

OKINAWA MARINE

MAY 3, 2013

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ROK, US combine efforts



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Republic of Korea Marine Corps assault amphibious vehicle operators conduct formation maneuvers April 16 near Dogu Beach, Pohang, Republic of Korea, as the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo is prepared for off-load. The Bobo, a container and roll-on/roll-off ship, is part of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command's maritime prepositioning force program. The ship is participating in Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013, a biennial MPF exercise. The ROK Marine Corps and Navy are scheduled to work with III Marine Expeditionary Force, Army forces with U.S. Forces Korea, Navy Expeditionary Strike Group 3 and Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 during the exercise. The ROK AAV crews are with 1st Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, ROK Marine Corps. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

USNH hosts ceremony

Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa April 30 to officially open the new facility on Camp Foster.

Planning for the transition began more than a decade ago and after countless hours of preparation, patients and services officially began transition to the new location March 5.

“Our replacement facility leverages the leading edge of medical technology,” said Navy Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo, the commanding officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. “For more than a year now, we have simultaneously planned and executed a flawless transition from Camp Lester to Camp Foster, while also providing uninterrupted civil-quality service to all those entrusted to our service.”

The facility represents Navy medicines’ enduring commitment to providing the highest level of readiness and care to military personnel and families in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Navy, Corps conduct medical exchange with Vietnam

Pfc. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

DA NANG, Vietnam — Marines and sailors of III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in Naval Exchange Activity 2013 April 22-24 in Da Nang, Vietnam.

During the activity, medical professionals with III MEF and the Vietnam People’s Navy engaged in subject-matter expert exchanges, including medical procedures and logistics support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, based on real-world case studies.

“We build relationships with our counterparts throughout the Asia-Pacific region, so that in the event an HA/DR situation occurs, which requires us to work together, we can provide assistance more

rapidly and effectively,” said U.S. Navy Lt. Boyce R. Gier, a medical planner with the III MEF Surgeon’s Office. “Having these relationships helps both sides respond right way.”

Since 2010, the NEA has provided opportunities for U.S. and Vietnam naval professionals to share practices and exchange maritime skills, such as community service projects, firefighting and damage control, diving and salvage, and medical procedures.

The discussions and interactions provided valuable experiences and opportunities for medical professionals to exchange medical practices, according to Vietnam People’s Navy Lt. Nguyen Quoc An, a medical officer with the unit.

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Members of the Vietnam People’s Navy treat a patient during a simulated mass-casualty event April 23 as part of Naval Exchange Activity 2013 in Da Nang, Vietnam. The NEA provides opportunities for U.S. and Vietnam naval professionals to share practices and exchange maritime skills. Photo by Pfc. Mike Granahan

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HAZING

No time or place in Marine Corps

Sgt. Maj. Brent L. Cook

Like a disease attacking the human body, hazing attacks the heart of a unit or organization. At times, it sits in remission without any visible signs; unfortunately, recurrence is only a misjudgement away.

The fact that hazing is not limited to the Marine Corps should not be used as an excuse to avoid our responsibilities. America has entrusted us with her youth, and we need to uphold that trust by instilling the core values that have been handed down through generations of honorable and faithful service.

In late 1993, after a video of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon's "Hell Night" surfaced, we were brought into the theater at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., and, as a sergeant, I received my first class on hazing.

I tried to justify in my mind that previous things I had done were nothing compared to the events in the video. What I had participated in was tradition, not hazing. But, the longer I sat there, the clearer it became that I was just as guilty as the Marines in the video because I violated the sacred trust placed in me. After leaving that theater, it was clear I needed to change ... not out of fear of repercussions but because, as a Marine, it was the right and necessary thing to do.

In early 1997, a second video depicting Marines at Camp Lejeune participating in a "wing-pinning" ceremony appeared. In response, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak addressed the incident in an open letter. "My duty in this matter is clear," said Krulak. "All Marines will be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. There is no place for hazing, sexual

harassment, discrimination or any other form of degrading or immoral behavior in the Corps. No part of what makes the United States Marine Corps the world's premier fighting force has ever relied on brutality."

At that moment, we as Marines had an opportunity to use his letter as the scalpel to cut this cancer from our Corps. Unfortunately, because of some misguided and skewed sense of loyalty to culpable individuals instead of the institution, hazing still exists today.

Most recently, in All-Marine message 005/12, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos expressed his commitment to eradicate hazing. He defined hazing as both a leadership and warfighting issue. "As leaders, you are to ensure that all Marines are treated with dignity and respect and to be ever vigilant for the signs of hazing within our ranks," said Amos. "Hazing destroys our Marines' trust and confidence

in their fellow Marines and in the unit leadership, thus undermining unit cohesion and combat readiness. It does not promote loyalty, build esprit de Corps, or prepare Marines for war."

The title "Marine" is earned at recruit training and officer candidate school. Any other self-described rite of passage is hazing. Training Marines still needs to be hard and challenging, but if you have to ask yourself the question "Is this hazing?" then it is in fact hazing. Looking the other way is condoning it, and even with the best intentions in mind, it will continue to erode the trust and confidence that is the bedrock of our Corps.

We as Marines have to take ownership of the problem. We have to rededicate our efforts to eliminate this unnecessary evil from our Corps. Together, we can eliminate this disease from our ranks.

Cook is the sergeant major of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

"We as Marines have to take ownership of the problem. We have to rededicate our efforts to eliminate this unnecessary evil from the ranks of our Corps."

As part of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One's weapons and tactics Instructors course, Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, based out of MCAS Miramar, Calif., conduct refueling exercises with AV-8B Harriers over the Bristol Military Operation Area at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 19.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Uriel Avendano



A Marine with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit Maritime Raid Force fires an M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System while conducting a marksmanship training exercise April 22 at a range in Qatar during Eagle Resolve. Eagle Resolve is an annual multilateral exercise designed to enhance regional cooperative defense efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations and U.S. Central Command. Photo by Cpl. Christopher Q. Stone

AROUND THE CORPS

OKINAWA MARINE

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Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri speaks to Marines and sailors April 18 during a visit to the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. Talleri made the visit following the installation's recent successful inspection as part of the commanding general's inspection program. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Talleri commends Fuji Marines, sailors

Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan — Marine Corps Installations Pacific Commanding General Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri visited Marines and sailors assigned to Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, April 17-18.

It's a personal priority to periodically visit Camp Fuji, where service members provide all logistical and training support necessary to sustain U.S. forces deployed to the training area, according to Talleri.

"Each installation is unique in the challenges and requirements that face it as the commander manages limited resources in the accomplishment of the mission," said Talleri. "Camp Fuji's challenges are unique and best understood if I stand on the ground and see the facilities and Marines firsthand."

Recently, Camp Fuji was evaluated through the commanding general's inspection program.

"On this particular visit, I had to let the Marines and sailors know how proud I am of them and their work leading to a successful inspection," said Talleri.

During the visit, Talleri took the time to speak with groups of officers and staff non-commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers and junior-enlisted personnel. He offered them advice on leadership, reminded them all of the importance of their jobs, and received feedback from the Marines.

"I think we are able to successfully fulfill our mission here because of the high level of camaraderie," said Staff Sgt. Cynthia E. Vasquez, the postal chief for Camp Fuji. "We are a small unit, so it is in everyone's best interest to help one another, which helps things run smoothly."

Marines and sailors of Camp Fuji play a vital role in the readiness and combat effectiveness of U.S. service members deployed to this area of operations, according to Talleri.

"Their role ensures the tip of the spear is finely sharpened and prepared for any tasking that may come their way," said Talleri.

The general wanted Camp Fuji's Marines and sailors to know that the work performed here is important, not only to the Marine



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, right, shakes hands with Gunnery Sgt. Shonor D. Burton April 18 during a visit to the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. Talleri visited Camp Fuji to meet with personnel and commend their performance following the camp's recent inspection. Burton is the first sergeant for Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Corps, but also to the other services under U.S. Forces Japan, according to 1st Lt. Rasool A. Todd, the range control officer for Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji.

"He conveyed his sincere appreciation for our dedication to the Camp Fuji mission, supporting our brothers and sisters from all services," said Todd.

Camp Fuji plays a key role in the reorganization of U.S. forces in the Pacific theater, according to Talleri.

"Large maneuver areas and ranges that support the full spectrum of weapons systems are few and far between in the Pacific area of operations, but Camp Fuji provides all of this and the complimentary infrastructure to make a cost-effective and immediately available training venue for III Marine Expeditionary Force and other U.S. forces deployed to the Pacific," said Talleri.

BRIEFS

FINANCIAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Hollister K. Petraeus, the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office of Service Member Affairs, will host a financial town hall meeting May 9 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Camp Foster Community Center.

The informal gathering will allow her to present programs available to Marines and sailors and their family members and hear from the community about financial challenges.

For more information, call 645-2903/3150.

RESERVE TRANSITION CLASSES

Personnel with the III Marine Expeditionary Force reserve liaison branch will provide reserve transition briefings May 6-10 for Marines who want to learn more about opportunities within the Marine Corps Reserve.

The classes are available for unit leaders, officers and enlisted Marines within 12 months of their end-of-active service date, and career-designated officers who desire to resign their commission and accept a reserve commission.

Briefing dates and locations:

- May 6: Camp Schwab Theater
- May 7: Camp Hansen Theater
- May 8: Camp Kinser Theater
- May 9: Camp Foster Bldg 5908
- May 10: Camp Courtney Theater

For briefing times and additional information, call 622-6004.

SCHEDULED POWER AND WATER OUTAGES

There will be upcoming scheduled power and water outages on Camps Foster and Lester including Plaza Housing throughout the month of May.

For questions or concerns, call 645-0883, or visit www.facebook.com/CampFoster.

NEW VEHICLE POLICY AT CAMP FOSTER PEDESTRIAN GATE

Due to safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers, stopping a vehicle next to the Kubasaki pedestrian gate, along Highway 330, to drop students off is prohibited. Any vehicle stopped in this location will be issued a citation.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Camp Foster camp services at 645-7317.

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 with Marine Corps Air Station Futenma clean the Tropical Beach sea wall April 26 in Ginowan City. The Marines volunteered as part of MCAS Futenma's Earth Week. Throughout the week, service members practiced environmental awareness and energy conservation. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Earth Day activities benefit environment on Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

GINOWAN CITY, OKINAWA, Japan — Service members stationed at Camps Kinser and Hansen and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma celebrated Earth Day with various activities April 22-26.

Events included environmental awareness programs, sea wall cleanups and picking up litter islandwide and were open to everyone, according to Jared Sawin, the environmental protection specialist for environmental affairs branch, G-F, Facilities, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

"Each installation usually does an Earth Day event as part of their awareness campaign," said Shawn Williams, the environmental coordinator for Camp Kinser. "(Camp Kinser) holds the event for two reasons: to clean up the environment because it is the only one we have and to be good friends to our neighbors."

MCAS Futenma held a weeklong event called Earth Week to educate its service members on environmental topics.

"As part of Earth Week, we had environmental inspection teams go through all of the buildings on the station in an effort to increase awareness," said Aleksandra Kirk, the environmental protection specialist for MCAS Futenma. "We also had recycling collection points set up, a written quiz about environmental awareness

and a slideshow playing in the mess hall."

Each event gave Marines and sailors stationed aboard MCAS Futenma a chance to decrease their environmental impact while also competing against one another.

"We had a competition between the units on the station," said Kirk. "When we went through their living quarters and work areas, we looked for properly separated recyclables, closed doors and windows, leaking faucets and lights left on. These, in conjunction with the written quiz, were combined to give each unit a score. The top squadrons were awarded plaques for the best general environmental awareness and recycling."

To conclude Earth Week, Marines and sailors were given a chance to come together and give back to the community by conducting a cleanup in Ginowan City.

"The citizens of Ginowan City are really appreciative of the Tropical Beach sea wall and beach cleanup," said Col. James G. Flynn, the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. "This is our first year doing this cleanup, and by doing this we have the opportunity to enhance our relationship and understanding with the citizens of Ginowan."

The service members from the air station were not the only participants in the cleanup, as citizens of Ginowan City also came out to help.

"I appreciate that (the service members) took the

time to volunteer here," said Morine Seiso, the director of Hagoromo Park management in Ginowan City. "Tropical Beach is one of the more popular destinations for tourists and local citizens. It is unfortunate that people throw trash on the beach, and we thank (the service members) for helping us."

Throughout the afternoon, the volunteers scoured the beach and sea wall searching for litter and recyclables.

"Before we got out here, I did not think that we were going to find a lot of trash," said Lance Cpl. Calie Jacobsen, an aircraft intermediate level hydraulic, pneumatic mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "I was surprised at how much we found."



Morine Seiso, center, speaks to Marines and sailors about the importance of the environment prior to a cleanup at Tropical Beach April 26 in Ginowan City. The cleanup culminated MCAS Futenma's Earth Week activities, which included environmental impact inspections, recycling collection points and various water and energy-saving initiatives. Seiso is the director of Hagoromo Park management in Ginowan City. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Picking up litter along a beach and sea wall is the first step of many for service members getting involved on Okinawa.

"The cleanup is a step in the right direction," said Sgt. Maj. Brent L. Cook, the Marine Corps Air Station

Futenma sergeant major. "This is going to open up opportunities for us to start doing bigger and better things with the community, and we want to be good friends with all of our neighbors around the air station and throughout Okinawa."



Marines with various units across Okinawa collect garbage accumulating off base in Urasoe City April 26. The Marines who participated volunteered their time as a way to recognize Earth Day, which was April 22. The Marines walked the perimeter of Camp Kinser with the goal of filling up one trash bag each. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

Concert rocks Kin Town community



Marines perform during the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band's free concert April 26 at Camp Hansen. Camp Hansen opened the event to the Kin Town community members, so they could enjoy the concert alongside Marines and sailors. The Marines are with the III MEF Band. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

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The new facility plays an important role in the lives of all service members and families stationed on Okinawa, according to Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler and guest speaker at the ceremony.

"There will be thousands of children born in this facility," said Talleri. "There will be many lives saved. The prefecture of Okinawa allows that to happen, as a United States Marine, I want to thank the people of Okinawa because it is days like today that remind me how important and how valuable our relationship is, so thank you."

The process of moving facilities would not have been possible without the commitment of the people who worked so hard to see the new facility through to completion, according to Talleri.

"For the Marine Corps, for all the military services and for those families that will be forward-deployed to the prefecture of Okinawa, having a facility like this means so much," said Talleri. "The people standing to the left and right of me are the heart and soul of this organization. They have the brains, equipment and knowledge, and they have the camaraderie from working with our partners here in Japan. The internships we have worked so closely together on and the sharing of important knowledge helps us take care of our most important assets, our families and friends."

Talleri also acknowledged the tremendous amount of support received from the hospital's host nation.

"The Japanese-U.S. Alliance could not be stronger today," said Talleri. "I want to thank the country of Japan for allowing a day like today to occur and for its support of our forces in the Pacific. I want to thank the great prefecture of Okinawa and the Okinawa citizens for their generous hearts and great friendships. This is a proud day to have a facility like this that so many have worked so hard for."

The hospital replaced the facility on Camp Lester, which was commissioned in 1958.

"Our story, here on Okinawa began shortly

after World War II," said Rear Adm. Michael H. Mittelman, the deputy surgeon general of the Navy and deputy chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. "The military facilities here on Okinawa did not look anything like this, and they did not look anything like the building on Camp Lester."

After World War II, a strip of huts served as isolated field hospitals on Camp Mercy, which no longer exists, and was located in present-day Ginowan City. In 1954, construction began in Chatan Town for a permanent U.S. Army hospital to replace the temporary buildings at Camp Mercy. It came to be known as Camp Kuwae. In 1976, the hospital was transferred to the Navy, and Camp Kuwae was renamed Camp Lester in 1982.

With the planning of the hospital move lasting more than a decade, some sailors in attendance

remembered the early stages of the process.

"I was on board the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Lester in the year 2000," said Aiyelawo. "Back then, my commanding officer, Capt. Michael Mittelman, now Rear Adm. Mittelman, really laid out his vision for what this facility would be like."

Mittelman was proud to be able to witness the opening of the new facility.

"On a personal note, it is exceptionally special for Aiyelawo and myself to be back here because of all the tours we have been on, our tours in Okinawa were, by far, our favorite ones," said Mittelman. "I want to congratulate Aiyelawo and his entire staff for the monumental job they did in moving the facility from Camp Lester to Camp Foster. This team pulled this move off flawlessly, and that is a testament to the entire team here on Okinawa."



Marines, sailors and distinguished guests cut a ribbon signifying the official opening of the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Foster April 30. The hospital represents Navy medicine's enduring commitment to providing the highest level of readiness and care to military personnel and families in the Asia-Pacific region. Photo by Cpl. Brianna Turner

VIETNAM from pg 1

"We work well together," said Quoc An. "If I have the chance to do this again next year, I will look forward to it."

The exchange builds familiarity with Vietnamese counterparts through interaction and side-by-side approaches to noncombatant events and procedures, according to U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Stephen J. Himelspach, the future operations officer with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III MEF.

"This helps us get to know each other, establish similarities and differences between the U.S. and Vietnamese military forces and build a relationship," said Himelspach.

These types of exchanges enhance cooperation based on mutual trust, understanding, shared interests, and also contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, according to Gier.

"It builds a base for us to work as bilateral partners in the future," said Gier. "The more we interact throughout the entire region, the more peaceful it will be."



An M1A1 Abrams tank is off-loaded from the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo April 19 off the shore of Pohang, Republic of Korea. The tank was loaded onto a logistics support vessel for transport to shore. The Bobo, a container and roll on/roll off ship, is part of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command's maritime prepositioning force program. The ship is participating in Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013, a biennial MPF exercise. The ROK Marine Corps and Navy worked with III Marine Expeditionary Force, Army forces with U.S. Forces Korea, Navy Expeditionary Strike Group 3 and U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 during the exercise.

US, ROK forces off-load equipment on

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

The U.S. Marines have worked tirelessly for 237 years to be prepared to meet the current and future needs of the U.S., from providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief, to participating in contingency operations.

Maintaining a force that is both able to respond at a moment's notice and sustain contingency operations as long as necessary requires planning, preparation and training.

U.S. Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force worked to maintain and expand their capabilities as a force in readiness during biennial maritime prepositioning force exercise Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013 April 19-28 at Dogu Beach near Pohang, Republic of Korea.

"MPFs project combat power and capability across a global spectrum," said Maj. David I. Eickenhorst, the officer in charge of the III MEF detachment for CJLOTS 13. "CJLOTS is a very dynamic exercise; it shows commitment, capability and force

projection and combines that with an expeditionary aspect, showing we can go anywhere on the globe and establish ourselves as a force in readiness."

CJLOTS 13, the largest MPF exercise since 1993, was conducted jointly and bilaterally by the ROK Marine Corps and Navy, III MEF, U.S. Navy Expeditionary Strike Group 3, Army forces with U.S. Forces Korea and U.S. Coast Guard Port Unit 313. MPF ships carry vehicles, equipment and supplies necessary to generate and sustain force readiness and expeditionary capabilities.

The U.S. Marines, in conjunction with the U.S. Army and Navy, off-loaded selected cargo from the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo, including M1A1 Abrams tanks, light armored vehicles, assault amphibious vehicles and various other U.S. Marine vehicles and equipment. The Bobo, a container and roll-on/roll-off ship, is part of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command's MPF program.

The wide variety of vehicles and equipment that were off-loaded, as well as the need to maintain

the Marine command and control infrastructure and working sites, required the diverse group of operational capabilities represented on the exercise.

"We have a wide variety of skill sets out here to enable us to be successful, and a lot of them are in the service and support (military occupational specialties)," said Eickenhorst. "The diversity of the Marines out here is allowing us to accomplish the throughput we need and establish a high level of readiness during the exercise."

Tracking each piece of off-loaded equipment and ensuring it was routed to the correct destination was one of the focuses of the exercise.

"It is a very supply-centric training evolution, with the focus on tracking and accountability," said Eickenhorst. "There are a lot of computer-aided processes that help us track the gear along with the (landing force support party) Marines that support the operation and the mechanics of making it happen."

The landing support specialists of the LFSP safely and efficiently routed the vehicles and equipment to their respective staging areas

while maintaining full accountability, according to Gunnery Sgt. Derrick L. Watson, the LFSP staff noncommissioned officer in charge for CJLOTS 13 and maintenance chief with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

Once ashore, equipment, supplies and vehicles were inspected for proper maintenance and readiness and underwent routine and preventative maintenance by a Marine maintenance detachment.

The detachment is capable of maintaining everything from generators to tanks and played a vital role in ensuring the equipment was prepared for use, according to Chief Warrant Officer Jason C. Beck, the maintenance officer in charge for CJLOTS 13.

The ROK Marine Corps and Navy conducted their own MPF off-load at Dogu Beach in conjunction with the U.S. forces' off-load.

"We are combined with the ROKs in the form of exchanging ideas and learning from one another," said Eickenhorst. "It shows we are committed to the Republic of Korea and that we are capable of



Lance Cpl. Christian W. Bernhoft prepares an assault amphibious vehicle for inspection April 20 at Dogu Beach near Pohang, Republic of Korea, during Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013. Vehicles, equipment and supplies were off-loaded from maritime prepositioning force ships before being processed for accountability and maintenance. Bernhoft is a ground radio repairman with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and assigned to III MEF's CJLOTS 13 detachment to prepare and process vehicles and equipment.



M1A1 Abrams tanks are staged for off-load on the deck of Army Logistics Support Vessel 4 off the shore of Pohang, Republic of Korea, April 19. The vehicles drove to shore from the LSV over an Army trident pier system. The tanks were off-loaded during Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013, a biennial MPF exercise. The LSV-4 is a part of the U.S. Army's 163rd Transportation Detachment.

peninsula

sustaining that commitment with an operation of this scope.”

The success of the off-load phase of the exercise reflected on the work of the Marines and sailors participating.

“It is a huge testament to the Marines and sailors that we have been so successfully able to conduct an exercise of this scope,” said Eickenhorst.



Staff Sgt. Todd J. Piluk, center, and Cpl. Charles H. Parmley, right, drive an assault amphibious vehicle to shore during a maritime prepositioning force off-load April 20 at Dogu Beach near Pohang, Republic of Korea. The MPF off-load occurred during Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013. U.S. Marines, in conjunction with the U.S. Army and Navy, off-loaded M1A1 Abrams tanks, light armored vehicles, AAVs and various other Marine vehicles and equipment during CJLOTS 13. Piluk is an AAV crew chief, and Parmley is an AAV mechanic with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. The CAB Marines are working with the III MEF detachment at CJLOTS during the exercise.

Students participate in soroban contest

Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The clatter of sliding beads, and the whisper of pencils scribbling filled the room as the calculating look on the faces of the young competitors set the stage for an intense and mentally challenging contest.

More than 150 Department of Defense Education Activity elementary school students from Okinawa competed against each other April 29 during the 14th annual soroban contest at the Surfside Club on Camp Kinser.

A soroban is composed of an odd number of rods, each with beads on them. Children use the beads to complete mathematical equations.

"It's kind of like an analog calculator that helps students calculate numbers at a mentally fast pace," said Hiro Masashiro, the intercultural coordinator for the DODEA Okinawa district superintendent's office at Kadena Air Base. "For American kids who never used something like this, it helps them learn Japanese culture and math skills in the process."

Most students in Japan use the soroban from first grade through

high school, and the majority of Japanese students become proficient with it before progressing to higher mathematical concepts, according to Masashiro.

During the event, the students tested their mathematical prowess in both oral and written mathematical problems.

The first category was an oral segment, where an instructor read a sequence of numbers to the students who then added or subtracted the instructor's oratory using their sorobans.

The second portion centered on the students' cognitive abilities, in which they had five minutes to solve 30 written mathematical equations.

Students who completed all of the equations correctly were awarded a certificate. Five students in the third grade and below category earned a perfect score, while 17 students earned a perfect score in the fourth grade and above category.

"The American students get an idea of how the Japanese learn to calculate, which is very different from how Western children learn," said Michael R. Schoebinger, the educational technologist for the DODEA Okinawa District. "They



Ariel Bresler, a third-grade student at Stearley Heights Elementary School, solves a math problem during the 14th annual soroban contest April 29 at Camp Kinser. The contest gave the students a chance to learn how to use the soroban to solve mathematical equations. Photo courtesy of Marie Lewis, DODEA district news liaison

learn that the mental calculation component of it is something different from what is typically used in American schools, which gives American students a chance to get exposure to a very different academic approach to math."

In addition to the oral and written examinations, the students participated in a "flash" round. A projector screen displayed a numerical sequence in rapid succession. As the numbers flashed by, students calculated their answers using their memory or the soroban.

"The soroban helped me learn the math without a calculator," said Jack Symes, a third-grader who

participated in the contest. "The questions were hard, but it was fun doing the problems and it helps me learn about a different culture."

All students who took part in the contest were awarded a participation medal, and trophies were awarded for first and second-place winners in the oral and flash categories.

"Without the support of Marine commanders and volunteer parents, this would not have been possible," said Schoebinger. "It's just a wonderful opportunity for our students to get together and immerse themselves in the host nation's culture."

Marines test water purification equipment, systems

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines ran down the beach and entered the surf, taking their filtration system's equipment with them. With the pull of a cord, the pump roared to life, drawing water through multiple layers of the filtration system, cleansing it until potable drinking water was produced.

Utilities Platoon with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, executed water production operations on Kin Blue beach near Camp Hansen April 29 to May 3 in order to train new Marines and test the functionality of the water purification systems.

With an increased number of new Marines, it was important for the squadron to train the Marines in water purification operations, according to Staff Sgt. Pete Leyva III, an electrician with MWSS-172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The training helps Marines meet their requirements, so they can go to future exercises and operations, and it teaches them what it takes to purify water in a field environment," said Leyva.

MWSS-172 participates in a variety of exercises in the Asia-Pacific region where the squadron provides potable water for



Pfc. James E. Baker connects a lightweight water purification system hose at Kin Blue beach near Camp Hansen April 30. The purpose of the training exercise was to train new Marines and test the functionality of the water purification systems for future use within the Asia-Pacific region, according to Sgt. Anthony W. Griggs. Baker and Griggs are water support technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and other uses such as laundry and showers, according to Chief Warrant Officer Victor E. Velasquez, a utilities officer with MWSS-172.

