

OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 7, 2012

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Tree lighting unites community



Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Standing outside on a rainy evening, Japanese and American children smiled and giggled as they excitedly watched and waited for Santa Claus and the bright blue lights of the Christmas tree lighting.

These individuals, although separated by culture, gathered to share the joys of the holiday season at the Christmas tree lighting in Kin Town outside Camp Hansen Nov. 30.

“This event is great for the town,” said Staff Sgt. Erick Hurley, an artilleryman with 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, who came to the event with his family. “It adds to scenery here in Kin, and it’s good for the kids.”

Groups walked the short distance to the center of Kin Town to enjoy the remainder of the night by sipping apple cider and listening

to holiday music by the III MEF Band.

The event represents the deep friendship between the citizens of Kin Town and the service members on Camp Hansen, especially in the holiday season, according to Col. Stephen B. Lewallen, the Camp Hansen commander.

Many service members are away from their families during the holiday season, so events like this one are one of many opportunities provided by Marine Corps Community Services and local communities as a way for service members to continue to celebrate.

“For (service members) tonight, this is a symbol of what they would do back home,” said Lewallen. “It really is a taste of home. This is a time to cherish family, honor old friendships and create new relationships. It is a time to celebrate and renew our faith in mankind, prosperity and peace. We thank

see **LIGHTING** pg 5

Residents of Kin Town and U.S. service members attend a Christmas tree lighting outside of Camp Hansen Nov. 30. The tree lighting ceremony is an annual event held between Kin Town and Camp Hansen to celebrate the Christmas season.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

3rd MEB now alert contingency MAGTF

2nd Lt. Jeremy Alexander

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade has been designated as the command element for the Asia-Pacific region’s alert contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

As the command element for the ACM, 3rd MEB is prepared to respond within 24 hours to crises throughout the region. In the event of a contingency, 3rd MEB will mitigate foreign or domestic crises, protect U.S. citizens and territories, or counter threats to U.S. national interests as needed.

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Forager Fury begins with historic landing

Lance Cpl. J. Cage Karwick

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands — Exercise Forager Fury 2012 officially began Nov. 28 as a Boeing 747-400 aircraft made history by being the first 747 to land at West Field here, delivering 160,000 pounds of equipment vital for execution of the exercise.

see **FORAGER** pg 5

Liberty measures refined

In order to reinforce responsible behavior and support our continued, positive relationships with the local communities we live in, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., Okinawa Area Coordinator for U.S. Forces Japan, has instituted refined instructions for all U.S. service members in Okinawa, as well as all U.S. Marines in Japan.

The following measures apply to all U.S. installations and service members on Okinawa and all Marines in Japan, effective immediately. Detailed instructions for implementing these policies have been issued to commands:

- 1. The sale of alcohol on U.S. military installations is prohibited from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily.**
- 2. The off-base purchase or consumption of alcohol is prohibited for all service members until further notice, with the single exception of consumption in your own off-base residence.**
- 3. Uniformed service members are prohibited from executing off-base or off-installation liberty when under the influence of alcohol. Under the influence is defined as meeting or exceeding .03 percent blood alcohol content. Uniformed service members with a BAC meeting or exceeding .03 percent are allowed off base only for the purpose of traveling directly to either their own off-base residence or to another military base or installation with no stops. Drivers remain subject to existing traffic regulations.**

These measures remain in effect until further notice, and are additive to other existing policies. The USFJ 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew remains in effect.

This policy recognizes that the overwhelming majority of American service members, dependents and civilian employees are law abiding, honorable and respectful.

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DUI

Think twice before driving

Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

You and your friends have been drinking at a promotion wet-down party. As the party dwindles down, people begin to leave and you and your friends follow suit. But wait, you have all been drinking. Now you and your friends have a decision to make. Or do you?

The correct and only answer is to call a cab. Driving under the influence is a dangerous and selfish act. You lose your cognitive ability to function properly, making you a major threat to those in the car, other drivers and pedestrians. Your depth perception is degraded and your reaction time is greatly diminished.

So, considering all of these factors, why do people continue to break the law? There are a number of life-changing consequences associated with drinking and driving.

The repercussions following a DUI start immediately. Aside from being placed in handcuffs and spending time in jail, plan on paying a fine that will undoubtedly cost far more than anything you might have spent on a cab.

The hits to your wallet will keep coming. Expect to shell out hundreds of dollars more as part of nonjudicial punishment, or you could face a court martial or imprisonment.

During the next several months you will continue to experience financial strain. Remember that cab ride you thought you didn't really need? Now, it will be your only option other than paying your friends gas money to cart you around after your

license is revoked. Without the ability to drive, you will become a burden to your friends and annoying to your spouse, creating a tremendous amount of stress.

But money and conveniences aren't everything, right? What about life itself? How much do you value yours? How much do you value the one you took when you chose to get behind the wheel under the influence? The taking of a life is irreversible, no matter how much money you've paid or

how much remorse you feel. You're sorry. Try telling that to the mother or father of the person you just killed. You just may have to in a court of law.

