

OKINAWA MARINE

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Minister discusses relocation



Itsunori Onodera, left, and Hirofumi Takeda, center, discuss the U.S.-Japan Okinawa Consolidation Plan April 6 at an observation point overlooking the West Futenma Housing area on Camp Foster. After close coordination between senior leaders from both countries, the plan calls for the return of certain U.S. military facilities and training areas on Okinawa upon the completion of specific procedures. West Futenma Housing area is one of the locations scheduled for return as specified in the bilateral agreement. Onodera is Japan's Minister of Defense. Takeda is the director general of the Okinawa Defense Bureau. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

Philippine, US militaries work shoulder-to-shoulder

Cpl. Courtney G. White
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP EMILIO AGUINALDO, Philippines — Hundreds were in attendance at the opening ceremony marking the official start of Exercise Balikatan 2013 April 5 at the Commissioned Officers' Club at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Republic of the Philippines.

Balikatan, which is a Filipino term meaning "shoulder-to-shoulder," is in its 29th iteration and provides an ideal setting for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military forces to demonstrate their combined capabilities through a range of military operations.

"The Philippines and U.S. partnership is an example of a rich history of friendship," said Philippine Army Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, the AFP chief of staff. "The Philippines and see **BALIKATAN** pg 5

Service members volunteer time at Tomo Days festivities, cleanups

Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

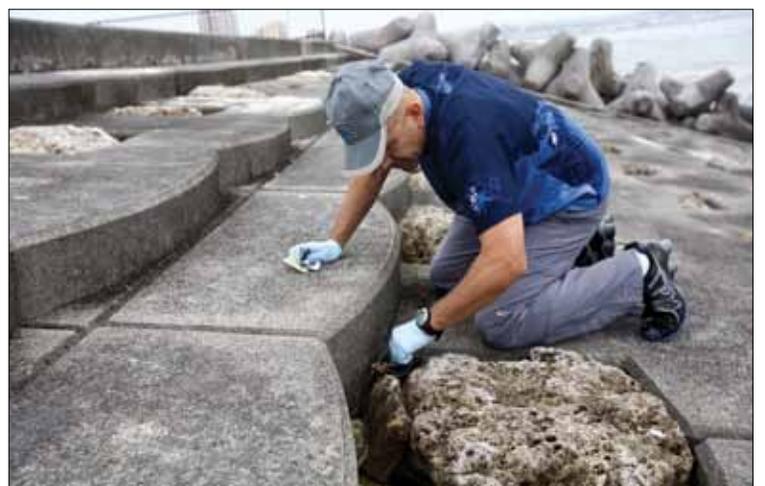
CAMP FOSTER — More than 60 Marines, volunteers and children participated in Tomo Days April 6 and 10 at the Chapel Youth Center on Camp Foster and the seawall in Chatan Town.

The events included an Easter egg hunt for children from the Airen-en Orphanage, a movie matinee and a seawall cleanup.

Tomo Days was initiated to highlight the relationship between the Japanese community and U.S. military following

the 2nd anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami and Operation Tomodachi. Marines stationed on Okinawa assisted with relief efforts in affected areas of mainland Japan during Operation Tomodachi, according to Col. Katherine J. Estes, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, and Camp Foster commander.

"This entire week is focused on our relationship with the local community and the positive things that we do every see **TOMO** pg 5



Master Gunnery Sgt. Pete De La Rosa collects litter during a seawall cleanup April 10 in Chatan Town. The cleanup was a part of Tomo Days, which was initiated to highlight the relationship between the Japanese community and military personnel following the 2nd anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami. De La Rosa is the camp services chief for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

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Earth Day encourages environmental focus

Alicia Treece

On Monday, April 22, the world will celebrate the 43rd annual Earth Day, a global event meant to celebrate the Earth and raise awareness for environmental causes. Earth Day is our opportunity to participate in activities that show an appreciation for the natural beauty of our planet and commitment to combating environmental pollution.

Earth Day is meant to inspire the public to take pride and better care of the environment. Originally established by U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in and first held April 22, 1970, Earth Day is now an annual, global event celebrated by more than 192 countries.

Earth Day reminds us each small step we take toward protecting the environment today will bring us closer to achieving a sustainable environment in the future. The Marine Corps' theme for this year's Earth Day is "Global reach, Local action." We are in a unique position on Okinawa to not only care for our local environment, but to take action as a military

community living alongside our host-nation neighbors overseas. Each year, our military community hosts numerous activities aimed at celebrating the environment and reducing our environmental footprint.

So, what can you do to help?

This year, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler will host numerous Earth Day activities throughout the month of April. These are great ways to get your units, friends and families involved and participate in Earth Day celebrations.

There are many simple steps you can incorporate into your daily routine to benefit the environment. These include buying used rather than new items, supporting local farmers markets, vacationing closer to home, leaving the car behind in favor of walking or using The Green Line, and making a greater effort to donate, reuse or recycle items before throwing them in the trash. The possibilities are endless; it is just a matter of making an effort and doing something.

The Marine Corps is committed to reducing energy consumption and ensuring the quality of the environment through increased energy

efficiency. There are several things we can all do to reduce our energy use: use natural light as much as possible, use a clothesline instead of a dryer, and turn off computers, monitors and other office equipment at the end of the work day. We need everyone's help to achieve our energy reduction goals.

