

OKINAWA MARINE

MARCH 8, 2013

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Okinawa families view Osprey aircraft



Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 hosted an MV-22B Osprey family day for Okinawa community members March 3 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Approximately 300 parents and children attended the event, aimed at familiarizing families with the Osprey and its capabilities.

“This was an opportunity to show local communities what the Osprey is,” said Lt. Col. William L. DePue, the commanding officer of VMM-265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “This is the first time that we have had families touring the Osprey, and it was a great opportunity to give some members of the community a firsthand look at the aircraft.”

Families were able to tour two Ospreys, try on flight safety equipment, talk with aircrews, and view a video presentation on the capabilities of the Osprey during the family day.

see **OSPREY** pg 5

Lance Cpl. Devon B. Springer walks away from an MV-22B Osprey after taking a photo with Okinawa community members during a family day hosted by Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 March 3 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The family day was held to familiarize more than 300 parents and children from the community with the aircraft and safety equipment and provide an opportunity to ask questions about the aircraft and its capabilities. Springer is a flight equipment technician with VMM-265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Marine assists heat victim

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IE SHIMA TRAINING FACILITY, OKINAWA, Japan — Lance Cpl. Brennan O. Wischer received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal March 1 for providing a child medical assistance Dec. 24 while on a ferry traveling from Okinawa to Ie Shima.

Wischer, an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist and emergency first responder with the crash fire rescue team assigned to the operational support detachment at Ie Shima Training Facility, was returning to Ie Shima from Okinawa when Staff Sgt. Jamaine Johnson, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of ISTF, noticed a child in distress.

Johnson located Wischer, knowing Wischer was a trained first responder. Johnson and Wischer went to the boy’s father, who was clearly in a panic since his son was unconscious.

“He handed me his son, and upon receiving him I could tell he was extremely overheated,” said Wischer.

Wischer sprang into action, checking the child’s vital signs and thoroughly assessing the situation. Once Wischer realized the child’s condition was life-threatening, he directed bystanders to contact emergency personnel and instruct rescuers to wait at the dock for the ferry, according to 1st Lt. Ryan M. Ackland, the officer in charge at ISTF.

“There, the personnel could care for see **WISCHER** pg 5

JGSDF members, Marines strengthen relationships

Pfc. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines with Combat Assault Battalion engaged in bilateral training alongside Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officers March 1 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen as part of the Japan Observer Exchange Program.

The JGSDF officers and Marines inserted into the CTA via MV-22B Osprey aircraft, and proceeded to conduct a six-mile conditioning hike. It was the first opportunity for the participating JGSDF officers to fly in the Ospreys, which are part of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The learning experience offered through JOEP events is unparalleled, according to JGSDF 1st Lt. Shomei Ugaki, an intelligence platoon leader see **JOEP** pg 5

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Civilian employee thanks Marines for dedication

Robert D. Eldridge

I just finished reading a book about the Marine Corps published recently by a friend who is a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve and currently serves as a history professor at the U.S. Naval Academy. I am certain it will generate much discussion and debate among current and former Marines. I learned a lot about the Marine Corps through reading his book and taking time to reflect on it and discuss it with those in uniform.

This editorial, however, is not about his valuable and insightful book, "Underdogs," but is a way to tell my Marine colleagues how very proud other civilian employees and I are of you and cherish the opportunity to work with you. The Marines have an unparalleled history and meaningful set of traditions that make you unique and leave the civilians here in awe of your past and current accomplishments.

Of course, this may not be news to you or some of the civilians who are former Marines. According to Civilian Human Resources Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, approximately 60 percent of the U.S. civilians working on the staffs of MCIPAC and III Marine Expeditionary Force have previous military experience, with most of that group having served in the Marine Corps. You lived and breathed that culture, and personally experienced many of the things that have contributed

to the present-day Marine Corps.

I do not have a Marine Corps or military background, but the transition from a civilian academic career to my current position as the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7 government and external affairs, MCIPAC, was an easy one. This is because of the welcoming community and flexibility and open-mindedness of the command to wel-

"You bring relief and hope wherever you go because of your history, reputation, decency and ability to accomplish the mission."

come an academic into its fold.

I tell those who visit MCIPAC installations about the high standards and intellectual rigor of the Marine Corps and how stimulating the work environment is. Most universities think they have a monopoly on such qualities, but I found, when I did my first sabbatical with Marines from 2004-2005 at Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, that Marines leave academics in the dust when it comes to intellectual honesty, analytical thinking and dedication to mission. I wrote about these qualities as well as my unique sabbatical experience in 2006 for an essay in our university journal, "My One Year with the Marines, Reflections on Bridging the Gap."

I was hooked on the Marine Corps instantly, and did not want that year to end. I am glad that, by some good fortune, I was

able to come back again several years later and work full time for the Marines. I know that feeling is shared by many other civilian employees.

