

OKINAWA MARINE

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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Lejeune infantry battalion arrives



Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, welcomed 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, to Okinawa during a welcome aboard brief Jan. 31 at the Camp Schwab theater.

The arrival of the Camp Lejeune, N.C., based 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regiment, now brings a current total of two infantry battalions to

Okinawa since the resumption of the unit deployment program last summer. The Hawaii-based 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, is also on Okinawa under the UDP.

3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regiment, is now assigned to 4th Marine Division, III MEF, while on Okinawa under the UDP, according to Capt. Brian N. Smith, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regiment.

“The battalion is here

under the UDP because it is where the Marine Corps needs us right now,” said Smith. “The Marines understand the strategic importance of being here in Okinawa and of our activities in the Asia-Pacific region. We are excited to be in a position to support our country’s interests and mission abroad.”

The Jungle Warfare Training Center and countries in the region provide unique training environments for units on Okinawa
see **UDP** pg 5

Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla speaks with Marines of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Jan. 31 at the Camp Schwab theater during a welcome aboard brief. The battalion is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Padilla is the commanding general of 3rd Marine Division. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

Nepal, US initiate relief exercise

2nd Lt. Jeremy Alexander
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — The government of Nepal, U.S. Departments of Defense and State, international and national agencies, and approximately 40 Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force began a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief table-top exercise

Feb. 2 in Katmandu, Nepal.

The purpose of the exercise is to improve III MEF’s readiness and ability to respond to an HADR scenario in Nepal through extensive coordination, training and planning with participating members.

Prior to the exercise, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III MEF, conducted a simulated alert contingency Marine Air-Ground

Task Force fly-away drill Feb. 1. The drill was designed to increase 3rd MEB’s ability to rapidly deploy in response to natural disasters and other crises that could occur in the Asia-Pacific region.

“A real HADR scenario will involve a lot of different Marines and sailors from III MEF and its major subordinate commands,”

see **NEPAL** pg 5

Cambodia MEDEX 13-1 concludes

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and U.S. Marine Corps medical personnel concluded Cambodia Medical Exercise 13-1 Jan. 31 with a ceremony at Preah Ket Melea Hospital in Phnom Penh highlighting the lessons learned and mutual benefits for both militaries during the exercise.

RCAF medical personnel and the U.S. medical personnel with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, took part in the exercise to share expertise and ideas to further develop both militaries’ medical capabilities. The Cambodia and U.S. armed forces have conducted medical exercises together since 2007.

Participants were presented with certificates of completion for taking part in Cambodia MEDEX 13-1, which
see **CAMBODIA** pg 5

Artillery live-fire at Camp Fuji begins with blast

Lance Cpl. Austin J. Lapierre fires an M777 A2 155 mm howitzer Jan. 30 during Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2 in the East Fuji Maneuver Area. The live-fire portion of Fire Dragon provides Marines the opportunity to enhance their mission capabilities in artillery operations. Lapierre is a field artillery cannoneer with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 3. Photo by Cpl. Carl G. Payne



IN THIS ISSUE

TOP SHOOTERS, TEAMS RECOGNIZED FOLLOWING DIVISION MATCHES

PG. 4

CORPORALS COURSE CULMINATES

Newly promoted corporals put skills to test at the Central Training Area.

PGS. 6-7

WALKING FOR FRIENDSHIP

Participants experience cultural and historical sites, while promoting healthy lifestyle and friendship.

PG. 8

Celebrate covenant in relationships

Love is being held accountable for promises

John Freiberg

Few things are as powerful as relationships. Nothing can breathe life into a person like a healthy, vibrant relationship with another human being. Conversely, few things can cause as much pain and destruction as a bad relationship.

So what is one thing this Valentine's Day and beyond that you can consider and put into practice to strengthen your relationship?

Covenant, do not consume. We live in a consumer culture. From youth, we are taught that if we want to be successful and happy we must obtain the best toys, nicest clothes and newest cars. We orient our lives around what we can consume.

This mindset can seep into our relationships if we view each other based on what we can get from one another, as if we were exchanging goods and services to be consumed. As long as your significant other can meet your desires at a cost acceptable to you, the relationship continues. However, when the amount of work we have to put into a relationship outweighs the amount of benefit we get, or when we are no longer making a "profit" on the relationship, we bail. That philosophy may make good economic sense, but it will cause disaster if

applied to your relationships.

There is a better way. Since the beginning of time, relationships between humans have been recognized not in a consumer sense, but in a covenant sense. The word covenant comes from an ancient Hebrew word that

"Only within the safety of a relationship bound by a solemn covenant, sealed with the power of faithful promise are we truly free to be who we are and love our significant other for who they really are."

describes a solemn promise accompanied by public oaths and ceremonies. This is why marriage ceremonies include the exchanging of vows and signing of legal documents in the presence of witnesses to hold us accountable to the promises we have made.

Covenants are binding, and do not leave any options. This may sound scary, especially to those of us who value our personal freedom. However, the irony and one of the most powerful truths about healthy relationships is that, only within the safety of a relationship bound by a solemn covenant, sealed with the power of faithful promise are

we truly free to be who we are and love our significant other for who they really are.

