

OKINAWA MARINE

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Artillerymen improve readiness in Fuji

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
okinawa marine staff

NORTH FUJI MANEUVER AREA, Camp Fuji, Japan — Communicators with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, provided critical communications assets necessary for artillery relocation training Nov. 16.

The communication Marines, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, play a vital role in enabling the artillery battalion to command and control its three firing batteries, facilitating its chief mission of providing fire support to the infantry.

“Communications in the see **COMM** pg 5



Smoke billows from an M777A2 155 mm howitzer after being fired at the North Fuji Maneuver Area, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 16. Marines are conducting live-fire exercises as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-3. Communications Marines participating in the training provide the communication necessary for the artillery Marines. ARTP consists of regularly scheduled exercises on mainland Japan designed to maintain combat readiness for artillery units stationed on Okinawa. The Marines are with Golf Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chance M. Hiser

Relief element prepares

Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez
okinawa marine staff

BANGKOK — Service members assigned to the III Marine Expeditionary Force flood relief command element gathered for an initial meeting with senior leaders for an overview of what to expect during their flood relief operations with the Royal Thai Government here Nov. 15.

Directed by the U.S. Pacific Command, III MEF deployed Marines and sailors to conduct flood relief assessment and to execute specific tasks associated with disaster mitigation – which may include providing follow-on service members and capabilities. The command element is responsible for providing the command and control of U.S. forces working with and assisting the Thai government.

“The relationship we have with the Thai government is extremely see **THAILAND** pg 5



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw Nov. 17 after announcing additional U.S. assistance and civic aid to support the Royal Thai Government in its efforts to restore communities after severe flooding in much of the country. Crenshaw is serving as the commander of U.S. forces positioned in Thailand for the relief effort.

Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

Marines, Shizuoka Prefecture discuss disaster mitigation

Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher
okinawa marine staff

SHIZUOKA CITY, Japan — Marine Corps Installations Pacific, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji staff met with Shizuoka Prefecture leadership to discuss natural disaster damage mitigation and better cooperation between the Marine Corps and the prefecture Nov. 17 at the Shizuoka Prefecture government building in Shizuoka.

The meeting was a first step in strengthening the relationship between the Marine Corps and the Shizuoka Prefectural Government, said Yoichiro Iwase, lieutenant governor of the prefecture, speaking through an interpreter as he welcomed the Marines to the prefecture.

“Shizuoka Prefecture is a strong proponent for strengthening the

relationship with the U.S. military,” Iwase said.

“As a Japanese citizen, I’d like to express my deepest gratitude to the U.S. Marines and the U.S. military for their rescue and relief efforts in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake,” Iwase added, referring to the U.S. military’s efforts during Operation Tomodachi following the earthquake and tsunami that struck mainland Japan in March.

As part of the visit, the Marines toured the Shizuoka Prefecture Crisis Management Center adjacent to the Shizuoka Prefectural Government building and attended a brief about Shizuoka Prefecture’s emergency management efforts to prepare for future earthquakes.

“I was very impressed,” said Col. J. D. Covington, assistant chief of staff for operations and planning,

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IN THIS ISSUE



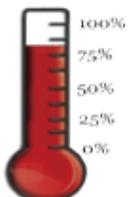
BANDS UNITE TO REMEMBER

Japan Self-Defense Force Music Festival included performances in memory of those lost during the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

PG. 10

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS '11

- The goal is 100 percent member contact.
- As of Monday, approximately 83 percent of all personnel were contacted.



Remember Native American service, contributions

Staff Sgt. Michael Freeman

“I think they (Native Americans) can be made of excellent use as scouts and light troops.” – Gen. George Washington, 1778

The father of our country proved on more than one occasion his propensity toward innovative military thought; the above statement was no exception.

Since Gen. Washington's prophetic remark, Native Americans have served in every branch of the Armed Forces in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They saw action on Cuba along with Roosevelt's Rough Riders, joined the 1916 pursuit of Pancho Villa into Mexico and fought German troops in France during World War I – all before being granted formal recognition as U.S. citizens in 1924.

When America joined the fight against Germany and Japan in World War II, Native Americans were, for the first time in history, eligible draftees. This factor alone cannot account for the disproportionate number who answered the country's call to arms. Most Marines are familiar with those from the Navajo tribe who served as “code talkers” in the Pacific, but more than 44,000 Native American troops served in both the European and Pacific theaters. This number accounts for more than 12 percent of the country's total Native American population at that time – less than 350,000.

Though states such as New York honored this tradition with proclamations of “American Indian Day” as early as 1916, no formal federal holiday or recognition was granted until 1990 when then President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating

November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

An excerpt from President Barack Obama's 2011 proclamation reads: “Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished authors, artists, scientists, and political leaders, and in their accomplishments, they have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children. So,

Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished authors, artists, scientists, and political leaders, and in their accomplishments, they have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children.

- President Barack Obama

too, have American Indians and Alaska Natives bravely fought to protect this legacy as members of our Armed Forces. As service members, they have shown exceptional valor and heroism on battlefields from the American Revolution to Iraq and Afghanistan. Native Americans have

demonstrated time and again their commitment to advancing our common goals, and we honor their resolve in the face of years of marginalization and broken promises. My administration recognizes the painful chapters in our shared history, and we are fully committed to moving forward with American Indians and Alaska Natives to build a better future together.”

Native Americans have carried this burden of service with pride throughout history. Their warrior tradition and ethos of strength, honor and pride seem to be a natural fit with military service. Those of us who continue to serve alongside such a steadfast tradition of unwavering service should do nothing less than to take a moment to reflect on the myriad contributions of Native Americans to country and Corps, and to honor those Native Americans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, a land the Navajo once knew simply as “neh-he-mah” or “our mother.”

Freeman is an equal opportunity representative with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

AROUND THE CORPS



A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, lands aboard the USS Makin Island Nov. 17. The unit embarked USS Makin Island, USS New Orleans and USS Pearl Harbor in San Diego Nov. 14 to begin a Western Pacific and Middle East region deployment. Photo by Cpl. Gene A. Ainsworth III



Marines with the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force, show their Afghan National Army counterparts how to perform various Marine Corps exercises on Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Nov. 16. The Marines brought a pull-up bar, soccer ball and weighted ammunition cans for the soldiers to use for physical training. Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano



Cpl. Reynaldo S. Cruz, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, fires an M4 service rifle while training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 15. Marines with MP Advisor Team 1 conducted the live-fire training in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan early next year. Photo by Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092

HMM-265 Dragons awarded for safety

Cpl. Aaron Hostutler
okinawa marine staff

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, presented the Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 16.

For its achievements in safety, the squadron, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, was awarded a citation signed by the commandant of the Marine Corps and a commemorative wall plaque.

The award is presented annually to a Marine Corps command that establishes the most outstanding safety program, according to Marine Corps Order 5100.32.

“This is a very prestigious award; it was a total team effort. You earned this award operating in expeditionary environments, and you should all be very proud of receiving it,” Glueck said. “The commandant himself signed this award, so you should know that your efforts are being recognized at the highest levels.”

The intent of the award is to provide recognition of commands and personnel for significant contributions and accomplishments made in the field of safety and mishap



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, speaks to the Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 after presenting the squadron with the Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award Nov. 16. The squadron is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Aaron Hostutler

prevention, a key component of Marine aviation.

“You know when it comes to Marines doing their jobs, it’s the ‘silent professionals’ and the ones that go above and beyond that make things happen when it comes to mission accomplishment,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Domingo Torres, the maintenance chief for the squadron. “I can say I am proud of each and every Marine from the

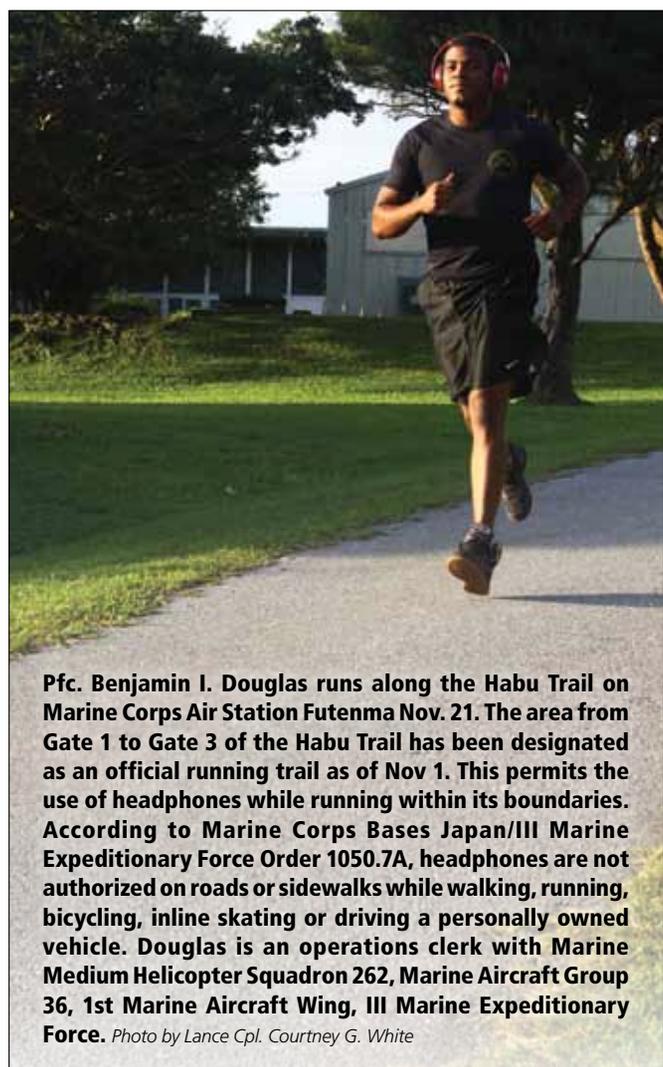
private to the senior ranking Marine. The Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award is another notch in our belt ... that makes this squadron what it is.”

According to Torres, it is each and every Marine from every section who made receiving the award possible.

“It doesn’t matter (which) department you work in. Every Marine here is an important piece to

the puzzle,” Torres said. “Without each other, this squadron couldn’t survive. Because of the long hours we as Marines put in to make this squadron what it is, we should be proud of such a superb award.

“I am extremely proud of each and every one of you,” Torres said. “Keep up the outstanding work, dedication and devotion to duty not only as a Marine but as an HMM-265 ‘dragon.’”



Pfc. Benjamin I. Douglas runs along the Habu Trail on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 21. The area from Gate 1 to Gate 3 of the Habu Trail has been designated as an official running trail as of Nov 1. This permits the use of headphones while running within its boundaries. According to Marine Corps Bases Japan/III Marine Expeditionary Force Order 1050.7A, headphones are not authorized on roads or sidewalks while walking, running, bicycling, inline skating or driving a personally owned vehicle. Douglas is an operations clerk with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

Headphones authorized on Habu Trail

Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
okinawa marine staff

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — A section of the Habu Trail between Gates 1 and 3 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma has been designated an official running trail as of Nov. 1.

While the trail will continue to support security patrols and maintenance vehicles, signage now designates the section as a running trail where pedestrians will have the right-of-way, creating a much safer running route. Due to the increased safety precautions and notification to the Provost Marshal’s Office and maintenance agencies, runners are also now authorized to wear headphones while running on the two-mile section of the trail.

“Listening to music through headphones is part of our culture today,” said Lt. Col. Ian S. Wallace, the executive officer of MCAS Futenma. “We wanted to recognize that desire and provide a place where headphones can be worn safely and within regulation.”

According to Marine Corps Bases Japan/III Marine Expeditionary Force Order 1050.7A wearing headphones while walking, running, bicycling, inline skating or driving a personally owned vehicle is prohibited on sidewalks and roads both on and off base.

