

OKINAWA MARINE

APRIL 20, 2012

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Balikatan 2012 officially begins



Armed Forces of the Philippines Seaman 1st Class Myra T. Sordilla and Marine Lance Cpl. Melinda L. Carbajal work together to paint a comfort room April 9 for Santa Cruz Elementary School, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines, during Exercise Balikatan 2012. The school is one of five engineering civic assistance projects the island of Palawan will receive during the exercise. Sordilla is a painter with the 401st Philippine Navy Reserve, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines. Carbajal is currently assigned as a combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172. Photo by Staff Sgt. Cashmere Jefferson

Staff Sgt. Mike Mears

321ST AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

CAMP AGUINALDO, MANILA, Philippines — Locked arm-in-arm, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States officially began Exercise Balikatan 2012 here April 16.

Balikatan, a Tagalog word meaning “shoulder-to-shoulder,” is an annual bilateral exercise on its 28th iteration and the third humanitarian assistance/disaster relief focused exercise between the two nations.

“Balikatan has been going on for a long time, for nearly 30 years,” said Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, 3rd Marine Division commanding general, Okinawa, Japan, and Exercise Balikatan director of U.S. forces. “Longer than that has been the relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines. We are bounded by similar traditions, a shared history and common goals. While the nature of see **BK '12** pg 5

III MEF ensures fiscal efficiency

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OKINAWA, Japan — Due to Department of Defense financial cutbacks, units throughout the Marine Corps are implementing measures to ensure fiscal efficiency.

In compliance with the Fiscal Year 2012 U.S. DOD budget request overview, the measures will focus on changes that are a high priority to Congress and to the American public, thus see **BUDGET** pg 5

Site survey benefits future

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber

MCB HAWAII KANEONE BAY

ROBERTSON BARRACKS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, Australia — Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, spent time at two Australian training areas this week in order to understand the landscape, environment and terrain that will be used in future training evolutions.

Conducting site surveys at Kangaroo Flats and Mount Bunday training areas, the Marines gained an appreciation for how to best train in the specific environments.

“The purpose of range recon is to find out specifically what we can accomplish on the range and the adjustments we might see **RANGE** pg 5

PACOM commander meets with all services



U.S. Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III speaks with airmen, sailors, soldiers and Marines during an all-hands formation at Kadena Air Base April 13. Locklear spoke about various topics pertaining to the region and answered questions from the audience. Locklear is the commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady

DMO

Transitions made easy with preparation

Master Sgt. Max Canales

The key to a successful transition from one duty station or residence to another is knowledge.

The Distribution Management Office, commonly referred to as DMO, is available to provide education and assistance.

The personnel at Camp Butler's DMO take great pride in ensuring all customers are knowledgeable and confident when dealing with the logistical demands associated with personal property.

In an attempt to dispel common rumors and ease the burden when preparing for your move, here are some points to consider:

- Be proactive when planning your household goods movement. Arranging your pick up date at least four weeks in advance is ideal and will eliminate the probability of unavailable dates.

- Register for an account at www.move.mil. Registration is mandatory in order for individuals to use the Defense Personal Property System. The system allows members to initiate a household goods pick up date, check the status of their shipment(s) or initiate a claim. DMO will provide assistance and guidance throughout this process.

- Have an idea of when you will be departing. Having a flight itinerary will allow you to schedule your household

goods pickup date, housing inspection and permit you to schedule temporary lodging.

- Ensure your orders have appropriation data. It is essential for orders to contain a transportation account code, line of accounting and standard document number to award customers their entitlements.

- Don't listen to rumors. Every situation is different. Unfortunately, the stories you hear from others are not always true, therefore it is a disservice to rely on second-hand information. If you have a question call DMO.

- Protect your personal property. It is important to ensure that every item is accounted for by monitoring the movers handling

your personal property. If it is not accounted for, you can't claim it.

- Keep in mind that your personal property is an international shipment. A violation of U.S. Customs is a very expensive mistake.

Knowledge of your entitlements and responsibilities for the movement of personal property can prevent potential excess expenses and make the transition to your new duty station or residence a pleasant one.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 645-0922.

Canales is the Personal Property Shipping Office Chief.

Be proactive when planning your household goods movement.

Telling the Marine Corps story through videos, photos and stories. See more online.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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AROUND THE CORPS



Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force prepare to board the USS Dewey from rigid-hulled inflatable boats during a visit, board, search and seizure exercise April 9 at Naval Base San Diego. The MRF is the MEU's special operations force. Its primary role is to carry out raids against maritime objectives including gas and oil platforms, ships and targets on shore. This was the first time the MRF was able to practice its unique skill sets as a cohesive unit.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy Childers



Sailors and Marines of the Shock Trauma Platoon and Forward Resuscitative Surgery System, Surgical Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), carry a patient from a medevac helicopter to the STP/FRSS at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, April 10. Within a matter of minutes, the medical personnel and security Marines received several critically wounded patients.

Photo by Sgt. John Jackson



Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. talks with Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Pea, a hospital corpsman, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, II MEF, during the general's visit to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 11. Pea is training to deploy as a member of an advisor team that will prepare members of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police to keep the peace after the troop draw down. Photo by Sgt. Heather Golden

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

2012 road taxes due

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The 2012 Japan road tax collection deadline is right around the corner, and the familiar road tax decals must be in place by June 1 to avoid any penalties.

Status of forces agreement vehicle owners must have their military vehicle registration, 2011 road tax receipt, vehicle title, Japanese compulsory insurance and proof of American insurance for the vehicle. All must be the original documents.

In addition to the required documents, owners must also know which category their vehicle falls into to generate the proper tax payment.

“The categories can be broken down into 500 plates, 300 plates and 100 plates for normal vehicles,” said Yesenia Helms, a registration specialist with the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office on Camp Foster. “For 500 plates the tax is 7,500 yen, the 300 plate tax is 19,000 yen and the 100 plate tax is 32,000 yen.”

Motorcycles and mini-cars have separate taxes, said John Wheatley, the pass and registration supervisor for Marine Corps Base Camp Foster Provost Marshal’s Office. The mini-car tax is 3,000 yen. Motorcycles with engines larger than 126 cubic centimeters have a tax of 1,000 yen, while motorcycles with 125 cc engines and below must pay 500 yen in taxes.

“You can pay your insurance company, but they may have a surcharge of 500 yen,” said Helms. “There is also a road tax office outside of Camp Kinser Gate 4 near the Land Transportation Office (where you can pay your taxes).”

Any vehicle not de-registered before April 1 must pay the road tax, said Wheatley. The mini-car and motorcycle taxes must be paid between April 1 and May 31.

“All taxes must be paid by June 1,” said Wheatley. For more information, contact 645-7481/3963.

2012 ROAD TAX COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Personnel are required to pay road tax on all vehicles not de-registered before April 1. All 2012 road tax stickers must be displayed before June 1. Road taxes may be paid at the following locations and times:

- Camp Kinser Surfside: May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Kadena Keystone Theater: May 7-11, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Foster Community Center: May 14-16, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Courtney Education Center: May 17-18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Torii Station Chapel Annex: May 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Hansen, The Palms: May 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Camp Schwab Camp Services: May 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The following original documents are required: military registration, 2011 road tax receipt, vehicle title, Japanese compulsory insurance and American insurance. Road taxes must be paid in Japanese yen only.

For more information, contact the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481/3963.



Marines slide a four-bay medium girder bridge across a canal in Mirmandab, Afghanistan, March 23. The Marines are with Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and conducted an 11-day operation that called for bridges to be built and patrol bases to be established.

Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

9th ESB offers necessary support for Special Operations Task Force West

Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

REGIONAL COMMAND SOUTHWEST

MIRMANDAB, Afghanistan — The proximity of enemy fire didn’t deter progress being made in direct support of Special Operations Task Force West in Mirmandab, Afghanistan.

The Marines of Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), pressed on to complete the mission.

“This mission was engineer operations in direct support of Special Operations Task Force West,” said Capt. Ryan T. Heider, commanding officer of Company A. “What we did was bridge a few gaps that couldn’t be crossed by conventional means. We also built a patrol base and a village support platform in order to allow SOTF-West to push further north.”

This particular area of Afghanistan has been a hotbed for the Taliban, housing countless insurgents throughout the valley and making it difficult for special operational units with SOTF-West to advance.

By establishing the patrol bases and bridges, SOTF-West’s mobility is not limited to foot movement, said Heider. It can now travel by vehicle and have a base to consolidate forces and resupply.

This unique mission allowed the Marines of Company A to run the gamut of combat engineering capabilities, as they opened up nearly the entire playbook of an engineer support company. Alpha Company built



Lance Cpl. Corey J. Washington places sandbags in position on a newly established patrol base in Mirmandab, Afghanistan, March 29. Washington is a combat engineer with Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

bridges and used composite C4 and other explosives to clear paths. The company also constructed buildings and structures out of the dirt surrounding them.

“We have never done anything like this,” said Heider. “We got to do almost everything that an ESB line company gets to do.”

“I think this mission just put all of our training together,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Glory, a platoon sergeant with the company. “We did every aspect of combat engineering from bridging to demolition, vertical and horizontal construction.”

All the aid the company provided was appreciated by the SOTF-West forces.

“This was said directly to me from the SOTF forces, ‘they couldn’t have done what they were doing without us,’” said Heider. “They were a little overwhelmed because they

weren’t expecting the level of support they got from us.”

The Marines supported while under fire and with the constant threat of insurgents lurking nearby, proving they could perform in the worst of conditions.

“The Marines were able to shift gears and (performed outstanding), better than any group of combat engineers I have ever seen,” said Glory.

“The Marines worked well together; we worked 24 hours-a-day,” said Staff Sgt. Brian D. Corpuz, a platoon sergeant with the company. “There was a real lack of sleep, but these guys pulled through and they pushed each other.”

With help from the Marines of Company A, SOTF-West will be able to travel further into Mirmandab and eliminate enemy threats. This will aid in Afghanistan’s transition to a more peaceful and independent country.

BRIEFS

OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE & UTILITY ALLOWANCE SURVEY

The annual overseas housing allowance, OHA, and utility expenses survey for uniformed U.S. service members will run until April 30.

The survey will be available to all service members who reside in privately leased quarters overseas and receive an overseas housing allowance.

Visit the PDTATAC home page at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/aprutilmiha.cfm to access the survey.

For additional information or questions please contact 645-7199 or e-mail solomon.ard@usmc.mil.

24-HOUR JOG-A-THON

An all-services 24-hour jog-a-thon will be held at Marek Park Jogging Track on Kadena Air Base May 3 starting at 7 a.m. Anyone with base access may participate.

For more information, contact 637-3500 or e-mail samuel.conley@usmc.mil or andrew.m.white@usmc.mil.

HIGH SCHOOL MANGA CONTEST

The U.S. Consulate General Naha is hosting the Okinawa-American high school manga contest at the Kubasaki High School cafeteria May 12 starting at 9 a.m.

The event is in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Japan's donation of cherry trees to Washington, D.C.

Okinawa and U.S. students will join together to paint Manga posters.

To sign up, contact the U.S. Consulate General Naha public affairs office at 098-876-6657 or e-mail Nahapas@state.gov.

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER TEST

Those interested in becoming a U.S. Department of State diplomat, the U.S. Consulate is holding the written portion of the foreign service officer test at Torii Station June 8 at the Education Center, building 246, room 108. There are limited seats for the morning and afternoon sessions.

Interested parties can attend an information session about the test and gather additional details April 24 at 3 p.m. at Kadena Air Base, Public Affairs conference room, building 404 across from the Schilling Center.

There will also be an informal question and answer session with local foreign service officers at The Spot, building 200, on Camp Foster, May 1 at 4 p.m.

To reserve a seat for the information sessions, e-mail nahapas@state.gov. To register for the test, visit www.careers.state.gov. Registration can begin now, but selection of the exam date and location will be available April 30.

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.

SQUARED AWAY**NCOs crucial to preventing sexual assault**

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Sexual assault is an important issue to all Marines. It is up to leadership, especially small-unit leaders, to ensure all Marines are constantly informed about how to recognize sexual assault and to help victims or those at risk.

Sexual assault impedes unit and individual morale, effectiveness, efficiency and readiness, affecting the entire Marine Corps.

According to Marine Corps Order 1752.5A, sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force or physical threat of force. It is also abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent to unwanted contact.

Offenders could be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice with several offenses to include Article 120.

"Together we can combat potential sexual assaults by looking out for each other and being always on the alert because it can happen at any time and in any place, especially when drinking is involved," said Sgt. Dorian E. Reyes, a foreign criminal jurisdiction noncommissioned officer with the staff judge advocate, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and they will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological and social services.

"The Marine Corps has programs for reporting sexual assault and provides help to those who have been sexually assaulted through a command victim advocate or uniformed victim advocate," said Reyes. "A command's uniformed victim advocate is in place to help those victims of sexual assault get medical treatment or counseling."

Victims have two methods of reporting — restricted and unrestricted. Restricted reporting is confidential when reporting to sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, uniformed victim advocates, counselors or healthcare providers. The victim's commander will be notified that a sexual assault occurred in their unit but will not receive any details or names of involved parties.

When filing an unrestricted report, the victim's command and law enforcement will be provided specifics and a formal investigation will be conducted. Victims have the option to switch from

restricted to unrestricted reporting but once a report is designated as unrestricted, an individual cannot restrict the report.

To prevent sexual assault, leaders must inform all Marines of warning signs and ways to help victims.

"Everyone should be aware of their surroundings," added Reyes. "If something does not seem right, take yourself away from that situation. When consuming alcohol, do not overindulge and do not leave your drinks unattended or accept any drinks you did not personally see get opened or made."

Being intoxicated is not an excuse for any unlawful behavior, including engaging in sexual activity with someone who is too impaired to consent.

It's up to noncommissioned officers to ensure junior Marines are aware of situations and signs that can lead to sexual assault incidents and how to prevent them from occurring.

"It could be something as simple as a hug or a hand on the shoulder or side. Look for early signs of unwanted attention," said Sgt. Daniel L. Bloom, a heavy-equipment operator with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

It's imperative for Marines to be sensitive to what individuals may perceive as sexual assault or harassment. Even if the offender felt he or she did nothing wrong, the offense is still punishable under the UCMJ.

Above all, Marines should protect each other and intervene when a situation becomes negative.

"NCOs must train their junior Marines to be watchful and learn the warning signs of a possible sexual assault situation," said Reyes.

NCOs enforce MCIPAC commanding general's policy on sexual assault. The general's priorities in response to a sexual assault are as follows:

- We must ensure the safety of the victims;
- Victims must be treated with dignity and respect and will receive the appropriate care and services;
- Commanders, in consultation with the staff judge advocate, shall take the appropriate actions in accordance with the UCMJ and the relevant orders and directives;
- Alleged offenders will be afforded due process and have their rights protected.

Victims of sexual assault can call the 24/7 Sexual Assault Prevention & Response hotline from off-base at 098-970-4673 or on-base at 645-4673.

DISCUSSION BOARD: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sgt. Cherie T. Champ

"I feel that NCOs need to take a stand against sexual assault because we are the first line of defense when it comes to it. We are here to help, protect and educate our Marines. We need to give them the knowledge to be able to see the warning signs of sexual assault and how to handle the situation."



Sgt. Daniel B. Goodman

"There are no situations in which sexual assault is appropriate. There is no case in which it should be tolerated. It is important for NCO's to make sure all their Marines feel comfortable in their unit. If a Marine feels uncomfortable in their unit, then it is up to the NCO to take a stand. If any Marines in my unit become involved in a sexual assault, in any way, I expect them to come forward and tell me about the situation so that I can take appropriate measures."

To join the discussion, visit www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac

Participants run for autism awareness



Participants of the 2nd Annual Autism Family Fun Run/Walk begin the five-kilometer race in the parking lot of Gunners Fitness Center on Camp Foster April 14. The Autism Family Fun Run/Walk is one of the "1:88 – Educate, Advocate, Elevate" Autism Awareness month activities. Visit www.militaryonesource.com/specialneeds for more information on the exceptional family member program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

BUDGET from pg 1

informing taxpayers how they are investing to strengthen national security, according to the Fiscal Year 2012 U.S. Department of Defense budget request overview.

In an effort to motivate Marines in the area of unit fiscal responsibilities, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group established the fund administrator of the quarter and fund administrator of the year programs.

The programs involve an awards ceremony using competition as an incentive to promote efficiency of financial management within units. Clerks who have successfully met five criteria to improve the management of unit funds are to be recognized.

Currently, units within 3rd MLG have taken part in the program, but with the recent success there are hopes the programs will spread to the other major subordinate commands of III MEF, said Lt. Col. Mark A. Hensen, comptroller for 3rd MLG.

Major subordinate commands within III MEF are also adopting new programs to meet the requirements of a downsized budget. For example, 3rd Marine Division will award Marines who have made significant contributions on an individual basis.

"Every command within the division contributed to the budget cuts," said Capt. Michael E. Feuquay, deputy comptroller for 3rd Marine Division. "A refocused effort was conducted to maintain readiness and accomplish the mission with reduced resources."

1st Marine Aircraft Wing's focus is to ensure unit fiscal clerks are learning and developing the skills needed to be effective financial resource analysts, said Capt. Jamahl Evans, budget officer for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Although each major subordinate command within III MEF has a different approach to ensure the compliance of the new budget cuts, each unit shares the same goal of mission accomplishment with the available funds.

"Our emphasis at this time is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being executed in a legal, efficient and timely manner," said Evans.

RANGE from pg 1

need to make to fit our scheme of maneuver," said 2nd Lt. Gregory Jurschak, a platoon commander with Company F. "It also helps us see the capabilities and limitations of the specific range or training area."

Before beginning the survey, the Marines listened to a safety brief from the Australian Defence Force.

Range safety officers explained the dangers, rules and policies of the training areas and what the Marines should consider when establishing firing points, patrol routes and organized platoon movements.

Gunnery Sgt. William B. Kaczowski, company gunnery sergeant for Company F, said one of the first things he does when conducting range reconnaissance is determining an appropriate firing line and recording the grid coordinates on a map. Once the firing line is set, he addresses safety and environmental considerations.

"We look on a map and use a surface danger zone overlay to ensure our rounds are not impacting where we don't want them to," Kaczowski said. "I like to walk the grounds, especially if we're doing a fire-maneuver range, look at where I want the targets, and find the left and right lateral limits in relation to the target placements."

The SDZ is a perimeter that surrounds the firing zones and is vital when scouting a range. The Marine Corps SDZ is unique to Marine Corps weapons systems and might differ from an allied force's SDZ. Because of this, range recon is especially important when training outside of the U.S., said Kaczowski.

Jurschak believes the most important aspect of range recon is to ensure that the terrain and environment will facilitate the training objectives and to do so in a safe manner.

Finding places to store ammunition, vehicles and gear is also an important goal when

walking through a training area, said Jurschak.

Without range recon, a rifle company would be ill-prepared to conduct infantry training, said Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, a scout sniper with Company F.

"You'll be unprepared," said Schmitz. "It will take away from training because you won't have the proper assets to support your mission and you won't know what to expect when actually training."

"This prepares us so no surprises will come up and it helps us train proficiently while also keeping us and those around the training area safe," said Schmitz.

Company F is first to deploy to Australia under a new force posture initiative announced in November 2011 that over the next several years will establish a rotational deployment of up to a 2,500 person Marine air-ground task force.

The Marines plan to conduct their first live-fire exercise at Kangaroo Flats Training Area this month.

BK '12 from pg 1

contingencies changes over time, our relationship remains."

The primary purpose of the exercise is to improve interoperability with partner nations and prepare in case of disaster relief operations.

The exercise will contain three main components: a command post exercise in the national capital region including representatives from various countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; field training exercises around the country involving more than 6,000 troops; and humanitarian civic assistance projects where teams will build five schools and provide medical and dental care to more than 22,000 people.

"In the next 10 days, as the Armed Forces of the

Philippines and the U.S. execute their tasks pertaining to scheduled events for this year's exercise, we hope to provide the Filipino and American public an inspiring and heartwarming chain of events," said Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Victor Emmanuel C. Martir, Philippine exercise director. "Our armed forces continue to work together for a secure and stable Asia-Pacific region – (displaying) their awareness and responsiveness to the needs of our people and our neighbors."

Those also in attendance at the ceremony were Patricia Paez, Philippine Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Harry K. Thomas, Jr., U.S. ambassador to the Philippines; and Philippine Army Gen. Jessie D. Dellosa, Armed Forces Philippines chief of staff.

BK '12 is scheduled to take place through April 27.



A reconnaissance Marine looks through his spotting scope during an observation exercise during a three-week maritime raid force urban sniper course at Camp Hansen April 13.



A reconnaissance Marine takes part in a timed shooting drill while marksmanship in a three-week maritime raid force urban sniper course at Camp Schwab April 14. The Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, judged the sniper with 31st ME engaging the targets.

31st MEU snipers sha

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

“Targets are up! Targets are moving!” Upon the commands, a volley of rifle fire is unleashed. One by

one, the targets go down from the rapid and accurate fire of force reconnaissance snipers with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

For these snipers with the 31st MEU, III Marine Expeditionary Force, it is just another day in the office as they take part in the three-week maritime raid force urban sniper course offered by the Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, at the ranges on Camps Hansen and Schwab April 9-27.

“The focus of the course is the build up of what we learned at the basic snipers course,” said Sgt. Joseph M. Sousa, a reconnaissance sniper with the 31st MEU. “At the basic course, we are taught the traditional skills of a sniper.”

At the course, they learn marksmanship, concealment and field skills, which are the essentials needed to be a sniper, said Gunnery Sgt. Owen E. Mulder, the lead reconnaissance surveillance and urban sniper instructor with SOTG.

“During this course, we teach (them) how to employ sniper support during raids in the support of MEU operations,” Mulder said.

“The overall goal of the course is to remind them of issues they will run into when sniping in an urban environment,” said Sgt. Ronald J. Lewis, a marksmanship instructor with SOTG. “The major difficulty is making accurate wind calls. It is the number one reason why a



A reconnaissance Marine adjusts his scope during an observation exercise as part of the three-week maritime raid force urban sniper course at Camp Hansen, April 13. For the snipers with the 31st MEU, the most important skill needed is observation.



Instructors watch where his shots hit during drills. Instructors with Special Operations Unit, on his speed and accuracy while

Sharpen skills

sniper would miss the target.”

Wind is often a predominate factor that can cause a bullet to miss its mark, according to Mulder.

“Trying to estimate the effects of an invisible, constantly changing force is not an easy skill to master,” Mulder said.

To ensure the snipers are able to hit their target, the instructors conduct observation drills with the snipers.

“We are focusing on building up their observation ability, so they can look at subtle things in the environment,” said Lewis. “Puffs of dirt from someone walking or the way someone’s shirt is blowing in the wind can assist in making an accurate wind call.”

In an urban environment, wind is not the only challenge a sniper will face.

“In an urban environment, the distance from the sniper to his target is much closer than in other environments,” said Mulder. “The target also has more cover to hide behind, which means the sniper will almost never be able to see the full profile of his target.”

While the urban environment holds many challenges for the sniper, the skills taught in this course will ultimately help save Marines’ lives, according to Sousa.

“Once a sniper opens fire, the enemy becomes paralyzed with fear,” said Sousa. “They will not pay attention to any Marines coming through the door. This is what sniper support brings to a unit.”

Reconnaissance Marines work together to eliminate multiple moving targets during a three-week maritime raid force urban sniper course at Camp Schwab April 13. During the drill, the snipers with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, timed their shots together to ensure their targets were hit.



Fueling the mission

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF



A Marine with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron monitors the fuel intake of an F/A-18 Hornet during a hot refuel at the hot-fuel pits on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma April 10. Hot-refueling is when aircraft are refueled with engines running with the intent of getting the aircraft back in the air as quickly as possible.

Marines provide hot-fuel service for training

Jets roared across the flight line as they took off with a tank full of fuel and a mission to complete.

Marines with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron hot-refueled F/A-18 Hornets at the hot-fuel pits on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma April 10.

Hot-refueling is the refueling of an aircraft with its engine or engines running with the intent of getting the aircraft back in the air as quickly as possible, according to Sgt. Nathan J. Davis, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the hot-pits.

"Pilots count on our fast service to be able to return to their operation as soon as possible," Lance Cpl. Jhamie M. Moore, a bulk fuel specialist with the squadron.

The jets, attached to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, were participating in regularly scheduled, routine training in ranges off the coast of Okinawa and used MCAS Futenma for hot-pit refueling operations during the exercise.

We are running two fuel points at

a time which allows the servicing four aircraft simultaneously, said Davis.

It is important to maintain focused on the mission and operate efficiently to be

able to provide the best service possible, said Moore.

"In comparison, hot-refueling can be almost 30 minutes faster than cold-refueling," said Moore.

Marines involved in hot-refueling must train regularly

to maintain a greater level of proficiency and avoid complacency because working around running aircraft poses additional dangers. Reduced visibility, static electricity and proximity to moving aircraft are among the areas of increased vigilance for safety during hot-refueling.

"Marines must maintain awareness at all times when hot refueling," said Davis.

This job requires us to focus on safety and yet still have the ability to maintain the operational goal of being as fast as we can so that pilots can, carry on with the plan of the day, said Davis.

"Pilots count on our fast service to be able to return to their operation as soon as possible."

Lance Cpl. Jhamie M. Moore



Marines with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron attach a fuel hose to an F/A-18 Hornet at the hot-fuel pits on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma April 10.



Navy Lts. Jason M. Duff, right, and Ashley Clark, performing the Shrink Rap radio show prepare to answer questions during the show at the Armed Forces Network Studios on Plaza Housing April 9. The show was designed to tackle some of the myths surrounding the field of psychology and visiting a psychologist. There are usually two special guests for each show depending on the topic. Both Duff and Clark are with the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Shrinks rap about psychology

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Early in the morning in a padded room, Marines and sailors prepare to start their day. The padding is for soundproofing the room, where the Marines are the disc jockeys and the sailors are psychologists. The cue is given and the “Shrink Rap” show begins.

The Armed Forces Network on Plaza Housing hosted the Shrink Rap radio show April 9.

The radio show is designed to give advice, dispel myths and let service members and their families know that it is helpful and healthy to see a mental health specialist.

“Our audience is everyone,” said Lt. Jason M. Duff, a psychologist with the deployment health section at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. “We do the show during the main driving time to reach the largest audience. We want them to know what we offer and why we offer it.”

Each show covers different topics that may cause stress to a service member or their family. The most recent show focused on clearing up myths surrounding psychology and its practices.

“We deal with all types of stress,” said Duff. “We take care of combat stress for those service members that have recently returned from deployment. Also, we work with transitional stress from moving into a new culture.”

The show is not designed to actually diagnose anyone, but to give an idea of how mental health specialists operate, said Duff.

“A myth that often comes up is that psychologists automatically go after the childhood,” said Lt. Ashley Clark, a psychologist with the outpatient health section at the USNH Okinawa. “We might have to go through your childhood, but it is not what we start with. We take care of what is causing the stress at that point in time.”

Other myths that were discussed



Lt. Jason M. Duff answers questions on the Shrink Rap radio show at the Armed Forces Network Studios on Plaza Housing April 9. The show is designed to give advice to service members and their families on Okinawa regarding their mental health. Each show differs in the topic of discussion with different specialists as guests. Duff is a psychologist with the deployment health section at the United States Naval Hospital Okinawa.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

involved the immediate prescription of medication, irreversibly changing your personality and therapists being full of useless advice.

“Professional help is more objective than a friend or family,” said Clark. “They might be trying to save their relationship with you, while we are trying to help you. We have a relationship with you, but we also give constructive feedback too.”

The show has been ongoing since 2009, and each show has different special guests, said Brian J. Davis, the public affairs officer at USNH Okinawa.

The Shrink Rap radio show airs the second Tuesday of every month on Wave 89 FM at 7 a.m.

Judo instructor honored for 15 years of teaching

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

For the first time on Okinawa, an American was recognized by the Okinawan Judo Association with an award for instructor of the year at the Okinawa Budokan in Naha April 7.

Paul E. Newman, the deputy camp commander on Camp Kinser, received the award for his more than 15 years of experience as a Judo instructor on Okinawa. Newman instructs four days-a-week at the Kadena Air Base Judo Club and co-instructs a Saturday and Sunday class at the Koza Athletic Park.

“Teaching Judo is all I have ever wanted to do,” said Newman. “It was something that I excelled at, and I developed a really strong passion to want to teach it.”

Judo, meaning “gentle way” in Japanese, is a modern martial art form most widely known for its competitive nature. The objective of Judo is to throw, take down or immobilize your opponent through grappling, holds and chokes.

Newman was the first American recognized with the award by the Okinawa Judo Association during an annual meeting in which the members discussed upcoming events and presented yearly awards.

“It is a real honor to be awarded this appreciation,” said Yakei Nakamatsu, the head instructor of the Okinawa City Judo Association. “It is rare for an American to receive this honor because of the time commitment it requires to be recognized.”

At the age of 27, Newman tried several different martial arts methods until he found Judo. After 24 years, the now 4th-degree black-belt instructor may not be as energetic as he once was but he can still compete with the best of them, according to Newman.

“I am very proud of my husband for what he gives back to the community while instructing,” said Saori H. Newman, a budget analyst for 18th Civil Engineering Group. “He truly is a great role model to his students, and has provided several opportunities for Americans and Japanese students to train together.”

Newman’s classes at the KAB Judo club are open to service members and their families and run Monday and Friday for participants 10 years or younger and Tuesday and Thursday for participants older than 10. His classes at the Koza Athletic Park are open to anyone ages three to adult from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to noon Sundays.

For more information on attending classes, visit the Kadena Air Base Judo Club Facebook page at www.facebook.com/#!/groups/267015006688699.



Paul E. Newman, right, accepts an award for instructor of the year from the president of the Okinawan Judo Association at the Okinawan Budokan in Naha April 7. Newman was the first American recognized by the Okinawa Judo Association. He is the deputy camp commander for Camp Kinser. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock



Drew A. Sizemore, a boy scout with Troop 112 in Okinawa, takes aim at the marksmanship station during a weeklong camp at Kin Blue Beach Training Area April 12. During the camp, the scouts had the opportunity to earn multiple merit badges. Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood

CAB ensures success at Boy Scouts' Camp

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Combat Assault Battalion recently made going camping in Okinawa a unique experience for Boy Scout participants and an excellent training opportunity for the Marines.

More than 150 Boy Scouts and staff members in the Boy Scouts of America's Far East Council were able to attend a weeklong camp due to the efforts of 75 Marines with CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, at Kin Blue Beach Training Area April 8-14.

"We are supporting the Boy Scouts with clean water for drinking and showering," said Lance Cpl. Dustin P. Turner, a water support technician with CAB. "We also provided them with tents, air conditioning and refrigeration units needed for this camp to be a success."

The equipment the Marines brought to process the water proved to be more than enough for the camp, according to Turner.

"We are actually using two different systems out here this week," said Turner. "We have our lightweight water processing system, which can make 60 gallons of clean water every hour. This is for a platoon to company-sized group. We also have our tactical water processing system here, which is for a company to battalion-sized group. This system makes 1,200 gallons every hour, so we have more than enough water for everyone."

Organizing a camp for the Boy Scouts outside the U.S. can be challenging.

"Back in the states, the Boy Scouts of America are able to use resident camps that are already set up with everything we need," said Renny S. McDermott, camp program director for the Far East Council. "Here in Okinawa, we just do not have that luxury."

This camp was the first for many of the scouts since arriving on Okinawa.

"I just got to Okinawa and (I) am new to this troop," said Luis J. Cortez, a Boy Scout with Troop 118 from Okinawa. "I have had a lot of fun at this camp. At first, I thought we would not be able to take showers the whole week, so the showers they have here are nice."

In order to provide something like this for the children it is essential to have the support of the military, according to McDermott.

"The Marines have been



Luis J. Cortez, a Boy Scout with Troop 118 from Okinawa, reshapes a piece of rebar at the metalworking merit badge station during a weeklong camp at Kin Blue April 12. The camp was the first Cortez has participated in since arriving on Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

outstanding. Without their support this camp would have been impossible," he said.

"I have never seen a harder-working bunch of young men," said Justin Wentworth, a camp director with the Far East Council. "They have helped us with anything and everything we need."

This is the first time CAB Marines have supported civilians as part of a training exercise.

"We have never had a training event like this," said Turner. "Usually we come out here and support other units doing training, so this is the first time where our training is supporting civilians."

However, Marines with CAB have focused their training to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, according to Turner.

"Being able to have an exercise where we are providing water to civilians has really helped us see and experience what it might be like when we respond to a crisis," said Turner.

The Marines were not the only ones to benefit from this event.

"This is a special opportunity for the scouts," said McDermott. "It gives them the chance to see what it is like for Marines to be at work. Many of their parents are Marines and being able to see Marines at work helps build a better family bond by giving the children some insight to what their parents do every day."



Combat Assault Battalion Marines work together to change hoses pulling water from the ocean at Kin Blue April 12. The Marines with CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, provided clean water and equipment to over 150 Boy Scouts and staff during a weeklong camp. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

In Theaters Now

APRIL 20 - 26

FOSTER

TODAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 6 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), noon; Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 3 p.m.; Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Hunger Games (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; (R), The Hunger Games (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 6 p.m.; Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), noon; Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 3; American Reunion (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 1 p.m.; Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 4 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Three Stooges (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 2 p.m.; Safe House (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Safe House (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY 21 Jump Street (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Safe House (R), 4 p.m.; Act Of Valor (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY This Means War (PG13), 3 p.m.; Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 3 p.m.; This Means War (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY This Means War (PG13), 2 p.m.; Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Safe House (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG), 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.

OCEAN EXPO PARK - MAY 6

• EXPO Park has many activities for sea-lovers to enjoy. One of its greatest features is the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan. Sign up by May 3. The bus will leave Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 8:30 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 9 a.m.

SMP ULTIMATE FRISBEE SHOWDOWN - MAY 12

• Join us May 12 in the field next to Gunners Fitness Center for a Frisbee Showdown. Deadline to sign up to compete is May 4.

PAINTBALL - MAY 26

• Join us for paintball May 26. Bus departs Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 7:30 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 8 a.m. Sign up deadline is May 17. There are 40 seats available. Bring your own water and snacks.

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:

“Nihongo de, sore o nan to iimasu ka”
 (pronounced: nee-hohn-goh deh, soh-reh oh NAHN toh ee-mahs kah)

It means,

“How do you say that in Japanese?”



April 9 - 13

RIFLE RANGE

Staff Sgt. Scott Hartman, III MHG, 343



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“We joined the military because we love America and desire to protect others. Sometimes it takes a simple question to redefine our priorities.”

Homework assignment reinforces priorities

Navy Lt. Steven T. Benefield
 CHAPLAIN, 3RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

John, my nine-year-old son, recently completed a homework assignment entitled, “Why do you love America?”

He had to answer the question in paragraph form using no more than five to six sentences. John has always loved America, but at no time has he expressed his feelings in writing.

John answered, “I love Independence Day and the freedom we possess. I love to worship God, and I love Thanksgiving. I hope everyone is honest. I love being kind to everyone and doing right. I like Christmas. I like being helpful and friendly and, last but not least, fair.”

Please know that my children are ordinary, flawed and imperfect like the rest of us. However, what struck me about my son's response was the pure innocence and whole-some manner in which it was delivered. The

similar innocence and manner by which we enter the United States military service.

Why did you join the military? What were your motives? John's response challenged me to ask these very questions and to re-examine the priorities and purpose of my existence.

In the military world, with our busy lifestyle, we can sometimes get off track. We begin putting our personal wishes before the needs of others. We ponder the next billet, the next school, the next duty station, the next qualification, the next rank and the next degree, allowing our self-centered desires to take priority.

As Dr. Steven R. Covey, a best-selling author, once said, “keep the main thing the main thing,” and the main thing is putting others before ourselves.

We joined the military because we love America and desire to protect others. Sometimes it takes a simple question to redefine our priorities.