A consumer relationship requires constant self-marketing as we continually work to sell ourselves to each other in the hopes of keeping the relationship going. However, a covenant-based relationship provides the security to reveal our true selves. We can truly be vulnerable, lay down our defenses, and be completely who we are. A consumer relationship promises conditional love for the moment as long as our spouse contin-

ues to perform. A covenant promises love now and forever, regardless of circumstance.

This Valentine's Day, enjoy the thrill of the moment, but also

take some time to revisit, renew, and re-

store your commitment and think of your relationships as a covenant. Alternatively, if you are not involved in a

relationship, take time to re-evaluate what you are looking for in a partner. My hope is that you will understand the power of the covenant with each other.

Freiberg is the deputy director for the Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operation, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.





AROUND THE CORPS



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Monssen hands out candy to Afghan children Jan. 26 in Nawa district, Helmand province, Afghanistan. U.S. Marines, British Royal Engineers and members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers checked on the progress of a canal being built during a visit to the district. Monssen is the sergeant major for 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert Walters*



A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter prepares to pick up Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members during helocast training Jan. 31 near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Marines with Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, trained with JGSDF members to exchange tactics and operating procedures while strengthening ties between the countries' service members. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns*

OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Kinser

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Marines fire M777 A2 155 mm howitzers during Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2 Feb. 1 in the East Fuji Maneuver Area at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji. Marines are conducting live-fire training to enhance combat readiness. The Marines are with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Carl G. Payne

Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2 commences at Camp Fuji

Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI — Marines began regimental-level artillery Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2 Jan. 28 at the North and East Fuji Maneuver Areas.

The Marines of 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, are conducting artillery live-fire, small-arms, crew-served weapons and convoy training to maintain combat readiness.

"Fire Dragon is an important exercise for the 12th Marine Regiment," said Lt. Col. Jason P. Brown, commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. "As part of the regiment, 3rd Battalion has deployed part of its Headquarters Battery, and 1st Battalion has deployed Echo Battery. The exercise is designed to allow the regiment to conduct live-fire artillery training in the North and East Fuji Maneuver Areas."

Echo Battery is conducting the live-fire portion of training while Headquarters Battery is

exercising command and control of Echo Battery.

"As the only firing battery taking part in Fire Dragon, our role is to conduct fire and maneuver drills to maintain and increase combat readiness," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher K. Folkes, battery gunnery sergeant for Echo Battery.

Safety is paramount during any training evolution, and to promote safe training, Marines conducted route reconnaissance patrols prior to live-fire training, according to Folkes.

"Most of the Marines in Echo Battery have not been to Camp Fuji before, so this training area is new to them," said Folkes. "We usually train in Hawaii at the Pohakuloa Training Area, which never has snow and is not as high in elevation as Camp Fuji, so it was important to familiarize the Marines with the maneuver areas."

Adjusting to the terrain and climate creates challenges not only for transporting equipment and personnel, but also for small-unit leaders, according to Brown.

"I want to see engaged small-unit leadership during this exercise," said Brown. "I want to see noncommissioned officers rise to the occasion and stay engaged with their Marines while keeping their health and welfare at the forefront of daily activities."

The regiment's NCOs are ready to rise to any challenges during the exercise, according to Cpl. Peter K. Daugherty, a motor transport mechanic for 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment.

"Small-unit leadership is crucial during exercises like this because NCOs have the opportunity to constantly be around their Marines," said Daugherty. "It provides us with the chance to operate in a deployed environment and accomplish our mission while ensuring the safety and well-being of our Marines."

Despite the challenges that lay ahead, the Marines are excited about the exercise, according to Folkes.

"We are constantly preparing ourselves to fight in any climate and place," said Folkes.

Students perform at town hall meeting

Students with the Bechtel Elementary School's multicultural dance and Eisa drum and dance clubs perform a traditional Japanese Eisa dance Jan. 31 at the Camp Courtney theater prior to a Camp Courtney town hall meeting. The performance opened the town hall meeting, which is designed to facilitate discussion between the military community and leadership and keep residents of the camp informed on upcoming events and current issues.

Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



BRIEFS

PMO LOST AND FOUND

Lost items turned in to the Provost Marshal's Office can be recovered at the installation PMO nearest to where the item was lost. Camp Foster PMO picks up unclaimed items at the beginning of every month and inventories and stores them for 180 days at Camp Foster PMO before being submitted for disposal.

If a lost item is in PMO's possession, it will be returned to the owner once ownership has been verified by serial number, receipt, photo evidence or a detailed description.

Items such as wallets, credit cards, keys, cell phones, military clothing, backpacks, bicycles, video games and more are currently in the PMO lost and found.

For more details, call 645-3955.

NAVY FLEET GIFT SHOP

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop, previously located on Camp Lester, has moved to Camp Shields near the Crow's Nest Club. A ribbon-cutting and reopening ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.

For more details, call 959-4911 or visit www.fleetgiftshop.com.

TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM TESTING

Every Friday at noon, the tsunami warning system will activate a test message sequence across all Marine Corps installations and White Beach Naval Facility.

At noon, on the last Friday of each month, the test of the tsunami warning alert, which would signify a real-world warning, will sound. The alert test will audibly activate the following sequence: test message, alert message, test message.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation will conduct a marriage enrichment retreat Feb. 21-23 at Nikko Alivila Resort. To register, visit www.mccsokinawa.com/CREDO or contact CREDO at 645-3041 or CREDO.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil.

Marriage enrichment retreats are regularly scheduled on a monthly basis at various locations.

LESTER GATE CLOSURE

Camp Lester Gate 1 is closed. All Lester traffic should use Gate 2, the Lester Middle School entrance. Be aware that school traffic will continue using this gate, so allow extra time during bus hours and be watchful for students.

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.

JGSDF, Marines build bridges

Pfc. Kasey Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Combat engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conducted training on the assembly of medium-girder bridges here Feb. 1.

Three JGSDF officers participated as part of the Japan Observer Exchange Program, which allows members of the Marine Corps and JSDF to share techniques and tactics while strengthening camaraderie and interoperability between the service members.

JGSDF officers and the Marines began the training with an overview of the seven main parts of the bridge and then worked together to assemble a single-story, medium-girder bridge.

“It was more than a demonstration of capabilities,”

said 1st Lt. Matthew R. Massman, a combat engineer officer with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “It was an opportunity to learn from each other, as we both discussed how the engineer aspect of our units function.”

The bridge consists of top panels that are pinned together to form two girders and joined at each end by a beam. This type of bridge is commonly used in a deployed environment and requires 12-18 engineers to assemble.

“We had a great experience working with the Marines and learning how their bridge system functions,” said 1st Lt. Shomei Ugaki, an infantry officer with 27th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, Northern Army, JGSDF. “The only way to understand the Marine Corps and its values is to get involved with the Marines. We did that through



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force 2nd Lt. Akihiro Oyabu, center, helps carry a ramp to the end of a medium-girder bridge Marines and JGSDF members constructed Feb. 1 at Camp Hansen. JGSDF officers spent time with 9th Engineer Support Battalion over a five-week period, learning the different aspects and functions of 9th ESB. Oyabu is an infantryman with 12th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army, JGSDF. The Marines are with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

training and spending time with them at work and on liberty, really getting to know each other.”

The JGSDF officers conducted training with 9th ESB over a five-week period.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to share the way we do things,” said Cpl. Cole T. Passick, a combat engineer

with 9th ESB. “It is important to work with a variety of different people. When you are deployed, you never know who may be there to help assemble a bridge, and you have to be able to trust those working next to you.”

While the purpose of the training was to show the capabilities and construction

of the bridge, all the service members benefitted from the time spent together, according to Ugaki.

“We don’t get very many opportunities to meet other militaries or get away from our normal routines,” said Ugaki. “I enjoyed my experience and would recommend it to my fellow officers.”

Medals awarded to top shots at Far East Division Matches

Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — An awards ceremony was held Feb. 1 at the Camp Hansen theater recognizing the winners and medalists of the 2013 Far East Division Matches.

Staff Sgt. Elliot A. Stanton, an electronic key management system manager with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, finished first in the individual pistol competition.

“Taking first in pistol was pretty exciting,” said Stanton. “Sweat, dedication, visualization and mental management are what made me successful. Even though this is my third division match, I am still learning new things about marksmanship.”

Finishing first in the individual rifle competition was Sgt. Brent M. Payne, a counterintelligence and human intelligence specialist with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

The Combat Logistics Regiment 35 rifle team was awarded the Lloyd trophy for finishing first in the team rifle competition. CLR-35 is a part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

The Marine Corps Base Camp Butler pistol team was awarded the Shively trophy for finishing first in the team pistol competition. MCB Camp Butler is a part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The Far East Division Matches is one of four division matches held throughout the Marine Corps annually as part of the competition-in-arms program, according to Staff Sgt. Jonathan E. Shue, a small-arms weapons instructor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, Weapons Training Battalion, Training Command, Training and Education Command.



Chief Warrant Officer Scott W. Richards is awarded his second distinguished shooting medal following the 2013 Far East Division Matches award ceremony Feb. 1 at the Camp Hansen theater. Richards is one of approximately 50 double-distinguished marksmen on active-duty in the Marine Corps. He is the captain of the Marine Corps Base Camp Butler shooting team, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

“When Marines compete in division matches, they get detailed instruction on competitive shooting for the pistol and rifle,” said Shue. “The instruction is more in-depth than Marines’ annual rifle and pistol qualifications.”

During division matches, Marines fire 20 rounds standing from the 200-yard line and 20 rounds prone from the 500-yard line in addition to conducting reload during rapid-fire drills with the service rifle. For pistol matches, Marines must fire 30 rounds of slow-fire from the 25-yard line using only one hand and conduct rapid-fire and reload drills.

“This is one of the only intramural sports that directly reflects combat,” said Shue. “They come out of the competition better marksmen by learning the fundamentals and mental management.”

Shooting is 90 percent mental, and maintaining one’s focus and relaxation is key to succeeding in

marksmanship competition, according to Stanton.

“Handling the pressure is a big part of mental management when shooting,” said Stanton. “Marines must calm down, clear their minds, and only think of what they need to do to shoot center target.”

Competitors who placed in the top 10 percent were awarded medals, as well as points for cumulative awards to be earned at future division matches. A gold medal is worth 10 points, silver 8 points and bronze 6 points. Once a Marine accumulates 30 points, they receive the distinguished shooter badge.

“There are currently only 50 or so Marines on active-duty who are distinguished in both the pistol and rifle,” said CWO Scott W. Richards, the captain for the MCB Camp Butler team and a newly double-distinguished shooter following the Far East Division Matches, his fifth division match.

“I intend to continue competing,” said Richards. “I still learn every time I compete. Everyone can learn from these matches, and those who master the fundamentals will be the ones awarded at the end.”

In 1775, Marines first stood atop naval vessels as sharpshooters, and throughout their history, Marines have shown the world that the deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle, according to Col. Richard D. Hall, the guest speaker for the ceremony, Camp Schwab commander and commanding officer of 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

“As our 29th Commandant Gen. Alfred M. Gray Jr. once said, ‘Every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary,’” said Hall. “You have done what every Marine should continue to do in their career, and that is strive to be the greatest marksmen in the finest fighting force the world has ever known.”

Marines conduct maritime navigation

Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force plot their next move Jan. 31 at White Beach Naval Facility during a maritime navigation course. The two-week course taught students techniques needed to navigate small boats in open waters from over the horizon. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr



CAMBODIA from pg 1

included subject-matter expert exchanges, emergency and operation room observations, medical record-keeping seminars and a cultural exchange visit.

During the exercise, RCAF and U.S. personnel worked side-by-side to develop a better understanding of how the other's service works.

"Every time I come here, I learn something new about this facility and the how the Cambodian military provides health care," said Lt. j.g. Kevin Reid, a health care administrator with the battalion on his third visit to Cambodia.

Cambodian military personnel agreed that the exercise was beneficial to both countries, according to Royal Cambodian Army Brig. Gen. Dayuth Keo, the deputy director of the hospital.

"This training provides knowledge and experience to our armed forces," said Keo. "The training is short, but we gain a lot and it is very important."

The exercise provided an opportunity for the U.S. medical personnel to enhance their knowledge while exchanging expertise and experiences.

"I relish any opportunity I have to teach and learn with another



U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lawrence Decker, right, listens to a patient's chest at the Preah Ket Melea Hospital, Phnom Penh, Jan. 25 during Cambodia Medical Exercise 13-1. Marine Corps and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces medical personnel worked together during subject-matter expert exchanges to increase medical capability, capacity and interoperability. Decker is the subject-matter expert in emergency medicine with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

country's medical personnel," said Lt. Cmdr. Lawrence Decker, the officer in charge for the exercise and subject-matter expert in emergency medicine with the battalion. It is good to discuss medical issues with other country's personnel to determine what we can learn from one another and continue developing better treatment for our patients."

The exercise was effective,

valuable and informative to all of the participants, according to Keo, who thanked the U.S. medical personnel for all their hard work throughout the exercise during the closing ceremony.

"We would like to spread our (gratitude) to all instructors for providing and sharing their medical knowledge and experience," said Keo. "We look forward to the next time we can work together."

UDP from pg 1

under the UDP, according to Padilla.

"We are shifting some of our focus back to fighting in the jungle," said Padilla. "The UDP allows these Marines to come from the U.S. to train in the jungle terrain of Okinawa, as well as with key allies and partner nations in the region."

During the battalion's deployment, it will participate in training exercises both on and off Okinawa, according to Padilla.

"You are forward deployed while here so you can respond to any contingency that may occur in this region," said Padilla. "You are also going to conduct operations and training with our allies in the region. Above all else, remember — you are a force in readiness."

Sgt. Maj. Bruce H. Cole, the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Division, also spoke to the battalion's Marines about his expectations.

"I have heard nothing but good things about this battalion, and I hope that continues here on Okinawa and when you train with our allies," said Cole.

During the brief, Col. Richard D. Hall, the commanding officer of 4th Marine Regiment and Camp Schwab commander, explained the importance of being good ambassadors while stationed abroad.

"We are guests of all the nations we train with," said Hall. "I am already impressed with what I have seen regarding this battalion's behavior. You understand what it means to be Marines and carry yourselves accordingly. Continue setting that example."

"Every nation we train with holds us to a high standard because of the Marine Corps' legacy," said Hall. "We have great relationships with the Japan Self-Defense Force and the Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand and Republic of the Philippines Marine Corps. Our relationships with our fellow Marines are the envy of other militaries in the region, and we cannot afford to ruin our reputation by making careless decisions."

The Marines are looking forward to training throughout the region, according to Smith.