However, wearing headphones is authorized on tracks, treadmills and running paths in parks or on seawalls.

The trail was designated for runners due to a history of headphone-related accidents, said Sgt. Maj. Brent L. Cook, the sergeant major of MCAS Futenma. “Situational awareness is huge. People don’t realize how far off in their own world they are,” said Cook.

Listening to music while running can be a dangerous distraction, but given the right circumstances and environment it can work to a runner’s advantage, said Bonnie Axman, a fitness coordinator at the McCutcheon Gym on MCAS Futenma.

“Headphones can take your mind off the pain when running, maybe allowing someone to make it farther than they normally would,” said Axman. “Running to the beat of music can help keep your momentum up, and prevent your pace from slowing.”

Listening to music can help with a workout but can also take one’s mind off of their surroundings. Using the Habu Trail will lessen the negative impact of that loss of situational awareness, according to Wallace.

“Using headphones while running can be great in the right setting, so we facilitated an area where that can be done safely,” Wallace said.

BRIEFS

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON III MEF BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band will perform "Spirit of the Season," a holiday concert on the following dates:

- Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Keystone Theater on Kadena Air Base
- Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater
- Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater

Tickets are free and available at the III MEF Band Hall, building 5907, located next to the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster. For more information, call 645-3919.

ANNUAL AIR CONDITIONING SHUTDOWN

Marine Corps Installations Pacific on Okinawa will shut off most air conditioning this winter to help meet U.S. energy law and conservation goals. Shutoff will begin approximately Dec. 1. Fans and windows are the smart and efficient way to stay comfortable this winter. See MCBJO 5090.3A for details.

NAHA JASDF OPEN BASE EVENT

Japan Air Self-Defense Force is having an open base event Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be food, a flight demonstration by the Blue Impulse, static display of JSDF equipment, a music performance by the Nansei JASDF Band and a panel exhibition of Operation Tomodachi.

For directions or additional information, contact 098-857-1191 (ext. 3291), Japanese speakers only.

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 military exchanges, chapels, Navy Federal Credit Union and Community Bank branches, community service centers and child development centers.

For more information, call 645-8068/8073.



Capt. Carrick T. Longley, right, instructs Marines and sailors during a three-day Marine Civil Information Management training class and working group on Camp Hansen Nov. 7-9. MarCIM's goal is to provide structured data collection that enables civil reconnaissance and builds a civil information grid. Langley is a Naval Post Graduate School student and presenter for the training. The Marines and sailors are with III Marine Expeditionary Force Civil Affairs Detachment, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, and 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. Photos by Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

III MEF tests mobile phone application

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite
okinawa marine staff

CAMP COURTNEY — More than 30 Marines and sailors participated in a Marine civil information management training class and working group here Nov. 7-9.

The training included hands-on practice with smartphones and tablets loaded with MarCIM, military software on a smartphone or tablet used to collect civil and humanitarian information. The training also included Q-and-As and suggestions for improvements.

III Marine Expeditionary Force is the test bed for MarCIM, said Scott Hourin, project analyst, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Experimentation Center.

The Marines who participated in the training were part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Civil Affairs Detachment, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. The sailors who participated were part of 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

Before this program, information was handwritten and sat in the civil affairs Marine's pocket, said Maj. Richard E. Graham. Now, with the electronic devices automatically uploading the reports, future Marines will have access to the information when developing their analysis for the command.

"(As the test bed for the program), the better we do the better for everyone," said Gunnery Sgt. Larry J. Arnold, civil affairs operations and planning chief, III MEF Civil Affairs Det.

This will help build a database of lessons learned and past efforts. So when a real-world event — whether it be training, war, humanitarian assistance or disaster relief — happens the plan will be better, said Graham.

The utility is username- and password-protected and can be used on either Android or iOS platforms, said Capt. Carrick T. Longley, Naval Post Graduate



A Marine experiments with Lighthouse software on Camp Hansen Nov. 8.

School student and a presenter for the training.

A key benefit of MarCIM is that it can be downloaded onto any smartphone or tablet, which means that if one of the government-issued devices is rendered inoperable, a replacement can be bought almost instantly anywhere in the world instead of waiting months or even years to get it replaced, said Hourin.

MarCIM is currently in phase I, moving to phase II, of its implementation, Hourin explained during his class.

Phase I included gathering equipment and ensuring functionality. This began in August 2010 and is scheduled to conclude in December.

During phase I, MarCIM was used to provide information during Operation Tomodachi and the most recent Cobra Gold and Balikatan exercises, said Chris Breault, office manager, MARFORPAC, Experimentation Center, during the training.

"It makes the job easier," said Staff Sgt. Kenny W. Padilla, civil affairs team chief, III MEF Civil Affairs Det. "The software works excellently and you are able to do the job without any type of internet connection."

An internet connection, cell network or Wi-Fi, is not needed to input the information, only for upload.

With MarCIM, civil affairs Marines can collect information and enter it into the utility and save it. Then, when connected to the Internet, the utility automatically uploads their completed inputs to a secure password-protected website, said Breault.

Information collected includes population, number of hospitals and clinics, water sources and other useful information about the area.

Phase II is a limited technical assessment that will be conducted during Exercises Cobra Gold and Balikatan in 2012.

Phase III is scheduled for fiscal year 2013 and will be an operational assessment.

During the assessment, civil affairs Marines from all three MEFs will assess the application in different operational environments, including exercises and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The software programs operate with the utilities Lighthouse, ISAAC, Semantic Wiki and ORA. Lighthouse is a smartphone data collection application. ISAAC, which stands for international stability assessment and analysis capability, is a geo-spatial analysis application. Semantic Wiki is mostly text-based analysis, much like Wikipedia but with subject-matter expert-verified information. ORA, which stands for open reporting application, is for social networking analysis.

Currently all four applications, though each part of MarCIM, use separate, cloud-based databases, so information pulled from each application could be different, Hourin clarified. Cloud-based databases are Internet access storage with multiple redundancies, so if one hard drive fails there are backups.

