

OKINAWA MARINE

JUNE 21, 2013

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Hudson assumes command of MCIPAC

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson assumed command of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler from Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri June 14 during a ceremony outside Building 1 on Camp Foster.

Talleri served as the commanding general of MCB Camp Butler since July 2010 and commanding general of MCIPAC since the establishment of the command in September 2011.

Hudson was commissioned in 1981 upon graduation from The Citadel and was subsequently assigned to 2nd Force Service Support Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force. He served as a platoon commander and detachment commander with 2nd Landing Support Battalion and Marine Amphibious Unit Service Support Group 22.

“(My wife and I) are extremely excited and honored to be
see **HUDSON** pg 5



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson addresses the audience June 14 outside Building 1 on Camp Foster during a change of command ceremony. During the ceremony, Hudson took command of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

Nations complete multilateral exercise

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MUARA, Brunei — Senior leaders from multiple Asia-Pacific nations prepared for operation of the Multinational Coordination Center in Muara, Brunei, June 12 during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defence Ministers Meeting – Plus ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise.

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III MEF’s motor transport units recognized, awarded

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Marines gathered for the presentation of the 3rd annual U.S. Marine Corps Motor Transport Association Inc. 2012 awards June 12 at Camp Kinser.

III Marine Expeditionary Force units earned four awards out of 11 categories, which is a credit to the exemplary professionalism and leadership within III MEF motor transport units, according to

see **MTA** pg 5

Royal Thai, US Marines train during CARAT 2013



Royal Thai Marines conduct amphibious assault training with U.S. Marines assigned to the landing force during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise 2013 in the Kingdom of Thailand. CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and Timor Leste.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jay C. Pugh

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Drive defensively to mitigate risk

Aaron M. Davis

For many military and civilian personnel, the first time they travel on the roadways of Okinawa is from the airport to the hotel. Almost immediately, one realizes that defensive, and in some instances offensive, driving techniques need to be used.

From motor scooters weaving through traffic, to multiple vehicles failing to stop at a red light, a simple trip can become a dangerous situation if proper precautions are not taken.

While the island is only 72 miles long and 14 miles across at its widest point, it has approximately 1 million vehicles and 50,000 motorcycles and scooters. With this massive amount of traffic in such close proximity, it takes a skilled operator to navigate safely among it.

To obtain a U.S. Forces Japan operator's permit from the Installation Safety Office, individuals must pass a written exam, view the "Drive Safe" video, complete the proper paperwork, and attend the newcomers' orientation brief. Receiving a permit does not mean you are now an expert at driving in Japan; rather you have met the minimum requirements for operating a motor vehicle here. However, one must keep in mind that status of forces agreement drivers are categorized as professional drivers by the government of Japan as soon as they obtain an operator's permit.

Being a professional driver means being held to a higher standard than non-SOFA operators. Depending on the situation, a SOFA member may be more liable in an accident. While this is a big responsibility, it is very easy to prepare for your daily travels on the island.

Every day when you wake up and turn on the light, you are implementing risk management. This carries over when you get in your vehicle and prepare to drive.

Tasks such as putting on a seatbelt, adjusting the mirrors, seat and steering wheel set the stage for safe driving on Okinawa. Before you begin driving, think about your route and plan for the unexpected. Inspect your vehicle to ensure it is in good operating condition. These steps will help mitigate the chance of the vehicle breaking down amid your travels.

As you depart, ensure you are looking at events six to 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle, while also paying attention to what is




directly in front of you. This will allow you to anticipate actions of other vehicles, pedestrians and moving and stationary objects.


Safely navigating the roadways and traffic of Okinawa is quite simple once you become accustomed to local driving conditions. With prior planning and incorporating risk management into your daily travel plans, you are on your way to successfully travelling around the island.

By embracing the driving culture and integrating the above driving tips, your time here can be full of memorable adventures.

Davis is the supervisory occupational safety and health specialist for the Installation Safety Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.




AROUND THE CORPS



Marines rappel from a UH-1N Huey during a helicopter rope suspension technique exercise June 11 at King Faisal Air Base in Jordan. Exercise Eager Lion 2013 is an annual, multinational exercise designed to strengthen military relationships and enhance security and stability in the region. The Marines are part of the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and the helicopter and crew are assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Sgt. Christopher Q. Stone



Pfc. Francisco Villasenor, front, and Pvt. Saige M. Duffany fire the M224A1 60 mm mortar system during a field exercise June 11 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. The Marines conducted training with three types of mortar systems in order to ensure proficiency prior to deployment. Both Marines are mortarmen with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. James Mast



The Okinawa Marine is published by Marine Corps Community Services under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Consolidated Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

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OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER
H&S Battalion MCB PAO
Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU
Camp Foster
DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper, 2012



An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 makes a historic landing on the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga June 14 as part of Dawn Blitz 2013 off the coast of U.S. Naval Base Coronado. Exercise Dawn Blitz 2013 is a multinational amphibious exercise off the Southern California coast that prepares U.S. Navy and Marine Corps along with coalition forces to conduct complex amphibious operations essential for global crisis response across the range of military operations. Photo by Cpl. Mark Garcia

Osprey makes first landing on Japanese destroyer

1st Lt. Garth Langley

1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

SAN DIEGO — Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, demonstrated the versatile capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey by landing the aircraft aboard Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships for the first time off the Southern California coast June 14.

The Osprey, commanded by Lt. Col. Bradley J. Harms, flew from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar with Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, the commanding general of 1st MEB, and leaders of the Japan Self-Defense Force aboard landing on the JS Shimokita and JS Hyuga.

After landing on the Hyuga, crews demonstrated the utility of the Osprey by conducting a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief demonstration. Before flying ashore, they also demonstrated shutdown, tow procedures and lowering and raising in the ship's elevator. U.S. Navy personnel and Marines conducted familiarization training with JMSDF crews in preparation of the landings June 3-11.

"The very first landing of an MV-22B Osprey on a JMSDF ship is a historic moment for the 1st MEB and the U.S. Marine Corps at large,"

said Broadmeadow. "Dawn Blitz provides us an opportunity to enhance our long-standing relationship with the government of Japan and highlights the capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey, which allows the Marine Corps to quickly respond to a crisis when launched from sea or land."

Introduction of the Osprey into the Asia-Pacific region allows the U.S. to deliver to its partner nations the unprecedented capabilities the Marine Corps brings with the Osprey in terms of range, lift and speed.

The first twelve Ospreys arrived at Iwakuni, Japan, on July 23, 2012. The deployment of the Osprey to Japan is critical to the United States' fulfillment of its responsibilities under the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

Japan and the United States have worked together building a strategic alliance that has been the cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. The training builds on a lasting relationship between the U.S. and Japan spanning more than six decades.

More than 5,000 total forces from the U.S., Canada, Japan and New Zealand are participating in the third iteration of the amphibious exercise Dawn Blitz taking place across Southern California June 11-28.



An MV-22B Osprey with VMM-161 prepares to land aboard the JS Hyuga June 14 during Dawn Blitz 2013. Dawn Blitz is part of an annual training exercise that prepares U.S. Navy and Marine Corps forces to conduct amphibious operations and offload shipping. Photo by Sgt. Isaac Lamberth

BRIEFS

UPCOMING FREE CONCERTS

ONE REPUBLIC

One Republic will perform at 8 p.m. June 28 at the post exchange parking lot on Camp Hansen.

The performance is hosted by Armed Forces Entertainment and Marine Corps Community Services Entertainment.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mccsokinawa.entertainment.

GARY SINISE & THE LT. DAN BAND

Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band will perform at 7 p.m. July 6 on the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flightline.

The live concert is hosted by the USO and Marine Corps Community Services Entertainment.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mccsokinawa.entertainment or www.facebook.com/USOOkinawa.

EWS/CSC ACADEMIC YEAR 2014

Expeditionary Warfare School second-year and Command and Staff College Academic Year 2014 distance education programs commence Oct. 1.

EWS first-year students should enroll via MarineNet in EWS 8660, which commences July 1.

Course information is available at www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet.

To enroll in CSC or EWS second-year DEP, contact the Marine Corps University College of Distance Education and Training at 645-2230 or email:

- Regional coordinator: Jim Hopkins at james.p.hopkins1@usmc.mil.
- CSC: Dale Smith at dale.m.smith.ctr@usmc.mil
- EWS: Scott Uecker at scott.uecker.ctr@usmc.mil
- Administrative assistant and registrar: Elizabeth Gomez at elizabeth.gomez.ctr@usmc.mil.

TAX CENTER CLOSED

The tax centers on Camps Foster and Hansen are closed for the rest of the year and will reopen in January 2014.

Military Onesource and H&R Block's at Home Free State and Federal tax filing service will be available for those who still need to file their taxes.

For more information, contact the financial and legal tax information section at 645-4273

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mccb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Artillery Marines battle clock during training

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

YAUSUBETSU MANEUVER AREA, HOKKAIDO, Japan — Marines with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, engaged in artillery relocation training June 9 at Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan, in support of artillery relocation training program 13-1.

The Marines of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, include members of Battery C, 1st Bn., 12th Marines, and Battery F, 2nd Bn., 10th Marines, both currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

“The Marines came to Yausubetsu to conduct both battery and battalion events,” said 1st Lt. John A. Sheehan, a platoon commander with Battery F.

The focus of the training was to test the battalion’s ability to shoot, move, and communicate in a rapid manner, according to Sheehan.

When it is not shooting, the battalion is moving. Beginning with the advance party, Marines scouted ahead looking for the next designated gun position for the main body.

The remaining battalion elements convoyed to an area where six howitzers were set up at a predetermined position.

When told to dismount, the Marines began working on a number of mission-essential tasks within a 10-minute window for completion. The howitzers were aligned to their position of fire, holes were dug to place the weapons’ spades



Marines fire 155 mm high-explosive rounds down range using the M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer June 11 at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan, during artillery relocation training program 13-1. The exercise tested the Marines’ ability to maintain fire support, relocate and communicate during a weeklong training event. The Marines are with Battery F, 2nd Bn., 10th Marines, both currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

into the ground, a net were raised over the 7-ton trucks and howitzers to conceal their location, and M240B medium machine gun was set into position. Emplacements such as this occurred multiple times a day.