With a blood alcohol limit of .03 percent in

Okinawa, even one drink can put you in a precarious situation. You could end up tomorrow's headline. No, not the headline in your hometown newspaper. Instead you'd be the headline on international and national Japanese media. You might set back the relationship with our host nation that could take years to repair.

You might not feel impaired, but is it really worth the risk? Every time you drink, you must ask yourself one question: "Is getting behind the wheel worth the potential sacrifice to my money, my career, my life or someone else's?" If you're honest with yourself, the answer will always be no.

I challenge you to make the only logical and morally correct decision. Don't drink and drive. Look out for one another at all times. Don't be a bystander to a drunk driver; intervene.

Brooks is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

Look out for one another at all times. Don't be a bystander to a drunk driver; intervene.

THE AROUND CORPS



Marines conduct fast-rope training from a CH-53E Super Stallion onto the flight deck of the USS New York at sea Nov. 30. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group in the 6th Fleet's area of responsibility, serving as an expeditionary crisis response force capable of a variety of missions from full-scale combat to evacuations and humanitarian assistance. The Marines are with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Michael Petersheim



Sgt. Stephany Rector performs pull-ups outside of her office at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Dec. 3. Beginning in January 2014, female Marines will be required to complete pull-ups instead of the flexed-arm hang as part of their physical fitness test. Rector is an administrative specialist with the installation personnel administration center, Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. Photo by Lance Cpl. Tabitha Bartley



Afghan National Army Staff Sgt. Samandar Khan posts security during a partnered patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, Nov. 27. According to Khan, he learned a significant amount from the Marines and enjoys working with them during operations. Khan is a squad leader with Headquarters Tolai, 1st Kandak, 4th Brigade, 215th Corps. Photo by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Partnership broadens children's horizons

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP MCTUREOUS — William C. Bechtel Elementary School renewed its partnership with Kawasaki Elementary School during a ceremony in front of William C. Bechtel Elementary School here Nov. 28.

The partnership is designed to benefit both schools by encouraging interaction among the students, fostering a greater understanding of each other's cultures, and creating a brighter future for everyone.

"We renewed an old partnership, which was created ten years ago," said Carole Osman, the principal of William C. Bechtel Elementary School.

The ceremony started with remarks by the principal followed by the signing of the new partnership certificate.

"What could be more powerful than connecting our students with other students around the world," asked Osman.

No matter where you go in

the world, you will always have a connection with the people of that country through the children, according to Osman.

"Creating a partnership between Kawasaki Elementary School and Bechtel Elementary School is built on our belief that when our children befriend and begin to understand the world and its developments, they have the opportunity to learn some of life's most valuable lessons," said Kouji Kashima, principal of Kawasaki Elementary. "Values such as compassion, friendship and our connectedness as humans are just a few."

William C. Bechtel Elementary school consists mainly of military dependents, and Kawasaki Elementary's enrollment is mostly Japanese, according to Osman.

"For the children in Bechtel Elementary School, this partnership not only supports their education, it also allows them to create friendships and to see the world more globally," said Osman.

The ceremony was held to show



Carole Osman and Kouji Kashima renew their partnership agreement Nov. 28 during a ceremony at William C. Bechtel Elementary School on Camp MCTureous. Kawasaki Elementary School and William C. Bechtel Elementary School originally became partners 10 years ago to encourage interaction between students. Osman is the principal for William C. Bechtel Elementary school, and Kashima is the principal of Kawasaki Elementary School. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

respect to the host country's culture, as well as create more interaction with Kawasaki Elementary School, according to Osman.

"Hopefully in the future, both

schools will be able to interact with one another more often," said Kashima. "This is a renewal of an old friendship with our neighbors; it's a new beginning for us as well."

Playground rules keep children safe

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — "The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has long recognized the potential hazards that exist with the use of playground equipment," said Aaron M Davis, certified playground safety inspector with the Installations Safety Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "More than 200,000 estimated emergency room-treated injuries occur annually due to playground mishaps."

A public playground refers to apparatuses available for the use of children ages 2-12 years old.

Although playgrounds are intended for children's entertainment, there are many dangers children may face when the playground is not properly chosen, according to Davis.

"The community can create a safer environment for all children and contribute to the reduction of playground-related incidents by reporting broken playground equipment and choosing age-appropriate playgrounds," said Davis. "By being vigilant, knowing where your children play and what your children play on can prevent accidents."

The absence of appropriate supervision provides an open door for children to endanger themselves.

"I have two children and take them to the playground three to four times a month," said Staff Sgt. Joshua L. Brewer, a field radio operator and radio chief with 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. "I have experienced, that without supervision, a



The community can help ensure a safer environment for children and help reduce playground-related accidents by choosing age-appropriate playgrounds and reporting broken playground equipment.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

child's imagination can run free and will not measure the hazards when having fun on the playground."

As a part of a day at the playground, they make sure the playground is suitable and safe for their children to play, according to Brewer.

A playground can pose many hazards like falling, entanglement, impalement, entrapment, sharp points, corners, edges, and tripping hazards, according to Davis.

"The leading cause of accidents is due to falls," said Davis.

Although falls are the leading hazard found on playgrounds, injuries caused by sharp points are another hazard causing injuries.

