Japan’s Recovery: III MEF visits Oshima

BY CPL. MEGAN ANGEL
Marine Corps Bases Japan

OSHIMA ISLAND, Japan — Three weeks after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Tohoku and set off a devastating tsunami March 11, affected Japanese citizens are still rummaging through the remains of their homes, neighborhoods and towns.

One hundred miles north of the city of Sendai, the tiny island of Oshima can be found. Approximately 45 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake, Oshima was one of the hardest hit locations.

Marines and sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, have been aiding local government authorities and personnel in the clearing and clean-up operation -- Operation Field Day.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, III Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general and Joint Task Force 505 commander, visited the island for a glimpse of the tsunami’s aftermath and to meet the Marines and sailors who arrived on Oshima for the operation.

Glueck toured three sites where the servicemembers have been working, accompanied by Japan Ground Self Defense Force Lt. Gen. Eiji Kimizuka, commanding general of Joint Task Force Tohoku. Kimizuka is in charge of the ground recovery efforts for Japan’s JTF Tohoku.

“This has been a horrible event and I’m sorry,” Glueck said. “But we are here to assist you in anyway we can.”

Glueck and Kimizuka shared their observations of the damage and talked about the moral of the local affected. In some areas of Oshima, the tsunami covered the width of the island, pulling everything in its path back out to sea as it receded.

“The destruction is very bad; most people ran away and just kind coming back,” said Kimizuka. “We are very grateful for the

Substance Abuse Center rates in top three percent nationally

BY LANCE CPL. ERIC QUINTANILLA
Chevron staff

The Substance Abuse Counseling Center at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego received a three-year recertification in March as a top program by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities International.

The SACC was recognized for having an outstanding program for its outpatient treatment which includes education, outreach services and counseling for alcohol and other drug addictions for adults.

CARF International accredits organizations for either one or three years depending on the quality of the program.

Headquarters Marine Corps wanted to make sure all the counseling centers in the Marine Corps maintain a high level of excellence so MCRD was asked to be the first Marine Corps site to be accredited in 2008, said George Mangual, director of SACC at MCRD San Diego.

Due to the Marine Corps’ tight standards, only small adjustments and equipment purchases, such as first aid kits, were needed to give them the necessary requirements to apply for the initial accreditation, said Mangual. They also needed to incorporate existing Marine Corps policy and add additional safety standards, a process that took about six months of preparation to get ready for the inspection.

CARF International standards ensure patients receive the best quality care. They have surveyed hundreds of thousands of programs throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia since it was founded as an independent, nonprofit accreditor in 1966.

Not only did MCRD obtain that re-accreditation, but they were able to place in the top three percent of the nation. The CARF surveyors found no discrepancies with their program.

The MCRD SACC team is comprised of

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San Diego names Military Women of the Year

The Marine Corps’ Sgt. Sara R. Bryant was named Junior Enlisted Woman of the Year during the Enlisted Women of the Year Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel in San Diego, March 30. Bryant was deployed with the Female Engagement Team from March to October of 2010 and was one of the first females to ever deploy with infantry. “I think it’s awesome to be recognized. I wrote my essay to be picked for this about what I saw while deployed, the brotherhood and my best friend being killed,” said Bryant.

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Not just for kicks
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Edison Range begins construction

By Lance Cpl. Eric Quintanilla
Chevron staff

The Weapons and Field Training Battalion is slated to hold a groundbreaking ceremony on April 5 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The five major projects include field barracks near Ranges 500 and 505, support facilities near Marine Corps Eel River Range, Army Corps deo, supply warehouse and target factory, a mess hall, an Indoor Simulator Marksmanship Trainer and range houses. There are a total of 13 projects that are slated to begin construction with an expected cost of $94 million.

These new facilities will be completed 2014, and will help improve the quality of training the recruits receive at Edison Range, said Capt. Kathryn E. Baker, assistant logistics officer, WFR. Each project requires dozens of contracts to ensure that the contractors have sufficient information to start a job.

Six out of the 13 construction projects were large enough to require Congressional approval to begin development, while a few others only needed to be approved by Headquarters Marine Corps. There are currently five military construction projects that have been approved by the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Expeditionary Strike Group Seven. Each of these projects has an estimated cost of $1.5 million.

The new mess hall will be the largest on Camp Pendleton, capable of accommodating 1,008 patrons at a time, compared to the current mess hall’s capacity of 720. Some of the smaller projects include the replacement of the current recruit barracks and the Recruiting Training Regiment staff. These will be able to do so by providing a roof over the heads of recruits and the Recruiting Training Regiment staff. These will be able to do so by keeping them out of inclement weather and event. You will get to know your neighbors while being able to have a break when you need it. Asking for help is a sign of strength. Look for resources in your community that can help.

