

OKINAWA MARINE

JUNE 8, 2012

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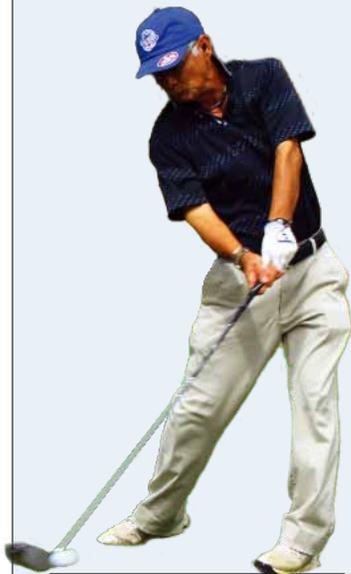
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FOLLOW US ON MARINES.MIL



VMGR-152 finds lost mariners



A KC-130J Hercules aircraft from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 aided U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam with a search and rescue mission June 6 approximately 60 nautical miles northwest of Chuuk Island. The Coast Guard was notified June 5 at 3:17 p.m. that two mariners piloting a 23-foot skiff were overdue to Chuuk Island and initiated a search and rescue mission. The Marines were asked to assist in the search with available air assets that evening and launched the aircraft the next morning, spotting the mariners at 2 p.m. The Marines dropped a life raft containing food, water and other supplies to the mariners and coordinated with the Coast Guard to have a rescue vessel arrive and transport the mariners to Chuuk Island. VMGR-152 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Air Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photos by Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick*

1st MAW bids farewell to MWSG-17

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

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Wing Support Group 17 officially deactivated during a ceremony at the field house at Camp Foster June 4.

MWSG-17, formerly part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, deactivated in accordance with Marine Corps Bulletin 5400,

that was released June 1, that dictates all MWSGs throughout the Marine Corps be deactivated.

“This is a significant day in history for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing,” said Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, commanding general of 1st MAW. “The downsizing of the Marine Corps has reached the Pacific. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is see **DEACTIVATE** pg 5



Marines, sailors and family members salute the colors during a ceremony at the field house at Camp Foster June 4. Marine Wing Support Group 17 deactivated during the ceremony per Marine Corps Bulletin 5400 that deactivates all MWSGs throughout the Marine Corps. MWSG-17 was formerly part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.*

Geiger Fury makes historic landing on Tinian



A KC-130J Hercules aircraft lands on North Field's Baker runway on Tinian Island May 30 during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The aircraft was the first to land on the runway since 1947. All 8,500 feet of the runway, previously covered with natural obstructions, were cleared and repaired by personnel with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 over the course of 14 days. The purpose of Geiger Fury 2012 is to increase aviation readiness and exercise the establishment of an expeditionary airfield in an austere environment. The aircraft is from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. MWSS-171 is part of MAG-12, 1st MAW, III MEF. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer*

Step in right direction for future

Visit retention specialists for assistance

Staff Sgt. Tommie J. Bargerstock

Marines, if your end of active service is between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2013 and you are on your first contract, your careers and lives are rapidly approaching a major crossroads. Retention specialists throughout the Corps will begin submitting re-enlistment packages soon. Now is the time to decide whether or not you want to re-enlist.

Several considerations should be made when deciding whether continuing your career in the Corps is right for you. Have you accomplished all the goals you set when you decided to join? Tangible or intangible, are you prepared to give up the benefits of being a United States Marine? Have you fully prepared yourself for another career? Do you need more experience or a college education?

Married Marines have to consider the impact on their families. How does your spouse feel? Is your family growing? Are you financially stable?

Most importantly, and relevant to all Marines, do you know all the options available to you through your retention specialist? Retention specialists have the tools and knowledge to help you make the best decision. Maybe a lateral move to another

military occupational specialty would serve your needs and the needs of the Marine Corps. Or maybe a change of venue is what you want. Do you know all the locations where you can serve? There are different re-enlistment incentives available for your next four years, and your unit's retention specialist can provide you with all the information.

Submitting a package is where it all begins. Sometimes Marines are undecided when it comes to re-enlistment. Despite being unsure, if you do not submit your package in time and ultimately decide you want to stay Marine ... it may be too late. You may have removed yourself from the competition without submitting a package. As a retention specialist, I never want

“Once a Marine, always a Marine, and regardless of the road you choose to travel, your career planner is there to help.”

to see a Marine miss out on an opportunity to re-enlist because they were unsure. I always encourage Marines to submit a re-enlistment package and see the response from Headquarters Marine Corps.

First-term Marines should be making appointments now to see their retention specialists. Do not take this decision lightly. Once a Marine, always a Marine, and regardless of the road you choose to travel your retention specialist is there to help.

Bargerstock is with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36.



Energy Conservation Tip

Use natural daylight to reduce artificial lighting whenever possible and save as much as 60 percent in lighting costs.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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AROUND THE CORPS



Lance Cpl. Dennis Burgess digs a fighting hole to establish a defensive position alongside members of the Lebanese Army in Jabal Petra, Jordan, May 21 during Exercise Eager Lion 12. Eager Lion 12 is the second major exercise for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, which are currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations as a theater reserve and crisis response force. Burgess is a rifleman with Company C, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th MEU. Photo by Sgt. Richard Blumenstein



A reconnaissance Marine with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, fast-ropes onto the USS Makin Island's flight deck at sea May 31. The landing team serves as the ground combat element of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Gene Allen Ainsworth III



Landing support team Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 5 rush toward a hovering Kaman K1200, 'K-MAX,' unmanned helicopter in Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 22. Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2 made history with the CLB-5 Marines by performing the first ever unmanned, mid-flight cargo hookups, also known as 'hot hookups.' Photo by Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

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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

Careful attention to safety, equipment necessary for successful scuba dive

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — To beat the summer heat on Okinawa, water activities are a popular choice, with scuba diving garnering a lot of interest from novice and advanced divers alike.

Thanks to Okinawa's expansive aquatic life, diving here is an experience unlike any other. Given scuba diving's popularity and inherent risks, it is important to pay close attention to safety instructions and sound advice from experienced dive instructors.

"While scuba diving, one of the most important safety tips is to know your limitations," said Ty McClelland, an administrative assistant for Tsunami Scuba at Camp Foster.

Divers are classified into three levels: open water, advanced open water and rescue diver and should stay in appropriate diving areas for their level.

"Do not let ego or pressure fool you into diving in an area you are uncomfortable with," said McClelland.

Before going out to a dive spot, divers need to make sure they are in good health. Being hydrated and well-rested before getting into the water can be the difference between a fulfilling underwater experience and a life-or-death situation.

As an additional safety precaution, divers are required to take a buddy whenever a plan involves water-related activities, according to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific Order 5101.

In a group, the risk of incident is substantially reduced and a fellow diver might be able to provide assistance in an emergency situation.

Beginning divers should always try to find a diving buddy with more experience who is familiar with the particular dive area, according to McClelland.



Scuba equipment awaits inspection at Tsunami Scuba at Camp Foster June 1. If equipment maintenance is neglected, it can contribute to malfunctions like broken seals and air pressure loss. Photo by Ian M. McMahon

Another important step to remember is to inspect all gear and equipment thoroughly before each dive. If the gear is neglected, it can contribute to malfunctions like broken seals and air pressure loss.

Divers should also bring a diving flag and whistle on each dive. Diving flags let nearby boaters know there is a diver in the water, and whistles allow divers to signal for help if there is an emergency.

After each dive, all equipment needs to be cleaned with fresh water and stored properly to prevent degradation caused by salt erosion on seals and pistons.

As always with any water sport or activity, be cautious of the sea conditions.

"We teach the 10-second rule," said Shawn M. Curtis, the deputy safety director for the installation. "If it takes longer than 10 seconds to decide if the water is safe enough to swim in, it's most likely not safe enough. Being safe in the water is

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

98 percent common sense."

Sea conditions are split into three categories; all-clear, caution and danger. All water activities are prohibited for service members during sea condition danger, according to III MEF and MCIPAC Order 5101.

Exploring Okinawa's aquatic ecosystem can be an exciting adventure but one must take a few cautionary steps.

To check sea conditions, visit <http://kadenaforcesupport.com/weather.html>.

Scholarships awarded for academics



Kubasaki and Kadena high school students display scholarship certificates from the Marine Officers' Spouses Club Okinawa during a ceremony at the Marine Gift Shop Island Treasures at Camp Foster June 5. The club awarded the graduating seniors each a \$1,000 scholarship for academic achievements for the 2011-2012 school year. All recipients are family members of active-duty or retired Marines and plan to continue their education after graduation.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

31st MEU welcomes CO



Merna



MacMannis

Col. John E. Merna assumed command of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from Col. Andrew R. MacMannis during a ceremony at the Camp Hansen Parade Deck June 1. MacMannis commanded the 31st MEU since June 2010 and is scheduled to serve in the Plans, Policy, and Operations Division of Headquarters Marine Corps. Merna's previous assignment was at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he served as the assistant chief of staff for logistics (G-4), 2nd Marine Division.

BRIEFS

SMOOTH MOVE WORKSHOP

The Smooth Move workshop is mandatory for all outbound transferring personnel according to MCO 1320.11E, MCBJO 1754.1D and OPNAVINST 1740.3C. This workshop was designed to provide predeparture and destination information and prepare service members for a smooth transition. Representatives from various organizations are available to provide essential information during the workshop. Attend the workshop at least 60 days prior to transfer. Orders are not required, and family members are encouraged to attend.

You can register for upcoming workshops online at www.mccsokinawa.com/calendar/email/asp or by calling your nearest Marine and Family Programs-Resources office.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS MOLD PRE-INSPECTION

The Distribution Management Office recommends a preinspection be conducted of all household goods/personal property prior to scheduled pickup. Furniture or personal property contaminated with mold may be refused pickup. A thorough preinspection or cleaning will help prevent any delays or pickup refusals and will ensure a smooth, uninterrupted transition.

CAMPS FOSTER, LESTER AND PLAZA HOUSING POWER AND WATER OUTAGES

Camps Foster, Lester and Plaza Housing will continue experiencing power and water outages throughout the month of June.

For the listing of scheduled outages, contact Camp Services at 645-0883 or visit www.facebook.com/campfoster.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE COMMERCIAL PURCHASE CARD TRAINING

The Regional Contracting Office Far East will conduct government-wide commercial purchase card training June 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Education Center at Camp Foster, building 5679, room 6.

Training will cover proper use of the GCPC, overview of regulations governing the GCPC program, certification of statements online, detailed overview of the program audit tool, and responsibilities of cardholders, approving officials and alternate approving officials.

New program participants and current program participants who require refresher training are invited.

For instructions on the nomination and completion of the required GCPC package for establishing new accounts, go to https://intranet.mcbbutler.nmci.usmc.mil/G4_Logistics/Regional_Contracting_Office/ and click on "GCPC Account Set up" and follow the instructions for the appropriate role.

To register for the class, email patrice.swain@usmc.mil.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email 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.

Changes of Command

VMGR-152 welcomes Julian



Julian



Peck

Lt. Col. Jason W. Julian assumed command of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 from Lt. Col. John M. Peck during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31. Peck commanded VMGR-152 since May 2010 and is scheduled to attend the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Julian's previous assignment was at MCAS Futenma, where he served as the executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

MALS-36 receives Johnston

Lt. Col. Gregg M. Johnston assumed command of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 from Lt. Col. Henry G. Hess during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31. Hess commanded MALS-36 since May 2010 and is scheduled to become the CH-53K assistant program manager logistics for PMA-261 Heavy Lift Program Office for Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md. Johnston's previous assignment was at Camp Foster, where he served as the deputy assistant chief of staff, aviation logistics department and wing supply officer for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.



Johnston



Hess

HMM-265 welcomes DePue



DePue



Marsh

Lt. Col. William L. DePue Jr. assumed command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 from Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 1. Marsh commanded HMM-265 since June 2010 and is scheduled to go to the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State. DePue's previous assignment was at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., where he served as the chief operational test director for Marine Tiltrotor Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22.

CLB-3 receives Reiman

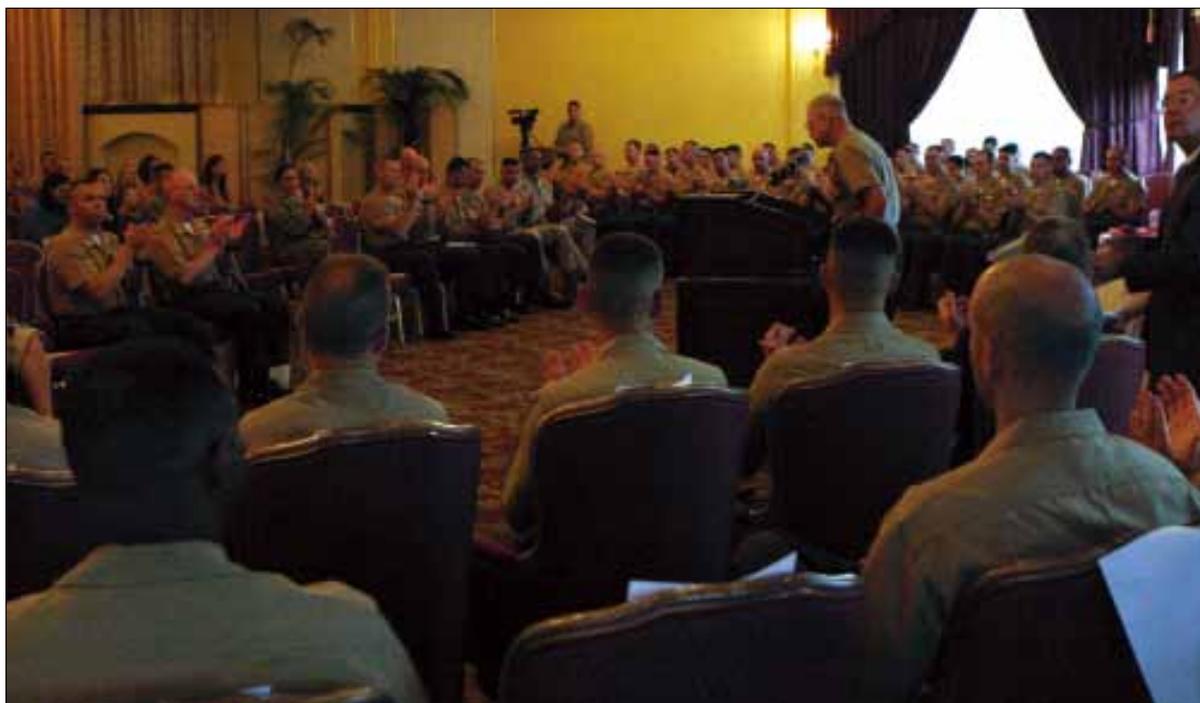
Lt. Col. Justin R. Reiman assumed command of Combat Logistics Battalion 3, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. Henry W. Lutz III during a ceremony at Dewey Square, Marine Corps Base Hawaii May 31. Lutz commanded CLB-3 since May 2010 and is scheduled to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National War College, Washington, D.C. Reiman's previous assignment was at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, where he served as the officer in charge, Logistics Readiness Center, assistant chief of staff G-3 for 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), II MEF (Forward), Regional Command Southwest.



Reiman



Lutz



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. addresses graduates of Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College, congratulating the students on their work at Camp Foster May 31. "The course improves critical-thinking and decision-making skills," said James P. Hopkins, the regional coordinator for the College of Distance Education and Training's Okinawa satellite campus. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

Marine students graduate from CDET

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — One hundred forty service members graduated from the College of Distance Education and Training's Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College at the Butler Officers' Club at Camp Foster May 31.

Since the creation of the College of Distance Education and Training, it has averaged 1,300 graduates per year from both programs, with the Marine Corps benefiting from the education of service members skilled in the art and science of war fighting.

"The courses improve critical-thinking and decision-making skills," said James P. Hopkins, the regional coordinator for the College of Distance Education and Training's Okinawa satellite campus. "The terminal objective of Command and Staff College is to prepare Marines for command positions and teach the art and science of the operational level of war. Expeditionary Warfare School trains Marines for staff and command positions and develops an understanding of doctrine and the tactical level of war."

Each Marine walked up the center of the room one-by-one to receive their certificate of graduation from Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The primary reason I enrolled into (Expeditionary Warfare School) was to receive a better understanding of planning at higher levels," said Gunnery Sgt. Brian N. Castleberry, a graduate of



Marines graduating the College of Distance Education and Training's Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College stand for the playing of the national anthem before receiving their certificates of graduation at Camp Foster May 31. Each student has spent two years learning how to plan and operate within a Marine air-ground task force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

the course, and chief investigator of the Criminal Investigation Division, Provost Marshal's Office, Camp Foster.

The College of Distance Education and Training was founded in 1997, based on the need to provide academic and administrative services to service members enrolled in Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College outside the U.S.

"My master gunnery sergeant was in the course originally," said Castleberry. "He told me I was eligible as a gunnery sergeant to attend (Expeditionary Warfare School) and I wanted to improve my career."

The courses offered by the college cover skills and develop knowledge needed during assignments with Marine air-ground task forces, which can be used in a wide range of operations.

"Every class we had was centered on planning regardless of the topic," said Castleberry.

The courses are challenging and require students to be organized and efficient with their time.

"The hardest part of the course was not the work, but the amount of dedication required," said Castleberry. "As a father and a husband, it was difficult to find a balance between the two."

Though their time management skills were challenged, Castleberry and the other service members were able to complete their training and proudly accept their certificates.

"I highly recommend enrolling; it's a great opportunity to learn and further your career," said Castleberry. "The enlisted get the chance to see how officers work and vice versa."

DEACTIVATE from pg 1

getting a little bit smaller. We are losing one of our five major commands."

The former subordinate units of MWSS-17, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and 172, will now be assigned to different groups, according to Gunnery Sgt. Genette D. Prather, an embarkation chief with MWSS-172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW.

MWSS-171 will now fall under Marine Aircraft Group 12, located at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and MWSS-172 will now fall under MAG-36, located at MCAS Futenma.

The wing has known about the deactivation for two years, according to Beydler.

"For 59 years, our Marine Wing Support Group has made us unique, made us different," said Beydler. "We are not just another air force, but the aviation combat element for III MEF."

MWSS-17 was activated in 1953 in Itami, Japan, right after the Korean War as Marine Wing Service Group 17, according to Col. James M. Gannon, the commanding officer of MWSS-17. Later, it was redesignated as Marine Wing Support Group 17 in 1968 and relocated to MCAS Iwakuni. In 1979, it was relocated to Okinawa.

Elements from the group have supported Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom and played a role in Operation Tomodachi, according to Gannon.

"Last year, MWSS-172 had a forward arming and refueling point operating in Yamagata Airfield in support of Operation Tomodachi within 48 hours of being tasked," said Gannon. "We also had Marines up in Sendai in support of the operation."

Operation Tomodachi, meaning "friendship" in Japanese, was the U.S. Armed Forces actions in response and support of the Japanese people following the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami in 2011.

Gannon made sure during the planning of the deactivation that the wing did not lose one ounce of combat readiness, according to Beydler. He ensured that MWSS-171 and MWSS-172's operations will be absorbed into the MAGs.

"We provided aviation ground support to the wing," said Gannon. "The ACE needs its own aviation ground support to generate combat power, and I've seen that in the last couple of years in Iraq and Afghanistan and here in the Pacific."

The Marines and sailors of MWSS-17 are a great representation of that and they do it very well, according to Gannon.

"We have met and exceeded the standards and we have been ready every time we have been called upon, and it's because of the effort, motivation and innovation of these Marines and sailors.

"Even though the group deactivated, we have preserved the aviation ground support that allows the ACE to be combat ready and operational (at any time or place). I don't think there is any other military or air power that can do what Marine aviation can do," said Gannon.

Fuel-pit fire training

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Aircraft rescue firefighting specialists extinguish a fuel fire during fuel-pit fire training at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31. The Marines are required to execute six live-fire training events every six months to maintain and improve their firefighting skills. The Marines are with aircraft rescue and fire fighting, a part of Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma.

Aircraft rescue, firefighting Marines train

The typical hum of aircraft was not heard during this early morning on the flight line of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Instead it was the crackle and roar of fire as Marines with aircraft rescue and firefighting conducted fuel-pit fire training.

The Marines, assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, conduct this training monthly to sustain their firefighting skills.

“We conduct fuel-pit fire (training) at least once a month to maintain the Marines’ proficiency,” said Chief Warrant Officer Brent DeBusk, the officer in charge of ARFF, H&HS. “Each Marine needs six live-fire burn evolutions every six months.”

Once a fuel-pit fire is ignited, it will continue to burn until the Marines

use their skills to extinguish it with water. The fire is controlled by the two teams of Marines fighting the fire, who use a sweeping technique to trap the fire and then submerge it with water.

“These live-fire trainings provide the ARFF Marines with confidence in their equipment,” said DeBusk. “This is especially true with fuel-pit fires, which allow them to see if they are using proper techniques when containing and extinguishing a fire.”

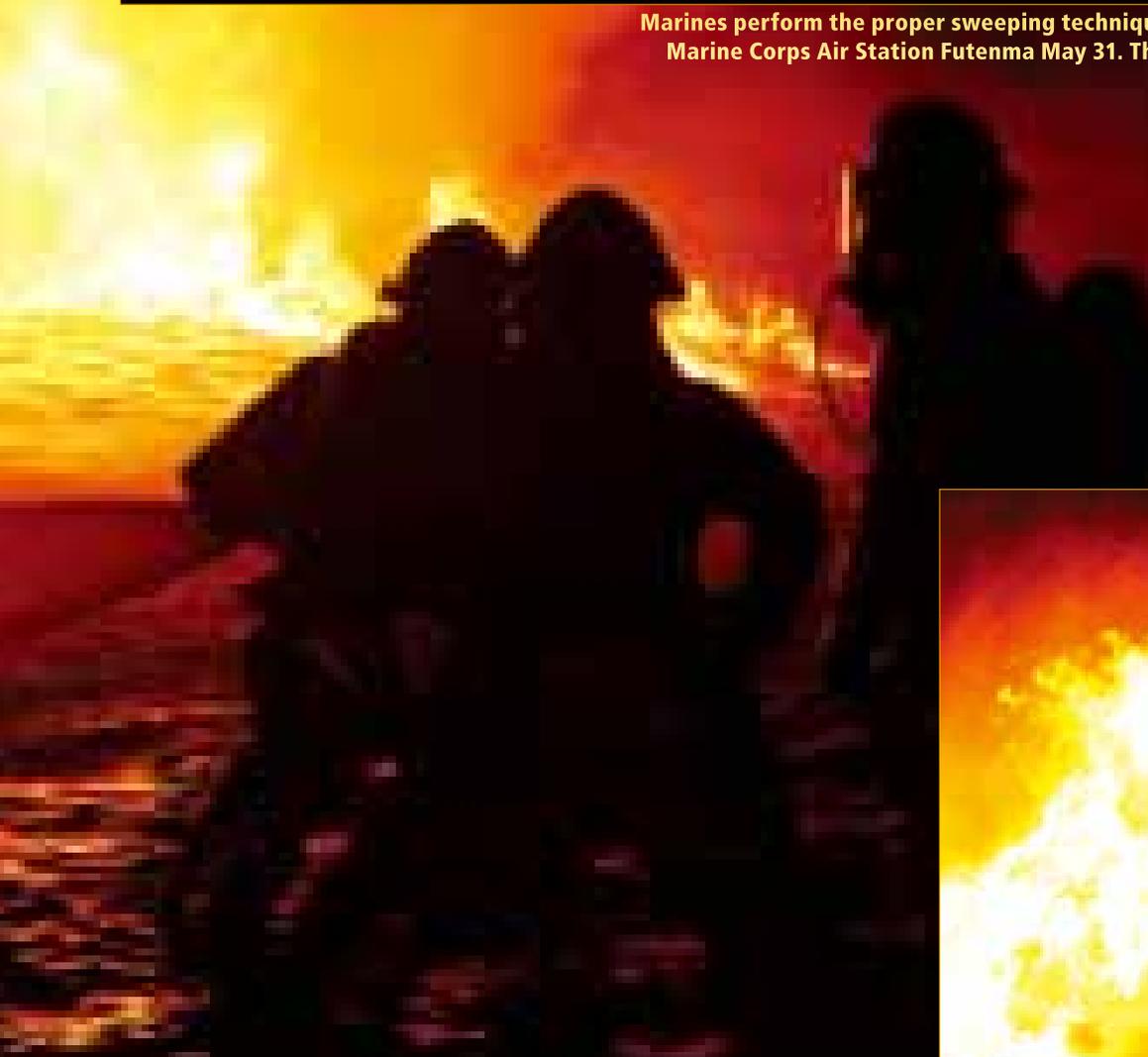
In addition to fuel-pit fires, another training aid used by ARFF is the mobile aircraft fire training device.

The device, which is operated by a Marine, is self-contained, runs off propane, and can only be extinguished by stopping the fuel source, according to Cpl. Norbert A. Rodriguez, an ARFF specialist with H&HS.

The specialists must continue to fight the propane-ignited fire until the operator turns off the propane source.



Marines perform the proper sweeping technique used to extinguish a fuel fire during fuel-pit fire training at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31. The training was conducted to maintain their firefighting skills.



Marines with aircraft rescue and firefighting extinguish a fuel fire during fuel-pit fire training on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31. Once a fuel-pit fire is ignited, it will continue to burn until the Marines use their skills to extinguish it by submerging it in water.

through fire, flames

“In a real-life situation, Marines use foam, which puts the fire out within seconds,” said Rodriguez. “During training however, they use water to practice the proper techniques longer.”

Without proper technique, a fire can easily get out of control and engulf the Marines, according to Lance Cpl. Derrick B. Rew, an ARFF specialist with H&HS.

“The two teams fighting the fire have to constantly watch out for one another,” said Rew. “They have to work together and make sure they don’t push the fire onto the other team. Unit cohesion is crucial in our line of duty.”

This training was just one of the many events ARFF conducts throughout the month to maintain its proficiency.

“We train as if people’s lives depend on it because they do,” said Rodriguez.

Cpl. Anthony R. Caudo replaces a tire on a Logistics Vehicle System Replacement in the CLB-4 maintenance bay May 23. Caudo is a motor transportation mechanic with Support Company, CLB-4.



Maintenance Marines keep battalion rolling

Story and photos by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Maintenance is the lifeblood of the battalion,” said Chief Warrant Officer Troy C. Havard, maintenance officer, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

If maintenance is the lifeblood, then the motor transportation mechanics of Support Co. are the beating heart.

“(The Marines in the maintenance bay) do the majority of the maintenance work in the battalion,” said Cpl. Bryan M. Robertson, a motor transportation mechanic with Support Co., CLB-4. “We fix almost everything unless it is very minor, which the line companies can do.”

Marines faced a rapid adjustment period at the beginning of their deployment to Afghanistan when they assumed their maintenance responsibilities. An integral part of this adjustment involved familiarizing themselves with new equipment.

“One of the challenges has been learning how to fix (AMK31 7-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements) and (Logistics Vehicle System Replacements) since we don’t have them (at our permanent duty station),” said Robertson. “The (field service representatives) help out a lot. We can ask, and they will show us the best way to fix something.”

The FSRs are civilian contractors provided by the manufacturers. They serve as subject matter experts who provide assistance and advice regarding maintenance and repairs.

According to Robertson, the maintenance Marines quickly adapted and became more proficient as the deployment continued.

“When we fix (the vehicles) now, we (try to) make it so we don’t ever have to see that truck in the maintenance bay again,” said Cpl. Matthew L. Hagans, a motor transport



Cpl. Matthew L. Hagans inspects a Logistics Vehicle System Replacement for damage in the CLB-4 maintenance bay March 19. Hagans is a motor transportation mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

mechanic with Support Co., CLB-4.

Keeping vehicles well maintained and fully operational provides a safer operating environment for the battalion’s motor vehicle operators who conduct combat logistics patrols throughout Helmand province.

“It helps them accomplish their mission and keeps them from having to dismount while outside the wire to rig a vehicle for tow or try to fix it,” said Hagans.

Additionally, the mechanics also alternate participating in combat logistics patrols to provide the motor transportation platoons maintenance expertise while they conduct their mission.

The Marines in the maintenance bay keep up with their heavy workload by combining personal initiative and a hard work

ethic, according to Robertson.

“There are not enough (noncommissioned officers just) to supervise (the Marines) all the time, so it helps out that they just hop right in to the work and get the job done,” said Robertson. “Since we are all mechanics, we have always been the type of people who like to learn by reaching out and touching something. Having that kind of personality is important to being successful here.”

The repairs maintenance Marines perform can keep them working from morning until late at night, but the maintenance should not be overlooked, said Havard.

“Without the maintenance we perform, the battalion would not be able to execute its mission,” said Havard.

Marines tee off with Kin Town leaders

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The sport of golf offers friendly competition and a chance to build relationships while enjoying the outdoors.

Marines of Camp Hansen and Kin Town community leaders accomplished exactly that at Taiyo Golf Club June 1.

"The colonel and I have been talking about playing golf for a long time," said Kokuba Morimitsu, the president of the Kin Town Society of Commerce and Industry. "Even though it has taken a long time to get this game scheduled, everyone had a good time.

"I think golf offers another opportunity to get to know each other, and I would like to see this event happen again and include more than those here today," said Kokuba.

Events like these are common for the Marines of Camp Hansen and members of the Kin Town community, according to Chief Warrant Officer John W. Crandall, the operations officer for Camp Hansen.

"We have been getting together over the last two years and doing a variety of things," said Col. David P. Olszowy, the Camp Hansen commander.

"We have gone to numerous restaurants for dinners with each other, played each other in softball tournaments, and also hosted them on Camp Hansen for Hansen Fest," Olszowy said.

Being able to take part in events that build friendships is beneficial for not only the



Igei Tatsuhiro, left, and Takayuki Kayo, center, react to Col. David P. Olszowy's putt stopping at the edge of the hole at Taiyo Golf Club June 1. According to Olszowy, the courses at Taiyo are some of the most challenging he has played on. Olszowy is the Camp Hansen commander, Kayo is the community relations specialist for Camp Hansen, and Tatsuhiro is the vice mayor of Kin Town. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

individuals participating but also the organizations they represent, according to Olszowy.

"It benefits both the Marine Corps and the United States when we hold events like this," said Olszowy. "We really get to know each other as human beings.

"This is the most important factor in building good relationships with those around you," Olszowy added.

Building relationships with surrounding

communities is important for all service members regardless of where they are stationed, according to Crandall.

"When you show an appreciation toward the local community, it not only lets the community know who we are as individuals but it also allows us to learn more about them and their culture," said Crandall. "It really brings a friendly environment to everyone."

1st MAW recognizes family readiness volunteers

Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Applause echoed throughout the ballroom as guests praised the efforts of selfless individuals being recognized for their contributions to their community.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing hosted its 3rd annual family readiness volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Butler Officers' Club at Camp Foster May 30.

The luncheon recognized more than 120 volunteers for their contributions to the unit, personal and family readiness program for the 14 1st MAW units on Okinawa.

"The unit, personal and family readiness program is about readiness of the personnel and families who make up the 1st MAW," said Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, the commanding general of 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The focus is to create tough Marines and ready families capable of thriving during times of crisis and separation from loved ones."

The program consists of four tenets, which make the program so successful, according to Beydler. The tenets are official communication, readiness and deployment support, information and referral, and volunteer management.

"We stay focused on the program's four tenets, and it has produced tangible increases in personal and family readiness with the 1st MAW," said Beydler.

Volunteers for the program include active-duty Marines and sailors, spouses and family members, according to Frank W. Fay III, the family readiness officer for the 1st MAW.

"Maj. Gen. Beydler and his wife Kim hosted this event, so the 1st MAW could formally recognize those individuals who have donated their time in support of the (program)," said Fay.

This important program has proven to be a tremendous resource for service members and their families during deployments.

"The program is a great way to support the families at home," said Kelli Julian, a volunteer with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW.



Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler addresses volunteers at the 3rd annual 1st Marine Aircraft Wing family readiness volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Butler Officers' Club at Camp Foster May 30. "The unit, personal and family readiness program is about the readiness of personnel and families who make up the 1st MAW," said Beydler. "The focus is to create tough Marines and ready families capable of thriving during times of crisis and separation from loved ones." Beydler is the commanding general of 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

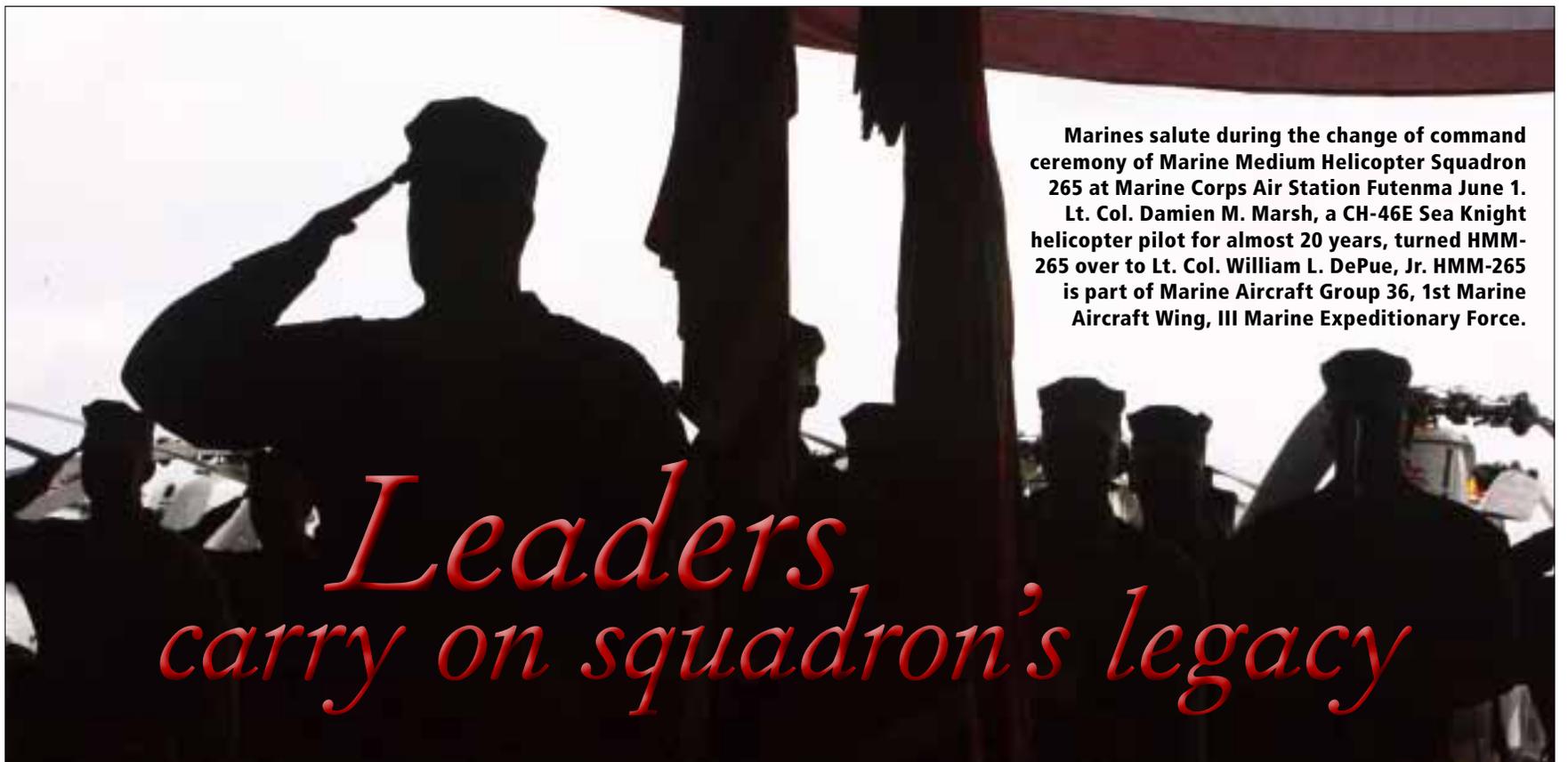
"The program helps provide assurance to all Marines that their family is well taken care of."

The program also gives the volunteers an opportunity to interact with other people in the military community, according to Julian.

"The program provides a (sense) of family, especially for those single military members," said Monica Y. Woods, the family readiness officer for Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, 1st MAW. "It is a great organization to work with and allows you to form a network with those around you."

The volunteers with the program are average Americans who want to do a little more and make a difference, according to Beydler.

"The 1st MAW volunteers make a huge contribution to our overall readiness," said Beydler. "Their efforts make all the difference in ensuring families are ready for all situations. Family readiness equals combat readiness, and in the 1st MAW it is all about readiness."



Marines salute during the change of command ceremony of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 1. Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh, a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot for almost 20 years, turned HMM-265 over to Lt. Col. William L. DePue, Jr. HMM-265 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

HMM-265 commander continues on in Corps

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh finished his final day as commanding officer on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 1.

Marsh led Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, with the wisdom gained through years of experience as a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot.

"My job was to support the Marines as they achieved their goals for the command," said Marsh. "The number-one goal they set forth was to uphold the legacy of the squadron and the reputation of the CH-46E. Over the past two years, these Marines never dropped a mission and never missed a launch."

Marsh was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in May 1991. Since then, he has been assigned to many different units throughout the world.

He deployed several times in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"I still remember my very first flight in the (CH-46E), seeing the faces of the muddy, wet and tired men begin to smile as we flew them home. It made a lasting impression," said Marsh. "For many in need, the tandem rotors of the CH-46E have served as the two hands of God. I will miss her greatly."

Marsh took pride in being a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot.

As a leader, Marsh took the time to get to know the Marines in his command. He was described as approachable and caring

but still demanding the best and most from his Marines, according to Sgt. Anthony D. McKoy, the communications chief for the squadron.

"Even when we were deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Lt. Col. Marsh always took time out of his day to check on all of us," said McKoy. "You can tell he has a passion for being a commanding officer."

With so much time as a commander under his belt, Marsh is fully aware of the impact a strong chain of command has on a unit.

"I have spent much of my time in flying squadrons, and I have seen firsthand how long and hard Marines work to keep aircraft in the sky," said Marsh. "I have stayed in our

Corps this long solely to be able to influence the lives and conditions of our Marines. As a commanding officer, you have the ultimate ability to support and influence Marines."

Marsh's leadership traits have helped the squadron grow throughout the past few years, according to Staff Sgt. Bruce W. Jones Jr., the administrative chief for the squadron.

"I do not see my influence as (bringing) changes," said Marsh.

"I believe I only upheld and attempted to improve the legacy of the squadron and the previous commanders."

Marsh spent time with his Marines, learning about them and knowing most by name, said McKoy. The Marines quickly and easily gained respect for Marsh.

"He instilled a sense of 'don't-let-me-down' in each and every one of us," said Jones. "If you were to make a big mistake, you would feel as if you let him down; you would feel

"My job was to support the Marines as they achieved their goals for the command. The number one goal they set forth was to uphold the legacy of the squadron and the reputation of the CH-46E."

Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh



Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh prepares to hand the Marine Corps flag to Lt. Col. William L. DePue, Jr. during HMM-265's change of command ceremony at Marine Air Corps Station Futenma June 1. DePue is the new commanding officer of the squadron.

emotionally bad about what you did."

Marsh turned the squadron over to Lt. Col. William L. DePue Jr.

DePue will do great, according to Marsh. "The Marine Corps succeeds by refreshing faces, personalities and leadership every few years," said Jones. "We will miss Lt. Col. Marsh, but I believe Lt. Col. DePue will bring a fresh perspective."

After eight years overseas, Marsh will continue his career as an advisor at the U.S. State Department, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

In Theaters Now

JUNE 8 - 14

FOSTER

TODAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Mirror Mirror (PG), noon; Dark Shadows (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.; The Hunger Games (PG13), 10 p.m.
SUNDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY A Thousand Words (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY American Reunion (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), noon, 3, 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 2 p.m.; 21 Jump Street (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Battleship (PG13) 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY 21 Jump Street (R), 4 p.m.; Wrath of the Titans (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Battleship (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Avengers (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Avengers (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 3 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY American Reunion (R), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Battleship (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 2 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7p.m.
WEDNESDAY American Reunion (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Battleship (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY 21 Jump Street (R), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Wrath of the Titans (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.



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.

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 phrases of the week:

“Ohayo gozaimasu”
 (pronounced: oh-hah-yoh goh-zah-ee-mahs)
 It means, “good morning”

“Konnichiwa”
 (pronounced: kohn-nee-chee-wah)
 It means, “good afternoon”



CHAPLAINS' GORMIER

“When someone has done us wrong, we should not blame the whole institution for that person's actions.”

Don't judge institutions by one occurrence

Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Ravelo
 12TH MARINE REGIMENT CHAPLAIN

A couple of months ago I attended a chaplain's conference on the campus of the seminary where I graduated 15 years earlier. I was surprised to find out that not much had changed. I even saw two students who were still there after all these years.

After walking around campus for a couple of hours, I was approached by a campus policeman. He said his office had received a complaint that someone fitting my description was suspiciously walking around campus. He asked me if I was a student, and I explained to him the reason I was there. I proceeded to show him my military ID. After verifying it, he wrote my name in his notebook and informed other units looking for me the “suspect” has been found. I felt a sharp pain in my heart and verbalized my disappointment to the policeman. It

felt like I had gone home to visit my mom and my siblings had called the police on me. I made it clear to him that I did not blame the president of the seminary, the students, or even him for thinking of me as a potential criminal.

This was the work of one individual who called in with concerns, not the work of an institution.

The same principle applies to each military member. The military is an institution made out of individuals with different personalities and leadership styles. When someone has done us wrong, we should not blame the whole institution for that person's actions.

I know people who have left the military because of one individual and they miss the opportunity to see the strength and power of the institution. Never forget, the world is made up of individuals, but we have to be careful not to confuse one person with the world at large.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX