III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

OKINAWA MARINE

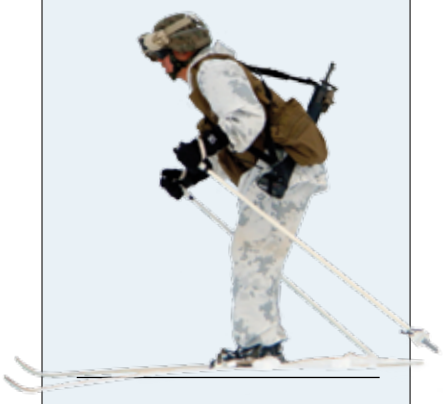
MARCH 16, 2012

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3MEF.MCIPAC

IN THIS ISSUE

YOUTH UNITE TO PLAY GAMES AND HONOR DISASTER VICTIMS
PG. 4

COLD-WEATHER TRAINING
Marines and JGSDF members train together on frozen terrain.
PGS. 6-7



PROPER CIVILIAN ATTIRE PORTAYS POSITIVE IMAGE
PG. 8

IN THE NICK OF TIME
When heroes react, lives are saved.
PG. 9

MARINES OF THE YEAR
Top dogs recognized for superior efforts on and off post.
PG. 10

FOLLOW US ON MARINES.MIL

Veterans return to sacred ground

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IWO TO, Japan — Iwo Jima veterans were honored in front of the 5th Marine Division Memorial during the 67th Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor ceremony here March 14.

U.S. Marines stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, and on the fifth day raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi. The island was secured March 26, 1945, after what is known by many as the fiercest fighting in the Pacific theater of World War II.

"Standing here on this island brings back so many vivid memories," said Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, a World War II Marine veteran. "My memories had become what seemed like distant dreams, but today brings it back to life."

see **IWO JIMA** pg 5

Retired Marine Lt. Gens. Lawrence F. Snowden and Henry C. Stackpole III lay a wreath on the Reunion of Honor Memorial on Iwo To, Japan, during the 67th Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor ceremony March 14. The Battle of Iwo Jima lasted for 36 days and resulted in nearly 30,000 lives lost from both nations. This ceremony gave both countries the opportunity to honor the service members who lost their lives 67 years ago. The reunion was sponsored by the Iwo Jima Associations of America and Japan and coordinated with assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of Japan and the U.S. Marine Corps. Snowden is the chairman of the Iwo Jima Association of America. Stackpole is the president of the Iwo Jima Association of America. *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

Marines, sailors kick off annual active-duty NMCRS drive

Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines and sailors gathered at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster to begin the 2012 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Active-Duty Fund Drive March 13.

Donations to the fund drive can now be made electronically via the Marine Online Internet portal.

This new, streamlined method of contributing saves money and protects personally identifiable information since there are no hard copies of contribution forms, according to an all-Marine broadcast on Marine Online.

"This is a good thing and needs to be pushed

see **NMCRS** pg 5

Jurisdiction of SOFA criminal cases in Japan now clarified

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The governments of the United States and Japan reached a new agreement regarding criminal jurisdiction in cases involving status of forces agreement members Nov. 23.

Previously, SOFA members who were arrested off-base while in an official-duty status could not be tried by the Japanese authorities because jurisdiction remained with the U.S. military.

In a criminal case involving a SOFA member, it is important to determine whether that individual was in an official-duty status.

Under the SOFA, a person is in official-duty status when they are doing something on behalf of the U.S. government, such as commuting between home and a work function.

The Determination of the Scope of Official Duty memorandum, which resulted from the Nov. 23 meeting, has changed this for two types of cases: the first is when a SOFA member is driving under the influence of alcohol and the second is when a SOFA

see **JURISDICTION** pg 5

See The Source inside for the Ages and Stages Open House!

1:88 educate, advocate, elevate
Initiative encourages autism awareness

Sarah Harrell

April is all about autism. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability. The Centers for Disease Control estimates an average of 1 in every 110 children in the United States has an autism spectrum disorder. ASDs include autistic disorder, Asperger syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder and are more prevalent than childhood cancer and juvenile diabetes.

According to the TRICARE operations manual, Chapter 20, Section 10, "Among the more than 1.2 million children of active-duty military personnel, approximately 8,500 carry one of the ASD diagnoses."

Within the military community, it is estimated that there are at least 13,243 children and young adults diagnosed with ASD, or an average of 1 in every 88 people. With numbers like that, it is likely you will meet a military family affected by autism at some point in your lifetime.

In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about the disability, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The U.S. recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Okinawa will be among many other areas and countries focusing on autism awareness during April. Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, will be signing the "1:88 Autism Awareness" proclamation April 2. This proclamation, named for the average ratio of people diagnosed with ASD in the military community, will help continue the efforts to spread education and awareness about autism here in Okinawa, Japan.

Join your Okinawa Exceptional Family Member Program team in supporting the "1:88 – Educate, Advocate, Elevate" initiative by getting involved with the EFMP community this April. Whether you are part of a family "thriving with autism," know of a family with autism, or are looking for more information, we have educational and informative workshops and events.

