of attending the MCU and the changes planned to further improve the school. According to Murray, the university plans to improve professional military education, integrate state-of-the-art technologies, provide improved facilities, and strengthen outreach programs. "In the future, we plan on students not only being able to go online to take courses, but also communicate with each other for a deeper learning experience," he said. Murray is the commanding general of Education Command and the president of Marine Corps University.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



Toys for Tots receives first toy of season

Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The first toys of the holiday season were donated during the kick-off event for the 20th annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive at the exchange here Nov. 5.

In 1947, Maj. Bill Henricks, a reservist stationed in Los Angeles, created the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, which collected 5,000 toys for poverty-stricken children during the Christmas holiday season that year.

Since then, the mission of bringing the joy of Christmas to America's needy children has grown in size and impact.

The donation of this year's first toy symbolizes the beginning of the Toys for Tots season, said Staff Sgt. Henry Borom, an event coordinator with Toys for Tots.

"One Marine reservist started the Toys for Tots program and in those years since, it has grown to become one of the best children's charities in the United States and the world," said Col. Nicholas F. Nanna, the commanding officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and camp commander of Camps Foster and Lester. "Every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine that works aboard the installations here on Okinawa has contributed in some way to the Toys for Tots program."

Last year, 14,517 toys were distributed to needy children. The program's planners hope for even greater contributions this year.

"In these troubled times, a parent may be faced with making the decision to buy either a toy, some food or a piece of clothing for their child, and on Christmas day that child receives nothing," said Nanna. "In many cases, the only toy that many children will receive on Christmas will come from the Toys for Tots program."

"The program is driven by volunteers. The people who work here on island not only donate toys to the program, but they also donate their time," said Lt. Col. Garret Miller, a reserve liaison officer at Camp Courtney. "When it gets to be the holiday season and you see Marines across America in their dress blues outside of shopping areas, it's obvious it's for a noble cause — the collection and distribution of toys for underprivileged children."

For more information about giving to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, call 645-8073.



Sgt. John W. Hooser III, an instructor with Special Operations Training Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, checks the knots tied by the members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force during tactical rope suspension training Nov. 2, part of the Japan Observer Exchange Program. The purpose of the program is to share knowledge and increase interoperability between the U.S. Marine Corps and the JGSDF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

Marines, JGSDF share techniques

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with Special Operations Training Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force participated in both helicopter and tactical rope suspension training here Nov. 2, as part of the Japan Observer Exchange Program.

The program allows members of both the U.S. Marine Corps and JGSDF to share techniques and tactics, strengthening camaraderie and interoperability with each other.

"It is a program that the United States Marine Corps runs with the JGSDF where they will

come and learn different things that they can take back to their units," said Sgt. John W. Hooser III, an instructor with SOTG. "It gives us a chance to work with them and build a relationship with them."

"They can learn some techniques and we can learn things from them as well — it goes both ways," he added.

The U.S. Marine Corps and JGSDF train differently, making the program a good information-sharing initiative, according to Capt. Masashi Higashiyama, executive officer, Engineering Company, JGSDF.

"I think this opportunity is wonderful for us because these kinds of exchange events are rare for us," said Higashiyama. "We

get to learn from each other and it builds our relationship."

All the members of the JGSDF participating in the JOEP are instructors for their respective regiments, said Higashiyama.

"We as instructors can apply this training to our own (units) in order to better train the future members of the JGSDF," he said.

"This training program is done annually between us and not only do they learn from us, but we also get a chance to learn from them," said Keller. "We also do an exchange program where we have a chance to send our Marines to mainland to train, which helps us build camaraderie."

"The most important thing about this program is that we learn from each other," he added.

BRIEFS

MARINE CORPS POST OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND

In observance of Veteran's Day Holiday weekend, all Marine Corps post offices will observe the following hours of operation:

Nov. 10: Normal working hours. Parcel pick up is available from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and retail services are available from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 11: Closed

Nov. 12: Parcel pick-up and retail services are available from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Nov. 13: Closed

Nov. 14: Parcel pick-up is open from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and retail services are available from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information, contact 637-0124.

COACHES WANTED FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Make a difference by volunteering in youth sports. Semper Fit Youth Sports is looking for volunteers to coach its fall and winter programs.

