III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

OKINAWA MARINE

All new Source inside!

NOVEMBER 18, 2011

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III MEF continues Thailand assistance

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — U.S. Pacific Command sent the III Marine Expeditionary Force flood-relief command element from here to the Kingdom of Thailand Nov. 14 to provide command and control for follow-on U.S. forces to support and assist the Royal Government of Thailand.

Thailand has experienced significant rainfall during their monsoon season, which has created major flooding issues throughout the country, said Maj. Jonathan A. Derosier, the engineering planner for the flood-relief command element.

The command element, consisting of service members from several branches of the U.S. military, will ensure the U.S. military works in coordination with the Royal Government of Thailand to support the recently flooded areas with aid and recovery.

see **ASSIST** pg 5

MARFORPAC commander visits island

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen addressed Marines and answered their questions at four Marine Corps installations on Okinawa Nov. 9.

Thiessen, the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, began each meeting explaining to the Marines their unique position in

see **THIESSEN** pg 5

Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, speaks to a gym full of Marines on the House of Pain's basketball court on Camp Hansen Nov. 9. Thiessen spoke to Marines at townhall-style meetings on several Okinawa Marine bases. *Photo by Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite*

Japan, US conduct bilateral casualty evacuation rehearsals

SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

Marines and corpsmen transport a simulated casualty to a Japan Air Self-Defense Force UH-1 Huey helicopter during a bilateral casualty evacuation rehearsals at the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 9. The Marines and corpsmen with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, are participating in Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-3. The Marines and corpsmen joined with pilots with the East Army Helicopter Squadron, JASDF, to conduct rehearsals prior to live-fire training, which commenced on Nov. 11. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.*

Leaders raise awareness to prevent drunk, drugged driving

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP LESTER — Two Marine Corps commanding generals, the commander of Kadena Air Base, and a key Navy leader, began preparing for Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month by signing a proclamation at the U.S. Naval Hospital here Nov. 8.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force; Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler; Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew H. Molloy, commander of 18th Wing,

see **3D** pg 5

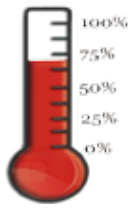
IN THIS ISSUE

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS
A few minutes to prepare could make a lifetime of difference if disaster strikes.

PG. 8

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Wednesday, approximately 64 percent of all personnel were contacted.



Holiday Fire Safety: Commit one minute

Lawrence J. Jacobs

It is easy to think a home fire would never happen to your family, but there are more potential risks around your home than you may think – especially during the winter months. This year's fire prevention week theme "Protect Your Family From Fire!" hit close to home. The Marine Corps lost three individuals due to fire this year. Fires grow so quickly it can take just seconds for a spark to fill a room with toxic smoke. A recent study showed that within three seconds of ignition a dry scotch pine is completely ablaze; within 40 seconds, a flashover occurs and engulfs the entire room releasing deadly, toxic smoke.

The good news is it can take less than a minute to help prevent a tragedy. What can you do to help keep your family safe this season? Prepare, plan and prevent.

1. Prepare

First, be prepared. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home and near sleeping areas. You should test your alarms monthly, and make sure that you can hear them from behind closed doors. Involve children in the testing, so they know what the alarm sounds like and what to do if it goes off. Also change the batteries annually.

2. Plan

Be sure your family has a fire escape plan. Make a quick drawing of the floor plan of your home and identify at least two exits, if possible, from every room. Go over the plan with your children and identify a meeting place outside of the house such as a neighbor's driveway. Be sure to hold a fire drill and practice getting out of the house with your children at least twice a year.

Families with infants or very young children should plan how to get those children out. They can be taught to stay low in case of fire, feel doors before opening them, and never return to a house once they have gotten out.

3. Prevent

In addition to being prepared, there are some simple ways to help prevent some of the most common causes of home fires during the holidays. Many of these steps only take a minute and can prevent what could be a tragic incident.

A common cause of fire during the holidays is candles. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, candles account for more than 12,000 fires annually. If you decide to use candles in your holiday decorations, always blow them out before you leave the room. Curious children are fascinated by fire, so be sure to store matches and lighters out of your children's reach. Teach your children if they see unattended, lit candles to inform you. Also, candles aren't permitted in barracks.

During the holidays, more home fires start in the kitchen than in any other room. It's not surprising, therefore, that more kitchen fires start on Thanksgiving than on any other day during the year. The best way to stop a cooking fire before it starts is easy – stay in the kitchen. You should never leave a cooking pot or oven unattended, even for just a minute. Designate the area around the stove as "kid-free" and be sure to keep dishtowels and other things that can burn well away from the stove. When cooking, it's also a good idea to turn the handles of pots inward in case small kids do enter the kid-free zone and reach for the handles.

Indoors or outside, only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and cause electrocution. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, exterior walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place or run strings of lights through hooks.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.

Get a freshly cut tree. It will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard. Try to pick a tree with a strong green color and noticeable fragrance. A tree with high moisture content is safer. Very few needles should fall when the butt of the tree is tapped on the ground; needles should bend not break; and the stump should be sticky with resin.

Place the tree in a stand that will hold 2 to 3 liters of water and top it off daily to ensure it is always immersed in water. If water drops below the trunk, the stem may reseal itself requiring a fresh cut. Use a tree stand that has widespread legs for better balance. Do not set your tree up near a heat source such as a radiator, television, fireplace, heating duct or sunny window and it should not block doors. Never use lighted candles on the tree.

Remove the tree within 10 to 14 days to prevent drying out.

Using the three steps - preparing, planning, and preventing - will help ensure a safe holiday season.

Jacobs is the director of the Installation Safety Office for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

AROUND THE CORPS

Lance Cpl. Barney Oldfield, a rifleman, uses a bottle cap to mark the location of a metal object during metal detector training on Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Nov. 3. The training helps the Marines detect improvised explosive devices. After departing Hawaii, the Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, arrived in Afghanistan's Helmand province to begin their seven-month deployment in support of Regimental Combat Team 5. *Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder*

Cpl. Kelsey De Santis stands at attention as her guest, singer and actor Justin Timberlake, looks on while the national anthem is played at the Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.'s Instructor Battalion Marine Corps Ball in Richmond, Va., Nov. 12. De Santis is a Marine Corps martial arts program instructor for the Martial Arts Center of Excellence at MCB Quantico. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Emmanuel Ramos*

Marines from Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, rig a 1,000-pound cement block to the bottom of an MV-22 Osprey during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Nov. 8. The training allowed both the landing support specialists on the ground and pilots in the air to train for night helicopter support operations. *Photo by Pfc. Timothy Childers*

OKINAWA MARINE

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9th ESB deploys in support of OEF

Lance Cpl. Kris Daberkoe
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Marines and sailors with 9th Engineer Support Battalion boarded aircraft here Nov. 12 and departed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, signaling the start of a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The battalion, part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, is slated to replace 7th ESB based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., where it will be responsible for providing engineering support primarily constructing roads, repairing damaged facilities, and building bridges.

"We are going out there to take over for 7th ESB, while lending a hand to the local Afghan people," said Cpl. Robert L. Sinclair, a heavy-equipment operator with the battalion. "It's a great responsibility, and our training makes me confident that we are ready for any kind of situation. Improving the roads will ensure that our Marines and the Afghan people will be able to move around safely and efficiently."

For those Marines in the battalion embarking on their first combat deployment, this is an exciting time, according to Sgt. Daniel A. Jefferies, a platoon sergeant with the battalion's Headquarters Company.

"It's a proud opportunity to be sent on a deployment, and these Marines have been training for it since boot camp," he said.

Marines and sailors with 9th ESB are scheduled to return to Okinawa next May.

Japan, US conduct bilateral casualty evacuation rehearsals

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

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER, Camp Fuji, Japan — Marines and corpsmen conducted bilateral casualty evacuation rehearsals with members of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force here Nov. 9.

The rehearsals were conducted by the Marines and corpsmen of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, during Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-3 at the North Fuji Maneuver Area.

This is the second time 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, and the JASDF, has conducted this type of bilateral training. The rehearsals ensured both units would be prepared in the case of an emergency.

"The training was conducted so that, in the event a casualty needs to be evacuated, the Marines, sailors and our JASDF allies are prepared," said Petty Officer 2nd Class David J. Long, a corpsman with the battalion.

During the training the Marines learned a variety of skills critical in evacuation situations. Marines reviewed essential carries and drags used to remove a casualty from imminent danger. Techniques reviewed were the arm, chair and fireman's carries.

Along with the carries, Marines were shown how to properly use a litter to transport a casualty from the point of injury to the evacuation site. According to Long, this is the most crucial part of a casualty evacuation.

"The litter needs to be properly carried to prevent further injury to the victim," said Long.

The litter must be carried using preparatory and execution commands. Coordination between the Marines was the key to success, Long said.

"While transporting the litter into this helicopter, it is important to approach at a 90-degree angle to avoid the blades," said Long. "The approach varies depending on the aircraft."

The aircraft the JASDF used to evacuate the casualties for this rehearsal was the UH-1 helicopter, said Capt. Masanori Okazaki, a pilot with the East Army Helicopter Squadron, JASDF. Okazaki has been flying with the squadron for 15 years.

"This was a great opportunity to learn how Marines conduct these drills," said Okazaki. "Learning how the Marines operate is good to know in case an accident does occur."

Okazaki's unit often conducts training similar to the battalion's, but this rehearsal provided a unique experience.

"This was a different experience for me because I had to communicate with the Marines in order to secure the casualty in the helicopter," he said.

The Marines and Japanese both learned many valuable lessons about how to evacuate casualties.

"This training is important so that in the event of an injury, everything goes smoothly and the casualty gets out safe," said Sgt. Jesus G. Ortega, an ammunition chief with the battalion.

Ortega said this was a great opportunity for him and his Marines because it is not every day they get to train with Japanese soldiers.

"I hope in the future, we can continue these valuable joint-training opportunities that help both countries be prepared," Okazaki said.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Dustin P. McCann shows Marines the proper technique for a fireman's carry during casualty evacuation rehearsals at the Combine Arms Training Center on Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 9. The Marines learned several ways to carry victims to an evacuation helicopter. The Marines and corpsmen are from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines.

Japan Air Self-Defense Force pilot Capt. Masanori Okazaki shows Marines and Navy corpsmen the proper way to load victims into a JASDF UH-1 helicopter during a casualty evacuation rehearsal at the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 9. The Marines and corpsmen conducted bilateral training with JASDF pilots during the rehearsals. Okazaki is with the East Army Helicopter Squadron, JASDF. The Marines and corpsmen are with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photos by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.*

BRIEFS

AIRPORT SECURITY INFORMATION

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

Knives with blades longer than three inches and ammunition of any kind are prohibited in luggage. Personnel are advised to carefully inspect any gear used or worn at live-fire ranges or during exercises, especially assault packs.

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

POST OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

All Marine Corps post offices will be accepting volunteers to assist with sorting mail during the holiday mailing season.

For more information, call 637-0124.

EWS/CSC INSTRUCTORS

The College of Distance Education and Training delivers professional military education to captains and majors throughout the western Pacific. Currently, 450 officers are enrolled in 35 seminars at 9 locations. This is a call for instructors for the current academic year and for academic year 2013, which begins Oct. 1, 2012. Applicants must be intermediate-level school and career-level school complete, major through colonel. Biographical resume required. CDET provides certification and faculty development. Contact CDET at 645-2230 if interested.

MARINE CORPS TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign is now accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys at drop-off locations on all military installations, such as 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.

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Sgt. Tomoshiro Nishimaki is awarded his corporals course completion certificate by Chief Warrant Officer David V. Bednarcik and 1st Sgt. Gordon M. Miller on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 4. Nishimaki is one of the first JGSDF service members to complete a Marine Corps corporals course. Nishimaki is a gunner with the JGSDF's 26th Infantry Regiment, Bednarcik is the division gunner of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Miller is a company first sergeant with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

JGSDF members complete corporals course

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Two Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers, the first JGSDF service members to complete a Marine Corps command-sponsored corporals course, were recognized during a graduation ceremony here Nov. 5.

Sergeants Mai Iwata and Tomoshiro Nishimaki, wearing their JGSDF dress uniforms, confidently marched across the stage and received their course completion certificates.

"Having these classes with Marines, I've learned a lot about the differences of the Japanese and American militaries," said Iwata.

The corporals course empowers its students with the skills needed to lead Marines and further emphasizes the importance of core values and their relevance to leadership.

Throughout the course, students learn the fundamentals of counseling, small-arms tactics, close-order drill and leadership.

Nishimaki, a gunner with the JGSDF's 26th Infantry Regiment, is stationed in the Tohoku region, where the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit Japan March 11. He was part of the initial force providing aid to those affected. He said that the emphasis on small-unit leadership is not as prevalent in his unit compared to a Marine Corps unit, but with his new set of tools, Nishimaki intends to mentor his troops to be more prepared for future operations.

"I've learned a lot, and I will make use of these lessons from this course," said Nishimaki. "We have to care about and talk with our subordinates."

Iwata, a civil military cooperation sergeant with the Central Readiness Force Headquarters in Tokyo, considers this course especially relevant to her responsibilities. Her job is to develop strategies for Japan Self-Defense Force service members to better integrate with foreign countries.

Her new found understanding of the Marine Corps will bring a deeper connection between Marines and JGSDF personnel in bilateral exercises, like Forest Light, she said.

"My best experience was the conversation with the Marines who helped us a lot," said Iwata. "We now understand some of the customs and the culture of Marines. We learned new military (jargon) and Marine words."

Cpl. Jaeho Hahn, a motor transportation mechanic with Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was Nishimaki's squad leader during the course, and Nishimaki was his assistant.

Despite the language barrier, Nishimaki was very persistent and would never stop trying, said Hahn.

"He really inspired me," he said.

Cpl. Justin M. Wickersheim, a motor transportation mechanic also with Maintenance Battalion, and Iwata were in the same fire team and recalls many good experiences.

"Sometimes the communication was hard, but they would strive really hard to understand what was happening in class," said Wickersheim. "Even if it was physically challenging, they would give it 100 percent, work together as a team, and always push through."

Iwata and Nishimaki are a part of a bigger initiative to integrate soldiers from the JGSDF into the corporals course. Their review of the practicality of the class will determine the further development of this cross-culture, cross-military training, said JGSDF Lt. Col. Takenori Kato, III Marine Expeditionary Force liaison.

"If we understand each other, then it will be easier for us to work together," said Iwata. "I absolutely recommend this to other JGSDF (soldiers)."

"More JGSDF (soldiers) should come to future corporals courses because (Marines) will get a better understanding of their military and their culture as they will with ours," Wickersheim added.

Minister of Defense visits Futenma

Japan Minister of Defense Yasuo Ichikawa and Col. James G. Flynn, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma commanding officer, leave the air traffic control tower on the flight line of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 12. Ichikawa observed the current situation of Marine Corps facilities and met with the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

THIESSEN from pg 1

Okinawa and the Pacific.

"I cannot begin to stress the importance each of you have – individually and collectively – out here in the Pacific because we're at that pivot point," he said. "The nation is planting its foot, and it's going to change directions (from focusing on the Middle East to) here over the next couple of years. And you all are on the forefront of that new direction, and it's out here in the Pacific.

"One of the first things our nation's going to do is reconstitute III MEF," he added. "You're going to get much larger. You're going to be in more places doing more things in III MEF-style; and there's nobody who does it better than you all."

He went on to explain how III MEF's capabilities benefit the Corps with this new direction, including how the 70 annual exercises throughout the Pacific that III MEF participates in demonstrate the MEF's strategic importance.

"You make a difference every single day," said Thiessen, who was the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, in 2004 and 2005.

"You look left and right, and you do the mission and the task of the day, and you think this is normal," he added. "It isn't. Let me draw a line of comparison. Let's say that you're doing training in (Camp) Pendleton, (Calif.,) or you are doing the same kind of training in Japan or the same kind of training in the Philippines or the same kind of training in Korea. There is no correlation between (these locations) apart from the standards of the training that we try to accomplish. The difference is that every time you do it in Japan or Korea or the Philippines or anywhere else out here in the Pacific, you become the direct window into the United States of America.

"They look at you and say that is America," he added. "That is a huge difference when they look and they see you train in Pendleton and they look at you on the street and they say 'Well, that's a United States Marine.' There's a huge difference."

After his opening remarks, he answered audience members' questions regardless of rank or time in service.

One sailor asked how the new posture of the Marine Corps was going to affect the number of corpsmen stationed on Okinawa.

The general answered by saying that with more Marines spread further apart, he would need more corpsmen here, not less.

A master sergeant on Camp Hansen asked why the Marine Corps was repositioning itself on the Pacific?

"The reason for the increased presence, the reason for the distribution, is not to preserve the number of Marines. It's because of the commitment that the United States has made in the Pacific," answered Thiessen.

"I like the emphasis (the general) put on how we are more important than we thought," said Lance Cpl. Brian J. Sousa, with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st MAW, who attended the brief on Camp Foster.

Sousa said, as he understood it from the general's remarks, "We're more important because of the pivot from Afghanistan towards the Pacific Rim."

Thiessen was also the guest speaker at the III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific officers' Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 10.

3D from pg 1

Kadena Air Base; and Navy Capt. Richard Weathers, commander of Fleet Activities Okinawa, met to kick off the 3D campaign.

The 3D campaign is a joint service agreement intended to raise awareness of the dangers involved in drunk and drugged driving.

"The campaign is run by all four services, which gives us a joint effort across Okinawa," said Gunnery Sgt. Sonny J. Medina, the platoon sergeant for military police district south, Provost Marshal's Office on Camp Foster.

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month was started in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan in an attempt to increase community awareness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The holiday season is about to begin, and there will be a lot of people taking leave and throwing parties," said Medina. "We just want to raise awareness of the risks involved with driving after consuming alcohol."

During the campaign there will be enhanced gate security, increased sobriety checkpoints, and wrecked vehicles on display to remind drivers of the consequences of driving impared.

"We will be conducting random DUI checks, as well as placing a wrecked vehicle on Kadena Air Base to remind drivers to be safe," said Air Force Master Sgt. Clayton Watson, the operations superintendant for 18th Security Forces Squadron, Kadena Air Base.

According to the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, someone dies from an alcohol-related traffic accident every 30 minutes, someone is injured in an alcohol-related accident every two minutes, and three out of 10 Americans face the possibility of being directly involved in an alcohol-related traffic crash during their lifetime.

"There have been 29 reported cases of accidents involving alcohol in Okinawa this year," said Medina.

There are a number of options available for drivers to prevent drunk driving, including a designated driver, taxis and Daiko. Daiko is a service where two drivers are dispatched to the location of an intoxicated individual; one takes the person home, while the other follows in the individual's personal vehicle to the intoxicated individual's residence.

"The most important thing we want to do is make people realize that there are alternatives to driving under the influence," Medina said. "It's not worth losing your pay, rank or career, and it is absolutely not worth losing your life or taking someone else's."

ASSIST from pg 1

"We are tasked with the goal of assessing how we can properly support Thailand's flood-damaged areas," said Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commander, III MEF flood-relief command element and commanding general for 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

The command element is prepared to provide assistance to ongoing flood-recovery operations; the Marine Corps' role is to quickly respond with capabilities to assist the citizens of Thailand.

To maximize flood-relief efforts, III MEF experts from the medical, engineering, aviation, supply, communication and civil-affairs fields.

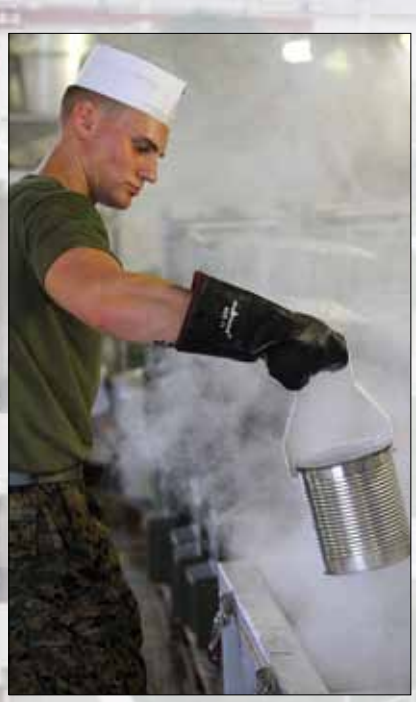
"A team of five communication Marines are going and will be using the rapid-response kit while in Thailand," said Sgt. John F. Watkins, a data expert with the command element. "The rapid-response kit's capabilities are data, voice and video-teleconference." The rapid-response kit allows communication to be established in a timely manner facilitating rapid-relief response.

III MEF trains throughout the year during annual exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region, to include Exercise Cobra Gold, which enables effective response and coordination with our long standing U.S. allies and partners, such as the Royal Government of Thailand.

"With the flood-relief command element set up in Thailand, we'll have boots on the deck, which will speed the reaction time if Thailand and U.S. officials decide to send additional III MEF service members," said Sgt. Maj. Lawrence P. Fineran, sergeant major, III MEF flood-relief command element and 3rd MLG sergeant major.

III MEF's actions are part of a larger U.S. initiative to support Thailand as U.S. forces are committed to working and assisting their Thai allies and partners.

Field mess competes for honors



Lance Cpl. Bradley C. Diehl, food service specialist, pulls out a can of food from boiling water during an inspection on Camp Foster Nov. 9. Diehl is with MWSS-172.

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Anticipation was evident on the faces of the Marines preparing for inspection. Food preparation, sanitation and appearance were just a few things on a long list of what needed to be perfect. As if the Marines at the field mess did not have enough on their plates, Mother Nature called for rain, and the flooding began.

"When it started flooding, we thought we were going to have a bad day," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Tijerino, food service specialist and assistant field mess manager with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It ended up working to our advantage because when it's a sunny and beautiful day, anybody can perform. Today, we showed that we can perform regardless."

In August, MWSS-172 was nominated to represent III MEF to compete for honors as the best field mess in the Marine Corps.

"It's all about pride in belonging," said Master Sgt. Clinton L. DeViney, field mess manager for the squadron. "My Marines take a lot of pride in being the best field mess in III MEF. Now, we want to be able to say we are the best field mess in the Marine Corps."

Upon claiming the title of best field mess in the Marine Corps, the winner will be awarded the Maj. Gen. William Pendleton Thompson Hill Award. The award was established in 1985 to improve food service operation and recognize the best messes in the Marine Corps.

To earn such a prestigious award, Marines must compete against other Marine field messes. A winner is dubbed after an inspection is done by Marines and members of the National Restaurant Association. Competitors are judged in 17 categories, such as operations, sanitation, taste and food quality.

"The restaurant business is a $10 billion-a-year business," said Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Linnabary, an inspector and food service officer for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. "Just because we are in the military does not mean we do not have a part in that because we do the same things they do."

While this field mess competition did not take place in an actual deployed field environment, it did not stop the Marines of MWSS-172 from acting like it. The Marines had constant security at the entrance and exit points of the field mess. The facility was encompassed by barbed wire and patrolled by Marines throughout the entire exercise.

Lt. Gens. Duane D. Thiessen, front, and Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., attend the field mess on Camp Foster Nov. 9. They showed their support by sharing a meal with the Marines of MWSS-172. Thiessen is the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Lance Cpl. Bonita A. Medina, a food service specialist, prepares food for an inspection inside the field mess food-preparation area on Camp Foster Nov. 9. Medina is with MWSS-172.

Marines enjoy a meal at the field mess on Camp Foster Nov. 9. The field mess was established for an inspection by the National Restaurant Association to determine the best field mess in the Marine Corps. The association, along with other Marines, inspect field and garrison messes annually to determine the best in the Marine Corps.

During the inspection, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., commanding general of III MEF, and Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, commander of MARFORPAC, arrived to show their support of the field mess.

As the morning turned to afternoon, and the rain subsided enough to walk through the field mess without getting soaked, a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment arose from the Marines of MWSS-172. Although the squadron will not know whether it earned the title of best field mess until January 2012, the experience was enough to leave a favorable impression on the Marines, said Tijerino.

Lance Cpl. Kevin A. Baughman, a motor vehicle operator, monitors radio traffic as he stands security at the entrance to the field mess during an inspection for the Maj. Gen. William Pendleton Thompson Hill Award competition on Camp Foster Nov. 9. This demonstrated how security would work in a deployed environment. Baughman is with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines with MWSS-172 set up a field mess on Camp Foster Nov. 9. The Marines were inspected by members of the National Restaurant Association for the MGWPTH award for the best field mess in the Marine Corps.

EARTHQUAKE preparation recommended year-round

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Johnson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Unlike typhoons, earthquakes are not tracked for days before striking. Earthquakes can happen at any given time of the day, striking suddenly and in some cases, violently.

Here on Okinawa, earthquakes happen frequently due to the island's location in the Pacific Ring of Fire, according to Ted Danecki, meteorological technician with 18th Operational Support Squadron, 18th Operations Group, 18th Wing on Kadena. Because of this, preparation is one of the most important things service members and their families can do.

Okinawa experienced a strong 6.9 magnitude earthquake Nov. 8, that struck 136 miles off the west coast of Naha, at a depth of 138 miles below the ocean floor. No tsunami was triggered, and there were no reports of injuries or damage; however, future quakes may have devastating results.

"There are a large number of tectonic plates in the Okinawa area and when they slightly shift on to one another, this is what causes an earthquake," said Danecki. "Sometimes they are small and can't be felt. However, large ones can happen as well."

Mike Lacey, the regional emergency manager and director of Marine Corps Installations Pacific Emergency Operations Center, stresses three key tips that can help families prepare before an earthquake ever strikes.

Stay informed:

Understanding the environment you live in is critical when it comes to natural disasters.

"On Okinawa, we have a higher probability of earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons," Lacey explained. "The probability of one or all of these occurring is much greater than other places service members may be assigned. By understanding this, families can formulate a plan that can help keep them better prepared in the event of a natural disaster."

Have a plan:

Emergency contact information, a pre-planned rally point and a disaster kit are just a few important things that should be taken into consideration when formulating the family's emergency plan.

Families should also develop a plan of action for various situations such as if family members are separated when an earthquake occurs, whether at school, work or touring the island.

Communicate the plan:

Since earthquakes can occur at any time, it is important for every member of the family to know the plan, said Lacey.

Lacey suggests delegating a stateside family member as a point of contact in case of any emergency. This way, family members have a single point of contact in the U.S., instead of everyone attempting to call overseas.

Every member of the family should have a copy of the emergency plan, emergency contact numbers and the stateside point of contact.

By communicating the plan, families can ensure that each member will know who to contact and where they should meet in the event of an earthquake.

For more information or to create your own emergency plan, visit www.ready.gov.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS:

MCB HQSVCBN CDO	645-7315
Base officer of the day	645-7218
Camp Foster base access/operator	098-892-5111
Military police (from on-base)	911
Military police (from off-base)	098-970-3423/3887
Ambulance/fire dept. (from on-base)	911
Ambulance/fire dept. (from off-base)	098-83-7911
Kadena AB access/operator	098-938-1111
U.S. Naval Hospital ER (from on-base)	643-7338/7433

Disaster kit supplies should include:

- ☐ Place important documents such as insurance papers, medical records, banking information, passports and Social Security cards in a waterproof container
- ☐ Bottled water – At least one gallon daily per person for seven days
- ☐ Food – Stock enough food for at least seven days. Food should consist of nonperishable packaged or canned foods, juices and any special foods for infants or the elderly
- ☐ Charged cell phone with extra battery
- ☐ Credit Cards (banks and bank tellers may not be accessible)
- ☐ Cash (dollars and yen)
- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Clothing to include rain gear and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Towels, trash bags, moist wipes, rags and mops
- ☐ Non-electric can opener
- ☐ Gas-powered cooker with fuel
- ☐ Disposable plates and utensils
- ☐ Blankets and pillows
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Toiletries and hygiene items
- ☐ Flashlight and batteries
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Dust mask
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Keys

For those with pets:

- ☐ Proper identification and immunization records
- ☐ Ample food and water
- ☐ A carrier
- ☐ A muzzle and leash
- ☐ Medications

Armorers stick to their guns for readiness

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Johnson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Cpl. Tony Lee, an armorer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, conducts a limited technical inspection on a .50-caliber Browning machine gun to ensure all parts of the weapon are accounted for. The squadron is a part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.
Photo by Lance Cpl. Heather N. Johnson

Every Marine is a rifleman. This is a fact all Marines know and live by while in combat, but where would they be if the weapons meant to protect them did not operate correctly?

Armorers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, work hard to ensure every weapon is accounted for and working properly before they are put into Marines' hands.

Since the armory on Camp Foster is consolidated, the Marines who work there ensure accountability of thousands of weapons. These weapons are used for training by Combat Logistics Battalion 3 and 4, with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF; Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st MAW; Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAW; MWSS-172; and base units on Camp Foster.

"A normal day for an armorer begins at two in the morning," said Lance Cpl. Michael D. Brown, a small-arms repair technician with MWSS-172. "We come in and get accountability of every piece of gear that we are responsible for."

Aside from accounting for all the gear, armorers have to inspect each weapon as well.

"During a deployment, Marines rely on their weapons to keep them safe from the enemy," said Brown. "If they pull the trigger and no round (is fired), not only is their life in danger but so is the life of the Marine to their left and right."

The armory plays a vital role in the Marine Corps and all of the operations conducted, according to Sgt. Todd Kovach, the armory noncommissioned officer-in-charge with MWSS-172.

> This job is one of the most important in the Marine Corps. We are the keepers of the sword. Without us, the Marines can't fight in the battles that are going on today.
> **- Sgt. Todd Kovach**

"This job is one of the most important in the Marine Corps," said Kovach. "We are the keepers of the sword. Without us, the Marines can't fight in the battles that are going on today."

Armorers benefit the Marine Corps by maintaining weapons and keeping them in peak condition, according to Lance Cpl. Robert Allen, an armorer with CLR-3.

Limited technical inspections conducted by armorers ensure weapons operate properly before they are issued to Marines for ranges or deployments.

"Without a fully functioning weapon, the range is pointless," said Brown. "We also keep accountability for who has what weapons where and for how long. Sometimes we will support different machine gun shoots by providing expert advice in the disassembly, assembly and proper usage of the weapons."

Brown and Kovach said they enjoy working at the armory and have a personal interest in weapons.

"I enjoy my job a lot," said Kovach. "I am an amateur gun collector, and I do my own gunsmith work. I enjoy the feeling knowing that I am providing quality weapons to Marines."

Brown feels his job is important and necessary for unit readiness.

"It keeps me motivated to do the best I can," he added.

Video system helps Marines fine-tune tactical skill sets

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The facility consists of more than ten rooms and 96 cameras covering every inch of the interior and exterior, allowing Marines to review and analyze every move they make, so they may perfect what they do best.

The Shoot House at Range 16E on Camp Hansen provides the facility for the Marines of Okinawa to experience military operations in urban terrain.

With the help of the tactical video capture system, which is set up all around the facility, Marines are able to review what they did during their training.

"The system has only been in use for two years, so it is relatively new to the Marine Corps," said Kareena K. Gill, a TVCS operator. "In January, this system will have been on Okinawa for a year and is beneficial for every Marine, not just for infantry-based Marines."

The facility and the system are open to all units on Okinawa. Marines can use the facility as long as they meet the range control specifications, according to Lee M. Warren, a TVCS operator.

The TVCS allows the participants to see mistakes they may have made and correct them to prepare for combat.

"It allows Marines a chance to gain experience with close-quarter operations," said Warren. "It is important for them because when they deploy to Afghanistan they could be in an urban environment, so they need to train how they will fight."

The system is very helpful to the Marines, said Gill.

"It gives them practice for what they will be doing in country," she said. "It is important because it helps the Marines remain combat ready."

Hokkaido Shiranuka Public High School students view a display of old Marine Corps magazines and Okinawan flags found from the battlefields of World War II at the Battle of Okinawa Historical Display on Camp Kinser Nov. 9. The children visited Okinawa on a peace study school trip and toured the museum to learn about the Battle of Okinawa.

Battle of Okinawa museum

Students tour Kinser historic display

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

The room fell silent as the students lined up and listened attentively to the information being delivered about the Battle of Okinawa. The historian explained how each item the students were looking at made its way from the fields of battle to the presentation cases and shelves of the tiny museum nestled away on Camp Kinser.

The students visited Okinawa from Hokkaido Shiranuka Public High School on mainland Japan on a peace study school trip to tour the Battle of Okinawa Historical Display on the camp Nov. 9.

"We studied a lot about the history of the Battle of Okinawa before we came here," said Miyu Nakamura, 17, the 11th grade student president for the school. "Being here lets us actually see some of the things they used in the war and helps us get a better understanding of what happened."

The students then walked around and viewed battle-damaged equipment and life-size replicas of tools and weapons used by both the U.S. and Japanese militaries.

"The students are on the school trip to inform them about the Battle of Okinawa and World War II," said Ichino Kuba, community relations specialist for Camp Kinser. "It teaches them how sad and terrible wars are and hopefully gives them a better appreciation for peace."

As some students viewed the displays, others learned about the battle by watching videos depicting the hardships of war.

"Seeing the things here gives us insight on the Battle of Okinawa and how brutal, real and scary it was," said Seiya Natsubori, 17, the 11th grade student vice president. "We learned about how life was before, during and after the war and how great a loss each side sustained."

The students were also able to see and hold weapons used in the battle.

"This display lets the kids see the realism for what they see on TV and lets them know that this is not a game," said Chris Majewski, the lead tour guide for Marine Corps Community Services Tours+. The children were able to see the uniforms, weapons, ammunition and other items, he said.

Hokkaido Shiranuka Public High School students hold military rifles used in the Battle of Okinawa at the Battle of Okinawa Historical Display on Camp Kinser Nov. 9. During their visit, the students got a sense of realism about war and the hardship both Americans and Japanese endured.

As the students toured the display, they took pictures of the historical weapons and artifacts.

"Going on this tour was a great experience for all of us, and we learned a lot," said Nakamura. "It gave us a better understating about war and helps us hope for everlasting peace."

It is an honor for them to be able to use this facility as part of their curriculum to learn the truth about war, the casualties both sides sustained and to learn the true value of peace, said Kuba.

MCCS Tours+ helps bring history to life

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Battle of Okinawa, which was the last battle of the Pacific War, raged for three months in 1945 and was the largest amphibious operation in World War II's Pacific theater.

Marine Corps Community Services Tours+ personnel took a group of sightseers to learn about this battle and to view the Battle of Okinawa Historical Society's Museum on Camp Kinser Nov. 6 during its Battle Sites Tour.

The group departed Camp Foster in a tour bus and headed to Camp Kinser, the home of the Museum. During the trip, Chris Majewski, the tour guide and director of the museum, gave an overview of the Battle of Okinawa.

"Chris did a great job of explaining and describing the battle in detail," said Sara M. Perez, a tour participant. "His charismatic skills made it easy for the tour group to be diligent listeners (and) completely focused on what he was saying."

Majewski, an active-duty Marine for four years in the early 1990s, has been working with MCCS Tours+ since 1996 and has gained most of his knowledge through personal study.

"I submerge myself in the battle," said Majewski. "I visit Kakazu Ridge and read books on the battle. I analyze the area around me and look for things I've read about. I also talk to a lot of veterans who visit. I always let them do most of the talking and learn as much as I can."

Majewski is currently the sole caretaker of the museum, which is located in Combat Logistic Regiment 37's Headquarters, building 107, on Camp Kinser.

The museum has artifacts recovered from the area, some of which Majewski himself had found on Okinawa when it was still legal to dig, he said.

The museum is a great place to learn a lot about not only the battle, but Okinawa culture, said Perez.

"You're surrounded by evidence and artifacts from the battle," said Majewski. "The history comes to life, and you're able to make a deeper connection with it. It becomes easier to understand."

The tour continued on to the Japanese Naval Underground Headquarters and the Peace Prayer Park, both located in southern Okinawa.

"This tour was great for my parents who are visiting Okinawa," said Perez. "They were able to not only see some of the island but also learn some history of the island and the U.S. involvement."

For more information on upcoming MCCS tours, visit or call its offices on Camps Foster at 645-3502, Hansen at 623-6344 and Kinser at 637-2744, or visit www.mccsokinawa.com.

In Theaters Now

NOVEMBER 18 - 24

FOSTER

FRIDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 6 p.m.; Paranormal Activity 3 (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Smurfs (PG), noon; Tower Heist (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; The Help (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Tower Heist (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Contagion (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Down Part 1 (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.

FUTENMA

FRIDAY The Help (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack and Jill (PG),12:30 and 4 p.m.
SUNDAY Colombiana (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Debt (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY In Time (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

FRIDAY The Help (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 12:30 and 4 p.m.
SUNDAY Colombiana (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Debt (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY In Time (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

FRIDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Help (PG13), 2 p.m.; The Debt (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY In Time (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Help (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Puss in Boots (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

FRIDAY Contagion (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 3 p.m.; Contagion (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Contagion (PG13), 3 p.m.; I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 3 p.m.; Tower Heist (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Straw Dogs (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

FRIDAY Contagion (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY In Time (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Contagion (PG13), 2 p.m.; I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

FRIDAY In Time (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Help (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY The Debt (R), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT: DEC. 9

• The SMP invites staff noncommissioned officers and officers to come out and play in the Toys For Tots Golf Tournament at the Taiyo Golf Course Dec. 9. Sign up by Dec. 2 with your SMP representative. Check in time is 6 a.m. and the tournament begins at 7 a.m.

SMP BLACK AND WHITE CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY: DEC. 21

• Join the SMP for the SMP Black and White Christmas Dinner Party Dec. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Manza Beach Hotel. Come dressed to impress for an evening of fine dining, fun, prizes, dancing and entertainment. The event includes a dinner buffet, entertainment and transportation. A bus will leave the Semper Fit Gyms on 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 registrants.

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

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Yoi ichinichi wo"
(pronounced Yo-i i-chi-ni-chi-o)
It means, "Have a nice day"

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

May we all receive many good things for which to be thankful, along with the situational awareness to appreciate them.

Count ordinary blessings

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Terry
COMMAND CHAPLAIN CLR 35/MAINTENANCE BN

Recently, I received a letter from a friend in Europe. He and his Swedish wife have spent most of their adult lives in Sweden, with several years in Latvia as well. They have been busy there raising three children and involved in Christian outreach, establishing new churches.

The faith-based work they engage in is both rewarding and difficult. Most days, however, are ordinary and uneventful. This may be true for the majority of us as well.

During my many ordinary days, I find myself wishing that God would break through my routine in dramatic and miraculous ways. My friend's letter contained a helpful perspective.

He spent most of it "counting his blessings" for the ordinary days. He noted things like family, friendship, health, strength, God's protection, the house they live in and so on. Although not particularly dramatic, they formed a noteworthy pattern that they interpret as God's hand in all things and a consistent display of his goodness.

In November we entered the Holiday Season in earnest beginning with Veteran's Day. This date on our calendar provides us all with an occasion to count our blessings for what has been earned through the sacrifice of our many veterans. It is also an occasion to pray for blessing on those serving "on the pointy end of the spear," on those who have served, and on those preparing to serve in harm's way.

My prayers, and likely yours as well, also extend to each family member sharing in the labor and sacrifice that secure our nation and the free world.

Thankfulness should not be an occasional feeling, nor reserved for when something cool happens or when we receive a gift. It can be a useful discipline that nourishes our attitude and perspective on life.

May we all receive many good things for which to be thankful, along with the situational awareness to appreciate them. And, may that serve to enhance our experience of celebration throughout the holiday season.

Blessings and peace.

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