It is up to us as individuals to decide what choices we will make to celebrate Earth Day. Any of these actions taken together — and multiplied by millions of people dedicated to change — can deliver a huge environmental benefit. That is worth pursuing this Earth Day!

For a complete listing of Earth Day events and activities, please contact the MCB Camp Butler Environmental Affairs Branch at 645-3319.

Treece is an environmental trainer with the Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler Environmental Affairs Branch.

Earth Day Schedule of Events

- April 12 - Camp Foster perimeter fence cleanup
- April 19 - Oura Wan Beach cleanup
- April 22 - Eco-tourism Park cleanup
- April 26 - Tropical Beach seawall cleanup
- April 26 - Urasoe City cleanup
- April 29 - Henoko Village beach cleanup



**AROUND THE
CORPS**



A Marine special operations team member fires an M240B medium machine gun during night-fire sustainment training March 28 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Marines are deployed in Helmand province to train and mentor Afghan National Security Forces. *Photo by Sgt. Pete Thibodeau*

Marines conduct battle-sight zero training on the flight deck of the USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) at sea April 7. The Marines are assigned to scout sniper platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is deployed to the 5th Fleet area of operations aboard the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Juanenrique Owings



OKINAWA MARINE

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COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Kenneth G. Lewis Jr.

DESIGN EDITORS Audra A. Satterlee
Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

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CENTRAL BUREAU
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DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Marines apply a fresh coat of paint to playground equipment at Liguana Terrace, Dededo, Guam, March 28 in an effort to restore Guam's green space during Exercise Guahan Shield. The Marines worked with Guam's Islandwide Beautification Task Force and Noncommunicable Disease Consortium's Physical Activities Team. The Marines are participating in Guahan Shield, which facilitates multiservice engagements, sets conditions for bilateral and multilateral training opportunities, and supports rapid response to potential crises and contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific region. Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

Marines, community work to restore, beautify Guam park

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

LIGUAN TERRACE, DEDEDO, Guam — Residents of the island of Guam have been taking part in a series of projects aimed at maintaining its beauty. Recently, members of the community had many extra helping hands for the beautification project.

A group of Marines participating in Exercise Guahan Shield partnered with Guam's Islandwide Beautification Task Force and Noncommunicable Disease Consortium March 28 to help restore parts of the Liguana Terrace community in Dededo, Guam. The day's project was part of Guam Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio's efforts to restore Guam's green spaces and enhance the living conditions of the island.

"Our main goal today is to team up with Marines and clean up an area (that has been) previously neglected," said Tenorio.

The Marines' help in the effort has multiple positive effects, according to Tenorio.

"Having the Marines out here greatly benefits everyone involved because every one of those hands (and) every one of those hearts make a difference in this community," said Tenorio. "As an added benefit, it's a great way for the local community and Marine Corps to get to know each other and for members of the community to get a real understanding of what the Marine Corps is all about."

As part of the lieutenant governor's jurisdiction, the IBTF, relying on volunteers and donations, aims to restore the island's public spaces by removing items such as graffiti and trash to facilitate a renewed sense of responsibility and pride, according to Tenorio.

Another set of helping hands during the cleanup came from members of the Physical Activities Team of the Noncommunicable Disease Consortium, an organization which seeks to facilitate awareness and prevention of diseases such as obesity and heart disease, according to Chris Surla, a health educator for the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services.

"We are trying to promote physical activity for everyone in the neighborhood by cleaning up parks, so anyone can use them.

"If we can keep this area clean and promote physical activity, we can prevent noncommunicable disease by ensuring the places for people to go are inviting," Surla added.

The progress made during the day's cleanup project is due in part to a variety of cooperating organizations, according to Lawrence Alam, program coordinator for the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and coordinator for the Physical Activities Group of the consortium.

"We could not have done what we did as quickly as we did without the help of organizations such as the Marine Corps and the IBTF," said Alam.

The Marines who helped are with various units participating in 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.

The Marines have been on the island for about two months and have already made a very positive impact on Guam, according to Tenorio.

"Every single Marine who comes to this island does something to help our community," said Tenorio.

"When we think about the Marine Corps, we think about young men and women; people who are professionals in one way or another," added Tenorio. "They ultimately want to give back to the community and make a positive difference wherever they go."

For years, Guam's residents have maintained a great affinity and respect for the Marine Corps, according to Tenorio.

"The Marines have been an integral part of our community for many, many years," said Tenorio. "We value them so much, we named our main road Marine Corps Drive."

The impact of the Marines that came to help is very appreciated and enduring, according to Tenorio.

"I have the greatest admiration for the Marines here today," said Tenorio. "They have done things for this island that will never be forgotten. I thank the Marines for stepping up and answering the call to help this community."

BRIEFS

TAX DEADLINE NEARING, EXTENSIONS FOR OVERSEAS PERSONNEL AVAILABLE

The Deadline to file 2012 taxes is April 15. However, the last official date for forward-deployed service members, who file for an extension for their taxes, is June 14.

The tax centers on Camps Foster, Hansen and Schwab are available for last-minute tax service assistance and will still be available to offer assistance after April 15 via adjusted hours of operation.

For more details or to schedule appointments at Camps Foster and Schwab, call 645-4520. To contact the Camp Hansen tax center, call 623-3535.

TRAINING DEVICES EXPO: TRAIN LOCAL, FIGHT GLOBAL

A Training Devices Expo is scheduled for April 18 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at The Palms Club on Camp Hansen.

Devices, simulators and command and control systems will be displayed including: the deployable virtual training environment, HMMWV egress assistance trainer, MRAP egress trainer, supporting arms virtual trainer, special effects small-arms marking system and combat convoy simulators.

For more details, call 623-2610.

MARINE MOBILE ZIP CODES CHANGE

All Marine Mobile ZIP codes on Okinawa will be changed. These changes will begin May 1 and will only affect command addresses and unit mailrooms, to include unaccompanied Marines who receive their mail from unit mailrooms.

There will be no impact to customers who use a PSC address to receive mail. The Marine Corps Installations Pacific Postal Branch will work directly with commands to ensure a smooth transition to the new ZIP codes in addition to scheduling briefs on each installation.

For more details, call the MCIPAC Postal Branch at 637-2468.

SAVE ON COOLING COSTS

Check thermostat settings to ensure air conditioning is set between 78 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Thermostat settings should be set warmer when leaving buildings for an extended period of time. Cooling spaces upon return costs less than keeping them cool constantly.

These steps can save 10 percent or more on cooling costs.

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.

Marines prepare for Afghanistan in simulator

Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion obtained valuable experience for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the safe environment of the combat convoy simulator April 5 on Camp Hansen.

Experience and knowledge is invaluable when conducting a convoy in a combat environment, according to Staff Sgt. Joseph K. Freeman, a platoon sergeant with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The goal of this training is to help the Marines understand the initial reaction drills and ensure they are using the proper tactics, techniques and procedures,” said Freeman. “There is no replacement for reality, but here on Okinawa, with all the jungle, it is very hard to recreate the terrain in Afghanistan.”

During the training,



Lance Cpl. Elias D. Gonzales scans for potential threats during convoy training April 5 at the combat convoy simulator on Camp Hansen. The simulator allowed Marines to use gas-powered weapons systems to practice their rules of engagement against simulated enemies. Gonzales is a bulk fuel specialist with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

Freeman used the simulator to create scenarios and threats his Marines may encounter during a convoy in Afghanistan. The simulator can also present Marines with actual roads and convoy routes from Afghanistan they may encounter while on their deployment.

“We can literally do anything with this system,” said Freeman. “Anything you can encounter in a real-world scenario, we can duplicate in

this simulator. We can hide roadside explosives, create complex blocked ambushes, and have noncombatants, such as a goat farmer with his herd of goats, in the middle of the road. Our imagination is the only limitation when creating these scenarios.”

The simulator is a vital tool for getting Marines in a combat mindset as their deployment nears, according to Cpl. Derrek D. Solarz, a combat engineer and team

leader with the battalion.

“We are going over improvised explosive device immediate action drills to help increase the confidence levels of the Marines prior to getting in country,” said Solarz. “I have used this (simulator) prior to a previous deployment, and the scenarios it can put you in are similar to the real situations we will be facing when we go to Afghanistan.”

For many of the Marines,

this simulator provided their first chance to experience a combat convoy, according to Lance Cpl. Craig D. Sisler, a bulk fuel specialist with the battalion.

“The graphics are similar to that of an older video game, but apart from that, I was surprised at how realistic it was,” said Sisler. “The ability to actually sit inside a full-sized Humvee, drive around the terrain, feel the vehicle bounce while driving, and engage simulated enemies gave me a lot of insight of how actual convoys in Afghanistan might go.”

At the end of each convoy, the Marines discussed what was done correctly and could be improved upon.

“As we keep creating scenarios in the simulator for them, we can see they are absorbing the knowledge and getting better in conducting convoy operations,” said Freeman. “As we continue to train and prepare for this deployment, I have no doubt that these Marines will be ready for whatever is thrown their way.”

Urasoe, Kinser strengthen relations through English classes

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Camp Kinser community relations volunteers reached out to neighbors in the surrounding community by teaching English classes April 3 at Urasoe City Hall, in addition to opening its gates to new Urasoe City Hall employees April 4.

The events allowed Urasoe City citizens and service members and staff assigned to Kinser to improve their relationship through interactive learning and seeing firsthand how Marines work and function while in garrison.

“The (community members) want to see how things work on base because it directly affects them,” said Ichino Kuba, the community relations specialist for Camp Kinser. “Because of these events, the employees can adopt a supportive mindset, which leads to benefiting both community relations as well as city administrations.”

For Marines stationed throughout Okinawa, it is very important to be involved and active with their hosts and neighbors in the surrounding community, according to Capt. Todd P. Wangenheim, the camp services officer for Camp Kinser.

The first day of the class began with teaching city hall employees basic English conversational skills, allowing teachers to gauge their language skills.

“I enjoyed this (the) most because it took place where we work in an environment we are comfortable in,” said Kanae Nakamura, an international relations liaison for Urasoe City Hall. “I have always been interested in learning English.”

In addition to the English classes, members



Urasoe City Hall employees view a part of the Battle of Okinawa Historical Society display during an orientation day on Camp Kinser April 4. The employees toured areas on Camp Kinser such as the display and the helicopter landing pad. The tour helped foster a professional working relationship between Urasoe City Hall administrators and service members and staff assigned to Camp Kinser. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

of Camp Kinser invited the employees to tour the base.

“The tour was part of their orientation,” said Kuba. “It allowed the employees to gain familiarization of Camp Kinser while also giving them a view of how it affects their community. When the employees return to their respective working sections, they will keep Camp Kinser in mind, and it will add to the good working relationship that we already have.”

