

OKINAWA MARINE

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An MV-22 Osprey prepares to fly Japan Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto to Marine Corps Base Quantico following a joint press conference with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta at the Pentagon Aug. 3, 2012. Photo by Glenn Fawcett

Japan Defense Minister flies in Osprey

Claudette Roulo and 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE AND OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, in a joint press conference Aug. 3 with Japan Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto, said the military has complete confidence in the MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft it recently delivered to Marines in Japan.

The Osprey is key to the department's plans for the Asia-Pacific region, Panetta said during his Pentagon briefing with Morimoto. "It will enable Marines to fly faster and farther from Okinawa to remote islands in Japan. This is a one-of-a-kind platform."

"We have tremendous confidence in this plane," Panetta added. "We fly it in combat operations, we fly see **MORIMOTO** pg 5

'Safety first, safety always' highlights campaign

1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — III Marine Expeditionary Force has initiated the "Safety first, safety always" campaign to highlight continuous, proactive safety programs throughout III MEF and Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The campaign is not a one-time event but instead is a showcase for the various safety initiatives and accomplishments of III MEF, its major subordinate commands and MCIPAC, according to Jim Maldonado, safety officer, III MEF.

"The scope of this campaign highlights our past and continued safety efforts in all III MEF and MCIPAC activities. We've evolved into a culture of safety that continually

looks at processes and programs that improve our safety posture more and more," said Maldonado.

"Safety first, safety always" looks to focus on how the Marine Corps' safety programs positively affect not just Marines and civilian personnel, but the host country as well, according to Maldonado.

"We realize the importance of developing and maintaining trust with our Okinawan neighbors," said Maldonado. "We never forget that we conduct all operations in the public view. We're proud to display our skills and ultimately communicate our dedication to duty and our support of the defense of all residents of Japan."

The campaign's goal is to emphasize the training and safety see **SAFETY** pg 5

Army medals presented to corpsmen

Pfc. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP CASEY, Republic of Korea — Three U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen with 12th Marines were awarded the Army Achievement Medal August 7 at Camp Casey Army Garrison, Republic of Korea, during Korean Marine Exchange Program 12-7.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Geoffrey Ward and Hospitalmen Mario Gallon and Zachory Myers, attached to 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, received the medals for rendering medical assistance to U.S. Army soldiers involved in a Humvee rollover.

see **AWARDS** pg 5

Take advantage of off-duty education opportunities

Reginald D. Booker

There are many opportunities for continued education on Okinawa, but it is important to know all the information and procedures in order to maximize your benefits for available classes.

The time to visit your installation's Marine Corps Community Service's

education center is now. Registration ends Aug. 17 for the next session of college classes, which runs Aug. 20 to Oct. 12 for Central Texas College and University of Maryland Univer-

sity College on Okinawa. Do you already have a Bachelor's degree? Troy University and University of Phoenix have graduate programs on Okinawa just for you. Would you prefer to attend classes online from your favorite school back home? No problem, tuition assistance can also pay for distance education programs from stateside schools. Regardless of which school or program you choose, in many cases, military TA can pay for some or all of your tuition. TA is a benefit military members earn; use it to reach your goals.

To get started, you first must attend a College 101/TA briefing at your local education center. Next, select your college, a field of study and compare the classes you need for your degree to the classes being offered during the current session. Once you pick your classes and complete the TA application, return it to the education center. Attend your

classes on-site or online, study and earn college credit. Your installation's education center staff will walk you through the process and help with any questions you have.

Going to college develops critical thinking, time management skills and study habits—all things that build a better Marine. Off-duty education represents self-improvement that reflects positively on the individual and the Marine Corps and can make you more competitive for promotion boards. Additionally, the day may come when you decide to hang up your uniform—education helps you prepare for that day

and a successful transition.

The more you learn, the more you earn. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average weekly salary difference between a person with a doctorate degree and high school diploma is \$913. While everyone may not want a doctorate degree, the difference between weekly salaries of a person with a bachelor's degree and a high school diploma is \$415. Advisors are available at each education center to help create an education program that is right for you.

Enrolling in college can take as little as 15 minutes and help you build a better future. For more information, call your installation's education center or visit <http://www.mccsokinawa.com/educationandcareerservices>.

Booker is a supervisory education services specialist with education and career services, MCCS-Okinawa.

Going to college develops critical thinking, time management skills and study habits – all things that build a better Marine.

THE AROUND CORPS



Fred Gowen waits with a round in the chamber for his target to reappear during the Vintage Sniper Rifle Matches aboard Camp Perry, Ohio, Aug. 1. When the targets appeared, competitors had 20 seconds to adjust their sites and send a round down range before the targets would disappear into the pits and reappear in 20 seconds for another shot. Gowen is a Marine veteran from the battle of Hue City, 1968, during the Vietnam War.

Photo by Cpl. Jacob D. Osborne



A Bulgarian AS532 Cougar helicopter flies over as Marines and Bulgarian soldiers conduct training in Novo Selo, Bulgaria, July 30. The bilateral training was part of a distinguished visitors day held to showcase the capabilities of the combined forces. The Marines are with Black Sea Rotational Force 12, a Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force with crisis response capabilities deployed to the region to enhance interoperability and promote regional stability. Photo by Cpl. Paul Zellner



A group of Marines care for a simulated casualty after their truck was hit by a simulated improvised explosive device during a field training exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 1. The Marines engaged in multiple situations including simulated firefights, explosions and casualty evacuations. The battalion's weeklong field exercise was designed to prepare the troops for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The Marines are with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

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OKINAWA MARINE

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

Proper planning prevents abandoned pets

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — As service members execute permanent change of station orders off Okinawa, stress levels can rise during the checkout process.

With this increased stress, certain things that should be completed before leaving can get ignored. While service members would never leave their children behind, that is not always the case for their pets.

“I don’t think anyone wants to leave their pets behind, (maybe) it is just laziness,” said Tami L. Lucht, acting facilities chief, Department of Defense housing office at Kadena Air Base. “The best advice I can give to service members is don’t put it off until the last minute. If you get in contact with your veterinary clinic, they can answer all your questions and get you the help you need.”

All pets on Okinawa owned by U.S. service members or status of forces agreement personnel must have a microchip implanted in order to assist in the returning of lost pets and to decrease incidents of pet abandonment, according to the DOD’s joint service pet policy

for all military family housing on Okinawa.

“After we scan the microchips, we bring the stray animals to Karing Kennels on Kadena Air Base,” said Hitoshi Maekawa, a supervisor at the animal control office on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Service members who abandon their pets and are still on Okinawa are given a warning and charged applicable kennel fees on first offense, according to Maekawa.

For service members who abandon their pets and have left the island, the punishment is determined by their old chain of command, which can notify the service member’s new chain of command, according to Army Maj. Olivia Price, a surgeon with Okinawa Branch Veterinary Services.

Service members abandoning their pets not only have a negative effect on the animals, but also the environment.

“It (creates) a bad circle of events,” said Maekawa. “People who leave their pets behind create strays. Those strays mate with other strays (increasing the stray population).”

If service members come across a stray animal, they should not attempt to apprehend it themselves, but call animal control immediately.

“You never know if a stray animal has up-to-date vaccinations,” said Maekawa. “Service members shouldn’t have to fear stray animals running around. We all have to do our part to keep them off the streets.”

While the number of strays per month is decreasing compared to last year, there is still room for improvement in the community, according to Maekawa.

If service members utilize available resources, getting their pets off Okinawa can be a quick and easy process.

“Pet ownership is a big responsibility, and traveling with that pet is part of the owner’s responsibility,” said Price. “If a family decides that they cannot PCS with their pets, they need to do the right thing and turn that animal in to a stray facility (or veterinary clinic) or find it a suitable home so it can be properly cared for. Abandoning pets is cruel and inhumane because domestic animals cannot fend for themselves, and many become injured or starve to death on the streets.”

For more information, contact the Kadena Veterinary Clinic at 632-7379 or Karing Kennels at 959-4062.

Safety equipment essential during summer activities

Pfc. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — More frequently during summer days on Okinawa, service members and their families participate in physically demanding activities that can only be practiced with the proper personal protective equipment on military installations.

PPE, such as pads, helmets and protective clothing, plays an important role in keeping service members and their families safe during recreational activities.

“PPE can prevent injuries such as broken bones and sprained ankles,” said Bradley W. Wells, the Marine Corps Community Services director of safety. “It is simple safety precautions such as wearing PPE that can prevent accidents.”

Different recreational activities have different PPE requirements, and all personnel participating in these activities on military installations are required to wear proper safety equipment, according to Marine Corps Order 5100.30B.

“When bicycling, rollerblading, skateboarding or in-line skating, you are required to wear an approved helmet,” said Daryl Avery, a supervisory safety and occupational health specialist with the Marine Corps Installations Pacific installation safety office. “Other PPE, such as elbow pads, knee pads and wrist guards, are strongly recommended. Skaters and cyclists are also required to wear a reflective belt or reflective clothing when skating on or within three feet of any roadway, street or parking lot.”

The advantages of using PPE for certain activities are more important



Different recreational activities have different personal protective equipment requirements and all personnel participating in recreational activities on military installations are required to have the proper safety equipment, according to Marine Corps Order 5100.30B. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

than only preventing broken bones. The absence of PPE can result in more-serious and long-lasting injuries.

“The repercussions for not using PPE can include a wide range of life-altering situations, from cuts and bruises to a coma or death,” said Avery.

Being informed of the proper use of the PPE is just as important as preventing the accident itself, according to Wells.

Educating children about the proper use of PPE needs to begin at home, according to Avery.

“I have two teenage boys who enjoy skateboarding,” said Avery. “When I caught them one time not wearing their PPE at the skate park, I told them I would cut their skateboards in half if they were ever seen not wearing their PPE again.”

“In order for children to become more involved with the knowledge and practice of safety precautions, we need more involvement from parents, educators and the community,” Avery said.

Injuries to service members not wearing proper PPE can negatively affect an entire unit.

“This information should be provided to everyone, especially children and adults who are participating in recreational activities,” said Avery. “Children and adults should all wear the appropriate PPE to protect themselves. Injuries do not discriminate.”



Proper protective equipment plays an important role in keeping service and family members safe during recreational activities.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

BRIEFS

MCCS WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

The Smooth Move workshop scheduled for Aug. 6 by Marine Corps Community Services has been rescheduled to Aug. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Camp Foster Community Center auditorium, building 5908.

For more information, contact the relocation assistance office at 645-8395, 645-9626 or 645-7494, or email reloassist@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org.

CAMP LESTER EVACUATION TRAINING

Camps Foster and Lester will participate in the annual Constant Vigilance exercise, scheduled for Sept. 10-14, which will focus on island-wide alerts, warnings and evacuation procedures.

Tsunami evacuation training and a CV12 exercise briefing for housing residents and family members will be held at the Camp Lester chapel Aug. 14 from noon-1 p.m.

The purpose of CV12 is to train Marine Corps Installations Pacific personnel on actions required in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, accident, crisis or other emergency.

All Camp Lester housing residents are invited to participate in this year's tsunami evacuation training drill, scheduled for Sept. 12 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Heather Huller at 645-9803 or email heather.huller@usmc.mil.

IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness month. This month highlights the need for improving immunization coverage on Okinawa and encourages all military, Department of Defense employees and beneficiaries to protect their health by getting immunized against infectious diseases.

For more information, contact Doug Phelps, an analyst with military vaccine agency Far East Japan, at 622-7865 or U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa's health promotion office at 643-7906.

EWS AND CSC NEEDS INSTRUCTORS

The Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College Distance Education programs are seeking instructors for academic year 2013 seminars, which convene Oct. 1.

Instructors must currently hold a rank from major to colonel, be career-level school or intermediate-level school complete, and have experience in the operational forces. Instructors will get the opportunity to mentor junior officers and shape the Corps' future.

For more information, contact Dale Smith for CSC at dsmith@cots.com, Scott Uecker for EWS at suecker@cots.com, or call the College of Distance Education and Training at 645-2230.

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.



The staff of the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester hosted the first Okinawa medication take back day at the exchange and commissary at Camp Foster July 28. Service members with the hospital properly disposed of expired, unwanted or unused medicine from service and family members who wanted to do their part to keep the environment safe. *Courtesy photo*

Proper disposal of medicine key

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Frequently, unused or expired medication ends up in the toilet or trash can. What people do not realize is that improper disposal of medicine can be harmful to individual and environmental health.

The staff of the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester hosted the first Okinawa medication take back day at the exchange and commissary at Camp Foster July 28.

Service members with the hospital promoted the safe disposal of expired, unwanted or unused medicine from people's homes, according to Navy Capt. Think V. Ha, the officer in charge of the hospital's pharmacy department.

Proper disposal reduces the possibility of misuse or unintentional harm to the environment, according to Ha.

"It is unsafe to flush medication down the toilet, throw it in the trash, or keep it around the house," said Navy Lt. Giao Phung, a primary planner and organizer at the hospital, currently on temporary assigned duty from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

"The improper disposal of medication can cause a chain reaction in which trace amounts of drugs get into a water source, jeopardizing the environment and endangering (people's) health," said Petty Officer 1st Class Ashton L. Rudolf, a hospital corpsman with the hospital's pharmacy department.

Municipal sewage and water treatment facilities cannot eliminate all the pharmaceutical contamination medicine causes when flushed down the toilet.

"Improper disposal (of pharmaceuticals) can pollute the air, water and soil," said Huan V. Nguyen, the environmental program manager at the hospital. "Especially being on an island, Okinawa has a vast number of plants and water (life) pollution can affect."

Medication plays a significant role in treating diseases and conditions, but when it is no longer needed, it is important to dispose of it properly, according to Nguyen.

"Based on the turnout of our first-ever take back day on Okinawa, we will be holding additional events in the future," said Ha. "We will provide people a proper disposal point for unused, unwanted or expired medications for the safety of (all on Okinawa) and the environment."



Proper disposal of prescription medications reduces the possibility of misuse or unintentional harm to the environment. *Photo illustration by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*

Chaplains donate to USO



Chaplains with Marine Corps Installations Pacific donated \$18,500 to the USO outside the USO headquarters office at Camp Foster Aug. 2. The money was raised through religious worship offerings donated during church services. Religious offering funds may be disbursed to charitable organizations to promote their projects and services. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

SAFETY from pg 1

programs III MEF and MCIPAC units routinely conduct, as well as special events and mission-specific training, according to Maldonado.

“As an example, on July 17, III MEF mandated that all of its units conduct a safety stand-down by Aug. 31,” said Maldonado. “The purpose of this safety stand-down is to have all units pause and reflect on key safety issues that directly impact our presence here in Japan. Two specific topics included the safe operation of tactical vehicles on and off base and safe, professional personal conduct at work and on liberty.”

An important part of the campaign is to focus on III MEF and MCIPAC’s safety programs pertaining all personnel and family members away from work.

“We enjoy all the recreational opportunities Okinawa has to offer,” said Maldonado. “The importance of conducting ourselves in a safe, respectful manner in the eyes of our hosts is the central concept behind the implementation of programs such as our liberty campaign plan, Okinawa cultural awareness training and our newcomer’s orientation.”

“Safety first, safety always” will put the spotlight on safety initiatives and continued dedication to ensuring Marines, civilians and their dependents on Okinawa are responsible members of the community.

“We will continue to focus on further improving our safety efforts with this campaign and other proactive initiatives,” said Maldonado. “We value the trust of our Okinawan partners, and their safety will always be our top priority. We are part of a family oriented community. A safe community not only benefits our personnel, but our local community too.”

MORIMOTO from pg 1

it around the world (and) we fly it here in this country. This plane can safely implement its operational mission.”

The MV-22B Osprey will not become operational in Japan until a full report into two recent incidents involving the aircraft is presented to the Japanese government and the safety of flight operations is reconfirmed, Panetta said.

“When the Osprey is operated in Japan, all the relevant issues will be discussed in a Japan-U.S. joint committee meeting,” added Morimoto. “In order to solve these problems, we are actively cooperating and (will) give utmost consideration to ensure the safety of the local population.”

The defense leaders also discussed plans to realign the U.S. force structure and ways to modernize and advance the U.S.-Japan alliance, including joint operations, training and shared use of training ranges.

“Japan is moving forward with dynamic defense cooperation,” said Morimoto. “Under the current security environment, some of the important items, they include the F-35, information security and maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. So we agreed to further strengthen the cooperative relationship in these areas between Japan and the United States.”

After the press conference, Morimoto took part in a familiarization flight aboard an Osprey, flying from the Pentagon to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia and back.

Morimoto described the flight as “smoother than I thought it would be,” and had the impression that the noise levels of the Osprey were not very high. He added the trip aboard the Osprey was “pleasant” and that he would like to explain his experience to Okinawa’s governor as soon as possible.



Japan Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto is welcomed by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, right, at the Pentagon Aug. 3.

Photo by Glenn Fawcett

AWARDS from pg 1

“The Humvee went off the road and tumbled over the side,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Reese D. Ritter, the senior enlisted medical advisor with the regiment. “The soldiers made their way back up the road the corpsmen saw them and provided medical assistance.”

The soldiers were at Nightmare Range, Republic of Korea, in support of a ROK and U.S. Marines’ bilateral live-fire training event when their vehicle rolled over.

The training the corpsmen received earlier during KMEP 12-7 turned out to be critical, as the training scenario presented itself in real life.

“I am very glad the two soldiers are doing well,” said Ward. “We saw one soldier on the road, and he looked pretty shaken up. We could tell he needed help, so we gave him medical care and evacuated him. We were just doing our jobs.”

The medals were presented by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeremy P. McGuire, the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

“This is the first time I’ve presented the Army Achievement Medal since taking command of the battalion, and I’m presenting it to sailors from the Navy,” said McGuire. “That’s something that you don’t see very often, but I’m grateful for their assistance and glad to be awarding them.”



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeremy P. McGuire, left, presents an Army Achievement Medal citation to Petty Officer 2nd Class Geoffrey Ward at Camp Casey Army Garrison Aug. 7 during Korean Marine Exchange Program 12-7. McGuire is the commander of 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Ward is a hospital corpsman with 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry



Marines and U.S. Navy corpsmen with Company F treat a simulated casualty during Exercise Southern Frontier 2012 in Delamere Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, July 26.

Southern Fron

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

DELAMERE TRAINING AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, Australia — Marines and sailors with Company F participated in bilateral training with the Australian Defence Force and Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 232 aircraft as part of Exercise Southern Frontier 2012 July 24-26.

Southern Frontier is a bilateral exercise conducted between the U.S. Marine Corps and Australian Defence Force in order to develop greater interoperability and a seamless response to regional crises. Company F is part of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and VMFA-232 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

“The purpose of this training is to build cohesion between the Marines and



Marines with Company F fire an illumination round from a 60 mm mortar in order to provide illumination of targets for aircraft with Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 232 during Exercise Southern Frontier 2012 in Delamere Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, July 24. Southern Frontier is a bilateral exercise conducted between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Australian Defence Force in order to develop greater interoperability and a seamless response to regional crises. Company F is part of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. VMFA-232 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

tier 2012 kicks off with bang

the ADF,” said Cpl. Derek Spaulding, a squad leader for the Company F mortar section that participated in the exercise.

The Australian Army facilitated the Marines use of the training area and conducted concurrent operations within the scenario.

The Marines’ role in the exercise was to provide accurate illumination for suppression of targets by Marine aircraft. To achieve this goal, the mortar crews used two 60 mm mortars to mark the targets.

“The integration of the mortars and the aircraft represents a unique training opportunity,” said Lance Cpl. Alexander Lewandowski, a mortarman with the section. “It was really interesting to see both together.”

Before the start of the fire mission, the Marines prepared a plan of action. Using natural items such as twigs and rocks, the Marines constructed a terrain model to study the area of operations. The Marines used this model to visualize the battlefield and decide where to set their mortars.

Once the mission was received, the Marines jumped into action. Both mortars were set up, and all orders given were relayed by every Marine to ensure none of the orders were misunderstood. The accuracy of the mortar crews was paramount, as a miscalculation could

cause the pilots to attack the wrong target. When the command to fire was given, the crew braced the mortar systems and kept their heads down.

Immediately after firing a round, the crews quickly prepared the next round. Upon mission completion, the crews cleaned out the barrels of both systems and waited for further orders.

“The training here makes us more well-rounded,” said Lewandowski. “We can work better with the Australians now because we understand how each other operates.”

To thank the Australian Army staff at Delamere Training Area for assisting in its training, the section gave the Australians a Company F physical training shirt signed by each of the Marines.

“Everything has been going great working with the Australians,” said Spaulding. “Being out here and being able to train, especially with the Australians, incorporates a lot of different training that we cannot do in the U.S.”

During the remaining months of its deployment to Australia, Company F will conduct bilateral martial arts training, small-unit operations and other combat training with various supporting elements, all in close cooperation with the Australian Army’s 1st Brigade, based at Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory.



A Marine with Company F sets up a 60 mm mortar to provide accurate illumination for suppression of targets by aircraft with Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 232 during Exercise Southern Frontier 2012 in Delamere Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, July 24.



Lance Cpl. Anthony Conklin drops an illumination round down the barrel of a 60 mm mortar system in support of a fire mission for aircraft with Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 232 during Exercise Southern Frontier 2012 in Delamere Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, July 26. Conklin is a mortarman with Company F.

DODEA Okinawa addresses school registration

Story and photo by Marie Lewis

DODEA OKINAWA STAFF

Every summer brings a new wave of families to Okinawa. For those with children, transitioning smoothly into new schools is a top priority.

Registering children for school as early as possible ensures Department of Defense Education Activity Okinawa district schools are properly staffed, supplied and ready to go when doors open for the new school year.

"If parents wait until the last minute to register their children for school, it's a more stressful process for everyone involved," said Gary John, district registrar, DODEA Okinawa. "Prompt registration helps students, parents and staff members know what to expect. That makes us all better prepared."

Lester Middle School principal Alton Grade oversees 42 classroom teachers in a school of 490 students. He knows that hiring well-qualified teachers and support specialists in an overseas environment is a lengthy process.

"Every child has a unique set of needs," said Grade. "We depend on parents to share those needs with us as early as possible. That information helps us make sure we have the right professionals on hand at the right time."

There are important differences between registration, re-registration and withdrawal that parents should be aware of when moving to a new community or preparing for a new school year in the same community.

Registration must be completed at the child's school. Forms are available online at <http://www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu>. Parents must fill out one packet for each child and turn it in to their respective schools. Once the school registrar has received the paperwork, confirmed the child's eligibility, and entered the new student into the system, parents will be provided a start date for classes.

The first day of school is August 27th for students in first through 12th grades, and September 4th for kindergarten and Sure Start. Families arriving on Okinawa after the start of school can still register their children to start classes as soon as they are able.

If a student will be attending the same school or changing schools due to grade-level advancement, parents must go to their child's current school during regular office hours to update their



Mariko Elston, right, listens as Gary John explains the paperwork to register her sons in kindergarten and second grade. John is the district registrar for Department of Defense Education Activity Okinawa.

child's paperwork. If parents are requesting a school transfer for any other reason, they must go to their child's current school and fill out a waiver form for the desired school.

Families who wish to disenroll their children from DODEA schools in Okinawa must bring a copy of their signed permanent change of station orders to the school and fill out a withdrawal form prior to departure.

"Parents have a lot (of information to) navigate (through). Understanding the different processes helps them do what they need as efficiently as possible," said Grade.

One of the questions parents ask most often pertains to school zones and bus routes. In addition to registration forms, the school district makes the school zone and bus route map available online.

It is important parents have the tools and information they need to plan ahead for a successful school year.

Frequently asked questions:

? How do I know which school my child will attend?
You can view a zoning map online at <http://www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu/transportation.html>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "School Zone and Bus Route Map." If you are still unsure, contact the student transportation office at 645-7820, off-base at 098-970-7820 or via email at OKIN-BUS@pac.dodea.edu.

? Can I fill out the forms ahead of time?
Yes, visit <http://www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu/parents.html> and click on "Registration Form" to print the packet. You can also preregister your children online at <https://registration.dodea.edu/>.

? What are the age requirements for Sure Start, kindergarten and first grade?
A child must turn 4 years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling year for entrance into Sure Start. Sure Start is a special program for specific criteria for eligibility. To learn more about criteria for Sure Start eligibility, visit <http://www.pac.dodea.edu/edservices/educationprograms/surestart.htm>. For kindergarten, a child must turn 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the corresponding school year and for first grade, the age requirement is 6 years old by Sept. 1.

? Where do I register my child for school?
You must register your child at the school they will attend. For re-registration and withdrawal, you must go to the child's current school to begin the process. The DODEA Okinawa district also hosts an annual spring re-registration drive where you can reregister all your children in one convenient location. Contact your child's school for more information.

? Will my child ride the bus?
Bus eligibility information can be found online at <http://www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu/transportation.html>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "School Zone and Bus Route Map." For more information contact the student transportation office at 645-7820, off-base at 098-970-7820 or via email at OKIN-BUS@pac.dodea.edu.

? I'm a Department of Defense contractor. What are the tuition rates and how do I pay?
To view current tuition rates, visit http://www.dodea.edu/offices/fiscal/docs/2012_13TutRates_DoDDS.pdf. For payment options and more information, contact the district registrar at 645-8995 or email gary.john@pac.dodea.edu.

Service members compete in interservice cook-off

Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The sound of clanking pots and aroma of fine food filled the air as culinary teams

of different branches of service competed in the first annual interservice cook-off held at the Camp Foster field house July 28.

Teams from the Air Force, Marine Corps,

Army and Navy participated in the competition, which was spearheaded by the food service section of the U.S. Army Japan's 10th Regional Support Group. Participants came in to the event without knowing exactly what they would be cooking and had to rely on their ability to adapt to the ingredients they were given.

"It was a mystery basket full of random items, and we had to prepare a three-course meal based on those items," said Army Sgt. Dawn Waller, a food service sergeant with 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (Regiment), stationed at Torii Station.

Teams from the different services trained prior to the competition to prepare for the cook-off.

"This week, the Marine culinary team has been training and practicing with (a variety of) ingredients to prepare for anything that might be thrown at us," said Marine Staff Sgt. Leland D. White, a participant in the competition and the III Marine Expeditionary



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. stands with the Army culinary team as it receives the first-place trophy for the first annual interservice cook-off July 28. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan



Members of the Marine Corps culinary team prepare a dish for the judges during the first annual interservice cook-off held at the Camp Foster field house July 28. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

Force commanding general's enlisted aide.

During the competition, teams planned out their menus, cooked and finished their dishes, and sent runners to the judging table, delivering the meal course-by-course to the judges.

The competition ended with the Army's culinary team proving victorious. Even though only one team won, the runners-up were still proud of the hard work put in to their dishes and the collective experience gained from

competing, according to White.

"I'm definitely proud of the performance (the competitors) put out," said White. "They came in and put their best foot forward."

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF, presented the first-place trophy and remarked that he enjoyed the enthusiasm of the competitors.

"Any day of the week we could put a team forward and would enjoy (competing) all over again," said White.

Leaders focus on importance of equal opportunity

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Black or white, Christian or Atheist, West Coast or East Coast, service members come from all walks of life, with every culture having its own beliefs, values and style of leadership.

With this fact in mind, Marine Corps Installations Pacific hosted an equal opportunity representative course at the Ocean Breeze at Camp Foster Aug. 7-10 to teach service members how to lead and work with individuals regardless of cultural differences.

The course was held to train battalion and squadron-level personnel as equal opportunity representatives through classroom instruction and a series of exercises.

"We put them in a situation where they had minimal information other than what is shown on the outside," said Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark, the equal opportunity advisor for MCIPAC. "We're trying to teach them not to judge a book by its cover; instead, they have to open it and really get to know that individual."

The course also consisted of exercises that showed what could happen when an individual is given responsibility and begins to abuse it.

"A lot of individuals take their own personal beliefs and values and apply (them) to their leadership style and decision making," said Clark. "At the course, we teach them to take a step back because everyone has different values, beliefs and cultures. What you have to do is take those different cultures and beliefs and integrate them into a team concept. If you can look at your own values, you can see if they're conflicted and (figure out) how to work through them. Doing this will make you a better leader overall."

The participants learned that everyone's opinion was important, to listen and strive for mutual understanding, and to only speak for themselves.

"The course is supposed to help us learn about ourselves (and others)," said Staff Sgt. Fantasia O. Langford, an electrician with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and a participant in the course. "Learning to interact with beliefs and cultures that are different from our own will help better the Marine Corps as a whole."

Participants were asked to sit by someone new everyday of the course in order to get to know each other.

"We're trying to teach them not to judge a book by its cover; instead, they have to open it and really get to know that individual."

Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark

"This course is very important because the Marine Corps is (an extremely diverse) organization," said Clark. "You have individuals coming from all walks of life, all corners of the U.S. and all cultures and religions. We even have people from other countries that join. When you put all that into a melting pot, conflict (can) arise. This course teaches Marines to manage that conflict and work with varying cultures and values."

Guest speaker Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, spoke from experience on the root of the issue at hand and how important command climate is for Marines of all ranks.

"I have been in this business for 34 years," said Talleri. "It always begins with the command climate and making sure Marines feel comfortable. When it comes to this particular training, I don't think there is any training more crucial. The negative affect these issues can bring to an entire command makes training like this important for the whole Marine Corps."



Staff Sgt. Andrew P. Couls throws a bag of trash into the back of a truck during a cleanup at the Kin Town fishery port Aug. 4. During the event, service members and citizens of Kin Town worked together to clean up trash that had washed up on the sea wall. Couls is an infantry unit leader with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Service members, community clean fishery port

Story and photos by **Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

When service members stationed overseas volunteer in their host nation, they not only get to experience the local community and culture through their work, but also help improve their image within the community.

Volunteering is not a new concept for Marines and sailors with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, who took part in a community relations event at the Kin Town fishery port Aug. 4.

“We recently conducted a beach cleanup between Landing Zone Kin Red and the Kin Town fishery port,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Johnnie Howard IV, a religious program specialist with the battalion. “The community really appreciated the job we did, so they requested our help in cleaning up the fishery port.”

The service members conducted the cleanup alongside citizens of Kin Town.

“I am so glad we had such a good turnout for this event,” said Masahisa Yamashiro, the director of the social welfare office in Kin Town. “We had baseball teams and companies from the community helping, as well as the Marines and sailors from Camp Hansen. I can really see a big difference from the work everyone did.”

The 31st MEU is able to build upon the strong relationship it shares with Kin Town by consistently volunteering in the community.

“Every time we request their help, the Marines are willing to work,” said Masao Afuso, the chairman of the social welfare office in Kin Town. “Without their help, we would have a hard time keeping the beach and this fishery port clean. They always work hard, and we hope to continue building upon the strong relationship we have with each other.”

The Marines and sailors with the battalion have an impressive record of volunteering in Kin Town, according to Howard.

“After this event, we will have over 1,000 hours of community service logged

for our battalion,” said Howard. “We were able to get a lot accomplished during this event, but there is still work that needs to be done. We will be coming back in the following weeks to ensure we get this port looking the way it should.”

The work ethic shown by the Marines and sailors spurred others into action.

“There was a lot of trash, which had washed up into the sea wall around the port,” said Howard. “In order to get it all out, we had to crawl down inside the wall. There were people all along the wall fishing while we were cleaning, and as they saw us climbing into these cramped spots to get everything out, they put their fishing poles down and started helping us remove the trash.”

Working alongside the battalion is always a pleasure, according to Yamashiro.

“The Marines are always really active and eager to help,” said Yamashiro. “They always are happy to help us take care of our town. I personally like interacting with the Marines and sailors of Camp Hansen and look forward to every time they come to help us.”



Lance Cpl. Shane A. Bailey uses tongs to pick trash out of a drain during a community relations event at the Kin Town fishery port Aug. 4. Bailey is a machine-gunner with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.



Lance Cpl. Shane A. Bailey separates trash and recyclables with citizens of Kin Town during a community relations event at the Kin Town fishery port Aug. 4. Bailey is a machine-gunner with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

In Theaters Now

AUGUST 10-16

FOSTER

TODAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Watch (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Step Up Revolution (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Step Up Revolution (PG13), 1 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 3 p.m.; Step Up Revolution (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Total Recall (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 6 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), noon; Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 3 p.m.; The Watch (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Watch (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Watch (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Total Recall (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 2 p.m.; Men In Black 3 (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Diary of Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Watch (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Total Recall (PG13), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY That's My Boy (R), 4 p.m.; Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Total Recall (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 5 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG13), 2 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Total Recall (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Total Recall (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Watch (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SATURDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY The Raven (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

- Taiyo Golf Club is looking for volunteers for its junior golf event Aug. 21 and 22 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up by Aug. 20.
- The Camp Foster School-Age Center is in need of volunteers for its Back-to-School Carnival Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up by Aug. 23.
- The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society requests volunteers for Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation's 5K Family Fun Run Aug. 25 beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sign up by Aug. 24.

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 phrase of the week:

“Ikura desuka”
 (pronounced: ee-koo-rah dehs-kah)
 It means,
 “How much does this cost?”



July 30 -Aug 3

RIFLE RANGE
 Staff Sgt. Francisco M. Poo
 3rd MLG, 342



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“Worship is expressed in many ways, but worship almost always involves some kind of sacrifice.”

Everyone sacrifices, worships

Lt. John R. Freiberg
 CAMP BUTLER CHAPLAIN

Believe it or not, you are a worshipper. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, to worship is to “show reverence and adoration for.” Worship is expressed in many ways, but worship almost always involves some kind of sacrifice. We sacrifice our time, money, energy, emotion, relationships ... and sometimes, even our lives.

Worship is all around us. We sacrifice our affections, time and money to “pop” icons, movie stars and other idols. We gather in masses at stadiums to cheer our sports teams and athletes on the field of competition. We express just how important our video games are to us by sacrificing our precious sleep, relationships and dollars on various video games.

We worship our taste buds when we sacrifice our weight loss for a chocolate sundae. We worship our bodies when we sacrifice our time and

comfort to work out at the gym. We worship our spouse when we look to them to provide us all of our meaning, comfort and security.

We worship ourselves when we sacrifice relationships to seek our own comforts, wants and desires.

The word worship comes from the Old English word “weorthscipe,” which simply means “worthy of honor.” Simply put, we assign worth to the things, or the persons, we worship.

Yes, we are all worshippers. The question is what, or who, do you worship? Does your object of worship deserve the sacrifice you offer it? Is your object of worship truly worthy? What have you set the longings of your heart upon? Will what or who you worship sustain your joy for today and your hopes for tomorrow?

I pray hard that you spend time, honestly assess your worship, and wrestle with these important questions this coming week. Ultimately, what or who we worship becomes our master!