Bilateral mock boat raid in Guam highlights amphibious capabilities

Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

NAVAL BASE GUAM — Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and Marines and sailors with Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a bilateral boat raid at Naval Base Guam, Sept. 22.

The JGSDF integrated with BLT 2/1 for the MEU’s amphibious integration training and certification exercise, during which the MEU and JGSDF members conducted various bilateral amphibious operations to increase interoperability and help strengthen ties between Japan and the U.S.

“The Marine Corps has a long history with amphibious warfare,” said Sgt. Maj. Yukihiro Nakayama, a translator with the JGSDF and a native of Okinawa, Japan. “This is our chance to learn from them and begin to develop our own amphibious capabilities.”

The Marines, sailors and JGSDF members shared techniques while conducting raids from combat rubber raider boats.

Sgt. Joshua Garcia, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Yoshimitsu Shintomi establish security next to a combat rubber raiding craft during integrated amphibious raid training at Naval Base Guam Sept. 22. Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members and Marines and sailors conducted various amphibious-borne training evolutions aimed at increasing interoperability and strengthening ties between Japan and the U.S. Garcia is a squad leader with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Shintomi is a squad leader with 1st Company, 51st Infantry Regiment, 15th Brigade, Western Army, JGSDF.

Photo by Cpl. Jonathan G. Wright
III MEF CG’s statement on MV-22B

The arrival of MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft in Japan has been the subject of much public interest. The Marine Corps has worked closely with our government of Japan partners to ensure a smooth transition of the aircraft into Japan. The basing and operation of the MV-22B in Japan is an example of the United States’ commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and the importance of the U.S.-Japan Alliance.

Since 2007, the Marine Corps has been continuously using the MV-22B in extreme environmental conditions during 14 combined deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and aboard amphibious shipping. The revolutionary capabilities of the aircraft, combined with basing in Okinawa, will significantly strengthen the ability of III Marine Expeditionary Force to assist in the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and fulfill other alliance commitments.

Safety is our number one priority when operating our aircraft, to include both the safety of our aircrew and our community. The Osprey has operated and continues to operate safely in the United States. Senior government of Japan officials have flown safely in Ospreys on both the East and West Coasts of the United States.

It is important to note that when we operate the aircraft, the majority of MV-22B flight operations will be in the fixed-wing mode while the helicopter (vertical takeoff and landing, or VTOL) and conversion modes will primarily be used during takeoffs and landings and when the aircraft operates in training areas and landing zones.

As with all our flight operations, to the maximum extent practicable, we look to avoid flights over densely populated areas. Although the aircraft will operate in helicopter and conversion modes as it moves in and out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma airspace and traffic pattern, all operations will be focused on safe execution and minimized noise signatures.

It is important to re-emphasize that the MV-22B has an excellent safety record, as it ranks among the very safest of all U.S. military aircraft when reviewing the key metric of the first 100,000 hours of flight. Our most valuable relationships are with our community neighbors. We consistently do our utmost to keep our community safe, and will continue to do so as MV-22B Ospreys arrive in Okinawa.

Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force
Artillery Marines conduct critical training at Fuji

EAST FUJI MANEUVER AREA, Japan — Marines successfully completed live-fire artillery training over the course of Artillery Relocation Training Program 12-2 at the East Fuji Maneuver Area Sept. 8-18.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in ARTP 12-2 to sustain unit proficiency and enhance combat readiness in support of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

“The ARTP is important for the Marine Corps because it allows them to perform live-fire training safely and accurately,” said Master Sgt. Thomas D. Veenstra, the field artillery chief for 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. “It also allows the battalion staff to exercise its ability to command and control the battalion in a realistic scenario.”

The howitzers are fired utilizing computational data from the fire direction center, where digital technology is not always effective. Observers determine target locations the guns will fire upon and communicate those coordinates to Marines on the gun line, according to Veenstra.

The section chief verifies and relays the information, fires when ready, and adjusts aim with feedback from the FDC,” said Veenstra. “The firing adjustments continue until the target is within effects of the rounds, when the batteries follow up with a fire for effect (mission).”

While the Marines practiced live-fire using modern digital technology to establish location and direction, they also practiced more traditional, manual methods of obtaining firing direction and targets, according to Lance Cpl. Terence T. Lawson, a field artillery cannonner with the battalion.

“It’s like using the iron sights on your service rifle rather than the (optic),” said Lawson. “If you don’t practice with both, you won’t be as effective in situations where the digital technology is not functioning properly.”

Over the course of 10 live-fire training days, the Marines conducted battery-level, battalion-level and regimental-level live-fire exercises. The East Fuji Maneuver Area allowed the Marines to train in a different environment and climate, an opportunity which is critical to the battalion’s core mission.

“Artillery provides the maneuver commander all-weather, all-terrain fire support,” said Veenstra. “It gives him flexibility in his fire-support plan.”

“Our job is to protect and support ground forces,” said Lawson. “That’s why we have to move with speed and intensity. We practice all methods of fire, so that we can continue to support boots on the ground.”

Service members pay respect to POW, MIA during ceremony

KADENA AIR FORCE BASE — The Air Force’s 18th Wing hosted a joint 24-hour vigil run followed by a flag ceremony to pay respects to prisoners of war and service members listed as missing in action at the 18th Wing Headquaters at Kadena Air Force Base Sept. 21.

The event was held on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is observed annually across the U.S. and its military installations abroad on the third Friday of September.

Dressed in his service dress uniform, Air Force Capt. Craig H. Nakagawa, a chaplain, walked up to the podium in front of the crowd and gave his remarks in a strong yet sad voice.

“Let the world give ear. Warriors have fallen and not returned home. Warriors remain captive and have not been accounted for,” said Nakagawa. “Though I have said these words before, and sadly, will have to say them again, they will always be new to my lips and bitter to my tongue. Let the ears that hear these words hear them as if for the first time, for they must be said and repeated until all our warriors are home.”

Service members of each branch participated in the vigil run, which ended the morning of Sept. 21 when six Air Force combat controllers ran the POW/MIA flag from Marek Park to the 18th Wing Headquarters and delivered it to the honor guard to post.

“Standing here and seeing our sister services joining us to pay respect for the service members who never returned home reminds me that, no matter what, we are here for each other,” said Brig. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, the commanding general of 18th Wing.

After the raising of the morning colors and POW/MIA flag, Wilsbach, accompanied by two retired veterans, laid a wreath in front of the flagpoles to pay their respects. The wreath-laying was followed by a 21-gun salute.

“The wreath is a donation from Veterans of Foreign War Post 9723,” said David Boughton, a retired master gunnery sergeant and member of VFW Post 9723. “We donated the wreath to pay respect to our missing brothers and sisters.”

As the ceremony ended, Chief Master Sgt. Mark D. Marson, the command chief master sergeant for 18th Wing, provided closing remarks.

“It was a great pleasure having all (of) the sister services here today,” said Marson. “As service members, we all know there’s a chance of going to war and not returning, and that’s why we are here today – to remember those who were unfortunate not to return.

“They were a child to someone, maybe a husband or wife, but no matter what, they were family to someone who may never see them again. I would like to give thanks to those who ran throughout the night and in the rain carrying the [POW/MIA] flag. No matter what service you are (a part of), we all are family.”
Absentee Voting Week
The Department of Defense has designated the week of Sept. 27 through Oct. 4 as absentee voting week this year. According to Marine Administrative Message 470/12, all eligible voters, including Marines, sailors, civilians and their eligible family members, are encouraged to return their completed absentee ballots during this week, which will allow sufficient time for the ballots to be mailed and counted by their state. Marines and authorized family members who have not received their state absentee ballot by absentee voting week should use the federal write-in absentee ballot. The FWAB is an emergency ballot and is valid when an eligible voter makes a timely absentee ballot request and does not receive their ballot in time.