During the tour, the employees visited locations such as the helicopter landing pad and the Battle of Okinawa Historical Society display.

“I have lived in Urasoe City for a long time but have never received the opportunity to visit Camp Kinser,” said Tomoki Matsukawa,

a psychologist with Urasoe City Hall. “I have really enjoyed this visit because a tour such as this brings us closer together as a community. We are, after all, neighbors and should be close.”

The English class, which will be held every other week at Urasoe City Hall, will provide opportunities to continue building positive relationships between community residents and service members and employees at Camp Kinser, according to Kuba.

“These events affect us both now in the present and will have an impact on our relationship in the future,” said Kuba. “We need to have a professional working relationship in order to have good community relations.”

Leadership emphasizes child abuse prevention



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri signs a child abuse prevention month proclamation April 5 at Marine Corps Installations Pacific headquarters, Building 1 on Camp Foster. A section of the proclamation reads, "Effective child abuse prevention programs in the military community succeed because of partnerships created among family advocacy programs, commanders, schools ... and individual service members and their families." Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Pfc. Mike Granahan

BALIKATAN from pg 1

the U.S. armed forces are working shoulder-to-shoulder for stability and security of the region."

As with previous Balikatan exercises, the focus this year is bilateral training between Philippine and U.S. service members to improve interoperability, strengthen military-to-military relations, and advance regional security through shared cooperation.

BK13 consists of three simultaneous events: a series of humanitarian civic assistance projects, a bilateral scenario-based command post exercise that includes joint force planning and assistance required for a typhoon-based disaster relief scenario, and bilateral field training exercises.

"Balikatan is an exercise focused on the Philippine and U.S. militaries working together to improve our ability to respond to crises," said U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Richard L. Simcock II, the exercise deputy director. "This response spans the range of military operations from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief all the way up to conventional combat."

Simcock also added that because this region is prone to natural disasters — tsunamis, typhoons, earthquakes and other crises such as pandemics — the interoperability of Philippine and U.S. forces will not only benefit both countries, but will further contribute to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Echoing this sentiment during



From left to right: Philippine Marine Cpls. Milky Espere and Raymond Almonte receive a familiarization brief from U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Adrian Sandoval on how to disassemble an M249 squad automatic weapon April 5 during a bilateral subject-matter expert exchange at Camp O'Donnell, Republic of the Philippines. Espere and Almonte are with transportation and maintenance, Philippine Marine Corps. Sandoval is a supply clerk with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

the opening ceremony was U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr., who emphasized that the military cooperation between both countries has strengthened over the years, most recently in the aftermath of typhoon Pablo in December 2012.

"Within seven hours of the request from the Philippine government to assist with the typhoon relief, the first U.S. aircraft arrived here in Manila to begin rescue operations," said Thomas, who affirmed the U.S. commitment to its mutual defense treaty ally.

"The Balikatan exercises are

powerful and living symbols of the longstanding security relationship between the Philippines and the U.S.," said Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario. "These exercises breathe life and meaning into our obligations as treaty partners."

More than 8,000 Philippine and U.S. service members are participating in this year's exercise, in addition to representatives from several regional partners who are attending Balikatan to advance common security interests in the region. The exercise is scheduled to conclude April 17.

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day," said Estes. "There's a close relationship between the community and the camps on Okinawa."

To support Tomo Days, service members volunteered their time April 6 to assist the children in an Easter egg hunt.

"For most of the kids, this is their first time on Camp Foster, and the egg hunt gives them a taste of American Easter traditions," said Lt. Cmdr. Aaron C. Carlton, the chaplain for H&S Bn., MCB Camp Butler. "This is great for children from the community because they get to experience some cultural differences that they maybe haven't before."

Following the egg hunt, attendees made their way to the Camp Foster Chapel Youth Center, where refreshments were served and guests watched "Toy Story 3."

"We just wanted to have an opportunity to show our appreciation for our host nation and local community," Carlton said. "When we get to interact with the (children), we get to bring our own joy into the situation, so it's a really special event."

The movie matinee gave the children the opportunity to experience American culture and traditions. The event showcased the important relationship between Okinawa and military bases, as more than 30 service members volunteered to help out.

"To see this many volunteers helping with children is wonderful," said Yoh Arai, a chapel volunteer and parent. "It helps the children grow up and develop."

At the end of the day, both the service members and children left with something positive.

"A lot of our troops get to spend time with the (children) and everybody just warms up to each other, and that bodes well for all of us," said Carlton. "It makes sure that we're connected to the people around us and that these kids will grow up with positive experiences with the American military."

Later in the week, service members and volunteers cleaned up a section of a seawall in Chatan Town frequently visited by service members.

"Events such as this are good to show that we care how the community looks and about the environment," said Lance Cpl. Joseph R. Goulet, a helicopter mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It lets us show that we are good neighbors to the surrounding communities."

Even though the cleanup had to be rescheduled from the original day due to adverse weather conditions, service members still showed up and were eager to participate in the event.

"Even though there were not as many people out cleaning up as there would have been on the weekend, we did a good job," said Goulet. "There was a noticeable difference from when we started to when we finished."

Marines forward-arm, refuel helicopters during

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Five minutes out!” With that warning, Marines rush to refueling points and wait for the signature sound of rotors slicing through the air as aircraft near their position for an expedient pit stop.

Aviation Operations Company Marines set up a forward-arming and refueling point April 3 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen to support flight operations conducted by three CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters and one AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36.