"The purpose of MWSS-172 is to support MAG-36 and 1st MAW wherever we are needed, such as Exercise Balikatan or Operation Tomodachi," said Velasquez. "Both

the lightweight water purification system and tactical water purification system help us meet that requirement."

The process of purifying water is a long, complicated task simplified with the specialized equipment, according to Velasquez.

Marines begin by inserting strainers into the surf. The strainers are attached to pumps that pull water from the ocean and move it through a series of filtration systems making the water potable.

"Situations that require this training include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, where the area we are assigned lacks water to drink," said Sgt. Anthony W. Griggs, a water support technician with the squadron. "If there is a case where the water is contaminated, we have biological decontamination systems that come with the TWPS and LWPS to purify the water, so it is drinkable."

Marines encountered some difficulties while training, such as changes in the tide, but the Marines overcame the issues and continued training.

"Each field exercise is different, forcing us to adapt, but it makes us better prepared the next time we train, and I am thankful for my unit to have that ability," said Lance Cpl. Cecilia M. Mavrommatis, a water support technician with the squadron.

Passing leash from old dog to young pup

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the audience came to attention, the retirement ceremony began. The jingling of dog tags from their collars was the only sound heard as the two being recognized proceeded to the center of the room.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band mascot, Staff Sgt. Chopper IV, retired and symbolically passed the leash to his successor, Pvt. Chopper V, during a ceremony April 25 at the III MEF Band hall on Camp Foster.

The Okinawa-raised, mixed-breed dog served as the band's mascot for more than 10 years and played a vital role in ceremonies and parades held by the band, according to Cpl. Robert G. McGarity, a musician with the III MEF Band.

"Everyone loves to see him; he's a really friendly dog, and it helps with the relationship (in the community)," said McGarity. "The community members love concerts when we bring the dog."

The band received its first dog in 1974 after Maj. Gen. Norman W. Gourley, the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, presented a golden retriever to the 1st MAF Band. The dog soon enlisted into the Marine Corps and was adopted as the band's official mascot.



Col. Stephen B. Lewallen presents Staff Sgt. Chopper IV with his retirement certificate and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal April 25 at the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band hall on Camp Foster. Chopper IV retired from the band after more than 10 years as its mascot. Lewallen is the commanding officer of III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

The 1st MAF band merged in 1978 with the 3rd Marine Division Band to create the III MEF Band, and was assigned to Camp Foster, with orders for the mascot to follow.

The band continued the lineage of golden retriever mascots until a mixed breed was selected in 2002 and subsequently named Pvt. Chopper IV. He was promoted several times throughout his career, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. Upon retirement, he was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

As Chopper IV grew older, the band decided it

was time for him to retire. Although, the Marines are excited for their new puppy, many old friends are sad to be parting ways, according to Sgt. Joshua T. Hulett, a musician and canine noncommissioned officer with the band.

"It's a sad day for me and all of us," said Hulett. "A few of the Marines were crying when they said their goodbyes. Not many units have a mascot, so it is special here. He offers a major morale boost because everyone gets to play with him. They get to come in the morning and see him smiling and wagging his tail. Having a dog here is like a little piece of home. I think that is the most important thing for the Marines and their morale."

A full-bred golden retriever puppy, Chopper V, was selected in November 2012 by the band members to follow in the paw prints of the III MEF Band mascots before him. The musicians have high hopes for the young dog as the new mascot of the band, according to Hulett.

"We hope that we can get Chopper V trained well," said Hulett. "He is not just an ordinary house dog; he has to be able to be trained to be in the public's eye. Now that we have a new dog, he will be able to go out and interact with the public."

Editor's Note: Sadly, a day after his retirement, Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Chopper IV passed away of natural causes.

Marines crown best ribs, brisket during cook-off

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The aroma of succulent meat being prepared stopped those coming out of the Camp Hansen Post Exchange in their tracks. With grills blazing, meats cooking and smoke filling the air, it was clear the chefs had something to prove.

Competition was fierce as six aspiring cooks went head-to-head in the 5th annual Camp Hansen barbecue cook-off outside the Post Exchange April 27, cooking up their best brisket and ribs, hoping to be crowned the victor.

The cook-off is one of the many events coordinated by Camp Hansen's camp operations throughout the year to give single Marines and sailors an opportunity to enjoy the afternoon with their peers and build camaraderie through friendly competition, according to Mark L. Roberts, the camp director of Camp Hansen and competitor in the cook-off.

"Seeing the Marines out here participating and those stopping to check out what we are doing is what it is all about," said Roberts. "Events like these are for service members and their families."

The fun was not all for the competitors, as one of the judges took particular notice of the time and effort the competitors put forth.

"Being in the food service (industry) for over 20 years, I can appreciate the time and effort that gets put into good barbecue," said Master Sgt. Emanuel L. Walker, the manager of the III Marine Expeditionary Force mess hall, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, and judge during the cook-off. "Around the camp, you always see Marines barbecuing with their peers, and this was a chance for them to get out here, meet new people, and enjoy some friendly competition and great food."

For the competition, the commissary on wheels was established inside the exchange, allowing participants to purchase their meat and other ingredients and supplies needed for the cook-off. Those who were not participating in the cook-off could also shop at the commissary which, for residents of Camp Hansen, is a rare occurrence because there is no commissary located on the camp.

While competition was friendly, competitors remained focused as they attempted to take the crown away from Gunnery Sgt. Jaworski K. Cherry, the winner in 2011 and 2012.



Mark L. Roberts, left, accepts a trophy for best overall barbecue from Master Sgt. Emanuel L. Walker during the 5th annual Camp Hansen barbecue cook-off outside the Post Exchange April 27. Roberts was also awarded a trophy for best brisket. Roberts is the camp director of Camp Hansen and participated in the cook-off. Walker is the manager of the III Marine Expeditionary Force mess hall, III MEF Headquarters Group, and was a judge for the cook-off. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

"When I was growing up, I became interested in helping my family at a young age," said Cherry, the administration chief with Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, and competitor in the cook-off. "By watching, learning and doing, I became the cook I am today. I have always enjoyed it, especially being from the South. We take our barbecue very seriously there."

The judges rated each competitor on the meals' presentation, texture, taste and tenderness. At the end of the day, Roberts won over the judges, taking prizes for best brisket and best overall barbecue, while Cherry extended his streak of placing in the competition to three years after winning the award for best ribs.

"I encourage Marines to come out here and participate in events like these," said Cherry. "Your time on Okinawa will be much more fulfilling if you put yourself out there and get involved in everything you can."

Marines pick up new skills, reinforce old ones

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The environment was purposefully stressful and tense as Marines with Marine Air Support Squadron 2 performed unfamiliar tasks during small-unit leader evaluation April 19 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The evaluation consisted of nine drills along the perimeter running path around MCAS Futenma, known as the Habu Trail, and tested the leadership skills of sergeants and corporals within the squadron. Participating Marines worked

to become proficient in various responsibilities required of successful small-unit leaders, such as effective communication and assembly of the M2 .50-caliber machine gun.

"We wanted to show the Marines that they not only need to be a subject-matter experts in their own military occupational specialty, but they also need to accomplish missions outside of their MOS," said Sgt. Maj. Reginald Robinson, the

sergeant major of MASS-2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The Marines are already very good in their own fields; however, we need to make sure they are well-rounded in order to sustain themselves and carry out the mission in a combat environment."

The squadron set up different stations

throughout the evaluation to test squad leaders' problem-solving and leadership abilities in functional areas they would not normally perform.

"Today, we have the Marines doing challenges on everything from motor transportation to the assembly

and disassembly of an M2 .50-caliber machine gun," said Lt. Col. Steven K. Barriger, the commanding officer of the squadron. "We wanted the Marines to be able to tackle different tasks across a broad MOS spectrum, while drawing from the knowledge of individuals around them."

The leadership evaluation proved to be both challenging and beneficial, as the Marines

adapted well to the situations they were presented, according to Lance Cpl. Emmanuel Garcia, an air support operator with the squadron.

"Although I struggled at some of the stations today, I feel like I picked up new skills," said Garcia. "I struggled with the assembly and disassembly of the M2 .50-caliber machine gun because I am not used to handling the weapon, but this experience will definitely improve my skills."

For the NCOs of the squadron, the leadership challenges afforded them the opportunity to test their skills in other job fields, as well as reflect on how they performed in a leadership role, according to Robinson.

"The purpose of this event was to evaluate the small-unit leaders; the sergeants and corporals who were leading the squads," said Robinson.

Because tasks were unfamiliar to the Marines, decisive leadership and quickly adjusting and overcoming the obstacles was critical for mission accomplishment, according to Robinson.

"The events developed unit cohesion and challenged the Marines both physically and mentally," said Robinson. "I feel like the Marines performed very well today despite being put in situations outside of their comfort zones."

"We wanted to show the Marines that they not only need to be a subject-matter experts in their own military occupational specialty, but they also need to accomplish missions outside of their MOS."

Sgt. Maj. Reginald Robinson

Author engages, inspires DODEA students during presentation

Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

"C! H! A! M! P! S! Champs that is who we are. We move around the world bonded both near and far. Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard, Army and Navy; we Champs are kids like you, we hope you see."

The chant could be heard as young children sang along in the Zukeran Elementary School cafeteria April 23 at Camp Foster.

Debbie Fink, the co-author of "Little C.H.A.M.P.S.: Child Heroes Attached to Military Personnel," enchanted thousands of students with 30-minute presentations, or as she calls them, "edutainment," at eight schools on Okinawa April 22-26 during the Asia-Pacific USO tour.

The main reason for her visit was not to promote her book, but rather to put smiles upon the children's faces, according to Fink.

"Right now, our focus and emphasis is lifting the morale of our littlest C.H.A.M.P.S. — of our unsung heroes, and letting them know that they're not alone and reminding them that they are special," said Fink.

Fink spent the visit singing the C.H.A.M.P.S song and dancing, all while tying academics into the presentations by teaching American sign language, mathematics and language arts.

"Every presentation has to reach and teach to multiple learning styles," said Fink. "I'm a full believer in Howard Gardner's theory of multiple learning. The music is for the audible learners, and ASL for kinesthetic learners since it holds their attention and keeps them busy. The story is for the cognitive learners and the banner and slideshow are for the visual learners. It's a way to envelop the whole child and to reach, teach and touch every mind, heart and soul out there."

The presentations were interactive, and the smiles reflected the children's enjoyment while they learned.

"I liked singing the song and watching the video," said Faith Reilly, a first-grader at Zukeran. "It was a lot of fun."

The event provided opportunities for Fink to discuss many different challenges children of service members experience, like moving and coping with a parent's deployment.

"The presentation addressed issues the kids face," said Cindy Templeton, the principal of Zukeran Elementary School. "I was in Europe, where the Army was deploying for 12 to 15 months at a time, and there can be a lot to overcome. We staffed up our counselors. Here, we have a psychologist, but it's still great to have something hands-on that the children can see."

Fink had each "responsible adult" raise their hand during the event to



Debbie Fink plays the Marines' Hymn on violin April 23 at Zukeran Elementary School on Camp Foster. Fink is the co-author of "Little C.H.A.M.P.S.: Child Heroes Attached to Military Personnel," and visited the school during the Asia-Pacific USO tour. Photo by Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

point out whom the children could trust. She expressed how important it is for children to ask for help whenever help is needed.

"I think the big thing the kids got out of this is that they're not alone," said Templeton. "They can talk to other kids, and they have other kids they can rely on. Ms. Fink also pointed out who the advocates are, which was great for them to see."

Fink had children hold posters with faces illustrating different emotions to demonstrate how everyone reacts differently to the same situation and show them each emotion is okay.

"She explained how everyone feels differently; sometimes you are sad, sometimes you are confused, and sometimes you are mixed up," said Templeton. "Having all the faces up there acknowledged that it is okay to feel differently."

The presentation ended with the children standing and being recognized while their parents' branch of service's song played, receiving a copy of the book, and singing and dancing along to the C.H.A.M.P.S song one more time.

"Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end; they simply mean we'll miss you, until we meet again. We're proud to say thanks to the service of your dad or mom; your family helps keep America safe and strong!"

In Theaters Now

MAY 3 - 9

FOSTER

TODAY Pain and Gain (R), 6 p.m.; G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Iron Man (PG13), 11 a.m.; Iron Man 2 (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 1 p.m.; Oblivion (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY Pain and Gain (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Oblivion (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY Evil Dead (R), 6 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 1 p.m.; G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 4 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Pain and Gain (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Pain and Gain (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Oblivion (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Pain and Gain (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 3 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 3 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Snitch (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Silver Linings Playbook (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Pain and Gain (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG13), 4 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Snitch (PG13), 4 p.m.; Oblivion (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Big Wedding (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Tyler Perry's Temptation (PG13), 3 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 12:30 p.m.; 42 (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Oblivion (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Pain and Gain (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Big Wedding (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Oz The Great and Powerful (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Snitch (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Pain and Gain (R), 7 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Pain and Gain (R), 6 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Pain and Gain (R), 3 and 6 p.m.

MONDAY Snitch (PG13), 6 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 9 p.m.

TUESDAY Silver Linings Playbook (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Snitch (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Pain and Gain (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.

ANNUAL NAHA DRAGON BOAT RACES

• The Dragon Boat Races, called haarii (the Chinese word for "dragon"), are held at the beginning of May each year at Naha port. Come out on May 5 to watch the 39th Annual Dragon Boat Races. Contact the SMP with the phone number above for more information.

DISCOVER GOLF LESSONS

• Golf lessons are available to single Marines and sailors at Taiyo Golf Course the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the Camp Foster SMP office by 8 a.m.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which conflict saw Marine intervention and police actions in Central America and the Caribbean from 1900-1916?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

The M7 bayonet was replaced in 2003 by what model bayonet?

ANSWER:

The OKC-3S bayonet, which beat 33 other models in evaluation due to its sharpness, strength and natural feeling in the hand. Adapting the new bayonet was part of the Corps' push to re-emphasize hand-to-hand combat.



Japanese phrase of the week:

"Gomen nasai."

(pronounced: goh-mehn-nah-sah-ee)

It means, "I'm sorry."

CHAPLAINS'

OPINION

"Faith is an anchor that we can turn to when dealing with life's changes."



Faith aids in adjusting to change

Lt. Rodney Weaver
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 36 CHAPLAIN

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." — Reinhold Niebuhr

The permanent change of station season is rapidly approaching. "Ch-ch-ch-changes," I can hear David Bowie singing now. There will be a mass exodus from Okinawa. Some will leave with heavy hearts while others can't get out of here fast enough for new and exciting opportunities.

For those returning to the U.S., it will be a homecoming of sorts, but a lot can change in the length of time we have been stationed on Okinawa. Manage your expectations and allow yourself time to adjust. The fact of the matter is that things will be different.

Here on the island, there will be a large

influx of newcomers. For the old salts on Okinawa, that means changes as well. A word of caution — newcomers sometimes struggle with which side of the street to drive on, and windshield wipers are often a sign of upcoming turns.

Ok, so I still do that sometimes. Change is a part of life. We will say goodbye to old friends and welcome new ones.

Change is going to happen. Sometimes, it is easy for us to change, and sometimes it is difficult. David Bowie goes on in the song to say, "Pretty soon you're going to get a little older. Time may change me, but I can't trace time."

How well do you handle change? Your personal faith can help you to deal with change. Faith is an anchor that we can turn to when dealing with life's changes. We can find comfort and solace in times of trouble and strength and courage to do what has to be done. If you are having trouble dealing with changes taking place in your life, your chaplain is here to help.

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"