

OKINAWA MARINE

JUNE 15, 2012

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Law Enforcement Bn activates



1st Lt. Cliff S. Cardwell unveils the guidon for Company C at the activation ceremony for 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion at Camp Hansen June 7. The battalion, part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, activated to improve law enforcement capabilities under III MEF. Cardwell is the commanding officer of Company C. The battalion's commanding officer is Lt. Col. Amy R. Ebitz. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines, sailors, families and honored guests gathered for the activation ceremony of 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion at Camp Hansen June 7.

The battalion will be a force multiplier to the operating forces in the Asia-Pacific region by assisting in an array of missions from law enforcement, route regulation, humanitarian assistance, nonlethal weapons training and military working dog employment.

The battalion, part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force see **LE BN** pg 5

Infantry battalion arrives at Schwab

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

CAMP SCHWAB — Fourth Marine Regiment welcomed 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, June 11, as the first infantry battalion in the unit deployment program to deploy to Camp Schwab in several years.

Roughly 230 Marines and sailors with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, arrived on Okinawa as part of the UDP. While on island, the battalion will be assigned to the division.

“The commandant established the UDP in October 1977 in order to provide for the deployment of units to the Western Pacific for periods of approximately six months,” said Col. Stephen M. Neary, 4th Marines and Camp Schwab commanding officer.

The infantry UDP was suspended in 2003 due to the increased personnel and equipment demands of fighting two wars, according to Neary, referring to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“4th Marines received the first company of 2/3 in April to support 4th Marines’ requirement in Australia as part of the rotational force,” said Neary.

An additional 700 Marines and sailors with the battalion will arrive at Camp Schwab later this week.

The battalion, which is based in Hawaii, prepared for the deployment by executing a full pre-deployment training program, according to Maj. Nicholas C. Nuzzo, executive officer of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

“Originally, we thought we were going to Afghanistan,” said Nuzzo. “That changed, but nothing changed in the training we did. We performed the same training that you would do for a combat deployment, including Mojave

see **UDP** pg 5



Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain Luke C. Stoodley, right, greets the crew of a U.N. AP-3C Orion aircraft after landing at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 7. Stoodley is the commanding officer of the U.N. Command (Rear), Yokota Air Base, Japan. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

UN P-3 visits Futenma

Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Corps and United Nations officials greeted the crew of a U.N. AP-3C Orion aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma June 7.

The aircraft and its crew were transiting through the region in support of the ongoing exercise Nichi Gou Trident 2012 between Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Australian Defence Force units.

Nichi Gou Trident is a bilateral anti-submarine warfare exercise conducted in waters southeast of Japan's Kyushu Island.

Participation of the aircraft in the exercise also presented an opportunity to practice entry and exit procedures while refueling at co-designated U.S. and U.N. bases.

“The U.N. command at Futenma was first set up see **UN VISIT** pg 5

EVERYDAY SUPERHERO

Some fathers wear uniforms or ties, but underneath there is always a cape

Pfc. Codey Underwood

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. On this day, people are given the chance to show their fathers or father figures how much they appreciate what they have done for them.

Fathers are tasked with helping and guiding their children throughout life, whether it is emotionally, spiritually or physically. By doing so, they contribute a lot of time and effort into raising their children, earning the right to be appreciated on Father's Day.

Father's Day originated in 1909 when Sonora Dodd came up with the idea. Dodd's father,

William Jackson Smart, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died during childbirth. Since her father was born in June, she decided to encourage the churches in her area to honor fathers in June. This is the reason why Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June.

Growing up, I was extremely close to my father. He was my role model, mentor, hero and best friend. He was the one person I could always depend on being there and helping no matter how bad I messed up or how well I did. My mother was not there when I was growing up, so I became closer to my father than anyone else.

The vast majority of my life was spent with just my father and sister. As a single father, he had to play the roles of both mother and father in our lives. He worked to keep us fed and spent time with us doing our favorite things, but he was also very stern. My father had to fulfill many roles in our lives to ensure we grew into hard working, well-mannered individuals.

Working to keep a roof over our heads, my father still managed to spend time with me. He coached all of my sporting

events, stayed up late playing video games, and played in home concerts in the garage with my friends and I.

I never really understood how much of a burden it must have been for him to give up all of his hopes and dreams at the

age of 20 to be a single father and raise two kids on his own.

Father's Day is one day where I can show my dad how much he means to me and that I am glad he is still there for me, every step of the way.

All of us know that a father is just as important to a child as a mother. For daughters, a father is the ideal man in the world and the first man they adore, while for sons, a father is an idol and the strongest man they aspire to become.

Happy Father's Day to my dad and all fathers!

Underwood is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

“Growing up, I was extremely close to my father. He was my role model, mentor, hero and best friend.”

AROUND THE CORPS



Cpl. Joseph M. James watches a UH-1Y Venom Huey land on Forward Operating Base Jackson, Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 2. James is a rifleman with Personal Security Detail, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6. The helicopter is with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Sgt. Logan Pierce



Lance Cpl. Robert A. Smith, III, stands guard at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Voinovich Park Cleveland June 12. The traveling wall, which lists the names of those fallen in the Vietnam War, was erected during Marine Week Cleveland and is the site of a wreath-laying ceremony by a Gold Star family member daily. Smith is an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserves.