“The commanding officer wanted to make this as large of an exercise as it could be,” said Master Sgt. John C. Green, the operations chief for Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, MAG-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “This exercise involved motor transport, communications, aircraft rescue and firefighting, an expeditionary airfield, fuels and a provisional security platoon. We brought out many different sections, so they could train and better learn how to operate at a FARP.”

During the exercise, each section contributed to the building and staffing of the FARP.

The Marines are capable of setting up different types of FARPs, and for this exercise, set up an assault FARP, according to Sgt. William Leidig, a fuels team leader with MWSS-172. Different types

of FARPs allow Marines to perform a variety of missions, including providing support to several types of rotary-wing aircraft with multiple refueling hoses at the same point.

The squadron chose the assault FARP to allow the Marines to experience refueling an aircraft in a simulated combat environment, according to Leidig.

“Our goal is to (service) the helicopter as quickly as possible, so it can get back to the fight and support the Marines on the ground,” said Leidig.

The main focus of the exercise was getting the squadron’s newer Marines up to speed on the refueling portion of the FARP, Leidig explained.

“Most of the Marines on the refueling points were completely new to this,” said Leidig. “There were a few rough spots during the refueling, but they did not panic and did as they were trained to do. Hands-on is the best way to learn and get experience.”

Marines attain familiarity and efficiency with equipment and procedures through training and repetition, according to Green.

“Exercises like these are good to do, especially to help the new Marines get to know the equipment and how it works,” said Lance Cpl. Sage R. Lancia, a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.

“The more helicopters and landings there are, the more practice we get. The Marines did a good job today, learned a lot, and everything went well.”

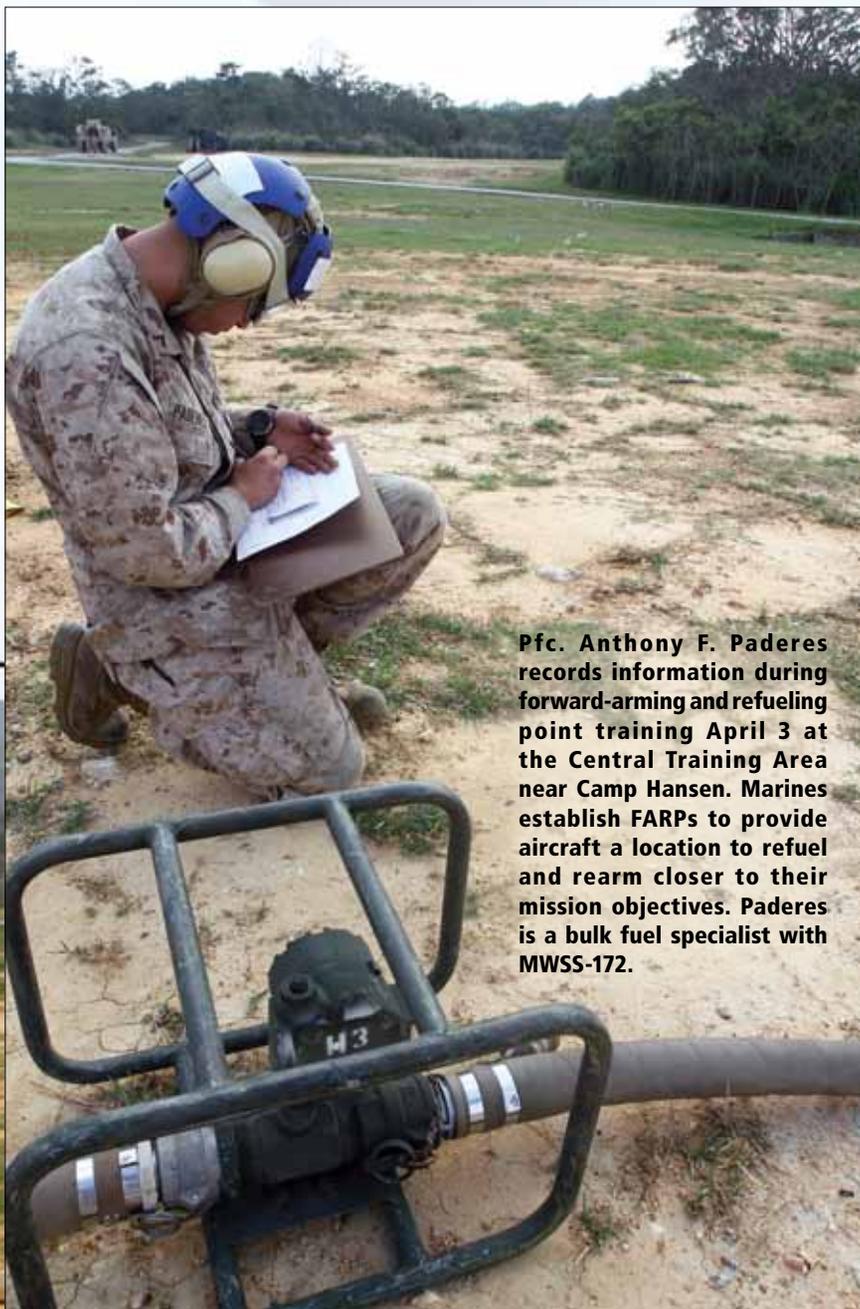
The training prepares Marines in the air and on the ground to support anything from



Marines prepare to refuel an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter during a training exercise April 3 at the Central Training Area. Upon landing, the Marines familiarize Marines with the procedures for refueling a helicopter to expedite the aircraft’s return to the air. The helicopter is

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to combat operations.