"Sharp points, corners, or edges on any part of the playground or playground equipment may cut or puncture a child's skin," said Davis. "Sharp edges can cause serious lacerations if protective measures are not taken."

Another tip parents can take to prevent incidents on a playground is to pay attention

to drawstrings from clothing.

"Drawstrings on the hoods of sweatshirts, jackets and other upper body clothing can become entangled in playground equipment and can cause death by strangulation," said Davis.

Another form of strangulation on a playground is head entrapment, which can occur if a child enters an opening either feet or head first, according to Davis.

"Also, children should not wear their bicycle helmets while on playground equipment," said Davis. "There have been head entrapment incidents in which children wearing their bicycle helmets became entrapped in spaces that would not normally be considered a head entrapment danger. Community awareness of a playground hazards is important in preventing injuries."

These injuries can be avoided by reporting discrepancies to the playground owner, or people can report unsafe playground conditions or equipment by calling 645-3806.

BRIEFS

FEMALE DRESS AND SERVICE COVER

The Corps wants to hear from Marines about a possible new female dress and service cover. Take the improved female dress and service cap online survey at the link below. Survey ends Jan. 18, 2013.

Common access card users visit <https://usmcsurveys.natick.army.mil>.

Non-CAC enabled users visit <https://surveys.natick.army.mil/marines.cap.nsf>.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center is holding several blood drives during December. During the holiday season, it becomes difficult to meet the need for blood in the Pacific region. Help make this holiday season bright by giving the gift of life.

- Today at the Kadena Air Base Exchange from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 at the Kadena Air Base Exchange from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Dec. 14 at Kadena Air Base building 938 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 19 on Camp Lester at building 6017 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28 at Camp Schwab's Beachhead Enlisted Club from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, or to determine eligibility, call 643-7737.

HANUKKAH CALENDAR

Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

- Havdalah and Hanukkah at Kadena Air Base.

Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.

- Foster Hanukkah Festival, Camp Foster Chapel multipurpose room in building 455

Dec. 10 at 5 p.m.

- Candle lighting at the Camp Kinser Chapel

Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

- What is Hanukkah? An Introduction to the Jewish Holiday at the Camp Foster Chapel Annex

Dec. 12 at 5 p.m.

- A Very Hansen Hanukkah at the Camp Hansen Chapel

Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

- Shabbat Hanukkah at the Camp Foster Jewish Chapel

Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.

- Shabbat Hanukkah at the Camp Foster Jewish Chapel

MARINE CORPS TOYS FOR TOTS

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys at drop-off locations at the Army and Air Force Exchange at Camps Foster and Courtney and Kadena Air Base.

Volunteers are welcome to help collect toys on weekends.

For more details or for volunteer opportunities, call 645-8068.

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.



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, left, thanks Col. John C. Wright for his 40 years of service during Wright's retirement ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 29. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Wright is the chief of staff of MCIPAC. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Manning

Colonel retires after 40 years of service

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA—Col. John C. Wright retired at a ceremony here Nov. 29, following 40 years of committed and faithful service to the Corps.

Wright, the chief of staff of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1972 as a security forces guard, and his first tour was on the USS Independence.

"I never pictured myself where I am today," said Wright. "I was determined to be a Marine, although I never thought I would stay in longer than four years. I also never thought I would make it into the officer corps."

After turning 18, Wright received his draft notice for the Vietnam War, but instead of being drafted, he chose to enlist.

"All those I knew who were being drafted were going into the Army, and I did not want that to happen to me," said Wright. "I had always wanted to be a Marine because my grandfather was a Marine and he shared many good memories of his time in the Corps."

Another reason Wright desired to be a Marine was because of the Marine Corps' reputation of being a tough organization that truly cares about its members, according to Wright.

The reputation of taking care of its own holds true not only for Marines, but also their family members, according to Wright's wife Karen.

"I will miss it so much," she said. "I feel like I grew up as a Marine spouse. I've made many friends participating in numerous volunteer opportunities. The Marine Corps is my family."

Being a Marine wife has been an exciting and unforgettable adventure, according to Karen. After

37 years, the corporal she married is now retiring as a colonel.

"The Marine Corps was a huge influence on him since he enlisted at a young age," said Karen. "He's had many mentors over the years to help him become the successful person he is today, and I believe he will miss the Marine Corps immensely."

Adjusting to civilian life will take some time for Wright because he has spent many years wearing the uniform, according to his wife.

Many Marines inspired Wright throughout the years, but one of the most influential in his life was Maj. Gen. George M. Karamarkovich, according to Wright.

As a staff sergeant, Wright served with Karamarkovich while he was a squadron commander and again when Karamarkovich was the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Karamarkovich encouraged Wright to become a warrant officer and later a commissioned officer.

Other Marines Wright cites as mentors include junior officers who helped him early in his enlisted career, commandants who led the Marine Corps through trying times, and Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

"Maj. Gen. Talleri is a very sound leader whom I try to emulate as best I can," said Wright. "He is a superb general officer and a tremendous force for the Marine Corps."

Wright is a reliable Marine who always works to the best of his ability, and it is an honor to serve with him, according to Talleri.

"Some men were destined to be Marines, and there is no doubt that Wright is one of those men," said Talleri. "This is the life he was meant to live, and he has done



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, left, awards Col. John C. Wright the Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 29. Wright will continue to serve as the chief of staff for Marine Corps Installations Pacific after retiring from active-duty. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

it well. I know he has done a lot for his family and himself, but at the end of the day, he has done so much for our nation."

As Wright's career comes to a close, he has some advice to offer all Marines, current and future.

"Don't be an opportunist – create the opportunity," said Wright. "Be the participant you need to be in the Marine Corps, do it for the institution and not for yourself – in time, it will come back to you. Don't be satisfied with what is in your resume right now – always seek to improve yourself. Go to college – it will benefit you whether you want to stay in the Marine Corps or not. Encourage others to improve themselves. Finally, do not develop a zero-defect personality – people are going to make mistakes, and it is up to you as a leader or future leader to respond and help them when they fall short."

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Since its reactivation in December 2011, 3rd MEB has participated in Exercise Balikatan and the bilateral Amphibious Landing Exercise in the Republic of the Philippines, Exercise Ssang Yong in the Republic of Korea, command and control exercises Terminal Fury, Yama Sakura and Ulchi Freedom Guardian with regional allies, and conducted a staff exercise with members of the Malaysian Armed Forces in Malaysia.

These theater security cooperation exercises helped prepare 3rd MEB Marines for their new role as the command element for the ACM.

"We are participating in exercises every few months," said Lt. Col. Rodney Legowski, the operations officer for 3rd MEB. "It's good that we keep getting out the door to test our strategic agility and determine where we are at and what we can improve upon."

The 3rd MEB traces its roots back to 1917, when the 3rd Provisional Brigade was activated at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Since that time, 3rd MEB was provisionally activated for operations during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War and conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and provided support for various crises in Cuba, China, the Republic of the Philippines and Indonesia. Most recently, 3rd MEB participated in Operation Tomodachi, providing command and control of Marine Corps relief efforts.

As the Marine Corps reorients to the Pacific, it is necessary for 3rd MEB to continue growing and enhancing its capabilities.

"We're going to keep pressing forward and doing whatever we can in the Asia-Pacific region," said Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, the commanding general of 3rd MEB. "This is where our country's leadership has chosen to focus, and I have full confidence this is a unit they will be able to call on whenever needed."

Designation as the command element for the ACM comes only one month after the MEB reached initial operational capability.

Reaching IOC enhances 3rd MEB's ability to provide a tailored, scalable MAGTF prepared to rapidly deploy anywhere within the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

"Achieving IOC is important because it shows we are on schedule with our reactivation guidance from Headquarters Marine Corps," said Col. John A. Ostrowski, chief of staff for 3rd MEB.

The 3rd MEB is scheduled to achieve full operational capability during fiscal year 2013. The goal associated with FOC is for 3rd MEB to be qualified in its core missions, including the capability to be employed as a stand-alone Marine command element, as the lead element for III MEF operations, or as the nucleus of a joint task force.

"We continue to build and develop as a staff, and we want to ensure that as a standing command element, we add value to III MEF's crisis response capability," said Ostrowki. "Assumption as the ACM is part of a logical progression to that end."

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the community for their hospitality here."

Three years ago, the Kin Town Chamber of Commerce asked the service members of Camp Hansen to take part in the holiday event the chamber had been hosting for many years as a way to strengthen their relationship, according to Mark Roberts, the camp director of Camp Hansen.

The tree was in the center of Kin Town, but Kin Town residents felt the best place for it was in front of gate one. The town of Kin provides the tree each year, and Camp Hansen provides the space and both work together to plan the festivities.

Since the town and camp began hosting the event together three years ago, the event has expanded, and the number of participants continues to grow, according to Roberts.

"This event is one of the best ways to promote friendship between the Marine Corps and the local community – what better way to say you care," said Roberts.



A Himawari school age program participant receives a gift from Santa Claus at the annual Christmas tree lighting in Kin Town Nov. 30. The tree lighting ceremony is held annually between Camp Hansen and Kin Town to celebrate the Christmas season. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

Later in the night, Santa Claus and his helpers from the USO and the base chapel made their way over to Camp Hansen to present gifts to the 28 children from the Himawari school age program in Nago.

This event was seen by many as a way to share and strengthen relationships among the service members and local citizens, according to Morimitsu Kokuba,

the president of the Kin Town Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the time we need to understand each other," said Kokuba. "By doing things like this, we can (learn to) know each other as we live with each other. I personally hope there will be more opportunities for both the U.S. and local people to get to know each other as good neighbors."



A Boeing 747-400 aircraft is unloaded at Tinian International Airport, Northern Mariana Islands, Nov. 28 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The aircraft was the first 747 to land on Tinian and brought equipment vital for Marine Aircraft Group 12's execution of Forager Fury. The historic landing marked the beginning of the exercise, which is scheduled to be conducted through Dec. 19. MAG-12 is part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick

FORAGER from pg 1

Forager Fury is a Marine Aircraft Group 12 training exercise that will integrate Marine Air-Ground Task Force functions with an emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support to further develop distributed, expeditionary airfield capabilities.

"We needed to get all our equipment down here: fuel bladders, arresting gear, tents and everything we need to run the airfield for our MAG-12 fixed-wing aircraft while also supporting Navy helicopters," said Maj. Matthew Halbert, the airfield operations company commander and Tinian officer in charge for Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The airlift proved to be a great asset, and the landing proves a 747 can come into Tinian. It showed everybody what you can do with this airfield."

Any questions about the durability and size of the runway were answered as the 747 rolled down the taxiway under a setting sun and full moon.

"The runway was pretty much the same length as (Marine Corps Air Station) Iwakuni's," said Peter Pecenicic, the captain of the airplane with 21 years of experience flying 747s.

The goal of Forager Fury, which is scheduled to be conducted through Dec. 19, is to allow MAG-12 to demonstrate its ability to generate significant combat power in an expeditionary environment while building relationships with the local community.

During Forager Fury, Marines will conduct arrested landings and provide fuel storage and distribution for MAG-12 aircraft at Tinian's West Field and clear, strip and repair the landing surface on runways at Tinian's North Field.

"MAG-12 is always anxious to train on Tinian because the people of Tinian are very welcoming, appreciative and accommodating," said Maj. Jonathan Kehr, the logistics officer for MAG-12.

Planning for Forager Fury began in the summer, and an advance party of Marines arrived Nov. 27 to prepare for the group's equipment arriving on the 747.

"We started planning for (the exercise) in August, and even before that, we were looking at what we were going to do when we got here," said Halbert. "The event tonight has been smooth because of our logistical support, planning and all of the coordination of MAG-12's aircraft."

The people of Tinian expressed a warm welcome to the Marines and thanked them for returning after training on Tinian earlier this year.

"For a long time, our people have wanted Marines on the island," said Ramon Dela Cruz, the mayor of Tinian. "We know that the Marines would bring about a great economic opportunity to the people of Tinian. We welcome them and I hope in the future more will come. We encourage all of [the Marines] to come back as often as possible. We will always welcome them, and we hope they continue to return."

Service members with Headquarters and Service Battalion's corporals course plot their grid points before beginning the land navigation course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Nov. 28.



Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Elgin and Cpl. Chazz R. Peters verify their grid points during the land navigation course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Nov. 28. Elgin is a military policeman with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and Peters is a telephone systems personal computer repairer with Combat Logistics Regiment 35.



Cpl. Isis Ramirezblancas with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, navigates an azimuth through the thick vegetation at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Nov. 28. Ramirezblancas is a telephone systems personal computer repairer with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, Expeditionary Force.

Corporals course navigates jungle, strengthens

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As time ticks away, Marines navigate through the jungle trying to find their final checkpoint before the clock runs out.

Students with Headquarters and Service Battalion's corporals course raced against time when they traversed through the jungle during a land navigation course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves Nov. 30.

Land navigation is a perishable skill that requires consistent training to avoid forgetting the basics altogether.

"This course was hard to navigate, but fun," said Cpl. Jaylenn B. Person, a supply

administration and operations specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The terrain is thick the whole way. You cannot follow any paths because any paths you find could lead you to the road or deeper into the jungle," said Person.

The jungle terrain proved to be both physically demanding and dangerous to navigate, according to Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Elgin, a military policeman with Headquarters and

"You could tell the difference when they actually took their time to work as a team to get to their next point and when they were just rushing. When they worked as a team they moved smoother from one point to another."

Sgt. Justin D. Lofay

ourselves having to move from tree to tree, staying low and sometimes sliding down hills. The few hills we did climb required us to send our best climbers up with the rope and then throw the rope down for other Marines to make the climb."

Teamwork and listening to the instructor

Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"It was very difficult to maneuver through the jungle," said Elgin. "If you lose your footing you could injure your leg or ankle. We found



Headquarters and Service Battalion's Corporals course shoots on during the land navigation course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center. Lofay is a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Leadership skills

are key to making it through the course in the allotted amount of time, according to Sgt. Justin D. Lofay, an instructor with Headquarters and Service Battalion's corporals course and automotive maintenance technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

"You could tell the difference when they actually took their time to work as a team to get to their next point and when they were just rushing," said Lofay. "When they worked as a team they moved smoother from one point to another instead of accidentally going too far or winding up at the wrong point."

Headquarters and Service Battalion's corporals course plans on using the Jungle Warfare Training Center for future classes to practice their land navigation skills needed in the jungle.



Sgt. Justin D. Lofay, with Headquarters and Service Battalion's corporals course, climbs down a steep hill to reach his squad's next point during the land navigation course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Nov. 28. Land navigation is a perishable skill that requires consistent training in various environments, according to Cpl. Christopher M. Becker, an instructor with the Jungle Warfare Training Center. Lofay is an instructor with the course and an automotive maintenance technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Honoring, remembering sacrifices

Marines observe Native American service

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the first people to inhabit what is now the U.S., Native Americans and Alaskan natives have profoundly shaped our country's character and cultural heritage.

Since 1990, November has been designated as national Native American heritage month, and service members with the 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, hosted an observance at the Surfside club on Camp Kinser Nov. 30.

"It is important to hold these remembrances because of the sacrifices of the Native Americans," said Staff Sgt. Edward Fairley Jr., the equal opportunity representative for Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd MLG, III MEF. "If they had not sacrificed the way they did, there is a strong chance we would not be where we are today."

Such sacrifices involve the Native American involvement during World War II, which proved to be invaluable during the Pacific campaign, according to Staff Sgt. Lisa Thomas, a supply administration and operations specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III MEF.

"Navajo males between the ages of 17 and 32 were recruited by the Marine Corps for special duties as codetalkers," said Thomas. "They had to

be fluent in English and Navajo and be in good physical condition. In 1942, the first Navajo recruits boarded a bus to go to their seven-week training period at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego."

Thomas, a full-blooded Navajo, grew up on a reservation and read about the achievements of these men in local archives and attentively listened to stories from her grandmother about life on the reservation during World War II.

"The Navajo were not aware that our language was being used during the war," said Thomas. "It was not until after the codetalkers returned,

that people found out our language was used as a successful code during the war."

Common Navajo words formed the base of this code, which was never broken.

"Enemy forces desperately tried to break this code, but all attempts were unsuccessful," said Thomas. "Many Native Americans or anyone who looked like they could be Navajo and were prisoners of war, were tortured at the hands of their captors in attempts to crack the code."

This code helped save millions of lives, according to Fairley.

"Because of how they sacrificed to serve, we (are reinforced to learn) about honor, courage and commitment," said Fairley. "This is something we hold near and dear to our hearts as Marines. This is why we should recognize every culture that has served and continues to serve."

While working to forge a brighter future, one cannot shy away from the difficult aspects of our past, according to President Barack Obama.

"As we celebrate national Native American heritage month, let us move forward in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual trust, confident our challenges can be met and our shared future is bright," said Obama. "We celebrate in honor of the many ways Native Americans and Alaskan natives have enriched our nation, and we renew our commitment to respect each tribe's identity with ensuring equal opportunity in pursuing the American dream."

"We celebrate in honor of the many ways Native Americans and Alaskan natives have enriched our nation, and we renew our commitment to respect each tribe's identity with ensuring equal opportunity in pursuing the American dream."

President Barack Obama

Courier delivers mail with 20 years of dedication

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Some people might take for granted the luxury of having their mail delivered on time. However, without the dedication of mail couriers like Gorge Higa, many items would never reach their destinations.

Higa is a master labor contract employee with G-1, personnel and administrative manpower, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and recently received a certificate of gratitude for his 20 years of exemplary service.

For the past two decades, Higa has been a mail orderly for the Marine Corps on Okinawa. His job requires him to hand-deliver official documents across the island. Higa takes pride in his work and feels the tasks he executes are significant to both civilians and service members.

"I think sometimes people don't realize the importance of my job," said Higa. "The mail must go out on time every day."

Higa has lived in Chatan Town, Okinawa, his entire life.

"I started working with the Marine Corps in 1991," said Higa. "I had been working as an off-base contractor for 10 years prior, and working with the Marine Corps offered me a stable job with a good salary."

Throughout his career, Higa has performed all of his duties and more in an exemplary fashion and without fail, according to Curtis Kozlesky, the assistant chief of staff, G-1, MCIPAC.

"A special trust is placed in Mr. Higa to make sure the packages he carries are delivered on time and to their intended recipients," said Kozlesky.

Many items Higa carries are time sensitive to those receiving them.

"I can always rely on Mr. Higa to ensure the packages he delivers arrive on time and are accounted for," said Master Sgt. Edwin G. Fontillas, the acting adjutant with G-1, MCIPAC. "I never have to worry about any mail handled by Mr. Higa."

Although not a regular or assigned duty, Higa is also a designated driver for VIPs who arrive on Okinawa, further displaying his willingness to serve.

"When Mr. Higa is transporting personnel, he provides valuable cultural



Gorge Higa sorts mail during his daily route Nov. 21 at Camp Foster. Higa has spent more than 20 years as a master labor contract employee with the Marine Corps on Okinawa and was recently awarded a certificate of gratitude for exemplary service as a mail courier. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

background and historical information of the numerous areas they may visit," said Kozlesky.

Higa is always looking to continue the excellent work ethic he has established.

"Mr. Higa has a quality about him that makes him very proficient at the work that he does," said Fontillas. "If we get a high-priority package in, Mr. Higa will extend the courtesy of contacting me as soon as the package is out of his hands."

Twenty years may seem like a long time, but one thing that helps keep Higa around are the relationships he has developed with Marines.

"I love working with Marines," said Higa. "They are like sons and daughters to me. They are all good, caring people, and they give me the same respect as they would to a family member. I have enjoyed this work every year since I started."

Marines hone weapon systems during live-fire

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The sound of machine guns echo through the Central Training Area as smoke billows from their hot barrels and spent brass casings litter the ground.

This was the scene as Marines with Company A, 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF employed several weapons systems during a live-fire training exercise at the CTA near Camp Hansen Nov. 28.

The exercise included three phases of fire using the .50-caliber Browning machine gun, M240B medium machine gun and the M249 light machine gun.

“The goal of the training was to familiarize the Marines with multiple weapons systems, attain efficient combat readiness through confidence in the systems and enhance proficiency,” said 1st Lt. Norman M. Vigil, a platoon commander with the company.

Marines learn and retain more during hands-on training, according to Gunnery Sgt. Jason S. Auger, the operations chief with the company.

“They learn more out here, compared to sitting in the classroom,” said Auger. “The Marines



Lance Cpl. Kiri R. Gibson fires a .50-caliber Browning machine gun with assistant gunner Lance Cpl. Steven L. Slone during live-fire training at the Central Training Area on Camp Hansen Nov. 28. The live-fire exercise was designed to familiarize the Marines with multiple weapon systems to maintain combat readiness. During the exercise, the Marines also fired the M240B medium machine gun and the M249 light machine gun. They are both military policemen with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

had great instructors to help guide them and make them more confident when firing on the range.”

The instructors emphasized the importance of controlling a weapon, rather than the weapon controlling them.

“We had the Marines demonstrate how to properly execute immediate and remedial action in case of a stoppage, and we made sure the Marines knew all the

weapon conditions,” said Auger.

For some Marines, it was the first time they had fired a machine gun.

“It was an amazing experience, not only to refresh our skills, but to feel the power behind them,” said Lance Cpl. Kiri R. Gibson, a military policeman with the company. “The live-fire exercise not only helped me become proficient with the

weapon systems, but helped me build confidence as well.”

Marines enjoyed the live-fire training experience and have reinforced the basic fundamental that every Marine is a rifleman, according to Vigil.

“During combat situations, Marines have to take action and make decisions based on their training,” said Vigil. “Training is key to success in every area as a Marine.”

Marine named career planner of year, meritoriously promoted



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri meritoriously promotes Sgt. Richard G. Atkins to the rank of staff sergeant at building 1 on Camp Foster during his meritorious promotion ceremony Nov. 16. Atkins is the battalion career planner for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Talleri is the commanding general of MCB Camp Butler and MCIPAC. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

Lance Cpl. Daniel Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Working early mornings and late nights is nothing new for most Marines. However, add weekends to that and one would just start to scratch the surface of Sgt. Richard G. Atkins’ devotion to his job and fellow Marines.

Atkins, the career planner for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, was recognized for his hard work and dedication, and selected as the Marine Corps’ Career Planner of the Year and meritoriously promoted to the rank of staff sergeant at building 1 on Camp Foster Nov. 16.

“I’m in shock,” said Atkins. “I wasn’t expecting it – at all. I was just doing my job, and that is what I am going to continue to do,” said Atkins.

Balancing the requirements of a career planner, including keeping in contact with the battalions 1,600-plus Marines, conducting interviews, and processing re-enlistments can be difficult, according to Master Sgt. Marcus L. Cook, the career planner for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

“Atkins has done an outstanding job,” said Cook. “He works hard. He has a lot of Marines to deal with, and he takes care of those Marines and spends his off time ensuring the work is processed. He definitely deserves this award,” he said.

On a daily basis, the time and work a career planner puts into helping Marines can be overwhelming at times, according to Atkins.

“It has been difficult and demanding to be the career planner here,” said Atkins. “I owe my success to the Marines and my family. My wife is the person always supporting me, and my command is always there telling me to keep doing what I am doing and that my hard work will pay off.”

During Atkins’ promotion, Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and Marine Corps Installations Pacific, spoke about how it was an honor to have Atkins meritoriously promoted.

“This is a very special day,” said Talleri. “It isn’t every day that we have the opportunity to meritoriously promote a Marine to the staff noncommissioned officer ranks.”

“I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication and for all that he has done – just think about what it takes to earn the Career Planner of the Year award for the U.S. Marine Corps,” said Talleri. “We are very lucky to have him here with us.”

Atkins also spoke to the Marines attending the ceremony.

“I personally was not going to submit for the award,” said Atkins. “It was because of the guidance my leadership provided, and I am very thankful they pushed me to do this.”

OKINAWA GONE COUNTRY



Trace Adkins entertains a large crowd of service members, families and community members at Camp Hansen Dec. 1 during his concert sponsored by the USO. As Adkins sang his Marine Corps-inspired song, "Semper Fi," the crowd's energy grew and chants of "Ooh-rah" echoed throughout Camp Hansen. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

Trace Adkins performs free concerts at Hansen, Kadena

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Most rainy nights people seek shelter and fun indoors. However, on this evening, a crowd gathered in the rain to dance and sing along with one of country music's most recognizable voices.

Trace Adkins, a four-time grammy-nominated country music star, visited Okinawa and performed free concerts at Camp Hansen and Kadena Air Base Dec. 1 and 2 for service members, families and the community.

Adkins spent part of his first day meeting Marines and sailors at Camp Hansen before his much anticipated performance later that evening.

"I'm from the middle of nowhere, and I grew up listening to his music," said Lance Cpl. Rachael D. Wilson, an enthused member of the audience and field radio operator with Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division,

III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It was awesome being able to meet him in person."

The USO hosted Adkins' seventh USO tour in 11 years, which is a testament to the desire that both the artist and the organization have for supporting the troops.

"There is nothing more important to me than family," said Adkins. "They are what matters most in my life. That's why I always look forward to doing these USO tours. In many ways, this organization has become family to me.

"Of course, we can never forget who we're doing this for, the brave individuals in uniform and those who support them around the world," Adkins explained.

Throughout these tours, Adkins has entertained more than 29,000 service members.

"I came to have a good time and I definitely did," said Cpl. Michael A. Peters, an audience member and mortarman with Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. "This was

something great for all of us to look forward to, even if you don't like country music."

The multiplatinum-selling artist told the crowd of fans at Camp Hansen's concert how he had contemplated enlisting in the Marine Corps as a young adult.

As Adkins sang his Marine Corps-inspired song, "Semper Fi," the crowd's energy grew and chants of "Ooh-rah" echoed throughout the camp.

"It was great to see this part of American culture," said Risa Tamaki, a concertgoer. "I was excited to see and listen to him play country music."

After Adkins finished his final song, the audience shouted for one more song. Adkins responded moments later, capping off a rainy, but fun-filled concert.

"It was great to have a taste of home so close to the holidays," said Wilson. "This is the first country music concert I've been to in almost two years."

In Theaters Now

DECEMBER 7-13

FOSTER

TODAY Closed due to III Marine Expeditionary Force Band holiday concert
SATURDAY Rise of the Guardians (PG), 6 p.m.; Skyfall (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Skyfall (PG13), 1 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Life of Pi (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Won't Back Down (PG), noon; Life of Pi (PG), 3 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Life of Pi (PG), 1 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Rise of the Guardians (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Killing Them Softly (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 2 p.m.; The Possession (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Life of Pi (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Skyfall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Possession (PG13), 4 p.m.; Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Man with the Iron Fists (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 3 p.m.; The Man with the Iron Fists (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 3 p.m.; The Man with the Iron Fists (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Flight (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Possession (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Flight (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 2 p.m.; Dredd (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Looper (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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

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



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The thrift shop needs volunteers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays at Camp Kinser and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma; Wednesdays at Camps Courtney and Foster; Thursdays at Camps Hansen and Schwab; and Saturdays at all locations. Volunteers can sign up at the SMP office. Lunch will be provided.
- Toys for Tots needs volunteers to man the donation boxes every Friday through Sunday in three-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Volunteers can call 622-9636 or email ahmed.walker@usmc.mil for more information.

SMP BLACK AND WHITE HOLIDAY PARTY - DEC. 24

- Come dressed to impress for an evening of fine dining, prizes, dancing and entertainment at the Manza Beach Resort Hotel. Ticket includes dinner, entertainment and transportation to and from the event from each base. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 17.

CAMP FUJI SKI TRIP - FEB. 15-19

- Feel the rush of the outdoors during the SMP Camp Fuji ski trip in February. Contact the SMP office for more information and to sign up.

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

Japanese phrases

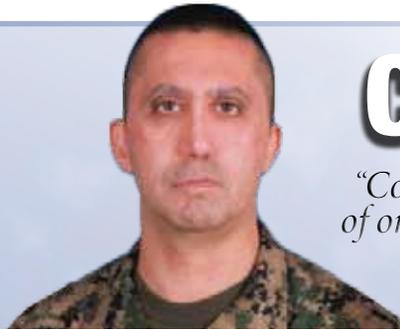
of the week:

“Itadaki masu.”

(pronounced: ee-tah-dah-kee-mahs)

People say it before eating, such as a grace.

It means, “thank you for the food,” although it is literally translated to, “I’m going to humbly eat.”



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“Continuous inspection and reflection of one’s self and one’s motives is likewise required in order to maintain a ‘watertight’ personal integrity.”

Continuous inspection helps maintain integrity

Lt. Cmdr. Alfred V. Pena

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC/MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BUTLER DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Integrity is a key element in successful military life and leadership. Medal of Honor recipient Vice Adm. Lawson Ramage once said, “Without integrity, no officer can command the loyalty, respect or confidence of either their juniors or seniors.”

What is integrity? In mechanical terms, a ship’s watertight integrity can mean the difference between sinking or staying afloat, even when the ship has been heavily damaged.

Keeping a ship watertight requires continuous inspection of all its areas, large or small, in order to prevent the potential compromising of the ship’s integrity.

In human beings, continuous inspection and reflection of one’s self and one’s motives is likewise required in order to maintain a “watertight” personal integrity.

Personal integrity is synonymous with our Navy and Marine Corps core values of honor, courage and commitment. The

words “honesty” and “trustworthiness” may also come to mind when thinking of our core values. Like the watertight integrity of a ship, strong personal integrity can mean the difference between failing (sinking), or succeeding (staying afloat) in one’s personal life and career.

A good way to start building integrity comes from three simple rules that anyone, regardless of rank or position, can practice:

1. Show up to work on time. Never be late.
2. Put in a good day’s work. Do your job well and thoroughly – no shortcuts on quality.
3. Don’t break the law. Obey the rules. Never compromise lawful orders and regulations.

These are tried and true ways to gain and maintain the trust and confidence of your subordinates and seniors alike. If you faithfully keep to these simple practices, you will be well on your way to building and guarding a reputation of watertight integrity that will translate into success in your personal life and military career.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”