Reach out to children in your community. A smile or a word of encouragement can mean a lot, whether it comes from a parent or a passing stranger.

Be an active community member. Lend a hand at local schools, community organizations, children’s hospitals, social service agencies, or other places where families and children are supported.

For information on parenting, child development, behavior management and upcoming classes, please contact the MCRD New Parent Support Program at (619) 524-0805.

Child abuse impacts all communities

By Heather Chamberlain, P.E.D.
New Parent Support Program Home Visitor, MCRD

Child abuse impacts many families and communities across America at every socioeconomic level. An estimated 1,740 child fatalities from child abuse occurred in 2007 with more than 75 percent of fatalities under three years old. Ninety percent of the children die from injuries sustained after birth, according to the Childhelp Organization. Child abuse can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and psychological as well as neglect. One form of child abuse that occurs among the youngest children is Shaken Baby Syndrome. SBBS is the result of an infant, toddler or young being shaken violently. The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome estimates that about 1,000 children a year are injured by this form of abuse. SBBS can occur when a child receives as few as three rapid shakes. SBBS injuries can include: brain damage, fractures, and soft tissue and bone injuries. Medication for children with SBBS may include: sedation, speech and language disorders, including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, damage to the neck vertebrae and spinal cord resulting in severe motor damage, including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, damage to the neck vertebrae and spinal cord resulting in severe motor damage, blindness, seizures, speech and learning disorders. According to the Childhelp Organization, child abuse can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and psychological as well as neglect.

Volunteer income tax assistance center

The depot tax center will be open for walk-ins and appointments Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through April 18. The VITA center is located at the Legal Services Center at 2780 Chouin - call (619) 524-5273 for an appointment. Enter through the garage door of the parade deck. Tax preparers will be available from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. Bring social security cards, W-2s, 1099s, all bank statements, all tax-related documents and all other tax-related documents. If you have internet access and are unable to use the VITA center, go to http://www.irs.gov/app/freefile/welcome.jsp to prepare your tax return online.

Educational opportunities

California State University and San Diego State University are sponsoring a Basic Training for Higher Education Conference on April 5 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check-in for the event begins at 9:15 a.m.

The event will be held at the SDSU Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center.

This free conference for prospective university students features presentations and workshops on SDSU and San Diego-area colleges and universities. Information will be presented on how to gain admission and how to pay with GI Bill benefits.

Student veterans at San Diego-area community colleges, veterans in San Diego County interested in higher education, and active duty military wives, children of active duty military or college or four-year university in San Diego are invited to attend.

The events participants include: San Diego State University, Community colleges of San Diego County, California State University San Marcos, the Student Veteran Organization, University of California, San Diego and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Snacks is free and lunch will be provided. For more information and to register, go to www.sdsu.edu/ veteranconference. Space is limited.

Emergency preparedness

The theme for April is “Floods: Don’t Get Swept Off Your Feet!” Visit www.espfocus.org or MCRD San Diego’s website and click on the emergency preparedness link for full details.

Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. Join us as we celebrate and recognize the importance of our military children. Your child will be welcomed in all of our events attended! All events will be held at Bldg. 12.

The remaining events are:
• April 8 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Teen Day
• April 12 - 9:30 a.m. to noon. Activity Morning
• April 23 - 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. N.K.S. for kids (6 to 12 years old) "Children, Our Future, Our Responsibility"

Send briefs to: mcrdsdpao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those materials with public information that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.
Marine Corps teaches old plane new tricks

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan—The Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J rests on the runway at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, March 24. The one-of-a-kind Harvest Hawk system includes a version of the target sight sensor used on the AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter as well as a unique variant of its KC-130J by outfitting the Hercules platform for a variety of tasks specifically for Marine Corps use.

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Cpl. Samantha H. Arrington

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www.marines.mil/unit/tecom/mcrdsandiego/Pages/welcome.aspx

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan—One of the U.S. military’s most seasoned aircraft has found a new purpose as a one-of-a-kind weapon for the Marine Corps in support of troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The U.S. military has relied on the C-130 Hercules platform for a variety of tasks including air-to-air refueling, and cargo and troop transportation for more than 50 years. But the Marine Corps, in partnership with Lockheed Martin, has recently created a unique variant of its KC-130J by outfitting an existing plane with what has been dubbed the Harvest Hawk weapons system.

“It’s a brand new capability for the Marine Corps and it’s proving itself very well,” said Capt. Joel D. Dunivant, a KC-130J aircraft commander with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., who is currently deployed to Afghanistan. “We’ve been a KC-130 pilot my whole time in the Marine Corps, but this is a new capability for us to support the Marines on the ground.”

The Harvest Hawk system includes a version of the target sight sensor used on the AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter as well as a complement of four AGM-114 Hellfire and 10 Griffin missiles, a modular, precision-guided missile system typically employed on unmanned aerial vehicles. The system expands the role of the KC-130J for 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) beyond its traditional role of support to include close air support against enemy positions and providing surveillance to disrupt improvised explosive device emplacements.

“Harvest Hawk, for me, is an opportunity to help the guys on the ground,” said Capt. Bradley C. Stadelmeier, with VMGR-352, a copilot for the Harvest Hawk equipped KC-130J. Even with its expanded capabilities, Harvest Hawk crewmembers said the aircraft retains its original capabilities in refueling and transport.

Cpl. Samantha H. Arrington
On the clear morning, recruits with Company G nervously waited to enter the confidence chamber on Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Pendleton, Calif., April 4.

They sat attentively in the bleachers adjacent from the chamber, listening to a field instructor explain the proper way to strap on the gas mask and clear it.

Once the field instructors finish briefing the recruits on what to do, the drill instructors line the recruits up so they can start quickly running them through the chamber one platoon at a time.

As the recruits waited with the rest of their platoon in line, they pulled their new, shiny black gas masks out of their pouches and began to put the mask over their worried faces with assistance from one another.

Some recruits started to panic once the false sense of not having enough air to breathe when wearing the mask overcame them.

The first group's fear ended quickly after getting their masks hopefully tight enough to their faces. As the recruits were crammed around the walls of the inside of the chamber, many quickly became afraid their mask had seeped with gas, were unsure of the way the gas would feel if inhaled, and they began trying to clear their mask.

“This exercise is supposed to help give the recruits the confidence to be able to go into an environment not knowing what's going to happen and be able to do what's needed for themselves and their fellow Marines,” said Sgt. Adrian J. Jones, field instructor and Birmingham, Ala. native.

The chamber became very dim once the first group was in the chamber and the door closed behind them. There was no turning back for these recruits.

Their drill instructors and two field instructors accompanied them. First they were instructed to bend at the waist and shake their heads to make sure their masks were secured.

Then the recruits execute as one field instructor burns the chamber with fumes. The much-anticipated breaking the seal of the mask occurred.

The recruits only had a feel for the filtered fresh air through the re-breaking the seal, they had new gas mask clearing skills.

Before leaving the chamber with their masks on in the most severe conditions, the recruits practiced opening their eyes. Some recruits experienced the extreme difficulty of trying to open their eyes immediately after exiting the chamber.

The sight of the first group keeps the terror for the later groups. As the second group quickly entered the chamber to conduct the same routine, the first group washed their mask.

The confidence chamber simulates the type of environment a Marine may encounter in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare situation. Inside of the chamber 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile, also known as CS gas, a defining component of tear gas, is released.
Then the recruits executed a set of 10 jumping jacks as one field instructor burned CS gas tablets, filling the chamber with fumes. This was shortly followed by the much-anticipated breaking the seal of the mask. Seconds later, the recruits were instructed to put the mask back on their faces and apply what they had just been taught, the clearing of their mask. The recruits only had a few minutes to gasp for the filtered fresh air through their mask. Then after re-breaking the seal, they had to quickly re-apply their new gas mask clearing skills.

Before leaving the chamber, the recruits take off their mask and in the most organized manner possible, yell out a war cry and evacuate the chamber with snot, tears and a stinging sensation no recruit will soon forget. Some recruits experienced the extreme difficulty of trying to open their eyes immediately after exiting the chamber.

The sight of the first group only builds the terror for the later groups. As the second group quickly entered the chamber to conduct the same routine, the first group washed their mask.

The confidence chamber simulates the type of environment a Marine may encounter in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare situation. Inside of the chamber 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile, also known as CS gas, a defining component of tear gas, is released.

The chemical agents represent what Marines might come in contact with. The mask being used on Edson Range is the newest gas mask available to the military, the M50 joint service general purpose gas mask. The field instructors expressed how grateful they are for the new mask.

"It has fewer pieces, which means less for the recruits to lose and less for them to get confused about," said Cpl. Carlos K. Gama, field instructor and Oakland, Calif., native. "The old mask had two separate eye lenses, which caused irritation and a block in your vision. The new mask is more comfortable."

Since the field instructors and drill instructors have to go into the chamber with the recruits, they are also grateful the new mask has better suction, Gama explains.

"I made the mistake of not having my mask tight enough when I got into the gas chamber," said Recruit Christian E. Juarez, the guide of Platoon 2151, Co. G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, after finishing the exercise. "The scariest thing for me was the anticipation."

Once all the groups of Co. G finished the confidence chamber, they hiked to where they will prepare to begin the crucible. The crucible is the culminating event of recruit training, a 54-hour test of endurance while food and sleep deprived where recruits use teamwork to tackle more than 30 tedious obstacles designed to test them on everything they have learned throughout recruit training.
Marines get intense training at Semper Fit

BY PFC CRYSTAL DREURY
Chevron staff

On the hot Friday afternoon of April 1, students in Career Planners Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego ran to the physical training field outside of the Semper Fit fitness center in a small formation.

