

OKINAWA MARINE

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Forces fire during Forest Light



Lance Cpl. Bradley M. Sartain fires the MK153 shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 23. The bilateral exercise focused on service members' ability to work as a small unit through live-fire and light-infantry tactics training. Forest Light is a semiannual, bilateral training exercise with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force designed to enhance military partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment. Sartain is an infantry assaultman with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

see related story on pg 9

Disaster drill prepares Japan, US forces

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

SHIZUOKA AIRPORT, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan — Members of the Japan Self-Defense Force, Shizuoka prefecture, U.S. Marine Corps and Army took part in the Shizuoka disaster drill at the Shizuoka airport Sept. 2.

Annually since 1960, Japan has marked Sept. 1 as Disaster Prevention Day in memory of the extremely destructive 1923 Tokyo earthquake. see **DRILL** pg 5



Members of the Shizuoka prefecture, Japan Self-Defense Force and U.S. Marines load supplies into a Humvee during the Shizuoka disaster drill at the Shizuoka airport Sept. 2. The Marines are from the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

Sailor, Marine initiative unveiled

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Juan M. Garcia III, the assistant secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), visited Marines and sailors on Okinawa to speak about the 21st century sailor and Marine initiative at the Camp Foster Theater Aug. 30.

The 21st century sailor and Marine initiative is a set of programs. see **PROGRAM** pg 5

LSSS reorganized

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Legal Services Support Section, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, reorganized recently to change how legal cases and services are processed in the Asia-Pacific region per Marine Administrative Message 416/12 Aug. 1.

The commandant of the Marine Corps directed the changes to the Marine Corps model for the provision of legal services support. As see **LSSS** pg 5

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Never leave a Marine behind

Brig. Gen. Robert F. Hedelund

The theme of this year's National Suicide Prevention Week, which runs from Sept. 9-15, and World Suicide Prevention Day, which takes place Sept. 10, is "Collaborations in Suicidology: Bridging the Disciplines."

This theme mirrors the Marine Corps message that suicide is a complex but preventable problem requiring a comprehensive strategy and an all-hands effort. Marines and their loved ones who feel supported and empowered to gain and maintain strong mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness are better able to withstand, recover and grow in the face of stress and adversity. In times of crisis, strong Marines seek help for themselves and for their fellow Marines.

One death by suicide is too many, and each death can affect many people. Every day, as a result of "Never Leave a Marine Behind" suicide prevention training, operational stress control and readiness training, Marines recognize signs of stress in one another, ask the question of whether their fellow Marine is thinking of killing themselves, demonstrate care through active listening, and escort fellow Marines to help. Let

us honor our commitment to never leave a Marine behind. We must do everything we can to show Marines assistance is available, assistance works and suicide is not an option.

During this month and the coming year, let us consider whether we have done all we can to prevent suicide within the Marine Corps family. Leaders, family members and Marines must listen and speak with Marines, engaging them daily. Encourage problem solving to give Marines the tools they need to overcome adversity and prevent stressors from building to crisis levels. Create an environment where seeking assistance is a sign of strength, and acknowledge seeking assistance for others as consistent with our ethos. We must do whatever it takes to build a strong and fit Corps. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose, and with everyone's direct involvement, no Marine will be left behind.

For information, additional resources and program directives designed to help prevent suicide, visit the Marine Corps suicide prevention program website, www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent.

Hedelund is the director of Marine and Family Programs Division of Headquarters Marine Corps.

"Let us honor our commitment to never leave a Marine behind. We must do everything we can to show Marines assistance is available, assistance works and suicide is not an option."

THE AROUND CORPS



A flag over top of the casket of Henry H. Black, the seventh sergeant major of the Marine Corps, is prepared for folding and presentation to Mrs. Fannie Black, Black's wife, during his funeral ceremony at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Aug. 29. Black passed away in his home in Fredericksburg, Va., Aug. 24. He served in Korea and Vietnam and earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon. Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud



Staff Sgt. Travis A. Jakovcic looks back at another aircraft during takeoff in Retalhuleu, Guatemala, Aug. 27. Four UH-1N Huey helicopter crews and aircraft with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 are part of Detachment Martillo of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South, and are participating in Operation Martillo. Operation Martillo, led by Joint-Interagency Task Force-South, U.S. Southern Command, is designed to help stem the flow of narcotics through Central America and its Pacific and Caribbean coasts by denying transnational criminal organizations littorals used for illicit trafficking. Jakovcic is a UH-1N Huey crewmember with HMLA-467. Official U.S. Marine Corps photo



Sgt. Jesse Early, left, observes a possible improvised explosive device location with a participant in the counter-IED lanes course at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Aug. 25. Early is an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). Photo by Sgt. Michele Watson

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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

Corpsmen train with Australian responders

Cpl. Jacob D. Barber

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, Australia — Eyes widened as corpsmen lined up with three damaged automobiles all with simulated victims inside. Across from them was a parking lot with a massive simulated wreck site.

The corpsmen with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and shock trauma platoon, 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF, participated in a remote pre-hospital trauma and disaster course Aug. 22-23 taught by a combination of Australian firefighters and medical staff.

The mock scene looked tragic; one car was upside down, apparently T-boned by another. The corpsmen faced the challenge of using their previous training to treat and extract all victims in less than two minutes.

After the chief firefighter yelled “Go!,” the corpsmen ran to their assigned vehicles and started working on saving the victims. The group assigned to the overturned car faced the biggest challenge: stabilize the car, find a way inside to treat the patient, and find a method to extract the patient safely.

“It was new to me but really cool because a lot of us have never had any extraction training,” said Seaman Dylan Nelson, a corpsman with Company F. “The training application and classes were different from what we usually receive in the military, but I feel like what we learned is important for us to know and really makes us more efficient at our jobs.”

During the two-day course, the corpsmen received classes in practical airway and head injury management, pelvis and long-bone trauma, chest draining, vehicle extraction, spinal injuries, fractures and managing a remote mass-casualty incident. All the classes were followed by practical application, where the corpsmen were given scenarios to test what they learned.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan P. Kierce and Seaman Lilweti White treat a simulated automobile accident victim during a vehicle-extraction drill as part of a remote pre-hospital trauma and disaster course at the Royal Darwin Hospital, Australia, Aug. 23. During the two-day course taught by a combination of Australian firefighters and medical staff, corpsmen received classes in a variety of medical skills including vehicle extraction, how to treat spinal injuries and fractures, and managing a remote mass-casualty incident. Kierce and White are corpsmen with shock trauma platoon, 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, in Australia to support Marine Rotational Force-Darwin. Photo by Cpl. Jacob D. Barber

U.S. Navy Lt. Gregory Monk, the medical officer with Company F, said he found out about the annual course through a medical orientation at the Royal Darwin Hospital. With the help of Bronte Douglas, a trauma nurse with the hospital’s national critical care and trauma response center, Monk was able to design a course specifically tailored to the skill set of military corpsmen.

“We were happy to get a chance to work with the guys and maybe teach them something new or sharpen some skills they haven’t used in a while,” said Douglas. “I’m a reservist with the (Royal Australian) Air Force, so I understand there are different procedures and focuses when it comes to trauma care in the military.”

“Our goal is to teach and offer them different techniques to help them become more skilled at their jobs,” said Douglas.

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Steven Urquidez, a senior corpsman with Company F, the course also gave the corpsmen more appreciation for Australian emergency techniques and procedures.

“They were definitely well-educated,” Urquidez said. “The amount of experience between our instructors, from the firefighters to the paramedic and medical staff, allowed us to connect their tactics to ours.”

Douglas said she hoped to visit the corpsmen during bilateral field-training events to see what the students took from the course.

During the remaining weeks of its deployment to Australia, Company F, as part of Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, will conduct small-unit operations and other combat training in close cooperation with the Australian Army’s 1st Brigade, based at Robertson Barracks.

Constant Vigilance 2012 to improve disaster response

2nd Lt. Jeremy Alexander

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Installations Pacific will conduct Exercise Constant Vigilance 2012, an all-hazards exercise designed to improve incident response procedures, Sept. 10-14.

CV-12 will focus on natural disasters. Specifically, an earthquake of a significant magnitude, which could generate a potentially devastating tsunami on Okinawa within four hours.

The exercise is especially relevant since Japan and neighboring countries in the Pacific region have recently experienced natural disasters to include earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons, according to Tim Morello, the mission assurance director for MCIPAC.

“This exercise is critical to the readiness of MCIPAC personnel to respond to a crisis and protect those who live and work on our bases,” said Morello.

Participants in the exercise will include: MCIPAC first responders, other U.S. Armed Services, Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the U.S. Department of State, and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

During the exercise, MCIPAC will use the new tsunami warning system, as well as humanitarian evacuation routes designed to allow base personnel and local community members access through installations for quicker evacuation. Additionally, MCIPAC will exercise critical aspects of the Okinawa Area Emergency Evacuation Plan, according to Morello.

The Marine Corps will also rehearse evacuations on portions of Lester

Middle School grounds, U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Kinser Elementary, the Kinser Child Development Center, low-lying barracks, the Exchange on Camp Kinser and Marine Corps Community Services. Camp services will also operate shelters and safe havens on Camps Foster, Lester and Kinser.

“The exercise gives military family members the chance to consider and plan for a large-scale disaster where they would have to leave their homes,” said Jessica Almaas, the physical security officer for the Camp Foster emergency operations center. “Residents can see how long it would actually take to gather the essentials and walk to the closest safe haven. Even if military members and their families live on other bases or out in town, this exercise should get everyone thinking about where they would go and realize it would most likely be on foot.”

In addition to a good evacuation plan, family members should have a good communication plan in case cell phone services go down.

“Another important aspect to consider is that, during a crisis, mobile phone carriers can shut down due to overload,” said Almaas. “Everyone should establish a good back-up communication plan with their family.”

CV-12 is designed to give families the opportunity to establish a good evacuation and communication plan, so that it will be easy to implement in the future, should it be needed.

“Rehearsing evacuations, establishing shelters and safe havens, and moving critical equipment for protection now, before a crisis, allows MCIPAC to more efficiently and effectively do these things in a real-world situation,” said Morello.

BRIEFS

LEGAL TRAINING COURSES

The office of the Staff Judge Advocate, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Legal Services Support Section, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, will host one-day Law of War and unit-level rules of engagement training courses Sept. 10-14. Classes for sergeants and below will be from 8-11:30 a.m. Classes for staff sergeants and above will be from 1-4:30 p.m.

Class dates and locations will be:

- Sept. 10 Camp Schwab theater
- Sept. 11 Camp Hansen theater
- Sept. 12 Camp Foster theater
- Sept. 13 Camp Courtney theater
- Sept. 14 MCAS Futenma theater

For more information call 645-3065 or 645-4142.

WELCOME ABOARD FOR MARINE AND NAVY OFFICERS' SPOUSES

Marine officers' spouses' club and Navy officers' spouses' club Okinawa will hold a welcome aboard reception Sept. 10 at The Crow's Nest Club on Camp Shields.

Stop by anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for food, door prizes and friendship. This free, business-casual event is open to all officers' spouses and civilian equivalents.

The purpose of MOSC and NOSCO is to create a social network for club members while supporting philanthropic interests in the U.S. and Okinawan communities.

Visit www.okinawamosc.org or www.noscokinawa.com for more information.

MANPOWER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Manpower Management Division, Enlisted Assignments will conduct its annual visit to Okinawa Sept. 14-19. MMEA monitors will brief and conduct interviews at various locations on Okinawa to update commanders on enlisted manpower decisions. All fiscal year 2013 first-term alignment plan Marines are required to attend the FTAP brief prior to their interview with their respective monitor.

For a schedule of events and list of MMEA visitors, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac>.

LAST CHANCE TO ENROLL IN EWS AND CSC FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2013

Enrollment for the Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education programs academic year 2013 seminars ends Sept. 15.

Courses convene Oct. 1 and will run through the end of May.

To enroll or for more information, contact the College of Distance Education and Training – Okinawa by emailing Elizabeth Gomez at eagomez@cots.com or Scott Uecker for EWS at suecker@cots.com, or calling 645-2230.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.



Lance Cpl. Kenneth N. Dills, right, undergoes the decontamination process after carrying out the proper procedures for a mock chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack during CBRN assessment and consequence management training at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Aug. 31. Dills is a CBRN defense specialist with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

1st MAW holds CBRN exercise

Story and photos by
Pfc. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — A platoon of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing conducted CBRN assessment and consequence management training at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Aug. 31.

The 1st MAW CBRN defense platoon was tasked to coordinate a III Marine Expeditionary Force Marine Air-Ground Task Force CBRN training exercise, which integrated the efforts of CBRN Marines within 1st MAW, 3rd Marine Logistics Group and 3rd Marine Division.

The exercise was based on a weaponized nerve-attack scenario, which allowed Marines to carry out all the standard procedures for a biological attack while focusing on the rescue and evacuation of those affected.

Some of the procedures for a CBRN attack include detection, sampling, identification and neutralization of hazardous materials and chemicals, extraction of contaminated personnel, technical and mass decontamination, and sensitive site exploitation.

"We are conducting a CBRN exercise based around trying to defend against a terrorist attack," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Gregory M. Clemenson, the CBRN operations chief for

III MEF. "In this mock attack, we have used a simulated nerve agent."

The scenario began with Marines scanning the perimeter of the attack. As they worked their way around the area, they came across two Marines who had been affected. The focus then shifted to safely evacuating the Marines.

"Training on this scale brings (the many facets of our expertise) all together, especially for the junior Marines," said Clemenson. "They get to realize how big an attack of this nature can be and what an im-

pact something like this could have. We need these exercises as learning tools."

The CBRN exercise provided the Marines with excellent, critical training which tested them both physically and mentally. The Marines were able to come together and carry out operations in the scenario, according to James V. Altman, the CBRN protection officer for MCAS Futenma.

"I'm very pleased with what I saw today," said Altman. "Training opportunities like this are (necessary), and the Marines performed flawlessly."



A Marine passes through a decontamination station during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear assessment and consequence management training at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Aug. 31. This training gave Marines a chance to test their skills and carry out all the procedures they normally would if a CBRN attack were to happen.

LSSS from pg 1

a result, LSSS is no longer responsible only for the units and commands on Okinawa.

"This reorganization will bring better services and advice to the commands and commanders we support here in the Pacific" said Chief Warrant Officer Robert R. Bender, a legal administrative officer with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Before this reorganization, we only provided services to Marines on Okinawa," said Bender. "Now, with the regional concept, the legal services support section will have the same area of operation as Marine Corps Installations Pacific."

As well as the changing area of operations, the roles and responsibilities assigned to LSSS and command staff judge advocates are now more clearly defined. LSSS will maintain the services aspect, while the staff judge advocates will provide command advice.

The change to a regional service system will not only benefit clients, but also newer attorneys.

The reorganization will bring experienced attorneys back into the courtroom and allow for mentorship of junior attorneys daily, according to Bender.

Each region will have a prosecutor with complex litigation teams to mentor and educate prosecutors throughout the region, as well as to try the more complex cases which arise, according to

Maj. Gen. Vaughn A. Ary, the staff judge advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Another significant change is the addition of the victim and witness assistance program, as there will be a representative in each office whose primary job is to handle sexual assault cases. This will ensure each case is handled with the utmost effectiveness, and victims get all the help they need inside and outside the courtroom, according to Maj. Chantell M. Higgins, a military justice officer with LSSS.

Though the reorganization is designed to improve quality of services, LSSS has been recognized by the behavioral health family advocacy program for exceptional service in the past.

"Legal Services Support Section has gone above and beyond its required duties," said Jean A. Claffey, director of the behavioral health family advocacy program, Marine Corps Community Services Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "The recognition and concern regarding the impact crime has on victims and the acknowledgment of their right to be informed about the criminal justice process demonstrates their commitment."

"This reorganization will allow us to assist commands in maintaining good order and discipline," said Col. William G. Perez, officer in charge of LSSS. "It will improve the capability of deployed operational law support and ensure victims' interests are protected."

DRILL from pg 1

earthquake. Since 1980, Shizuoka prefecture has conducted an annual exercise to prepare for a large earthquake.

"The scenario for this year's exercise is that Shizuoka was hit by a (large) earthquake, and the 12th Brigade was asked to provide rescue and relief in the western region of Shizuoka," said Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Maj. Yoshiji Aoyama, G-3, planning and operations officer, 12th Brigade. "We set up a command and control post at the Shizuoka airport to facilitate the rescue efforts."

The post at the Shizuoka airport also served as a logistics hub for the exercise, according to Aoyama.

"The airport provides us with a central location in the prefecture where we can load aircraft with

food, water and relief supplies and distribute the supplies to areas in need," said Aoyama. "We will also be able to fly injured people into the airport and transport them to a nearby hospital, which the JSDF will be supporting with equipment and personnel in a time of crisis."

Overseeing this year's drill were Kohei Masuda, the vice minister of defense, Heita Kawakatsu, the governor of Shizuoka prefecture, and Gen. Eiji Kimizuka, chief of staff of the JGSDF.

"The hardest thing in trying to plan for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations is that, whether it is an earthquake or a flood, situations we are not prepared for will arise," said Maj. Eric J. Mattson, a civil affairs officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This is why it is important to have leadership present

for both exercises and the real-world application."

Marines from Camp Fuji provided vehicles and personnel to assist in the exercise.

"As Marines, we are always ready to do humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations when asked by Japan," said Maj. Michael S. Johnson, executive officer for the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji. "We are partners and during Operation Tomadachi, we were able to execute when our friends needed us."

A lot of hard work went into the exercise, but continual training will make a difference if a disaster strikes, according to Johnson.

"The exercise showed we are prepared, but there is always more we can do to increase our level of preparation," said Aoyama. "I look forward to future exercises like this where we are able to work with U.S. forces."

PROGRAM from pg 1

objectives and policies, which maximizes each sailor's and Marine's personal readiness to hone the most combat effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

"The knowledge accumulated through the years has created a base for this program, which is intended to aid Marines and sailors in various aspects of their careers and lives," said Master Chief Petty Officer John M. Toomer, the command master chief of Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa. "Many of the initiatives have already been put into place, and once the program grows and matures, the changes will be noticed more often."

During the brief, Garcia spoke to Marines and sailors about various topics the initiative covers such as readiness, safety, physical fitness and continuum of service. Garcia also covered plans to create a new retirement system for active-duty service members.

"There will be a study into altering our traditional retirement in some way," said Garcia. "We may take the elements of the 401(k)-style system that is most frequently used by corporate America in the private sector."

Garcia further explained to the Marines and sailors that, if they are now on active-duty, they may be allowed the choice of retirement plans.

"If you are on active-duty now, you will be grandfathered into the existing traditional 20-year military retirement," said Garcia. "There may be a date further down the road when you will have an option to go to this new 401(k)-style plan."

Garcia also informed the sailors and Marines that the Department of the Navy will continue to offer tuition assistance.

"We know what a value (tuition assistance) is to the sailors and Marines," he said. "Last year, we had 8,000 sailors and Marines graduate with either degrees or vocational certificates funded by tuition assistance."

According to Garcia, it is important to stretch tuition assistance dollars as far as possible and make sure they are being applied properly. Service members will be required to be in their command for at least one year, have an education plan on file, and maintain high fitness scores.

"We want them to know what their work demands will be," said Garcia. "If a sailor or Marine drops from a course, they will pay the tuition assistance back. It's a tough standard, but it is fair and rewards



Juan M. Garcia III, the assistant secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), speaks to sailors and Marines about the 21st century sailor and Marine initiative at the Camp Foster theater Aug. 30. The 21st century sailor and Marine initiative is a set of objectives and policies that maximizes personal readiness.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle.

our hardest chargers."

Another topic Garcia discussed was the 19 newly-commissioned female ensigns who have made their way through the nuclear training pipeline and reported to their submarines.

"The decision to bring women aboard submarines was not made in response to any outside pressure," said Garcia. "It was about national security – it was a strategic decision."

Garcia wrapped up by emphasizing the importance of the work done by sailors and Marines on Okinawa.

"Know that your work is being watched and it is appreciated," said Garcia. "The nation knows that the work being done out here is vital. Our new national defense strategy is a Navy and Marine Corps strategy, and it's a Pacific strategy. You all are the tip of our nation's spear."

Pilots qualify in short takeoffs, vertical landings

Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

As the amphibious assault ship surges forward through Pacific waters, an AV-8B Harrier hovers 30 feet above its bow, preparing to descend onto its deck.

Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 542, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted day and night carrier-landing qualifications Aug. 27. In order to operate from the deck of a ship, Harrier pilots must certify their skills in short takeoffs and vertical landings on a moving naval vessel.

The pilots begin the qualification process on land, performing short takeoffs and vertical landings without the complications of sea-borne operations. After gaining experience in the methods ashore, the pilots had 14 days to complete the process by certifying their skills on the pitching and rolling deck of a ship.

The weight of the aircraft and the short deck of the ship allow little time for Harriers to get airborne, according to Capt. David C. Campbell, a Harrier pilot with the squadron. Communication between the pilot and the control tower is a vital step in the process, as the tower relays required instrument settings, down to the smallest details.

“If you mess up any of your parameters, you will end up in the water,” said Campbell. “Although taking off can be difficult, landing the Harrier is a lot harder.”

When performing a vertical landing on a moving ship, the pilot must be precise. They use the horizontal position indicator to the right of the aircraft and the tramline, a line extending down the center of the

runway, to guide the aircraft down during daylight hours.

“With the pitch and the roll, while trying to hover at the same speed as the ship, you really have to know what you’re doing,” said Campbell.

The aircraft descends slowly, with the pilot waiting for the control tower’s signal to cut the engines off. Since the thrust of the aircraft is downward to create the hover and slow descent, keeping the engines on toward the end of the descent could cause damage to the deck of the ship and make the aircraft unstable.

Qualification requires skill and precision during the day, but night qualification leaves even less room for error. During the daytime, pilots are able to use their full peripheral vision to maneuver the Harriers, but in the dark, night vision goggles limit what can be seen.

“You have to be perfect at night, there is no room for error and it’s unforgiving,” said Maj. Howard L. Longwell, a Harrier pilot with the squadron. “With a 43-degree field of view, it is a lot tougher at night than during the day.”

The Harrier is unique for its short takeoff and vertical landing capabilities and is the only fixed-wing aircraft that has the ability to lift off the short deck of an amphibious assault ship. It can support the MEU with air and ground reconnaissance, tactical coordination and air-to-ground and air-to-air strike capabilities.

“The Harriers provide a long distance offensive striking capability,” said Lt. Col. Brian C. Hawkins, the operations officer for the 31st MEU. “They are the offensive punch that allows us to fight effectively as a complete Marine Air-Ground Task Force.”

The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps’ force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region and the only continuously forward deployed MEU.



An AV-8B Harrier completes a vertical landing for nighttime carrier-landing qualification on the moving deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard Aug. 27. “You have to be perfect at night, there is no room for error and it’s unforgiving,” said Maj. Howard L. Longwell, a Harrier pilot with the squadron.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Oxtan



An aviation boatswain's mate signals an AV-8B Harrier pilot as the aircraft prepares for a short takeoff during carrier-landing qualification on the moving deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard Aug. 27 while at sea. The weight of the aircraft and the short deck of the ship allow little time for Harriers to get airborne, according to Capt. David C. Campbell, a Harrier pilot with the squadron. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood*



An AV-8B Harrier performs a short takeoff during carrier-landing qualification on the moving deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard Aug. 27. A detachment of six Harriers with Marine Attack Squadron 542 serves as the fixed-wing asset of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's aviation combat element.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Caleb Hoover



Corpsmen exit a Humvee egress assistance trainer during a training event at Camp Hansen Aug. 29. The training ensured corpsmen were able to properly egress a Humvee, assess injuries, and treat injured personnel resulting from an accident. The corpsmen are with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Corpsmen conduct egress, casualty training

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Four service members shake off the haze and quickly come to the realization they have been in a rollover. There is a brief moment of fear, but thanks to a specialized trainer at Camp Hansen, that fear will be trumped by experience.

Corpsmen with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted Humvee egress and casualty assessment training at Camp Hansen Aug. 29.

The purpose of the training was to ensure the corpsmen are able to properly egress a Humvee, assess casualties, and treat injuries in the event of a rollover.

“The Humvee egress assistance trainer is essential to us because as corpsmen and Marines we are constantly in Humvees,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Michael W. Duffy, the assistant leading petty officer with the battalion. “We combined this trainer with four other training stations to practice for real-world situations.”

Prior to the training, the corpsmen received instruction on how to safely use the trainer.

“We spent the morning learning the fundamentals of exiting a rolled Humvee, security procedures after exiting, and carrying a casualty,” said Duffy.

During the training, they entered the trainer, a device that simulates a rollover. Once the simulator stopped, they exited the inverted



Corpsmen prioritize and treat simulated casualties at a collection point during a training event at Camp Hansen Aug. 29. “The purpose of the collection point is to stabilize (casualties) and determine which are priority cases,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Demetrio C. Pineda, a corpsman with 3rd Med. Bn., CLR-35, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

vehicle and assessed casualties sustained during the simulated crash.

The mock casualties received first aid for any serious injuries and were moved to a casualty collection point. As soon as the priority cases were identified and stabilized, they were taken to the shock-trauma familiarization area.

“The purpose of the shock-trauma area is to stabilize (casualties) and determine which are priority cases to be sent to a hospital,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Demetrio C. Pineda, a corpsman with the battalion. “This training (also) familiarized us with litter carriers and triage.”

The collection point and shock-trauma familiarization help corpsmen identify and treat various injuries associated with a roll over, such as crushing or lacerations, according to Lt. Cmdr. Randy L. Panke, a physician assistant with the battalion.

During each phase of training, the corpsmen were observed by peers who evaluated their performance.

“We want to get them trained, and we want them to learn more advanced lifesaving skills,” said Panke.

“More than anything, this training is a confidence builder,” said Panke. “It gives corpsmen a chance to ask questions and correct deficiencies in a controlled environment.”

Corpsmen undergo a simulated rollover inside a humvee egress assistance trainer at Camp Hansen Aug. 29. The corpsmen participated in the training to practice how to properly egress a rolled Humvee and assess and treat injuries resulting from a roll over.



Simulated stress enhances marksmanship

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

In the hot, humid morning hours of Aug. 24, with the sun beaming across the land, Marines and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force were positioned to fire rounds during live-fire training at Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan.

Forest Light is a series of bilateral training exercises with the JGSDF. The exercise series is designed to enhance the U.S. and Japan military partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment.

The Marines were with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Japanese service members were with the JGSDF's 41st Infantry Regiment.

The JGSDF members and Marines incorporated stress tactics for this particular training to simulate combat situations.

To increase stress levels, the service members were given targets to shoot after they performed physical exercises. This caused their heart rates to increase, simulating a side effect commonly felt in a combat situation.

"It is natural (for) your heart rate (to) increase when bullets are flying at you during combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Tomoyoshi Saeki, an infantryman with the 41st Infantry Regiment, JGSDF.

"We ran, did push-ups, and jumped up and down in order to raise our heartbeat, causing us to breathe harder than normal," said Saeki.



Lance Cpl. Warren J. Jackson explains how the M240B medium machine gun functions during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 24. The bilateral exercise provided the service members the opportunity to work under stressful conditions during live-fire training. Jackson is a rifleman with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The JGSDF members are with the 41st Infantry Regiment.

When shooting, the troops had to compose themselves and remember proper shooting techniques. Breathing control is a critical component to being an effective rifleman in all situations.

"We trained as if we were in a real scenario because in combat, I would be running around looking for a better angle for offense and defense," said Sgt. 1st Class Youske Udou, an infantryman with the JGSDF's 41st Infantry Regiment. "Whenever I (will) need to fire, I am confident (I will be) ready because

I had training on shooting fundamentals like breathing and trigger control."

Combat situations often present uncontrollable circumstances. Learning to deal with stress will make the infantrymen more effective.

"Every shot counts, especially in a combat environment," said Lance Cpl. Danny Villagomez, a rifleman with sniper platoon, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines. "Our minds become stronger by incorporating the element of stress, and the effects of stress are likely to have less impact."



Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members execute push-ups before live fire during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 24. The exercises made the service members' heart rates increase, simulating what could occur in a combat situation. Forest Light is a series of bilateral training exercises between the Marine Corps and JGSDF designed to enhance military partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment. The Marines are with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The JGSDF members are with the 41st Infantry Regiment.

Lending a helping paw

Pet visitation program begins at USNH Okinawa

Lt. Cmdr. Anne S. Hollis

CHIEF EXPERIENCE OFFICER, USNH OKINAWA

Man's best friend is usually kept in the comfort of a home or left free to roam in a fenced yard. However, dogs can be useful in a very different setting too.

Visits to a hospital or a medical clinic can be very diverse from patient to patient. They can be a worrisome time away from the comforts of home, as people face unfamiliar medical procedures and treatments.

The use of pet visitation dogs has been shown to help reduce stress for patients and their families. The presence of a visitation animal can provide comfort and soothe apprehension for patient visits and their pain.

"Research shows that being around animals, particularly dogs and cats, lowers blood pressure, helps people relax, and makes (people) happier in general," said JoAn Miller, a senior stations manager with the American Red Cross Camp Foster.

During a lengthy hospital stay, a pet visit can provide a diversion from a patient's routine and provide comfort, resulting in increased optimism and happiness.

Animal visitations can provide a soothing atmosphere and reduce apprehension for those in the acute care setting dealing with the tension of an illness and the unfamiliar environment of the hospital.

Is this to say a fuzzy face, cold nose and sloppy kisses are a cure all? Probably not, but pet visitation has been shown to aid in not only reducing feelings of stress and anxiety

and the traumatic effects of hospitalization, but also to enhance participation in occupational and physical therapy.

The American Veterinary Medical Association found that patients who participated in animal visitation have shown improvements in their cognitive, social, emotional and physical functions.

Psychologically and socially, animal visitation programs have demonstrated enhancement of communication and positive social interaction skills. Hospital staff also appear to benefit from the programs, demonstrating improvements in stress level, morale and job satisfaction.

The purpose of the program at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, called "Visiting Important People with Pets," is to enhance both the patient and staff experience.

"Caring is what we do best, and this is a great initiative to demonstrate that we are very committed to improving the experience of all those entrusted to us – our warfighters, their families and other beneficiaries," said Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo, commanding officer of the hospital.

Dogs are required to pass the canine good citizen test prior to entering the program, and their owners are required to attend a Red Cross orientation. All visits will be coordinated through the Office of Patient Experience. This department was established to ensure a positive patient experience becomes part of every clinical encounter.

Pet visitation dogs provide unconditional love and acceptance and create a unique



Fianna, a collie owned by Air Force Staff Sgt. Richard Lundblad and his wife Melissa, is one of the first two canine volunteers certified to participate in the pet visitation program.

Photo by Brian J. Davis

bond with patients that has a very real healing dimension. To find out more about becoming a Red Cross volunteer or getting involved in the pet visitation program, contact the American Red Cross Camp Foster at 645-3800.



From left to right: JoAn Miller, senior station manager, American Red Cross Camp Foster; Lt. Cmdr. Anne Hollis, USNH Okinawa chief experience officer; Cmdr. Elizabeth Tipton, USNH Okinawa maternal-fetal medicine specialist; and Capt. Pius Aiyelawo, commanding officer of USNH Okinawa, cut a ceremonial cake to officially launch the "Visiting Important People with Pets" program at USNH Okinawa Aug. 13.

Photo by Brian J. Davis

In Theaters Now

SEPTEMBER 7-13

FOSTER

TODAY Sparkle (PG13), 6 p.m.; Premium Rush (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Brave (PG), noon; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 3 p.m.; Sparkle (PG13), 6 p.m.; Ted (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 1 p.m.; The Possession (PG13), 4 p.m.; Sparkle (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Magic Mike (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Ted (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Total Recall (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lawless (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY ParaNorman (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 6 p.m.; Premium Rush (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY ParaNorman (PG), 1 p.m.; Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 4 p.m.; Savages (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

TODAY The Possession (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 2 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Odd Life Of Timothy Green (PG), 2 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Hit And Run (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Sparkle (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Possession (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Magic Mike (R), 4 p.m.; The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Savages (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 3 p.m.; Lawless (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 3 p.m.; Savages (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Possession (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 6 p.m.; Savages (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Campaign (R), 2 and 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Possession (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Lawless (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 5 and 8 p.m.
SATURDAY Hit And Run (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Magic Mike (R), 5 and 8 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.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING - SEPT. 10

- All new SMP representatives are requested to attend orientation training at 1 p.m. at the SMP main office in building 5674 on Camp Foster Sept. 10.

FUTENMA TUNNEL RATS TOUR - SEPT. 12

- Explore numerous caves that were once bunkers and shelters during World War II. This trip is only for single Marines and sailors residing on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. A bus will be departing Semper Fit gym at 7:45 a.m. Sept.12. Sign up at the Futenma office by Sept. 10 at 636-3630.

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

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Toire wa doko desu ka?”

(pronounced: ttoh-ee-rey-wah doh-koh dehs-kah?)

It means, “Where is the toilet?”



Aug 27-31

RIFLE RANGE
Lance Cpl. Michael Alfaro
3rd MLG, 335



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“If you have strayed away from all the good that is in you, seek forgiveness and be restored.”

Second chances given by unconditional forgiveness

Lt. Stephen Brown
7TH COMMUNICATION BATTALION CHAPLAIN

The Prodigal Son is one of the best-known parables in the Holy Scriptures. It depicts the story of a father with two sons. The younger son demanded his inheritance prematurely from his father, and after taking his share, he immediately went off into a distant country.

There, the son wasted his entire inheritance on wild living, drinking, and partying. However, after hitting rock bottom, he was so destitute and hungry he took a job feeding pigs.

He longed to eat the same food the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. The son realized his pitiful condition and decided to return back to his father's house, but not as his son – rather as a hired servant if the father would still have him. As soon

as the father caught a glimpse of the son returning home, the father ran up to him, hugged him, and immediately restored him to the dignified position of his son.

This parable is a graphic and powerful illustration of the unconditional love and forgiveness of God. If the truth be told, we have all found ourselves in the pigpen at some point in our lives.

Whether it is the pigpen in our workplace, our marriages, our barracks or some grim place with no sign of hope, God himself is standing by, waiting for you to seek forgiveness and come back home.

At that very moment, God completely restores those who seek forgiveness.

Though we are unworthy, God bids us to return. If you have strayed away from all the good that is in you, seek forgiveness and be restored.