“This training event and events like it provide an opportunity to hone skills for future operations, exercises and deployments,” said Green. “Our focus is to help the wing do what it needs to do. That in turn helps the Marines on the ground do what they need to do and get the support that they need from the air.”



Pfc. Anthony F. Paderes records information during forward-arming and refueling point training April 3 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Marines establish FARPs to provide aircraft a location to refuel and rearm closer to their mission objectives. Paderes is a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.



FARP exercise



er during a forward-arming and refueling point training... the Cobra was refueled as part of an exercise to... helicopter while the engine is still running in order to... s a part of HMM-262.



Pfc. Anthony F. Paderes prepares to refuel a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter landing at a forward-arming and refueling point April 3 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. At a FARP, helicopters can refuel without having to shut off their engines. The helicopter is with HMM-262. Paderes is a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.



Pfc. Anthony B. Amers carries a fuel hose to a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter April 3 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. The helicopter landed to be refueled as part of a forward-arming and refueling point exercise conducted by Marine Wing Support Squadron 172. The helicopter is with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Amers is a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172, MAG-36, 1st MAW, III MEF.

Reuniting after tragedy

Students, Marines gather to share appreciation years later

Story and photos by Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

On March 11, 2011, Japan experienced one of the deadliest natural disasters in its history. Now known as the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which struck the main island of Japan, the disaster claimed tens of thousands of lives. Following the tragedy, the Marine Corps supported Japan-led humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during Operation Tomodachi.

More than two years later, on March 26, Kesennuma High School students from the Japanese island of Oshima visited Marines and sailors who participated in the operation to thank them for their assistance at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

"I regretted not being able to thank the (Marines) then because I couldn't speak English really well," said Mami Onodera, a 17-year-old Oshima native. "I couldn't express my feelings and how thankful I felt. When the school announced the program to send students here, I immediately thought this is the time when I can personally go and thank them."

Service members accompanied the students while they toured the depot's command museum. Also joining the students was the honorary consul general of Japan in San Diego and members of the Japan Society, the leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding, appreciation and cooperation between the U.S. and Japan.

Onodera, who was one of the many children greatly affected by the disaster, recalled her experience, as well as the Marines who helped with recovery efforts.

"It was just pure devastation," said Master Sgt. Howard J. Tait, operations chief, S-3, operations and training, Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD



A student from Kesennuma High School on the Japanese island of Oshima receives a gift during her visit March 26 aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The purpose of the visit was to show appreciation for service members who participated in Operation Tomodachi.

San Diego. "It's kind of hard to put a word on it. It was just total destruction, and there didn't appear to be anything really salvageable."

During the visit aboard the depot, Tait, who was the operations chief for Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, during Operation Tomodachi,

had the opportunity to speak to the students. As he spoke about his experience in Oshima, he also showed ribbons that were given to him as he departed from the relief mission.

"The last day we were there, the residents brought out all kinds of media, children and people just to say thanks," said Tait. "They started pulling out all these ribbons, and as we held one side and they held the other, we stretched them across."

It is tradition in Oshima for residents to split a ribbon between themselves and visitors as they leave the island, symbolic of their friendship.

"It signified an unbroken bond between us," said Tait. "No matter what seas or oceans separate us, we still remain friends for the help we provided there. Even though it seemed like an insignificant amount of time we were there for the amount of destruction there was, it was just their way of saying thanks."

Many of the students were overwhelmed by the memento Tait kept. None of the students had ever seen someone keep the ribbon as an emotional token.

"It let them know that we cherished the smallest thing that they gave to us as a thank you," said Tait. "In the sheer face of utter destruction of everything that they own, they were still able to muster the energy and time to come out, stand on a cold dock, say thank you, and wave goodbye."

Their visit aboard the depot is another display of the endless amount of good will there is from both sides of the Pacific. Many believe the support service members provided created an everlasting impact on the citizens of Japan.

"The amount of gratitude from the people of Oshima is just huge," said Onodera. "I will forever remember the Marines, and I will never forget what they have done for us. As far as the people of Oshima, they trust Americans and the people that came to help."



Students from Kesennuma High School on the Japanese island of Oshima view a display of the Asia-Pacific region in the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego command museum during their visit March 26. A handful of students visited Marines and sailors who participated in Operation Tomodachi for an opportunity to thank the service members. Operation Tomodachi was a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation following the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which occurred more than two years ago.

Marines, sailors build character during retreat

Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Demonstrating good character is essential to being a leader. Regardless of the branch of service, leaders are expected to clear a righteous path for subordinates to follow.

Approximately 20 Marines and sailors seized an opportunity to develop their character by participating in the chaplain's religious enrichment development operation retreat program April 3-5 at Tama Hills Recreation Area near Yokota Air Base, Japan.

The purpose of the CREDO retreat was to promote attendees' understanding of themselves and others through a variety of personality tools, encourage personal growth and self-confidence through self-evaluation techniques, and develop personal goals via a personal character assessment and personal mission statement. CREDO also aims to provide tools for effective leadership by identifying means to develop greater teamwork and unit cohesion through team-building skills.