For help with the FWAB or any other voting concern, contact your unit voting assistance officer or visit the Marine Corps voting webpage at www.manpower.usmc.mil, keyword “voting,” or the Federal Voting Assistance Program’s website at www.fvap.gov.

MMOA Visit
Military occupational specialty monitors with Headquarters Marine Corps will visit Okinawa Oct. 8-10 to meet with officers concerning the assignment process and future postings. An MMOA brief for all officers will be held at 8 a.m. Oct. 8 at the Camp Foster theater. Upon completion of the brief, interviews with monitors will be conducted at the Joint Reception Center classroom, building 494, Camp Foster, for ground officers and at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma dining facility for air officers.

Officers desiring to meet with their respective monitor should send an email to thomas.sukalski@usmc.mil with their grade, name, rotation date, unit, phone number, monitor they desire to meet with and three preferences for appointment times. For more details, call 622-7724.

Foster IPAC Closure and Relocation
The main Installation Personnel Administration Center at Camp Foster will be closed Oct. 18-19 and will move to a temporary location due to a renovation project taking place Oct. 22 through July 15, 2013.

The temporary location will be down the street from the main IPAC, building 5717, at Camp Foster. This location will open for regular business Oct. 22. For assistance Oct. 18-19 that cannot wait until the opening of the temporary location, contact one of IPAC’s administrative satellite centers at Camps Courtney, Hansen, Schwab and Kinser and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. IPAC’s ID cards, passport, TAD and deployments sections in building 5692 will remain open for business.

To Submit a Brief, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fctd@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.

Preparation for PHIBLEX
Marines load cargo, equipment safely

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning
Okinawa Marine Staff

NAHA MILITARY PORT, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines with various III Marine Expeditionary Force units loaded the integrated tug and barge vessel Thunder/Lightning at Naha Military Port Sept. 23.

Marines loaded the vessel to prepare for the upcoming bilateral Amphibious Landing Exercise 2013 between the armed forces of the Republic of the Philippines and the U.S.

“We are loading the cargo for PHIBLEX onto the Thunder/Lightning,” said Bart J. Schram, a contractor with Foss International, a global logistics and transportation services company. “The vessel is an integrated tug and barge. The barge is called the Thunder and the tug is called the Lightning. This is a multi-deck vessel, so we have different loading procedures for each deck.”

Marines and contractors with Foss International and Okinawa Marine Services, an independent civilian embarkation company, worked together to load the cargo into the interior and upper deck of the vessel.

“We are doing a dual operation. We are using a crane to lift containers from the dock to the upper deck of the ship,” said Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning, a mobility officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force. “On the upper deck, the contractors use a forklift to move the containers into place on the deck of the ship. At the same time, we have all the rolling stock and vehicles driving onto the ship.

“When working around heavy equipment, one must remain alert and safety conscious, according to Lance Cpl. David Hinojosa, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd MLG, III MEF. “There are so many variables that could be safety hazards when using a crane to load the containers,” said Hinojosa. “The key factor in making sure everyone is safe during this process. As long as everyone is paying attention to all the moving parts around them and doing their job properly, we are able to avoid accidents.”

Other preventative measures were in place during the loading process to ensure maximum safety, according to Burboa.

“Every Marine and contractor has to wear a reflective belt or vest and a hard hat,” said Burboa. “The drivers are required to wear flak jackets and Kevlar helmets while driving.”

With everyone involved abiding by the safety standards in place, the joint effort of the contractors and Marines went smoothly and quicker than anticipated, according to Hinojosa.

“Usually, we are not working with contractors, and the loading process is carried out solely by Marines,” said Hinojosa. “The contractors have been very professional, and by working with each other, we were able to finish hours ahead of schedule.”
raiding craft and training in jungle survival and warfare. The bilateral training gave all participants important knowledge and experience that could be used in future operations.

"The JGSDF members picked up on techniques with the boats without missing a beat," said Lance Cpl. Daniel Perez, a mortarman with BLT 2/1. "I enjoyed getting to work with them. It motivated me. They taught us things about the jungle you would not know unless you have been there."

During the raid, JGSDF members and Marines approached the objective using six boats, ready for contact. After the boats cut through the waves, they shut off the engines and on signal, the boats hit the beach.

Once the troops exited the boats, JGSDF members led a patrol to secure the immediate area and establish a perimeter.

After the mission, which was the final event for the JGSDF platoon during the MEU’s CERTEX, the company commander and company first sergeant made remarks thanking the JGSDF members for their participation in the successful bilateral training.

"We have been working with (the JGSDF) for about a month and a half and I have been really impressed with their motivation, fitness level and eagerness to train," said Capt. Tobin Walker, the company commander of Company F, BLT 2/1. "My Marines and I enjoyed working with them and hope to do it again in the future."
Heat waves from the burning fuselage rippled across the flight line as a crash and fire rescue team doused it with water to extinguish the flames Sept. 21 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Okinawa firefighters and police joined aircraft rescue and firefighting Marines with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and firefighters with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC, for a day of classroom training and practical application exercises focused on responding to a downed aircraft.

"Exercises like this will be replacing the table-top exercises we previously conducted," said Chief Warrant Officer Brent A. DeBusk, the officer in charge with ARFF, H&HS. "For this exercise, we put more emphasis on the hands-on portion of the training."

The table-top exercises were regularly scheduled mishap training events that occurred around Okinawa and focused on preparing Okinawa and MCB Butler first-responders to work together in case of emergencies. Feedback from past mishap training events identified that local firefighters and police wanted...
Okinawans, Marines sharpen aircraft fire, rescue procedures

Okinawa firefighters extinguish a fire during mishap training Sept. 21 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The purpose of the training was to give Japanese firefighting and police officials knowledge on the proper procedures for entering downed aircraft, putting out fires, and rescuing anyone trapped inside should a military aircraft mishap occur.

Photo by Pfc. Anne K. Henry

Chief Warrant Officer Brent A. DeBusk watches as Okinawa first-responders extinguish a fire during mishap training Sept. 21 at MCAS Futenma. The training utilized a mobile aircraft fire training device, which contains realistic entry and exit points and creates fires for the responders to extinguish. DeBusk is the officer in charge with aircraft rescue and firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma.

Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

more information on the specific mechanics of various Marine aircraft and opportunities to practice emergency response techniques, according to Mike Lacey, the regional installation emergency manager for MCIPAC.

Emergency personnel with Urasoe City Fire Department, Naha City Fire Department, Ginowan City Fire Department, Okinawa Prefecture Police, the Japan Coast Guard, the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the Ministry Office of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate of Crisis Management Office attended the training.

“We do not expect that an accident will happen but if one does occur, Japan and the U.S. will have to coordinate a response,” said Hitoshi Tasaki, director, Directorate of Crisis Management Office. “Therefore, this kind of training is necessary and important. Today, we saw the mechanisms and actual aircraft, and it was extremely helpful.”

The day began with Okinawa firefighters and police receiving instruction on the C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter. During the instruction, they learned how to properly extinguish a fire from a downed aircraft, as well as possible entry and exit points for rescuing anyone trapped inside.

The firefighters and police then took the training out of the classroom and into a realistic environment by using the mobile aircraft fire training device. The MAFTD uses controlled fires to simulate various types of airframe and engine fires, giving emergency personnel a chance to implement what they learned during classroom sessions.

The training also prepared MCIPAC emergency response personnel to work with Okinawa firefighters and police by providing familiarization with their techniques and equipment.

“This training solidified the knowledge of both the Japanese and U.S. first-responders,” said Army Col. David W. Detata, chief of the Okinawa Area Field Office, U.S. Forces Japan. “Should a (mishap) occur, first-responders will now have the tools necessary from the hands-on instruction with the aircraft today.”

The mishap training helped H&HS and MCIPAC Marines achieve their goal of being a force in readiness by preparing Marine responders and their counterparts for a variety of situations.

“The local communities will have more confidence in their first-responders as they now know what to do in the situation of a downed aircraft,” said Detata. “It shows that we are committed to work with the (Okinawa) communities should an accident occur.”
Spouses experience day in Marines’ boots

Running a combat fitness test, practicing Marine Corps martial arts program techniques, and navigating an obstacle course are common training events for Marines. But during the 3rd Marine Logistics Group’s annual Jane Wayne day at Camp Hansen Sept. 21, it was the Marines’ spouses who stepped up to take part in these events. The spouses experienced firsthand the various Marine Corps skills their significant others perform regularly.

“We did a modified (CFT), a modified obstacle course and some MCMAP,” said Joanne K. Baldwin, wife of Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin, battalion commander, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “I have participated in two other Jane Wayne days, but this one was the most physically demanding. The others I have been to usually have only one physical event and a live-fire range.”

This year’s event was designed to help Marine spouses experience the challenge Marines face when attempting to perform at a high level physically while fatigued from previous events, according to Kara A. Walton, the family readiness officer for 9th ESB.

“This is a hands-on event. You really get a feel for how exhausting this training is,” said Walton. “After going through the different events here, I have more respect for when my husband just wants to relax on the couch after running a CFT or is sore from MCMAP.”

The events of a Jane Wayne day also promote camaraderie on multiple levels, according to Baldwin. “[Jane Wayne day] really encompasses a lot of areas,” said Baldwin. “First off, it brings the spouses together and enables them to (form) relationships with other spouses from the unit and helps bond the unit together. Secondly, it gives the wives a greater appreciation for what their husbands do. It also helps foster relationships between the units supporting the event.”

The physical activities of this year’s event were fun not only for the spouses, but also for the Marines who volunteered, according to Gunnery Sgt. Osvaldo A. Perez, the training and operations chief for 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG.

“Every Marine knows what the obstacle course and CFT are because they have performed both,” said Perez. “The spouses have not, and the Marines are enjoying the opportunity to demonstrate each obstacle and event for the spouses. Personally, I am looking forward to being able to see my wife run the CFT. She served in the U.S. Army for seven years, so I want to see how she does during a Marine Corps fitness test.”

At the end of the day, certificates were awarded and despite being tired and sore from the challenges faced, laughter was shared by all involved.

“These spouses are tough,” said Walton. “They were able to go out and perform each of the events. Some of them were even able to complete the CFT lane in less than two minutes. I hope next year we have an even bigger turnout. Jane Wayne day is an awesome experience and should not be missed.”
Veterans are often recognized for their selfless sacrifice to their nation, and while all gave some, and some gave all, a small number continue to give back as civilians.

A team of eight former Marines and one former U.S. Army soldier serving on Okinawa shines a light on those who continue to serve after their active-duty and reserve contracts are up. These nine individuals make up the Marine Corps Logistics Command’s Operation Enduring Freedom reset team with III Marine Expeditionary Force.

MCLC operates at the service and operational logistics levels, providing support across the entire Marine Corps. One function MCLC serves is as the equipment inventory manager for the Marine Corps, which includes distributing equipment to III MEF units.

The reset team on Okinawa is responsible for receiving, assessing, tracking and inventorying ground equipment returning from Afghanistan that will fill III MEF requirements. Managing this process would be an added burden on III MEF units, which are otherwise engaged in training, deployments and theater security cooperation exercises in the Asia-Pacific region.

“My team’s ability to do what we do frees up III MEF from an extra workload, which allows them the opportunity to focus on their mission,” said Lorenzo A. Townsend, the team’s leader and retired Marine. “This job is an opportunity for me to give back to the Marine Corps, which gave so much to me over my 30-year career.”

Each team member’s job correlates to their former active-duty military occupational specialty, increasing the efficiency of the team. The team is composed of a team leader, supply lead, supply technician, maintenance manager, distribution advocate, communications expert, an ordnance expert and two warehouse technicians.

Each member of the team plays a pivotal role in the process of getting deployable gear to III MEF.

“My role is important in supporting III MEF because without a weapon, a Marine can’t properly do his job in combat,” said Eric T. South, the ordnance expert for the team. “I love my job and take a lot of pride in continuing to assist the military.”

The team was established in November 2011 to serve as the entry point for all OEF equipment transitioning to III MEF. To date, it has received about 2,500 pieces of ground equipment and distributed over 1,000 items to III MEF units, with the remaining items currently in the repair cycle.

“It’s critical that we get the equipment out of Afghanistan, get it repaired or rebuilt as necessary, and get it into the hands of III MEF for future missions and exercises,” said James A. Varner, the MCLC liaison officer with III MEF. The team has seen many different pieces of equipment come through its warehouse, including radios, generators, mortars, shotguns, 7-ton trucks, land extension modules and remote control units.

“The team has worked together so well it is to the point where we know what each other is thinking,” said Townsend. “This team shows that we are all still dedicated to assisting III MEF in its mission.”
Golf scramble supports CFC-Overseas

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The 2012 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas fund-raising season teed off with a golf scramble at Taiyo Golf Course Sept. 18.

Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and Marine Corps Installations Pacific hosted the golf scramble in support of their units’ campaigns. The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of federal employees on behalf of charitable organizations.

The CFC has a list of all charitable organizations federal employees are able to donate to through the CFC, according to Capt. Christopher M. Eyre, the CFC-O community area project organizer for MCIPAC.

The campaign started Sept. 17 and will run for nine weeks. The scramble drew the attention of the commanding general of U.S. Forces Japan, who attended the event.

“I want to say thanks in advance to everyone at this kickoff for CFC-O,” said Air Force Lt. Gen. Salvatore A. Angelella, the commanding general of USFJ. “Last year, we made 100 percent contact within the units.”

The campaign, which has been in operation for 51 years, gives service members several options for donating.

“The first method is a payroll deduction, which is a monthly allotment taken from a service member’s paycheck,” said Eyre. “The second method is a one-time cash donation (and) the final method is an online donation that is also a one-time event.”

Participants in the program also choose a charity to receive their donation.

“All unit representatives have a book that lists the charities in alphabetical and categorical order,” said Eyre. “We encourage service members to find a charity that means something to them.”

“Events like the golf scramble help spread the word about CFC-O through venues other than unit representatives.

“The golf scramble was designed to get people out and talking about CFC-O,” said Eyre. “Last year, we had a cake-cutting ceremony that drew attention and got people talking. This year, we wanted to have some fun while getting the word out.”

Getting the information out and contacting service members is the main goal for all CFC-O representatives.

“We do not have a monetary goal,” said Eyre. “Our goal is to give everyone a chance to participate in CFC-O.”

To find out more information regarding CFC-O, contact your unit representative or visit the CFC-O website at http://cfcoverseas.org.

Combat engineers train with Marine Corps’ big guns

Pfc. Kasey Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Every Marine is trained as a rifleman. Some Marines, however, were lucky enough to take their weapons training to the next level with the Corps’ big guns Sept. 18-19 at Camp Schwab.

Combat engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, trained with the M249 squad automatic weapon, M240B medium machine gun, MK19 40 mm grenade launcher, .50-caliber Browning machine gun and the shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon to gain experience with the different weapon systems.

“Our motto is that we lead the way,” said Cpl. Cole T. Passick, a combat enginer with the battalion. “It’s important that our Marines get trigger time on the different weapon systems to keep them operationally ready for the future.”

Prior to firing each weapon system, the Marines were given a period of instruction on assembling, loading, unloading and firing.

“A lot of us don’t get the opportunity to shoot the different weapon systems we shot over the two-day period,” said Lance Cpl. Adam C. Milliren, a combat engineer with the battalion. “The hands-on experience that we received on the weapons proved much more important to our mission than just learning about them at the armory.”

Combat engineers serve a variety of functions when deployed and in garrison, including vertical construction, general engineering, bridge building, construction of double-apron fences and wire obstacles, demolitions, route and area clearance, and mine sweeping.

Weapons training for combat engineers is vital because often times they must provide their own security in order to be self-sufficient, according to Staff Sgt. William E. Satterfield, a combat engineer with the battalion.

“As combat engineers, we are deployable at the division, wing, and group level,” said Satterfield. “That is why it is important we train like this to better prepare us for the future.”

“As the Marines packed their gear and prepared to depart the range, another group of Marines with the battalion took its place to start a weeklong demolitions training event, reinforcing 9th ESB’s continued dedication to combat readiness in all its functional areas.
In Theaters Now
SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4
FOSTER
TODAY The Possession (PG13), 6 p.m.; Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), noon; The Possession (PG13), 3 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Easy A: Port of Me (PG), 1 p.m.; Dredd (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Possession (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Dredd (R), 7 p.m.
KADENA
TODAY Premium Rush (PG13), 6 p.m.; Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), noon; Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.; Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Total Recall (PG13), 1 p.m.; Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 4 p.m.; Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 7 p.m.
COURTNEY
TODAY Dredd (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed
FUTENMA
TODAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Watch (R), 4 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed
KINSTER
TODAY Total Recall (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 3 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 3 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Dredd (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY End of Watch (R), 6:30 p.m.
HANSEN
TODAY Total Recall (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG), 3 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Lawless (R), 2 and 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Dredd (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Dredd (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.
SCHWAB
TODAY The Cold Light of Day (PG13), 8 p.m.
SATURDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY The Watch (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed
THEATER DIRECTORY
CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3880
MCAS HANSEN 622-9616
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9656
CAMP HANSEN 622-5011
CAMP KINSTER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
MOVIE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

Obon inspires strengthening spirit

Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Carlton
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Many Okinawans recently celebrated Obon. From what I gather, the custom is focused on honoring the spirits of one’s ancestors. Traditionally, families will get together and invite the spirits of their ancestors to come to their household altars. I love opportunities to learn from other cultures and, as a chaplain, this particular celebration is very fascinating.

There are two ways Obon inspires me as a military chaplain.

The first is honoring the spirits of those who have gone before us. At times, such as Memorial Day or when we toast the warrior spirit of Marines and sailors of the past, we honor our military lineage and history. In doing so, we seek to emulate the best of those who served before us. We strive to live up to the sacrifices they made. On a personal level, we look to those who have been our own role models. For me, my late grandfather was the prime example of a military man of faith who took care of his family. His example stays with me to this day.

A second inspiration is inviting the spiritual into the mundane. We get so wrapped up in day-to-day tasks that it is easy to neglect the spiritual aspects of life. For example, our core values of honor, courage and commitment are concepts that can resonate within our soul. These concepts are packed full of spiritual meaning. When we think of honor, something deep within us stirs. Whatever your job is, no matter how mundane the task, allow it to take on new meaning by being mindful of the soul-filled, character-building possibilities associated with the very nature of your service. If you are a person of faith, engage in practices that strengthen your spirit, from meditation to reading or prayer.

For me, Obon serves as a reminder to tend to my soul because life is more than what we see and what we can simply touch.

Japanese phrase of the week:
“Yukkuri onegaishimasu.”
(pronounced: yu-kuh-ree oh-neh-gah-ee-she-mahs)
It means, “Slowly please.”

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