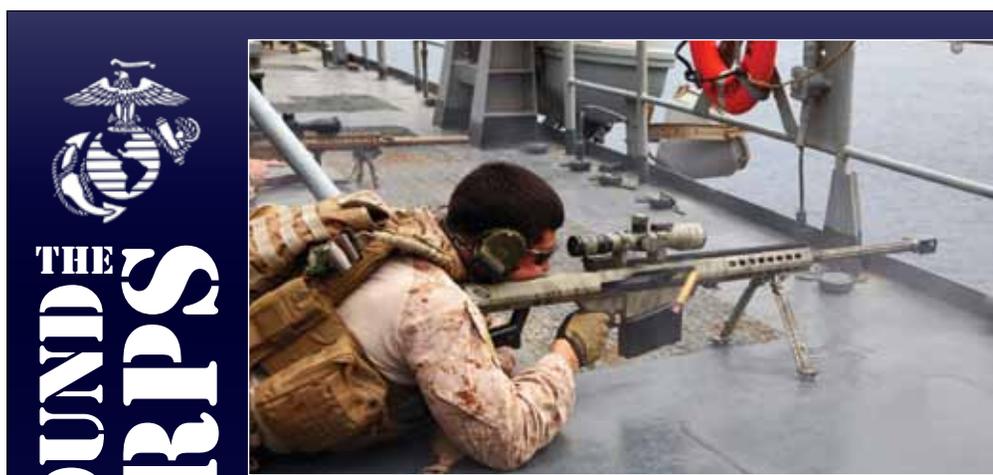
Your dedication to country, duty and teamwork, pursuit of individual excellence, and constant improvement through training and education make the Marine Corps an organization envied around the world. All of this, it should be stressed, takes place amid tight budgets, limited personnel and high operational tempo. You simply do more with less. You bring relief and hope wherever you go because of your history, reputation, decency and ability to accomplish the mission.

I was most impressed with all of these qualities during Operation Tomodachi following the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami that occurred March 11, 2011. You represented all that was great about the United States, and there truly was no greater friend for the people of Japan during recovery efforts.

As we approach the second anniversary of the tragedy, the Marine Corps' friendship with many communities in the disaster area continues, and we have expanded our relationships to many areas throughout Japan, sharing lessons learned from the disaster and building cooperative working relationships in the event another disaster strikes. This is being done all thanks to you.

We civilians, Americans and Japanese alike, are indeed honored to work with you. Thank you, Marines, and keep up the great work!

Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff for G-7, government and external affairs, MCIPAC.



AROUND THE MARINE CORPS

Cpl. Diego G. Oropeza fires an M107 .50-caliber sniper rifle at a floating target Feb. 25 while conducting maritime interoperability training aboard the USS Rushmore. Scout snipers had the added challenge of engaging a floating target more than 500 meters from the ship during the training. Oropeza is a scout sniper with scout sniper platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Timothy R. Childers

Lance Cpl. Louie R. Ortega prepares to throw an M69 practice grenade Feb. 21 during Exercise Spartan Fury at Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii. Marines threw several practice grenades to demonstrate their proficiency in the prone, kneeling and standing positions before throwing live grenades on a separate range. Ortega is a motor vehicle operator with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke



OKINAWA MARINE

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FROs enhance efficiency, skills

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — As service members continue to execute missions and train throughout the world, they are spending an increased amount of time away from their families, creating additional needs in properly caring for military families. Family readiness officers for military units provide support to service members and families during these times.

Family readiness officers with Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni joined FROs with III Marine Expeditionary Force units and Marine Corps Installations Pacific to expand their personal and professional development skills Feb. 27-28 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster.

The two-day seminar provided FROs with knowledge and skills necessary to enhance their efficiency as a resource to the military community, according to Col. Daniel J. Haas, the chief of staff for III MEF and guest speaker at the seminar.

“The Marine Corps’ approach to family readiness has changed significantly over the past decade,” Haas said. “There has been a tremendous increase in the importance we place on family readiness and a commensurate increase in the resources we have devoted to maintaining and increasing family readiness. It is our duty to ensure we provide (FROs) the knowledge they need to maximize their effectiveness, so they can serve their commanders and ultimately Marines and families to the maximum extent possible.”

Family readiness programs are provided throughout the Marine Corps to assist Marines, sailors and their families with resources,

information and support services for balancing the demands of family life and careers as service members carry out their often-difficult duties.

The FROs’ instruction included presentations on time management, public speaking and their roles and responsibilities as a special staff officer to their commanders.

“This is a great opportunity to meet other FROs, so we can work together,” said Paul Palmieri, the FRO for 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. “It’s important to get educated and trained on critical tasks that are a part of being a FRO, so we can get more people to come together and to help the families.”

The seminar was designed with input collected from the FROs to ensure it met their professional development needs, according to Denise Fetting-Loftesnes, the FRO for III MEF and one of the coordinators for the seminar.

“I have the opportunity throughout the year to get an idea of what our FROs need,” said Fetting-Loftesnes. “This training is something we take very seriously. We need to make sure we offer the tools our FROs need to support their commander as a special staff officer and ensure the readiness of our Marines, sailors and families.”

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the seminar’s coordinators and instructors, FROs throughout Japan will continue to provide the best services available to their units’ service members and families.

“This training provides growth and energy to the FROs, as well as a chance for positive group learning,” said Fetting-Loftesnes. “I’m glad we could host this seminar because we can continue to be ready to help our Marines, sailors and families.”

BRIEFS

SEASONAL UNIFORM CHANGE

The seasonal uniform change will take place March 10. The uniform will be the desert Marine pattern camouflage Marine Corps combat utility uniform.

TOMODACHI BOWL FOOTBALL GAME

The Tomodachi Bowl will air live via webcast on the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific Far East Streaming Network March 10 at 2 p.m. Coverage begins at 1:45 p.m. at <http://bit.ly/13FcG31>.

Players from Kadena and Kubasaki High Schools will partner with other Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific high schools in Japan as Team USA to square off against their Japanese counterparts on Team Japan in a premier football matchup named for friendship.

SCHEDULED POWER/WATER OUTAGES

Camps Foster, Lester and Plaza Housing will experience upcoming scheduled power and water outages.

For questions or concerns, check www.facebook.com/CampFoster, visit the homepage at www.mcipac.marines.mil/MCIPAC/CampButler/UtilitiesOutages, or call 645-0883.

CIVILIAN HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE HAS EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE

Military spouses, family members and veterans are eligible to apply for various employment opportunities within the civilian human resources office here on Okinawa.

For complete job listings, visit www.mcipac.marines.mil/mcipac/CampButler/CHRO.aspx or visit www.usajobs.gov.

Applicants should read the vacancy announcement in its entirety to ensure they submit all required documents before the close of business on the vacancy’s closing date.

For more details, call 645-3380.

PREP WORKSHOP FOR ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

A marriage workshop for engaged and married couples is scheduled for March 22 at the Camp Courtney Chapel. The workshop is designed to equip married and engaged couples with valuable communication and problem-solving skills and help them gain a deeper understanding of each other and their relationship.

Child care reimbursement is available for attendees.

Call 625-2644 or send an email to clifford.rutledge@usmc.mil by March 18 to register.

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.

Marine receives high Georgian honor



Republic of Georgia Col. Lasha Beridze, right, awards U.S. Marine Capt. Michael Walls with the General Giorgi Mazniashvili Medal Feb. 28 during an awards ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Va. Walls received the award for his contributions to the Georgia Deployment Program - International Security Assistance Force, which prepared four Georgian infantry battalions for operations in Afghanistan with Regional Command Southwest. The General Giorgi Mazniashvili Medal is the fourth highest individual award in the Georgian Armed Forces, and honors a service member’s leadership and contributions to Georgian national defense. Beridze is the deputy chief of defense, Georgian Armed Forces. Walls is a team leader with supporting-arms liaison team, 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Basketball tournament creates camaraderie

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Okinawa and U.S. women's basketball teams competed in an all-women's basketball tournament March 2-3 at the Semper Fit Gym at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The screeching of shoes on a polished basketball court echoed throughout the gymnasium as teams fought for victory. Fans cheered in Japanese and English as they rooted for their team. Despite language barriers, the spirit of sportsmanship was mutually understood through the shared competition of basketball.

"This tournament is our way to highlight and promote women's basketball," said Rathell Smith, the athletic director for MCAS Futenma. "It is a really fun way for us to promote friendship at the same time."

The two-day tournament included double-elimination games on the first day and



Chika Tokashiki, left, of the BC Sports basketball team, defends against a player from the Lady Storm basketball team March 3 at the Semper Fit Gym at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The Lady Storm and BC Sports basketball teams competed against one another in one of the final rounds of an all-women's basketball tournament for Okinawa and American teams. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

single-elimination games on the second day. Nine teams from throughout Okinawa, including three American teams, played in the tournament. The team members varied in age from high school students to adults, and were comprised of active-duty service members and civilians.

The basketball games were an interesting learning experience, according to Haraka

Yonaha, a player for the Maehara High School basketball team, Okinawa.

"I've never experienced a competition with American players before, so I'm really excited," said Yonaha. "Our team and the American teams have different styles of playing, so it is great to learn from each other how to become better at the sport. I would like the opportunity to

play on base with American teams more often."

The varying skill levels gave players new opportunities to enjoy the sport, according to Master Sgt. Bernard Dogan, the coach for the Lady Hurricanes, one of the American teams composed of service members and family members.

"This kind of tournament is exactly what the players

want to be a part of," said Dogan. "It's a really exciting tournament to watch, and it's a fun way for us to get to know all of these other great players in competition and good spirit."

The competition kept the crowd excited, as teams were eliminated throughout both tournament days. As the games came to a close, the Okinawa women's team from Maehara High School won first place, followed by Lady Storm, one of the American teams, and Nishihara High School, another Okinawa team.

The tournament ended with new friendships and opportunities, as players and coaches look to the future.

"I'm so happy I could be a part of this tournament," said Dogan. "I look forward to bringing more tournaments for the women's teams and having the ladies compete against one another more often. I am glad we can continue this fellowship and camaraderie with women basketball players on Okinawa."

Marines, sailors continue building relations in Sendai

Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OJOJIHARA MANEUVER AREA, Japan — More than 40 Marines and sailors with Alpha Battery visited a facility for people with intellectual disabilities and distributed donated gifts to schools and orphanages surrounding the Ojoihara Maneuver Area in Miyagi prefecture, Japan, March 1-2 at the conclusion of Artillery Relocation Training Program 12-4.

The battery, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, reached out to children in Sendai, the capital city of Miyagi prefecture.

"Toys for Tots is a program that reaches out to families who are often less fortunate," said Navy Lt. Matthew C. Fore, the chaplain for 3rd Bn., 12th Marine Regiment. "We incorporated the program into our visits with the local community to help out and share a part of our culture with children in need around Sendai."

March 11, 2013, marks the two-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, and this is one of many visits since Operation Tomodachi that a Marine Corps unit or senior Marine Corps leaders have made to the Sendai area, Fore added.

During Operation Tomodachi, Okinawa-based Marines and sailors deployed to mainland Japan to offer assistance to the government of Japan and provide vital resources to assist recovery efforts at the request of the Japanese government and in coordination with the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Forces Japan.

"We will never forget the Marines' efforts during Operation Tomodachi," said Munehisa Ogawa, the director of Asaina-Gakuen, a facility for people with intellectual disabilities in Sendai. "We are very pleased that they were able to take the time to visit with the members of our facility."

The Marines visited the facility, where they performed several traditional nursery songs and played team-building games with its residents.

"Knowing that we were the first training unit to visit this area since the earthquake, they welcomed us with open arms and went out of their way to show their appreciation for Operation Tomodachi, as well as our visit," said Fore.

The Marines also visited the Sayurien children's home, an all-girls



Marines and sailors present gifts to residents of Asaina-Gakuen facility March 2 in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture, Japan. Marines and sailors also visited orphanages and schools in the Sendai area, one of many visits since Operation Tomodachi that a Marine Corps unit or senior Marine Corps leaders have made to the Sendai area. The Marines and sailors are with Alpha Battery, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

orphanage housing more than 50 children, and donated gifts from the Toys for Tots campaigns on Okinawa and Yokota Air Base on mainland Japan.

"We have been looking forward to seeing the Marines here for a while," said Hisako Takeuchi, the principal of the children's home. "I think that the children benefit from the presence of the Marines because it allows them to be exposed to new people who are not familiar with the area."

Marines also visited the Ohira Manyo Kodomoen nursery home, a facility with more than 200 residents, where the staff and students entertained the Marines by playing traditional instruments, dancing and singing.

Upon conclusion of the Marines' visits, the Sendai community showed enthusiasm for continuing relations between the U.S. forces and local organizations and expressed a desire for future visits by Marines, according to Fore.

"I believe we met our goal, which was to get out in the community and bring joy to those who were affected by the disaster two years ago," said Fore. "We also established connections and a lasting friendship with the Sendai community we will continue to build."

Marines prepare Guam training area



Lance Cpl. Christian T. Eskridge cuts down a tree Feb. 22 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam. The brush-clearing operations took place during Exercise Guahan Shield, which is designed to facilitate multiservice engagements, set conditions for bilateral and multilateral training opportunities, and support rapid response to potential crises and contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific region. Eskridge is a combat engineer with Combat Logistics Detachment 39, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jeraco Jenkins

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the child's situation, which Wischer determined was likely heat stroke," said Ackland.

Wischer performed critical lifesaving steps while they waited for the ferry to reach emergency responders on shore. He also managed to keep the boy's parents calm while giving him first aid, according to Johnson.

"Wischer made sure the child's airway was clear by ensuring everything was out of his mouth," said Johnson. "He then began applying measures to bring the child's temperature down by asking the parents to remove his sweater and cover him in cool, wet towels. Once that was done, he began to get the boy to drink water."

After the ferry reached the shoreline, emergency personnel took over the child's treatment.

"We went to the hospital later that day to check on him," said Wischer. "He was OK. The medical personnel said he had a fever, which led to heat stroke on the ferry."

Wischer, a 22-year-old from Tampa, Fla., grew up wanting to help others as a firefighter but ended up acquiring those skills through the Marine Corps.

"Becoming a part of aircraft rescue and firefighting was a simple decision," said Wischer. "I've wanted to learn firefighting all my life and plan on pursuing that as a career after I leave the Marine Corps."

Wischer's exemplary act of valor came as second nature.

"I was doing what I've been trained to do," said Wischer.

Wischer's actions reflect his personality and work ethic as well, according to Ackland.

"He is an outstanding Marine who possesses the highest level of knowledge and dedication toward his job," said Ackland. "His heroic actions demonstrate his calm approach in responding to stressful situations and are a true testament to his character."

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Each station was manned by the squadron's Marines to provide detailed explanations and answer questions from attendees.

"I demonstrated how to put on the equipment and helped them try it on, so they could see how it felt," said Lance Cpl. Devon B. Springer, a flight equipment technician with the squadron. "The kids enjoyed it, and the parents could see that safety is very important during our operations."

Safety and operations of the Osprey were main topics throughout the day, with attendees asking many questions on the topics.

"I learned from the pilots the aircraft flies faster, farther and longer than the (CH-46E)," said Machida Kazuko, a family day attendee. "I would love to fly in one and look down (on) Okinawa and my home. I am very impressed with the aircraft."

Prior to the family day,

many attendees were unfamiliar with the aircraft. The family day was a welcomed opportunity for guests.

"Before coming to this event, I did not know much about the Osprey," said Bunei Iwana, a family day attendee. "I wanted to see it with my own eyes."

The event was interactive, with attendees asking a variety of questions about many topics regarding the Osprey.

"Any opportunity for a bilateral cultural exchange is a great opportunity, not only for us, but also for the community," said DePue. "It was a great opportunity for the Marines to interact with citizens from the community, and allowed the attendees to see what the squadron can do with the aircraft."

Due to the nature of III MEF operations, the Osprey may be called upon to perform in a humanitarian role.

"Two things I learned about the Osprey are its ability to land anywhere

and the increased amount of material it can carry," said Iwana. "Not only for combat missions but for humanitarian or disaster relief operations too. If supplies are needed, this aircraft could carry them where they need to go."

The realization of capabilities was just one result of the family day.

"This event is incredibly important because it allows people to see the aircraft up close," said Iwana. "It also allows for people to talk to the aircrew to learn how the aircraft operates while in the air. It was also an opportunity to express how we feel to the service members."

The attendees were not the only ones who enjoyed the family day.

"The families liked putting on the equipment and taking pictures in front of the aircraft," said Springer. "Seeing the smiles on their faces and the good time they had put a smile on my face too."



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officers and Marines disembark an MV-22B Osprey March 1 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. The JGSDF officers were given the opportunity to experience flying in the MV-22B Osprey for the first time and learned about the aircraft's capabilities. The Marines are with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

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and participant in the JOEP.

"The U.S. Marine Corps is one of the most experienced military services in the world," said Ugaki. "They have learned a lot from combat operations, and quickly applied lessons learned to their training. It is a very good experience for us to learn alongside the Marines."

The exchange of information and experience was mutual during the hike and flight.

"It was a good experience — I learned a lot about Japan and how their forces operate," said 2nd Lt. Jason J. Romero, a platoon commander with CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "I was also able to answer questions they had about the Marine Corps, which is important because it helps strengthen relationships between us and the JGSDF."