"We expect to conduct the same tough, realistic training we conducted before arriving," said Smith. "The Marines are eager to see more of the region and for the off-island training opportunities in different countries with foreign militaries."

"I hope the Marines take away some new experiences and are able to learn new skills as far as being able to operate in a jungle environment," said Smith. "They will be able to see another side of the Marine Corps that very few in the battalion have been exposed to."

NEPAL from pg 1

said Lt. Col. Steven Himelspach, the future operations officer for 3rd MEB. "HADR support begins with activating the III MEF crisis action team and concludes when designated forces redeploy back to Okinawa. Testing and evaluating our current ACM procedures allows us to more effectively respond to a real crisis."

Once participants arrived in Nepal, they transitioned to the table-top exercise, a coordinated approach to planning and simulating execution of HADR operations between the government of Nepal, U.S. Embassy Katmandu, III MEF, U.S. Army Pacific, Pacific Air Forces, multinational contributing nations and nongovernmental and international organizations.

"This exercise will allow us to develop and refine the multinational coordination center concept and discuss how this concept works within the Nepal disaster response framework," said Maj. Jude Shell, the lead 3rd MEB planner for the exercise. "This is in accordance with the multinational

forces standard operating procedure, which is a document designed to increase the speed of response, interoperability, mission effectiveness and unity of effort in multinational force operations within the Asia-Pacific region during crises."

III MEF's posture allows it to rapidly respond to crises and natural disasters throughout the region, including Nepal, to support and assist partner nations with HADR operations, according to Col. John A. Ostrowski, the chief of staff for 3rd MEB.

A field training exercise is scheduled to be conducted in the fall of 2013 to test the practical application of operations and procedures discussed during the table-top exercise.

"In addition to training for an HADR scenario, this exercise is an excellent opportunity to build relationships between III MEF, Nepal and participating countries and agencies in the Asia-Pacific region," said Ostrowski.



Cpl. Anthony L. Dale reports the location and details of a simulated improvised explosive device Jan. 29 at the Central Training Area during the culminating event of the III MHG-sponsored corporals course. Upon arrival to the CTA, Marines separated into three squads and patrolled a path rigged with simulated IEDs. Dale is a student in the course and an intelligence specialist with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MHG, III MEF.

Corporals course culminates in Central Training Area

Story and photos by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

After weeks of rigorous training, one final event remained for one group of newly promoted Marine corporals, requiring them to take everything they learned and put it to use in a high-stress combat-like environment.

Students with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group-sponsored corporals course completed the course's culminating event Jan. 29 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen.

The culminating event required students to apply many of the tactics and fundamentals learned throughout the course, including patrolling, helicopter insertions and extractions, improvised explosive device detection and military operations on urban terrain.

"The most important part of the course is the solid foundation of leadership these young noncommissioned officers can take away," said Staff Sgt. Hector A. Mendoza, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of the course. "These types of courses are designed to set Marines up for success. They can use this knowledge to better lead their junior Marines and develop the next generation of Marine leaders."

The event began with a foot patrol across Camp Hansen to a landing zone, where the Marines loaded into two MV-22B Ospreys and flew to the CTA. Upon arrival, the Marines separated into three squads and patrolled a path rigged with simulated IEDs.

"I was very satisfied with the way the Marines performed during the IED training," said Sgt. James T. Wilkins, the chief instructor for the course. "This was the best way for us to see if the Marines retained what we taught them. They found the IEDs, reacted appropriately, and showed me that they paid attention and strived to do their best."

The Marines then progressed to the MOUT facility, where they practiced room-clearing procedures and repelled enemy aggressors played by their instructors.

The course refreshed the Marines on basic

Marine Corps skills that can deteriorate without practice, according to Cpl. Tabitha M. Beasley, a student in the course and intelligence specialist with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MHG, III MEF.

"The training we did today was, in certain aspects, the highlight of my Marine Corps career," said Beasley. "Throughout the course, we came together and built strong relationships. We showed that camaraderie and teamwork today during our execution of the mission."

The purpose of the course was to provide students the basic knowledge and skills necessary to be successful small-unit leaders, according to Mendoza.

The course is designed for corporals to finish with confidence, develop leadership abilities, and return to their units better prepared to lead, develop and mentor their Marines.



Sergeants James T. Wilkins, left, and Kevin J. Van Arman begin the culminating event of the III Marine Expeditionary Force corporals course.



Marines clear a room Jan. 29 at the military operations on urban terrain facility during the III MHG-sponsored corporals course. Instructors acted as aggressors during the training to make the scenario as realistic as possible.



Van Arsdale, right, guide Marines as they exit an MV-22B Osprey Jan. 29 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Ospreys transported Marines into the training area to support the III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group-sponsored corporals course. Wilkins and Van Arsdale are course instructors.



Cpl. James J. Amirault looks for simulated improvised explosive devices Jan. 29 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen during the III MHG-sponsored corporals course. Amirault is a student in the course and an engineer equipment electrical systems technician with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

corporals course. The course

Tedako walk promotes healthy lifestyle, friendship

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The rumble of drums and the excited cheers of children echoed as local residents readied themselves by stretching and conducting warm-up exercises, marking the beginning of the Urasoe City tedako walk.

The two-day event takes place annually in early February, using courses of varying distances. The first course starts at Urasoe Athletic Park and continues past many historic and cultural sites, giving participants the chance to enjoy local scenery while practicing a healthy lifestyle.

"This walk gives the citizens of Urasoe the motivation they need to live a healthy life," said Mitsuo Gima, the mayor of Urasoe City. "Not only does it give them this motivation, but also the opportunity to visit cultural and historical sites."

Col. John E. Kasperski, the Camp Kinser commander and commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, accompanied Gima during the opening day of the walk.

"This is one of the many events I like to attend out in town each year, especially because of the large number of Marines and local residents who participate," said Kasperski. "This shows the Marines who attend that there is so



Mitsuo Gima and Col. John E. Kasperski participate the opening day of the annual Urasoe City tedako walk Feb. 2. The two-day event allowed participants to experience historic sites while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Gima is the mayor of Urasoe City, and Kasperski is the Camp Kinser commander and commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

much more to the Okinawa culture than what they see while traveling between bases."

The walk allowed both Gima and Kasperski to speak about similarities between the U.S. and Okinawa while strengthening the relationship between Urasoe City and Camp Kinser. Kasperski opened the gates of Camp Kinser for one course in support of the tedako walk.

"This was a great opportunity for both of us," said Kasperski. "I can tell just from walking and talking with him that Mayor Gima has a

warm relationship with his people and those of us on Camp Kinser."

Participants stopped along the way to take in cultural sites. One of the most popular spots was the Urasoe Castle Garden with its scenic island view.

"I thought this walk was a great experience and that more people should participate," said Cpl. Leo Murray, a motor vehicle operator with CLR-37. "Had I not participated, I would never have gotten to enjoy Okinawa like this. I got to see some new places I otherwise would

have never known existed."

The tedako walk not only gave participants the chance to promote a healthy lifestyle, but also served the purpose of further developing the relationship between Urasoe City and Camp Kinser by helping participants widen their cultural views, according to Gima.

"This walk shows the closeness of the friendship between the city and Camp Kinser, as well as strengthens the ties between us," said Gima. "We are not simply good neighbors, we are family."

Futenma participates in Ginowan relay race

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Sounds of footsteps hitting the ground, labored breathing and shouts of encouragement were heard as relay race participants rushed toward the finish line.

Japanese security guards, Marines and family members with Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing participated in the 36th Annual Ginowan City Relay Race Jan. 26 to promote traffic safety awareness and build relationships between the local community and air station personnel.

The relay race encompassed 14 kilometers, circling the perimeter of MCAS Futenma. Runners promoted traffic safety in the community during the race by obeying all traffic lights and signs.

"It's great for us to get out and be with the community," said Sgt. Maj. Brent L. Cook, the sergeant major of MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installation Pacific. "MCAS Futenma took part in the race with a 14-man team consisting of 11 Marines, two Japanese security guards and one spouse."

MCAS Futenma supported the race by opening the Gate 4 area to the city for runners to pass through, according to Cook.

Supporters from the local community gathered in the area along with more than 40 teams that competed in the race, including children's basketball teams, local schools' parent-teacher associations and many others. After the race, students from the local arts schools played music for the participants.

"The race was not like any of the races I've run before," said Capt. Jose L. Beaton, a race participant and adjutant for Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "There were some participants who you could tell were out there just for fun, and there were others who were definitely here to compete."

The Futenma team's strong effort during the race resulted in a second-place finish, breaking its previous best of fourth, and finishing only 19 seconds behind the Ginowan City Fire Department, the relay race winners.

The Futenma team received a plaque for placing second, but it understood the race was not about winning or the award, but being active in the community.

"The best part of being a part of this team and participating in the run was the opportunity to interact with the local community," said Beaton. "After we were done with the race, there was a good deal of socializing and it made for a very enjoyable experience."



Cpl. Cody Norville crosses the finish line of the 36th Annual Ginowan City Relay Race Jan. 26 at gate 4 of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The race encompassed 14 kilometers, circling the perimeter of MCAS Futenma. Runners promoted traffic safety in the community by obeying all traffic lights and signs while competing. Norville is an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Air Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Courtesy photo by Liesl Beaton



Niti Soonkoontod high-fives U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Cuang V. Cao during their lunch break Jan. 24 at Chat Trakarn district, Phitsanulok province, Kingdom of Thailand. Cao is a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Soonkoontod is a 12-year-old student of the Ban Kuad Nam Man School.

Marine's journey puts smiles on faces of Thai children

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines are men and women of diverse cultures and ethnicities who volunteer to serve in the armed forces for many different reasons. What varies even more are the life experiences each Marine brings with them to the Corps.

For Lance Cpl. Cuang V. Cao, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, the journey to the Ban Kuad Nam Man School in the Chat Trakarn district, Phitsanulok province, Kingdom of Thailand, is like a journey back in time, reminding him of his youth.

Cao was born in Saigon, Vietnam. Cao and his assigned unit, along with Royal Thai soldiers assigned to 302nd Engineer Battalion, Royal Thai Army, are constructing a new structure at the school as part of exercise Cobra Gold 2013. Similar structures are being built at four other schools during ongoing engineering civic action projects.

Although Cao was born in the Asia-Pacific region, he and his mother moved to Houston early in his life. Cao and his mother endured many hardships as they adapted to American culture.

"I was a 9-year-old boy who went from the jungle to the city," said Cao. "We were afraid, but my mom and I worked together to adapt to a new way of life."

Cao was the only child able to move with his mother, leaving behind three older siblings. But what seemed toughest for Cao was leaving behind his grandfather, a



Lance Cpl. Cuang V. Cao aligns a cement cinder block wall Feb. 1 during the construction of a new building at Ban Kuad Nam Man School, Chat Trakarn district, Phitsanulok province, Kingdom of Thailand, as part of an ongoing engineering civic action project. Cao is a combat engineer with 9th ESB.

man Cao looked up to.

A few years later, Cao learned something about his grandfather that turned him from a father figure into a hero.

"I found out that my grandfather fought alongside Marines during the Vietnam War," said Cao. "It made me feel very proud."

So proud, in fact, that Cao made the decision to become a U.S. Marine — a decision that made everyone proud, especially his grandfather.

"My grandfather was thrilled I was growing up to be like him, and that I had opened doors for my future," said Cao.

Cao had no idea his future would lead him so close to where he was born, stirring up childhood memories of playing with his siblings and grandfather in Vietnam.

In less than two weeks working on the ENCAP, Cao has made many friends at the school, most

of who are nearly the same age he was when he moved to the United States. Cao believes his passion for interacting and playing with the children stems from time lost with his own family.

"When I look into the eyes of the children, I see my siblings staring back at me," said Cao. "It would be wrong and selfish if I did not share the same love with these children that my brothers and sisters gave me."

Being in a new country and interacting with the local community also reminded Cao of some of the difficulties he overcame as a child.

"Language barriers do not stop Cao," said Staff Sgt. Wesley S. Alexander, a combat engineer with 9th ESB and staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the construction site. "Cao has treated the students here like family, and they have responded positively."

Cao has become a valued friend

to the students of Ban Kuad Nam Man School and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn and spend quality time with the children at the school.

"Cao is like our big brother," said Niti Soonkoontod, a 12-year-old student at the school. "He has a big heart and shares it when he is not working."

Many share the same opinion of Cao's character and agree it will serve him well in his career and in the future.

"Cao is a Marine who works hard, is very humble, sincere and respectful," said Alexander. "Cao's drive will push him to be a great Marine, but ultimately it will push him to be an even better person."

Teachers at the school have noticed a different attitude from the children. While they have always been eager to learn, interacting with the Marines is inspiring them in other ways.

"I have realized that the kids hide their shyness and participate in their English studies more frequently when they interact with the Marines," said Phulikit Prateepkeri, the principal of the school.

"It is amazing being able to watch my students interact with the Marines and very humbling to watch them treat my students like they are one of their own little brothers or sisters — especially Cao," added Prateepkeri.

Exercise Cobra Gold is the largest multinational exercise in the Asia-Pacific region and provides the Kingdom of Thailand, United States, Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia an opportunity to develop closer relationships and enhance interoperability.

Marines complete field supply exercise

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As an MV-22B Osprey hovers overhead, Marines ready themselves while their team leader glances over the perimeter one last time. As the Osprey gently touches down, the Marines snap into action, shouting commands and sprinting around the perimeter of the landing zone for quick extraction.

High-intensity training was the standard as Marines with 3rd Supply Battalion conducted a supply management unit exercise Jan. 7-27 at Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen.

The exercise was a large endeavor for the battalion, according to 1st Lt. Stephen Graves, the officer in charge of the exercise with 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Everything and everyone had to work cohesively in order to successfully complete the mission. The goal of the exercise was simple — to operate as a supply management unit in a deployed environment.

“For the exercise, we received supply requests from units operating in the area and pushed gear out to those units,” said Graves. “We also had a field training exercise integrated, where we did everything from combat lifesaving to convoy operations.”

The field training refreshed the Marines on skills such as basic patrolling, convoy operations, live-fire of small-arms and combat lifesaving.

“In a deployed environment, there is always a chance we could be attacked, and the Marines would have to react to the situation,” said Maj. Brogan C. Issitt, a supply officer with the battalion. “Therefore, we tailored the field portion of the exercise to focus on infantry tactics, convoy operations and combat lifesaving skills.”

The exercise was beneficial and a good learning experience for the battalion’s Marines, as it allowed them to work as a team in a simulated deployed environment while refreshing common skills required of all Marines, according to



Lance Cpl. Hai Vang fireman carries a simulated casualty during the combat lifesaving portion of 3rd Supply Battalion’s supply management unit exercise Jan. 25 at Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen. During the exercise, Marines received a refresher course on combat lifesaving skills. Vang is a warehouse clerk with 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Cpl. Matthew L. Neimeyer, a warehouse clerk with the battalion. The Marines were able to see the planning, execution and retrograde that goes into a training exercise.

“I learned quite a bit about other supply jobs and got to refresh on my own,” said Neimeyer. “It was good to see my Marines get involved and learn as much as they did.”

The Marines established the exercise site for approximately three days, according to Graves, setting up everything from a command operations center to field showers, so all life support needed was in place for the duration of the exercise.

“This exercise was very important for the Marines who are used to doing their jobs in a garrison environment,” said Graves. “It took

them out of that environment and showed them that, even though we are in a supply battalion, we could still be called on at any time in a deployed environment to step outside the wire to do our job.”



A Marine applies a tourniquet to a simulated casualty during 3rd Supply Battalion’s supply management unit exercise Jan. 25 at Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen.



An MV-22B Osprey and its crew prepare to extract Marines with 3rd Supply Battalion from a landing zone during a supply management unit exercise Jan. 25 at Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen. The exercise placed the Marines in a simulated deployed environment, where they practiced infantry and convoy tactics as well as preformed their supply functions. 3rd Supply Battalion is part of Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

In Theaters Now

FEBRUARY 8 - 14

FOSTER

TODAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6 p.m.; Parker (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon; Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 3 p.m.; Stand Up Guys (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon; Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 4 p.m.; Bullet to the Head (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Bullet to the Head (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Warm Bodies (PG13), 6 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Red Dawn (PG13), noon; Warm Bodies (PG13), 3 p.m.; Parker (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 1 p.m.; Warm Bodies (PG13), 4 p.m.; Parker (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Parker (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Broken City (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Parker (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Stand Up Guys (PG), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Bullet to the Head (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 2 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 2 p.m.; Broken City (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Stand Up Guys (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Killing Them Softly (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Bullet to the Head (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 4 p.m.; Zero Dark Thirty (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Broken City (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Red Dawn (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 3 p.m.; Flight (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 3 p.m.; Flight (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Bullet To the Head (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Broken City (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Broken City (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY The Last Stand (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY The Last Stand (R), 6 p.m.; Broken City (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Flight (R), 2 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Bullet to the Head (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Bullet to the Head (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Warm Bodies (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.

ROBSKI'S ULTIMATE GAME SHOW - FEB. 17

• The SMP will host Robski's Ultimate Game Show at the Camp Schwab theater Feb. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Join the fun for your chance to win great prizes!

DUCK AND COVER GOLF TOURNAMENT - FEB. 22

• The Duck and Cover Golf Tournament held at Taiyo Golf Club starts at 6 a.m. It will include longest drive and closest to the pin competitions. The 4-man teams must include one single Marine or sailor. Register by Feb. 15 with your SMP representative or by calling 645-3681.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"What do the parts of the eagle, globe and anchor represent in the Marine Corps emblem?"

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Marine was awarded the first Medal of Honor in World War II?

ANSWER: Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, for gallantly holding his unit's defensive line, braving heavy enemy fire, and risking his own life to defend against a fierce assault until reinforcements arrived during the Guadalcanal Campaign.



Japanese phrase of the week:

"Dekimasu." or "Dekimasen."

(pronounced: deh-kee-mah-su / deh-kee-mah-sehn)

Respectively they mean, "I can." or "I can't."



CHAPLAINS'

"True love behaves unselfishly."

DRIVER

True love is action more than emotion

Lt. Steven G. Hervey

CHAPLAIN, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

Have you found your true love? I'm not talking about that sweetie who makes your heart skip a beat, or even your spouse. What I really want to know is if you are expressing "true love" to others.

Let us face it, the word love often encompasses a variety of emotions that rarely resemble "true love." We say things like "I love Okinawa!" or "I love the Jayhawks!" Each phrase describes an emotional connection with someone or something. True love, however, goes much deeper.

True love is not based on the emotions we feel, but on the actions we take. You know you have found your "true love" when that love is validated by action.

True love behaves unselfishly. This means putting the other person's needs, wants and desires ahead of your own. You think of them first and yourself last. It is about expressing love to someone in a way they will receive it. Behaving

unselfishly means both rejoicing and grieving together. Even when it is difficult, true love is unselfish.

True love sees the best in others. This aspect of love is often expressed through kind acts and words, even when they may seem undeserved. To see the best in others, we must be patient when they make mistakes because we know they are growing. We trust them to do right, and forgive them when they do wrong. We must judge them by their intentions rather than by their actions. When you truly love someone, you are always looking for their best, even when they are at their worst.

True love persists unconditionally. It requires you to stand by someone's side, regardless of circumstance. When their world falls apart, you are there for them. When they deceive, anger, or insult you, you don't just call it quits, you work to improve the relationship. True love endures through the hardest situations and never ceases.

If you are like me, you realize you must grow in order to truly love others. I hope this helps you move past emotion and into action as you search for your "true love."

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"