

OKINAWA MARINE

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9th ESB Marines receive Bronze Stars

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Captains Aaron F. Fisher and Christopher M. Kaprielian were awarded Bronze Star medals during a ceremony at the 9th Engineer Support Battalion physical training field at Camp Hansen Sept. 5.

Fisher served as the company commander of Engineer Support Company, 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Kaprielian served as the operations officer of 9th ESB during its recent deployment in support of see **BRONZE** pg 5



Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson pins the Bronze Star onto Capt. Aaron F. Fisher during an award ceremony at the 9th Engineer Support Battalion physical training field at Camp Hansen Sept. 5. During his seven-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Fisher's company played a key role in the completion of more than 45 different engineering projects including more than 60 kilometers of new route construction. Fisher is the company commander of Engineer Support Company, 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Nelson is the commanding general of 3rd MLG. Capt. Christopher M. Kaprielian, standing beside Fisher, served as the operations officer of 9th ESB. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

HMM-265 redesignated, awaits Ospreys

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 held a redesignation ceremony here Sept. 7.

HMM-265, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, became Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (VMM-265) in preparation to

receive its first MV-22B Ospreys, currently located at MCAS Iwakuni.

“Since the activation of the squadron almost 50 years ago, they have been at the forefront of operations,” said Brig. Gen. Christopher S. Owens, the commanding general of 1st MAW. “The squadron has served with distinction in Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor and most recently in Japan as part of Operation Tomodachi, (a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief effort

launched) in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (and subsequent tsunami) in 2011.”

The general's speech was part of a ceremony marking the end of almost half a century of service by the squadron's CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters.

“It is a bittersweet day,” said Lt. Col. William L. DePue Jr., the commanding officer of the squadron. “This will probably be the last public opportunity

see **DRAGONS** pg 5



Shunji Ohashi shakes hands with Lt. Col. Jason P. Brown in Susono City during a visit Sept. 5. Brown visited mayors of local towns to discuss the training taking place at the East Fuji Maneuver Area and continue to foster the relationships with local communities. Ohashi is the mayor of Susono City. Brown is the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Terence G. Brady

Artillery program increases readiness

Pfc. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FUJI, Japan — More than 300 Marines and sailors departed Okinawa for the East Fuji Maneuver Area in mainland Japan to participate in Artillery Relocation Training Program 12-2 Sept. 1.

The Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, are conducting the training exercise from Sept. 1-30.

The Marines and sailors are conducting the artillery training to enhance unit proficiency and combat readiness while maintaining a commitment to the

see **ARTP** pg 5

Honoring those who fell on September 11, 2001

One Marine's decision after witnessing the tragedy of 9/11

Cpl. Garry J. Welch

I remember the day more clearly than my own birthday that year. I was in the fifth grade, in line for lunch, when I heard two planes had flown into the World Trade Center towers. At the time, I did not realize exactly what it meant, or even know what the towers were.

When I left school that day, I returned home to find my mother crying and my father angry. He wanted to re-enlist in the Marine Corps to take

down the people who had done this. When I saw the news, the planes hitting the towers and later crashing into the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania, I finally understood what happened.

I knew people had died, and the country was about to go to war. I knew what it meant for my own future. Most of my family had served in the military, and I had always wanted to be a Marine.

My grandfather and great uncle served in the Marine Corps as infantrymen during the Vietnam War shortly after the Tet Offensive. My father served in the

Marines in the 1980s, and deployed to the Philippines in support of Operation Classic Resolve.

They all served during the wars of their generations. When I saw the towers go down, I made up my mind that day – I would join the Marine Corps and be part of my generation's fight. I would continue the tradition my family shares of serving in the Corps.

Sept. 11 unified the country in a way that had not happened since World War II. Thousands of brave men and women who wanted to take the fight to the enemy and ensure this never hap-

pened again volunteered their service to defend our nation.

As the 11th anniversary of 9/11 has passed, it is important to reflect on what was lost, those who sacrificed their lives to help those during the tragedy, and those who fought in the wars on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Remember 9/11 not as a day only of mourning, but also a celebration of life to those who continued and persevered during a dark time in our great nation's history.

Welch is a combat correspondent with 4th Marine Corps District.

“When I saw the towers go down, I made up my mind that day – I would join the Marine Corps and be part of my generation’s fight.”



AROUND THE CORPS



Marines with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group listen to remarks from Rear Adm. William Lescher during his visit aboard the USS Iwo Jima Sept. 8. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima ARG as a theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command. Lescher is the commanding officer of Expeditionary Strike Group 5. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chad Kiehl



U.S. Marines and sailors insert into a landing zone as part of a scenario while conducting riverine training during UNITAS-Partnership of the Americas 2012 Sept. 8. UNITAS-Partnership of the Americas gives participating troops from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the U.S. and Uruguay an opportunity to exercise critical thinking based on realistic scenarios, reinforce essential tactics and techniques, and build on a strong foundation of professional cooperation. Photo by Cpl. Tyler J. Thornhill

Members of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps perform atop the ramparts during a Friday evening parade at Marine Barracks Washington Aug. 31 during their final performance at the barracks for 2012.

Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez



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Camp Hansen

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Camp Kinser

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Marines assist with blast injury course in Cambodia

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre graduated from a two-week medical course at the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, Aug. 30.

Personnel with III Marine Expeditionary Force taught the students valuable medical skills, such as tourniquet application and airway management, for use near minefields and unexploded ordnance as part of the U.S. humanitarian mine action program.

“I thank the students for having patience and sharing their knowledge with us,” said Joe Groves, the chief instructor with the III MEF tactical medical simulation center.

Instructors taught the members how to control hemorrhaging, manage the airway, and treat chest injuries, according to Groves.

The U.S. humanitarian mine action program is designed to relieve human suffering and develop indigenous mine-action capabilities by partnering U.S. Department of State entities with local governments and develop a specific humanitarian mine action program.

Once students completed training, they attended a graduation ceremony sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command and the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance.

“It was very encouraging to see such support for the graduation,” said Marine Maj. William H. Nash, the humanitarian mine action program manager for U.S. PACOM. “The leadership of the Cambodian government, the U.S. Embassy and U.S. PACOM worked together to coordinate



Marine Maj. William H. Nash addresses students and instructors at the graduation ceremony for the humanitarian mine action program's first medical training class at the Institute for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, Oudong, Kampong Speu province, Cambodia, Aug. 30. Nash coordinated the training with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Pacific Command. Nash is the humanitarian mine action program manager. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

everything involved with the training that was conducted over the past two weeks.”

The training for the students was only one part of the overall goal.

“The most important part is that the students will now become the trainers for medical personnel in the future,” said Groves.

The Cambodian government plans to continue providing training to Cambodian personnel, according to Cambodian Armed Forces Brig. Gen. Sor Savy, the deputy director of the center. With help from U.S. PACOM, the newly trained instructors will impart knowledge to their fellow service members.

Having a thoroughly trained staff base would not have been possible without the Cambodian government taking action.

“The Cambodian government asked for help with making self-sufficient medical and explosive ordnance disposal units to combat their mine and unexploded ordnance issues,” said Nash. “They worked hard to make it happen. With this graduation, they are on their way to being able to clear their country and help other countries.”

This knowledge will be continuously used both throughout Cambodia and on U.N. peacekeeping missions, according to Savy.

California Superbike School hosts advanced rider track day

Pfc. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — U.S. service members participated in advanced rider track days held by the California Superbike School Sept. 8-9 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The purpose of the course was to refine motorcycle handling and safety skills and build the riders confidence. CSS, an international organization founded in 1980, is dedicated to teaching proper motorcycle handling techniques.

“At California Superbike School, we are looking at thousands of different riders,” said John H. Haynes, a coach from CSS's branch in Australia. “We are able to increase their confidence and control over the motorcycle by teaching them the proper techniques.”

The training sessions each started with a brief and then riders were organized into two separate groups.

“Before they go out on the track there will be classroom sessions,” said Aaron M. Davis, event coordinator and supervisory occupational safety and health specialist for Camp Foster. “Each time they go out on the track they will be practicing a different skill.”

The riders were sent on an “L”-shaped track down the Futenma flight line for 12-minute training sessions.

Throughout the course there were coaches with flags posted at individual checkpoints. Their purpose was to observe the riders for any mistakes. Any errors made by the riders warranted a red flag from the coach, signaling they did something wrong.

“We have flagmen and coaches posted up around the track,” said Davis. “Everyone riding on the flight line is being watched. If we see them doing anything wrong, we will flag them down and send them to the coach for further instruction. This is a very controlled training environment.”



U.S. service members participate in the California Superbike School advanced rider track day held at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Sept. 9. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

The controlled environment allowed service members to practice their techniques safely.

“The goal today is for the riders to be comfortable with throttle control, proper braking while negotiating curves and corners, and lean,” said Kathie A. Carter, an instructor at the course. “We do this because 65 percent of motorcycle crashes take place due to improper braking.”

Nearly 100 riders with various types of motorcycles, from mini-bikes and scooters to cruisers and sport-bikes, attended the annual training event.

“As long as the motorcycle has a motor, two wheels and met the safety qualifications, it can be here,” said Gunnery Sgt. Kristopher L. Joiner, an instructor at the course and information security technician with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The safe and controlled environment gave the riders an opportunity to practice their skills and understand their bikes without the stress of being on the open road.

“I have improved my steering techniques and feel I have better control over the motorcycle,” said Ensign Aaron L. Mitchen, a security officer with Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa. “This training is teaching me to ultimately be a safer rider and has given me much more confidence.”

BRIEFS

ENLISTED MONITORS VISIT

Manpower Management Division, Enlisted Assignments, will conduct its annual visit to Okinawa Sept. 14-19. MMEA monitors will brief and conduct interviews at various locations on Okinawa to update commanders on enlisted manpower decisions. All fiscal year 2013 first-term alignment plan Marines are required to attend the FTAP brief prior to their interview with their respective monitor.

For a schedule of events and list of MMEA visitors, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac>.

CAMP FOSTER FIELD HOUSE CLOSURE

The Camp Foster field house will be closed for renovations following an electrical fire as a result of Typhoon Bolaven. After a detailed inspection by the Fire Department, Base Safety and the Facilities Engineering Branch, the building was declared unsafe for public use. Repairs are expected to be completed by spring 2013.

For more information, contact Gunners Fitness Center at 645-3141.

MEN'S HEALTH SEMINAR – SEPT. 17

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa invites all personnel and family members on Okinawa to attend a men's health seminar Sept. 17 from noon-4 p.m. at the Camp Lester chapel.

Recognition and prevention of men's health problems is not just a man's issue, but an issue that can impact an entire family.

For more information, call USNH Okinawa's health promotion department at 643-7906.

OPERATION TOMODACHI REGISTRY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Department of Defense recently launched the Operation Tomodachi registry website. The website provides location-based radiation dose estimate reports for adults and children comprising the DOD-affiliated population for 13 locations on or near mainland Japan following the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami of March 11, 2011.

The registry, which will be housed in a secure database containing the names, locations and radiation doses for all members of the DOD-affiliated population, will be completed by Dec. 31, 2012.

After extensive environmental monitoring and analysis, the DOD determined that none of the nearly 70,000 members of the DOD-affiliated population who were on or near the mainland of Japan between March 12 and May 11, 2011, are known to have been exposed to radiation at levels associated with adverse medical conditions.

The website is available at <http://registry.csd.disa.mil/otr>.

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.



From left, Fang A. Wong, Sgt. Juan Vallejomunoz, Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly and J.R. Martinez pose for a photo after Vallejomunoz received the American Legion's Spirit of Service Award during the organization's 94th national convention at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Aug. 28. Wong is the American Legion national commander; Vallejomunoz is a manpower information systems analyst with manpower information system support office, assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler; Kelly is the senior military assistant to the secretary of defense; and Martinez was the master of ceremonies for the event.

Courtesy photo from the American Legion

Marine honored by American Legion

American Legion Staff

INDIANAPOLIS — Sgt. Juan M. Vallejomunoz received the American Legion's Spirit of Service Award at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis Aug. 28.

Vallejomunoz received the award in recognition of his extensive volunteer efforts.

American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong and Marine Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly, the senior military assistant to the secretary of defense, presented the award to Vallejomunoz, a manpower information systems analyst with manpower information system support office, assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. He was honored along with representatives from each armed service at the annual business gathering of the 2.4 million-member Legion, the nation's largest veteran organization.

This is the 13th year the Legion has sponsored the award program.

A native of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Vallejomunoz moved to Chicago in 2002 and joined the Marine Corps two years later. After serving in Okinawa, South Africa, Serbia and Switzerland, he reported to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in June 2010, where his volunteerism flourished. He helped the MEU provide humanitarian assistance after super typhoon Megi ravaged the Philippines in 2010.

Devoting more than 450 hours of community

service between deployments, he also assisted young Japanese and American children with tennis tournaments, coaching and mentoring them during his off-duty hours.

He served as the assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America's Far East Council Troop 112, where he helped the scouts attain the lifesaving merit badge. He also volunteered at the Nagomi Children's Orphanage, spending time, playing games, and mentoring the children to become enthusiastic and interactive learners.

Vallejomunoz also devoted Thursday evenings to teaching Spanish to the Japanese community through a weekly radio show. Using prizes, trivia questions and Facebook to promote the program, his contributions enabled the Japanese and Hispanic community on Okinawa to come together.

Wong presented Vallejomunoz a membership in the Legion as part of the award.

"He makes all of his 2.4 million fellow Legionnaires very proud," Wong said. "Our nation is fortunate to have such dedicated service members as Juan Vallejomunoz. He is a credit to his uniform and to our country."

Vallejomunoz was awed at the honor the Legion bestowed on him.

"I am amazed to have been selected as the sole Marine to represent my service," said Vallejomunoz. "I knew nothing about the Legion, but now I'm a member of Post 28 and learning a lot. It's one of the best organizations to be a part of."

MWCS-18 welcomes Bolding



Bolding



Antekeier

Lt. Col. Bret A. Bolding assumed command of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. Philip G. Antekeier during a ceremony at the Camp Foster parade field Sept. 12. Antekeier commanded MWCS-18 since May 2010 and will become a student at the Joint Military Attaché School in Washington, D.C. Bolding's previous assignment was at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he served as a deputy assistant chief of staff, G-6, communication and information systems, Marine Corps Installations East.

Students reflect on 9/11

Students and faculty of Zukeran Elementary School recite the Pledge of Allegiance at Camp Foster Sept. 11. The students took part in the annual "Meet Me at the Flag Pole" day where they honored the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the sacrifices made by service members in the subsequent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. During the remembrance ceremony, the students were asked to be proud of themselves and to be proud of their families. Most of the students were born after the 9/11 attacks, so the event also served to educate them on the importance of the day.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum



BRONZE from pg 1

Operation Enduring Freedom.

They were awarded the medals for meritorious service during their seven-month deployment in support of OEF.

Fisher organized his company to accomplish all assigned missions and to succeed in a highly challenging environment. His company played a key role in the completion of more than 45 different engineering projects including more than 60 kilometers of new route construction, survivability improvements, patrol base development and enhancement, combat patrol security and general engineering efforts at outposts across Helmand province.

"It's a big testament to all the work the Marines did through his leadership and guidance," said Chief Warrant Officer Joshua R. Ashworth, the motor transport maintenance officer for the battalion. "I would definitely deploy with him again."

Kaprielian planned and provided oversight for the construction and engineering projects performed by the battalion. Kaprielian managed the battalion's assets to ensure the engineers were able to meet the commander's expectations and achieve mission success.

"They are outstanding leaders," said Master Gunnery Sgt. James L. Stanley, the operations chief for Support Company, 9th ESB. "I think it is well deserved, and I would

deploy with them in a heartbeat without thinking twice."

Fisher led several important projects, but commanded two critical and especially challenging missions. His company constructed a land bridge, known as Route Red Wadi Crossing, to ensure the main supply route remained open following the winter thaw. Additionally, his company built Route Tiffany providing a resupply access route to a remote forward operating base.

"Route Red was highly used by the locals after its construction for local commerce," said Fisher. "It helped improve the quality of life by making it easier for them to get from one place to another."

"The Marines pulled together and they did an amazing job," said Fisher. "It's not something I did; it is something the company did."

Although the two Marine leaders felt a sense of pride in receiving Bronze Stars, they both agreed that it was because of their Marines' efforts that their units accomplished so much.

"I owe this award to my Marines," said Fisher. "I received this award as a result of their efforts throughout our deployment. I wear this award for them."

"It is all about the Marines," said Kaprielian. "The hard work and dedication it took to accomplish our mission while we were deployed is the reason for this award. This is their award, not mine."

ARTP from pg 1

Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the U.S. and Japan. The East Fuji Maneuver Area provides the battalion with training opportunities not available on Okinawa.

Relocation training is conducted at five mainland maneuver areas, including the East Fuji Maneuver area, with the understanding and cooperation of the local government, according to Lt. Col. Jason P. Brown, the commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines.

"Our training is focused on the tactical employment of artillery fires against a conventional military opponent," said Brown.

Marines with the battalion will conduct military occupation specialty-specific training as well as gain experience on other elements related to firing artillery.

"This training will provide more experience to the unit," said Lance Cpl. Jose F. Villavicenciopena, a heavy-equipment engineer operator with the battalion. "If you don't go out in the field for training, you won't be able to use the skills your job requires you to know."

Marines benefit from training at the base of Mount Fuji because it provides them an opportunity to train in a different environment and climate.

The schedule for ARTP 12-2 includes 10 days of live-fire training. The unit will perform various training exercises including day and night firing of the M777A2 155 mm howitzer, as well as a small-arms range. There is also a plan for the Marines and sailors to summit Mount Fuji in order to build unit cohesion and esprit de corps.

Shortly after arriving, Brown visited with local mayors and held a press conference to discuss the exercise. He also assured officials and citizens that safety would be paramount throughout training and thanked them for their support.

"This training cannot be conducted successfully without the support of the local government and the community," said Brown. "We are committed to being good neighbors and work hard to lessen the impact on local communities while still pushing forward to mission accomplishment."

DRAGONS from pg 1

to say goodbye to the CH-46E Sea Knight. That aircraft has provided almost 50 years of medium lift support for Marines on the ground."

The squadron, known as the Dragons, have worked hard during the transition from the old aircraft to the new aircraft, according to DePue.

"This transition is the culmination of a lot of work in the squadron, the group, the wing, and all the way up to the U.S.-Japan alliance," said DePue. "I appreciate the flexibility and the support for the transition. It has been and will remain an enormous effort."

The ceremony highlighted the Dragon's service since 1995 in support of Marine Corps operations from Okinawa.

"There are two things that are constant in the Marine Corps," said Col. Jeff K. Arruda, the commanding officer of MAG-36. "Those two things are change and the rich tradition of professionalism and performance. This squadron has demonstrated the ability to adapt to many situations and continues to be a highly professional and high-performing unit."

Those qualities have been demonstrated in the day-to-day operations of the squadron.

"We will continue to provide service to Marines on the ground while we wait to transition to the new aircraft," said DePue. "We have provided support for operations from Vietnam to Operation Enduring Freedom. After the transition, we will continue to do that with the battle-tested and humanitarian-tested MV-22B Osprey."

The MV-22B is a highly-capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. Its capabilities stand to significantly strengthen III MEF's ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions, and fulfill other alliance roles.



Lt. Col. William L. DePue Jr. and Sgt. Maj. Russell A. Strack case the colors of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 during a ceremony to redesignate the unit as Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Sept. 7. DePue is the commanding officer of VMM-265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Strack is the sergeant major of the squadron. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Endurance course challenges service members,

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

With their uniforms drenched from sweat, pouring rain and murky water, Marines push, pull and slosh their way through the dense vegetation, trenches and seemingly primeval jungle waters.

Marines are driven to their mental and physical limits at the sole Jungle Warfare Training Center in the Department of Defense.

The endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves is designed to give Marines a chance to conquer the jungle's hardships and build unit cohesion.

"The purpose is to test the Marines physically and test their abilities at skills they have learned during our basic jungle skills course, such as knot tying, hasty rappelling and casualty evacuation," said Capt. Thomas Carpenter, the operations officer with JWTC, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "During most

courses, (the endurance course) is the last event before the unit graduates and returns to their home station."

The endurance course is one part of the basic jungle skills course. JWTC also teaches jungle warfare specifics like patrolling, ambushes and raids.

However, the endurance course is notable for its unique environment, an environment where intangible skills are developed and sharpened.

One of the main things the endurance course does is build teamwork and trust between Marines, according to Cpl. Joseph Leiding, an instructor at JWTC. It is a team effort, and by the end, Marines are a more cohesive unit.

The obstacles and equipment, combined with the exhaustion, heat and humidity, pushes Marines to their physical and mental limits. Marines who can't finish the course because of physical limitations can come back for another iteration. Marines

who need technical remediation start the obstacle over again.

"Some Marines fail because they have an injury or become a heat (casualty)," said Carpenter. "Others (fail) some obstacles because they (do not) tie the proper knots (used in the safety devices and harnesses) or they are conducting an unsafe act."

JWTC successfully runs hundreds of service members through the endurance course throughout the year.

"We usually have units going through the course three times per month as part of an eight-day training package," said Carpenter. "So far, there have been 1,200 students for fiscal year 2012."

Many of the students are with units that call Okinawa home, but recently, there have been off-island units completing the course.

"It has been mostly units on Okinawa from III Marine Expeditionary Force, but now that the unit deployment program is back, we will see an increase in UDP units at JWTC," said

Marines with Company E execute the commando crawl at the Jungle Warfare Training Center's endurance course Aug. 10. The crawl tests knot and harness skills, which Marines learn prior to starting the course. Echo Company is a part of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. JWTC is part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

builds cohesion

Carpenter. “(Besides that) we do get other units from off island. Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company Pacific from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, scheduled two packages this year.”

Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment under the UDP, is one of those off-island units that experienced JWTC and the endurance course during 12 days of jungle operations.

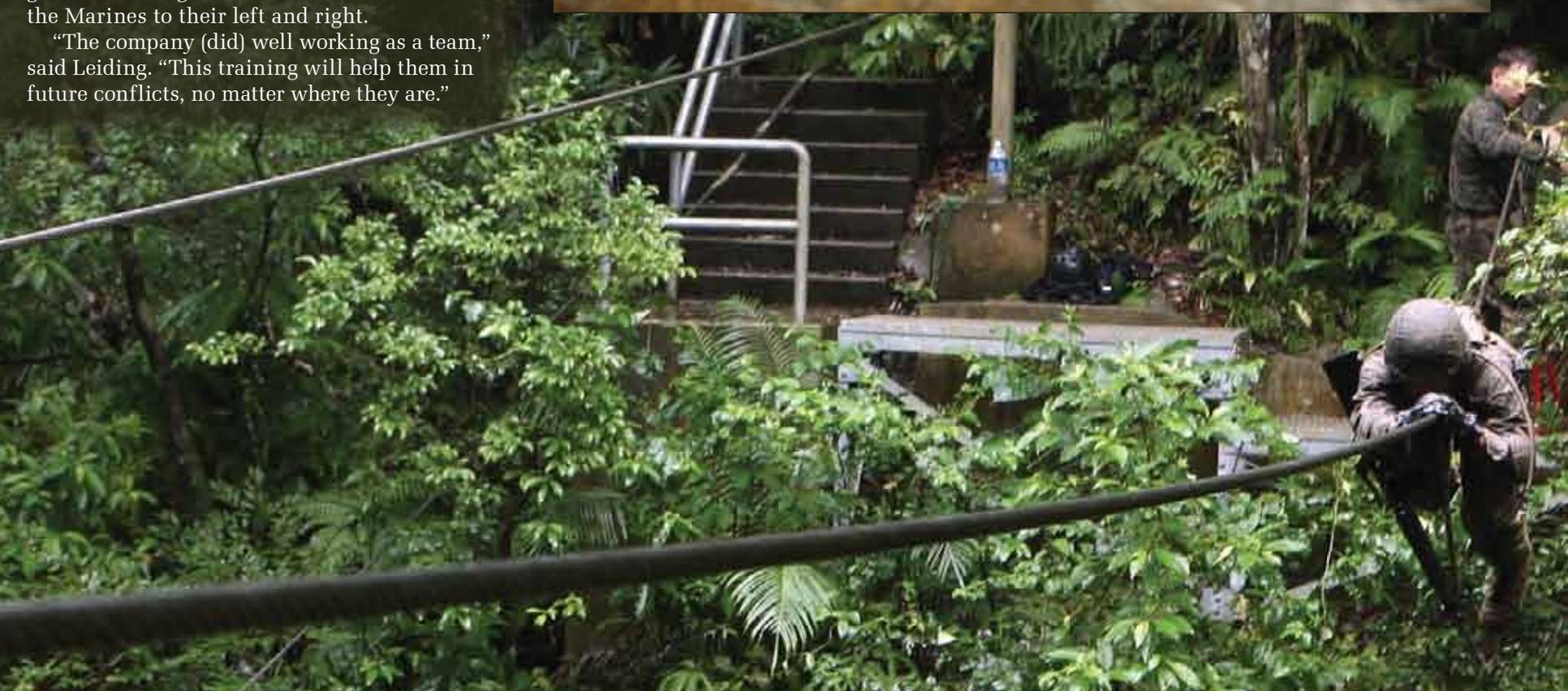
“The training here is something that is completely different than any other training that I have done,” said Lance Cpl. Ricardo HernandezGomez, a rifleman with the company. “It is fun and demanding. It builds upon the teamwork that we have.”

To get through obstacles, fatigue and humid conditions, the company needed to work together, allowing each Marine to learn to trust the Marines to their left and right.

“The company (did) well working as a team,” said Leiding. “This training will help them in future conflicts, no matter where they are.”



Lance Cpl. Elias Martinez surfaces after traversing the pit and pond underwater obstacle at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Aug. 10. The obstacle is part of the endurance course, designed to push Marines to their physical and mental limits. Martinez is a rifleman with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. JWTC is part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific.



Marines with Company E move through a water obstacle during the endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center Aug. 10. Marines must submerge themselves completely during the course to advance to the next obstacle.

7th Comm celebrates friendship with nursing home

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Cold refreshments, a hot meal and music played by the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band were some of the many treats provided during the 20th anniversary ceremony and festival at Hikarigaoka nursing home in Kin Town, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 8.

Service members with 7th Communication Battalion, residents, members and staff of the nursing home celebrated the anniversary with a variety of events.

Marines and sailors with the battalion are part of III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

The ceremony was held as a way to celebrate the long-lasting relationship that began two decades ago and is maintained during many outreach events between the battalion and nursing home.

The Marines and sailors are family in the hearts of their nursing home members because of the volunteer work, according to Kiyo Tomimori, a nursing home resident.

"The service members came together at the ceremony to commemorate and enjoy the relationship between the home and our unit," said Navy Lt. Stephen F. Brown, the battalion chaplain. "The warm welcome, gratefulness and the cultural exchange (the members and staff) offered is something we hold very close."

During the ceremony, members of the nursing home and III MEF Band played music. Nursing home and staff members



Seaman Christophe L. McCullick greets Yoshi Higa, a nursing home member, during the 20th anniversary ceremony and festival at Hikarigaoka nursing home in Kin Town, Okinawa, Sept. 8. McCullick is a corpsman with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

also provided assorted foods and dance performances.

"(They) are hospitable, and I take pleasure in eating and laughing with them while getting to know more of their culture," said Lance Cpl. Carolina Figueroa-sotomayor, a volunteer at the home and an automotive maintenance technician with the battalion.

The bond between the service members and the Okinawan community continues to grow, according to Haruo Ginoza, the owner of the nursing home.

"Everyone's efforts toward building this relationship in the past have not only made our friendship a success, but it has brought us closer," said Ginoza.



Staff Sgt. Victoria R. Ortiz orchestrates the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band during the 20th anniversary ceremony and festival at Hikarigaoka nursing home in Kin Town, Okinawa, Sept. 8. The ceremony celebrated the anniversary and recognized the long-lasting relationship between 7th Communication battalion and the nursing home that began two decades ago. Ortiz is an assistant enlisted conductor with the III MEF Band.

MCIPAC recognizes, celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Pfc. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As a way to acknowledge contributions to society, military and the economy made by Hispanics, U.S. bases throughout Okinawa will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The monthlong celebration honors the many contributions made by the Hispanic community. It originally began as Hispanic Heritage week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, and was expanded to Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to celebrate the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Chile and Nicaragua.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to educate people on the contributions made by Hispanics," said Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark, the equal opportunity advisor for Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Many of these contributions have been overlooked."

The month honors contributions made to all aspects of society, including the military. Hispanics have served in combat since the Civil

War and continue to serve in present day wars. There have been a total of 44 Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, 13 of which were Marines. The most recent Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient was Army Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry. He received the award May 26, 2008, in Afghanistan.

"Hispanic (service members) have fought in every conflict since the Civil War," said Clark. "Many of them fought even though they were not yet citizens, and that says a great deal about their courage and willingness to sacrifice."

For many Hispanics, the contribution of serving in the military is not only a life-changing experience, but also a great source of pride.