The terrain made the process difficult since the training area in northern Japan was different from what many of the artillerymen in the battalion were used to, according to Cpl. Ioan V. Cardos, a field artillery cannoneer with Battery F.

“The terrain here is more challenging compared to back home,”

said Cardos, referring to Camp Lejeune, N.C. “Being here gives us a chance to train and prepare in case we see rough terrain like this again. The ground is not level and there are a lot of hills and trees, which makes it hard to maneuver from one firing position to another.”

Once in a shooting position, the Marines on the gun line waited for a fire mission from the fire direction center before they began the next set of tasks associated with loading and firing the howitzers.

The overall purpose of artillery

is to support the infantry with accurate and timely indirect fire, but the ability to provide such valuable support would not happen without hard-working Marines, according to Sheehan.

“The Marines on the gun line understand they need to move and set up quickly to get back to firing,” said Sheehan. “Every time you see them, they are dusty, soaked with sweat, and working as fast as they can. They understand that when we are in place, we are providing supporting fire to our brothers in the infantry.”

CLR-3 welcomes new commanding officer



Bligh



Henderson

Col. Edward W. Bligh assumed command of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Col. Clarke D. Henderson during a ceremony on Camp Foster June 13. Henderson commanded CLR-3 since July 2011 and will become a professor of Naval Science at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla. Bligh’s previous duty assignment was at Stuttgart, Germany, where he served as the division chief of J37, joint training, readiness and exercises, European Plans and Operations Center, U.S. European Command.

3rd Med Bn. receives Hancock



Hancock



Patterson

Capt. Michele A. Hancock assumed command of 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Cmdr. Joe T. Patterson during a ceremony on Camp Foster June 17. Patterson commanded 3rd Med. Bn. since June 2010 and will become the chief, medical plans, J07, U.S. Pacific Command Surgeon, U.S. PACOM. Hancock’s previous assignment was as the head of the Naval Support Branch, Health Service Integrator, Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters Marine Corps, at Quantico, Va.

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a part of this command and part of the Marines in the Pacific area of responsibility," said Hudson. "We will do our utmost to continue to provide support to the Marines assigned to the Pacific area and their families during our tour."

Hudson has commanded many units since his commissioning and has participated in operations in Grenada, Lebanon, the Arabian Gulf, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Before reporting to Okinawa as the commanding general of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler, he was the commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command, Albany, Ga.

In a letter, Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, said Hudson will uphold the standards of excellence set by Talleri, and he will continue to succeed just as he has done at his previous assignments.

"Hudson has my complete trust and confidence," wrote Amos. "His leadership as the commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command was crucial in our efforts to support our Marines forward deployed, as well as reset and reconstitute the force after more than a decade

of combat operations."

The change of command signified Talleri's retirement from the Marine Corps following 34 years of service. Talleri spoke to the attendees of the ceremony saying that he looks forward to the future and knows MCIPAC, MCB Camp Butler and the rest of the Marine Corps are in good hands.

"This change of command is about handing the torch over to another leader," said Talleri. "We have a great leader in Maj. Gen. Hudson. He is excited to be here. He is a warrior. He and his wife are going to take it to the next level."

Talleri looks forward to spending time with his family in Florida and the two grandchildren his family is expecting.

"I'm excited about tomorrow because the Marine Corps will only get better as a result of the great talent we have in it today," said Talleri. "I am confident that the U.S. Marine Corps will continue to do even greater things as a result of the Marines and the families that support them. It's been a great ride, my family has a lot to look forward to, and I wouldn't change a thing. I'm very proud to have served."



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, left, receives the organizational colors from Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri June 14 outside Building 1 on Camp Foster during a change of command ceremony. The transfer of the organizational colors symbolizes the transfer of command from Talleri to Hudson. Talleri retired from the Marine Corps after the ceremony, having completed 34 years of distinguished service.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian McMahon

BRUNEI from pg 1

ADMM-Plus AHMX is a multilateral exercise that provides a forum for regional partner nations to address shared security challenges, strengthen defense cooperation, enhance interoperability, and promote stability in the region.

The exercise, scheduled for June 16-20, provided an opportunity for participating nations to hone their communication skills and learn from each other's unique experiences and expertise, better preparing the partner nations for a unified approach to future contingencies.

ASEAN and non-ASEAN members worked together on a simulated disaster relief effort. The focus was on a post-tropical revolving storm typhoon rescue, survey, recovery and disaster relief in the vicinity of the District of Temburong, as well as other locations in Bandar Seri Begawan, Muara Naval Base and Rimba Air Force Base.

"The reality of the Pacific region for those who live here is that you are more likely to experience a disaster," said U.S. Marine Col. Douglas Pasnik, the U.S. military exercise officer in charge. "In this exercise, there is going to be a simulated typhoon that rolls through the area. A multinational force will come together and provide assistance in things that accompany a disaster of that sort, including flooding and lack of potable water."

The multinational force included participants from the ASEAN-comprised nations of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Burma, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, Vietnam and other Asia-Pacific nations, such as Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the

Russian Federation and the U.S.

"There was a time when militaries would deploy on their own, and we wouldn't work together," said Brunei Lt. Col. Mohd Hafizul bin Haji Mohd Hassan. "We are trying to bring these countries together to work as one. By working as one, we can better accommodate countries in need throughout the region. In order to work together smoothly, we need to start building those relationships now, before disaster strikes."