For more information or upcoming schedules, call 645-3533.

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.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY CARDS

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

Mail cards to:

Reservation 1

Attn: Social Office

P.O. Box 8070

Washington, D.C. 20032

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.

Avoid, report harmful toads

Sgt. Heather Brewer

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — U.S. Forces Japan, along with the Government of Japan's Ministry of Environment, has been working to control the population of a certain type of harmful toad, the *Bufo marinus*, or cane toad, which was recently found on Camp Kinser.

The toad, which has not been found on any other Marine Corps installation on the island, can be identified by its skin, which ranges in shades of yellow-brown, red-brown and olive-green, with white spots occasionally seen on the toads' backs. Their bellies are yellow with black flecks, according to Mitsugu Sugiyama, a natural resources specialist with the Camp Foster Environmental Office.

"When threatened, the toad can emit a toxin from warts on its back," said Sugiyama. "While sometimes fatal to animals if ingested, most human injury is skin or eye irritation."

While avoiding the toad if sighted is the best line of defense, there are steps to treat symptoms if contact is made.

"The (frog's) poison is absorbed through mucous membranes such as eyes, mouth and nose, and in humans may cause intense pain, temporary blindness and inflammation," said Navy Lt. Carl Blaesing, the environmental health officer for U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. "Initial first aid treatment includes flushing the eyes, mouth and nose with plenty of water, but seek medical attention if any symptoms persist."

The cane toad is native to South America, but has been introduced in other parts of the world to control pests in sugar cane crops, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library.

"The toad was intentionally introduced to the Bonin Islands of Tokyo and the Daito Islands and Sakishima Island of Okinawa to control sugar cane pests," said Sugiyama. "However, the toad was not introduced to the main island of Okinawa."

As of late October, 570 cane toads have been found aboard Camp Kinser, but Marine Corps



The cane toad, or *Bufo marinus*, has recently been found at locations on Camp Kinser. The toad, which has not been found on any other Marine Corps installation on the island, can be identified by their skin, which ranges in shades of yellow-brown, red-brown and olive-green, with white spots occasionally seen on their backs. Their bellies are yellow with black flecks.

Photo courtesy of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

environmental officials are taking proactive steps to stop the spread of the toad.

"We have been collecting the toads since August. Once collected, the toads are inventoried and disposed of by base officials," said Sugiyama.

Additionally, the base environmental office plans to institute other controls to help stop the spread of the specie.

"Our office will be modifying potential breeding sites like puddles by burying them," said Sugiyama. "We will also inspect any other standing water on the camp for tadpoles, so we can minimize breeding and population growth."

The Marine Corps takes environmental safety issues and the safety of the local population and native species very seriously.

"We are committed to taking any and all proactive steps to help with the collection and removal of this species," said Sugiyama. "Additionally, we are committed to addressing this issue in a way that will minimize the effects on the surrounding species and environment."

If a toad is found on a Marine Corps installation, please call 645-5970. If found outside of a military installation, contact the Ministry of Environment at 098-858-5824.

MARFORK general encourages CLB-4

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Regner, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea, speaks to members of Combat Logistics Battalion 4 at a formation held on Camp Foster Nov. 3. During the formation, Regner shared stories about his combat experiences and gave advice to motivate the Marines. CLB-4 departed Monday for Enhanced Mojave Viper and will deploy to Afghanistan soon. "The relationships you will build with your fire team are something you can never beat," said Regner. "The men and women you work with (and) fight with ... will become your family." CLB-4 is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner



Energy, installations, environment secretary visits



The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannenstiel (middle), Assistant Secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment, Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri (right), commanding general for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and Joseph W. King, the deputy camp commander for Camp Schwab, pause before taking off in a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter on Camp Schwab Nov. 3. The purpose of Pfannenstiel's visit to Okinawa was to see the facilities on all the bases and see how she can help improve installation support to operating forces. Pfannenstiel said this trip to Okinawa gave her a better understanding of what she can do to help the Marines and sailors stationed here.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

ROK from pg 1

It is important for the ambassador to see what we do here, said Flynn.

The ambassador's visit also included a flight over Okinawa in a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter with the support of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The units stationed on MCAS Futenma operate throughout the Pacific," said Col. Robert S. Adams, director of the Defense Policy Review Initiative, MCIPAC. "We certainly do well to support our allies in the Republic of Korea.

"III MEF is a forward-deployed Marine presence in this area of the world," Adams added. "We can mobilize and go anywhere, at any time in support of anyone who requests our assistance in the Pacific."

SAVT from pg 1

"The joint terminal attack controller and forward observers can train on the things they think they need work on," said Pulido. "All units that would call for fire can use the SAVT to simulate a call-for-fire (mission)."

There are three different fire methods in the trainer students can use. These methods include forward-air station, observation-post station and forward air control. Each method provides a different scenario a Marine could experience when deployed.

The SAVT projects scenarios onto a 15-foot high by 10-foot long radius dome screen. The screen provides a 260-degree horizontal and 60-degree field-of-view image for trainees.

The large screen shows a view of the entire battlespace, enabling individual users to see the effect of their actions.

Two-student teams use a set of hand-held toolsets, which simulate the typical equipment required to accomplish their mission. Each student has a screen on which they have a virtual communication link, displaying data pertaining to their part of the scenario.

The students can communicate with the aircraft, observers and other fire-support stations to adjust their call for fire to hit the target, said Pulido.

The SAVT will be able to handle most scenarios found in a real-world situation.

"There is limited training we can do on Okinawa due to no live-fire training," said Col. Curtis L. Williamson, the commanding officer for Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This system will allow us to have a lot of valuable training so when conducting live-fire exercises, we can get max effectiveness out of it."

The SAVT is available to all units and branches of service on the island, said Pulido.

For more information or to set up a unit-training event, call your unit's training coordinator.



U.S. Marine Chief Warrant Officer Natee Kietchai, Thai subject-matter expert for the humanitarian assistance survey team from III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducts an assessment of Loppburi, Thailand, Oct. 30. The HAST was charged with assessing the damage caused by flood waters in Thailand to determine the magnitude and type of support needed. *Photo by Cpl. Robert J. Maurer*

HAST from pg 1

"The HAST from III MEF has been embraced by the Thai military, government and public since their arrival."

The team surveyed flooding in the Bangkok metropolitan area, Chaophraya River and North Iopburi areas from the air and ground.

The HAST was flown by SH-60F Sea Hawk helicopters from Antisubmarine Helicopter Squadron 14, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, based in Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

"We were able to take helicopters to overlook the affected areas," said Col. John A. Ostrowski, the officer-in-charge of the HAST. "We also brought members from the Thai government and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance to see the area."

OFDA, which is part of the U.S. Agency for International Development, is responsible for providing humanitarian assistance during international crises and disasters.

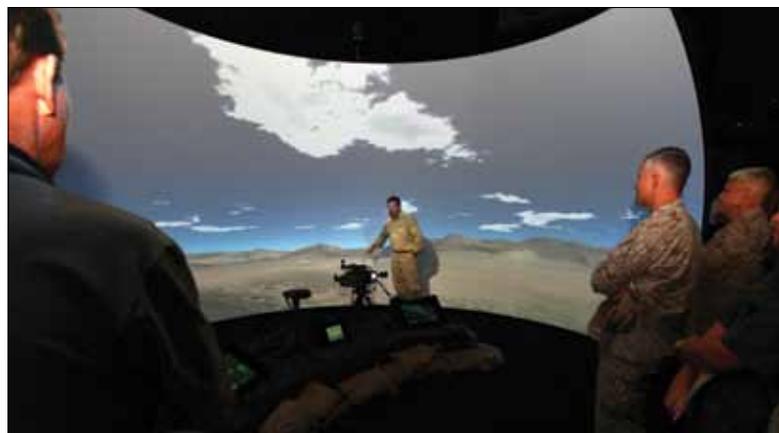
The HAST, while on the ground visited shelters to determine the amount of relief needed by the occupants, said Master Sgt. David W. Parks, the operations chief of the HAST.

"From the assessments, we were able to see that Thailand is doing okay and that they would be better assisted by USAID and OFDA," said Ostrowski.

The information they gathered while surveying the area was greatly appreciated and helpful for the Thai government, the U.S. ambassador, USAID and OFDA.