> **"Among the more than 1.2 million children of active-duty military personnel, approximately 8,500 carry one of the ASD diagnoses."**
>
> **TRICARE operations manual**

Grab your family and friends and join us April 7 for the EFMP Family Fun Day. You can also attend the EFMP Empower Hour Series: "Understanding Autism" April 12, when Dr. S. W. Stuart, developmental pediatrician with educational and developmental intervention services, and autism behavioral specialists with Department of Defense Dependent Schools will empower the community with knowledge pertaining to autism.

Show your support and join us April 14 for the "1:88 Family Fun Run/Walk!" We will end the month with an "EFMP Family Fun Bowling" event April 27.

For more information about autism or any of these events, call 645-9237, visit www.mccsokinawa.com/efmp or "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mccsokinawa.efmp.

Harrell is an EFMP training and outreach specialist.

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines from the drum line of "The Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps line up to perform a drum solo during a battle color ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., March 8. The 79-person band was formed 75 years ago and is the only musical unit of its kind serving in the armed forces. The drum and bugle corps is part of the Battle Color Detachment, Marine Barracks Washington. *Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco*

Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors aboard USS Pearl Harbor receive supplies at sea March 6. The unit is deployed as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, a U.S. Central Command theater reserve force. The group is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Claudia M. Palacios*

Cpl. Joshua Brooks, with Team 3, Civil Affairs Detachment 11-2, greets students as they arrive for school in Khan Neshin, Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Marines of Team 3 are providing guidance to the local government to help them construct a new school. The current school is made of mud and mortar, is overcrowded, and only has enough capacity to hold up to sixth grade. The new school will teach up to eighth grade and have more than enough room for students and teachers. The detachment is part of Regimental Combat Team 5. *Photo by Sgt. Michael S. Cifuentes*

Join the Okinawa Marine online

facebook — www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac

flickr — www.flickr.com/3mefpao

twitter — www.twitter.com/okinawamarines

YouTube — www.youtube.com/3mefcpao

OKINAWA MARINE

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

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

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of military services stationed overseas, at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler or Marine Corps Community Services of the products and services advertised.

Everything advertised in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are "official U.S. Marine Corps photos." For more information, e-mail us at okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil or write to us at Public Affairs Office, H&S BN MCB PAO, Unit 35002, FPO AP 96373-5002.

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 2nd Lt. Evan A. Almaas

PRESS CHIEF Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

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

CENTRAL BUREAU
Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092

Bridging economies, communities

Marines construct long-term Afghan bridge solution

2nd Lt. Tyler Morrison
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP (FORWARD)

SHIR GHAZAY, Afghanistan — Combat Engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion completed construction on a nonstandard bridge in Shir Ghazay, Afghanistan, March 6.

The bridge is designed to provide a long-term solution for local traffic in the area.

Local commerce and the livelihood of the Afghan people is dependent on their ability to transport and trade goods and services. Time and weather deteriorate transportation systems, jeopardizing fragile local economies. That is where Marine combat engineers come in.

A previous Marine unit built a nonstandard bridge near the bazaar to ease travel constraints in the area.

Though the design was appropriate for the summer months, the harsh Afghan winter took its toll on the custom-built structure, explained Capt. Ryan T. Heider, company commander Company A, 9th ESB, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

The culvert installed underneath the structure was not large enough to allow the water from the rainy season to flow through, and the local Afghans began to worry about the bridge's safety.

That is when 9th ESB took action, explained Capt. Alexandra M. Gerbracht, engineer officer, 1st MLG (Fwd).

"The locals in Shir Ghazay were concerned about the bridge," said Gerbracht. "Of all of the bridges in Helmand province, this one is not the biggest or most significant. But anything we can do to show our commitment to the Afghan people and move closer to achieving our goals in the counterinsurgency mission is crucial."

The Marines began work by removing the previous bridge and replacing it with a temporary, expeditionary bridge known as a medium-girder bridge. This allowed the traffic in the nearby bazaar to flow unimpeded during the day while the Marines went to work refashioning the new nonstandard bridge after the bustle of the town slowed down.

Marines with Bridge Platoon show the progress of a bridge replacement project to members of the 1st MLG (Forward) staff near the town of Shir Ghazay, Afghanistan, Feb. 29. The local Afghans became concerned over the safety of the previous bridge after the weather had damaged the structure. In response, the Marines of 9th ESB replaced it with a more permanent solution. Bridge Platoon is with Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). *Photo by 2nd Lt. Tyler Morrison*

Once night fell, the real work began as the Marines used heavy equipment to move the medium-girder bridge out of the way and remove the packed soil and the culvert system from beneath the old structure. With the soil and culvert removed, rainwater from heavy winter storms will flow unimpeded, maintaining the new bridge's structural integrity.

Each new mission assigned to Bridge Platoon is different than the last, according to 1st Lt. Matthew E. Paluta, a platoon commander with Company A.

"Every bridge is a unique challenge for the Marines, but they are always up for it," he said. "A nonstandard bridge is just that, nonstandard, and there is no set way to do it, but the outstanding work of the Marines get it done."

Sgt. Joseph C. Redman, a squad leader with the company, is one of the Marines who meets these unique challenges every day, according to Paluta. During this project, Redman worked with a seemingly endless reserve of energy, coordinating the work of the combat engineers and the movement of heavy equipment.

Staff Sgt. Richard B. Glory, a platoon sergeant with the company agreed that without the work of Marines like Redman, the new bridge project would soon falter.

"The Marines are what put us on the map," he said. "They're combat engineers through and through. The leadership at the noncommissioned officer level is outstanding."

In the span of a few days, Bridge Platoon gave a new bridge to the people of Shir Ghazay that will continue to ease the flow of traffic in the bazaar for years after coalition forces have left.

Contributors recognized for record CFC-O fundraising

Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific gathered at the Butler Officer's Club here for the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas awards ceremony March 9.

"This event is to recognize all of the hard work that the CFC representatives put in during the campaign," said Lt. Col. James E. Howard, the MCIPAC project officer for CFC-O 2011.

In total, the CFC-O raised more than $14 million for more than 2,000 charities. U.S. Pacific Command alone raised more than $705,000 in support of the campaign.

"CFC is the means to provide support to those in need through the charities that are a part of the campaign," said Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "This is a big deal for all the charities and people involved."

Four types of awards were presented to units, including platinum, gold, silver and bronze awards. Each award's criteria required different levels of participation or amounts of money donated per Marine or sailor in the unit.

"We were able to contact 100 percent of the Marine Corps personnel in Japan," said Crenshaw. "The commands embraced the challenge and excelled at getting the Marines to participate."

3rd Marine Division and 3rd MLG both received special awards. The division was awarded a special merit award and the MLG received an award for outstanding community and area project officer team.

"In response to your actions, charities involving veterans are evolving to meet the demands of active-duty service members," said Franciela Itule, the combatant command program manager for U.S. PACOM.

The charities which received the most donations were those dealing with veteran programs and other similar organizations. However, some contributors have helped the people of Japan.

"A year ago, III MEF participated in Operation Tomodachi," said Itule. "Your contributions are still helping Japanese citizens that were affected by the earthquake and tsunami. On behalf of the government of Japan and the charities, I say thank you."

BRIEFS

AIR CONDITIONING RESUMPTION

Per MCBJO 5090.3A "Energy and Water Conservation Program," Marine Corps Base Camp Butler will resume its air conditioning season March 19, beginning with barracks and temporary lodging.

In accordance with MCO P11000.0C "Energy and Utilities Management," air conditioning in living and office spaces must be set between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit (26 degrees Celsius). Ensure windows and doors remain shut once air conditioning resumes.

For more information, call the MCB Energy Office at 645-3320.

OKINAWA EXPRESSWAY NEW TOLL CHARGE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1

Toll charges will increase on the Okinawa Expressway effective April 1.

A 10 percent discount, which had been in place since July 1, is ending.

For more information, contact the West Nippon Expressway Company, Okinawa Office, at 098-878-8700 or visit www.w-nexco.co.jp.

PLAZA GYM TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Plaza Gym will be closed for redesign from March 19 through April 1.

OFFICIAL TOLL-FREE PHONE CALLS

The Defense Information System Agency has enabled a service allowing personnel to make official calls to toll-free numbers 800, 866, and 888 via DSN telephones. Users only need to dial the 8xx prefix and the phone number.

Personnel required to make official calls to 8xx toll-free numbers should dial direct to avoid unnecessary costs to the government.

Personal calls must be made from personal phones.

For more details, call 645-0306.

FOSTER COMMISSARY TEMPORARY CLOSURE MARCH 19-20

The Camp Foster Commissary will be closed March 19-20 to conduct its annual inventory reconciliation.

CAMP KINSER PMO CLOSURE

The Provost Marshal's Office on Camp Kinser will be closed temporarily for the next few weeks for renovation. Kinser-based personnel whose badges are expiring next month should visit the Security Management Office in building 110, room 115, to have their access updated.

For more details, call 637-2208.

MARINE OFFICER SPOUSES' CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Marine Officer Spouses' Club of Okinawa will be hosting a golf tournament with a barbecue March 30 at Taiyo Golf Course starting at 7 a.m.

To obtain entry forms or for additional information, visit www.moscokinawa.org or stop by the Marine Gift Shop Island Treasures.

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

Marines locate, ambush mock enemy

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER, CAMP FUJI, Japan — Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group conducted patrol movements, ambushes and assaults against a mock enemy here March 8-9.

The Marines, with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 conducted the two-day exercise in the forests surrounding Mount Fuji.

"This exercise allowed our Marines, who have support (military occupational specialties), to train up to the infantry tactics," said 2nd Lt. Matthew R. Massman, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, CLR-35, and a platoon commander during the training. "It got them out of their comfort zone to see what the infantry is doing. It allowed them to become proficient, and someday they can pass the things learned to their future subordinates."

Both regiments are part of 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Iwakuni-based Combat Logistics Company 36 also participated in the annual cold-weather training exercise.

The exercise started off with two platoons being dropped off in a landing zone by 7-ton trucks. After arriving, the platoons went their separate ways to patrol their respective areas, said Lance Cpl. Grace A. Reid, a combat engineer with 9th ESB.

After patrolling to their designated grid coordinates, the Marines set up a patrol base. Then, the Marines set up a 360-degree security perimeter to protect against enemy attackers.

"We set up a 360-degree security because we were operating in (a mock) enemy area," said Massman. "The 360 allows us to protect against enemy threat from all directions."

After digging into their positions, the platoon commander dispatched a reconnaissance patrol.

"The reconnaissance patrol was sent out to scout for any enemy movement in the surrounding area," said Massman.

Then, another squad of Marines was ordered to conduct an ambush on an enemy patrol in the area.

Using land navigation skills, learned earlier during the exercise, the Marines maneuvered their way to the ambush site.

When the Marines arrived, they set up the ambush and waited for the enemy patrol to walk into the kill zone. After the enemy walked into the line of fire, the Marines ambushed the patrol. When the enemy fell, the Marines sent a squad to verify the mission was successful.

"We needed to approach the enemy to make sure they were down and to check for any military gear that could be useful against (the enemy)," said Reid.

Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 35 search the bodies of mock enemy combatants at the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, March 8. CLR-35 is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.*

After the simulated firefight, the Marines headed back to their patrol base where their platoon was posted.

Upon arriving, the platoon began an attack on another enemy position, said Sgt. Derek R. Smith, a combat engineer with 9th ESB.

The platoon was given grid coordinates of the enemy position and moved out. When within attacking distance, the platoon sent out a reconnaissance team to scout the area for the best method of attack.

"Our platoon attacked a squad-sized element of enemy forces," said Smith.

When the reconnaissance team pushed forward, it found the enemy was much closer than anticipated, said Smith.

The platoon quickly adapted to the situation and attacked the enemy position.

After the enemy position was cleared, the platoon set up another patrol base where it established a security perimeter and spent the night. The following day it was time to link up with the other platoon.

Each platoon was ordered to move to an organized rally point near the enemy position for a company-sized attack.

"The company set up support-by-fire positions around the enemy, which allowed us the most fire support against the enemy," said Massman.

Each platoon moved into its on-line attack formation and in unison maneuvered toward the enemy lines. After breaching the first line of enemy defense, the Marines used buddy rushes until the enemy was completely overrun.

The scenario provided valuable infantry refresher training for the Marines.

Youth soccer games honor disaster victims

Members of the Okinawa Diplomats Youth Football Club and the Kin Football Club play a match at Kin Elementary School in Kin Town March 11. Before the games, a moment of silence was held in remembrance of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The coaches and some players chose to wear black armbands to show reverence to the victims of the earthquake, which took place exactly a year ago that day.

Photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum

IWO JIMA from pg 1

The annual ceremony also offered the chance for both nations to come together and honor all who fought and the approximately 30,000 Japanese and American fighters who lost their lives during the 36-day-long battle.

"Let us reaffirm here today that the loss of so many, was not in vain," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We gather here today as men and women representing two nations. Two nations, who after this battle, came together to build an alliance, an alliance, which some consider to be the most successful in the history of mankind, achieving over 60 years of peace and stability in this critical region of the world."

Yasunori Nishi, left, and retired Marine Lt. Gen. Lawrence F. Snowden hold an old Japanese flag during the 67th Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor ceremony on Iwo To, Japan, March 14. Nishi is the president of the Japanese Iwo Jima Association. Snowden is the chairman of the Iwo Jima Association of America. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker*

Distinguished speakers from the U.S. Marine Corps and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force spoke of the alliance the two countries have formed because of this battle.

"The fact that we can all come together as friends, shows that this battle was not for nothing," said Ira Charles Rigger, a Battle of Iwo Jima Navy veteran. "We once were enemies, but now true allies."

The guests of the ceremony had the opportunity to walk the beach landing site and visit Mount Suribachi.

"To be able to come back to Iwo Jima and see Mount Suribachi again is a very sobering experience," said Heilman.

The reunion was sponsored by the Iwo Jima Associations of America and Japan and coordinated with assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of Japan and the U.S. Marine Corps.

The reunion event took place near a granite plaque presented by veterans at the 40th anniversary, 27 years ago. The English translation faces the beaches where U.S. forces landed, while the Japanese translation faces inland where Japanese troops defended their position, and reads:

"On the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, American and Japanese veterans met again on these same sands, this time in peace and friendship. We commemorate our comrades, living and dead, who fought here with bravery and honor; and we pray together that our sacrifices on Iwo Jima will always be remembered and never be repeated."

NMCRS from pg 1

out to all the Marines and sailors," said Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and deputy commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Our goal should be 100 percent contact in the units."

Each unit will have a coordinator who is responsible for ensuring all Marines and sailors are contacted and to plan events to help increase awareness of the benefits offered by NMCRS.

"The subcoordinators and liaisons are responsible to make sure that leaders know what services are provided, and to let them know that NMCRS is a tool that they can use," said Lt. Col. Kyle D. Murray, area coordinator for NMCRS and deputy staff judge advocate for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

NMCRS was established more than 100 years ago and continues to help members of the Navy and Marine Corps who need financial assistance.

"Last year, there was more than $468,000 raised on the island of Okinawa alone," said Murray. "There was over $1 million given out throughout the Marine Corps and Navy."

The society offers financial classes and has a program for visiting wounded Marines.

"This program not only relies on the funds raised, but also on volunteers to answer phones, knit baby blankets, and teach the classes," said Kristin Stevens, director for NMCRS on Okinawa. "The volunteers give up their free time to help out their fellow service members."

The funds from the NMCRS can go to any Marine or sailor who is eligible due to emergencies or other financial issues.

"The theme for this year is 'It Takes All Hands' because it does take all hands," said Murray. "It is time to raise awareness and to make sure people understand."

JURISDICTION from pg 1

member is in an official-duty status, but U.S. authorities are unable to prosecute the case.

For the first type of case, according to the DSOD memorandum, whenever alcohol is consumed, whether during an official function or not, the SOFA members' official-duty status is removed, and the Japanese government has primary jurisdiction to try the case. This means that in any case where an individual is caught drinking and driving off-base, that person will be tried in a Japanese court even if the drinking took place at an official function, such as a work dinner or mess night.

For the second type of case, the new changes are aimed at civilian SOFA members who are alleged to have committed crimes in Japan.

"Unlike military members, civilians cannot be tried in a military court because they are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Capt. Jonathan P. Stevens, trial counsel with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

As a result, civilians must be tried in a civilian court. However, there are no U.S. civilian courts in Japan. Therefore, when civilians were in an official-duty status, U.S. authorities had jurisdiction to try the case, but had a very difficult time pursuing a prosecution.

In roughly nine out of 10 cases involving civilian SOFA members who break Japanese law, this issue never comes up because the Japanese government has jurisdiction outright, said Stevens. However, in that tenth case, there was a possibility that the case would never get heard because no one had the ability to try the case.

There have been previous attempts to address this issue by sending people back to the states to try the case there.

Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, SOFA civilians who commit certain crimes overseas can be extradited to the states to be tried in their local U.S. district court.

"The problem with that is it is hard to work," said Stevens. "All the witnesses and evidence are here, and you have to try to move it all to the states. Sometimes we're unable to do that."

Additionally, a MEJA prosecution is reserved for serious felonies, said Stevens.

The Jurisdiction over Members of the Civilian Component memorandum, which also resulted from the Nov. 23 meeting, was accepted to try to address this situation, said Stevens.

With the JMCC memorandum, the Japanese government now can request to try cases not prosecuted by the U.S. government.

The U.S. government still gets the 'first bite of the apple' when the civilian is in official-duty status according to the SOFA, said Stevens.

"In other words, the U.S. Authorities are still going to use every means available to make sure that these cases are tried in U.S. courts," he explained. "The changes only apply in the narrow set of cases where there is no way to try the case in a U.S. court."

Under the new changes, in cases where the alleged offense caused death, a life-threatening injury or permanent disability, and no criminal prosecution was conducted by the U.S. Authorities, the government of Japan may request to prosecute the case themselves, according to the memorandum.

In lesser cases, the government of Japan may request secondary jurisdiction, but the U.S. is more likely to keep jurisdiction and try the case in U.S. courts, said Stevens.

U.S. and Japanese courts are very similar, with a lot of the same protections for defendants as far as rights to counsel and rights to appeal, said Stevens. So, no matter which court a person ends up in, he is going to get a fair trial.

"If jurisdiction is given to the Japanese court that does not necessarily mean that the person is guilty," said Stevens. "It only means that the court will have a chance to look at the case and decide what happened."

"The only thing the jurisdiction changes did was give the Japanese an opportunity to try cases that would not otherwise be heard," he said.

Marines, JGSDF come together for

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Jeanscott Dodd
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

For most military members, seeing a helicopter land is a common occurrence. Seeing one land at sea is not so common. Riding in a helicopter equipped with skis as it lands on a blanket of snow on a mountainside is even less common.

Working in tandem with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 had the opportunity to take part in such an uncommon evolution during a U.S.-Japan cold weather training exercise in mainland Japan March 2-12.

The regiments, part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and soldiers from 4th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, JGSDF, participated in the training to increase interoperability and enhance individual and unit cold-weather skills.

The exercise, dubbed Forest Light 12-2, took place at the Yausubetsu Training Area in Hokkaido, Japan.

"This training is an important opportunity for our Marines and the JGSDF soldiers to learn from one another and build relationships," said Col. John E. Kasperski, commanding officer of CLR-37, during the opening ceremony.

Upon their arrival, the Marines were welcomed by the JGSDF soldiers and launched straight into training. They first conducted station training with classes about enemy prisoners of war, combat lifesaving and first aid, individual equipment and movement using snowshoes. For many, it was their first time working with military members from another country.

"Both our Marines and the JGSDF soldiers showed no hesitation to begin interacting," said 2nd Lt. Brigham T. Doud, instructor for EPW training and a controller during the field training exercise. "Both units welcomed each other and were eager to learn one another's tactics."

The staff from both countries also conducted a bilateral command post exercise prior to the FTX to prepare them for better bilateral operations throughout the exercise. Simultaneously, preparation for the FTX continued with heliborne training, a cross-country skiing class and practical application and bilateral rehearsals.

"The ski training was a great event because the Marines and JGSDF soldiers shared many laughs while learning a valuable skill for cold-weather conditions," said 1st Lt. Yujirou Yauchi, a JGSDF ski instructor and interpreter.

Marines and JGSDF soldiers maneuvered throughout the training area, reacting to notional and real-world enemies, role-played by JGSDF and Marine scenario controllers, who graded the unit's actions during all events.

The weather in Hokkaido enabled the special emphasis on cold weather training, as fresh snow was abundant throughout the training area.

The FTX culminated with the JGSDF conducting a passage through friendly lines of a Marine defensive position, immediately followed by a Marine heliborne assault, with JGSDF providing indirect fire support. The FTX allowed the Marines from 3rd MLG a unique opportunity to conduct infantry training alongside JGSDF counterparts.

Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers practice cross-country skiing at the Yausubetsu Training Area, Hokkaido, Japan, March 5, during Exercise Forest Light 12-2. The Marines and JGSDF soldiers spent hours practicing different techniques taught by JGSDF ski instructors. The purpose of Forest Light 12-2 was to enhance the interoperability of Marines and JGSDF members while increasing individual and unit readiness in a cold-weather environment.

A Marine provides security for his platoon during a field training exercise March 8. During the FTX, Marines worked with their Japanese counterparts to familiarize themselves with functioning in a cold-weather environment.

Forest Light

"Any chance for Marines to get out and do basic infantry training is great, even if it isn't their everyday job," said 2nd Lt. Matthew C. Librizzi, platoon commander for Marine FTX forces during the training. "The cold temperatures and snow here at Yausubetsu was a great opportunity as well."

Forest Light 12-2 ended with both units coming together for a farewell engagement and a formal closing ceremony. The relationships built between the Marines and JGSDF soldiers throughout the exercise are sure to have lasting benefits for both countries.

"The biggest takeaway from Forest Light has to be the camaraderie we built within the platoon as well as with our Japanese counterparts, and our actions here will only strengthen our bonds with the JGSDF for future cooperation and training," said Librizzi.

2nd Lt. Matthew C. Librizzi, left, looks over a map with a JGSDF interpreter and radio operator at the Yausubetsu Training Area March 9. Librizzi served as platoon commander for Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 during the exercise.

A Japan Self-Defense Force CH-47 Chinook helicopter touches down carrying Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members March 5 during Exercise Forest Light 12-2. The Marines and JGSDF soldiers unloaded and set up security during rehearsals conducted in preparation for an upcoming FTX.

Perception is reality

Marine leadership emphasizes clothing standards

Sgt. Heather Brewer
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Don't judge a book by its cover. Beauty is only skin deep. It's what's on the inside that counts.

Even though these are common expressions, not many people actually apply them. The harsh truth is people often make snap decisions about character and trustworthiness within seconds of meeting a new person.

As service members stationed overseas, we are ambassadors in our host country and how we present ourselves is even more important.

"What we wear out in town is important because we are the main embodiment of the American people here," said Cpl. Joseph F. Landolt, a radio operator with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Group Headquarters Group, III MEF. "How (the local community) sees us is how they see all Americans."

Wearing proper civilian attire while on liberty applies on base as well as off base.

"The way you act and dress on base is a direct reflection of how you will act and dress off base," said Sgt. Karl W. Strong, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the temporary additional duty section at the Installation Personnel Administration Center on Camp Foster.

According to Marine Corps Bases Japan/III MEF Order 1050.7A, clothing which is obviously tattered or soiled must not be worn. This includes trousers, which have torn or ragged holes.

Additionally, athletic attire, such as running shorts, sweatsuits and tank tops, are appropriate for athletic events and fitness centers, according to the order. However, this same athletic attire is prohibited in mess halls, retail stores, clubs, restaurants or working spaces.

Marine Corps Installations Pacific leadership has said the noncommissioned officers are the first line of defense in upholding this regulation.

When breaches of the liberty attire policy are observed, it is best to resolve the situation immediately, said Landolt.

"If you see an issue, you should address it with the Marine immediately," he said. "That way, you know you did the right thing, and the Marine is aware of the problem."

For more information on Marine Corps uniform regulations, see MCO P1020.34G, or visit the Marine Corps Uniform Board's website at http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/sites/mcub/.

Proper wear of liberty attire, per Marine Corps Bases Japan/III MEF Order 1050.7A

Headgear

Removal of headgear, such as covers and ball caps, is mandatory inside all facilities on base unless in uniform and under arms. Recognized religious apparel is authorized for wear. Camp commanders may authorize club managers to waive headgear restrictions for special events. Hats and ball caps will be worn square on the head, bill facing forward, as intended by design. Hairnets, wave-caps, handkerchiefs or nylon socks on the head are prohibited outside of living quarters.

Shirts and blouses

Shirts and blouses will be clean, serviceable and worn in the same manner as the uniform service blouse. The size and fit of the shirt or blouse will mirror a neat appearance similar to that of the male or female long-sleeve or short-sleeve service uniform blouses. Excessively baggy clothing will not be worn. Shirts may be worn untucked as long as they do not hang below crotch level, provided they are straight cut across the bottom. All shirts and blouses with a tapered tail will be tucked in. Those shirts or blouses which are not tucked in, such as Hawaiian-style shirts, must reflect a neat appearance.

Uniform and civilian undershirts, tank-top-style shirts and jerseys, halter-tops, tube tops, swimsuit tops and see-through mesh tops are not appropriate as outerwear. Such clothing is acceptable only while physically participating in sports or physical training activities or while at the pool or beach. Sleeveless sundresses and similar styles of female clothing are considered to be appropriate attire.

Jerseys with sleeves are acceptable, provided they are cut straight across the bottom and do not hang below the crotch. Designer or casual warm-up style suits may be worn as liberty attire. They will be clean, neat and conservative in appearance. No service-related sweatsuits may be worn as liberty attire, with the exception of the new Marine Corps running suit jacket.

Trousers, shorts and skirts

Clean and serviceable trousers or shorts, with a belt if belt loops are present, are the standard. The size and fit of trousers, shorts or skirts will resemble the appearance and style reflected by the proper wearing of uniform trousers or skirts.

Soiled, frayed, torn or excessively faded items will not be worn. Trousers that expose any portion of the underwear or buttocks, as well as those that are excessively baggy or hanging off the buttocks, are also prohibited. Skirts, trousers, blue jeans and shorts which have not been properly hemmed are prohibited. These items should have a fit which maintains proper modesty.

Footwear

Appropriate serviceable footwear will be worn. Sandals, with or without heel straps, are authorized for leave and liberty. Shower shoes, rubber thong-style flip-flops, dive booties and bare feet are prohibited away from living quarters except for wear to and at the beach or pool.

Prohibited Clothing

Clothing which has been altered, cut or is otherwise worn in a manner to present an abbreviated covering or sexually provocative appearance is prohibited. Specifically prohibited are articles of clothing where the midriff is exposed.

Any garment, to include caps and hats, inscribed, printed or bearing patches with slogans, words, pictures, symbols or print which may be interpreted by a reasonable person to be profane, sexually suggestive or obscene is prohibited. This includes garments that are supportive of, or oriented towards, the glamorization of alcohol consumption or any illegal activity, including the use of illegal or illicit drugs. Any garment bearing designs, insignias, patches or print that may be interpreted to be directly and clearly derogatory to any ethnic, racial, religious group, to any military service or nation, or to the flag, logo or symbol of any nation are prohibited.

HEROES AMONG US

Stories and photos by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Sailor earns accolades for providing first aid, CPR

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael S. Davis received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for saving a Japanese man's life during an award ceremony on Camp Kinser March 7. Davis earned the award for helping a Japanese man who experienced a seizure at the Camp Kinser gymnasium Nov. 17. Davis is a hospital corpsman with Medical Logistics Company, 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Hideyuki Arakaki began suffering from an epileptic seizure while exercising at the Camp Kinser gymnasium Nov. 17. The last thing he remembers before waking up in the hospital was an unknown person at the gym helping him.

Arakaki ultimately recovered from this jarring experience.

Arakaki found out his hero had stayed by his side in the hospital while he was still unconscious. The two later spoke on the phone, but never had the chance to meet.

On March 7, Arakaki, who works at the Camp Kinser Commissary, had the opportunity to meet the man who saved his life, Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael S. Davis, a hospital corpsman with Medical Logistics Company, 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"This has been a huge wake-up call for me," said Arakaki. "It was a scary feeling to wake up and not remember anything that happened, and I am very thankful and honored to meet the man who saved my life."

Davis noticed Arakaki experiencing a seizure while he was exercising and immediately acted. Davis cleared out the gym and directed a fellow service member to contact emergency personnel. With emergency medical technicians en route, Davis rendered first aid by assessing Arakaki's conditions and monitoring his vitals until emergency responders arrived.

"Once he hit the ground I was no longer thinking, I was acting," said Davis. "At the end of the day, I was doing my job. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing, being a corpsman is not just while on duty, it is all the time."

Arakaki stood by as Marines and sailors from the company gathered in formation for an award ceremony. Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commanding general of 3rd MLG, Sgt. Maj. Lawrence P. Fineran, sergeant major of 3rd MLG, and Master Chief Petty Officer Eric S. Anderson, command master chief of 3rd MLG, presented Davis with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievment Medal.

"Don't ever sell yourselves short," said Crenshaw. "Davis is now among the many corpsmen who has proven to us when you are called to action, you will perform. Mr. Arakaki may not be standing here with us today if it wasn't for your training and your actions."

As the ceremony concluded and Arakaki and Davis shook hands, Crenshaw had a few more words for the corpsmen in attendance.

"Thank you for what you do," he said. "Thank you for how you do it."

Lifeguard uses Red Cross life-saving skills to resuscitate victim

As brave men and women across the world continue to save lives, the American Red Cross continues to honor them. For more than 100 years, the American Red Cross has gone out of its way to recognize heroic achievements in the military community.

Robert J. Bamm III, a Camp Kinser Aquatic Center lifeguard, became one of those recognized when he was presented the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder March 13 at Camp Kinser.

He received the award for saving the life of a service member at the Camp Kinser Aquatic Center last summer. This was the first time the award has been presented on Okinawa.

To be eligible for the Professional Responder award, an individual must have used cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid or an automated external defibrillator to help someone in a life-threatening situation. The individual must also have been taught these techniques through American Red Cross training or by an American Red Cross-authorized provider.

"I didn't sign up for this job because I thought it would be easy, I knew people's lives could potentially be at stake," said Bamm. "I remember seeing the other life guard already in the pool and hearing people screaming for help. I did what any lifeguard would do, I jumped in."

During the award ceremony, members of the American Red Cross team on Okinawa, as well as the Camp Kinser Aquatic Center team, showed their support and gratitude for Bamm's heroic efforts. Also in attendance was Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, who presented Bamm with the award.

"It is a very scary and challenging thing when a situation turns from training to the real thing," said Crenshaw. "On that day, this young man was a hero."

Since the inception of the award in 1928, the American Red Cross has honored more than 12,000 individuals who have saved or sustained a life as a direct result of training given by the American Red Cross via its Health and Safety program.

"It is great to have our team here not only honoring a brave young man, but also acknowledging that the training the American Red Cross is providing is working," said Hanna Forbes, marketing chair for the American Red Cross on Camp Foster.

Chuck Miller, right, reads a citation to Robert J. Bamm III, middle, during an award ceremony at Camp Kinser March 13. Bamm was presented with the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder by Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw for saving the life of a service member last summer. Bamm is the first person to receive the award on Okinawa. Miller is an American Red Cross Okinawa field office coordinator. Bamm is a lifeguard at the Camp Kinser Aquatic Center. Crenshaw is the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Scott Burton, another lifeguard on the scene who helped resuscitate the victim, worked side-by-side with Bamm on that hot summer day a life was saved.

"While we are working, I can always trust Bamm to be able to do his job," said Burton. "I know that whatever Bamm chooses to do in life, he will do it well."

Marines of the Year

3rd Marine Logistics Group Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Sgt. Benjamin S. Bryan, a tactical switching operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, earned the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award for 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

3rd Marine Logistics Group Marine of the Year

Lance Cpl. Timothy L. Roach, a data network specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, earned the Marine of the Year Award for the 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

1st Marine Aircraft Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Cpl. Kayla D. Caffero, an intelligence specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 36, earned the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

1st Marine Aircraft Wing Marine of the Year

Cpl. Carmela M. Salerno, a maintenance management specialist with Marine Air Control Group 18, earned the Marine of the Year Award for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Marines of the Year strive for perfection in all aspects of being a Marine. They perform ahead of their peers in areas such as leadership, physical fitness, marksmanship, professional military education and community involvement."

- 1st Sgt. Gordon M. Miller, acting battalion sergeant major, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

In Theaters Now

MARCH 16 - MARCH 22

FOSTER

TODAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 6 p.m.; The Devil Inside (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G), noon; Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG13), 3 p.m.; This Means War (R), 6 p.m.; The Devil Inside (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY John Carter (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY This Means War (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Devil Inside (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Devil Inside (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY John Carter (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY This Means War (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; The Devil Inside (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Devil Inside (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Dr Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Devil Inside (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY John Carter (PG13), 5:30 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY War Horse (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 2 p.m.; Act of Valor (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY War Horse (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY John Carter (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 4 p.m.; War Horse (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Act of Valor (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Devil Inside (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG13), 3 p.m.; Contraband (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG13), 3 p.m.; Devil Inside (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY John Carter (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Contraband (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Contraband (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Act of Valor (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Contraband (R), 2 p.m.; The Devil Inside (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY John Carter (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY John Carter (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Devil Inside (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Contraband (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Act of Valor (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY War Horse (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 5 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.

ASHIBINAA OUTLET MALL TRIP - MARCH 31
• Join the SMP at the Ashibinaa Outlet Mall in Naha March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a fun day of shopping. Bus will depart the Camp Foster Fieldhouse at 10 a.m. and the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 10:20 a.m. Sign up deadline is March 28.

DUCK AND COVER GOLF TOURNAMENT - APRIL 6
• Staff noncommissioned officers and officers are invited to form four-person teams to compete in the Duck and Cover Golf Tournament April 6 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prizes will be given to the top three male and female finishers for the "Closest to the Pin" and "Longest Drive" challenges. Register by March 30.

BUSHIDO CHALLENGE - MAY 18
• The Bushido Challenge tests physical and combat fitness with competitions including a tire flip, dead hang and shot put. This challenge is open to teams of four, of which at least one team member must be a single or unaccompanied Marine or sailor. To sign up, contact the SMP office.

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:

"Nanji desu ka?"
(pronounced: NAHN-jee desh kah)

It means,
"What time is it?"

RANGE HIGH SCORES

March 5 - 9

RIFLE RANGE
Staff Sgt. Anthony Wattley, 1st MAW, 339

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

"Forgiveness takes place when one's sins are no longer charged against them."

Break chains of bitterness to forgive

Lt. j.g. Stephen F. Brown
7TH COMMUNICATION BATTALION CHAPLAIN

What does it mean to truly forgive? We have all heard things like, "I can forgive, but I will never forget," or "I will forgive them, but I never want to see them again." But how does one truly forgive? In counseling, we chaplains deal frequently with the issue of forgiveness.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus prayed that God would "... forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." This is because when someone sins against you, a debt is incurred by the sinning party. Like a bank who is owed money, the person who is sinned against waits for the sinning party to come and make restitution and repay the debt they owe.

The problem occurs when the sinning party chooses not to seek reconciliation. So, he who was sinned against waits indefinitely for the debt owed to them to be repaid. As long as the unforgiving person holds onto this unpaid debt, they continue to carry that past offense as part of their present, in turn leading to bitterness and resentment.

Forgiveness takes place when one's sins are no longer charged against them. The party who is sinned against releases the requirements of repayment, and essentially says, "I'm not waiting around any longer. I know you have wronged me, and you owe an apology, but I release you from the debt you owe, and I will no longer hold it against you."

Are you holding on to unforgiveness? Do you wish to be free from the chains of bitterness? Then, I encourage you to release the debt owed to you today. In doing so, you are making a threefold promise that: I won't bring the matter up to you again; I won't bring it up to others; and I won't bring it up to myself.

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