The current plan is for each MEF to receive 12 devices; six smartphones and six tablets, said Breault. But that could all change depending on the feedback that the III MEF Civil Affairs Detachment Marines provide, he said.



COMM from pg 1

field is vital to the battalion's operations," said Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Duff, radio chief for Hotel Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "Without communications, no one can talk to and coordinate with each other."

Duff's main mission is to oversee the placement of the wires and radios. As part of the advance party, Duff and the communications Marines get into the field first and get to work immediately.

The Marines begin by conducting a security sweep of the area to make sure it is clear, said Lance Cpl. Alexander C. Perry, a wireman with the battalion. After the security sweep, the Marines scout their location to determine the best placement of the communications base.

After the location is set, a Marine runs wires to each position, according to Perry.

"I run standard slash wire to each gun, the commanding officer, executive officer and fire direction center," Perry said. "This ensures that upon arrival they have communications with one another."

About 500 yards of wire is manually laid on the ground to

each position, Perry said.

While the wires are being run, other communications Marines are setting up omni-directional element 254s, or OEs. These long antennas are the communication back bone of the battalion, regiment and fire support coordination center.

"Setting up the 16 foot OEs is a difficult task," Perry said. "Each one requires 10 poles, guy lines, a feed cone and a coaxial cable that connects to a Humvee."

Once the initial communications are set up, the Marines radio to regimental range control and the FSCC.

"We call into them because we have to occupy the position for 24 hours before the battalion is allowed to fire downrange," Perry said. "This is a requirement (in order) to get firing as soon as possible."

When in the field, the communications Marines' main goal is to get all their communications assets up and running before anyone else arrives, Duff said.

"Without us, the battalion can't execute its main mission, which is to shoot the howitzers and provide support to the infantry," Duff said.



Lance Cpl. Ephraim A. Rose sets up an omni-directional element 254 antenna at the North Fuji Maneuver Area, Camp Fuji, Japan, Nov. 11. The OE requires 10 poles, guy lines, a feed cone and a coaxial cable. Rose is a radio operator with Hotel Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

THAILAND from pg 1

important," said Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commander, III MEF flood relief command element.

"We are here to assist, and we're going to assist, in any manner that is appropriate that the Thai government asks of us."

The initial brief allowed senior leaders to reiterate the mission and commander's intent.

"It's very important we establish who is who and what our big mission is," said Sgt. Maj. Lawrence P. Fineran, command element sergeant major. "We are here to assess what's going on and ensure we're ready when called upon for any follow-on missions."

During the overview, Crenshaw expressed to service members the importance of their role during the operation and explained how vital each skill set is.

"I believe we have all the right skill sets here to make this operation successful," said Crenshaw. "The challenge is being able to mold that together and put each individual in the right focus area."

A few of the command element's responsibilities are to conduct medical and engineering assessments and to assess flooded areas in coordination with the Royal Thai Government.

The command element is composed of joint U.S. forces in various fields of expertise to provide command and control of additional U.S. forces.

"At the end of this operation we're going to say that we were successful in assisting the Thai government," said Crenshaw.

DISASTER from pg 1

MCIPAC. "We learned a great deal on this visit."

Because of the prefecture's location, experts have theorized that the area is due for another large earthquake in the near future, explained Takahiro Odaira, division director for the Emergency Countermeasure Division, Emergency Management Department, Shizuoka Prefecture, during the brief.

Japan lies in the Pacific Ocean above an area where several faults and four tectonic plates intersect: the Eurasian plate, the North American plate, the Pacific plate and the Philippine Sea plate. The Philippine Sea plate has been shifting towards the Eurasian plate at a rate of several centimeters a year creating great strain as it drags the Eurasian plate down.

Experts theorize that an earthquake, already named the Tokai Earthquake, will result once the strain has reached a limit and the Eurasian plate springs upward, explained Odaira. The earthquake would result in a tsunami, which would then reach the prefecture's shores within five minutes, he said.

This theory was first proposed in 1976, and the prefecture has been preparing since then, he said.

Shizuoka prefecture, which has a population of 3.8 million, is the tenth most populated prefecture in Japan. A natural disaster of this magnitude striking Shizuoka Prefecture would have significant repercussions on Japan's economy and social system, said Dr. Robert D. Eldridge, deputy assistant chief of staff, government and external affairs, MCIPAC, organizer of the group meeting with prefecture leaders.

"I believe that Shizuoka Prefecture is very advanced in the area of disaster (damage mitigation)," said Masayuki Tsuchiya, bureau director, Governor's Strategic Bureau, Shizuoka Prefectural Government, speaking through an interpreter.

For example, 100 percent of the elementary,

middle and high schools in Shizuoka Prefecture have been earthquake reinforced, and the general awareness about the danger of a possible earthquake and resulting tsunami is very high among the prefecture's citizens, he said.

But, the March natural disaster and aftermath highlighted the need for a stronger relationship with the U.S. and a better understanding of the disaster-relief capabilities the U.S. military could provide, he said.

"We need to establish a system for collaboration on a consistent basis. This is an important issue for Shizuoka Prefecture," Iwase said.

"Drawing from the lessons learned from the March 11 earthquake, we feel we need to work more in the area of cooperation with the (Japan Self-Defense Force) and the U.S. military," Tsuchiya said.

"We need to be more prepared for tsunamis," Tsuchiya added.

Covington praised several of the life-saving initiatives spearheaded by the prefecture to protect its citizens. The three tiers aspect of preparation with responsibilities placed on individuals, community and government to ensure everyone's safety was impressive, he said.

"We in the Marine Corps can learn a great deal from you from a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief aspect on disaster preparedness," Covington said.

He looks forward to strengthening ties with Shizuoka Prefecture, especially as this prefecture hosts Camp Fuji, Covington added.

The proactive attitude and forward thinking of the prefectural leaders and their determination to ensure the safety of the prefecture's citizens is what led to the meeting between Marine leaders and Shizuoka Prefectural Government leaders, said Eldridge.