"I am making myself and my family proud," said Pfc. Robert A. Rodriguez, a hazardous materials technician with Environmental Affairs Branch, G-F, Facilities, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "I am doing different things than my friends back home. Being a Marine has been an excellent experience."

To acknowledge the contributions made by Hispanic-Americans to the military, 3rd Marine Division will host a ceremony at the Palms ballroom at Camp Hansen Oct. 4 at 8:30 p.m. and III Marine Expeditionary Force will host an observance at the Palms Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To find out how to participate or observe other events during Hispanic Heritage Month, people can contact their unit's equal opportunity officer.

"Many of them fought even though they were not yet citizens, and that says a great deal about their courage and willingness to sacrifice."

Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark

Chaplains provide more than religious outlook

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Sunday services, weddings and counseling sessions are some of the things that come to mind when most think about the work done by chaplains.

What many may not realize is chaplains spend a tremendous amount of their own time strengthening the bond between service members and local communities.

Chaplains with Marine Corps units on Okinawa organize many community relations events, both on and off base and throughout the Asia-Pacific region during exercises, ensuring Marines and sailors are able to volunteer within the community.

"Community relations events give Marines and sailors a unique chance to be a part of the local community," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Gamley, a religious program specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine

Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Community relations events come up (during) conversations at least three times a week," said Lt. j.g. Kristian L. Carlson, the Camp Kinser base chaplain. "I have only been here six months and have attended two community relations events with CLR-35."

Carlson has attended a beach bash and a sports day and plans on organizing events with local orphanages for Marines to participate in around the holiday.

"These events have a high impact on the local community," said Carlson. "I have a lot of plans for future events and I am excited to get started."

While chaplains usually prepare community relations events on their own time, they also use their knowledge and connections made through their churches to think of new opportunities.

"One of the members of my church is the principal of a school and that opens



Pfc. Christopher J. Frigon prepares to give a high-five to a child from the Tai Chu En orphanage during a community relations event at Camp Kinser July 16. Every year, there are many community relations events on Okinawa, and throughout the Asia-Pacific region during exercises, according to Kaori Martinez, community relations officer with G-7, government and external affairs office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Frigon is data network specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

up many possibilities," said Carlson.

Chaplains receive a great deal of help from their religious program specialists while planning these events, according to Carlson.

"It is a joint effort between the chaplains and the religious (program) specialists," said Gamley. "We both plan and organize the events so everything will run smoothly."

While planning the events takes a great deal of effort, it is more than worthwhile, according to Navy Lt. Kyu C. Lee, the chaplain for 3rd Supply Battalion, CLR-35.

"Coordinating is the biggest part," Lee said. "We

have to come up with a plan, find transportation for the Marines, and send letters to the organizations, but we always have a good time once we are out there."

Marines, sailors and chaplains commonly organize visits to orphanages and schools, but soon they will participate in a different kind of visit.

"We are going to a day care for the first time," said Lee. "Starting next week, the Marines and sailors will (play) games and interact with the children."

These events not only have an impact on the community, but they can have a strong effect on the volunteers.

"A lot of Marines tell

me that they want to go to college once they leave the military," said Lee.

"After volunteering a few times, I have had numerous Marines tell me they are interested in (teaching) special education or being a teacher. I like giving them the opportunity to use their skills."

The chaplains plan and participate in these events not only for the benefit of Marines, sailors and the community, but also because they find it personally rewarding, according to Carlson.

"These events are so important because they are priceless," said Carlson. "You cannot put a price on the smile on a child's face."



Lance Cpl. Erin Wilkie, a Marine in support of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, plays with Filipino children during a community relations event at Malabon, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 22, 2011. This event was part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012, a bilateral training exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. service members.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

Marines don plastic gloves and fill trash bags full of debris during a beach cleanup at Kin Red beach Aug. 13, 2011. Countless bags of trash and other debris were collected during the cleanup effort.

Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.



Bilateral Exercise Forest Light concludes

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As service members wait for battle orders, they position themselves and get ready to make the next move. The muddy terrain is soon left behind with boot, tire and track marks as they move forward while suppressing the mock enemy.

Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, together with U.S. Marines and sailors, contributed to the success of Exercise Forest Light 12-01 Aug. 19-30 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan.

Marines and sailors with Combat Assault Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, both a part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in the exercise alongside Japanese service members with the JGSDF's 41st Infantry Regiment.

Forest Light is a series of bilateral training exercises between III MEF and JGSDF units. The exercises are designed to enhance the U.S. and Japanese partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment.

"The exercise has been a success," said 1st Lt. Matthew D. Biesecker, a logistics officer

with CAB. "The coordination with logistics, operations and (the) JGSDF played a huge role in a successful operation in the field."

During the exercise, service members were given opportunities to sharpen their skills and display their warfighting knowledge.

"Some of our main concerns were to grow a better understanding of each other's techniques in combat situations," said Sgt. Taro Miyoshi, an anti-tank specialist with the 41st Infantry Regiment, JGSDF. "We were able to hone our combat skills in light-infantry tactics, our medical evacuation procedures and our communication with U.S. service members."