The JGSDF officers and Marines were able to overcome the language barrier to train successfully together due to mutual

professionalism, according to Ugaki.

"Even though both forces speak different languages, we still conduct bilateral training very successfully," said Ugaki. "It is very important for us and our allies that we have a chance to share our experiences."

The conditioning hike brought the two services together and further strengthened the foundation of their relationship.

Both U.S. Marines and JGSDF officers look forward to further interactions, as it is an essential part of both services' roles in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Cpl. Alexander F. Orlosky, a combat engineer with the battalion.

"It lets us see both sides of the spectrum," said Orlosky. "I would work with these guys any day."

The conditioning hike built not only bonds, but endurance as well, preparing Marines and the JGSDF officers for future training together.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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Dial direct from U.S. 011-81-611-746-(last four digits of ext.)

Transition Information Hotline (24 hours a day) 643-7509

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Ambulance from on base	911
Ambulance from off base	911-1911
Ambulance from cell phones	098-911-1911
Ambulance from VOIP/Vonage phone	11-81-98-911-1911
Poison Control	646-7311
Emergency Room	646-7315

Dental Emergencies

Working Hours	646-7862
After hours, Foster Area	645-7381
After hours, Hansen Area	623-4657

Patient Assistance

Information Desk & Quarterdeck	646-7555
Concierge Services	646-7555
Customer Service Officer	646-7432

Patient Resources

The Akebana Café	
Breakfast: 6-7:30 a.m.	
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
Dinner: 4-6:00 p.m.	
Taxi (from on base) 99-939-1660, 99-937-2467, 99-892-0660	
The Green Line Bus Service	645-3843
http://www.mcipac.marines.mil	
American Red Cross (First Floor, West Wing)	646-7555

Administrative Services

Birth Registrations	646-7687
Chaplain (Pastoral Care Services)	646-7394
Uniform Business Office (Collections Office)	646-7213
Outpatient Records	646-7689
TRICARE Service Center	
Beneficiary Service Representative	646-7700
Beneficiary Counseling Assistance	646-7704

Clinical Services

Ambulatory Procedure Unit (APU)	646-7284
Audiology	646-7294
Dental/Oral Surgery Clinic	646-7862
Deployment Health Clinic (DHC)	646-7168
Dermatology Clinic	646-7228
Emergency Department	646-7311
Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic (ENT/Otolaryngology)	646-7036
Family Medicine Clinic	646-7517
General Surgery Clinic	646-7221
Health Promotions	646-7912
Immunizations Clinic	646-7598
Internal Medicine Clinic	646-7714
Laboratory	643-7357
Mental Health Clinic	646-7135
Neurology Clinic	646-7387
Neurosurgery Clinic	646-7099
Nutrition Clinic	646-7517
Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinic	646-7022
Occupational Medicine Clinic	646-7485
Ophthalmology Clinic	646-7115
Optometry	646-7387
Orthopedic Clinic	646-7351
Pediatrics Clinic	646-7304
Pharmacy Customer Service	646-7188
Pharmacy Prescription Refill	646-7186
Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy	646-7430
Radiology	646-7444
SMART Clinics	
Camp Foster	645-6999
Camp Hansen	623-6561
Camp Kinser	637-3922
Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Department	645-3568
Urology Clinic	646-7168

Branch Clinics

Bush Clinic (Camp Courtney)	622-7632
Evans Clinic (Camp Foster)	645-7372
Futenma Clinic	636-3150
Hansen Clinic	623-4623
Kinser Clinic	637-1881
Schwab Clinic	625-2260

Wards

Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	646-7555
Multi Service Ward (MSW)	646-7555
Mental Health Inpatient Facility	646-7555
Mother-Infant Care Center Triage	646-7182
Mother-Infant Care Center Nurse's Station	646-7176
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)	646-7111
Okinawa Clinical Answering Service (OCAS)	646-7487

US Naval Hospital

Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP LESTER — Medical staff and service members conducted patient relocation drills March 2 from U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester to what will be the hospital's new location on Camp Foster.

The hospital and all of its functions are relocating to the new facility at Camp Foster after more than 50 years of operations at Camp Lester.

"The patient movement drill is an exercise ensuring we are ready to execute a safe and seamless relocation of our patients," said Navy Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo, the commanding officer of USNH Okinawa.

The primary purpose for conducting the drill was to prepare medical staff for the move and ensure equipment that will be used for transportation is ready, explained Aiyelawo.

The focus throughout the transition process is the safety and comfort of

the hospital's patients, according to Cmdr. Charles L. Cather, a nurse corps officer at USNH Okinawa and the transition coordinator.

"We want to continue to test and confirm our planning of processes is effective and safe," said Cather. "I expect the transition to validate that we've anticipated the scenarios that could arise and have built in redundancy and the ability to react to situations as necessary."

Hospital operations will transition function-for-function, meaning no new services will be added nor will any prior services be discontinued during the transition to the new facility.

The transition began March 5 and is scheduled to be completed March 22, when the new facility will be fully operational.

"It is important for our patients to know that we have trained extensively for the move with their safety in mind," said Cmdr. Alison H. Castro, the assistant director for nursing services at USNH



Sailors practice loading simulated drill at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa to ensure safety and comfort of patients during the transition to the new facility under the care of USNH Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller.

Okinawa and lead coordinator for inpatient movement during the transition. "We will assist patients with appointment scheduling at alternate locations throughout the transition to ensure health care needs are met."

The emergency room and mother infant care center at the new facility on Camp

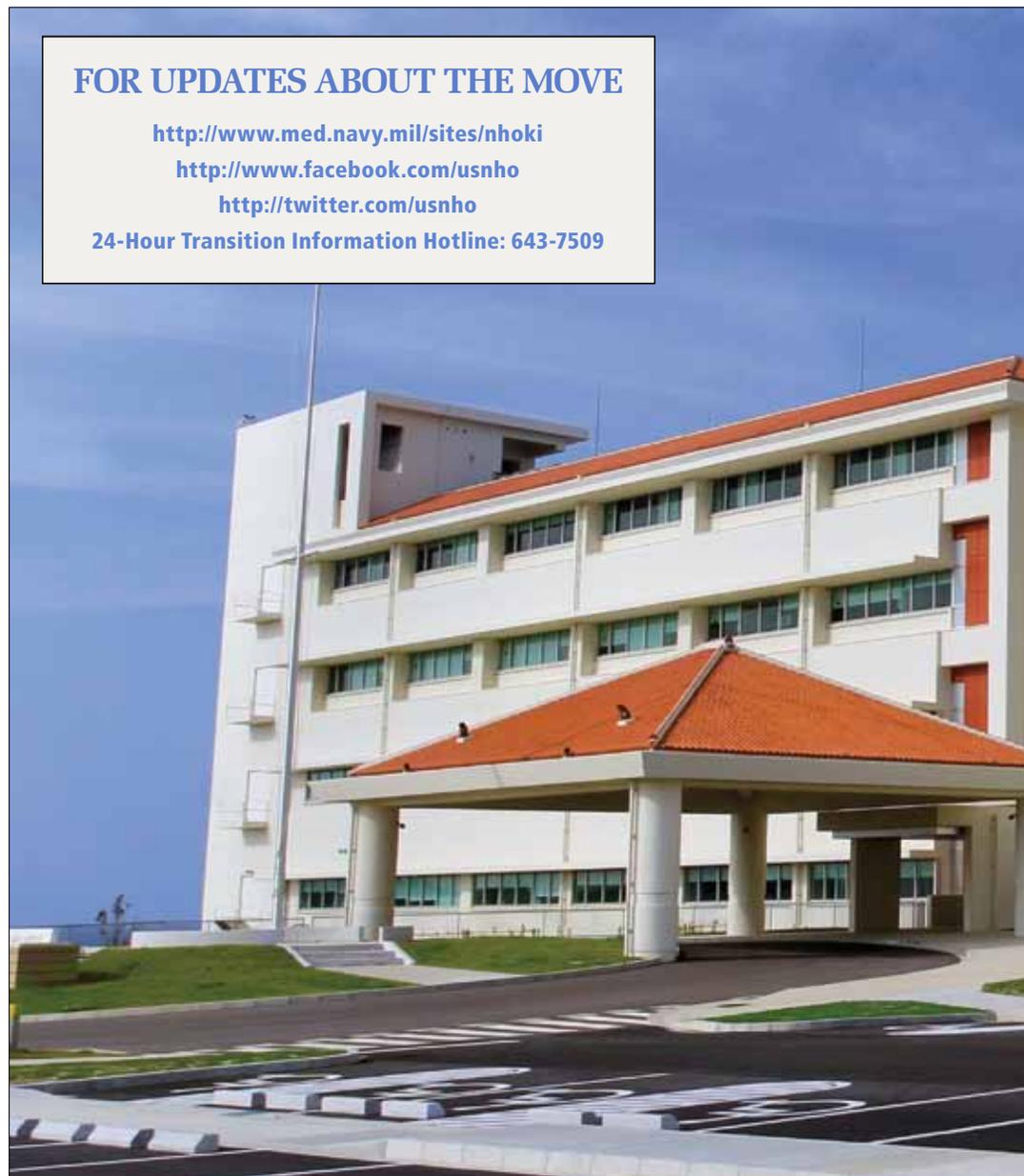
FOR UPDATES ABOUT THE MOVE

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhoki>

<http://www.facebook.com/usnho>

<http://twitter.com/usnho>

24-Hour Transition Information Hotline: 643-7509



begins transition to new facility



Patients are loaded into an ambulance March 2 as part of a patient relocation drill on Camp Lester. The purpose of the drill was to ensure the patients being transported from Camp Lester to Camp Foster while they are during the transition to the new facility. The sailors are corpsmen

Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Camp Foster are scheduled to open on March 16 at 7 a.m.

The new facility's design is focused primarily on patient and staff safety, according to Aiyelawo. It is built to withstand earthquakes and is on the high ground on Camp Foster, outside of the tsunami flood zone.

Relocating a hospital and

all of its functions is a difficult process, but it is important for everyone to know they will still receive any necessary and urgent care required during the transition, said Cather.

"I want the beneficiaries to have the confidence that if they get hurt or sick, they will get the treatment they need," said Cather.



U. S. Naval Hospital Okinawa
Located on Camp Foster



AAV crews focus on fundamentals

Story and photos by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

With the roar of an engine, the tracks churned through the sand, launching the assault amphibious vehicle and its crew of Marines into their natural habitat — the coastal surf.

“Today’s training is allowing the Marines to stay current in waterborne ops. That’s our bread and butter with AAVs and is where we excel — the water,” said 1st Lt. Ryan M. Rice, 4th platoon commander, AAV Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “It is what separates the Marine Corps from other services.”

The Marines of 4th platoon engaged in water operations training March 5-6 at Camp Schwab, focusing on the basics of their skill-set.

The training included fundamentals of AAV operations, formations for movement, operations near submerged hazards such as shoals or reefs, and emergency procedures, such as fixing malfunctioning equipment afloat or rigging an AAV for towing.

The Marines began the training with basic formations and movements before moving onto more advanced skills.

“Today is the section level, basic stuff — we are getting our feet wet,” said Rice during the first day of training. “Tomorrow, we are going to conduct a higher level of training. We will be taking all of the vehicles into



An assault amphibious vehicle splashes into the surf March 5 at Camp Schwab. Marines conducted water operations training that included formation movement and emergency procedure rehearsals. The Marines are with 4th platoon, Company C, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, currently assigned to AAV Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

the water at the same time and getting into formations instead of doing it section by section.”

The Marines used the training evolution to work on communication and teamwork between AAV crews.

“(Teamwork) is the most important thing. If you don’t have communication and unit cohesion, things are going to fall apart very quickly,” said Lance Cpl. Kristopher M. Ax, an AAV crewman with the platoon. “If an

(AAV) goes down, we are all going to need to know the immediate action for how to respond, and this is the kind of training that gets everyone on the same page.”

The Camp Lejeune-based platoon is currently assigned to CAB under the unit deployment program, and used the training to continue building on the foundation of teamwork it created during its time in the U.S., according to Sgt. Randy W. Griffith, an AAV crewman and section leader with the platoon.

“The more we do this, the more confident they get,” said Griffith. “We have that part down. So far, their confidence and teamwork has surpassed everything we could hope for.”

The experience the Marines gained operating in the choppy Pacific waters left them better prepared for future operations and training opportunities, whether those will occur in Japan, the U.S. or throughout the Asia-Pacific region, according to Griffith.

Marines maneuver assault amphibious vehicles through the water in formation March 5 at Camp Schwab. The Marines used the training evolution to work on communication and teamwork between AAV crews. The Marines are with 4th platoon, Company C, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, currently assigned to AAV Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.





Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members patrol together March 2 during a comprehensive bilateral field training exercise as part of Exercise Forest Light 13-3 at the Hokkaido-Dai Maneuver Area in Hokkaido prefecture, Japan. Forest Light is a semiannual training exercise that enhances the partnership between the U.S. and Japan, solidifies regional security agreements, increases interoperability of forces, and improves individual and unit-level skills.

JGSDF members, Marines brave elements, accomplish mission

Story and photos by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As if operating in a simulated hostile territory with a language barrier between friendly forces wasn't challenging enough, the combination of subzero temperatures, howling winds and snowfall measuring in feet added a level of misery that made mission accomplishment nearly impossible.

However, these service members were well trained and dedicated to success above all else, overcoming the elements and simulated enemy in impressive fashion.

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members and Marines conducted a comprehensive bilateral field training exercise March 2-3 during Exercise Forest Light 13-3 at the Hokkaido-Dai Maneuver Area, Hokkaido prefecture, Japan.

The FTX consisted of the two countries' combining forces in offensive and defensive positions and clearing and securing a simulated objective in their area of operations. The ground forces also had support from a combined combat operations center.

In the combined COC, Marines and JGSDF members worked together to coordinate fire support, track friendly and enemy movement, and analyze the enemy situation and terrain.

The FTX required both forces to use and apply the communication and cooperative skills learned throughout the exercise to accomplish their mission, according to 2nd Lt. Matthew G. Goggin, a platoon commander with Company I (Reinforced), 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

"This final training evolution proved that we can communicate and operate together effectively in highly stressful situations," said Goggin. "There was a lot to learn from each other. We had ideas on how to improve their fire packages, and they taught us about maneuvering in snowy terrain. I feel confident in our abilities together after this training."

The FTX began with the Marines and JGSDF members patrolling separately on foot and with mechanized vehicles to reach an area where they set up a defensive position.

When they linked up, the two countries combined forces to prepare to clear and secure the objective the next morning.

"I enjoyed watching the capabilities of our combined forces," said JGSDF Col. Naoki Yamane, the commanding officer of the 11th Infantry Regiment, 7th Armored Division, Northern Army, JGSDF. "You can see the proficiency and skills the Marines have in the way they move. As our forces have never been deployed to combat, we have much we can learn from the Marines and their experiences."

More than the other training events during Forest Light 13-3, communication was most important during the final FTX, according to Lance Cpl. Masami D. Rouse, a machine gunner and interpreter with the battalion.

"We worked very well together to break the language barrier and clear and secure the objective," said Rouse. "The most fulfilling part for me was when the Marines and JGSDF members took the objective together rather than separately. You could see both forces using everything they had learned throughout the exercise in order to accomplish the final mission."



Marines patrol through strong winds and heavy snow March 2 during a comprehensive bilateral field training exercise as part of Exercise Forest Light 13-3 at the Hokkaido-Dai Maneuver Area in Hokkaido prefecture, Japan. The FTX began with the Marines and JGSDF patrolling separately on foot and with mechanized vehicles to reach an area where they set up a defensive position.

Both countries forces gained important experience and extensive knowledge while working together throughout Forest Light 13-3, according to Goggin.

"With all of the improvements seen in this final FTX, I'm confident in saying we accomplished what we set out to do during the exercise," said Goggin.



2nd Lt. Matthew G. Goggin points out a potential enemy position to Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members March 2 during a comprehensive bilateral field training exercise as part of Exercise Forest Light 13-3 at the Hokkaido-Dai Maneuver Area in Hokkaido prefecture, Japan. Goggin is a platoon commander with Company I (Reinforced), 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

Marines fire an M242 Bushmaster during vehicle and weapons maintenance training with the light armored vehicle March 5 at Camp Schwab. Combat Assault Battalion recently acquired new LAVs and completed training to ensure the vehicles were fully operational. The Marines are with Light Armored Reconnaissance platoon, CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



LAR platoon performs vehicle, weapons maintenance

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

The section chief screams the command, "Fire!" After a slight pause, a thundering rumble echoes across the training area.

Marines with Light Armored Reconnaissance platoon, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted maintenance and weapons checks on their new light armored vehicles March 5 at Camp Schwab.

CAB recently acquired eight new LAVs and took them out for training to ensure the vehicles and their weapon systems were fully functional.

The Marines with LAR platoon are currently assigned to CAB under the unit deployment program.

"The new vehicles will be used by the LAR Company, which is slated to activate with CAB in May," said 2nd Lt. Maxwell W.

Nauta, the platoon commander. "The mission of LAR Company will be to provide a forward element of support in the Asia-Pacific region."

LAV drivers complete maintenance checks each time an LAV is operated, a process consisting of checking the oil and ensuring there is fluid in the brake lines and tires are appropriately inflated. Secondly, the driver will check tire heat during stops to ensure the tires are within the correct operating temperature. Lastly, the first two steps are repeated once the LAV arrives at its destination.

The maintenance checks play an important role in the break-in process of new vehicles, during which the LAVs are carefully function checked to ensure proper operation, according to Staff Sgt. Andrew M. Eichelberger, an LAV crewman and section chief with the platoon.

Following the final maintenance checks, the drivers safely positioned the vehicles to fire the weapons systems. The LAV crewmen assigned as gunners and assistant gunners began firing at targets with the M242 Bushmaster, which is a 25 mm chain-fed auto-cannon, and the M240C machine gun.

"We use the improved thermal sight system to ensure precision sight alignment," said Nauta. "When you set the sights on the target, it accounts for wind and vehicle movement.

It is a very accurate sight."

After ensuring the weapons systems and vehicles functioned properly, the vehicle operators were given an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the

2nd Lt. Maxwell W. Nauta

weapon systems, which enables them to assume the position as a gunner and man the weapon. Training with the weapons system now also gives them an advantage if they attend the gunner's school later in their career.

"In addition to the weapons and maintenance checks, we are training the operators to fire the M242 Bushmaster to expand upon their proficiency and confidence with the weapons at their disposal," said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel E. Steele, the platoon sergeant.

When the day's work drew to a close, all

"We use the improved thermal sight system to ensure precision sight alignment. When you set the sights on the target, it accounts for wind and vehicle movement. It is a very accurate sight."



The M242 Bushmaster is an externally-powered, chain-driven, single-barrel weapon, which may be fired in semiautomatic or automatic modes. It is fed by a metallic link belt and has dual-feed capability. The M242's cyclic rate of fire is 200 rounds per minute.

weapons and vehicles performed their functions without fail, according to Nauta. The unit was pleased with the outcome and performance of the unit's Marines and new equipment, according to Nauta.

In Theaters Now

MARCH 8 - 14

FOSTER

TODAY Snitch (PG13), 6 p.m.; Identity Thief (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY Gangster Squad (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Snitch (PG13), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

TODAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), 2 p.m.; The Guilt Trip (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), 2 p.m.; A Good Day to Die Hard (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY A Good Day to Die Hard (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Gangster Squad (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Parental Guidance (PG), 3 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY A Good Day to Die Hard (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY A Good Day to Die Hard (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Guilt Trip (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY A Good Day to Die Hard (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 2 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Snitch (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.

DRAGON BOAT RACE PRACTICE

• The Dragon Boat Races, called hari (the Chinese word for "dragon"), are held at the beginning of May each year at Naha port. The SMP is sponsoring two teams of 36 members each for the 39th Annual Dragon Boat Races. Practices are every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at White Beach Naval Facility. SMP will provide transportation. Seek command approval before signing up.

SMP ST. PATTY'S DAY PARTY - MARCH 16

• The SMP is hosting a St. Patty's Day Party March 16 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be games and prizes.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"When was Marine Corps aviation founded?"

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
When was the noncommissioned officers' sword adopted?

ANSWER:
The NCO sword was adopted in 1859. Along with the officers' Mameluke sword, it continues service today in drill and ceremonies.



Japanese phrase of the week:

"Mata ashita."

(pronounced: mah-tah ash-tah)
It means, "See you tomorrow."

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

"Focusing on the big picture more than the smaller picture gives us a better perspective."



Big-picture perspective brings harmony

Cmdr. Randal B. Craft
CHAPLAIN, 3RD MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

Imagine you're looking through a camera with a telephoto lens. There is a tree nearby, and you decide to focus in on one of its leaves. As the leaf gets closer and consequently is enlarged, the rest of the tree becomes insignificant. Now, you focus again on the rest of the tree, and the previously enlarged leaf becomes smaller but is still in view and a part of the bigger picture. This experience can provide us with a helpful lesson for our lives.

You could look at the entire tree as your command or life as a whole. The branches represent various command sections or parts of your life, and the leaves represent all the command's personnel or all the people you interact with in your life. It is easy to constantly focus on ourselves as one of those leaves to the point the entire tree and other leaves have no significance. We can become so self-centered and concerned

about our situation that those around us lose their significance.

The basic point is one of focus. Do we usually focus on the smaller picture, thinking only about how we feel and our needs and about how comments or actions affect us personally? Are we easily offended? Do we hastily judge someone by face value or by word of mouth and jump to conclusions?

Or do we focus on the bigger picture and consider the impact of situations on others and where other people are coming from and are sensitive that there may be unknown work-related or personal factors affecting individuals and their actions or decisions?

Focusing on the big picture more than the smaller picture gives us a better perspective. That does not mean we are not important — we are. But focusing on the bigger picture will lead to more effective teamwork, unity, productivity, mission accomplishment and a more harmonious life.

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"