"The assessment team brought vital information and reassurance to the people of Thailand during these historic floods," said Kenney. "Their technical expertise, experience, and existing relationships with the Thai military have helped buoy the hope of the people of Thailand."

"We were able to show one of our oldest allied countries that we were ready to help at any moment," added Parks.



David E. Gaul shows Marine leaders and other virtual trainer staff the capabilities of the supporting arms virtual trainer on Camp Hansen Nov. 3. The SAVT facilitates calling for indirect fire on different types of scenarios. Gaul is an SAVT operator, currently operating out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

Athletes race to the finish line during the 50-meter dash at the 12th Annual Kadena Special Olympics on Kadena Air Base Nov. 5. Athletes participated in many events, including track and field, the wheelchair softball throw, tennis, a Frisbee toss and the standing long jump.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez



Kadena Special Olympics inspires greatness

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the rain trickled down over the Risner Fitness and Sports Complex on Kadena Air Base Nov. 5, the sound of cheering and applause could be heard as athletes arrived in anticipation of the 12th Annual Kadena Special Olympics.

More than 6,000 participants and volunteers

gathered in celebration of the event, where participating athletes and artists showed their courage and strength to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

“We are celebrating 12 years of continued success with the Kadena Special Olympics this year,” said Charles Steitz, public affairs officer with the U.S. Army’s 10th Support Group and a senior advisor for the Kadena Special Olympics. “It is a great environment where everyone is encouraged

to come out and no one is turned away.”

The program runs as smoothly as it does because of the constant support of the numerous volunteers, said Steitz.

“(There were nearly 700) Marines and sailors from various units throughout the island who volunteered this year,” said Sgt. Andrew S. Trossen, a facilities engineer ground safety specialist with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and the Kadena Special Olympics Marine Corps volunteer representative. “The Air Force, Army and other various organizations also had numerous volunteers come out.”

It is important to help each other out as a community, especially those with special needs, said Trossen.

It feels good to donate your time to volunteering and supporting the community, said Lance Cpl. Maxwell C. Bloomer, a financial management resource analyst with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Volunteers were used to help set up and break down for the event, to assist the registration process, and as “huggers” for the various events, including track and field, wheelchair softball throw, tennis, Frisbee toss and the standing long jump.

Huggers are volunteers assigned to an athlete to assist them in getting to and from events, as well as offering encouragement and support throughout the day.

When the program started 12 years ago, there were less than 100 athletes, said Steitz. This year there were close to 900 athletes, and every athlete this year had a hugger.

“The amount of support this year was incredible,” said Trossen. “Even in the inclement weather, people were still on the field cheering the athletes on. It’s events like this, and days like this, that create life-long memories for the participants as well as the volunteers.”



An athlete and his “hugger” run down the track during the 50-meter dash as the audience cheers at the 12th Annual Kadena Special Olympics on Kadena Air Base Nov. 5. Huggers, volunteers assigned to each athlete, encouraged their athlete, running side-by-side and finishing the race with them.



Sgt. Shanna L. Diep high-fives an athlete as he passes by a crowd at the 12th Annual Kadena Special Olympics on Kadena Air Base Nov. 5. Service members and civilians cheered on athletes as they arrived at the Risner Fitness and Sports Complex, showing support for their courage and strength to overcome obstacles and achieve success. Diep, a volunteer at the event, is a reserve transition advisor assigned to the Reserve Transition Retention Program based out of New Orleans.



Volunteers and participants crowd the Risner Fitness and Sports Complex on Kadena Air Base as the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band prepares for the opening ceremony of the 12th Annual Kadena Special Olympics Nov. 5.

Motorcyclists stand-down

Riders refresh knowledge of safety regulations

Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines, sailors and civilians from across Okinawa attended the motorcycle safety stand-down at the Camp Foster Theater Nov. 4.

The stand-down is held semiannually to ensure motorcycle riders abide by Japanese and Marine Corps safety regulations when operating motorcycles on island.

"The reason we do this is to enhance the awareness of the riders out here," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher G. Lowman, the assistant security manager for 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and president of the installation riding club. "Riding here is a lot different than back in the states because of the rules, composition of the road, and driving on the opposite side of the road."

Military personnel, family members and Department of Defense civilian employees who drive motorcycles in Japan must first obtain a status of forces agreement driver's license and motorcycle license, according to Lowman.

SOFA driver's license holders must attend one of the two briefs each year, said Lowman.

Guest speakers at the stand-down included 1st Lt. Drew D.



Marines inspect their motorcycles to ensure they are in good working condition following the motorcycle safety stand-down at the Camp Foster Theater Nov. 4. Status of forces agreement license holders must attend one of the two briefs held each year. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock

Martinolich, communications officer with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Air Wing, III MEF, and Rob Hephner, an instructor for the Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic, located in Gilbert, Ariz.

Martinolich, who suffered injuries in a motorcycle accident last September, began the stand-down by sharing his story.

"It was probably the worst pain I have ever felt in my life, but I know for a fact it was not the bike's fault – it was my own," said Martinolich. "Even though it's uncomfortable riding with a jacket and a full-faced helmet, I would not be standing here today without (them)."

While Martinolich spoke of his survival story and about the importance of personal protective

equipment, Hephner presented a class on riding techniques, including traction management, throttle control, trail braking and body positioning.

"I could stand up here and teach all day, but knowledge without proper application is useless," said Hephner. "Motorcycle riders need to apply the lessons learned during these classes to ensure they are safe on the road."



Motorcyclists don personal protective equipment during the advanced rider track day held on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma July 16. Motorcyclists aboard Okinawa are given several opportunities throughout the year to learn and refresh themselves with proper safety techniques for operating motorcycles.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

AS THE COOL RAIN FELL UPON THE MARINES, THE TENTS AROSE AROUND THEM. THEY SPRANG UP LIKE WEEDS IN AN UNATTENDED GARDEN. THE ONCE-BARREN GROUND STARTED TO LOOK LIKE A SMALL VILLAGE.

Marines unroll the floor tarp of a 303 tent during Exercise Command and Control on Camp Courtney Nov. 1. The Marines conducted this training to prepare for rapid deployment. The Marines are assigned to Headquarters Battalion and Combat Assault Battalion, both with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



SETTING UP TACTICAL TENTS

Marines establish command operations center, living quarters

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

Twenty-five Marines set up tents to practice establishing a command operations center and living quarters during Exercise Command and Control on Camp Courtney Nov. 1.

The Marines are part of Headquarters Battalion and Combat Assault Battalion, both with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We are conducting a five-phase (command and control) exercise," said Master Sgt. Cortez L. Pree, the 3rd MarDiv operations chief. "We are currently in the third phase, where the main command operations center is being established in a tactical place."

The first phase of the exercise included determining the location of the exercise and inspecting equipment. During the second part of the exercise, the Marines moved all required equipment out to the site.

The fourth phase will involve training using communication equipment in the tents, and during the fifth phase, Marines will remove and return the equipment to appropriate staging locations in preparation for future exercises.

This training is designed to help prepare the division for their upcoming exercises Yama Sakura-61, on Okinawa and in mainland Japan, and

Balikatan, in the Republic of Philippines, Pree said.

According to Pree, the third phase includes support from a representative of the Hunter Defense Technology, the manufacturer of the tents. The representative gave instruction on setting up and maintaining the tents.

The exercise teaches the Marines how to set up the main and forward command operations centers in a tactical environment, Pree said.

"The tents that we (set up were) the 303, 305 and dome tents," said Herbert Vega, who is in charge of HDT's support and training throughout the Pacific region.

According to Vega, the tents are designed for rapid deployment. They can be easily assembled and disassembled set up and taken down in roughly eight minutes. The tents are made without separate poles or small, disconnected pieces that could get lost.

"All the Marines have to do is take it out of the bag, pull the legs out, then stake it down," said Vega.

"The Marines can easily set up, live and operate out of these tents," he added.

After successfully erecting the tents, the Marines conducted additional communication training prior to completion of their training.

This training helps to ensure the Marines are ready and prepared for their future deployments, said Pree.

Marines unhook latches holding a tent together to set it up during Exercise Command and Control on Camp Courtney Nov. 1. Each tent only takes six Marines eight minutes to erect. The Marines are assigned to Headquarters Battalion and Combat Assault Battalion, both with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.





Sgt. Adrian R. Beeman, ground training noncommissioned officer with HMM-262, uses pencils to type during mission-oriented protective posture training aboard MCAS Futenma Nov. 4.

Gas, gas, gas!

HMM-262 gets MOPP ready

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The message comes in and without hesitation a Marine quickly moves to the balcony overlooking the hangar and shouts, “gas, gas, gas,” signaling the escalation to mission-oriented protective posture level four.

This was the scene during Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262’s semiannual MOPP training on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 4.

During the training, the squadron simulated receiving messages, which required the escalation of the MOPP level from one to four, requiring personnel to don more gear with each level.

“The purpose of the training was to familiarize Marines with the challenge of being in (an increased) protective posture,” said Capt. Cory J. Jobst, the ground

training officer for HMM-262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Simple things, such as typing or answering a phone, become more difficult.”

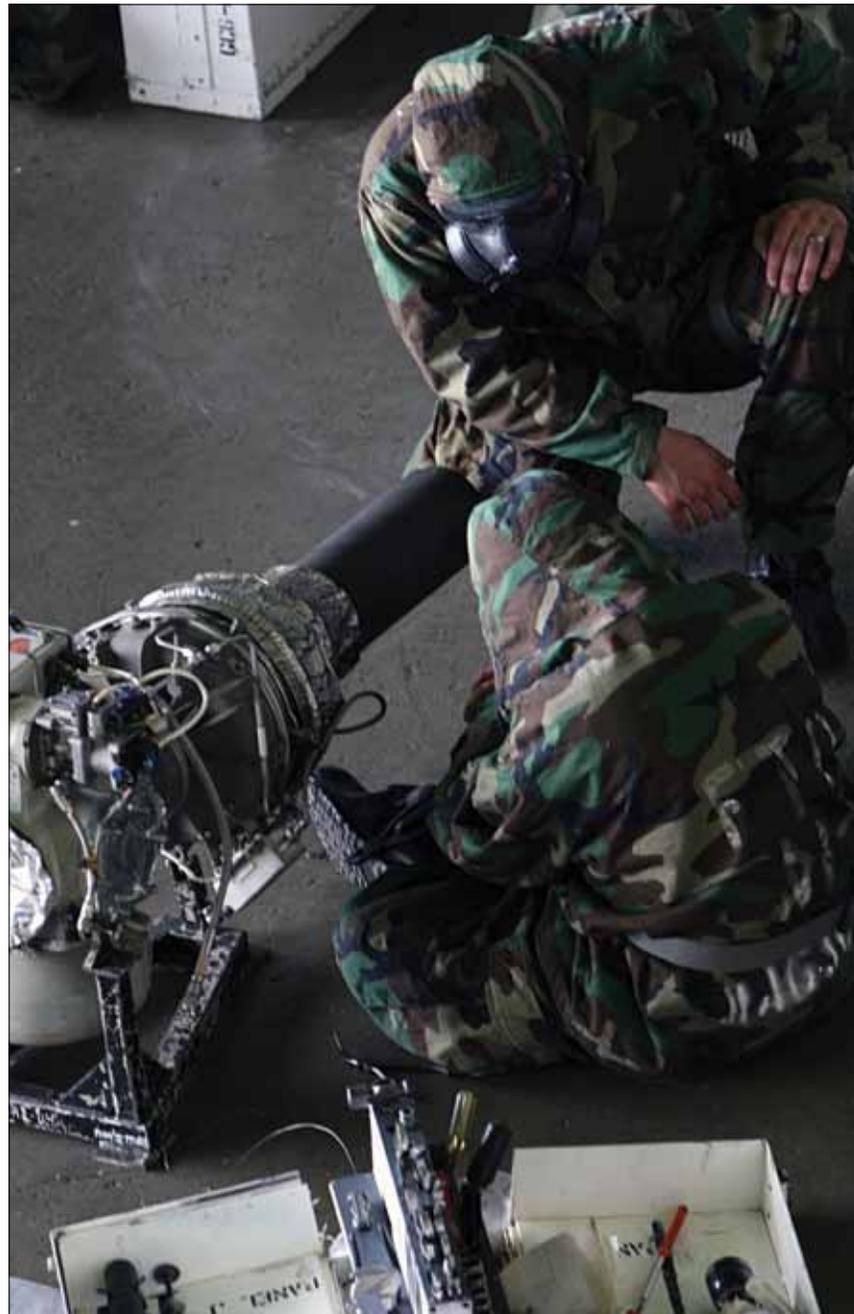
During the MOPP level four-phase of training, Marines wore thick gloves, inhibiting their ability to use computers and perform simple tasks. They overcame this obstacle by using pencils to type.

“We will still fly,” said Jobst. “Regardless of limitations due to gear, the mission was still completed and normal maintenance continued.”

Marines wore MOPP gear over uniforms, including gloves, gas masks and boots, shielding themselves from potential chemical and biological attacks.

The gear is restrictive but did not interfere with accomplishing the mission.

“There was no negative impact



HMM-262 Marines conduct routine maintenance on a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during mission-oriented protective posture level-three training aboard MCAS Futenma Nov. 4.

on operations,” said Sgt. Adrian R. Beeman, the ground training noncommissioned officer with HMM-262.

Some of the Marines have used the equipment in real-world settings, said Beeman.

For several newer Marines, the

training was a new experience.

“We need to further develop the ability to conduct operations in full MOPP gear,” said Jobst.

If a real-world crisis requiring protective equipment occurred here tomorrow we would be ready, said Beeman.



Marines exit onto a balcony to don gas masks during level four mission-oriented protective posture training aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 4. The training was conducted to increase the Marines’ proficiency in conducting operations in an increased protective posture. The Marines are assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

In Theaters Now

NOVEMBER 11 - 17

FOSTER

FRIDAY The Smurfs (PG), 3 p.m.; In Time (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Help (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), noon; The Help (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.; The Debt (PG13), 10 p.m.
SUNDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Help (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Big Year (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Debt (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 7 p.m.

KADENA

FRIDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY In Time (PG13), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; The Debt (R), 9 p.m. and midnight
SUNDAY In Time (PG13), 1 p.m.; The Help (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

FRIDAY The Debt (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Help (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 3 p.m.; The Help (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Colombiana (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

FRIDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Warrior (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

FRIDAY Warrior (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 4 p.m.; Real Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 4 p.m.; Warrior (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

FRIDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Apollo 18 (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.; Warrior (PG13), midnight
SUNDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Warrior (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Tower Heist (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

FRIDAY The Debt (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Help (PG13), 2 p.m.; Colombiana (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Debt (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY In Time (PG13), 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.



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 registrants. 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 Kinsler 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 registrants.

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

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Moichido itte kudasai”

(pronounced mo-yee-chi-do ee-tey ku-da-sigh)

It means, “can you please say it again”



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Let us all remember that there is nothing better than a well-placed, thoughtful and kind word.

What's in a word?

Lt. j.g. Steven Mayfield
 COMBAT ASSAULT BATTALION, 3RD MARDIV

Language. The tongue can strengthen allies or divide nations. It can draw lovers together or create a canyon that cannot be traversed. It can strengthen ties between acquaintances or make enemies of best friends. It can bring peace or invoke unrest. Millions of U.S. dollars are spent annually to ensure that the proper word is used at the appropriate time.

Marketers, politicians, lawyers and great leaders all know the power of a well-placed word.

Authors will delicately and precisely construct sentences to move one's heart, soul and mind. Teachers use language to educate and shape coming generations of students. Lawyers use words to seal deals and compromises. Lovers use words to express their innermost thoughts and affections.

King Solomon once said: The

tongue has the power of life and death.

The Spanish have a saying as well: A word from the mouth is like a stone from a sling.

Have you pondered and carefully chosen the words you will use today? Once we utter a word, it can never be recalled. It would do us all well to remember the power and effect of language. Words can be sharper and more painful than any weapon ever used.

An anxious heart wears a man down, but a kind word cheers him up, said King Solomon.

Everyone has the power to encourage a fellow Marine or sailor or destroy him with a single word.

Let us all remember that there is nothing better than a well-placed, thoughtful and kind word.

What's in a word? Death or life, heartache or happiness, war or peace, strife or joy.

The choice is yours – let us all choose well.

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