"We know from the March 11 disaster, we must be willing to look to the U.S. for assistance in an earthquake such as that being predicted by

experts," explained Satoshi Kobayashi, director of the Emergency Management Department, Shizuoka Prefectural Government, speaking through an interpreter.

"One of the lessons learned during Operation Tomodachi was that the prefecture must be able to reach out to every resource including the U.S. military to ensure the safety of its citizens," Kobayashi said.

Meeting face-to-face was important to ensure the continued development of cooperation between the prefecture and the Marines based in Japan, Eldridge said.

It's important for the prefectural leadership to know the leaders of Camp Fuji and the leadership and staff of MCIPAC and III MEF, Eldridge said.

"In the end, it's really the people-to-people interaction that's most important," he said. "It's the people within organizations that make it possible for organizations to work well together with each other."

"It's a huge milestone that we're located in Okinawa and yet our leadership and their leadership had the foresight to create this interaction," Eldridge added. "This visit allowed local officials, no matter where in Japan, to know more about the Marine Corps. This is important since the Marines are friends and neighbors to all the communities in Japan."

The next step will be for Shizuoka Prefectural government officials to visit Camp Fuji or travel to Okinawa to meet with Marine leaders here, Eldridge said. This invitation has already informally been extended, and prefectural leaders said they plan to accept, he added.

From there, it would be great to create some kind of exchange program so their personnel could work with Marines for a short period of time and get a better understanding of the Corps' capabilities, and Marines could go to the prefecture to better understand their capabilities, said Eldridge.

Marines with CLB-4 watch as the hull of an MRAP vehicle is pushed into a ravine during vehicle recovery training at MCAGCC Nov. 16. The Okinawa-based Marines proceeded to formulate and implement a plan on how to recover the damaged vehicle safely and efficiently.



Recovery operations demand creativity

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
okinawa marine staff

The slack slowly disappeared from the steel cable until it stood perfectly taut a few feet off of the ground, pulling on the wreckage of a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle with thousands of pounds of force.

The wreckage did not respond immediately but stood perfectly still for a moment, casting doubt as to whether the winch would be able to move the massive hulk.

With the slightest of groans the carcass of the vehicle finally shifted, and soon it was sliding up the embankment of the ravine it had tumbled into an hour prior.

The Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 4 had succeeded, successfully recovering the wreckage of the MRAP from a ravine into which it had been pushed for the purposes of vehicle recovery training at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., Nov. 16.

The MRAP was one of several vehicles recovered during the training evolution, part of Enhanced Mohave Viper, that required the Marines to adapt methods to overcome terrain challenges and damage to the vehicles.

The training gives the Marines a good idea of the obstacles they will face and how to overcome those obstacles when called upon to complete vehicle recovery missions in a forward-deployed environment, according to Master Sgt. Jeffrey R. Martin, battalion truck master, CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The loose sand of the training area and steep ravines provided one of the obstacles to the Marine's recovery efforts.

The difficult terrain was very similar to what the Marines will be operating in when they deploy to Afghanistan in upcoming months, according to Martin.

The damage to the vehicles also provided a challenge to recovery efforts, as many of the vehicles were missing tires, steering apparatus and attachment points for load-bearing cables.

Finding ways to work around the damage to the vehicles to safely and efficiently recover them simulates recovery operations in a forward-deployed environment where the inoperable vehicles have frequently been hit by improvised explosive devices, according to Sgt. Rodney J. Konrad, motor transport mechanic, CLB-4.

Overcoming these challenges requires Marines to use their creativity, as well as knowing



Marines with CLB-4 prepare the hull of an MRAP vehicle for recovery at MCAGCC Nov. 16. The MRAP came to be positioned at the bottom of a ravine, forcing Marines to adapt their recovery tactics.

the capabilities and limitations of their equipment, according to Martin. No two vehicle recovery operations will ever be exactly the same and because of this, each mission requires the Marines to adapt, he added.

The course was attended by Marines from a wide range of job fields, increasing the ability of convoys to adapt and respond to vehicle recovery situations.

Everyone who attended the course will have the basic knowledge to help the wrecker operators during recoveries, according to Konrad. It is important this basic knowledge is spread throughout the battalion since it is impossible to predict who will be present to help when a

recovery is needed, he added.

The Marines were aided by instructors, called coyotes, during the training evolution.

The coyotes observed the recovery operations and offered feedback to the Marines and advice on what could have been done differently, providing the Marines with a valuable source of recovery experience upon which to draw, Konrad explained.

The Marines will get another opportunity to practice vehicle recovery during EMV when they return to the range.

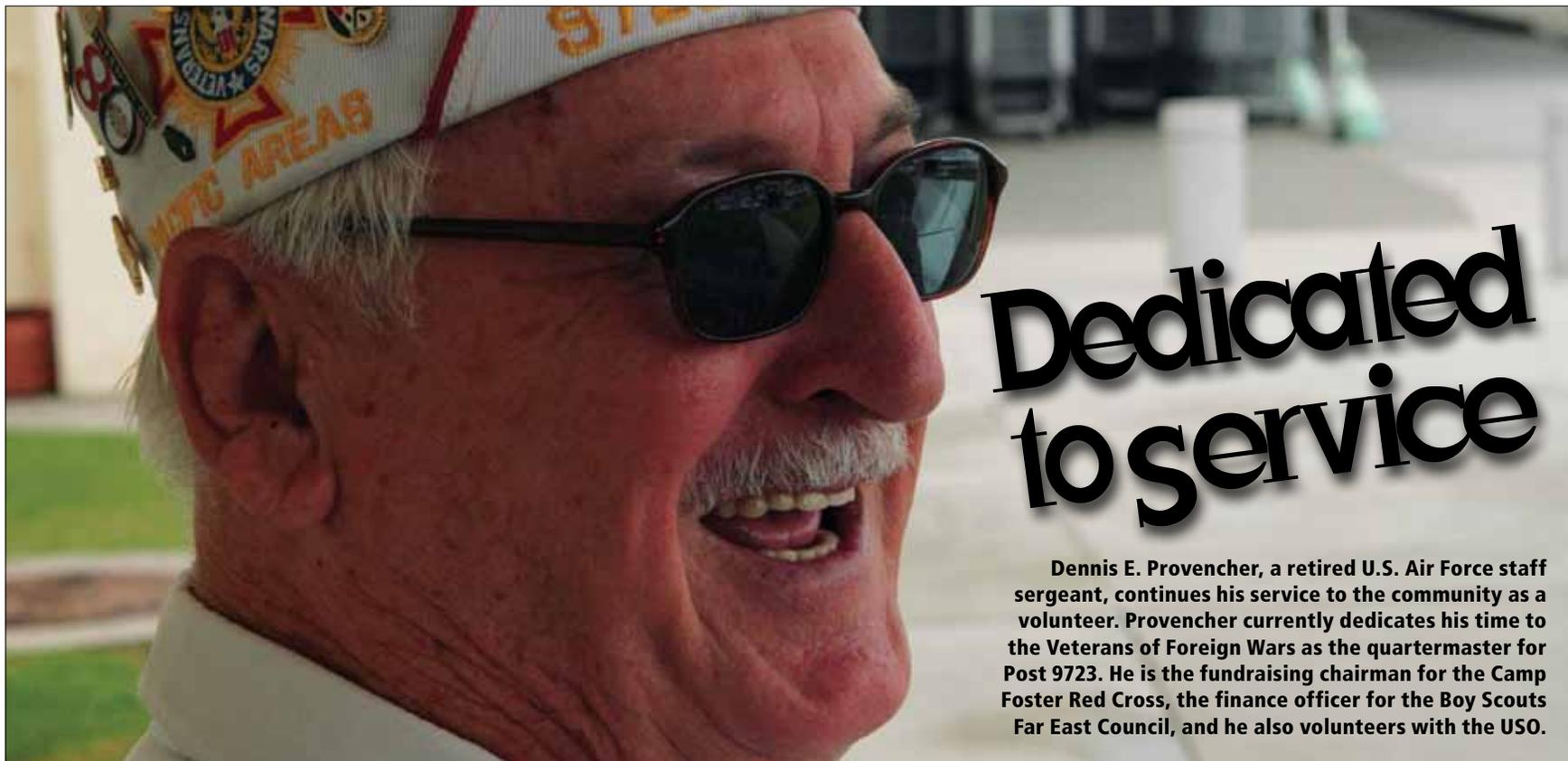
"It's good training, and it teaches the Marines to play with the cards they are dealt," said Martin.



Sgt. James M. Van Sickle pulls a winch cable into a ravine where the hull of a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle had come to rest after rolling over the edge at MCAGCC Nov. 16. The winch cable is used to reposition the MRAP so it can be safely pulled up the embankment. Van Sickle is a wrecker operator with CLB-4.

Lance Corporals Travis Stewart, left, and Charles Perez prepare a damaged Humvee to be recovered at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 16. The training evolution allowed the Marines to simulate vehicle recovery missions they could be called upon to complete during their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Stewart and Perez are wrecker operators with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.





Dennis E. Provencher, a retired U.S. Air Force staff sergeant, continues his service to the community as a volunteer. Provencher currently dedicates his time to the Veterans of Foreign Wars as the quartermaster for Post 9723. He is the fundraising chairman for the Camp Foster Red Cross, the finance officer for the Boy Scouts Far East Council, and he also volunteers with the USO.

Okinawa veteran continues to serve after retirement

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Heather N. Johnson
okinawa marine staff

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1919, the nation commemorated Armistice Day for the first time after fighting ceased between the allied nations and Germany during “The Great War,” better known as World War I. Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954. At that time, Nov. 11 became a day to honor all American veterans, regardless of when and where they served their country.

As years pass, the nation continues to celebrate this day; honoring all military veterans who have served their country when the nation called.

One American veteran, Dennis E. Provencher, retired after 20 years of service but continues to serve as a volunteer helping service members and their families on Okinawa.

Provencher, a Milton, N.H., native, retired as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force after serving

his country as an airborne and ground radio operator.

He enlisted as an active-duty airman at the age of 18 in July 1951, and retired in August 1971.

“I felt proud to know I contributed in a small way to keep our country free and the people safe,” said Provencher. “It taught me discipline and a greater love for my fellow service members and country.”

During his enlistment, he was assigned to several units giving him the opportunity to travel the world and experience countries such as Germany, France and Japan.

“I enjoyed serving in Germany because it gave me the opportunity to learn the language,” said Provencher. “It was difficult being away from home when I was stationed there, but the job and learning to read, write and speak the language took up a lot of time.”

According to Provencher, serving his country during a time of conflict in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1969 taught him to be careful and appreciate life.

Since Provencher’s retirement, he has written two children’s books, was inducted into the “Guinness Book of World Records,” and has been a volunteer for various military organizations.

“Since I retired I have accomplished many things,” he said. “I went to school and received my associate in arts degree, was president of the Okinawa Shrine Club and chairman of the Crippled Children’s Program.”

While Provencher was in Okinawa in 2002, he donated his 28th gallon, or 224th pint, of blood and received a certificate from Guinness World Records in 2004, a title that he still holds. To date, he has donated 34 gallons and 5 pints of blood.

“I have donated every 57 days for over 40 years now,” he explained.

Provencher currently dedicates his time to the Veterans of Foreign Wars as the quartermaster for Post 9723. He is the fundraising chairman for the Camp Foster Red Cross, the finance officer for the Boy Scouts Far East Council and helps with the USO.

“I think Dennis volunteers as much as he does because he knows how important it is to have people in the community who will do work that benefits society and brings no financial reward,” said Harry W. Farmer, a friend and fellow volunteer. “Whether it’s giving blood, volunteering with the Masons, the Scottish Rite, VFW, American Legion, Boy Scouts or International Red Cross, Dennis knows the value of someone who is willing to give the most valuable commodity they have, which is their time.”

Provencher says he enjoys volunteering and giving back to service members because he knows there are people who need help every day.

“It is like a band of brothers,” he said. “No matter what branch of service, we all have many things in common and I even listen to some of the Marines tell their war stories. It’s interesting and makes them happy. I like to make people happy.”

Aside from volunteering with organizations, Provencher also spends his time visiting service members at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on holidays.

Provencher’s friends describe him as a rare individual that every community needs, but rarely finds.

“Dennis’ best quality is that he is a great man,” said Stanley Stewart, a friend of 15 years and fellow VFW member. “He’s a hard worker and a good friend.”

To Provencher, Veterans Day is a day to honor those brothers and sisters who have served and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation’s freedom.

This Veterans Day, Provencher attended a ceremony at the Kadena Air Base flag poles and ran a fund raiser at the base exchange and commissary. The collections were donated to disabled veterans.



Dennis E. Provencher volunteers on Veterans Day for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9723 in front of the Base Exchange by passing out “Buddy” Poppies. “Buddy” Poppies are small, red, artificial flowers made by disabled veterans. The poppy is the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Whether it’s giving blood, volunteering with the Masons, the Scottish Rite, VFW, American Legion, Boy Scouts or International Red Cross, Dennis knows the value of someone who is willing to give the most valuable commodity they have, which is their time.

- Harry W. Farmer



Pfc. Jamare Harris serves a plate of food to a resident of the Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home during a Thanksgiving holiday meal in Kin Town Nov. 17. Harris is a data network specialist assigned to 7th Comm Bn.



Marines with 7th Comm Bn. serve the staff of the Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home a traditional Thanksgiving meal in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 17.

Marines serve local nursing home Thanksgiving dinner

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
okinawa marine staff

Turkey, dressing and other trimmings filled the tables at the Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home in Kin-Cho where Marines and sailors from 7th Communications Battalion broke bread with the residents of the home Nov. 17.

Since 1994, the battalion, a part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, has created a strong bond with the nursing home and routinely conducts events with residents of the home.

"I like helping elderly people," said Lance Cpl. Austin G. McNabb, a motor transport mechanic with the battalion. My grandmother raised me to always respect and offer help to elders, he said.

The event was a good opportunity for the Marines to spend quality time with the local community members of Okinawa, and it gave the locals a chance to interact with and better understand the Marines, said Lt. Col. Carlos O. Urbina, the battalion's commanding officer.

"We're able to see and interact with the locals on a more personal level," said Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Digiacommo, a field radio operator with the battalion.

Events like this give both cultures an opportunity to come together and better understand one another, added Digiacommo.

"We are very happy and proud to have kept a strong friendship with the Marines of 7th Communications Battalion on Camp Hansen," said Ayako Ginoza, the director of Hikariga-Oka. "We are very appreciative of the volunteer yard work and Thanksgiving dinners.

Members of the nursing home routinely invite the Marines and sailors to a variety of events throughout the year, fostering a more concrete relationship, added Ginoza.

"We invite the Marines to several of our celebrations, such as moon viewing, annual summer festivals, Christmas parties and rice pounding, which is our New Year's celebration," she said.

"With Thanksgiving being a holiday very unique to America, we find it enjoyable to be able to share the important meaning behind it," said McNabb.

"This dinner is the perfect metaphor for our appreciation," said Urbina. "Thanksgiving is about giving thanks and that is what we are trying to do, give thanks to the people of Okinawa for allowing us to be their guests."

"Thanksgiving is about giving thanks and that is what we are trying to do, give thanks to the people of Okinawa for allowing us to be their guests."

- Lt. Col. Carlos O. Urbina



Marines with 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and residents of the Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home enjoy a meal in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 17. Marines and sailors with the battalion have been volunteering with the home for several years to help strengthen the bond with the local community. Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael Iams



The Japan and U.S. colors are marched into the arena during the Japan Self-Defense Force Music Festival held at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo Nov. 19. The bands participating included members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Central Band, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Central Band and the U.S. Army Japan Band, along with civilian musicians.

Japan, US bands unite at Budokan

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
okinawa marine staff

The lights dimmed and silence drew as more than 200 Taiko drummers took to the stage in front of a crowd of more than 7,000 spectators at the Nippon Budokan Arena, Tokyo.

This was the scene during the annual Japan Self-Defense Force Music Festival Nov. 19.

The event included members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Central Band, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Central Band, and the U.S. Army Japan Band, along with civilian musicians from throughout Japan.

This year, the festival was held in honor of those who lost their lives during the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

During intermissions, video interviews from JSDF service members taken during the aftermath of the disaster were played on screens throughout the arena.

"This year's festival is different than usual because of the earthquake and tsunami disaster," said Sgt. Yayoi Takahashi, a flutist player with the JASDF Central Band. "When I play, I am reminded of that. Through the performance we can introduce to civilians what we do, and through music we can convey our message."

Each band performed individually then united with the others for the finale in a mass performance.

"When all the bands come together it's like ingredients in a gourmet dish," said Staff Sgt. Alex J. Bush, a sousaphonist with the III MEF Band. "You have ingredients that are good on their own, but when you put them together you have something awesome."

When all the bands come together it's like ingredients in a gourmet dish. You have ingredients that are good on their own, but when you put them together you have something awesome.

- Staff Sgt. Alex J. Bush

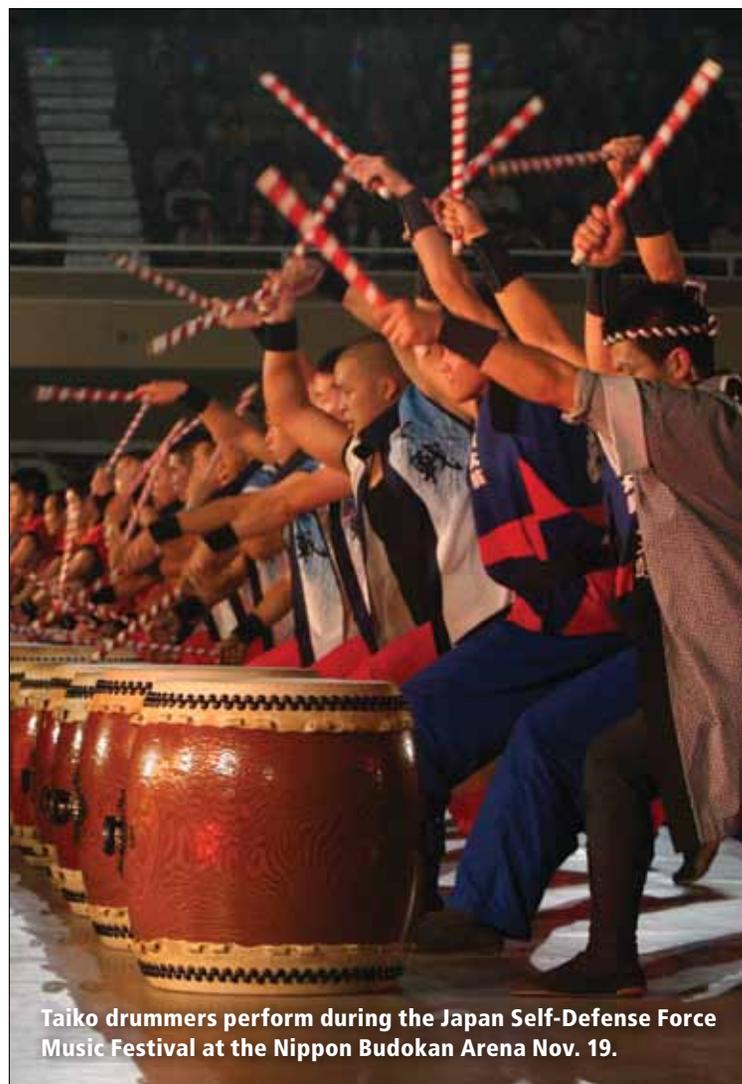
The way the bands united mirrors the way the Japanese and U.S. military work together off stage, said Bush.

"During Operation Tomadachi we were working toward a common goal, trying to rebuild," said Bush.

The fact there is interaction between the Japanese and U.S. military on Okinawa is very important. That is why they are an important part of this festival, said Takahashi.

The musicians are proud to represent their individual bands, but enjoy the joint performance.

"I feel like I'm representing our service," said Takahashi. "When playing with the other bands, the atmosphere is friendlier. We rather enjoy performing with the other bands."



Taiko drummers perform during the Japan Self-Defense Force Music Festival at the Nippon Budokan Arena Nov. 19.



Members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force conduct rifle drills during the Japan Self-Defense Force Music Festival at the Nippon Budokan Arena Nov. 19. More than 7,000 spectators were in attendance.

In Theaters Now

**NOVEMBER 25 -
DECEMBER 1**

FOSTER

FRIDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 6 p.m.; In Time (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Dolphin Tale (PG), noon; In Time (PG13) 3 and 6 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY In Time (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Killer Elite (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Abduction (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

FRIDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 6 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; Jack and Jill (PG), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 1 and 4 p.m., Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Killer Elite (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Abduction (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Abduction (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER

FRIDAY Abduction (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Dolphin Tale (PG), 3 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Dolphin Tale (PG), 3 p.m.; Abduction (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

FRIDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Contagion (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

FRIDAY Straw Dogs (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 4 p.m.; Contagion (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

FRIDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13) 5:30 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Contagion (PG13), 2 p.m.; I Don't Know How She Does It (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Puss In Boots (PG), 2 p.m.; Tower Heist (PG) 6 p.m.
MONDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

FRIDAY Abduction (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Tower Heist (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Abduction (PG13), 2 p.m.; Killer Elite (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Twilight Saga: Braking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Killer Elite (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Jack and Jill (PG), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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

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



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.



Nov. 14 - 18

RIFLE RANGE

Lance Cpl. Mitchell
West
MLG, 335

PISTOL RANGE

Master Sgt. David
Lopez-Maldonado
MAW, 391

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Shinpai shinai de”
(pronounced shin-pa-eye shin-eye day)
It means, “Have a nice day”



CHAPLAINS' GORNER

Collectively, the things that give you meaning and purpose in life make up what we call spirituality.

Gecko spirituality to assist

Lt. j.g. Kevan Lim
combat logistics regiment 37

To climb over obstacles most animals employ self-generated means. Cats use their claws; ants use hooks and liquid adherents; and slugs use an adhesive.

Geckos, however, use something different. Each molecule in the universe attracts other nearby molecules. This is called the Van der Waals interaction. We don't feel the Van der Waals interaction because we lack the ability to touch things at a molecular level. But a gecko's feet contain millions of microscopic bristles, each so small that it can touch a molecule and tap into the Van der Waals interaction. Because of this, geckos can stick to things without using claws or adhesives.

For most animals, self-generated means are usually enough. But some obstacles are too much. Cats can't climb a granite cliff; ants can't scale slick surfaces; and slugs run out of glue. This is where the gecko's unique ability comes in. Since the Van der Waals interaction is everywhere and in everything, a

gecko can climb literally any surface, any obstacle, at any time.

Most of us also use self-generated means to handle the challenges we face in the military. We use physical strength in combat and mental strength to make decisions and to lead. Usually, those means allow us to handle whatever challenges we face.

But what happens when those challenges are too much? What if there was something outside ourselves that we could use to climb over the extra tough hurdles?

Some people find strength in their communities: “I'll do this because I don't want to let my buddies down.” Some people find strength in their philosophy of life: “I'll solve this because I always finish what I start.” Others find strength in faith, as I do.

Collectively, the things that give you meaning and purpose in life make up what we call spirituality. We might think of spirituality as a Van der Waals interaction. If we develop it, it becomes something we can always tap into. So that like the gecko, we can scale whatever “impossible” hurdles come our way.

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