Photo by Cpl. Chelsea Flowers



Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit fire M240B machine guns during live-fire training aboard USS Pearl Harbor at sea June 7. The unit deployed to the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa and Middle East regions. The 11th MEU is assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Tommy Huynh

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OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092

Attention to surroundings, harmful species key

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Okinawa is home to a variety of unique creatures, many not indigenous to the United States. Some of these animals may look harmless, but in reality they can be very dangerous and sometimes lethal.

Incidents with these harmful animals do not happen very often on Okinawa, as they are easily avoided if one knows what to look for and how to prevent injury.

A majority of hazardous wildlife on Okinawa is in the sea, with the exception of the habu snake.

The habu snake is a highly venomous and aggressive snake that inhabits Okinawa. These snakes are nocturnal, and caution should be taken when walking and jogging at night. Contact with these snakes is not likely, but if someone were to come into contact with them they should not attempt to capture or kill the animal.

The habu is one of the few hazardous land species on Okinawa, the majority of poisonous inhabitants live in the sea.

Critical Days of Summer

Safety ... look beyond the horizon

“Incidents are very rare for the amount of divers we have in the water, and I believe it is because of the safety videos and briefs we give,” said Ed Dunn, a scuba instructor with Kadena Marina.

In the sea, the most common dangerous aquatic life includes the lionfish, stonefish, crown-of-thorns starfish, sea snakes, blue-ringed octopus and jellyfish.

“To avoid contact with these animals, swimmers and divers should always watch where they step,” said Robert A. Zimmerman, the program manager for the scuba program at Marine Corps Community Services. “They should wear

dive boots and scuba gloves, get educated on what to look for, and never touch any sea life they do not recognize.”

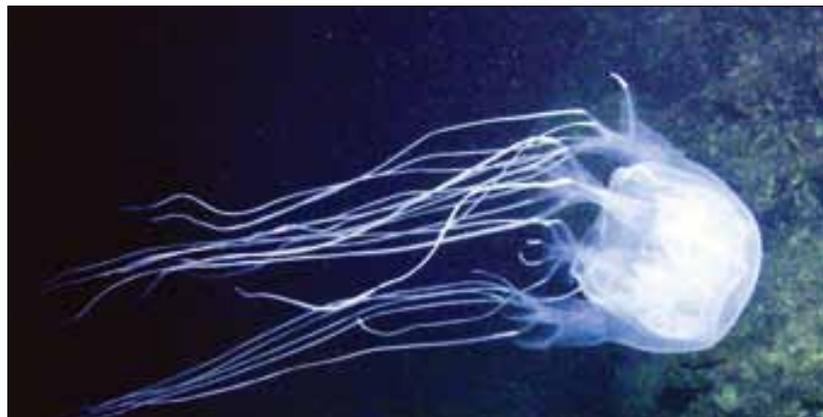
All dive shops on military installations offer classes to teach service members and their families about hazardous sea life and what to do if they come face-to-face with these creatures, according to Zimmerman.

“All dive instructors give classes about what to expect in the water,” said Dunn. “We also give a dangerous animals brief to newcomers on the island.”

Injuries caused by dangerous sea life on Okinawa are rare, as long as swimmers and divers are educated about the animals and remain aware of their surroundings.

“If someone does get stung by one of these animals, they should immediately get out of the water, flush the infected area with vinegar, which will stop the stinging, and seek medical assistance,” said Dunn.

For more information regarding hazardous wildlife on Okinawa visit: <http://www.kadenaforcesupport.com/marina/hazards.html>.



Left: The box jellyfish, also known as a sea wasp, is one of the many hazardous animals in the waters of Okinawa. They are pale blue and translucent with as many as 15 tentacles on each corner. A venomous sting from these jellyfish must be treated immediately. **Middle:** The lionfish is usually found on coral reefs in shallow water. They have venomous spines that can produce painful puncture wounds. One should immerse the affected area in hot water and have x-rays taken to ensure spines have not broken off in the wound. **Right:** The crown-of-thorns starfish has more than a dozen arms, which are covered in short, sharp spines which will penetrate gloves, boots and wet suits. If spiked by this animal, one should keep the wound in a bucket of constantly replenished hot water.

Photos courtesy of <http://www.kadenaforcesupport.com/marina/hazards.html>

New retirement account option available through TSP

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — A new Thrift Savings Plan option, a Roth individual retirement account after-tax contribution, is now available to Marines and can be used to save for retirement.

The option was made available exclusively to Marines June 1.

“As an alternative tax strategy, the TSP is offering Marines the option to designate some or all of their contributions as Roth IRA after-tax contributions,” said John R. Daskauskas, a personal financial management specialist with Marine Corps Community Services Personal Services Center. “Both the contributions and the earnings accrued will be tax-free when withdrawn, as long as Internal Revenue Service requirements are met.”

The TSP Enhancement Act of 2009, Public Law 11-31, authorized the TSP to add a Roth IRA option to the plan.

The traditional TSP contributions are made on a pre-tax basis and taxes are owed when money is withdrawn, according to Joseph R. Cassidy, operational readiness support program manager with the center.

Marines may designate any whole percentage of basic, incentive, special or bonus pay as a Roth IRA contribution, according to Daskauskas. This election may be in addition to or in lieu of a traditional contribution.

It is important for Marines to start investing early in their careers,

according to Pfc. Matthew N. Petrikas, a supply administration and operations clerk with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

“My father gave me this advice when I was in high school with a similar program, which earned me money,” said Petrikas. “This new Roth IRA (option) is definitely a great investment for the future.”

Roth IRA contributions are made on an after-tax basis, and Marines must contribute a percentage of their basic pay in order to elect contributions of incentive, special and bonus pays, according to Cassidy.

“Roth IRA contributions can be invested in any of the TSP funds,” said Daskauskas. “All Roth IRA contributions are considered elective deferrals and are subject to the elective deferral limit.”

This includes Roth IRA contributions deducted from pay subject to combat zone tax exclusion, according to Daskauskas. This is a significant difference between Roth IRA and traditional tax-exempt contributions because the latter are not included in the elective deferral calculation.

Online functionality on MyPay to start, stop or change Roth IRA elections will not be available until July or August 2012. Marines can start, stop or change Roth IRA elections by submitting a TSP election form, TSP-U-1, to their servicing administration center until then, according to Cassidy.

TSP-U-1 is available at www.tsp.gov, through the forms link. Marines will be notified when MyPay is ready to support Roth IRA elections.

BRIEFS

JUNE DMO SHIPMENTS FULL

The Distribution Management Office is unable to book household goods shipments for the remainder of June as assigned carriers' schedules are fully booked at this time.

Moves that have already been booked will be picked up as scheduled. Members who have not scheduled their permanent change of station move and will depart within the next 60 days should contact the DMO at 645-0922 as soon as possible to set up an appointment.

SCREENING TEAMS VISIT OKINAWA

The Headquarters Marine Corps Special Operations Screening Team will be on island June 18-22 and the Headquarters Marine Corps Special Duty Assignments Screening Team will visit June 25 and 26.

The HMST/MARSOC screening team will be holding briefings and screenings at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. per the following schedule:

- June 18 - 4th Marine Regiment at Camp Schwab
- June 19-20 - The Palms at Camp Hansen
- June 21 - Camp Kinser Theater
- June 22 - Camp Foster Theater

The HSST will be holding briefings and screenings beginning at 8 a.m. each day at the Camp Foster Community Center per the following schedule:

- The MSG screening - June 25
- All other special duty assignment screenings - June 26

2012 MILITARY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Women's Leadership Symposium will be held June 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Palms Club Ballroom at Camp Hansen. The symposium is designed to increase unit readiness by providing preventive mentorship and answers to various questions and concerns that are unique to females serving on active duty. Guest speaker will be Master Gunnery Sgt. Danielle M. Hendges.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Rafika O. Vann at 622-4010 or 090-6861-7342.

YOUNG MARINE PROGRAM

There are currently two Young Marine units located on Okinawa that form the Okinawa Battalion of Young Marines. Camps Foster and Courtney's Young Marine units are looking for children ages 8-18 who have previously graduated Young Marine boot camp at a unit stateside and have not found a unit to join on island. For more information, contact the battalion commander, Master Sgt. Joseph L. Davila at joseph.davila@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.

CLB-31 welcomes Randall



Randall



Arick

Maj. Omar J. Randall assumed command of Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. William E. Arick III during a ceremony at Camp Hansen June 7. Arick commanded CLB-31 since June 2010 and will become the deputy G-4, supply and logistics, for III MEF. Randall's previous assignment was at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., where he served as a joint logistics planner for United States Central Command.

3rd Dental Bn receives Roncone



Roncone



Wolfgang

Navy Capt. Michael T. Roncone assumed command of 3rd Dental Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Navy Capt. Michael J. Wolfgang during a ceremony at Camp Foster June 8. Wolfgang commanded 3rd Dental Bn. since July 2008 and will become the force dental officer at U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific. Roncone's previous assignment was at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as the executive officer of 1st Dental Bn., 1st MLG, I MEF.

Marines with 9th ESB return from Afghanistan

Pfc. Codey Underwood

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — 9th Engineer Support Battalion returned home and were greeted by their friends and family at Camp Hansen June 5 after a seven-month deployment in Afghanistan.

The Marines with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, deployed with 1st MLG (Forward) in support of missions in its area of operations by providing units with fuel, water, and heating equipment. They also improved road conditions for transportation and moving supplies.

Every element of 9th ESB did its job well and worked hard to support the fight, according to 1st Lt. Ethan R. Akerberg, the future-operations officer with 9th ESB during the deployment.

9th ESB provided general engineering support to 1st MLG (Fwd) to include survivability, counter-mobility and mobility enhancements, explosive-ordnance disposal, bulk-water production and storage, as well as bulk-fuel storage and distribution.

"While we were in Afghanistan there were many roles 9th ESB had to play," said Cpl. Matthew T. Mott, a heavy-equipment operator with 9th ESB. "Although most of what we did was building roads, we also built or made repairs to make sure the Marines had water and (heat)."



Sgt. Daniel G. Malmberg hugs his wife Raechel and their daughter Evelyn upon his return to Camp Hansen from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. Malmberg, a military policeman with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, deployed with 9th ESB, 1st MLG (Forward), I MEF (FWD).

Photo by Pfc. Codey R. Underwood

While the main reason Marines built roads was to benefit the units they were supporting, their hard work also benefited the local population.

"Our roads gave our convoys a place to travel where there were fewer places to put (improvised explosive devices)," said Mott. "It made it a safe way to travel for both our military and civilians."

The Marines were able to achieve their mission successfully with limited manpower, according to Mott.

"From the moment we arrived until the moment we left, we were working and providing support," said Lance Cpl. Julius J. Paredez, a bulk-fuel specialist 9th ESB. "We had limited Marines, so we had to work (around the clock)."

Even though the Marines were working almost all of the time, it did not completely distract from the difficulty of being away from home, according to Paredez.

"My husband being away proved to be a challenge for me," said Amanda G. Cox, wife of 1st Lt. Steven A. Cox, a military policeman with 9th ESB. "While my husband was away, he missed our daughter's first Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthday, as well as my pregnancy with our son."

"I know it was hard for both of us while he was on this deployment," said Cox. "He has a job to do though, and we both knew this coming into (this deployment)."

Deployments are hard because you are away from your family and comfort zone. You are in a new, potentially dangerous place that you are unfamiliar with, according to Akerberg.

"The mission that the 9th ESB did was critical to the III MEF," said Akerberg. "If we were not there the overall goal would not have been accomplished."

UDP from pg 1

Viper at (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center) Twentynine Palms in California.”

The Marines and sailors will participate in theater security cooperation activities by partnering with regional allies during exercises while on the UDP, according to Neary.

“Our primary objective here is to be a forward-deployed unit ready to respond to any contingency,” said Nuzzo.

Marines assigned to the UDP will train on Okinawa in areas such as the Jungle Warfare Training Center in the northern training area, and throughout the region in countries including South Korea, New Caledonia, Australia, the Republic of the Philippines and other countries, according to Neary.

4th Marines’ mission under the UDP is to enable 2/3’s success, according to Neary. The regiment will employ 2/3 throughout the region.

The significance of having an infantry battalion UDP here is to give the nation and the commandant of the Marine Corps a force that is forward deployed and ready to answer any crisis in the region, according to Neary.

“The commandant’s priority is the Pacific,” said Neary. “Being expeditionary, being forward deployed, that’s what this UDP is all about.”

Everybody is excited to experience the region and the different training it has to offer, according to Sgt. Michael D. Kephart, a mortar-



Col. Stephan P. Neary welcomes Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, who arrived on Okinawa as part of the resumption of infantry battalions under the unit deployment program here June 11. The battalion, based out of Hawaii, will be assigned to 4th Marine Regiment while on island. 4th Marines and 3rd Marines are both part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Neary is the commanding officer of 4th Marines and Camp Schwab camp commander. Reed is a rifleman with 2/3. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

man with the battalion.

“We have been working hard over the last year to prepare for this deployment, and we are ready to get out there and start our training,” said Kephart.

The battalion and its Marines have an extensive deployment history.

“Over the last eight or nine years

we (deployed) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom,” said Nuzzo. “We are excited about this deployment, which is new to the battalion.”

Second battalion, 3rd Marines, is a standard infantry battalion consisting of a headquarters company, three rifle companies and one weapons company, according

to Nuzzo. It deployed with no additional attachments.

“The benefit of the UDP is there are many opportunities here for training and exercises with our allies in the Pacific region,” said Nuzzo. “Another benefit is to improve interoperability with those countries and improve our basic infantry skills.”

UN VISIT from pg 1

during the Korean War,” said Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain Luke C. Stoodley, the commanding officer of U.N. Command (Rear), Yokota Air Base, Japan. “During the war, Japan was a major area for support bases for operations (in Korea). When the (truce) ending the conflict was signed, Japan allowed the U.N. to continue using the bases.”

In the event of a conflict or humanitarian event in which the U.N. participates, MCAS Futenma provides an additional location for aircraft services and staging for member countries of the U.N.

“Futenma had not been visited by the U.N. for many years,” said Col. James G. Flynn, the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. “This refueling gave the U.N. the chance to fly its colors at the station, maintaining it as a viable base (in the Asia-Pacific region).”

During the visit, the crew was invited to share a meal with some Marines from the air station and relax before taking off for its next destination.

As a return favor, the AP-3C crew invited the Marines for a tour of the aircraft. On board, the Marines learned the capabilities of the plane and its function as a submarine hunter.

“The Marines here have been fantastic organizing this visit,” said Stoodley. “I don’t think they could have done anything more to make it easier. We have been keen on looking for an opportunity to get out here during the exercise.”

LE BN from pg 1

Headquarters Group, III MEF, activated to improve law enforcement capabilities under III MEF, according to Lt. Col. Amy R. Ebitz, the battalion’s commanding officer.

The structuring of Marine Corps military police into battalions first occurred during World War II, in which the provost marshal of the Far East Command realized that as operations pushed further into theater, transporting prisoners of war through the theater would no longer be a feasible option.

“This battalion has stood up before, when the Marine Corps saw a need to consolidate military police under one single command to provide the (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) expertise in the broad range of military operations done under the title of law enforcement,” said Ebitz. “We will do what our predecessors have done before and support the MAGTF with the most qualified Marines and with the best expertise and professionalism.”

During the Vietnam War, units were again reorganized into military police battalions. The 3rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd LE Battalion’s direct predecessor, fell within Force Logistics Command, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and was located in San Francisco, Calif.

The consolidation of law enforcement Marines will ensure the battalion is focusing on missions that require the skill set of these Marines, according to Capt. Cory L. Holiday, Company B commander with the battalion.

Marine Corps Bulletin 5400, released in September 2011, called for the reactivation of the

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Military Police Battalions, now designated as law enforcement battalions, in each Marine Expeditionary Force. 1st LE Bn. headquarters is at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and 2nd LE Bn. will be headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“In the past, we have been executing general-purpose missions instead of acting as military police with a set mission, which is why the Marine Corps decided to reorganize military police assets across the entire Corps,” said Holiday. “With 3rd LE Bn., you can expect to see a better product when it comes to sending out detachments or companies when supporting exercises and operations.”

During the ceremony, the battalion was made aware of the high expectations that will be asked of it in the near future.

“This is your battalion, and this is your opportunity to do something great for your nation,” said Col. David P. Olszowy, Camp Hansen commander. “Seek the initiative. Go out and make a great name for our country, our corps and the battalion.”

Olszowy was not alone in his expectations of the battalion.

“I am going to require you, as well as myself, to make sure that you are mentally, physically and spiritually fit and ready to do whatever the MAGTF requires of us,” said Ebitz. “(And) to do so with honor and integrity as our predecessors have, so we can add to the proud history of 3rd LE Bn.

“I thank you in advance for your dedication to the Marine Corps, this unit and for the sacrifices and hard work which are to come,” said Ebitz.

Marines assist Coast Guard in

Staff Sgt. Elliott A. Stanton scans the Pacific Ocean for two missing mariners June 6. Elliott volunteered to help with the search and rescue mission, which successfully spotted the missing mariners and coordinated with the Solar Africa, a nearby Japanese tanker, to pick up and transport the mariners to their final destination. Stanton is an aircraft communications technician with Marine Aircraft Group 12.



A KC-130J Hercules aircraft from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 362 based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Guam with a search and rescue mission June 6 approximately 60 nautical miles from the coast of Guam. The Coast Guard was notified June 5 at 3:17 p.m. that two mariners piloting a small aircraft were missing from the island and initiated a search and rescue mission. The Marines were asked to provide additional air assets that evening and launched the aircraft the next morning, supported by the KC-130J Hercules aircraft, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Found at sea



Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participate in a search and rescue mission.

n search and rescue mission



VMGR-152 aids U.S. Coast Guard Sector 15200, 20 miles northwest of Chuuk Island. The crew of a 23-foot skiff were overdue to Chuuk and were rescued by the mariners at 2 p.m. VMGR-152 is part of the Expeditionary Force.

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Corps teamed together to successfully conduct a search and rescue mission June 6 for two men, ages 32 and 24, who had been missing for almost three days.

The Coast Guard assumed command of rescue operations but requested aerial assistance from Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 and MAG-36. The units were in Guam participating in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, which is conducted to increase aviation readiness and exercise the establishment of an expeditionary airfield in an austere environment.

"I heard about the mission ... and I knew I had to be a part of the effort to find those two men in some way," said Staff Sgt. Elliott A. Stanton, an aircraft communications technician with MAG-12, who assisted in the rescue operation. "I couldn't help but think what if that was me out there, floating in a little boat with no food or water ... and the only thing I saw for days was a C-130 flying over me with 'Marines' painted on the side of it. That is truly inspiring."

The two men were adrift in the Pacific in a disabled 23-foot skiff.

"We were about three hours into (the) search pattern given to us by the Coast Guard, when suddenly

there was a small orange dot in the middle of the vast blue of the Pacific, barely noticeable from the window of the cockpit," said Capt. Joseph R. Lennox, a pilot with VMGR-152 and a search and rescue volunteer.

After spotting the two men, the Marines circled the vessel to assure the men they had been spotted and were going to be rescued.

"This truly says something special about the Marine Corps that with short notice we were able to launch, get the mission underway, and successfully complete it," said Lennox. "That's the kind of thing the American people expect of us, to be able to conduct a mission at the drop of a hat and accomplish it professionally. We definitely proved that today."

Ten miles from where the two men were stranded, Marines spotted the Solar Africa, a Japanese tanker, and informed it of the situation. The tanker's crew agreed to help.

"As soon as we saw the tanker, we knew we had to try to get their help because there is only so much we could do from the air," said Capt. Michael J. Smith, a pilot with VMGR-152 and a search and rescue volunteer. "We guided the ship to the raft containing some food and water we had dropped for the two men. The ship then sent out a small-motored raft to pick it up and bring them back to the tanker."

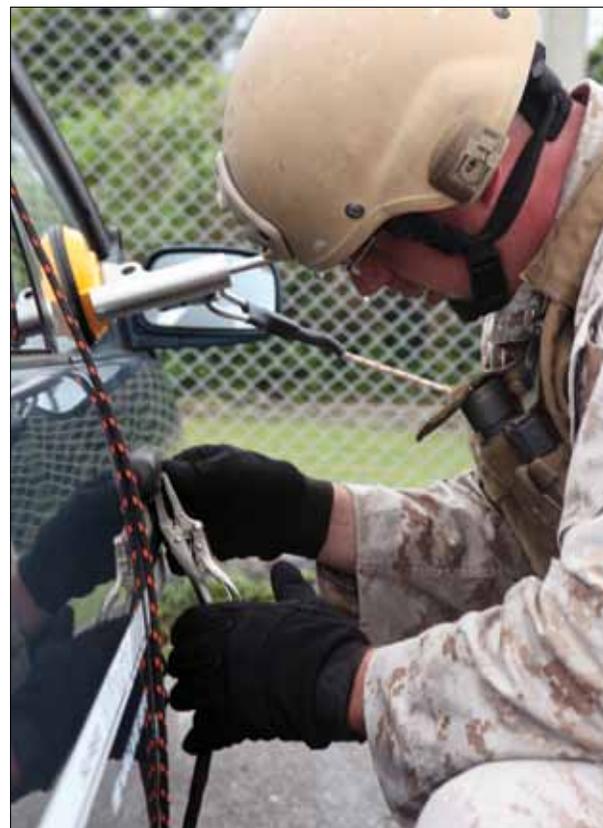
The Marines circled above until the men were safely aboard the tanker then proceeded back to base having completed the mission.



Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 receive a mission brief from Captains Michael Smith and Joseph Lennox before departing on their search and rescue mission June 6, 2012. The Marines located and coordinated the rescue of two men adrift in a disabled 23-foot skiff in the Pacific Ocean.



Top: Explosive ordnance disposal technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 break the window of a vehicle harboring a simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device during training June 11. **Left:** Sgt. Paul I. Mead and Staff Sgt. Bradley M. Passage prepare equipment to approach a simulated vehicle-borne IED during training at Kadena Air Base June 11. The Marines train regularly, so they are prepared for any obstacles they may face in a combat environment. Mead and Passage are explosive ordnance disposal technicians with MWSS-172.



Staff Sgt. Bradley M. Passage attaches a pair of locking pliers to the handle of a car door suspected of bearing a simulated vehicle-borne IED during training at Kadena Air Base, June 11. The Marines have various tools and techniques used to disarm an IED.

Marines conduct vehicle-borne IED training

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 conducted vehicle-borne improvised explosive device training at Kadena Air Base June 11.

The squadron, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the training to familiarize Marines with safe disarming of vehicle-borne IEDs.

During the training, the explosive ordnance disposal technicians had to safely open the vehicle, search for charges, and deal with other obstacles given to them such as a crowd of people and notional gunfire.

"In the world we live in right now, with vehicle-borne IEDs in Afghanistan, we need to constantly train Marines on the threat," said Staff Sgt. Bradley M. Passage, an EOD technician with the squadron. "The enemy is constantly adapting and evolving, and we have to do the same."

The Marines of the squadron agree that continuous training helps them maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialty.

"EOD skills are just like any other skill," said Gunnery Sgt. Marion E. Eggers, the EOD staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the squadron. "The more you sharpen them, the better they get."

EOD must train in a variety of skills in order to complete the mission, said Eggers.

"We train in a wide range of areas such as homemade explosives, electronics, post-blast investigations, unexploded ordnance and so on, but the bottom line is we need to train and we will train to achieve mission success," said Eggers.

The Marines enjoy the training, but they know that every mistake they make in training could be costly in a real-life



Staff Sgt. Bradley M. Passage prepares a tool used to open the window of a vehicle harboring a simulated vehicle-borne IED during training at Kadena Air Base June 11. Passage is an explosive ordnance disposal technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

scenario, according to Passage.

"Any mistake in training is a learning point you don't want to repeat because in real life you don't get a second chance," said Passage. "You can't make a mistake because you are not only risking your life but the lives of everyone around you."

Although the Marines train regularly, there are other variables and obstacles they can face while deployed.

"The enemy can attack us while we are trying to disarm an IED, or they can be watching us work and come up with new ways to attack

us in the future," said Sgt. Paul I. Mead, an EOD technician with the squadron.

The Marines were successful in their training and look forward to being challenged with similar scenarios in the future, according to Eggers.

"They did very well even though this was their first time operating with a vehicle-borne IED," said Eggers. "They had multiple problems in the vehicle mixed with a couple of distractions from us as the scenario played out. They applied everything they learned, and I was very pleased with their performance."

III MEF Band hosts 2012 summer concert

Story and photos by
Pfc. Codey Underwood
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band hosted their annual summer concert at the Okinawa Convention Center June 9.

The 2012 summer concert



Sgt. Mardia A. Tompo plays "Concerto for Clarinet" during the 2012 summer concert at the Okinawa Convention Center June 9. Tompo is a clarinetist for the III MEF Band.

consisted of musical styles such as rock, Latin, swing, contemporary, and classical with two pieces dedicated to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011.

"A couple of the pieces were chosen to honor the victims of the (Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami) from last year," said Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, the band officer with the III MEF Band. "We thought it was appropriate to honor those who lost so much."

The two pieces "The Sun Will Rise Again" and "Song for Japan" were dedicated to the victims March 11, 2011, according to Cpl. Christine R. Valentine, a bass trombonist with the band. "The Sun Will Rise Again" was not only dedicated to the victims, but it was also written for them and all royalties from the piece were given to the Red Cross.

"It means a lot to me that the band contributed a music piece to the victims of the disasters," said Takayo N. Weaver, a spectator. "That shows that they care a lot."

The annual concert helps foster the relationship between our two countries and shows we are here for them at a moment's notice, according to Giove.



Percussionists for the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band perform during the 2012 summer concert at the Okinawa Convention Center June 9. The band played pieces to honor the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami and entertained the audience with a mixture of music.

The band also played various concert pieces, marches, solos, duets, as well as performing a vocal piece by a quintet, according to Valentine.

Some of the Marines normally play instruments not used during marches. The concert allows them to play their other instruments, according to Sgt. Leonard W. Martin, Jr., a bassoonist with the band.

"I march with symbols or a bass drum," said Martin. "The concert gives me a chance to

play the (bassoon) where normally I would not be able to perform with it."

Not only does the summer concert allow the III MEF band to entertain the Japanese community, it also shows them we care and we are here to help, according to Martin.

"It is an honor to get to come out and play for the local community and be able to be a part of helping the disaster victims," said Martin.

Youth ministry unites communities during mission trip

Contributed by
MARINE CORPS BASE YOUTH MINISTRIES

Building up a community, no matter how significant the workload, unites people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures.

Marine Corps Base Okinawa Youth Ministries went on a five-day mission trip over Memorial Day weekend to Gospel Town, a church in Ohira, Miyagi prefecture, Japan.

The group was led by David C. Hutchings, the youth pastor for the Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Chapel Youth Center, and Don Shove, a teacher at the center. They were joined in Ohira by faculty and students with Okinawa World Mission School.

"Our goal was to work in the region affected by the tsunami and to build relationships with the community while giving students the chance to see they have an incredible opportunity to serve here in Japan," said Hutchings. "It was amazing to see students serve in a capacity beyond what they have previously attempted and to see them grow through that."

The goal was achieved with 140 man-hours devoted to restoration along the coast, during which they also conducted 80 hours of continuous prayer for the community.

"We were able to see the differences in the cultures and then overcome the boundaries that separated us," said Donovan Smith, a junior at Kubasaki High School. "We were all humbled by doing tasks that seemed so

simple but made a big difference."

The group had a chance to work with Samaritan's Purse while on the mission trip. Samaritan's Purse is a nonprofit organization that has been working extensively in the area to help restore homes to families living in the affected region.

The group was split in two teams that worked on separate days in different affected areas.

The first team worked in Shichigahama while the second team concentrated on Ishinomaki. Staff and students helped tear town walls, dig up floors, and also conversed with local residents.

Those who stayed in Gospel Town worked to maintain and clean the church, which is used as a base of operations by many groups serving with Samaritan's Purse and other organizations.

In addition to seeing the fruits of their labor, students saw fulfillment of their overall mission.

"What we do not only makes a small difference, it pleases God," said Michaella Amaya, an eighth-grader at Lester Middle School.

Unity was a major theme felt by the staff and students alike during the trip.

"We all saw unity among our own group as we bonded with each other," said Abby Erdelatz, a student at Kubasaki High School. Overall, the excursion was an opportunity everyone would take again.

"It's amazing to see how different we all are, but we can still come together as one for the same reason," said Madeline Mastroiano, a student at Kubasaki High School.



Members of Marine Corps Base Okinawa Youth Ministries aid in home reconstruction in Ohira, Miyagi prefecture, Japan, during a five-day mission trip over Memorial Day weekend. They were joined in Ohira by faculty and students with Okinawa World Mission School.

Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Base Youth Ministries



Col. Andrew R. MacMannis, left, listens to Sgt. Maj. Gonzalo Vasquez, right, during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2011. MacMannis was responsible for the employment of more than 2,200 Marines and sailors while coordinating with the Navy's Amphibious Squadron 11, host nation militaries and the U.S. Embassy or consulate officials to support five back-to-back deployments aboard naval ships. MacMannis was the commanding officer of the 31st MEU until June 1, and Vasquez is the sergeant major of the 31st MEU. Photo by Capt. Caleb D. Eames

EXPEDITIONARY EXCELLENCE

31st MEU led by experienced CO

Capt. Caleb D. Eames and Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.

31ST MEU PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Col. Andrew R. MacMannis, right, discusses humanitarian assistance operations with Lt. Gen. Eiji Kimizuka, left, aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) during Operation Tomodachi. MacMannis directed the delivery of 164,000 pounds of supplies and the removal of 400,000 pounds of debris along the devastated coastline of Oshima Island after the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 11, 2011. This support opened critical roads and ports, allowing for follow-on aid. MacMannis was the commanding officer of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and Kimizuka was the commanding general of Joint Task Force Tohoku.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eva-Marie Ramsaran

As the commander of “the nation’s force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region,” Col. Andrew R. MacMannis has put Marines ashore for every contingency from delivering humanitarian aid and disaster relief to practicing direct assault and capture of enemy-held beaches.

MacMannis commanded the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from June 2010 to June 2012, bringing years of expeditionary and amphibious experience to the only continuously forward-deployed expeditionary unit in the Marine Corps.

He previously served at all levels of the MEU, including billets as the commander of the MEU’s battalion landing team and as the MEU operations officer.

Each was a challenging position focused on amphibious operations, which helped prepare MacMannis for command of the complete Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

“Any time you have previous experience, it’s a benefit,” said MacMannis, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University. “I learned a lot in my previous MEU billets, so I was able to recognize issues early.”

MacMannis also believes the unique properties of a MAGTF helped him develop as an officer.

“Too often we get to know only a small part of the Marine Corps, and while it is good to be a local expert, it does not help you develop and see the larger picture of where your expertise fits within the MAGTF,” said MacMannis.

As a MEU commander, MacMannis was responsible for the employment of more than 2,200 Marines and sailors while coordinating with the Navy’s Amphibious Squadron 11, host nation militaries and the U.S. embassy or consulate officials to support five back-to-back deployments aboard naval ships.

“Commanding a MEU is a unique experience and requires a commander to have a strong operational background in expeditionary operations,” said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. “I believe it is the hardest but most rewarding job in the MEF for a colonel. He must have knowledge and expertise in all the elements (air, ground and logistics) and have the leadership ability to synchronize those capabilities in addressing the full spectrum of crisis response.”

“Commanding a MEU is a unique experience and requires a commander to have a strong operational background in expeditionary operations.”

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck

MacMannis led the 31st MEU during multi-lateral training exercises and operations in Japan, South Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Australia. During those operations, the Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU trained alongside more than a dozen nations

to increase interoperability with allied forces.

Working with military counterparts from other nations, MacMannis led his unit through multilateral training in coordinated beach assaults, urban combat, jungle warfare, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, evacuation operations and much more.

Putting thousands of troops, vehicles and equipment ashore from Navy ships in support of large scale exercises, such as Talisman Saber in Australia and Cobra Gold in the Kingdom of Thailand, requires exceptional planning and leadership.

“Col. MacMannis’ amphibious expertise has been readily apparent to those around him and was consistently displayed by how well he commands and controls MEU operations from the ship,” said Lt. Col. Troy Roesti, the executive officer of the 31st MEU. “His ability to disembark and employ the full combat power of the 31st MEU within 48 hours and re-embark it upon mission completion in the same time frame is impressive.”

In Theaters Now

JUNE 15 - 21

FOSTER

TODAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Three Stooges (PG), noon; Battle Ship (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 10 p.m.
SUNDAY Prometheus (R), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Battle Ship (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Lucky One (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), noon, 3, 6; Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Prometheus (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 2 p.m.; American Reunion (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13) 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY American Reunion (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Prometheus (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY American Reunion (R), 4 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Dark Shadows (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 3 p.m.; The Lucky One (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; Prometheus (R), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Lucky One (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Three Stooges (PG), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Three Stooges (PG), 2 p.m.; A Thousand Words (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Prometheus (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Prometheus (R), 7p.m.
WEDNESDAY John Carter (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Snow White and the Huntsman (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Men in Black 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Hunger Games (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY The American Reunion (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.

FUTENMA FLIGHT LINE FAIR - JUNE 16-17

• Futenma SMP office will have a booth with face painting, balloons and drinks at the Futenma Flight Line Fair from 2-10 p.m. both days.

FUTENMA PARTY ROCK POOL BASH - JUNE 23

• Party Rock Pool Bash is for all Futenma single Marines and will have activities, a pig roast and DJ booths at the Futenma pool at 6 p.m.

MANGROVE KAYAK TOUR FOR NORTHERN CAMPS - JUNE 23

• This kayaking tour will take Hansen and Schwab single Marines through Gesashi Bay in Higashi Village. The sign up deadline is today. Transportation will be provided. For more information, contact the Camp Hansen SMP office at 623-3017.

OCEAN EXPO PARK FOR NORTHERN CAMPS - JUNE 30

• Ocean Expo Park has many activities for sea lovers to enjoy. One of its greatest features is the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan. Sign up by June 22. Buses will leave from camps Hansen and Schwab. For more information, contact the Camp Hansen SMP office at 623-3017.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Sumimasen”
 (pronounced:
 soo-mee-
 mah-sehn)
 It means,
 “Excuse me.”



June 4 - 8

PISTOL RANGE
 Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Shea,
 3rd MarDiv., 378



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“Let’s allow ourselves and others the same chance to at least try at life, try again until we get it right, and find forgiveness along the way.”

Find forgiveness for others, yourself

Lt. Fournoy Phelps
 3RD MARINE DIVISION CHAPLAIN

Take a kid walking in the woods and odds are he will leave with a stick in hand (or a bamboo shoot, if on Okinawa). But try to get them to pick up the stick by only one end, without moving the other end at all, and you are sure to get some confused looks since it simply can not be done.

We all try to pick up only one end of some sticks in our lives. One of these is forgiveness. We know that everyone has or will make mistakes and bad choices. Some of these are more serious than others, but we know that all of us are generally in the same boat.

Yet some of us focus on everyone else’s faults. We know we are not perfect, but we also know we are not horrible people, especially when compared to what we hear about others. “Of course I mess up sometimes,” we say, “But not like others. They are just too awful to forgive.”

Others of us may look really hard on our own faults and think that we can not or should not be forgiven. “Sure, everyone makes mistakes,” we tell ourselves, “but not like me. I have done too much to be forgiven.”

Either way, we see forgiveness at only one end of the stick — for ourselves or for others. But none of us can pick up either end of the forgiveness stick and not the other. If people around you are truly good and deserve forgiveness despite their poor choices, there is no reason why you do not deserve the same. The reverse is just as true.

None of us has ever done anything so bad that it keeps us from finding forgiveness and peace as long as we look for it. Opportunities to succeed are opportunities to fail. Knowing that we will not do it all right the first time, let us allow ourselves and others the same chance to at least try at life, try again until we get it right, and find forgiveness along the way.