During the exercise, multinational personnel will also participate in the force integration training program as part of medical and engineering engagements at various locations throughout Brunei from June 10-15. This is the first field training exercise to be planned and executed under the ADMM-Plus architecture.

"Many things executed throughout this exercise will be the first time it has been done," said Royal Thai Capt. Nuttapon Ketsumboon, the director of the doctrine development and evaluation joint and combined exercise planning office. "We have more than 100 people from our forces out here to participate because we know how important it is. This exercise absolutely benefits everyone involved. Living in the Pacific region you never know what is going to happen, and we all need to be able to work together and respond when needed."

More than 1,800 multinational personnel are participating in the exercise, which allows allied and partner nations a platform to demonstrate their commitment to multinational cooperation, enhance multilateral interoperability, increase disaster preparedness, and promote security and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

MTA from pg 1

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF.

The awards earned by the Okinawa-based units included personal and unit accomplishments.

Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, earned the Motor Transport Unit of the Year award for demonstrating exceptional technical and tactical proficiency and dependability, according to the award citation.

Gunnery Sgt. Christopher D. Wheeler, a motor transport operations chief with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF, was awarded the Motor Transport Operations Chief of the Year award for contributing to the success of more than 80 engineer missions within the battalion, according to the citation.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Taylor, a maintenance officer with HQ Bn., 3rd Marine Division, was recognized as Maintenance Officer of the Year for being the driving-force behind his highly proficient unit, according to his award citation.

Cpl. Lane T. Ware, a motor transport operator with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG, earned the Motor Transport Operator of the Year award for consistently performing his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner.

The awards are a demonstration of the progress III MEF has made and bodes well for the leadership on Okinawa, according to Chief Warrant Officer Lonnie R. Thomas, a motor transport officer with G-4, supply and logistics, motor transportation, III MEF.

"Today, III MEF set the bar very high because we have progressively received more and more awards," said Thomas.

The awards have a much deeper meaning than simply distinguishing people for their efforts, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Roderick J. Welsh, a motor transport chief with G-4, supply and logistics, motor transportation, III MEF.

"When you recognize someone for their significant contributions, you plant a seed," said Welsh. "That seed will grow, and they become proud of what they do; that contributes to more hard work."

The Marines accomplished a great amount in their demanding profession and should take pride in it, according to Capt. Gabriel D. Sanchez, the company commander of Truck Company at the time of the award nominations, now a logistics officer with HQ Bn., 3rd Marine Division.

Aside from teamwork as a whole, the company's achievements can be attributed to finding equilibrium, according to Sanchez.

"We could not have succeeded if we had not found a way to strike a balance between maintenance and operations," said Sanchez.

The III MEF's motor transport Marines in general can attribute their accolades and achievements to proficient conduct through any circumstance, according to Welsh.

"The achievements of the units out here speak volumes for their professionalism and expertise," said Welsh. "They have put in countless hours outside, driving on and off base, never slowing down the work load. These Marines have demonstrated a huge level of responsibility as they master their craft."



Gunnery Sgt. James W. Mackenzie observes Lance Cpl. Nam Q. Kim as he throws an M67 fragmentation grenade June 13 at Camp Hansen. Mackenzie is a tactics, readiness and training instructor, G-3, operations and training, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Kim is an administrative clerk with CLR-35, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Marines bring firepower to explosive training

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Frag out!” is yelled from the protective pit as Marines huddle, sheltering themselves from the impending blast. Seconds later, the ground vibrates and an explosion generated by an M67 fragmentation grenade sends dirt falling back to Earth.

This was only a fraction of the training required of interior guard members with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 June 13 at Range 10 Camp Hansen.

Being a qualified basic rifleman is a skill-set required of every Marine regardless of military occupational specialty, rank or billet. However, the Marines of CLR 35 and 37’s interior guard must learn additional skills along with refreshing old ones.

“Today, the Marines qualified with the M1014 semi-automatic shotgun, M67 fragmentation grenade, M9 service pistol, and completed intermediate combat rifle marksmanship training with the M16A4 service rifle,” said Maj. Randall L. Parker, the tactics, readi-

ness and training officer in charge with G-3, operations and training, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Our goal through this training is to give them the basic skills they need to be an armed Marine standing the interior guard.”

Because 3rd MLG is responsible for providing its own security in both deployed and garrison environments, the duties of the interior guard can range from patrolling the inside of the perimeter to responding to threats.

“We have to be able to take care of ourselves and ensure that the Marines are confident in their skills,” said Parker.

The day of qualifications involved in-depth periods of instruction on the capabilities of the weapons systems being fired, as well as rehearsals of the courses that the Marines would execute.

“The Marines will be familiarizing themselves with the weapons through assembly and disassembly drills, as well as receiving classes on the fundamentals,” said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas R. Fuller, a TRT instructor. “Upon completion of this, they will participate in the combat shotgun and the intermediate combat

rifle marksmanship training courses.”

Since recruit training, the Marines have been familiar with the M16A4 service rifle, but for many of them it was the first time they have handled a shotgun, according to Lance Cpl. Jacob L. Crawford, a Marine Air-Ground Task Force planner with CLR-37, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

The combat shotgun course had strict guidelines with a set time limit of three minutes to complete. The Marines were required to fire the weapon using different positions to include standing and kneeling.

“After completing this course, Marines should have confidence in themselves as a result of the skills they acquired,” said Fuller. “They will also be able to provide 3rd MLG with a prepared guard force.”

The Marines with the regiments left the range self-assured that the skills they learned will help them accomplish their mission as members of an interior guard.

“By completing these qualifications, we now have a force of Marines ready to deploy as an interior guard,” said Parker. “We will be able to fight tonight.”



A Marine loads ammunition into the M1014 semi-automatic shotgun June 13 on Camp Hansen. Interior guard Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 learned the fundamentals of the M67 fragmentation grenade, M9 service pistol and M1014 semi-automatic shotgun before executing courses and drills including the combat shotgun course. CLR-35 and CLR-37 are part of 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Lance Cpl. Orlando J. Barrera tosses a mock M67 fragmentation grenade out of a simulated room June 13 at Camp Hansen. The Marines with the interior guard of Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 also trained with the M1014 semi-automatic shotgun. Barrera is a field radio operator with CLR-35, 3rd MLG, III MEF.



Marines prepare to perform a pivot drill during intermediate combat rifle marksmanship training June 13 at Camp Hansen. The Marines are interior guard members with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines 'dragnet' during annual fishing festival

Cpl. Adam B. Miller
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Just southeast of Japan's iconic Mount Fuji is the city of Numazu, a major port center for the prefecture's fishing industry overlooking the deep waters of Suruga Bay.

It is also where Japan Self-Defense Force members, Numazu community members and U.S. Marines came together to celebrate the Dragnet Festival June 1 at Numazu Beach.

"This is an annual event, which celebrates a tradition of Japan," said Col. Blake M. Wilson, the commanding officer of Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji. "The community leaders, local garrisons and their families and Marines assigned to Camp Fuji get to spend a day together interacting and enjoying each other's company. The dragnet is one of the traditional ways to fish, and we get to experience firsthand bringing in a catch the 'old way' and then preparing and eating the fish."

Dragnet fishing requires a large net attached to two long ropes. The net is towed out into the water by a boat, and then fishermen on shore pull the ropes inland, catching fish in the process. It is a community effort in which everyone shares the work and rewards, according to Wilson.

"The net is really long and it takes a lot of people a long time to pull it back onto the beach," said Nanami Endo, a 10-year-old from Numazu. "But once it finally gets to us, it is really cool to see what we've caught. There were little sharks, stingrays and all kinds of weird looking fish."

After the catch was in, everyone participated in beach activities and ate traditional Japanese food.

"This was a great opportunity for everyone to interact and get to know each other in a relaxed setting with friends and family," said Wilson.



Japan Self-Defense Force members, Numazu residents, and U.S. Marines pull a rope during the annual Dragnet Festival June 1 at Numazu Beach, Japan. The event was centered on the Japanese tradition of dragnet fishing in which a massive net is towed into Suruga Bay and then dragged inland by hand. The festival brings JSDF members, prefectural residents and Marines together for a day of fun at the beach where they enjoyed fresh seafood, played games, and relaxed on the beach, according to Col. Blake M. Wilson, the commanding officer of Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji. Photo by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Some Marines played soccer or flew kites with the children, while others relaxed and shared stories with members of the JSDF.

"I always enjoy it when the Marines and JSDF members get together for events like this because we can learn a lot from each other out of uniform," said JSDF Sgt. Shun Ubukata, a tank mechanic currently assigned with the JSDF's 3rd Sergeants Training Unit's basic enlisted English course at Camp Itazuma, Gotenba, Shizuoka prefecture. "It is important for us to speak with each other like this because we work so closely together a lot of times. It is important to build quality relationships and learn about each other's culture."

Everyone there was happy and grateful for

events like the Dragnet Festival because it shows the world that the different groups are friends who can live and work well together, according to Ubukata.

As the event came to close, Wilson and others understood that even though the lure of fishing together was fun, the day was about more than that.

"Events like this happen because someone had a vision and committed the resources and effort to see that vision come to reality and a successful outcome," said Wilson. "It is important and valuable that our two cultures and countries better understand each other. There is no better way to do that than by having a fun-filled day, with great food, on a beautiful beach, fishing the 'old-school' way."

Reconnaissance Marines dive to retain certification

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Gliding beneath the coastal waters, reconnaissance Marines remain undetected to the enemy due their training and certification as combat divers.

Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, honed their diving skills during open-circuit scuba training June 12 off the coast of Camp Schwab.

To maintain a dive certification critical to the battalion's mission success, the divers moved to a maximum depth of 60 feet and remained submerged underwater for 55 minutes.

"All dive-certified Marines must conduct at least four dives a year to retain their qualification by the Marine Corps' standards," said Lt. Col. Eric N. Thompson, the commanding officer of the battalion. "It doesn't matter whether it's an open-circuit or closed-circuit dive."

Open-circuit diving systems discharge exhaled gases directly while closed-circuit systems recycle exhaled gases, scrubbing them of excess carbon dioxide and replacing oxygen. The closed-circuit eliminates the release of bubbles that could give away a diver's position, according to Thompson. When conducting closed-circuit dives, the recommended depth limit for a diver is 50 feet, while an open-circuit system allows the individual to achieve deeper depths.

"Training like this is important because you never know when you're going to be called to perform a deep dive for another unit."

Gunnery Sgt. Niles B. Peden Jr.

"Training like this is important because you never know when you're going to be called to perform a deep dive for another unit," said Gunnery Sgt. Niles B. Peden Jr., a dive instructor with the battalion. "There have been several occasions in my career when I have been asked to help recover important gear that has been lost off of a ship."

Maintaining a rigorous dive-training regimen helps the Marines retain proficiency and avoid common diving problems, such as barotraumas and arterial gas embolisms, according to Peden.

"Barotrauma occurs when a diver ascends to the surface and gas inside the lungs expands, hurting surrounding body tissues," said Peden. "In some divers, these lung injuries can be bad enough to cause lung collapse and create pneumothorax."

"These injuries may also allow free air bubbles to escape into the blood stream causing an arterial gas embolism," added Peden. "Arterial gas embolism often causes chest

pain, breathing trouble and neurologic problems, such as stroke." "Max depth 60 feet, time submerged 55 minutes, all ok," was stated to the dive master by each diver as they emerged from the water following the successful completion of the potentially hazardous yet mission-essential training.

"The dive went well for everyone, and I feel confident in my fellow Marines' abilities," said Thompson. "This training will help ensure that if we ever have to enter an area without detection by subsurface means, we will be able to."

Company L Marines practice squad-sized attacks

Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Moving!” shouted the squad leader as he took advantage of the covering fires from his squad mates to advance toward the enemy.

Fire and maneuver skills were one of several techniques Marines with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, perfected during squad offensive operations training June 5 at Range 10 on Camp Schwab. The 3rd Bn., 6th Marines, are currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

The Marines conducted squad-supported attack and maneuver training using M240B medium machine guns, M27 infantry automatic rifles, MK153 shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapons, AT-4 light anti-armor weapons, M203 grenade launchers attached to M16A4 and M4 service rifles, and C-4 explosive.

Noncommissioned officers rotated between squads and led the Marines through different scenarios.

“It helps us work with each other on a large-scale attack, which is something that we don’t normally get a chance to do,” said Lance Cpl. Justin L. Henshaw, a machine gun team leader with the company. “It’s great that we get to come out here and experience some different terrain.”

Communication and quick thinking are crucial during an assault because the situation develops rapidly as the enemy reacts, according to Henshaw.

“Squads must learn to adapt quickly to different situations and employ their weapons and Marines efficiently to secure the objective



Marines fire their M4 service rifle June 5 at Range 10 on Camp Schwab during squad offensive operations. Marines with Company L practiced squad maneuvers in offensive scenarios. Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano

and accomplish the mission,” said Henshaw.

The live-fire training was preceded by classroom training sessions and walk-throughs on the firing line to ensure all safety precautions had been taught.

The training allowed the company to exercise different squads, fire teams and indirect fire and crew-served weapons in a live-fire setting, according to 1st Lt. Zachary W. Devlin-Foltz, a platoon commander with the unit.

“In addition to seeing the effects of live-fire and supporting assets, the Marines are also evaluated on their ability to react quickly in a live-fire situation,” said Devlin-Foltz. “This is something our Marines don’t usually do until they’re actually in a combat scenario. It’s hard to do that in a live-fire evolution, so we did our best to bring that element into today’s training.”

The company worked to make the environment as realistic as possible, putting squad leaders into situations where they had

to make prudent decisions under pressure in a compressed period of time, according to Devlin-Foltz.

The realistic training helped the Marines realize their small-unit leadership training goals.

“It’s good training that the Marines don’t always get to do, especially being able to execute squad-level tactics of this type,” said Staff Sgt. Owen I. Wood, a platoon sergeant with the unit.

While most live-fire evolutions are centered on battalion, company or platoon-sized maneuvers, this training focused on squad-level operations, according to Wood.

The training allowed the company to foster small-unit leadership and work on ensuring readiness at the unit’s foundation.

“The opportunity to have our junior Marines hone their skills and our squad leaders and NCOs be able to practice leadership under pressure is invaluable,” said Wood. “It keeps us sharp and ready to accomplish any mission.”

Marines, sailors graduate from two-year military courses

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Professional military education is an important element to the development of all Marines. It not only impacts the Marine’s career, but overall proficiency and mission accomplishments as well.

The Marines and sailors who graduated from the Expeditionary Warfare School and the Command and Staff College June 6 at the Butler Officers’ Club on Camp Foster dedicated their time to enhancing their military education.

The graduation was the culminating event after two years of instruction in the nonresident programs for both courses.

“The overall goal for both programs is to educate officers in Marine Air-Ground Task Force skills,” said James P. Hopkins, the regional coordinator of the College of Distance Education and Training Okinawa satellite campus. “EWS is designed to prepare officers at the Marine expeditionary brigade level, and CSC prepares officers at the Marine expeditionary force level.”

To better prepare officers for the future of warfare, EWS is adapting the way it is implemented, according to Hopkins.

“In the old model, we used to teach both years in seminar format,” said Hopkins. “With the new format, the students will be able to enroll in the first half of EWS on their own and do self-study. There will be a time limit once the student enrolls in the course. That way they cannot just sit on it until the last minute. The second half of EWS will still be seminar-based with instructors teaching a class, then students engaging in discussion following that.”