"The goal was to motivate junior Marines and sailors to take pride in their history, as well as to connect the dots between their values and their behavior," said Lt. John R. Freiberg, a chaplain and the deputy director of CREDO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "We want them to see how the connections between their morals, beliefs, world views and core values drive their decisions and actions and help them apply these values to real-life situations."

The participating Marines and sailors are currently stationed at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan.

"The CREDO retreat interested me because I wanted to learn more about the Marine Corps' core values, and I thought the experience would help me do better at my job," said Pfc. Devante O. Huntley, a food service specialist with Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji. "The best part of the retreat was being able to interact with everyone and getting to know them a little bit better outside of work."

During the retreat, attendees participated in several individual and team activities that focused on Marine Corps history, team-building and personality assessment.

"Through the personality assessment sessions, I learned a lot about myself," said Huntley. "I learned that I am someone who is a quick-thinker and who needs to find a solution to a problem right away. I definitely plan to use what I learned in my job and personal life."

The CREDO retreat is a three-day event chaplains host annually for those stationed at CATC Camp Fuji. For this iteration, it was designed specifically for Marines and sailors grades E-4 and below.

"The CREDO event at Tama Hills was basically designed to give Marines and sailors a break, so that they can do character-building exercises and get to know the (Marines and sailors) around them in a more personal way," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon K. Toporczyk, a religious program specialist with Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji. "I learned a lot about who everyone is and where they came from before they enlisted, and I really enjoyed that part because it I now appreciate them and myself a lot more."

The retreat was designed to engage people in meaningful conversations about important topics relevant to both personal and professional development, according to Freiberg.

"I think it takes a healthy, strong person to make a healthy, strong Marine or sailor," said Freiberg. "I want them to be challenged to think and equipped to act as a result of their experiences (during) the retreat because we face challenges daily."



Pfc. George Von Toman presents an Easter basket and stuffed animal March 30 during an annual festival celebrating both Easter and spring at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. The event brought children from three nearby orphanages to the camp to participate in Easter activities such as egg-painting, an egg hunt and relay races. Von Toman is a food service specialist with Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji.

Camp Fuji hosts children from nearby orphanages

Story and Photos by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines and sailors hosted local orphans at their annual festival celebrating Easter and the spring season March 30 aboard Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan.

The festival brought together service members at CATC Camp Fuji and children from three nearby orphanages to promote friendship.

"The purpose of the event was to reach out to orphanages in the area and give these kids a chance to experience a different culture," said Master Sgt. Bryan C. Compton, a food service specialist with Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji.

During the event, children had their faces painted, ate pizza and cupcakes, and played games with Marine and sailor volunteers. They also received Easter baskets from the Easter bunny and went home with new toys, which they picked out for themselves and were paid for by donations raised by individual service members who volunteered their time and efforts.

"I like to get involved because I think it brings the kids a lot of joy and shows that people care about them," said Compton.

The Marines benefit from volunteering for community relations events like this because it takes them out of their comfort zone, gives them a chance to experience a different culture, and provides an opportunity to show compassion to others, according to Compton.

"I am amazed with how many volunteers we got for the event," said Cpl. Stephen N. Shorter, an administrative specialist with CATC Camp Fuji. "We got so many volunteers for the event that we were actually overstaffed, but I think



Sho Takata gets his face painted March 30 during an annual festival celebrating both Easter and the spring season at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. The children came to Camp Fuji from nearby orphanages for a day of fun and games with Marines and sailors.

the most important part is that so many are willing to give up their time for things like this."

In the weeks leading up to the festivities, Marines and sailors volunteered individually to raise more than \$2,000 to buy bicycles, tricycles, basketball hoops and other toys for the children.

"It is really nice to see the kids play and laugh with the (service members)," said Seiko Yoshikawa, the director of Seishin Children's Home, an orphanage near Camp Fuji. "It is really heartwarming to be able to bring the kids to visit them because they have spent so much time and effort on their behalf."

"The children are all leaving with smiles on their faces from all the fun they had," added Yoshikawa.

Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Caldwell addresses guests during his farewell at Taiyo Golf Course March 21. Caldwell's catch phrase, "Shing-ding-a-ling," was part of his gregarious personality, and Caldwell used it to describe his motivation about being a Marine and serving with other Marines. *Courtesy photo*



Shing-ding-a-ling

Caldwell recognized for leadership, personality

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Superheroes are known for their extraordinary powers. While many have pondered which fictional superpower they would most like to possess, few stop to consider what is real when it comes to superheroes — their character.

While Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Caldwell is not a superhero, many who have come into contact with him throughout their career consider him one.

Caldwell, who most recently served as the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group and Camp Hansen, marched across the parade deck March 29 during his retirement ceremony; a ceremony recognizing 30 years of honorable and faithful service to the Marine Corps and nation.

"I have known Caldwell a little over three years, and only knew him by his magnanimous reputation before arriving to the unit," said Col. Stephen B. Lewallen, the commanding officer of III MHG and Camp Hansen commander. "When they made him, they really broke the mold, creating the most dynamic gentleman I have ever worked with in the Marine Corps."

Caldwell's journey as a Marine began at the age of 17, following graduation from Spartanburg High School in Spartanburg, S.C. In August 1983, following a year in the delayed entry program, he departed for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, where he immediately began to excel.

"My aspirations started from the very beginning when I was selected as guide for the platoon," said Caldwell.

His selection as platoon guide during recruit training fueled an already burning desire to lead Marines. Consequently, Caldwell was meritoriously promoted to private first class upon

graduation from recruit training.

Accelerated advancement was something Caldwell became accustomed to earning three meritorious promotions within the first 10 years of his storied career.

A few years later, Caldwell was presented with an opportunity to return to Parris Island and lead Marines, this time as a drill instructor.

"During my time at the recruit depot, I processed about 4,000 recruits and graduated about 500 Marines," said Caldwell.

But it was more than a matter of numbers for Caldwell, who was named drill instructor of the year in 1993; it was about impacting and shaping young Marines and helping them realize their potential.

"The greatest experience was being able to mold recruits into Marines ready to demonstrate their potential," said Caldwell.

Molding and developing Marines is something Caldwell took personally. Ultimately, it led and motivated him to avoid complacency as his career progressed.

Caldwell's leadership style and gregarious personality allowed Marines to gravitate toward him, according to Lewallen.

"The Marines know he is concerned about their welfare

and that he is genuinely pushing ahead to serve their interests as a senior enlisted advisor and leader," said Lewallen. "On any given day, he has 3,300 Marines with the MEB and MHG and over 7,000 Marines and civilians with the camp. There are not many Marines that can execute the job like Caldwell."

It was Caldwell's infectious personality and leadership style that earned him the respect of the Marines under his charge, according to Lewallen, who witnessed this bond firsthand prior to a concert on Camp Hansen last winter.

"Prior to the Trace Adkins concert, I was going to introduce Adkins to the Marines, but as soon as the Marines got a glimpse of Caldwell,



Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake presents Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Caldwell the Legion of Merit Medal March 29 during Caldwell's retirement ceremony at Camp Hansen. Caldwell was recognized for 30 years of service to the Marine Corps and nation during the ceremony. Timberlake is the deputy commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force and commanding general of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Caldwell most recently served as the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III MEF Headquarters Group and Camp Hansen. *Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning*

the whole crowd began chanting Caldwell's catchphrase, 'Shing-ding-a-ling,' said Lewallen. "So he went out and got the crowd worked up for Adkins."

Shing-ding-a-ling is a phrase Caldwell uses to describe the abundant amount of motivation he feels about being a Marine and serving with other Marines.

"As my retirement approaches, I want to make sure that all the Marines keep a high level of MAD — motivation, attitude and discipline," said Caldwell. "Always be that individual that all Marines want to emulate and strive to be like one day."

"As my retirement approaches, I want to make sure that all the Marines keep a high level of MAD — motivation, attitude and discipline."

Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Caldwell

In Theaters Now

APRIL 12 - 18

FOSTER

TODAY 42 (PG13), 6 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Croods (PG), noon; 42 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY 42 (PG13), 1 p.m.; G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 4 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY 42 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY 42 (PG13) 6 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY 42 (PG13), noon and 3 p.m.; Identity Thief (R), 6 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY 42 (PG13), 1 and 4 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY 42 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Identity Thief (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Evil Dead (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY 42 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY 42 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Croods (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Tyler Perry's Temptation (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Evil Dead (R), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 42 (PG13), 4 p.m.; Parker (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY 42 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Les Miserables (PG13), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Oz the Great and the Powerful (PG), 3 p.m.; 42 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 42 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY 42 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Evil Dead (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Evil Dead (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 6 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 3 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY 42 (PG13), 6 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Identity Thief (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 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 and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

BATTLE SITES TOUR - APRIL 19

• Learn about the Battle of Okinawa during a tour of the island. Visit significant battle sites, including the former Japanese Naval Underground Headquarters, Peace Prayer Park and The Battle of Okinawa Historical Society display at Camp Kinser. Sign up no later than today.

CAMP KINSER FIELD MEET - APRIL 26

• The SMP is hosting a field meet April 26 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser. The event is open to all single Marines and sailors on Camp Kinser. No registration needed; arrive the day of.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What Marine went on to become an astronaut and eventually a U.S. senator?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What conflict saw Marines deployed to the Asia-Pacific region from 1899-1901?

ANSWER:

The Chinese Boxer Rebellion, for which 33 enlisted Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor, including the first for then Pvt. Dan Daily.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Kinyobi desu!”

(pronounced: kin-yoh-bee-dehs)

It means, “It’s Friday!”

CHAPLAINS’

ORNER

“My prayer for all of us today is that all of our deeds match our words.”



Live life by spoken ideals

Words are meaningless without deeds to match

Cmdr. Herbert L. Griffin
 CHAPLAIN, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

“A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” Proverbs 22:1

A young lay minister received a last-minute invitation to preach a sermon at a local church.

On impulse, he chose as his text one of the Ten Commandments: “Thou shall not steal.”

The next morning, he stepped on a bus and handed the bus driver a dollar bill. The driver handed him his change and the young minister headed to his seat at the back of the bus. As he counted his change, he realized that the driver had given him a dime too much. At first, he thought the

bus company will never miss a dime.

He quickly changed his mind however, feeling conviction in his conscience that the dime did not belong to him and he needed to return it. He made his way to the front of the bus and said, “You gave me too much change,” and handed the driver the dime.

To his surprise the driver said, “Yes, I gave you a dime too much. I did so purposely. I heard your sermon yesterday, and I was watching you in my mirror as you counted your change.”

This young minister passed the test set up for him by the driver and gave witness to his faith in the process. Are you passing the tests that come your way? And what type of witness are you for your God, nation and Corps?

My prayer for all of us today is that all of our deeds match our words.

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”