III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

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FOLLOW US ON MARINES.MIL

Preparations prevent typhoon damage

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Typhoon Bolaven made landfall on Okinawa after sunset Aug. 26, bringing heavy winds and rain, which toppled trees and flooded streets.

No serious damage of installations on Okinawa has been reported due in part to preparations made before the typhoon's arrival.

"There was minor damage to trees and property, but nothing major and no rescues were needed," said Gunnery Sgt. Ricardo Valdes, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the District South Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

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The effects of Typhoon Bolaven are still felt on Okinawa Aug. 28, one day after the storm passed over the island. The maximum sustained wind speed recorded on Kadena Air Base was 67 mph with gusts up to 85 mph while a large amount of rain also soaked the island, according to Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph Round, the weather flight chief with 18th Operations Support Squadron, Weather Flight, Kadena Air Base.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Emanuel K. Melton

Col. James G. Flynn meets with Atsushi Sakima, the mayor of Ginowan City, aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to sign a mutual agreement Aug. 23, allowing emergency vehicles from the city to pass through Futenma, facilitating faster emergency response. Flynn is the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma.
Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan

Futenma, Ginowan sign first-responder pact

Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Col. James G. Flynn met with Atsushi Sakima, the mayor of Ginowan City, Aug. 23, to sign a mutual agreement allowing emergency vehicles from the city to pass through Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to facilitate faster emergency response times.

The agreement allows emergency services a more direct route to areas of the city during an emergency or natural disaster.

"I think it's important in particular for the residents of Ginowan City in that it will allow emergency services such as ambulances,

see **ACCESS** pg 5

ROK, MEF wrap up UFG 12

1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — III Marine Expeditionary Force and its major subordinate commands participated in the exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012 Aug. 20–31.

UFG is an annual computer-assisted, combined command and control exercise between the Republic of Korea and United States Combined Forces Command, executed to improve the two nations' abilities to defend the ROK and is defensive in nature.

"Ulchi Freedom Guardian is a key exercise in strengthening the readiness of Republic of Korea and U.S. forces," said U.S. Army Gen. James D. Thurman, the commander of Combined Forces Command, United Nations Command, and U.S. Forces Korea. "It is based on realistic scenarios and enables us to train on our essential tasks and work through crisis management

see **UFG** pg 5

See The Source inside for the Beyond the Brief Series!

Flu vaccine season begins

Brian J. Davis

Influenza vaccinations for active-duty operational forces and health care personnel will begin in September on Okinawa.

Medical personnel will distribute the flu vaccine in accordance with the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery directives for immunizing personnel using the following priority categories:

- Operational military and civilian personnel deployed in support of a combatant command operational requirement such as Southwest Asia, Afghanistan and Korea, those ordered to deploy to these locations, or those assigned to a ship regardless of location or deployment status.
- Health care workers who provide direct or indirect patient care.
- All other military personnel.
- All other mission-essential or mission-critical Department of Defense civilian and contract employees.
- All other beneficiaries.

The flu vaccine should be available at primary care clinics to family members, DOD civilians, retirees and all other beneficiaries in October.

According to public health officials at the hospital, the annual flu season can peak anywhere from late December through March. The flu causes an average of 36,000 deaths, mostly among those aged 65 or older, and more than 200,000 hospitalizations in the U.S., according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Several precautionary measures can be taken to reduce the risk of getting the flu. Frequent hand washing is the most effective preventive measure. Germs can live for hours on household objects and can easily be picked up by the next person using the object. Other precautions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay home and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- Don't cover sneezes and coughs with bare hands. Germs and viruses cling to bare hands, therefore muffling coughs and sneezes this way passes along germs to others. When sneezing or coughing, use a tissue, then throw it away immediately.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Water flushes the body, washing out poisons and toxins as it rehydrates. A typical healthy adult requires eight 8-ounce glasses of fluids daily. If the color of your urine runs close to clear, you're getting enough fluids.
- Get plenty of fresh air. A regular dose of fresh air is important, especially in cold weather when central heating dries out the body, making it more vulnerable to cold and flu viruses.
- Exercise regularly – Aerobic exercise speeds up the heart to pump larger quantities of blood, causing faster respiration and increased perspiration. These exercises help increase the body's natural virus-killing cells.
- Maintain a healthy diet. Fresh fruits and vegetables, especially dark green vegetables, are high in vitamins and will help boost the immune system.

Medical personnel with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Kadena's 18th Medical Group, Kinser Family Medicine Clinic and Bush Family Medicine Clinic at Camp Courtney will provide flu vaccines to all beneficiaries starting in October.

The hospital's immunization clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-in hours for the Kinser and Bush clinics are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays from 8-11 a.m. The 18th Medical Group, located on Kadena Air Base, offers vaccinations at its immunizations clinic Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information regarding flu immunizations, contact the U.S. Naval Hospital Immunizations Clinic at 643-7441.

Davis is U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa's public affairs officer.

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines patrol through Trek Nawa, Afghanistan, Aug. 16. Trek Nawa, an area between Nawa and Marjah districts, is a known insurgent site where Marines have been involved in numerous firefights. The Marines are with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6 and deployed in June 2012. *Photo by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo*

Marines replace their targets after conducting a multiple target, live-fire range on the flight deck of the USS Iwo Jima at sea Aug. 19. The Marines conduct various live-fire ranges while underway to keep their skills sharp during deployment. The Marines are with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chad Kiehl*

Marines break the seal on their masks inside a gas-contaminated chamber during a training exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Aug. 21. The Marines spent a day at the facility refreshing their knowledge and skills on the M40 gas mask, practice grenades, fragmentation grenades, martial arts, and infantry tactics. The Marines are with Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. *Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez*

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Khaan Quest 2012 concludes with ceremony, remarks from SecNav

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

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia — A closing ceremony was held to mark the end of Exercise Khaan Quest 2012 at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 23.

Khaan Quest 2012 is a multinational exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific, hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces, and is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote regional peace and security.

"It is an honor to be here at the closing ceremony for Exercise Khaan Quest," said Ray Mabus, secretary of the Navy. "It is a mark of the importance the U.S. places on our partnership with Mongolia and on Khaan Quest that both the secretary of the Army and myself as secretary of the Navy have visited during this exercise. Khaan Quest started out ten years ago as a bilateral exercise between the Mongolian Armed Forces and the U.S. Marine Corps. It has expanded over that decade to include participants of over 10 countries and almost 1,000 people."

The scope of Khaan Quest has also expanded as well.

"Exercise Khaan Quest incorporated five main components consisting of multinational, platoon-level, field training exercises focused on peacekeeping operations based on United Nations training standards, a multinational, combined battalion-level staff exercise, and a humanitarian civic assistance medical project," said Lt. Gen. Ts. Byambajav, chief of general staff for the Mongolian Armed Forces. "During the exercise, specialized forces from Mongolia, the U.S., Canada and the Republic of Korea were able to help 4,500 people in a humanitarian medical outreach."

The main focus of Khaan Quest is to train and prepare militaries for peacekeeping missions.

"Peacekeeping is not an easy task," said Z. Enkhbold, speaker of the parliament for Mongolia. "It is an essential duty served on behalf of the international community in countries that are either striving to solve an internal conflict or international disputes in their region. Peacekeeping demands that all services possess courage, resilience, professionalism, experience and compassion."

By participating in Khaan Quest, nations are able to showcase their resolve in peacekeeping missions around the world, according to Mabus.

Ray Mabus, the secretary of the Navy, addresses participants and distinguished visitors during the closing ceremony for Exercise Khaan Quest 2012 at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 23.

"Khaan Quest serves as a practical example of the closeness of Mongolia and U.S. relations," said Mabus. "It also serves as a symbolic commitment to peace and security around the world that is demonstrated by the participants of Khaan Quest."

Khaan Quest offered participants the ability to see how other countries operate and the opportunity to forge friendships, according to Byambajav.

"I have no doubt that the participants learned from other nations during the exercise," said Byambajav. "The core outcome of the exercise is the sharing of knowledge and experience."

Building such friendships can prove to be invaluable when it comes to peacekeeping operations, according to Mabus.

"Together you have built expertise, together you have built interoperability, and together you have built trust," said Mabus. "In the future, whatever mission is needed, we will already know each other, we will already know how each other operates. I want to (thank) Mongolia for the strong partnership (it has) with the U. S. and the strong regional partnership (it has) with countries in the area."

Ray Mabus, the secretary of the Navy, speaks with Marines and sailors before the closing ceremony for Exercise Khaan Quest 2012 at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 23. The Marines and sailors are with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Corpsmen conduct SHOTEX, increase readiness

Pfc. Anne K. Henry
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — U.S. Navy corpsmen with Evans Medical Clinic conducted a shot exercise, also known as SHOTEX, with the Marines of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installation Pacific, on Camp Foster Aug. 24.

The SHOTEX is a medical readiness stand-down held to increase medical readiness by providing vaccinations, physicals and eye exams conveniently where the majority of Marines live and work.

After signing in, the Marines had their blood pressure, vision and temperatures checked to ensure they did not have any previously unknown medical issues.

"Right now we are tracking people down who need medical attention and getting them up-to-date on all of their shots and physicals," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricardo L. Arreguin, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This contributes to battalion readiness."

The SHOTEX is another avenue by which commanders can reach a higher level of readiness, and it also gives the corpsman a good training opportunity by providing a chance to conduct live procedures.

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Leonard F. Thomas, a hospital corpsman with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, force health protection guidelines state the minimum readiness standard is 75 percent. However, leadership within III MEF has set the standard at 85 percent, with the ultimate goal of 100 percent.

"This is our second time conducting a SHOTEX in a year and a half," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Norman L. Delacruz, an independent duty corpsman with the clinic. "Today we will be expecting around 100 people."

For the corpsmen and hospitalmen of the clinic, the goal is to keep Marines healthy and mission ready through excellent medical care while sticking to their motto of "medical readiness is mission readiness."

"We want to increase our medical readiness, therefore raising our deployment readiness," said Delacruz. "We want to make it possible for Marines to do their jobs without the hindrance of any medical issues."

BRIEFS

EFMP FAMILY FORUM

The exceptional family member program will be hosting a family forum Sept. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. at building 495 on Camp Foster.

The forum is open to all Marines and their family members and will provide the opportunity to meet the staff of EFMP and get answers to questions about the program. Upcoming policy changes will also be discussed during the forum.

Register with the office by Sept. 5. For more information or to register call 645-9237.

LEGAL TRAINING COURSES

The office of the Staff Judge Advocate, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Legal Services Support Section, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, will host a one-day Law of War and unit-level rules of engagement training course Sept. 10-14. Classes for sergeants and below will be from 8-11:30 a.m. Classes for staff sergeants and above will be from 1-4:30 p.m.

Class locations will be:

- Sept. 10 Camp Schwab theater
- Sept. 11 Camp Hansen theater
- Sept. 12 Camp Foster theater
- Sept. 13 Camp Courtney theater
- Sept. 14 MCAS Futenma theater

For more information call 645-3065 or 645-4142.

WELCOME ABOARD FOR MARINE AND NAVY OFFICERS' SPOUSES

Marine officers' spouses' club and Navy officers' spouses' club Okinawa will be holding a welcome aboard reception Sept. 10 at The Crow's Nest Club on Camp Shields.

Stop by any time between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for a morning of food, door prizes, and friendship. This free, business casual event is open to all officers' spouses and civilian equivalents.

The purpose of MOSC and NOSCO is to create a social network for club members while supporting philanthropic interests in the U.S. and Okinawan communities.

For more information visit okinawamosc.org or noscokinawa.com

MANPOWER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Manpower Management Division, Enlisted Assignments will conduct its annual visit to Okinawa Sept. 14-19. MMEA monitors will brief and conduct interviews at various locations on Okinawa to update commanders of enlisted manpower decisions. All fiscal year 2013 first term alignment plan Marines are required to attend the FTAP brief prior to their interview with their respective monitor.

For a schedule of events and list of MMEA visitors log on to http://www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac.

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.*

DD Form 1842 is filled out when making typhoon damage claims for personal property and food spoilage. Personal property claims can be filed for property damaged in a typhoon, but the claims process requires damage to be substantiated with proof that appropriate action was taken to minimize risk. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock*

Claims office aids typhoon recovery

Judy Barney
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

CAMP FOSTER — Military personnel and families stationed on Okinawa work to prepare for typhoon season every year.

However, the work may not end as soon as the rain clears and winds slow if personal property damage has occurred.

Personal property claims can be filed for property damaged in a typhoon, but the claims process requires damage to be substantiated with proof that appropriate action was taken to minimize risk.

The claims office aims to make submitting post-typhoon claims as easy as possible for those who received damage to personal property.

Once outside personal property is appropriately secured, take a few pictures to support any future claims. Also, do not throw away any damaged items until authorized to do so by claims personnel.

Sheds, trampolines and swing sets are some of the most commonly damaged items during storms.

Most storage sheds in use on Okinawa tend to maintain their support directly from the roof. When the roof gets ripped off during high winds, the rest of the shed tears apart because it has lost its main support. Place sandbags on the top and tie rope around the walls of sheds to maintain the structure of the shed and keep it in one piece. Turn trampolines over and place sandbags on the canvas to secure them. Swing sets should be tied down.

Shed Contents: The only items that should be placed in storage sheds are common outdoor items, such as bicycles, lawn mowers, weed trimmers, gas cans, etc. Certain items such as lawn chairs, lawn ornaments and small items should be removed from sheds and brought inside.

Pools: Canvas-type pools should be stored inside. Durable plastic-type pools should be drained and sandbags placed inside.

Grills: Grills should be taken inside. Propane gas tanks are likely to be safe because of their weight and can remain outside.

Food Spoilage: It is recommended to stock non-perishable foods for a typhoon. Should the power go out and perishable food spoils, claims personnel will review any claim to determine what food items were necessary to have on hand during a typhoon.

Claims for vehicle damage: Two repair estimates based on used parts from any garage are required. If there are no used parts available, the estimate must contain a statement saying so.

Claims for all other personal property: Take photos before disposing of any food, carpets or bedding. Do not dispose of any large furniture items unless specifically instructed to do so by claims personnel.

Personnel, military or civilian, must submit claims through their respective service. Where one works or resides has no bearing on personal property claims.

Air Force claims: call 634-1662 or visit building 15, Kadena Air Base.

Navy claims: call 634-8255 or visit building 3554, Kadena Air Base.

Army claims: call 644-4742 or visit building 218, Torii Station.

Marine claims, including civilians assigned to Marine Corps units: call 645-9429 or visit building 1, Camp Foster.

Please call ahead to request claims forms to be sent via email with instructions and information regarding the requirements for filing claims.

Claims will be accepted Monday –Thursday from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding claims, please contact Judy Barney at 645-7460 or judy.barney@usmc.mil.

The following paperwork will be required for the type of claim indicated:

Personal property:

- DD Form 1842
- DD Form 1844
- Insurance Verification Form
- EFT Worksheet
- Power-of-Attorney (if applicable)
- Estimates of repair and/or replacement cost substantiation
- Pictures to prove property was secured.

Food spoilage:

- DD Form 1842
- DD Form 1844
- Insurance Verification Form
- EFT Worksheet
- Power-of-Attorney (if applicable)
- Receipt for the purchase or repurchase of lost food items and itemization of food lost and cost.

ACCESS from pg 1

the fire department and the police department to use a route through Futenma to respond to an emergency quicker than having to go around," said Flynn, the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma.

The agreement shows mutual respect between MCAS Futenma and the surrounding city of Ginowan because it holds the safety of everyone in the area above all else.

According to Sakima, the agreement is key in building a trusting relationship with MCAS Futenma.

This agreement reinforces the fact that both American and Japanese people all inhabit the same area and should be striving to make decisions that have the best interests of all in mind, according to Flynn.

"It shows that we are good neighbors, we are all here living together, we have shared interests and common goals," said Flynn. "I'm very excited. I think this is an agreement that serves as the first step for future agreements, that we are currently working on with the city."

Both Flynn and Sakima are excited to have signed the agreement because it increases their level of cooperation, ultimately helping both those who live inside and outside the gates of MCAS Futenma.

"It is important to negotiate when any challenges or issues come up," said Sakima. "If there is the possibility for cooperation, I would love to work with (MCAS Futenma)."

"I think (the agreement) shows a level of coordination and effort to work together on common issues, which is the overall goal," said Flynn.

Atsushi Sakima, right, signs a mutual agreement with Col. James G. Flynn Aug. 23 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The agreement allows emergency vehicles from the city to pass through MCAS Futenma, facilitating faster emergency response. Sakima is the mayor of Ginowan City. Flynn is the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan*

The wrath of Typhoon Bolaven is still felt on Okinawa Aug. 28, one day after the storm passed over the island. No serious damage to installations was reported, due in part to preparations made before the typhoon's arrival. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Emanuel K. Melton*

BOLAVEN from pg 1

While military policemen patrolled the camps and stations before the storm, they stopped by any house with outdoor items that could possibly become projectiles and ensured they were tied down or secured.

"This was forecast to be one of the worst typhoons to hit Okinawa in 13 years," said Valdes. "It is always a good idea to give people a reminder, so objects do not become projectiles and hurt people or structures."

Camp preparation normally starts several days before a typhoon, according to Ray A. Welch, the Camp Foster and Camp Lester deputy camp commander.

"A lot of people don't realize that camp services helps manage some 1,828 acres including Foster, Lester, Plaza, Kishaba, (Marine Corps Air Station) Futenma and other compounds," said Welch. "We have (approximately 26 miles) of fence line and 43 miles of roads. If it were not for a community effort from all our supporting organizations like Marine Corps Community Services, Department of Defense Education Activity, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Red Cross and the United Services Organization, none of this would have been possible."

The community was also very much aware of the situation and completed the steps required, such as tying down any possible projectiles and placing sandbags around doors to prevent water leakage, according to Welch.

The maximum sustained wind speed on Kadena Air Base was 67 mph with gusts up to 85 mph, according to Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph Round, the weather flight chief for 18th Operations Support Squadron, Weather Flight, Kadena Air Base.

The typhoon also dumped nearly 9 inches of rain, according to Sgt. Hans C. Hanner, a meteorological and oceanographical analyst forecaster with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma.

While this storm did not turn out to be as bad as many anticipated, Bolaven could have caused much more damage if service members and their families were not prepared.

"The precautions that were taken helped prevent a lot of damage during this storm," said Heather L. Huller, a typhoon watch officer for Camp Foster. "Most damage is usually caused by objects such as trampolines and kids' toys becoming projectiles. The bases have become more aggressive about typhoon awareness, so there was minimal debris left out and minimal damage caused."

UFG from pg 1

with a 'whole of government' approach."

UFG 12, like all CFC exercises, is a routine and defense-oriented exercise designed to enhance readiness, protect the region, and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula. Units representing each branch of the armed forces of both countries participated in UFG 12, exercising combined planning and operations.

III MEF stood up its command post at the combined arms staff training facility on Camp Hansen as part of UFG 12. 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 3rd Marine Logistics Group and 3rd Marine Division stood up command posts across Okinawa to support III MEF's role in the exercise. Both the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps provided liaison officers to augment each other's staff and enable better communication and training.

UFG 12 contributes to the Republic of Korea taking the lead for the combined defense of the ROK in 2015 by providing realistic training focused on preparing, preventing and prevailing against the full range of current and future threats to the ROK and the region.

UFG 12 demonstrated the continued commitment to the ROK-U.S. alliance and allowed III MEF and its major subordinate commands to practice joint and combined operational planning and execution while improving ROK-U.S. readiness and joint and combined interoperability.

UFG, along with other training exercises between the U.S. and ROK, are carried out in the spirit of the Oct. 1, 1953, ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty and in accordance with the Armistace Agreement. The execution of UFG 12 highlighted the longstanding military partnership, commitment and enduring friendship between the two nations and helped to ensure peace and security on the Korean peninsula and reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the Northeast Asia region.

Bilateral training commences with Forest Light

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP BEPPU, Japan — The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and U.S. Marines officially began Exercise Forest Light 12-01 with a social engagement hosted by the JGSDF at Camp Beppu, Japan, Aug. 19.

Marines and sailors with Combat Assault Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, attended the event. Both are with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, is deployed to Okinawa under the unit deployment program. The Japanese soldiers are assigned to the 41st Infantry Regiment.

The event was designed to strengthen the bond between the Japanese and U.S. service members, allowing them to interact and mingle with each other.

"Americans are friendly, and I enjoy laughing and getting to know my new brothers," said Cpl. Ryosuke Arimura, an infantryman with the JGSDF. "There were no chairs because we want to be able to walk around and go to other tables to meet more brothers."

During the exchange, the JGSDF provided assorted foods and a traditional music performance.

"We embraced the warm welcome from the Japanese and enjoyed the company and culture of the JGSDF members," said Lance Cpl. Kyle A. Cravener, a machine gunner with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

According to Cravener, the event hosted by the JGSDF was the perfect beginning to Forest Light 12-01 and provided a firm foundation from which the units can build.

Not long after the social engagement and opening ceremony, sailors with CAB's battalion aide station and members of the Japanese aide station began working collectively to learn and improve from each other's medical expertise at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, during the medical readiness portion of the exercise.

"The corpsmen are very advanced when it comes to tactics in the medical field," said Lt. Col. Higashi Keishi, a surgeon with the Japanese Aide Station. "It is a good way for us to come together, learn new things, and build our relationship with each other."

Service members from both aide stations showcased their medical equipment and techniques and were given the opportunity to practice their lifesaving capabilities during the exchange.

"We were able to demonstrate the equipment and medical procedures that we use to the JGSDF medical personnel," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Zachary D. Dennis, a hospital corpsman with CAB's aide station.

Forest Light is a semiannual, bilateral training exercise with the JGSDF. The 12-day exercise is designed to enhance the U.S. and Japanese military partnership and build interaction within U.S. and Japanese forces.

Sgt. Nakagawa Jenya applies a mock tourniquet to Sgt. Watanabi Nagyme during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 20. These are techniques practiced in order to save people in need of medical attention. Genya and Nagyme are emergency medical technicians with the Japanese Aide Station, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

Marines and sailors enjoy a traditional taiko, or drum, performance at Camp Beppu, Japan, Aug. 19. The performance was held during a social engagement designed to strengthen the bond between the Japanese and U.S. service members. The Marines and sailors are with Combat Assault Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Both are with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, is deployed to Okinawa under the unit deployment program.

Marines, sailors and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force shake hands during a social engagement hosted by the JGSDF's 41st Infantry Regiment at Camp Beppu, Japan, Aug. 19. Forest Light is a semiannual, bilateral training exercise with the JGSDF designed to enhance military partnership, strengthen regional security agreements, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment. The Marines and sailors are with Combat Assault Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Both are with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines is deployed to Okinawa under the unit deployment program.

Lance Cpl. Corey J. Klemcke and Cpl. Ryosuke Arimura enjoy a variety of Japanese cuisine during a social engagement hosted by the Japan Ground-Self Defense Force's 41st Infantry Regiment at Camp Beppu, Japan, Aug. 19. The event was held prior to commencing Exercise Forest Light. Klemcke is a mortarman with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Arimura is an infantryman with the 41st Infantry Regiment, JGSDF.

Students and staff of the Okinawa Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy begin the three-mile run portion of the physical fitness test as part of the curriculum for their respective courses. Over the next seven weeks, the students will attempt to set themselves apart from their peers by graduating from their resident professional military education course.

Academy enhances education, leadership

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ken Melton
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the drawdown occurs in the Marine Corps, those who want to have a long and successful career need to place themselves above their peers.

The option to attend a seven-week resident professional military education course at a regionally based staff noncommissioned officers' academy offers NCOs and staff NCOs a chance to better themselves, become more competitive for promotion, and become better leaders of Marines.

"I think it is important for all Marines to attend their resident PME at each level in order to better equip (themselves) for mentoring their junior Marines and advising their seniors," said Sgt. Maj. James N. Calbough, director of the Okinawa SNCO Academy, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "Resident PME will enhance their leadership abilities, increase their overall effectiveness and sharpen their critical thinking skills."

The Okinawa SNCO Academy is one of six academies spread throughout Marine Corps installations and has educated 989 service members in fiscal year 2012 alone.

The purpose of the SNCO Academy is to provide SNCOs of demonstrated potential with the requisite education and leadership training to enhance their professional qualifications in preparation for assuming duties of greater responsibility and for making greater contributions to the Corps.

"Since resident PME is not required for promotion to staff sergeant and gunnery sergeant, successful completion will definitely set them apart," said Calbough. "The promotion manual states 'Promotion is not a reward for past performance but more importantly it is an expectation of future performance.' Improving oneself through PME shows initiative and drive, and the exposure you gain from seven weeks surrounded by your peers assists in preparing you for unexpected challenges that will arise."

"I expect the course to teach us how to be better leaders and to help our Marines to become better leaders," said Sgt. Samantha K. Ogden, a student in the sergeants' course. "(I definitely) want to take what I learned here back to my Marines."

Subjects range from combat conditioning and unit readiness planning to writing awards and operations orders. The styles of instruction at the academy are as various as the courses being taught and the faculty advisors who teach them.

"Group discussions are my favorite teaching format," said Gunnery Sgt. Billy R. Gillenwater, a career course faculty advisor with the academy. "I like it when the class gets involved, gives input, and asks questions."

During the academy, students can build a network of contacts from various job fields, learn new skills to improve themselves and their section, and experience intense physical training sessions. However, the most important takeaway from this experience is leadership, according to Calbough.

"Whether through classroom instruction, combat conditioning, guest lecturers or peer exposure, it is the one area that every Marine can increase (in)," said Calbough. "This aides their commanders in mission accomplishment and gives them tools to provide guidance and mentorship to those that look to them for direction."

Staff Sgt. William G. Morris mans the stopwatch for students during the three-mile run portion of the physical fitness test as part of the curriculum at the Okinawa Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy. Morris, along with other faculty advisors, instructs students in various topics making them stand-out among their peers who have yet to receive an education from the academy. The Okinawa SNCO Academy is part of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

"I think it is important for all Marines to attend their resident (professional military education) at each level in order to better equip (themselves) for mentoring their junior Marines and advising their seniors," said Sgt. Maj. James N. Calbough, director of the Okinawa SNCO Academy, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

Volunteers team with community, clean local river

Story and photo by Pfc. Terence G. Brady
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Tires, pipes and other refuse littered the river bed, but with the combined effort of the Okinawan community and Marines, all was made clean.

More than 50 Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, helped clean up the Aja River at Urasoe City Aug. 19.

The volunteer opportunity allowed Marines with CLR-37 to interact with the community and participate in a combined effort, according to U.S. Navy Lt. Kevan Q. Lim, the coordinator of the cleanup event and chaplain of CLR-37.

A wide range of people from the local community, young and old, came together to clean up the river, according to Zenki Gushikin, a Jicchaku community leader.

"It is bad to leave the river as it is," said Gushikin. "It is not good for the environment, and having the youth from the community participating is a good way to teach them about the environment."

When Gushikin realized that conducting the cleanup would be a hard task, he contacted the offices at Camp Kinser for assistance, according to Mamoru Uriu, the camp secretary and community relations specialist at Camp Kinser.

"We didn't have enough people from the local community to finish the cleanup of the river," said Gushikin. "We are very thankful that the Marines could help with the effort."

When the Marines of CLR-37 heard about the opportunity to help, they did not hesitate to volunteer.

"Projects like these help us build goodwill in the community, which improves our relationship with our host country," said Lim.

As soon as the Marine volunteers arrived at the project site, they went straight to work with the community.

"Getting Marines involved in these events allows them to meet people from the community," said Lim. "They get to understand the community and show them that Marines put responsibility first."

The volunteers' selfless act helped make sure the cleanup was successful.

"It shows that Marines are not self-serving or self-centered," said Cpl. Robin L. Lee, a landing support specialist with CLR-37. "We want to help."

Navy Lt. Kevan Q. Lim, left, helps a volunteer remove waste from the Aja River at Urasoe City Aug. 19. Some of the garbage found in the river had decayed to the point where it was completely unrecognizable. Lim is the chaplain for Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Volunteer events are a good way to learn different cultures and can be fun in the process.

"Marines can learn that serving other people can be fun, and learning about other cultures can be interesting," said Lim. "Some of the best times you can have are when serving other people."

Marines perform air traffic control training

Pfc. Terence G. Brady
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the downpour descended upon the weathered airstrip on Ie Shima, Japan, Marines raced to prepare the area for air traffic control training.

The Marines of Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, trained for execution and employment of the Marine air traffic control mobile team Aug. 22.

The Marines conducted the training, which was the first event coordinated between the squadron and the Air Mobility Command at Yokota Air Base, Japan, to maintain readiness for real-world operations.

"We need the Marines certified as MMT members, so they can perform air traffic control duties during exercises and operations," said Gunnery Sgt. Louie S. Cruz, an air traffic controller with the squadron.

"It was important for us to include Rush because if it were not for him, we would not be able to accurately determine weather hazards that may have prematurely ended the exercise."

Gunnery Sgt. Louie S. Cruz

The training began with Marines designing a plan to lay out marking panels on the runway. Teams were grouped together for specific jobs during the mock construction of the runway, including a reference team, chase team, pace team and a base team.

"The Marines designated for the reference team will be making sure of the overall length of the runway," said Cpl. David H. Cha, an air traffic controller with the squadron. "Marines designated as pacers were sent out to properly measure 500 foot increments spaced out along the side of the runway."

After setting up the marking panels, the Marines utilized PRC-152 radios to keep contact with the other elements of the team and a PRC-117 to coordinate with the Air Mobility Command at Yokota Air Base. This was done to ensure all training procedures were conducted properly.

"Maintaining contact is vital in ensuring each team member is at the correct location at the right time," said Cruz.

During the training, inclement weather conditions such as thunderstorms can pose a potential threat. A meteorology and oceanography analyst forecaster with the squadron, Lance Cpl. Kevin A. Rush, was present at the training site to aid in verifying potential destructive weather conditions.

"This was the first time we incorporated a Marine with weather expertise in the team," said Cruz. "It was important for us to include Rush because if it were not for him, we would not be able to accurately determine weather hazards that may have prematurely ended the exercise."

While some of the Marines have education and experience with similar air traffic control exercises, most of them had little or no experience with a team, according to Sgt. Christopher M. Bickel, an air traffic controller with the squadron.

"Some of the Marines have done this before, but none of them were certified as team members or leaders," said Bickel. "That's what I'm out there for."

Weather threatened the training, but the squadron was determined to safely control at least one flight, according to Cruz.

"Any training opportunity for Marines is beneficial to the unit," said Gunnery Sgt. Jaime L. Jack, an air traffic controller with the squadron. "However the biggest takeaway from this evolution was the founding of a relationship between MACS-4 and other units."

Cpl. Nikola K. Kondovski lays in his firing position during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 21. Blending in with nature is vital to executing missions in any terrain. Kondovski is a machine gunner with scout sniper platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

US, Japan shooters master camouflage, stealth

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Steady breathing, stealth and patience are just a few attributes of an effective sniper. Marines of scout sniper platoon and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's special shooting team partnered up to rehearse these techniques during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan, Aug. 21.

The platoon, part of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, worked alongside its JGSDF counterparts to enhance its ability to move in a thick, heavily vegetated environment without being spotted.

Even though this environment can assist in preventing detection, every sniper must learn to traverse through it while maintaining stealth.

"There is no chance of finding us when our positions are covered by layers of bushes, trees and tall grass," said Sgt. Tokiwa Miura, a sniper with the special shooting team, JGSDF. "Camouflage is not just adding vegetation to you, but also to your rifle."

Multiple layers of vegetation may be needed to effectively camouflage oneself, according to Staff Sgt. Loren M. Cunningham, the platoon sergeant of the scout sniper platoon.

"The proper use of camouflage and proper selection of firing positions all tie together to effectively conceal you from the enemy," said Cunningham.

After applying camouflage and selecting a firing position, the snipers worked to conceal their locations and maintain noise discipline.

"After I would camouflage my face, suit and rifle, I would take my shots, but I was still not in the clear," said Sgt. Hideaki Shiotsuki an infantryman with the special shooting team, JGSDF. "We would pick up the brass from the rounds we shot, clean up our firing position, and crawl away keeping a low profile until we reached safety."

According to Cunningham, the bilateral exercise provided great training in dense terrain and a successful experience of working alongside the JGSDF.

Sgt. 1st Class Koji Sato analyzes the terrain before choosing his firing position during Exercise Forest Light 12-01 at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Oita prefecture, Japan Aug. 21. Sato is with the special shooting team, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

In Theaters Now

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6

FOSTER

TODAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 6 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY ParaNorman (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Hit and Run (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY ParaNorman (PG), 1 p.m.; Premium Rush (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY ParaNorman (PG), 1 p.m.; Total Recall (PG13), 4 p.m.; Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Magic Mike (R), 6 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), noon; Sparkle (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 6 p.m.; Magic Mike (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Sparkle (PG13), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Expendables 2 (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Campaign (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Magic Mike (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Premium Rush (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Brave (PG), 2 p.m.; Ted (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Brave (PG), 2 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Ted (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Hope Springs (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Campaign (R), 4 p.m.; Ted (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Expendables 2 (R), 4 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Magic Mike (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 3 p.m.; Magic Mike (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 3 p.m.; Magic Mike (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Sparkle (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Amazing Spider-Man (PG13), 2 p.m.; Magic Mike (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Premium Rush (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Sparkle (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 5 and 8 p.m.
SATURDAY That's My Boy (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Ted (R), 5 and 8 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.

BIOS ON THE HILL - SEPT. 8
• Bios on the Hill is a tropical forest park that includes a garden center, lily ponds, boat and water buffalo rides. A bus will depart Kinser Gym at 8:50 a.m., Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 9:20 a.m., and Camp Foster Field House at 9:40 a.m. Sept. 8. Sign up by Sept. 6.

DISCOVER GOLF - FREE GOLF LESSONS
• Taiyo Golf Course is hosting free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m.

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

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Nan ji desu ka?" (pronounced: nahn-jee dehs-kah?) It means, "What time is it?"

RANGE HIGH SCORES

Aug 20-24

RIFLE RANGE
Lance Cpl. Christoper Pittman
CAB, 335

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

"Vultures seek to fill themselves with the rotting flesh of evil, underhandedness, and imorality while the hummingbird looks for beauty and freshness."

Metaphor gives insight on outlook

Capt. J P. Hedges
3RD MARINE DIVISION CHAPLAIN

There are two birds that fly over our nations deserts: the vulture and the hummingbird. The vultures find the rotting meat of the desert, because that is what they eat. They thrive on that diet. But hummingbirds ignore the smelly flesh of dead animals and look for the colorful blossoms of desert plants.

The vultures live on what was. They live on the past. They fill themselves with what is dead and gone. But hummingbirds live on what is. They seek new life. They fill themselves with freshness and life. Each bird finds what it is looking for. We all do.

In life, there are two birds. One bird looks for foolishness and stupidity while the other looks for wisdom. The vultures seek to fill themselves with the rotting flesh of evil, underhandedness, and immorality while the hummingbird looks for beauty and freshness.

The irony is that they both find what they are looking for.

It is not hard to spot the vultures in our life. They are the ones finding fault with everyone and everything else. They pounce on an opportunity no matter who it may harm. They may appear to have a great time in the night, but watch out when morning comes!

The hummingbirds are quite different. They walk into a room and brighten up everyone's day. They are a joy to have around because they are an inspiration to others. It seems they not only have good days and they have joy to share with everyone.

What are you looking for in life? How do you want your days to go? What kind of friend would you like to have? What kind of friend would you like to be? If I were to ask your friends if you are more like a vulture or a hummingbird, what would they say? What would you like them to say? Have you found what you are looking for? We all do.

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