With the new program taking effect in fall 2013, the final graduates of the old program will move onto their futures in the armed

forces, according to Hopkins.

“We have 165 graduates in the region, including the Republic of Korea, the Japanese mainland, Okinawa and deployed forces in the area,” said Hopkins. “Of those 165 graduates, we have 75 who attended school on Okinawa and received their graduation certificates.”

Graduating from either of the courses is an admirable accomplishment, according to Maj. Gen. Christopher S. Owens, the guest speaker at the event and commanding general of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

“There is no doubt in anyone’s minds how much effort was put into these courses,” said Owens. “It’s a testament to how important the Marine Corps thinks professional military education is. As leaders are increasingly given more information, it is necessary that they know how to sort through it to make the best decisions.”

The curriculum proved to be worthwhile and helpful to most of the students, according to Chief Warrant Officer Francisco D. Munoz, an EWS graduate and tactical communications planning and engineering officer, G-6, communications, 1st MAW.

“In my job, as the communication planner, it is beneficial to know what the other parts of the organization are doing,” said Munoz. “We were given that insight during the seminars. After the instructor taught the lesson, we would engage in open discussion. Each person there was the subject-matter expert in their field. They would tell us how they would operate, and we could see how we affected them and how they affected us.”

The use of historical references and examples can help the graduates with real-world problem-solving and making sound and ethical decisions, according to Owens.

“Use what you have learned here to teach and mentor your Marines,” said Owens. “It is especially important that you share this knowledge and help others understand how the world perceives us.”

Teaching and mentoring not only gives more Marines a chance to learn, but shows that students have taken the themes of the courses and made them their own, according to Hopkins.

“I am extremely proud of the students,” said Hopkins. “They do this school in conjunction with work, family and other commitments they have. It is remarkable what the students have achieved.”

Children spend day in father's boots

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“The children are part of the team and getting them to where they feel involved and can see what their dads do every day is important,” said Sgt. Maj. John D. Calhoun, the sergeant major of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. “The event helps them appreciate their dad’s work and shows our appreciation for them.”

The children of Marines and sailors with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, units experienced aspects of their father’s work during the second annual “Do What Daddy Does” day June 14 at Oura Wan Beach on Camp Schwab.

The day included static displays of vehicles and equipment in addition to educational stations, food and a combat rubber raiding craft ride for the families.

“The boats might be one of the bigger draws for the children, but they enjoyed the entire event,” said Calhoun, whose two children attended the event. “Getting the children involved to where they feel like they are

part of the team helps out tremendously. It makes the home team even more successful.”

The event was scheduled for the first day following the summer release of Department of Defense Education Activity Schools, in order to allow the maximum number of participants.

“We wanted to bring them up on a typical work day and give them a feel for what kind of things their dads do,” said Brandi Beck, the 3rd Recon. Bn. family readiness officer. “Today is the first day of school being out, so the Do What Daddy Does day event is really an opportunity for the children to participate at work with their dad.”

The children were placed into platoons and given orders to report to events in keeping with the theme of the day.

Each child had a different favorite, varying from the metal detector course, CRRC ride or the vehicle and equipment displays. Assault amphibious vehicles, light armored vehicles, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, heavy equipment, parachute operations equipment and diving equipment were all displayed during the event.



Pfc. Clayton P. Wolf, center-right, instructs participants in the use of a metal detector June 14 at Oura Wan Beach at Camp Schwab during the second annual “Do What Daddy Does” day. The event was designed to give children a better idea of their fathers’ daily routines. Wolf is a combat engineer with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

“The metal detector was my favorite,” said 7-year-old Miles Edmonson, referring to an event that taught the children how to use metal detectors and tested their skills by finding objects buried in the sand. “I was pretty good at it. I liked the boat too, I got splashed.”

The static vehicle displays and equipment were also a crowd favorite.

“The static displays are great,” said Beck. “You can see the kids climbing on top of the vehicles and going inside, getting their hands on the equipment, and asking questions. This event is really a great opportunity to do that.”

The units have received positive feedback from the families

and children and intend to continue hosting the event annually, according to Beck.

“We don’t often realize how patriotic our kids are,” said Gunnery Sgt. Sheila C. Calhoun, the S-4, supply and logistics chief with Headquarters Company, 3rd Intelligence Bn., III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. “When my husband was in Afghanistan my daughter said, ‘I wish he never went.’ Then she sat and thought about it for a few minutes and said, ‘No, he had to go to protect our freedoms and our country.’ She was 4-years-old at the time.”

“It is important for them to get out and see this kind of stuff because this makes it more real for them,” added Calhoun.

Heat dangerous for vulnerable children, pets

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers, resulting in hundreds of fatalities annually, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service.

As such, it is crucial to not leave children and pets alone in vehicles, especially on Okinawa where summer temperatures can reach the mid to high 90s, according to Aaron M. Davis, the supervisory occupational safety and health specialist with the Installation Safety Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler

“Marine Corps Installations Pacific Order 5560.1 states that children under the age of 9 are not allowed to be left in a motor vehicle unattended, and is considered to be leaving your child in a harmful situation,” said Davis. “Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5800.1C provides youth supervision guidelines for children and teens up to the age of 17.”

The interior temperature of a vehicle will continue to rise even if the windows are left slightly open, according to Davis.

“The temperature inside a vehicle can rise 20 degrees in as little as 10 minutes, and 50 degrees in an hour; even when outside air

temperatures are in the 70s,” said Davis. “One of the biggest weather-related risks during the summer months is the possibility of a child dying in a vehicle from heat stroke.”

Hyperthermia, also known as heat stroke, occurs when the body produces or absorbs more heat than it dissipates, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph S. Delacruz Jr., a corpsman with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Children’s internal thermometers are not as efficient and heat up faster than those of an adult.

“Heat stroke begins once a person’s internal temperature is greater than 104 degrees” said Delacruz. “Heat injury can cause serious brain damage and in some cases death.”

A victim of heat stroke will have red, dry skin and become delirious and confused as their core temperature rises, according to Delacruz. At this point, a person no longer has the ability to produce sweat and may be unable to comprehend what is going on around them.

It is also important to remember that animals are just as vulnerable to the heat, according to Sgt. Austin T. French, a

military working dog handler with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. Some animals, such as dogs, are incapable of regulating their body temperatures as efficiently as humans.

Individuals should also ensure they do not leave pets unattended in vehicles as they are as susceptible to heat injuries and just as powerless to exit a vehicle as most children, according to French.

During the summer, take extra measures to protect children and pets from high temperatures and dangerous heat, according to Davis.

“It’s important to take appropriate precautions and ensure that everyone is properly hydrated and not being over exposed to the heat,” said Davis.



In Theaters Now

JUNE 21 - 27

FOSTER

TODAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6 p.m.; This is the End (R), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Man Of Steel (PG13), noon, 4, and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Man Of Steel (PG13), noon and 4 p.m.; This is the End (R), 8 p.m.
MONDAY Epic (PG), 3 p.m.; Man Of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Epic (PG), 3 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY This is the End (R), 6 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Man of Steel (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Man of Steel (PG13), noon and 4 p.m.; This is the End (R), 8 p.m.
MONDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Man of Steel (PG13), 5:30 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 3 p.m.; This is the End (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 3 p.m.; This is the End (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Epic (PG), 3 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY This is the End (R), 4 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Hangover Part III (R), 4 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY After Earth (PG13), 12:30 p.m.; Scary Movie 5 (PG13) 3:30 p.m.; This is the End (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY This is the End (R), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY This is the End (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY This is the End (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Oblivion (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6:30 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 2:30 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY This is the End (R), 6 p.m.; Man of Steel (PG13), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Man of Steel (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing 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.

ICE SKATING TRIP

• The SMP is hosting an ice skating trip to the Southern Hills Sports World June 23. There is a bus fee of \$10. For more information, contact your unit representative or the SMP office at the number above.

MOUNT FUJI DISCOUNTS

• The SMP is offering discount prices for a Mount Fuji trip taking place Aug. 21-25. Full payment or cancellation of payment is due July 30. For more information, contact Tours Plus at 646-3502.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What Marine obstacle-breaching system packs 1,750 pounds of C-4?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Who was the first Marine inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame?

ANSWER:

Col. John Ripley, who was credited with stopping a column of North Vietnamese tanks by emplacing explosives under heavy gunfire and blowing up a pair of bridges during the 1972 Easter Offensive of the Vietnam War.



Japanese phrase of the week:

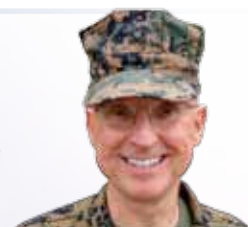
“Itadaki masu.”

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

It means, “Thank you for the food, and those who prepared it.”

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“Are You In The Habit Of Praying?”



Giving time, place devoted to prayer

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Terry
12TH MARINE REGIMENT COMMAND CHAPLAIN

When my mother was 46-years old she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a radical mastectomy followed by treatment with radiation. She was given a 25 percent chance of survival. My mother prayed for her life. Others prayed for her as well. One in particular was a man named Mr. Hirsh. Hirsh was a lay minister in her church who visited hospitals often. My mother said that when he would come to visit, you could hear him all the way down the hall. He was loud. It was also his habit to look in on patients he did not know, to offer to read scripture, to chat and to pray.

One day Mr. Hirsh came to visit my mother. She was asleep, so he chose to write a short note and leave it on her night stand. As he was turning to leave the room she awoke and said, “Oh Mr. Hirsh, don’t go.” He turned back around and took a seat to visit and to pray.

My mother expressed to him her fears about death and her poor prognosis. She remembered that he said to her, “Mary, there is nothing here that is too big for God.” When she heard another woman on the floor rejecting his visit, she thought to herself, “Mr. Hirsh, you can pray for me anytime you want.” That was 38 years ago, and my mother turned 84 last month. She told me not too long ago that when Hirsh died his family found him in his room, beside his bed, on his knees. He had been praying, and that was how he passed from this life into the next.

What is the place of prayer in your life? Do you believe that God is merciful and bigger than what you are experiencing? Are you willing to see his hand in all things, and open up to his compassion however he might choose to demonstrate it?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6.

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”