The focal point throughout the exercise was the improvement of combat readiness and communication between the JGSDF and Marines. During the final field training event, service members executed a forward and backward passage of lines on the battlefield.

In a passage of lines, one unit first sets a defensive position. The passage of lines occurs when another unit moves forward or backward past the defensive unit's boundary line. Then, the moving unit sets up in an offensive or defensive position in order to carry on the overall mission.



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Col. Oka Moto, right, hands Lt. Col. Terry M. Paustenbaugh a plaque at the closing ceremony of Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 31. The ceremony displayed mutual appreciation for the successful bilateral training exercise. Moto is the commanding officer of the JGSDF's 41st Infantry Regiment. Paustenbaugh is the commanding officer for Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

"All the training and cohesion with the U.S. military benefitted everyone because we were able to work in a simulated combat environment, as a single unit, (practicing) offensive and defensive tactics (while) giving each other support," said Sgt. Kanzaki Koki, a meteorologist with the 41st Infantry Regiment, JGSDF. "The time and effort has not gone unseen because we were able to prove that together, we can

always move forward on and off the field."

According to Biesecker, no matter the time or task, service members were able to handle every task effectively and successfully.

The success of the exercise illustrates the importance of the bilateral training and cohesion of Marines working alongside JGSDF members while enhancing combat readiness.

Type 74 main battle tanks assigned to the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's 41st Infantry Regiment charge forward in a tactical line during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 24. Moving as a unit allows the tanks to suppress enemy while maneuvering up and down the battlefield. Forest Light is a series of bilateral training exercises with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force designed to enhance military partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment. Photo by Master Gunnery Sgt. Eric A. Ingerson



In Theaters Now

SEPTEMBER 14-20

FOSTER

TODAY The Possession (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lawless (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), noon; Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG), 3 p.m.; Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 6 p.m.; Lawless (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 1 p.m.; The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Lawless (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG), noon; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Possession (PG13), 6 p.m.; Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG), 1 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Lawless (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY ParaNorman (PG), 2 p.m.; Magic Mike (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY ParaNorman (PG), 2 p.m.; Premium Rush (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Magic Mike (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Hit and Run (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Savages (R), 4 p.m.; Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Sparkle (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG), 3 p.m.; Hit and Run (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Lawless (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Expendables 2 (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Sparkle (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 2 and 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Premium Rush (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SATURDAY Madea's Witness Protection (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

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

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The Thrift Shop needs volunteers every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers can come sign in at the SMP office a few minutes prior. Lunch will be provided.

DISCOVER GOLF - FREE GOLF LESSONS

- Taiyo Golf Course is hosting free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m.

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

Japanese phrases of the week:

“Eigo o hanashi maska?”

(pronounced: Eh-goh oh hah-nah-shee mahs-kah?)

It means, “Do you speak English?”

“Eigo de onegaishimasu.”

(pronounced: eh-goh deh on-neh-gah-ee-she-mahs)

It means, “In English please.”



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“The shofar serves as an alarm clock announcing a time for introspection, reflection on your relationship with God and repentance.”

Rosh Hashanah is time for reflection

Lt. j.g. Yonatan Warren
 9TH ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION CHAPLAIN

How did you start your last new year? I like to start my year with a couple slices of apple dipped in honey.

If you are like most Americans, your New Year's recollections include the Times Square ball dropping, kissing somebody, singing “Auld Lang Syne,” and then very little else until the Alka-Seltzer tablets began their gentle fizzing in the morning. Apples dipped in honey are not part of most people's New Year's menu.

The Jewish new year doesn't exactly start in the same manner. Sept. 16, Jewish communities around the world will officially begin the new year with the holiday of Rosh Hashanah. There will be no ball dropping from the sky, and celebrating with a kiss is taboo on this, one of the holiest days of the year. Instead, on Rosh Hashanah, we will pray, read from our sacred texts, and plead with God, for Rosh Hashanah is a very serious religious experience.

The piercing shrill of the ram's horn,

also called a shofar, will announce the new year. The shofar serves as an alarm clock, announcing that the Day of Judgment has arrived: a time for introspection, reflection on your relationship with God and repentance. As new year's celebrations go, Rosh Hashanah is very spiritually stressful.

Built into the intensity of the day, Rosh Hashanah offers a wonderful and delicious ritual.

We are encouraged to eat apples dipped in honey to symbolize a sweet new year. In Hebrew, we wish each other, “Shana Tova u'metukah!” which means “a good and sweet new year!”

The eating of apples dipped in honey is my ultimate spiritual anti-stressor. Each year, I am connected to Rosh Hashanahs of years past. I am tied to my very foundations: my religious background, family traditions and community of support.

This Rosh Hashanah – whether you are Jewish or not – is a good time to get back in touch with your spiritual foundations. Talk to your unit chaplain, and start off the September new year in a sweet way.

Shana Tova u'metukah!

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX