

OKINAWA MARINE

JUNE 1, 2012

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IN THIS ISSUE

CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Danger of leaving children and pets in cars.

PG. 3

1ST MAW LEADS WAY IN AVIATION

Earns recognition for operational readiness during rapid deployments.

PG. 4

SMALL-BOAT COXWAIN

PGS. 6-7



BEATING THE ODDS TO BE A MARINE

PG. 8

CAMP FUJI MISSION

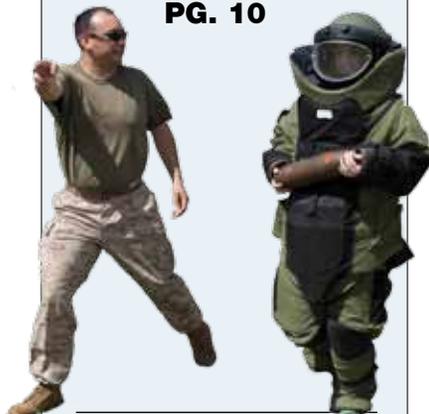
Facilitates units from mainland Japan and Okinawa conducting training.

PG. 9

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Spouses walk in boots of their Marine during Jayne Wayne day.

PG. 10



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HMM-262 receives new Venoms

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced) received three UH-1Y Venom helicopters at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 21 and 25.

The squadron, a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, received the new helicopters as part of a Corpwide transition of the UH-1N to the UH-1Y helicopter, which is the upgraded, newer and more capable version of the UH-1 platform of helicopter.

“The UH-1Y will be integrated with the Cobras and the other helicopters on the MEU,” said Capt. David J. Jacober, a UH-1Y aircraft commander with HMM-262 (Rein), see **HUEY** pg 5



Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced) unload a UH-1Y Venom out of a C-17 Globemaster III at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma as part of a Corpwide transition of the UH-1N to the UH-1Y helicopter May 25. HMM-262 (Rein) is a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

3rd Radio Bn. Marines conduct jungle training

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

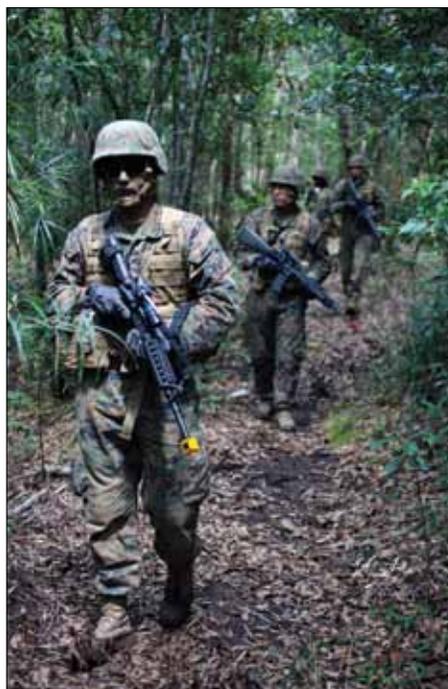
CAMP GONSALVES — Marines with 3rd Radio Battalion conducted patrolling exercises as part of the jungle skills course on Camp Gonsalves May 22.

Marines with 3rd Radio Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, took advantage of the training opportunity to experience a field environment similar to other areas in the Pacific in support of 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III MEF, which they are currently attached to.

“This training is good for the Marines because it helps prepare us for future exercises or operations we might have in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Sgt. Antonio J. Chapa Sr., a special communications signals collection operator with the battalion.

During the course, Marines learned basic infantry operations in jungle terrain including land navigation, ambushing, rappelling, patrolling and moving tactically through a

see **JUNGLE** pg 5



Lance Cpl. Stephen M. Henderson patrols ahead of his squad during an exercise at Camp Gonsalves May 22. Henderson is a special intelligence communicator with 3rd Radio Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and currently assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

Marines observe joint air asset

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Marines with Marine Air Control Group 18 visited Kadena Air Base May 22 to learn about an air asset the Air Force has recently made available to Marine Corps liaison personnel.

The group, part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, observed the Air Force’s E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radars System, which provides valuable information to deployed Marines.

JSTARS is a battle management and command and control aircraft operated jointly by the Air Force and

see **JSTARS** pg 5

Plan ahead for summer excitement

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

With the spring months coming to an end and summer right around the corner, the time for taking part in fun-filled summer activities is here!

Whether you like spending time barbecuing with friends or surfing, summertime in Okinawa has something to offer everyone.

The first thing you should do when trying to come up with activities for the summer is to make a plan.

When planning, you need to look into the many things available on the island. If you are interested in using the summer to learn more about the island of Okinawa or the country of Japan, one of the best ways is to schedule a tour. From on-island tours of historic sites and scenic waterfalls, to off-island tours where you can hike Mt. Fuji or explore big cities like Tokyo or Osaka, planning a summer adventure can be done by scheduling events with travel agents on or off base.

When making plans, be sure to include others in your summer activities. The more people you are able to get to take part in whatever it is you have planned the more fun it will be for all parties.

But do not rely on the plans of others all the time. Have some initiative and plan an event for you and your friends.

The best thing about planning what you want to do is that it gives you the time to ensure you can get the most out of the summer months. Whether you want to go on a tour or go camping with some friends, taking the time to plan ahead will enable

you to make all required reservations.

When planning, make sure you do not get stuck in a routine. Mix things up, so you do not get bored.

By adding variety to your summer, you and your friends will keep from getting bored of going to the same restaurant each week or the same places out in town.

Take the time to try new exotic foods or go to a different location to hang out with friends. Try not to view being in a different country as time you have to spend away from home but rather as an opportunity to experience a new country and culture.

Remember, summertime is the season when there is a large influx of new people coming to Okinawa, so be sure to involve new people in your plans.

Invite them to go with you and get them out of the barracks, so they can have fun this summer as well. Who knows, you might make some new friends in doing so.

Finally, the biggest factor in ensuring you are not bored and wasting your time this summer is to not stay on base all summer.

With opportunities to go to some of the best beaches in the world, experience a different culture, and see something new each day, there is no excuse to stay on base all summer long.

Whatever it is you decide to do for fun this summer, make sure you are staying safe. Take into consideration what potential hazards you might face and plan accordingly. Okinawa is full of fun-filled activities. Do not waste your summer. Get out, stay safe and have a fun summer!

Manning is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

“The first thing you should do when trying to come up with activities for the summer is to plan.”

AROUND THE CORPS



U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, right, commanding general of Task Force Leatherneck, and Sgt. Maj. Terry L. Jones salute the flag during an evening colors ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 28, 2012. Berger held the ceremony on Memorial Day as a commemoration for those who have died in service to the nation. Photo by Sgt. Sheila M. Brooks



Forward observers with the Jordanian Army and U.S. Marines discuss the indirect fire plan for a counterattack scenario during Exercise Eager Lion 12 May 23. Eager Lion 12 is taking place throughout the month of May in Jordan and is designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships of approximately 11,000 personnel from 19 participating partner nations. The Marines are with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chad Kiehl



An MV-22B Osprey lands in Manhattan near the Brooklyn Bridge to transport Marines to Coney Island for a demonstration raid May 26 during Fleet Week New York. More than 6,000 U.S. troops from the Marines, Navy and Coast Guard participated in Fleet Week May 23-30, and marked the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Photo by Sgt. Kuande L. Hall

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OKINAWA MARINE

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COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lewis

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee and
Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

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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

Children, pets vulnerable to heat stroke in cars

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Hyperthermia, also known as heat stroke, is a condition in which the body produces or absorbs more heat than it can dissipate and can effect adults, children and even pets.

In the U.S., heat stroke is the number one weather-related cause of death, taking more lives than floods, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes combined, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

As such, it is very important to remember children and pets should not be left unattended in vehicles, especially on Okinawa where summer temperatures average well above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

"When the outside temperature is only 80 degrees Fahrenheit, a car can magnify that heat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit within one hour," said Seaman Ian R. Williams, a hospital corpsman with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This increases the risk for heat injuries, which

Critical Days of Summer
Safety... look beyond the horizon

can cause internal and external injuries and even death."

Even if a window is left slightly open, the vehicle will essentially become an oven as its temperature continues to rise over time.

"Younger children don't sweat the same amount adults do, and they have a more difficult time controlling their body's temperature," said Lance Cpl. Travis J. Scott, an emergency medical technician and aircraft rescue firefighter with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Children's thermoregulatory systems, or internal thermometers, are not as efficient and warm at a

rate three to five times faster than those of an adult, according to a study published in "Pediatrics: The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics."

"Heat stroke begins once a person's temperature is greater than 104 degrees Fahrenheit," said Scott. "This heat injury is sometimes deadly."

A victim of heat stroke will have very red, dry skin and become delirious and confused as their core temperature rises, according to Scott. At this point, a person no longer has the ability to produce sweat.

In addition to the dangers presented by heat stroke and other

heat injuries, leaving children and pets unsupervised in vehicles violates Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5800.1C, which provides clear guidance on youth supervision.

"These rules are established to make sure parents don't put their children in dangerous situations," said Forrest Williams, a safety and occupational health specialist with the Marine Corps Base Installations Safety Office. "Children are often left inside running vehicles, which they can turn off and lock themselves inside."

Some animals, such as dogs, do not regulate their bodies' temperatures as well as humans, according to Lance Cpl. Tyler M. Scott, a military working dog handler with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Individuals should also make sure they do not leave pets unattended in vehicles during summer months, as they are just as susceptible to heat injuries as children.

It is everyone's duty to take the proper precautions to prevent heat injuries to children and pets.

For more information on child supervision regulations, refer to MCBJO 5800.1C.

Sailor recognized for Okinawa environmental protection

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP LESTER — Navy Lt. Carl R. Blaesing received a certificate of appreciation from the director of the Naha Plant Quarantine and Protection Station at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa May 23.

The certificate recognizes Blaesing, the environmental health officer and head of the USNH preventative medicine department, for his outstanding support of the Japanese plant quarantine service since 2009.

"His hard work and dedication guaranteed that no plant quarantine pests were introduced into Okinawa," said Kenji Tanaka, the director of the Naha Plant Quarantine and Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, government of Japan.

The quarantine department is responsible for inspecting all equipment coming into any Okinawa port, according to Blaesing. There are seven ports on Okinawa, and all incoming military-controlled equipment must be checked.

"It is a (24/7) job," said Blaesing. "We must be there any time a unit returns, and that could be days, nights, weekends or holidays."

The department's goal is to prevent any invasive species from coming onto the island, according to Blaesing. No foreign organisms, plants, animals, soil or insects are allowed in order to shield native species from harm.

"It is an honor working with (the Japanese government)," said Blaesing. "They depend on us to make sure no foreign organisms come



Navy Lt. Carl R. Blaesing receives a certificate of appreciation from Kenji Tanaka at United States Naval Hospital Okinawa May 23. The certificate recognizes Blaesing for his outstanding support of the Japanese plant quarantine service since 2009. The quarantine service is responsible for inspecting all equipment coming into any Okinawa port, according to Blaesing. There are seven ports on Okinawa and all incoming military controlled equipment must be checked. Blaesing is the environmental health officer and head of the USNH preventative medicine department. Tanaka is the director of the Naha Plant Quarantine and Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, government of Japan. Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

onto the island which can be harmful to their environment, and we work very hard to make sure we uphold our end of the bargain."

Blaesing's willingness to communicate openly on a regular basis resulted in a solid professional relationship that will last for

many years, according to Tanaka.

"We really appreciate his work ethic and attitude," said Tanaka. "The close communication made it easy to work with his department. We know they are reliable and we can count on them."

BRIEFS

III MEF BAND SUMMER CONCERT

Enjoy an evening with the III MEF Band at the Okinawa Convention Center June 9 at 7 p.m.

The band will perform a number of musical styles such as rock, latin, swing, contemporary and classical.

The concert is free to the general public. Tickets may be picked up at the III MEF Band building 5907 on Camp Foster.

For more information, contact the III MEF Band at 645-3919.

LEARN TO SWIM

Learn to swim with Marine Corps Community Services Aquatics this summer. Classes are available for all ages and levels. Registration began May 31.

For more information, contact 645-3180 or visit the web at www.mccsokinawa.com/summerlts.

6TH ANNUAL USO OKINAWA BATTLE OF THE BRANCHES GOLF TOURNAMENT

USO Okinawa is hosting its 6th Annual Battle of the Branches golf tournament at the Banyan Tree Golf Course June 8 starting at 7 a.m. Sign up at all USO locations on island through June 3.

Visit okinawaprograms@uso.org or call 645-2957 or for more details.

CAMP FOSTER GATE CONSTRUCTION

- Plaza Housing gate 8, the main entrance, is closed due to construction. Work is scheduled to end June 22. All traffic is diverted to Plaza gate 8a.

Personnel wishing to enter Plaza Housing heading west on Highway 85 will pass gate 8 and turn left at the first traffic signal.

For a map, visit www.facebook.com/campfoster.

- Camp Foster gate 2, the PX gate, will be under construction through the beginning of July.

- Traffic through Camp Foster gate 10, the gate leading to towers 376, 377 and 378, will be reduced to one lane from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through the beginning of July.

IPAC REORGANIZING OPERATIONS

To better serve customers, the ID card center, deployment/TAD branch and quality assurance sections have relocated to building 5692 at Camp Foster, and the inbound branch has relocated to building 5699 at Camp Foster.

ID card services are available at each administrative satellite center as follows:

- Kinser building 107, 637-1097
- Futenma building 550, 636-6614
- Hansen building 2653, 623-4749
- Schwab building 3509, 625-1100
- Courtney building 4319, 622-7214
- Kadena Air Base ID Center building 721 B, 634-4537

For more details, contact 645-5477.

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.

1st MAW earns aviation awards

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association during an awards ceremony here May 23.

Maj. Gen. William G. Beydler presented the squadron, a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, with the 2011 Edward C. Dyer award for Marine medium helicopter squadron of the year and the 2011 Pete Ross safety award for compiling the best safety record of any Marine aviation unit over the past year.

HMM-262 showed constant operational readiness through rapid deployment in support of operations and exercises while maintaining a working unit on Okinawa, according to 1st Lt. Christopher R. Corbeille, a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot with the squadron.

"We were attached to the (31st Marine Expeditionary Unit) for part of 2011, during which we took part in Operation Tomadachi," said Lt. Col. Aaron S. Wells, the commanding officer of the squadron, who accepted the award. "We also were part of the (task force) that assisted flood relief efforts in Thailand. I am honored to know through the hard work and dedication of my Marines, we



Maj. Gen. William G. Beydler presents Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 with the 2011 Edward C. Dyer award for most outstanding Marine medium helicopter squadron in Marine aviation and the 2011 Pete Ross safety award for compiling the best safety record of any Marine aviation unit over the past year during an awards ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 23. Beydler is the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. HMM-262 is a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

were able to deploy quickly for the events of 2011."

When determining eligibility for the Pete Ross award, MCAA looks at the number of mishap-free flight hours each Marine aviation unit has accumulated for the year.

Ultimately, HMM-262 proved to have the best record with more than 4,200 mishap-free flight hours, according to Capt. David M. Garcia, the aviation safety officer for the squadron.

The squadron strives to keep safety in the forefront of everyone's minds at all times.

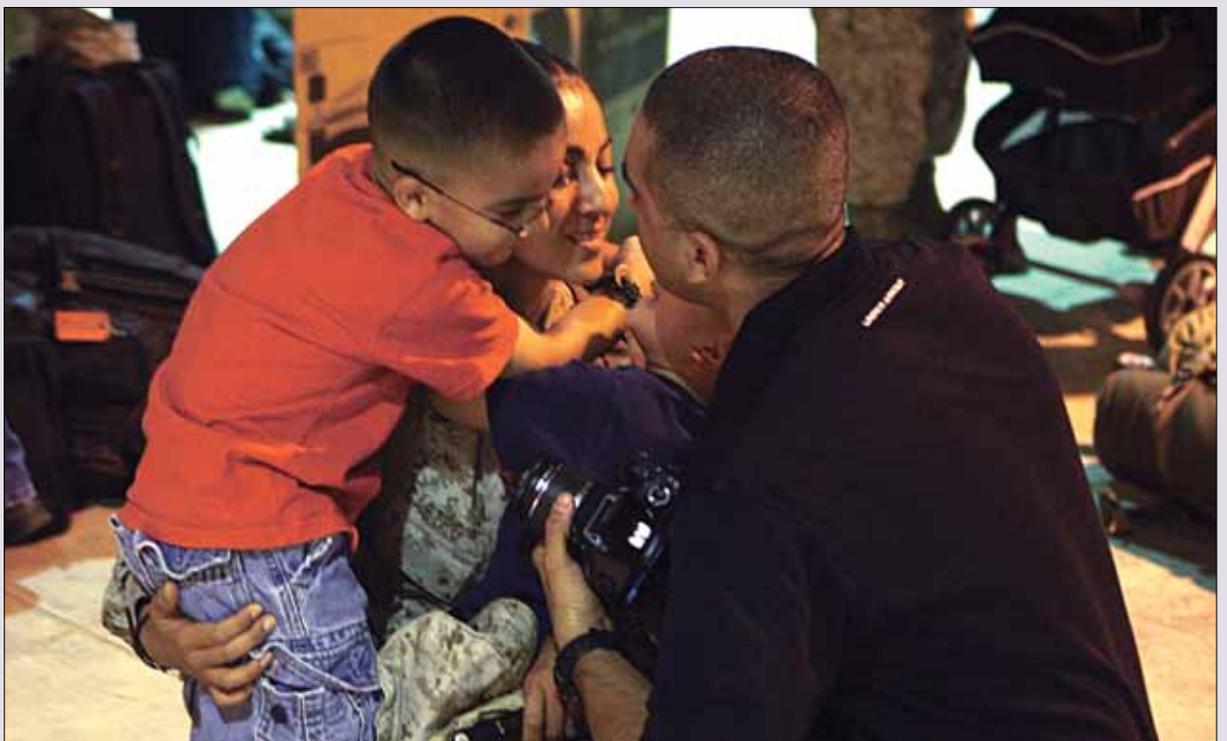
"Our command climate is one of safety," said Capt. Mike S. Tyson, a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot and schedule writer for the squadron. "We are safety

conscious as a whole unit."

Earlier this month, MCAA also presented Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 with the 2011 Donald E. Davis award for demonstrating the highest degree of leadership, logistic expertise, innovation and superior accomplishments of any Marine aviation logistics squadron in support of Marine aviation during a ceremony in D.C.

"This is very humbling and proves the excellent and outstanding efforts of the Marines, sailors and civilians of MALS-36," said Lt. Col. Henry G. Hess, the commanding officer of MALS-36. "We had the right parts at the right time, which allowed for operational readiness."

9th ESB returns from Afghanistan



Gunnery Sgt. Helen Castro reunites with her family at the bulk fuel warehouse at Camp Hansen May 23. Castro served in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the unit movement control center chief, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. 9th ESB was attached to 1st MLG (forward) during the deployment, carrying out various engineering projects in Helmand. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

3rd MLG hosts FRO breakfast



Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw addresses commanders during the 3rd Marine Logistics Group quarterly family readiness command team breakfast at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster May 23. The event included updates for the unit personnel and family readiness program. Crenshaw is the commanding general of 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

JUNGLE from pg 1

jungle environment, according to Chapa.

"It is important for every Marine to take part in this training because we are expected to fight in any climate and place," said Lance Cpl. Stephen M. Henderson, a special communications signals collection operator with the battalion. "Jungle or desert it doesn't matter, we will go wherever we are needed."

Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 also took part in the training as part of their annual training plan.

"The biggest challenge of this training is the jungle itself," said 1st Lt. William C. Morrison, a judge advocate with CLR-37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

"Other training environments in the Marine Corps do not have the terrain and the humidity we are training in right now," he said. "You will be exhausted after hiking all day."

In addition to the harsh environment of the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Marines faced other variables that provided new challenges.

"The weather has made the hikes more difficult," said Henderson. "It will be raining one minute and sunny the next."

"All the rain has made the jungle floor incredibly muddy and slick, which makes it challenging to keep from falling," he added.

Despite the harsh environment and conditions faced during training, the course offers valuable training for Marines, according to Morrison.

"I would recommend this training for all Marines, especially for those who are not in ground combat units," said Morrison. "This course offers the chance to get back to the basics, do some ground pounding, and become more well-rounded in our war fighting capabilities."

JSTARS from pg 1

Army. Air Force Lt. Col. Richard S. Ulmen, the detachment director of operations with the 16th Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron, invited the Marines for a tour on board a JSTARS piloted by the 116th Air Control Wing and operated by the 461st ACW.

The Marines received the chance to see the work space and equipment on the plane. This was the first opportunity the unit has had to explore the system in person.

"The JSTARS platform brings a capability that the Marine Corps currently does not have organically," said 1st Lt. Joseph E. Taylor, the tactical air command center's executive officer with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18, MACG-18, 1st MAW, III MEF. "It enables an extended line of sight and aviation command and control. It is also a theater-level asset that brings increased effectiveness to target acquisition and prosecution."

Marines were given a brief on the capabilities and operational history of the aircraft after the tour.

The aircraft can take tactical imagery and track ground movement of everything from large convoys, some aircraft and individual troops on foot. Information gathered by JSTARS can be transferred directly to infantry on the ground to expand operational awareness.

"Having a direct link would enable commanders the ability to gather intelligence and provide aviation support through deep battle management and close-air support," said Maj. Matthew R. O'Hara, the operations officer with MTACS-18, MACG-18, 1st MAW, III MEF. "The Marine Corps currently doesn't have these capabilities."

JSTARS was first deployed to Iraq in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm to track the movements of tanks, placement of Scud missiles, and it completed its mission with a 100 percent success rating. Since it was first used, JSTARS has been involved in several surveillance missions across the globe including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Having a Marine aboard JSTARS could prove invaluable to Marines.

"I surely hope there will be more joint work with the Air Force in the future," said O'Hara.

HUEY from pg 1

the aviation combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "We will be capable of performing missions from close-air support to casualty evacuation. The new airframe and other systems allow us to accomplish more."

According to the official Bell Helicopter website, the new aircraft have a 125 percent higher payload capability and a 50 percent increase in range over the UH-1N.

"The two engines combined with the four-bladed rotor allow for the helicopter to achieve a lot more lift," said Jacober. "The increased load allows for more passengers, more gear and more future upgrades to the platform."

The new helicopters are equipped with many electronic advances, according to Staff Sgt. Joe D. Corbit, a maintenance controller with the squadron. The new helicopter has a health, usage and monitoring system that does most of the troubleshooting for the maintainers.

The helicopter also has better accessibility and requires less maintenance, according to the Bell Helicopter website.

"There are fewer vibrations in the aircraft while you are flying due to the rotor," said Jacober.

The UH-1Y will perform the same functions and flight operations as the UH-1N, including combat, training and humanitarian missions around the world.

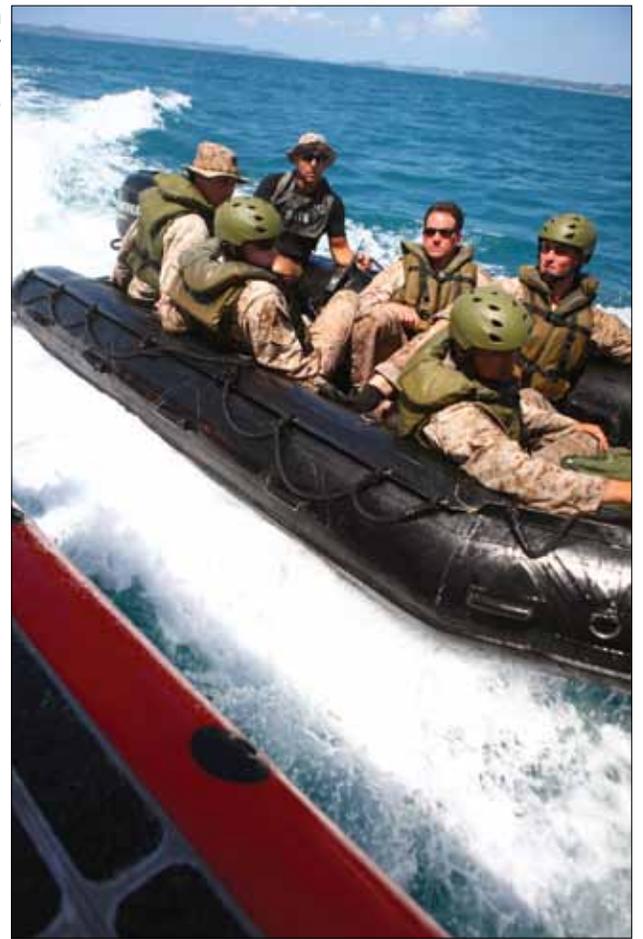


Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced) push a UH-1Y Venom out of a C-17 Globemaster III at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 21. The Venom is replacing the squadron's older UH-1N Iroquois as part of a Corpwide transition of the UH-1N to the UH-1Y helicopter, which is the upgraded, newer and more capable version of the UH-1 platform of helicopter. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Marines perform an alongside drill during a coxswain course at White Beach Naval Facility May 23. The drill would be used during an operation, such as a beach raid, where Marines would need to be loaded or unloaded from a boat.



Students of the coxswain course maneuver on the ocean to familiarize themselves with the combat rubber raiding craft at White Beach Naval Facility May 23. Coxswain training is important because it allows the delivery of Marines swiftly and safely to landing zones such as beaches.



Marines become small-boat coxswains

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

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

WHITE BEACH NAVAL FACILITY, Okinawa, Japan — Special Operations Training Group certified Marines of multiple units to be combat rubber reconnaissance craft coxswains during a coxswain course here May 23.

3rd Radio Battalion, 3rd Intelligence Battalion and SOTG are all part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion is part of 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. Each took part in the training.

The four-week training evolution certified the Marines as coxswains, or boat operators, according to Cpl. Wesley R. Hall, a small-craft mechanic with SOTG.

“During the course, the students learn all skills necessary to handle the CRRC in any situation,” said Hall.

Students learned about small-boat handling, navigation, alongside drills, how to tie nautical knots, and all parts of the CRRC during the course.

“The course begins with the students familiarizing themselves with the CRRCs,” said Hall. “They study every aspect of the CRRC from bow to stern.”

The Marines added to their knowledge of the CRRC and spent several hours performing small-boat handling drills.

“During small-boat handling, we practiced maneuvering the CRRCs in confined spaces,” said Lance Cpl.

Matthew M. Rodriguez, a special communications signals collection operator with 3rd Radio Bn.

Marines also practiced landing the CRRCs on the beach.

“While landing on the beach, the coxswain must know what the signal plan is and coordinate that with the Marines on the beach because those are the Marines signaling the CRRCs to shore,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joshua P. Turner, the lead amphibious raid instructor with SOTG. “This is important so that the CRRCs hit center on the beach.”

The beach will usually be marked with either chemical luminescent sticks or infrared flashers, according to Turner.

“When assaulting the shore, a boat company uses 18 CRRCs and sends six CRRCs per wave,” said Turner.

In addition to practicing their beach approaches, students also practiced pulling alongside moving boats, known as alongside drills.

“Alongside drills are when the CRRCs ride alongside another boat and turn into the boat and ride the throttle,” said Rodriguez. “This action sticks the CRRC to the boat, so that Marines can on or off-load for a quick exchange.”

The Marines would use the alongside approach in an operation if they needed to be quickly picked up or dropped off when conducting a raid, according to Hall.

Students would also use the skills learned during dives, reconnaissance missions and as a safety boat driver, according to Hall.

“The Marines became proficient coxswains by practicing continually,” said Hall. “Repetition is the key to anything. With so many moving parts, it is important to know what to do in every situation.”

With the completion of the course, students can now perform missions where a CRRC is needed.

“There are times my unit performs training exercises where we need to get a coxswain from other units to do the training,” said Rodriguez. “I can now take this skill back to my unit and conduct those operations and train other Marines in the basics of being a coxswain.”



Marines launch a combat rubber raiding craft into the ocean during a coxswain course. During the course, the Marines familiarized themselves with every part of the CRRCs and their operation.



Marines load a combat rubber raiding craft during a coxswain course at White Beach Naval Facility May 23. The Marines were taught to crank the throttle of the CRRC to allow the boat to stick to the safety boat. The Marines participating are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion and 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.



Marines disembark from a combat rubber raiding craft at White Beach Naval Facility May 23. During the operations.



Marines approach a designated landing zone using combat rubber raiding craft during a coxswain course at White Beach Naval Facility May 23. The paddles mark the center of the beach landing zone.

Marine overcomes odds, masters marksmanship

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.”

Lance Cpl. Danthanh T. Nguyen learned the hard way how challenging it can be to master the skills of marksmanship but proved triumphant when she shot expert this April on the range at Camp Schwab.

Nguyen, a Houston, Texas native, originally joined the Marine Corps in July 2009 and was discharged from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., that October when she failed to pass rifle qualification.

“As I left Parris Island, I recall someone mentioning the Marine Corps isn’t for everyone,” said Nguyen. “It felt unreal to believe that I had made it so far and yet had not accomplished my goal.”

Trying to adapt to the civilian world and refocus on school seemed impossible, according to Nguyen.

“Keeping in contact with the Marines who had graduated and hearing of their experiences made me feel like I was missing out,” said Nguyen. “I knew I wanted to be a Marine and would do anything I had to to make sure that happened.”

Unlike a lot of applicants, Nguyen walked into the recruiting station at the age of 16, said Staff Sgt. Xavier R. Bynum, Nguyen’s recruiter



Lance Cpl. Danthanh T. Nguyen poses with her M16A4 rifle at the Camp Courtney army range May 3. “Nothing is ever too difficult,” said Nguyen. “As cliché as it sounds, you just have to push through challenges because they won’t last forever. You never want to have the feeling of ‘what if?’” Nguyen is a wireman with Communications Company, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

and the warehouse chief with 5th Battalion, 11th Marines.

“She knew what she wanted and was willing to do anything to become a Marine,” said Bynum. “Before leaving Parris Island she made it clear to everyone that she wanted to return.”

Nguyen hired a professional coach back home and was put into contact with a retired first sergeant who was a former primary marksmanship instructor.

Nguyen practiced marksmanship for months before submitting recommendations from her coaches and recruiter stating she had put forth the effort.

“I submitted my package and waited three

months for a response,” said Nguyen. “They approved it and before long I had a ship date.”

Nguyen qualified as a marksman during recruit training and graduated with Company P, Platoon 4034 September 16, 2011.

“I basically spent the last four years of my life trying to become a Marine,” said Nguyen. “I had to finish what I started and earn the title.”

Nguyen later graduated from military occupational specialty school as the honor graduate and was promoted meritoriously to lance corporal. Soon after, she received orders to Okinawa.

“Hitting the fleet, my main goal was to re-qualify higher than I previously have on the range,” said Nguyen. “I was put on the range right after arriving on island, and I ended up shooting expert with a score of 310.”

Nguyen overcame major adversity and that is what makes her stand out, according to Master Sgt. William J. Smith, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Nguyen’s platoon.

“Less than one percent of the U.S. population will ever attempt to join the Marine Corps,” said Smith. “As rigorous as it is, she attempted it twice and completed it.”

Now that rifle qualification is out of the way, Nguyen wants to become more efficient in her job by learning as much as she can from her peers.

“Nothing is ever too difficult,” said Nguyen. “You just have to push through challenges because they won’t last forever.”

Marine implements recycling program, saves thousands of dollars

Story and photo by Cpl. Mark D. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Belk, a motor vehicle mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), came up with a plan to help his battalion save money in a combat zone through recycling at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

Belk’s idea was to implement a system that function-tests depleted tactical vehicle batteries. Under the new system, each spent battery that passes the function test is then recharged and redistributed throughout the battalion for use in its vehicle fleet.

“This is (Belk’s) brainstorm. He came up with the idea and (gathered all of the necessary equipment),” said Cpl. Edgar E. Aguilar, noncommissioned officer in charge, CLB-4 hazardous waste accumulation point.

“The program has saved (CLB-4) over \$120,000 so far on purchasing new batteries.”

Prior to implementation of the recycling program, all dead batteries were delivered to the Camp Leatherneck hazardous waste accumulation point for proper disposal, according to Aguilar.

“The value of the program is that it saves money for the battalion,” said Chief Warrant Officer Troy C. Havard, maintenance officer, Support Company, CLB-4. “It is also friendly to the environment since it keeps us from having to dispose of the batteries.”

The battalion’s motor transportation Marines now deliver expended batteries to the CLB-4 hazardous waste accumulation point, but instead of disposing of them, batteries are given new life. The drained batteries are examined for visible defects and, if found to be in good condition, they are recharged by one of the two charging systems, according to Aguilar.

The battalion’s maintenance Marines used battery chargers to test batteries on tactical vehicles when they came in for maintenance work, according to Belk.

“I used to work in the maintenance bay,” added Belk. “I knew they had chargers, and I knew we could use them (at the CLB-4 hazardous waste accumulation point) for a recycling program.”

The Marines ensure re-energized batteries maintain their charge by



Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Belk, a motor vehicle mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), attaches leads to a dead battery at the CLB-4 compound on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 20. The battery, which had been drained of power during tactical logistics support operations, was recharged as part of the battalion’s battery recycling program.

testing them for proper function before distributing them for use in the battalion’s fleet of vehicles.

“We measure the voltage of the batteries after they have been charged ... if they meet a certain requirement, we separate them and leave them for a day,” said Belk. “I measure them again and, if they are still holding the charge, they are good to go.”

Batteries that do not properly maintain a charge are delivered to the Camp Leatherneck hazardous waste accumulation point for disposal, according to Belk.

Belk’s recycling program not only saves the battalion money and helps the environment, but provides a good example for other Marines to follow in the areas of fiscal responsibility and protecting the environment.

Mt Fuji home to centuries-old training base

Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Loud cracks of artillery fire expose a different side of the snow-covered, 12,000-foot high peak of Mt. Fuji. What many don't know is the mountain is more than a tourist attraction; it has also been the site of military operations for centuries.

Located at the mountain's base, more than 150 Marines operate within Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, a 34,000-acre training site.

Tucked away within the training site is a small operations hub, more than 2,000 feet above sea level, comprised of more than a dozen buildings. The Marines of Camp Fuji live, eat, play and work here. They have a chapel, fire department, Post Exchange, post office, mess hall, medical clinic, motor pool, basketball court and even an obstacle course.

Their mission is to facilitate units from mainland Japan and Okinawa conducting training at their facility.

"We are a support element designed to help train other units," said Gunnery Sgt. Edward L. Buggs Jr., acting company first sergeant of the CATC Camp Fuji, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "We have numerous ranges for artillery and convoy operations."

Military operations on the base date back to as early as the Japanese Kamakura Period of 1185–1333. Thousands of Samurai, under the feudal government, trained here in the 15th century. The Marine Corps, however, has operated on this facility for fewer than 60 years. After World War II, the U.S. Army utilized the land, now a part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, until it turned the facility over to the Marine Corps in 1953.

Since then, Camp Fuji Marines have facilitated hundreds of training evolutions each decade – more than 50 yearly. Many assets on the base exist for the sole purpose of facilitating the needs of units training there, according to Buggs.

"Many of our vehicles in the motor



Military operations on Camp Fuji date back to as early as the Japanese Kamakura Period of 1185–1333. Thousands of Samurai, under the feudal government, conducted training in this area in the 15th century. The Marine Corps, however, has operated on this facility for fewer than 60 years. After World War II, the U.S. Army utilized the land, now a part of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, until it turned the facility over to the Marine Corps in 1953. *Courtesy photo*

pool for example are solely designed to be issued to other units for the purposes of training," he said.

However, Marines at Camp Fuji oversee more than the Marines who train on their base. They also fulfill the administrative needs of Marines on non-Marine Corps installations within mainland Japan.

"As the company first sergeant, when I conduct morning accountability I oversee our 150 Marines (and) more than 100 other Marines scattered on bases throughout mainland Japan," said Buggs. "Our admin section of about 10 Marines takes care of not only Camp Fuji Marines but also many others."

The Marines on the installation often enjoy the yearlong, unaccompanied tour on the base.

"It feels like being so far away from home, yet, the Marines and local Japanese here make it feel much like home," said Lance Cpl. Stephen N. Shorter, an administrative clerk with the administration staff section, CATC Camp Fuji, MCIPAC.

Buggs believes Marines enjoy the opportunity to experience a foreign country.

"The majority of the Marines we receive are fresh out of military occupational specialty school, and they love the experience of being in Japan," said Buggs. "Many of them have never left America before."

Camp Fuji is a base comprised of more than a dozen buildings operated by about 150 Marines. The camp is a small part of the 34,000-acre military training site located at the base of Mt. Fuji. *Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler*

Staff Sgt. Douglas A. Jones gives a dialed-down taste of what the first days of recruit training can be like to the families of Marines during a Jane Wayne day at Camp Foster May 24. Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 hosted the annual event to build cohesion, camaraderie and long-lasting relationships between the unit and families. Douglas is a warehouse chief with the squadron and a former drill instructor. The squadron is a part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



MWSS-172 hosts Jane Wayne day for spouses

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Standing on the yellow footprints, they wondered what they had gotten themselves into. Marine spouses and families were in for a shock when two former drill instructors walked in and took charge, starting a day of intense training.

Snatched up by the drill instructors, the spouses got a dialed-down taste of what the first days of recruit training can be like.



Erin R. Sinclair dons an explosive ordnance disposal bomb suit with the help of EOD technicians during a demonstration at Marine Wing Support Squadron 172's annual Jane Wayne day at Camp Foster May 24. Sinclair is the spouse of a Marine with MWSS-172.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, hosted a Jane Wayne day at Camp Foster May 24, an event it holds annually.

"We commit a lot of time and resources to bring our families together," said Maj. Thomas H. Gilley, the executive officer of the squadron. "It is a fun way to build cohesion, camaraderie and a long-lasting relationship between the unit and the families."

"I like the intensity (the drill instructors) had," said Christine Foti, a participant at the event. "It was exciting and scary at the same time."

First on the training schedule was the Marine Corps martial arts program. At this station, attendees learned how Marines earn each level of their MCMAP belts and a technique from each belt level.

The participants partnered up and took turns practicing the counter to the round kick maneuver. As a bonus, some suited up in protective gear and battled against each other using pugil sticks.

As the group finished the MCMAP demonstration, drill instructors quickly moved them to the explosive ordnance disposal presentation. There, EOD Marines showed off some specialized equipment used in their line of work. Everything from inert explosives to bomb suits and EOD robots were laid



Marine family members battle against each other during a Marine Corps martial arts program demonstration during a Jane Wayne day at Camp Foster May 24. The MCMAP presentation taught spouses about the belt levels of the program and how they are earned.

out and explained.

"You don't really hear much about EOD," said Foti. "They have such a dangerous job; I never realized how hazardous it is until I saw it firsthand."

Each spouse was given the chance to step into the world of an EOD technician by donning a bomb suit and running a small circuit course.

As the group cleared one station, drill instructors were there to expedite movement to the next station. This time the group was taught basic drill movements.

Waiting for the spouses at the next station were two mine-resistant ambush protected all-terrain vehicles and a 7-ton truck. Each

family member was given the opportunity to learn about the vehicles and see them in action on a small course testing their maneuverability.

At the last station, the group explored Marine weaponry and vehicles and had a meal, ready-to-eat for lunch.

At the conclusion of the training day, each attendee was given a certificate of completion from Lt. Col. Darin J. Clarke, the squadron's commanding officer.

"Jane Wayne Day has always been a fun day for families to come together and get a little dose of what their spouse goes through from boot camp to now, on a day-to-day basis," said Clarke.

In Theaters Now

JUNE 1 - 7

FOSTER

TODAY The Avengers (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Avengers (PG13), noon and 3:30 p.m.; 7 p.m.; 21 Jump Street (R), 10 p.m.
SUNDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Avengers (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY 21 Jump Street (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 6; 21 Jump Street (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Closed
SUNDAY Closed
MONDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Mirror Mirror (PG), 2 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Dark Shadows (PG13) 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Mirror Mirror (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Battleship (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 12:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Avengers (PG13), 4 p.m.; Project X (R), 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 3 p.m.; 21 Jump Street (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 3 p.m.; 21 Jump Street (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Men In Black 3 (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 21 Jump Street (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY 21 Jump Street (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 2 p.m.; 21 Jump Street (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Act of Valor (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Project X (R), 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The Thrift Shop needs volunteers every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers can come sign in at the SMP office a few minutes prior. Lunch will be provided.
- Amelia Earhart Intermediate School needs volunteers to help facilitate field game activities June 4-6 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- TriKids #2 is looking for volunteers June 2 from 4:45-10 a.m. to help set up, monitor and tear down the children's triathlon course.

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:

“Yoi ichinichi o”
 (pronounced:
 yo-e-ichi-nichi-o)
 It means,
 “Have a wonderful day!”



May 21 - 25

RIFLE RANGE
 Cpl. Odrano Fernandez,
 MCB, 331



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“We need to engage in activities that connect the memory with the present and fuel us for the future.”

Memorial Day ... holiday or holy day?

Navy Lt. Genevieve Clark
 MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 36 CHAPLAIN

In Okinawa, it is perhaps difficult to celebrate holidays with much enthusiasm being so far away from traditions, family and friends. However, this situation can give us pause to not only reflect on holidays past, but more importantly on the true meaning of holidays.

The dictionary defines holiday as “holy day; a day set aside for religious observance.” A holy day should therefore be set aside to recall events, people and times past that reconnect us with our beliefs and the root meaning of a particular holy day. Once we have realigned ourselves with an understanding of the meaning of the day, we need to engage in activities that connect the memory with the present and fuel us for the future. The following story may serve as a good illustration of what I mean:

“... memories of Memorial Day weekends go back to the times that my family would travel back to our home church for a weekend of work and fellowship. We

would all sit in a non air-conditioned, one-room church, fanning feverishly with cardboard fans provided by the local funeral home. We sang gospel songs, had picnics on the grounds, and drank spring water from tin cups. At one point in the weekend, everyone moved to the church cemetery where we would spend several hours beautifying the graves of our families and friends. We hoed out weeds, cut the grass, repaired fences, straightened headstones, and planted fresh flowers on the graves. The work was not a burden, instead it united families and communities with their past. It is easy to remember your ancestors and their contributions when you spend some time with them.” — Lt. Col. Ira Joe Davis, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Will you set aside a holy day to realign body, mind and spirit to honor the people who acted upon their beliefs to defend God and country and ultimately died for that belief? Will you truly celebrate the lives and achievements, along with the moral, ethical and spiritual choices, of those who have gone before?