

OKINAWA MARINE

MAY 11, 2012

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3MEF.MCIPAC

IN THIS ISSUE

FIRST CHOICE FOR MEAL TIME

Mess halls across Okinawa incorporate new beverages.

PG. 3

SQUARED AWAY TOPIC: SUICIDE

Join the discussion at www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac

PG. 4

SCOUT SWIMMERS WASH ASHORE

PGS. 6-7



CROSS CULTURE MATHEMATICS

Children participate in soroban competition.

PG. 8

CAREER ENDS ON HIGH NOTE ON OKINAWA

PG. 9

38TH ANNUAL NAHA DRAGON BOAT RACE

Traditional boat race draws crowds and participants islandwide.

PG. 10



FOLLOW US ON MARINES.MIL



Sgt. Davide Perna, marksman with the III Marine Expeditionary Force combat shooting detachment, competes with an Australian soldier during the first day of the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting in Puckapunyal, Australia, May 7. Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

Marines arrive for shooting match

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PUCKAPUNYAL, Australia — Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force combat shooting detachment

began firing during the Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting 2012 here May 7.

In its 25th iteration, the AASAM is a multilateral event allowing U.S. service members to exchange skills,

tactics, techniques and procedures with members of the Australian Army and members of 14 other international militaries in friendly competition.

see **AASAM** pg 5



Sgt. Timmy J. Crochet hugs his wife Cassandra and son Justin at the explosive ordnance disposal shop on Camp Hansen May 4 after returning from a six and a half-month deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan. 3rd EOD Co. is part of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Crochet is an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 3rd EOD Co. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

EOD Marines return home

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

CAMP HANSEN — Eighteen Marines were welcomed home here May 4 after a six and a half-month deployment in Afghanistan.

The EOD technicians with 3rd EOD Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were attached to 1st

see **RETURN** pg 5

Fire department named best in Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Marine Corps Installations Pacific Fire and Emergency Services Japan aboard Okinawa Marine installations was recently named the Marine Corps' 2011 Large Fire Department of the Year.

The department, part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, will compete against Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency and Coast Guard annual winners for selection as the Department of Defense Large Fire Department of the Year for 2011.

The department received the award for significant achievements and contributions in many categories, including customer service, innovativeness, firefighter health and safety initiatives.

"We received an e-mail while in Fuji from Headquarters Marine Corps informing us that we won," said Scott Minakami, the department's regional fire chief. "It was a great surprise, and we feel it is very well deserved."

see **FIRE** pg 5

Suicide prevention

It is every Marine's responsibility

Lt. Cmdr. Clifford A. Stuart

The recent suicide of sports hero and professional football great Junior Seau is shocking and tragic. Seau's death is a sad and poignant reminder that despite fame, success and wealth, suicide is an equal-opportunity killer.

Suicide takes the lives of men and women, young and old, regardless of religion, race or rank. Just as tragic, every suicide leaves behind family, friends and co-workers as collateral victims of the fatal act, who then struggle with grief and guilt.

Because suicide is also a risk for all Marines and sailors, the Marine Corps has instituted the never leave a Marine behind program. NLMB training is taught in peer or near-peer groups by rank with targeted information for each group. NLMB features video and discussion segments to educate Marines and sailors about suicide and to provide them with tools to take care of each other and themselves.

One effective NLMB tool is the "RACE" intervention technique, which includes four aspects: Recognize, Ask, Care and Escort.

Recognize risk factors and warning signs. Some common risk factors are relationship problems, financial problems, post-traumatic stress disorder, loss of rank and nonjudicial punishment. Common warning signs include

increased alcohol abuse and changes in behavior.

Ask questions, including "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"

Care for Marines and sailors. Caring begins with listening and showing concern if a fellow Marine or sailor is in distress. Care is also about showing that we care every day.

Escort is about knowing where to take a Marine or sailor who is contemplating suicide. Escort them to a leader or a professional such as a chaplain, corpsman or the emergency room. Do not leave them alone!

Another important NLMB tool is "The Resilient Marine" program which is about building and maintaining resilience by taking care of ourselves. It is important to have an outlet to relieve stress, whether it is hanging out with friends, enjoying a favorite activity, getting enough sleep, or talking with someone.

Resilience also covers the importance of being able to learn and grow in the face of adversity. Marines and sailors should look out for their friends and for themselves too.

Suicide prevention is the responsibility of every Marine and sailor. NLMB gives Marines and sailors effective tools such as the RACE intervention technique and resilience training to help prevent suicide. NLMB training, when used effectively, can save lives!

Stuart is the deputy wing chaplain for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Off Limits Establishments

Off-limits establishments are in effect for all status of forces agreement personnel attached to or accompanying III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific personnel on Okinawa. This includes all military members, civilian personnel (including contractors), and all family members in accordance with Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5420.2A.

- Shuffle Resort
- Bon Bon Dou
- Bar Sakura
- Samurai King
- Ground Tobacco Shop
- Hamby Bistro
- Feel Herb & Shisha
- Stoner's Den
- Takahara Hotel
- Bernard's Garage
- Liza's Bar
- JAH Reggae Shop Okinawa
- Tokyo Syoten Bookstore
- Events hosted by Parties International
- Yoshihara Red Light District

For more stories, photos and videos follow us 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.mcb.fct@usmc.mil or write to us at Public Affairs Office, H&S BN MCB PAO, Unit 35002, FPO AP 96373-5002.

AROUND THE CORPS



Marines and sailors aboard USS Makin Island at sea run May 5. The unit is deployed as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, currently a U.S. Central Command theater reserve force. The group is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility. The Marines are with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Gene Allen Ainsworth III



Roger Withrow cheers for his Marines during the shooting portion of the 2012 Warrior Games at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 3. The Marines dominated the competition winning 20 out of 24 medals for the second year in a row. The warrior games serves as an introduction to paralympic sports for injured members by inspiring recovery, physical fitness, and promoting new opportunities for growth and achievement. Withrow is a shooting coach for the All-Marine team. Photo by Sgt. Aaron D. Hostutler



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Valdez extends a helping hand to Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick M. Mireles as he jumps a stream during a security patrol in the Durzay region of Helmand province's Garmsir district April 30. On the final patrol of their seven-month deployment, the Marines toured the region to disrupt possible insurgent activity. Valdez and Mireles are with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. Evan A. Almaas

PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Ken Melton

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

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

Mess halls roll out new beverages

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — In an effort to make mess halls across Okinawa “a first choice for meal time,” new beverages are being incorporated into the menu.

New additions will include vitamin-enhanced flavored water, sweetened and unsweetened iced tea, low-calorie energy drinks and cappuccino machines.

As part of the transition to new beverage items, the Gatorade and Georgia Coffee machines will be replaced with new options. The new cappuccino machines are the same as those at convenience stores on military bases across Okinawa.

“Everyday, our food-service family is looking for new initiatives and ideas to please our patrons,” said Gunnery Sgt. Donald A. Bartlett, a quality assurance evaluator with Marine Corps Base Food Service Division, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. “By implementing the new drink options, we hope to achieve our goal of making the mess hall a first choice for Marines and sailors.”

Department of Defense personnel are responsible for the menu development, evaluation, nutrition education and research for their respective mess halls, according to the most current dietary reference established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

The new beverage options are meant to assist Marines and sailors in staying physically fit and mission ready at all times, according to Gunnery Sgt. Cynthia L. Bazard, Headquarters and Service Battalion mess chief, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC.

“It is important for Marines to have healthy nutritional choices to choose from in order to meet the physical and mental demands of training and conditions they may encounter in the field,” said Bazard.

Intended to attract Marines and sailors to the mess halls, a variety of new additions have been added over the past year under the Oki-food initiative, including the Oki-sub, Oki-burrito, Oki-rotisserie chicken and pizza for a meal card. The pizza for a meal card initiative runs on the evening of field days for Marines and sailors with meal cards who live in the barracks. All mess halls will offer this option starting in June.

“On any given day in the mess hall the patron has multiple dining options,” said Bartlett. “With that being said, patrons could come and enjoy something different at the mess hall every day.”

Lance Cpl. Ashlee B. Hunter, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, is a frequent mess hall patron and agrees that the variety of healthy choices available makes Marines and sailors want to eat there.

“Although it is true no particular mess hall can ensure perfection 100 percent of the time, it is our pledge to Marines and sailors that we consistently progress towards the improvement of our systems and produce an atmosphere and product you will find pleasure in being a part of,” said Bartlett.

Lifesaving skills exchanged in Vietnam

An ensign from the Vietnam People's Navy applies a mock splint on U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Stephen Bair during a basic lifesaving course in Da Nang, Vietnam, April 25. The course was part of III Marine Expeditionary Force's subject matter expert exchange designed to promote cooperation and understanding between Vietnamese and U.S. participants. Bair is a cultural liaison officer with III MEF.

Photo by Cpl. Patricia D. Lockhart



Bulk fuel Marines set up, run amphibious assault fuel system

Pfc. Codey Underwood

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Bulk fuel Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion conducted an amphibious assault fuel system exercise at the Camp Hansen parade deck May 7.

The Marines conducted the training to teach the unit's newer Marines how to set up and use the amphibious assault fuel system in a deployed environment.

The amphibious assault fuel system is used for receiving, storing, transferring and dispensing fuel for all elements of the Marine air-ground task force, especially in remote locations. The system has the capability to transfer bulk fuel to expeditionary airfields or stations, and dispense it to ground vehicles.

“This training is a great way to give new Marines an opportunity to have a blueprint on how to run (an amphibious assault fuel system),” said Sgt. Marcos Torres, a bulk fuel specialist with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Before this training, they didn't know what it's like to set up and run an amphibious assault fuel system.”

The training simulated pulling fuel from a ship into a boosting station, where the speed of the fuel flowing is increased, according to Pfc. Samuel J. Trigiano, a bulk fuel specialist with 9th ESB. From the boosting station, it is then pumped into fuel bladders at more than 100-gallons per minute.



Bulk fuel specialists set up fuel bladders in preparation for an amphibious assault fuel system exercise at the Camp Hansen parade deck May 7. The Marines are with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Codey R. Underwood

Once at the station, the fuel can be stored until it is needed to refuel vehicles.

“This exercise shows the whole process of running the amphibious assault fuel system, from taking the fuel off the ship to pumping it into a vehicle,” said Lance Cpl. Charles D. Bendler Jr., a quality control noncommissioned officer for 9th ESB.

Although the training area was small, when used in theater the amphibious assault fuel system can reach hundreds of yards in length.

The entire amphibious assault fuel system includes four 600-gallon-per-minute fuel pumps, 25 50,000-gallon fuel bladders and thousands of feet of hose, according to Torres. The system used for this training was much smaller than many used in theater.

“There is a lot of gear and equipment here, and it takes

a lot of manpower and effort to set up and run it,” said Bendler. “Showing the new guys how to run something on this big of a scale will help them out in the long run when they are deployed.”

Although the primary use of the system is to pump fuel and help advance the battlefield by providing fuel to vehicles forward deployed, it can also be used to help with humanitarian efforts, such as providing drinking water during flood-relief efforts, according to Bendler. The bulk fuel specialists can pump water from one place and store it in the fuel bladders.

“The amphibious assault fuel system is very versatile and useful in many different ways,” said Torres. “We can use it in different ways to not only help support in combat but also for (humanitarian efforts around the world).”

BRIEFS

PLAZA ENTRANCE DETOUR

Plaza Housing gate 8, the main entrance, will be closed beginning May 12 at 1 p.m. Work is scheduled to end June 22. All traffic will be diverted to Plaza gate 8a.

For more information and a map, visit www.facebook.com/campfoster.

TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN VIA NMCRS

The Navy-Marine Corps active-duty fund drive, extended to May 15, provides a valuable opportunity to contribute to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. NMCRS helps Marines, sailors and their families by providing assistance, including financial support and education.

To donate, speak with your unit representative or fill out a paper form.

2012 ROAD TAX COLLECTION

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:

- Kadena Keystone Theater: May 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Camp Foster Theater: 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.

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

For more details, contact 645-7481/3963.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

Per Marine Administrative Message 253/12, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the Humanitarian Service Medal for personnel who directly participated in the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support provided to the people of Japan following the earthquake and tsunami March 11, 2011.

To qualify for the award, service members are required to have physically served in the area of Honshu, Japan, or surrounding waters up to 100 nautical miles seaward March 11-31.

Contact your battalion S-1 for details.

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

Marines protect Marines, prevent suicide

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Suicide is an issue that, to eliminate, requires leadership from all Marines, especially noncommissioned officers.

Suicide is a preventable loss of life that diminishes unit readiness and morale and deeply affects all members of the Marine Corps.

Leaders foster the total fitness of each Marine to include the physical, social, spiritual and psychological dimensions.

Suicidal Marines may require long-term care from a professional, and they cannot start getting that help until the underlying problems are recognized. It is up to fellow Marines to recognize those in need of help and do everything in their power to prevent a suicide.

"NCOs need to take a stand on this issue to prevent Marines from losing their lives," said Sgt. Luis R. Vela, a team leader with special reaction team, Camp Foster Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "Marines should look after one another like family."

The number one cause of suicide is depression, said Sgt. James A. Lyon, a suicide awareness prevention instructor with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines who are depressed need to seek assistance from fellow Marines, Lyon added.

"Everybody has his or her own dark points in life," said Lyon. "(Seeking help) won't hurt your career because everybody faces challenges, and sometimes you need help to overcome those challenges."

Nearly everyone who commits suicide provides clues or warnings openly, according to the National Alliance for Mental Illness website.

Suicide warning signs include direct statements or emotional reactions that suggest depression, significant weight loss or gain, or other abnormal behaviors such as giving away cherished personal items.

"In the combat lifesaver course, one of the things the instructors teach you to do in combat situations is self-aid (providing medical attention to yourself),

buddy-aid (assistance from a fellow Marine) and then corpsman-aid (assistance from a Navy corpsman)," said Lyon. "When it comes to depression, Marines can't do it alone. That's why it's very important for all Marines to look out for one another."

Talking about suicide does not increase the risk of suicide. Asking someone directly if they are thinking about hurting themselves can actually prevent suicide. Additionally, avoiding directly approaching a potential victim can make him or her feel as if no one cares and may reinforce negative thoughts.

"The more you talk with (a suicidal person) there is an increased likelihood that you'll find out what's wrong with them," said Sgt. Gary King II, a barracks manager with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "Holding (negative emotions) in doesn't help, it festers. But, having someone to talk to and let it out really helps."

Every Marine is trained annually to be aware of the signs of suicide, said Lyons. Marines learn that camaraderie and understanding fellow Marines is the backbone of prevention.

"Marines need to have established camaraderie with those they are around every day because that's a part of knowing them," said Lyon. "You can know your Marines and look out for their welfare whether they are junior to you, your peers or seniors. The Marine Corps is a brotherhood and sisterhood, and your job is to look out for the Marine to your left and to your right."

For more information about suicide prevention or to seek help, call or visit:

- For emergencies, call 911 or 098-911-1911
- MCCS Counseling & Advocacy at 645-2915
- Military Family Life Consultants at 645-0371 on Camp Foster or 623-3035 on Camp Hansen
- Lester Mental Health at 643-7722
- For deployment-related assistance, call the FOCUS Project at 645-6077
- MilitaryOneSource.com
- www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevention

DISCUSSION BOARD: SUICIDE



Sgt. Nathan O. Burnham, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

"It is up to us to know our Marines and their habits. When you know them it's easy to see when something changes. You also need to make yourself approachable to your Marines. If they are afraid to talk to you and try to get help, it could cost them their life."



Sgt. Ted D. McElwee, III Marine Expeditionary Force Band

"If one of our Marines commits suicide, it takes a good Marine out of the fight and affects the entire unit. So, it is important to know your Marines' habits and be active in their lives to ensure it doesn't happen."



Sgt. Greg P. Spies, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

"Our junior Marines are our most valuable asset. Without their hard work and dedication, we could not accomplish our mission. We, as leaders, need to play an active role in their mental and emotional health, not just physical."

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

Marines march in Australia ANZAC Day parade



Marines and sailors march through central Darwin, Australia, as part of the ANZAC Day parade April 25. ANZAC Day commemorates the anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on the shores of Gallipoli during World War I and has become a holiday in Australia and New Zealand to honor veterans of the Australian and New Zealand defence forces. The Marines are with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

RETURN from pg 1

MLG (Forward) and assisted various units across Afghanistan.

"There are no words to describe the feeling of him coming back," said Cassandra E. Crochet, wife of Sgt. Timmy J. Crochet Jr., an EOD technician with the company. "I can finally relax now that he is home."

While attached to the battalion, the EOD technicians' mission was to support the rifle companies any way possible, said Staff Sgt. Nate McCafferty, an EOD technician with 3rd EOD Co.

"During our deployment one of our missions was to render safe any improvised explosive devices and any other explosives that were found," said McCafferty.

While deployed, the technicians disposed of more than 80 complete and 30 partially built IEDs, according to McCafferty.

"Our pre-deployment training really helped us while we were out there," said Sgt. Caleb E. Farrier, an EOD technician with 3rd EOD Co. "Staying current on IED trends also proved to help us in all situations."

In addition to clearing IEDs from the province, the technicians trained the rifle companies in counter-IED techniques.

"We taught the riflemen how to sweep for IEDs, as well as what to look for when on patrol," said Farrier.

The technicians told the riflemen to watch out for certain areas where IEDs were prevalent. They taught classes about terrain features the insurgents often use to hide IEDs.

"The infantry personnel were very receptive to what we were teaching them," said Farrier. "They really listened to everything we said and showed it whenever we were on patrol."

The EOD technicians accompanied the riflemen on every patrol in case they came upon any IEDs.

"Some days, we would (not) come across IEDs," said Farrier. "Other days, we would come across two or three."

The technicians have to be ready to go out and dispose of an IED at any moment.

"It was a very stressful deployment at times, but I think we helped out a lot of people in the process," said Farrier. "For every IED that we disposed of, someone else got to walk home that day. That is how I look at it. That is how I know it was all worth it."

AASAM from pg 1

The U.S. Marine combat shooting detachment was assembled by Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va., and III MEF upon invitation by the Australian Army.

"We all have the opportunity to showcase different skill sets with various weapon systems with people from all over the world," said Sgt. Nick A. Hill, member of the III MEF combat shooting detachment. "This is a big deal for all involved."

U.S. participation in AASAM 12 demonstrates the United States' continued commitment to partnership, presence and readiness with its Australian allies.

"This is the third year U.S. Marines have had the chance to participate in this event," said Staff Sgt. Travis W. Hawthorne, member of the III MEF combat shooting detachment. "We hope to do well and leave a lasting impression, so we can keep this going."

Upon arrival to the Puckapunyal Combined Arms Training Center, Victoria, Australia, Marines were afforded the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the multiple courses of fire involved in the



Sgt. Cody A. Nelson receives a class on how to assemble and disassemble the Steyr AUG A1 rifle during the first day of the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting 2012 at Puckapunyal, Australia, May 7. AASAM is a multilateral event allowing U.S. service members to exchange skills, tactics, techniques and procedures with members of the Australian Army and other international militaries in friendly competition. Nelson is a marksman with the III Marine Expeditionary Force combat shooting detachment. Photo by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

various events of the competition. While on the range, Marines interacted with members of foreign militaries and learned about firing foreign weapon systems.

"It's good working with the Marines because we come from similar cultures, but we're from different parts of the world," said Australian Army

Lt. Natalie Canham, engineering officer and competitor.

Other participating nations include the United Kingdom, Canada, France, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of the Philippines, Japan, Brunei, Timor-Leste.

The competition is scheduled for May 7-17.

FIRE from pg 1

The award can be attributed to the hard work and preparation of each member in the department, according to Minakami.

"The department has made innovative strides in preparing our fire department personnel for every contingency, from fire and specialized rescues to hazardous material and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear responses," said Minakami. "We strive to be prepared for any situation."

The unit is very eager to learn and acquire new skills, said Hiroyuki Nakuchi, a firefighter with the department.

"We are always looking for ways to improve our skills and abilities," said Nakuchi. "Progress never stops. We believe you should never be satisfied with your level of skill because you can always be better and stronger."

It is a great feeling to be recognized after all

the hard work, training and drills this past year, according to Katsuyoshi Shimabuku, a driver for the department.

"The fire department has a mission and we take it very seriously," said Shimabuku. "Recognition is nice, but we would still strive to better ourselves even if there wasn't an award."

The department's goal for the upcoming year is to continue improving and acquiring new skills and techniques while also trying to get the department accredited, said Minakami.

The accreditation validates the services provided based upon the needs of the area in which the department protects and serves, he added.

"Three of the fourteen fire departments within the Marine Corps are accredited," said Minakami. "Our goal is to hopefully get accredited and be the first Marine Corps fire department overseas to be accredited."

Marines qualify as scout swimmers

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Waves wash their barely visible bodies ashore from the cold ocean water. Covered in sand, they slip off their fins and slowly crawl up the beach unnoticed.

With all areas covered by fire, the beach is secured and they signal back to the boats that it is clear to land.

Marines with 3rd Radio Battalion and 3rd Intelligence Battalion completed the scout swimmers course at Kin Blue Training Area April 23 through May 11.

The three-week course certified the Marines as scout swimmers, a requirement for a boat landing team. Both battalions are part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

“The course is designed to test Marines both mentally and physically in all aspects of swimming,” said Sgt. Daniel J. Wiechmann, an instructor with Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group. “When the students complete the course, they will be able to perform any mission for which a scout swimmer would be needed.”

The first week of the course consisted of intense pool workouts.

The participants swam laps while wearing only physical training clothes, said Wiechmann. Gradually, they moved to the combat utility uniforms, and then progressed to full-combat loads. Each time more weight was added, the difficulty of the exercises increased.

After the weeklong pool portion of the class, the instruction was moved to the ocean to begin the final stages.

“The instructions (given to us) during the first phase translated directly from the pool to the ocean,” said Staff Sgt. Alex Long, a student in the course. “When we got into the ocean everything we were taught clicked.”

The students learned how to operate using different methods of entry and egress from the beach, said Wiechmann.

One of the lessons taught during this phase was broaching and righting. Broaching is the process of flipping a capsized combat rubber raiding craft. Righting is using the craft’s paddles to steer it in the correct direction. The craft is used by boat teams in the Marine Corps for quick and stealthy insertion.

“To flip the craft over, the Marines grab a line, which is tied to the side of the boat, then proceed to pull and lean back until it is upright,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joshua P. Turner, an SOTG instructor. “The students learned this in case the craft flips during an operation, and they need to turn it over and continue the mission.”

After the lessons on broaching and righting, the students learned how to perform clandestine landings on the beach.

Clandestine landing is inserting Marines on shore in secrecy before the rear personnel arrive, said Wiechmann. When executing a clandestine landing, scout swimmers off-load from boats hundreds of yards from the shore and swim toward the shore using only their combat gear and flippers.

“The whole purpose of clandestine landing is the elements of surprise and stealth,” said Turner. “The Marine Corps uses this to

conduct raids on enemy personnel who are located near the shore.”

When just outside the shoreline, the swimmers would then use a technique called “washing up” to make it to the beach by letting the natural effect of the waves wash them ashore.

“This technique allows us to blend in with the water so we do not blow our cover,” said Long. “We must have the element of surprise when conducting a raid.”

After making it ashore, the Marines slowly advanced toward their objective.

“They quietly moved up the beach and set a 180-degree security,” said Wiechmann. “(In actual operations), the follow-up forces can start to land on the beach after it has been secured.”

In addition to clandestine landing, students learned how to land on urban structures like piers and docks, said Wiechmann.

The final lesson of the course was helicopter casting.

“Helicopter casting is (inserting) in the water by helicopter,” said Turner. “The Marines jumped from helicopters then proceeded to wash ashore.”

The final test to pass the course was a 2,000-meter swim from the ocean to the shore using only fins.

“The reason for the final swim is to make sure we can physically make it from the boats to the shore in a real-life operation,” said Long.

With all lessons completed and classes passed, the students were qualified as scout swimmers.

“This course taught us how to be the first ones on the beach,” said Long. “To be the first ones in on a raid should be any Marine’s desire.”



Marines wash up on beach. Marines learned the technique known as washing up to get them ashore.

Marines secure the beach after conducting a clandestine landing at the Kin Blue Training Area April 30. The Marines landed in pairs to provide security for each other as they moved up the beach. Course attendees included Marines with 3rd Intelligence Battalion and 3rd Radio Battalion, both part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.



A Marine helps to conceal his classmate at the Kin Blue Training Area during a scout swimmers course April 30. A three-week course certified the Marines as scout swimmers for boat landing teams. Once on shore, Marines secured the beach for follow-on forces.



ers during course



to the shore at Kin Blue Training Area during a scout swimmers course April 30. how to operate using different methods of entry and egress from the beach. The as "washing up" allows Marines to use the natural effects of the waves to carry

Area during a other as they and 3rd Radio



A Marine secures the beach after a clandestine landing at the Kin Blue Training Area during a scout swimmers course April 30.

Students multiply math skills with Japanese culture

With pencils in hand and sorobans at their fingertips, the children dazzled the audience by solving problems some would only be able to solve with a calculator.

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

Competition was fierce as 160 students from across Okinawa competed in the 13th annual soroban contest at the Surfside Club on Camp Kinser April 30.

A soroban, or counting tray, is a mathematical tool that helps solve equations. It consists of an odd number of columns or rods with beads worth different numerical values.

"The students who participated in the contest have been learning and practicing their skills on the soroban at school," said Martha H. Brown, the Department of Defense Education Activity superintendent for the Pacific Okinawa district. "The contest provided an opportunity for the children to demonstrate what they learned and, for many, a goal to aim for in the future."

The League for Soroban Education of Japan, Inc. hosted the contest in partnership with the DODEA Pacific Okinawa district.

"Our goal is to spread soroban education throughout the world," said Kenyu Arime, the president of the league. "We hold more than 120 classes Okinawawide, and encourage students to participate in this form of Japanese culture to increase their math skills."

During the contest, students were separated by grade into two divisions, fourth grade and above and third grade and below. The students were tested on three different mathematical categories: written, oral and flash.

"The contest offered a chance for students to increase their math and fine motor skills,

while developing cognitive skills to help them with schooling in the future," said Mina Ohama, a culture teacher with Zukeran Elementary School. "Anyone can use a calculator, but a soroban requires much more brain power because of the amount of thinking it requires when solving an equation."

During the written portion, students were allotted five minutes to solve 30 mathematical equations.

The oral test consisted of an instructor reading a sequence of numbers that the students added or subtracted using their sorobans.

The flash portion could be done using only memory or the soroban. It consisted of a sequence of numbers to be added or subtracted, flashing across a projector screen.

I practiced for two and a half years, four times a week, said Anthony Laney, a fourth-grade participant in the competition. It helps you learn and understand a different culture.

"It was fun," Laney added.

Throughout all three segments of the competition, students were encouraged to do their best despite how difficult some of the equations were.

"I was impressed with the level of preparation our students showed," said Brown. "They performed very well, demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, and clearly had fun and enjoyed showing what they had worked hard to learn."

Four Japanese elementary students came to the competition to demonstrate their skills and boost morale for the students competing.



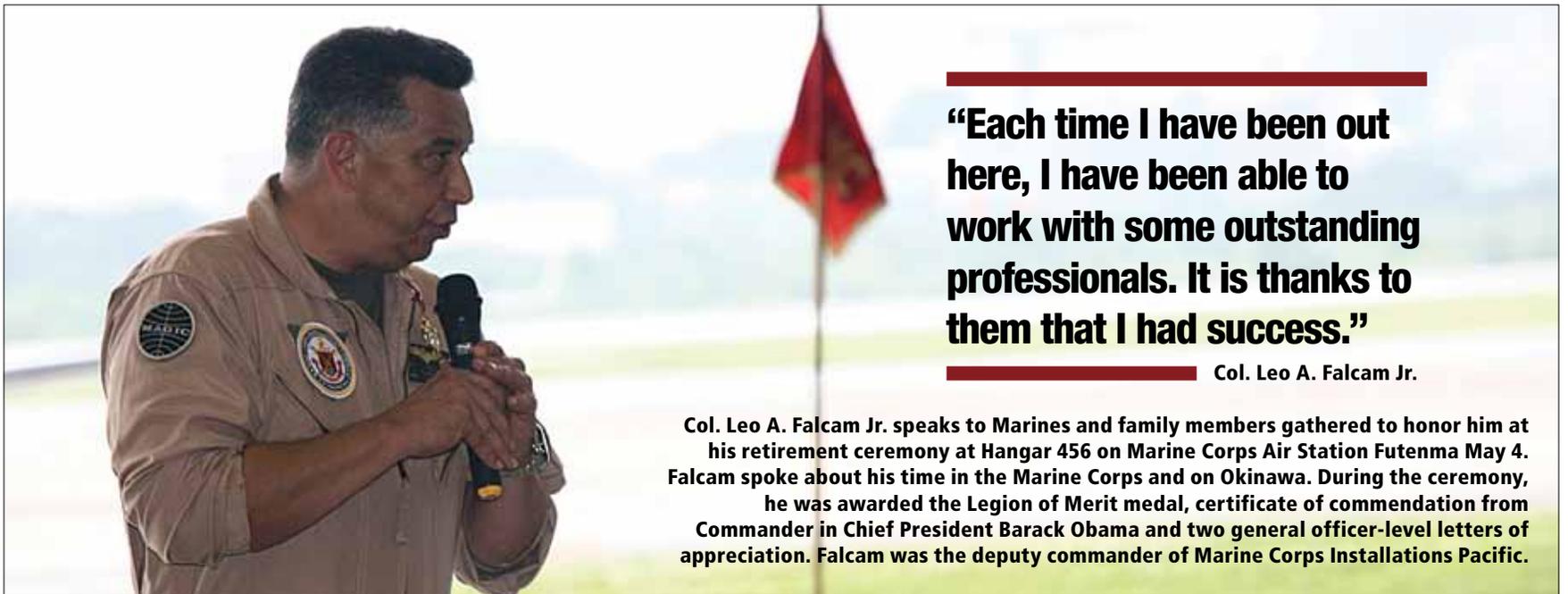
A competitor solves an equation using a soroban during the 13th annual soroban contest at the Surfside Club on Camp Kinser April 30. Elementary school students from across Okinawa competed in the contest to build camaraderie through competition and increase their mathematical skills.

All participants received a medal of recognition, and trophies were presented for first and second-place winners in the oral and flash categories. Students who completed all 30 equations correctly during the written portion were presented with a certificate.

Fourth-grader Anthony Laney and third-grader Kaleb Crouch, both from Amelia Earhart Intermediate School, won first-place in both categories for their divisions.



Elementary school students use sorobans to compete in the 13th annual soroban contest at the Surfside Club on Camp Kinser April 30. A soroban, or counting tray, is a mathematical tool that helps solve equations. It consists of an odd number of columns or rods with beads having different numerical values.



“Each time I have been out here, I have been able to work with some outstanding professionals. It is thanks to them that I had success.”

Col. Leo A. Falcam Jr.

Col. Leo A. Falcam Jr. speaks to Marines and family members gathered to honor him at his retirement ceremony at Hangar 456 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 4. Falcam spoke about his time in the Marine Corps and on Okinawa. During the ceremony, he was awarded the Legion of Merit medal, certificate of commendation from Commander in Chief President Barack Obama and two general officer-level letters of appreciation. Falcam was the deputy commander of Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Career comes full circle

Falcam retires after 30 years of service, many on Okinawa

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

Landing on the flight line on a cloudy afternoon, Col. Leo A. Falcam Jr., deputy commander of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, taxied to Hangar 456 for the last time.

Marines, family and friends gathered at the hangar on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 4 to witness Falcam's retirement.

The attendees included generals and senior leaders from installations throughout Okinawa, who met to offer their congratulations on a career well served.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Falcam's career started in 1981 with his commissioning.

His first experience on Okinawa came in 1985 when he spent a year with Marine Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, as part of the Marine Corps' unit deployment program.

In 1987, he returned to Okinawa and served in many billets for VMGR-152.

“This is a very special place to me,” said Falcam. “It has all been fantastic, from the Marines to my Okinawan friends. It has been a wonderful time, a special time.”

From 1990 to 1998, Falcam attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff Collage and deployed to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Kenya.

From 1998 to 2000, Falcam returned to Okinawa and was assigned to G-3, operations and



Col. Leo A. Falcam Jr. is presented the Legion of Merit medal by Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri during his retirement ceremony at Hangar 456 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 4. Falcam served more than 30 years in the Marine Corps with several full tours on Okinawa, during which he commanded Marine Refueler Transport Squadron 152, MCAS Futenma and served as the deputy commander of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. VMGR-152 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

training, III MEF, as a current operations officer. During this time, he deployed to Australia and East Timor.

In 2000, Falcam was appointed commanding officer of VMGR-152, and shortly thereafter took command of MCAS Futenma. In 2002, he joined 1st MAW's current operations staff.

From 2003 to 2005, Falcam attended language courses in the states and the Argentine National Defense College in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Falcam returned in 2005 to Okinawa to take command of MCAS Futenma once more.

He later became the chief of

staff for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and Marine Corps Bases Japan.

Following the deactivation of MCBJ, he became the deputy commander of the newly formed MCIPAC.

“Each time I have been out here, I have been able to work with some outstanding professionals,” said Falcam. “It is thanks to them that I had success.”

During the ceremony, Falcam was presented the Legion of Merit medal, a certificate of commendation from Commander in Chief President Barack Obama and letters of appreciation from both the Commandant of the Marine

Corps Gen. James F. Amos and the Commanding General of MCI-PAC and MCB Camp Butler, Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri.

“Today is a glorious day,” said Talleri. “Today, a great Marine and a great friend retires after over 30 years of service to his country.”

MCIPAC is better because of Falcam, said Talleri. The Marines of this command say thank you for everything that Falcam gave to the Corps and his country.

“This will be an exciting place to be in the future,” said Falcam. “That means to be ready. Not paranoid, just ready; and the MEF is well postured to be ready.”



Dragon boats, each 14.5 meters long and weighing about 2.5-tons, race through Naha Port May 5 during the Naha dragon boat race. The races lasted all day and entertained thousands of spectators.

Participants row through annual tradition

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The constant, steady beat of a drum provides the cadence for the fast-paced rowing that propels the 2.5-ton wooden vessel faster and faster through the water.

Okinawans, Americans and visitors participated in the 38th annual Naha dragon boat race at Naha Port May 5.

Haarii is an Okinawan word referring to dragon boat racing. Dragon boat racing was adopted from Chinese culture hundreds of years ago.

Practicing for the boat races is not taken lightly, even for the most experienced participants.

"We begin practicing for the dragon boat races two months before the event will take place," said Morihide Ota, captain of team Gunners and a competitor since 2005. "We practice twice a week for about two hours each time."

Dragon boat races are held year-round throughout Okinawa, but Naha haarii is the largest race in terms of boat size and number of participants.

"For me, I do the races because it is fun and I become stronger," said Natsuku Azuma, a member of Gunners.

The race is short, lasting roughly five minutes, but is hard and strenuous on the rowers.

"We build a lot of teamwork from the practices and the race," said Azuma. "We always focus on the fun and teamwork part of it."

There are many different versions of haarii history, but it is widely agreed that this Chinese tradition was incorporated into festivals celebrated by Okinawan fishermen.

This festival was held to pray for the safety of the men working at sea.

"I loved being able to be part of the culture instead of just seeing it," said Cate Scully, a member of the Single Marine Program's team Devil Dog.

One hundred fifty teams, comprised of members of Japanese and American companies and Japan and U.S. service members, participated in the Naha haarii.

"Taking part in this tradition has really opened my eyes and makes me want to learn more," said Scully. "I am grateful I was able to be part of the Okinawa culture."

The dragon boat races have become a common ground for

Okinawans and Americans to come together and build relationships.

"I love sharing my culture with the Americans," said Azuma. "I can tell they enjoy being a part of our culture and most of them are very good at racing. I have made new friends because of this."

"I love sharing my culture with the Americans. I can tell they enjoy being a part of our culture and most of them are very good at racing. I have made new friends because of this."

Natsuku Azuma



Marines with the Single Marine Program Devil Dog team practice rowing techniques before competing in the Naha dragon boat race at the Naha Port May 5. Maintaining straight arms and using one's entire body to help paddle is the best and most efficient way to row in a dragon boat.



A team celebrates the completion of the Naha dragon boat race at the Naha Port May 5. One hundred fifty teams, comprised of members of Japanese and American companies and Japan and U.S. service members, participated in the race.

In Theaters Now

MAY 11 - 17

FOSTER

TODAY The Three Stooges (PG), 6 p.m.; Safe (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; The Three Stooges (PG), 6 p.m.; Silent House (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Avengers (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Silent House (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Silent House (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Avengers (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Closed
SATURDAY Closed
SUNDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

TODAY The Avengers (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Gone (PG13), 2 p.m.; Project X (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Gone (PG13) 2 p.m.; The Lucky One (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Project X (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Safe (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Project X (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Avengers (PG13), 12:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Gone (PG13), 4 p.m.; Project X (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Lucky One (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Silent House (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 3 p.m.; Silent House (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG), 3 p.m.; Silent House (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Avengers (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Silent House (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Silent House (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Lucky One (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Safe House (R), 2 p.m.; Silent House (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Avengers (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY The Avengers (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Silent House (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Safe (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Lucky One (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Project X (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Gone (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.

PAINTBALL - MAY 26

• Bus departs Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 7:30 a.m. and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 8 a.m. Sign up deadline is May 17. There are 40 seats available. Participants must bring their 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:

“Sore wa, donna imi desu ka?”

(pronounced:

soh-reh wah DOHN-nah ee-mee dehs kah)

It means,

“What does it mean?”



April 30 - May 4

RIFLE RANGE

Lance Cpl. Joshua Smith,
1st MAW, 337



CHAPLAINS' GORNIER

“The many achieve the goals and accomplish the mission.”

Tool, craftsman paired for effectiveness

Office of the Chaplain

When I hold a basketball in my hands, it's merely a basketball. But, when you place the same basketball in the hands of Shaquille O'Neal, it turns into professional championships.

Put a golf club in my hands, and I make divots. But, when you place the same golf club in the hands of Tiger Woods, it turns him into one of the best golfers in the world.

A paintbrush in my hands might result in some pretty good pictures, if you give me lines to keep within. But, when placed in the hands of Pierre-Auguste Renier, it turned into incredible works of art.

How is it that the same instruments and the same tools can bring about such different results? Quite simply, a tool's effectiveness depends upon who is holding it and how it is being used.

In the Bible, a rod was simply a stick laying on the ground until it was

placed into Moses' hands and used to turn water into blood, part a sea, and direct a battle.

The same can be said for us. Our effectiveness depends upon whose hands we are in and how we are being used.

We call it the chain of command. It is the means by which we are ultimately in the hands of our president. Each person in this chain is important. The many achieve the goals and accomplish the mission.

This applies to all aspects of our lives, not only in the military. Not only does God want you to place your gifts, energy and talents in his hands, he wants you to place your pain as well.

For as much as when you place a golf club in the hands of Tiger Woods it turns into “oohs” and “aahs,” when your life is in the hands of God, he will also turn it into “oohs” and “aahs.”

Imagine what he can do with you!