Bonnie Axman, a personal trainer at the fitness center awaited the formations arrival with a high-intensity circuit-training workout planned. The Marines arranged this training to extract from their norm of just running around the base for PT.

Orange cones, ammo cans, small hurdles, and white signs labeled with exercise names taunted the Marines as they made their way to the second field where they encountered a white sign labeled with exercise names. Axman, the recruiter school drill instructor, taunted the Marines as they ran to the physical training field.

Col. Matthew J. Bonnot
Parade Reviewing Officer

Col. Matthew J. Bonnot graduated from Central Missouri State University and received his commission in May 1984. He also holds a Master of Arts in Business Administration from Boston University (1998) and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College (2007).

After completing The Basic School, he reported to Marine Air-Ground Task Force Ready Training Group 10 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Yuma, Ariz., to serve as the ground support equipment officer. Following this tour the colonel was transferred to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Aircraft Group 13, MCAS Yuma, as the maintenance material control officer. Upon completion of this tour, Col Bonnot deployed to WestPac with the 13th and 15th Marine Expeditionary Units, assuming the duties of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 513 assistant aircraft maintenance officer. During this tour, Col Bonnot participated in a 10-month deployment to Japan.

Before reported to U.S. Naval Air Forces Atlantic Fleet, Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va., in 1992 as the aviation maintenance management team officer. His follow-on assignment was to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Aircraft Group 16, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in 1993. While there he served as the assistant aircraft maintenance officer, Marine Attack Training Squadron 202; aircraft maintenance officer, Marine Arial Refueling Training Squadron 253; and operations officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14.

In 1999, the colonel assumed command of Recruiting Station Springfield, Massachusetts. Bonnot became the executive officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 28, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., in 2002.

During this assignment he deployed with the squadron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bonnot assumed command of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 23 in 2004 and, in 2006, he reported to III Marine Expeditionary Force Camp Fallujah as the Counter Remote-Control Improvised Explosive Device Warfare (CREW). Upon his return from Iraq, Bonnot reported to the College of Naval Warfare as a student. In 2007, he reported to Marine Forces Command in Norfolk Virginia as the Assistant Chief of Staff, until he assumed command of the 5th Marine Corps District.
Finance out kicks Coast Guard, 4-0

by Lance Cpl. Katalynn Thomas
Chevron staff

Finance stomped the Coast Guard, 4-0, during a Commanding General’s Cup soccer match aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego March 30.

Although the teams played their match on one of the depot’s outdoor soccer fields, they played by the U.S. Indoor Soccer Association rules. Indoor rules allow the teams to substitute players in they chose. If they had a sub, the player had to completely leave the field before the other could proceed.

We use the indoor soccer rules to make sure the match is fun, competitive and most of all, safe,” said Steve Rawson, referee, San Diego county soccer referee association.

Finance, dressed in green jerseys, scored the first goal early in the game. After that point, the ball was passed back and forth quite frequently until the half time whistle sounded, said Rawson.

“I feel like the game was going pretty well to have at least one goal before the second half started,” said Rawson. “That meant it was a pretty even game.”

When the second half started, the teams were sitting at a slight stand still, the ball flying up and down the field. Finance broke the holl again, scoring three more goals before the game ended. The match itself was pretty competitive. The ball was bounced back and forth between the teams at regular intervals, said Rawson.

“I was hopeful that they would be evenly matched,” said Rachel Dickinson, Cup coordinator, Semper Fit. “Some of the usual players for the Coast Guard weren’t here, so I wasn’t sure how that would turn out. There are almost never any clear favorites this early in the season.”

The CG Cup, which is open to all active duty and Department of Defense employees, is composed of a series of events throughout the year where work sections compete to earn points. At the end of the year, the section with the most points will be awarded the CG Cup, and receive money toward their unit recreation fund.

The CG Cup soccer tournament started March 29. The playoffs are scheduled to kick off April 26. This is Finance’s first win this year. They had a previous match against the Recruit Training Regiment and lost 5-4.

Finance will battle 2nd Battalion on April 5 and attempt to improve their 1-1 record, while the Coast Guard will be trying to make a redemption against Medical.

“This was a really good game,” said Pfc. Nathan Steele, Finance, defenseman. “The referees were great. I feel like the teams were all around very good.”

Even with missing a couple of their usual players the Coast Guard put up a good fight.

“Based on the teams and players that showed up, this match went as I expected it would,” said Dickinson. “Now, if the Coast Guard had their usual players, it would have been a different story entirely.”

To view the entire Commanding General’s Cup schedule visit the Semper Fit Web site at www.mccsmcrd.com/SemperFit/Athletics.