

## **Assistant commandant visits Okinawa**



Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. discusses the importance of the Marine Corps' presence in the Asia-Pacific region March 18 at Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265's hangar during a flightline tour of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Paxton talked with Marines and observed units, training sites and Marine Corps facilities throughout Okinawa during his visit. Photo by Cpl. Tia Dufour

**Cpl. Mark Stroud** 

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, visited III Marine Expeditionary Force units and Marine Corps Installations Pacific March 17-20 during a tour of installations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Paxton talked with Marines and observed units, training sites and facilities throughout Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, MCI-PAC, during his visit.

"The purpose of this visit is to see what is going on out here operationally, view the state of our facilities, what the motivation and morale of our people is, and what we can do to better assist and develop from back in Washington D.C.," said Paxton. "It is an honor and privilege to represent our commandant, Gen. James F. Amos, and

see **ACMC** pg 5

# **CBRN specialists refresh response procedures**

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialists with 3rd Marine Logistics Group conducted CBRN training March 18 at Camp Kinser.

The Marines took part in training to increase mission readiness and rehearse standard operating procedures and responses to CBRN scenarios.

"This training prepared the Marines as if they were deployed," said Chief Warrant Officer Derek G. Williams, the CBRN officer in charge with G-3, operations and training, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "With this realistic type training, we are able to ensure the Marines are trained and working up to the standards set for them."

The scenario-based training consisted of several stages, beginning with training on how to identify if an area was contaminated.

The Marines executed all the procedures for a real-world CBRN attack, including the identification and neutralization of hazardous materials and chemicals, as well as the

see CBRN pg 5 Photo by La.



During training, 3rd Marine Logistics Group chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense specialists scan the perimeter of a building March 18 at Camp Kinser. The Marines are with 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

# Options available in place of Corps' tuition assistance

Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The publication of all-Navy message 014/13 by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus March 2, along with Marine administrative message 125/13, published March 13, directed an immediate suspension of new Marine Corps enrollments in tuition assistance.

The suspension does not affect tuition assistance that was authorized before March 4.

Spending off-duty time to earn a college degree is highly encouraged by leadership, but now that the tuition assistance program has been suspended, Marines are

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#### **SPECIAL FORCES AIRBORNE**

Marines and Army Special Forces work together during airborne training.

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Military engineers gather for field meet to celebrate the patron saint of engineering.

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BANDS UNITE USING UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC DURING ANNUAL COMBINED CONCERT

PG. 10

# GIVING OF TIME, SHARING OF

## Volunteers assume leadership role in community

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

rvice members have already stepped up and taken personal accountability for their future, as well as the future of their families and nation. Long days and nights spent working in tough and dan-

gerous operating conditions maintain a force that protects America's interests, along with setting high standards of professionalism and honor.

It should come as no surprise the men and women who volunteered for this responsibility are also frequently seen leading their communities, working selflessly to help others by providing services that would not otherwise be available.

Their leadership, in this case, does not stem from the weight of their collars, but from their willingness to take accountability and improve the communities they live in.

Whether it is raising money for disease research, helping feed and clothe the less fortunate, or coaching or refereeing for a youth sports league, volunteers are at the center of modern communities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the military communities throughout U.S. Forces Japan, where service members and their families find themselves thousands of miles away

from traditional support structures.

Intramural and youth sports leagues, hobby groups, single Marine program events, festivals and countless other social gatherings that depend on volunteers are the focal point of a thriving and involved community for those with the desire to participate.

"Whether it is raising money for disease research, helping feed and clothe the less fortunate, or coaching or refereeing for a youth sports league, volunteers are at the center of modern communities."

> By working together, the members of these communities, led by volunteers, have recreated the social gatherings and events service members and families enjoyed while stateside for all to enjoy while also integrating aspects of local culture. As anyone who has participated in an intramural softball or football game or attended a festival in a foreign country knows, the camaraderie and friendships formed extend well beyond the field and games and into the lives of

those who participate, bringing not only the participants together, but their families as well. The positive effects can be even more pronounced for children and teenagers, who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to enjoy youth sports leagues, fairs or other pivotal events in their young lives.

> In other volunteer events, the effects are felt well beyond the boundaries of Japan, with service members and their families donating blood that helps throughout the Asia-Pacific region, or running to raise awareness and help combat such diseases as cancer.

All this is possible because service members and their families sacrifice time and energy to contribute to their community, both locally and globally. These volunteers implement the leadership traits and principles

taught to every service member, and take the initiative to make their home a better place for themselves and others.

So next time you are enjoying a festival, watching your child score the winning point, or coming together with your friends to run a half-marathon, take a second to thank the people who make it possible — or take the next step and ask what you can do to help.

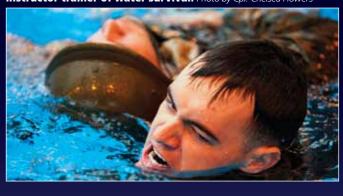
Stroud is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.





Marines fire a 155 mm howizter during the invasion of Iraq in early 2003, in North Umm Qasr, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. March 20, 2013, marked the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War, which saw more than one million service members deployed to Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn and the sacrifices of 4,475 U.S. service members who died in Iraq. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Decker

Sgt. Grant Martinez performs a simulated water rescue of Sgt. Jeremiah Reilly during testing for the Marine combat instructor of water survival course March 12 at Marine Corps Base Camp Johnson, N.C. Martinez is one of more than 20 students attending the three-week MCIWS course, which certifies instructors to train Marines to react and survive life-threatening situations in the water. Martinez is a training noncommissioned officer with Marine Special Operations Logistics Battalion, Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command. Reilly is a Marine Corps instructor trainer of water survival. Photo by Cpl. Chelsea Flowers





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### OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER

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> **CENTRAL BUREAU** Camp Foster DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU Camp Hansen

DSN 623-7229 SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser DSN 637-1092

## Paxton visits USNH Okinawa

**Cpl. Matthew Manning** 

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Debbie M. Paxton, spouse of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., visited U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Foster and the Stork's Nest on Camp Lester March 18 to observe the facilities and health services provided to active-duty personnel, civilian employees, contract personnel, family members and retirees on Okinawa.

During her visit, Paxton, who is a registered nurse, learned about the new hospital facility and the functions and operations of the Stork's Nest.

Staffs at both locations were honored and privileged to host Paxton, according to Navy Capt. Pius Aiyelawo, commanding officer of USNH Okinawa.

'We just relocated to this new facility, and she had a lot of great questions for us and was very appreciative of us taking the time to brief her on not just Naval Hospital Okinawa services, but the new facility as well," said Aiyelawo.

The new hospital is the largest overseas medical treatment facility in the Navy and has approximately twice the square footage of the previous facility.

"I was greatly impressed by the functionality, attention to detail and beauty of the new hospital," said Paxton. "Throughout the hospital are displays of lovely photographs of Okinawa landscapes and cultural treasures. Despite just opening March 17, the state-ofthe-art neonatal intensive care unit staff is already caring for at-risk babies. The level III NICU capability will be a great source



Debbie M. Paxton congratulates Petty Officer 1st Class Russell J. Valdez Jr., right, on the birth of his son, Matthew, March 18 during her visit to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. Paxton is the spouse of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., and Valdez is a hospital corpsman with USNH Okinawa. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

of comfort and security to (Western Pacific) military families with high-risk pregnancies or those facing unexpected complications during labor and delivery.'

Other services available, which complement those provided by USNH Okinawa, are the services of the Stork's Nest.

The Stork's Nest provides free lodging for off-island families of patients who are in the intensive care unit and off-island patients with high-risk pregnancies, according to Ann G. Alexander, the president of the Friends of the Stork's Nest.

The Friends of the Stork's Nest is the volunteer organization that facilitates a home-like living environment for families during their time away from home.

"It provides a home-awayfrom-home atmosphere similar to the Fisher Houses or Ronald McDonald Houses in the states for family members of hospitalized patients," said Alexander.

ICU is an adult or infant, if their family is coming from locations outside of Okinawa, they can stay at the Stork's Nest on a first-come, first-served basis, according to Alexander. The Stork's Nest facility is unique to Okinawa and is run by volunteers and donations, she added.

"Since the eligible population of (beneficiaries) in the Western Pacific using USNH Okinawa is more than 150,000, I plan to explore future efforts to expand the services provided by the Stork's Nest," said Paxton.

At the end of her visit, Paxton could see that service members and their families are in the capable hands of the health care professionals of USNH Okinawa.

"It was evident the staff is proud to serve and eager to provide the best care possible," said Paxton.

To learn more about helping the Friends of the Stork's Nest, call 645-5431, or visit www. storksnestfriendsokinawa.org.



## BRIEFS

#### **TAX CENTERS OPEN FOR SERVICES**

The tax centers on Camps Foster and Hansen are open for all active-duty service members, their families and Department of Defense employees. Taxpayers can schedule an appointment or walk-in.

Those using the service must provide the following information:

- Military/DOD identification card
- Social security cards and birth dates for everyone on the tax
- Current year's tax package
- Wage and earnings statements Interest and dividends statements from banks
- Banking routing numbers
- Last year's federal and state return, if available
- Total paid for daycare with provider's identifying number For more details, call 645-4829.

### SECURE BELONGINGS, VEHICLES

The Provost Marshal's Office reports a large number of larcenies from secured and unsecured vehicles off base. The Okinawa Police Department further reports many status of forces agreement vehicles unsecured with wallets and other valuable items visible during its patrols.

PMO and the Okinawa Police Department remind everyone to secure their valuables in their home or on their person whenever possible, not in their vehicles. If necessary, lock the vehicle and keep any valuables out of sight or take them to your destination.

Report any suspicious activity to PMO by calling 645-3955.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EVENT** WITH LOCAL ORPHANAGES

Camp Foster is kicking off Tomo Days, and has invited local orphanages to Camp Foster for a day of friendship-building April 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a movie and an egg hunt.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, run the egg hunt and games, and serve snacks

Interested parties should email aaron.carlton@usmc.mil.

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**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.



Soldiers prepare to execute static-line jumps aboard a Marine-piloted KC-130J Hercules aircraft March 17 over Tsuken Jima drop zone near White Beach Naval Facility. In static-line parachuting, a static line, or fixed cord, is attached to the aircraft while the other end is attached to the pilot chute inside the jumper's backpack, which causes the jumper's parachute to open automatically upon exiting the aircraft. The soldiers are with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). The pilots and aircraft are assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

# Marines, soldiers conduct static-line airborne training

Story and photos by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

WHITE BEACH NAVAL FACILITY, OKINAWA, Japan — Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 flew soldiers from the Army's 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), as they conducted static-line parachute operations into the Tsuken Jima water drop zone March 17 near White Beach Naval Facility.

With steady winds and a clear ocean, the jumpmaster turned and shouted to the first stick of soldiers, "one minute!" With that command, the soldiers quickly put on their game faces and accepted that 60 seconds later, they would be leaping then floating toward the deep blue sea.

The Marine pilots flew the soldiers to the drop zone in a KC-130J Hercules aircraft to conduct the airborne training.

In static-line parachuting, a static line, or fixed cord, is attached to the aircraft while the other end is attached to the pilot chute inside the jumper's backpack, which causes the jumper's parachute to open automatically upon exiting the aircraft.

Soldiers with 1st Bn. conduct training with Marine pilots frequently to maintain proficiency and meet requirements.

"This was a great opportunity for us to practice our in-flight operations while working with another branch of service," said Sgt. Christopher R. Weins, a fixed-wing aircraft crew chief with VMGR-152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine



Soldiers execute static-line jumps out of a Marine-piloted KC-130J Hercules aircraft March 17 over the Tsuken Jima water drop zone near White Beach Naval Facility. The soldiers are with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Expeditionary Force. "Even though we fly constantly, while we are in the air, we are always learning."

Upon exiting the aircraft, the soldiers parachuted into the water, where they gathered their equipment and swam to a safety boat waiting to extract them.

"This is the kind of training that makes everything worth it," said Weins. "Not very often do you get to stand within feet of someone preparing to jump from an aircraft. It is a great experience."

With the many hazards associated with water landings, the soldiers trained for proper exit and water insertion procedures prior to jumping. Marine aircrews worked with Army jumpmasters to ensure the training evolution was safe and productive.

"While we conduct this training often, safety is our number one concern before every jump," said Army Staff Sgt. Steve Mrgan, a jumpmaster with 1st Bn. "Every branch of the service brings something different to the fight, making every experience working with other services a beneficial one."

It is the jumpmaster's job to ensure the soldiers' safety during the jump by performing various group, equipment and safety checks prior to the jump, according to Mrgan.

When it comes to flying and jumping, service members can expect to work any day and time that weather permits, according to Cpl. Eric M. Wanczak, a fixedwing aircraft crew chief with the squadron.

Jumps are conducted monthly, and there is always something the soldiers can learn, according to Mrgan.

"While the training can become repetitive, the seriousness involved with jumping requires us to never become complacent," said Mrgan. "Each jump we perform builds confidence in the next, and each time we jump with another service, we better understand our joint capabilities."

# Attendees tie spirituality into leadership

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Approximately 40 Marines and sailors attended the quarterly 3rd Marine Logistics Group prayer breakfast March 12 at the Camp Kinser mess hall.

The breakfast's theme was spiritual leadership, and attendees were challenged to tie spirituality into leadership.

"We chose spiritual leadership as our theme because leadership plays such a huge role in the lives of Marines, and it is important to bridge the two together," said Lt. Cmdr. Diana A. Lantz, the chaplain for Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The goal of the prayer breakfast was to show Marines and sailors that leadership and spirituality go handin-hand, and one will ultimately need spirituality to develop their leadership skills.

"This breakfast was meant to show the Marines and sailors that spirituality is an important element of who we are as people," said Lantz. "We need to be able to link our spirituality with our general well-being in order to incorporate that into our leadership."

Attendees at the breakfast were from a variety of faiths.

"Today, we are expecting everyone who is participating to contribute their own prayers," said Lantz. "At these breakfasts, we like to have a large range of faith traditions join us."

The prayer breakfast began with an opening prayer and continued with musical selections played by Marines.

"I have been playing the guitar at the Kinser Chapel for a few months now and was honored when Chaplain Lantz invited me to play at the breakfast," said Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Guilliams, a motor vehicle operator with CLR-35. "I think the Marines and sailors got a lot out of today. More individuals should take the time to attend these breakfasts when they have the opportunity."

Among the participants to speak was Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, the commanding general of 3rd MLG, who spoke to the Marines and sailors about connecting their core values with their respective faiths.

"As Marines, we are confident in what we do because we have our faith and work hard as individuals," said Nelson. "If you have faith in yourself, it will make us as a Marine Corps even better."

#### **TUITION** from pg 1

encouraged to find alternate means of financial aid to help them in the pursuit of earning a degree, according to Tina M. Smilie, the director of personal and professional development for education and career services, Marine Corps Community Services Okinawa.

"Marines are encouraged to speak with a guidance counselor at their local MCCS education center to plan for alternatives to finance their education during the suspension of tuition assistance," said Smilie.

Marines should be aware of financial scams online and know they are not required to pay to obtain scholarship information or file a free application for federal student aid, according to Smilie.

Completing a FAFSA helps students understand the type and amount of government aid they are eligible for, but does not automatically obligate the student to borrow from a lender.

"Students should always consider federal aid in the form of grants first," said Smilie. "This aid is not required to be paid back. Education loans, on the other hand, must be paid back."

Schools will frequently offer students loans as part of a financial aid package in addition to a Federal Pell Grant, according to Smilie. However, it is important to know students can accept the Federal Pell Grant without accepting the loan portion of the financial aid package.

"Marines are also advised to be careful and get the proper advice from their MCCS education center counselors prior to using the (Post 9/11 or Montgomery) GI Bill while on active-duty," said Smilie. "There are also limitations set on active-duty students using Veteran Affairs education benefits."

In addition to grants and loans, students are also encouraged to apply for scholarships.

"All MCCS education centers have counselors available to assist Marines with their educational needs," said Smilie. "We have financial aid and scholarship publications available at each education center. In addition, the colleges and universities on island have personnel who can assist in these matters."

There are many options available when considering financial assistance, and Marines are encouraged to discuss their options with an education center counselor before making any final decisions.

"Applying for financial aid, grants or scholarships is a little more work than applying for tuition assistance, and well worth it," said Smilie. "You would be surprised how many students don't know they qualify for some or all of these options. If you don't apply, you definitely won't receive assistance with your continued education."

#### **ACMC** from pg 1

the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, both of whom pass their best wishes to our Marines, sailors and civilians on Okinawa."

Paxton assumed duties as the assistant commandant Dec. 15, 2012. His visit signaled the Marine Corps' continued commitment to maintaining a strong presence in the region.

"The Asia-Pacific region, as everyone knows or should know, is incredibly important to the Marine Corps and the United States," said Paxton. "We have an immediate purpose and a personal purpose as a nation here in the Pacific, and we also have bilateral and multilateral interests with our allies, partners and friends."

The general affirmed the Marine Corps' dedication to continue building upon these relationships in the Asia-Pacific.

"There are five countries with whom we have mutual defense treaties (in the region), so we are always interested in showing them that ... even though we may be 8,000 miles away, we understand their challenges and concerns and we are partners with them," said Paxton. "We are partners they can rely on, and we are interested in training with them and developing our capabilities and capacity."

Paxton also emphasized the Marine Corps' commitment to III MEF and return to its traditional roots as an amphibious expeditionary force.

"Everyone on Okinawa is an integral part of the Marine Corps," said Paxton. "As we reset from Afghanistan and rebalance to the Pacific, we are going to do everything within our power to make sure the best people, the best gear and the best training is resident here or available to Marines on Okinawa."

The general visited with Marines and sailors across the island during his time on Okinawa.

"For 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, General Paxton saw our barracks and then came down to visit us at the kennels to see the military working dog platoon," said 1st Lt. Jocelyn M. Mills, a military police officer with 3rd LE Bn., III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. "You hear about what's going on during briefs, but it's important to see the boots on the ground. It is great to see leadership actively engaged, asking questions, and taking a genuine interest, which is what I believe the assistant commandant provided."

Many of the enlisted Marines were afforded the chance to meet the assistant commandant during his visit.

"I will definitely remember the visit for a long time," said Cpl. Steven Z. Lilley, a military working dog handler with 3rd LE Bn. "To see high-ranking Marines come out shows how much they care about what we do and means a lot to us"

Interacting with the Marines and sailors of III MEF and MCI-PAC was the highlight of the trip for Paxton.

"The best part about any visit is to be with the Marines, sailors and families," said Paxton. "I never cease to be amazed at the talent, the skill-sets and the motivation of everyone who is out here on Okinawa. From Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF, down to the brand new private first class right out of recruit training ... it is a great team here, and I'm honored to come out and get a chance to meet so many of them and have them talk about or demonstrate what they do in the Pacific."

The assistant commandant concluded the third day of his visit with a message for the Marines of III MEF and MCIPAC.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be out here with all the Marines and families on Okinawa, so thank you very much," said Paxton. "As Lt. Gen. Glueck and all the leaders out here tell you, be good ambassadors, represent the United States and the Marine Corps well and properly here on Okinawa, and when you are off island, train hard, be safe and take care of each other. Semper fidelis."



Lt. Col. Jason S. McFarland indicates where the future location of the Futenma Replacement Facility will be to Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. March 19 at Camp Schwab. During his visit to Okinawa, Paxton received updates from key leaders on facilities throughout the island, including the new U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa location on Camp Foster and the FRF. McFarland is the FRF project management officer with G-F, Facilities, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Cpl. Tia Dufour

#### **CBRN** from pg 1

extraction and decontamination of victims from the contaminated area.

"Our primary mission here is to extract the causalities," said Gunnery Sgt. Aaron K. Kingstad, the CBRN staff noncommissioned officer in charge with G-3, 3rd MLG. "Once the casualties have been removed, we go in to mitigate and clean up the area in order to prevent any further contamination."

The training was highly beneficial for the Marines, according to Kingstad. It allowed them to see the full spectrum of their job, from the initial set up to the mitigation and cleanup.

"This was a good experience for me and all of the Marines," said Lance Cpl. Christina R. Patten, a CBRN defense specialist with G-3, 3rd MLG. "The most enjoyable part of this for me was getting to set up the scenario with the Marines, as well as play a part in it."

CBRN training like this is an asset to 3rd MLG as well as III MEF, according to Williams. By providing the best training to the Marines, 3rd MLG is ultimately better prepared.

"This kind of training is very perishable," said Williams. "It is important to practice in order to keep it fresh in the Marines' heads."

okinawa marine | **FEAU** 

Marine and Air Force engineers battle each other at tug-of-war during a St. Patrick's Day field meet March 15 at Camp Hansen. "Based on the amount of exercises and operations we conduct together as engineers, this event was a great opportunity for us to continue to build rapport through friendly competition," said Sgt. Maj. Thomas M. Burkhardt, the sergeant major of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



# Military engineers celebrate holiday with festive competition

Story and photos by Pfc. Kasey Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Ingineers annually celebrate the life of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers, on St. Patrick's Day. Students with the Missouri University of Science and Technology formalized the celebration in 1903, and it has since increased in popularity to become a tradition in some U.S. military engineering units.

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion hosted their own field meet inviting six Okinawa-based units with engineering capabilities, including Air Force and Navy units, March 15 at Camp Hansen.

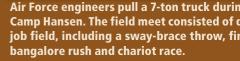
"Based on the amount of exercises and operations we conduct together as engineers, this event was a great opportunity for us to continue to build rapport through friendly competition," said Sgt. Maj. Thomas M. Burkhardt, the sergeant major of 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It was great to see the engineers from different branches come out here and give it all they have in the competitions. It reflected all our engineers' fighting spirit and willingness to accomplish the task."

The field meet consisted of different events relating to the engineering field, including a sway-brace throw, find-the-rebar challenge,

blarney stone toss, bangalore rush and chariot race. The meet also included more traditional events, such as a tug-of-war competition, several relay races, a tire flip and a truck pull in which competitors had to tow a 7-ton truck 100 meters.

Each team earned points according to how it placed within individual events. After all events were completed, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 was crowned the winner.

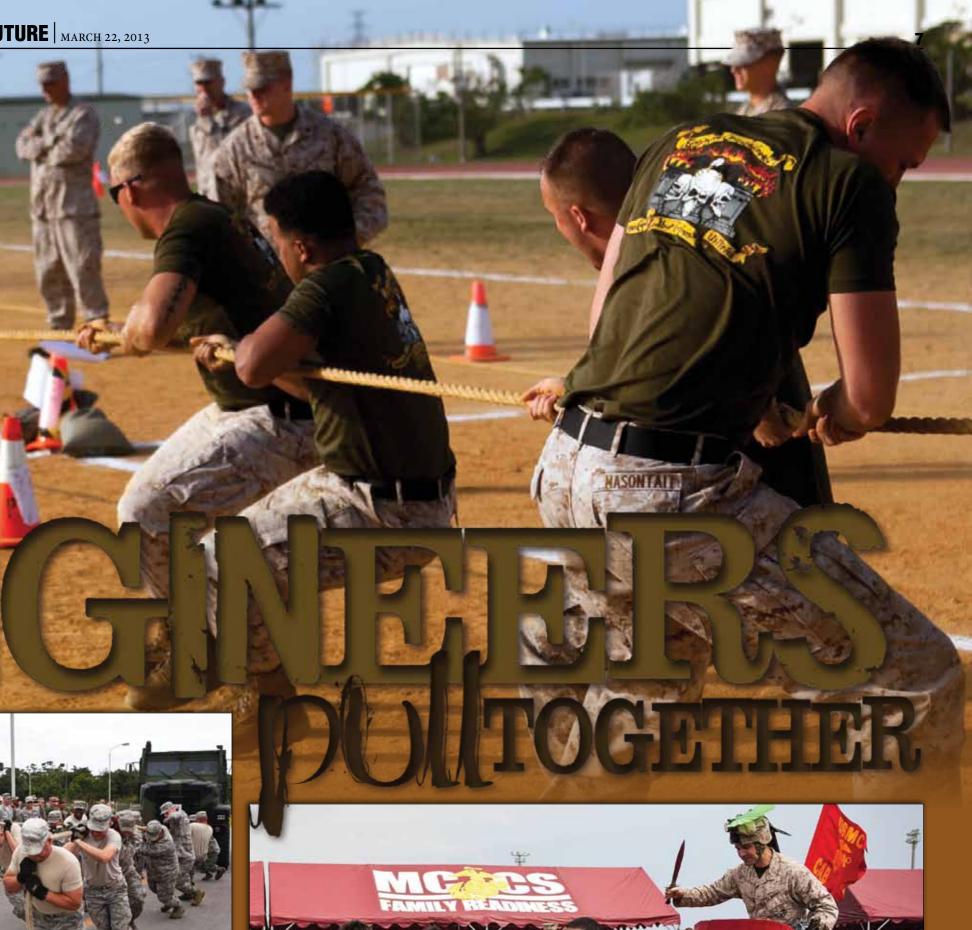
"Even though we didn't win, it was great to get out there and spend time with my engineering brothers and sisters," said Seaman Lacey A. Barnes, a constructionman with Naval Mobile Construction



Battalion 5. "It was great to interact and come together for a friendly day of competition."

During the event's lunch break, staff noncommissioned and commissioned officers played a game of softball. Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., commanding general of III MEF, joined the game to pitch an inning for each team.

Regardless of the branch of service, engineers have led the way in countless exercises and operations,



g a St. Patrick's Day field meet March 15 at lifferent events relating to the engineering nd-the-rebar challenge, blarney stone toss,

according to Air Force Lt. Col. Bryan C. Opperman, the commander of the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, 18th Wing.

the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, 18th Wing.

"Whether we are supporting or maneuvering (during) operations, engineers lead the way and play a huge part in our nation's military," said Opperman. "The biggest takeaway from today was everyone out here getting to know each other and having fun, which makes the engineering community stronger."



Combat engineers with Combat Assault Battalion race around the track with a chariot during the final event of a St. Patrick's Day field meet March 15 at Camp Hansen. 9th ESB hosted the event and invited six Okinawa-based units with engineering capabilities, including Air Force and Navy units, to participate. CAB is a part of 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.



Marines of Assault Amphibious Vehicle Company stack up and begin to move toward their objective Jan. 10, 2012, at combat town in the Central Training Area. CAB began its storied history as 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion Feb. 16, 1942, at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., before moving to its current home on Camp Schwab in July of 1969. The battalion was redesignated to its current name Oct. 5, 1994. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

## Combat Assault Battalion remains unique within Corps

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

arines take great pride in serving as America's force in readiness. For the members of Combat Assault Battalion, that pride stands a little stronger perhaps, as they are unique within the Marine Corps.

CAB is the only battalion-sized combat assault unit in the Marine Corps. It provides the 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, with engineers, assault amphibious vehicle support and light armored reconnaissance capabilities, as well as motor transport, heavy-equipment, communications, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense assets.

"CAB is certainly a one-of-a-kind battalion comprised of many arms of the ground combat element," said Lt. Col. Terry M. Paustenbaugh, the commanding officer of CAB. "We bring a unique and diverse capability to a division that serves across a broad spectrum of operations and exercises. These include numerous theater security cooperation events, as well as deploying platoons and individual augments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom."

The battalion consists of headquarters and service, combat engineer, LAR and AAV companies. Its mission is to conduct and support amphibious operations by landing and transporting surface assault elements and equipment to inland objectives while conducting closecombat engineer support, light armored reconnaissance and limited offensive and defensive operations.

"We focus on our training and readiness at the platoon and company-levels while on Okinawa, so we can ensure mission success when supporting the numerous exercises that take place throughout the Asia-Pacific region," added Paustenbaugh. "We also do our best to get the battalion to Camp Fuji in order to refine our ability to command and control when the battalion's forces are aggregated. These efforts paid off when we represented our division during a recent exercise in mainland Japan. It will also serve us well as we turn our focus to the many tasks we have been assigned this spring and summer."

Other Marine divisions have the same capabilities, but they are organized into various battalions, according to Capt. Scott A. Whipple, the officer in charge of S-3, operations and training, CAB.



Marines fire an M242 Bushmaster 25 mm autocannon during vehicle and weapons maintenance training with a light armored vehicle March 5 at Camp Schwab. CAB consists of headquarters and service, combat engineer, light armored reconnaissance and AAV companies. Its mission is to conduct and support amphibious operations by landing and transporting surface assault elements and equipment to inland objectives while conducting close-combat engineer support, light armored reconnaissance and limited offensive and defensive operations. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

"We don't have the personnel or the space for each element to be its own battalion," said Whipple. "That is why it is important that we are even more efficient — because of our smaller size and the amount of support we provide 3rd Marine Division."

The battalion's Marines participated in several World War II campaigns, continued their fighting legacy during the Korean War at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir and the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter,

and also fought around Da Nang during the Vietnam War.

CAB began its storied history as 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion Feb. 16, 1942, at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., before moving to its current home on Camp Schwab in July of 1969. The battalion was redesignated to its current name Oct. 5, 1994.

"Having been with a lot of different battalions in my career, CAB has definitely been the most unique," said Master Sgt. Kent L. Corbett, the operations chief for Combat Engineer Company, CAB. "You can see the pride the Marines share being part of a small, close family."

Given its size, CAB is more operationally agile in supporting the different elements of 3rd Marine Division and III MEF throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and it is capable of executing a broad range of operations with its organic assets and personnel.

"The Marines take pride in knowing that we can provide incredibly diverse capabilities," said Paustenbaugh. "Whether it is making water, improving roads, detecting improvised explosive devices, assaulting a beach, or conducting light armored reconnaissance this battalion will get the job done."



Marines pilot an assault amphibious vehicle aboard the USS Denver during Exercise Keen Sword 2013 Nov. 9, 2012. CAB is the only battalion-sized combat assault unit in the Marine Corps. It provides 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, with engineers, assault amphibious vehicle support and light armored reconnaissance capabilities, as well as motor transport, heavy-equipment, communications, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense assets. Photo by Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller

# MAKING MARKSMEN Marines train with Guam SWAT team

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The smell of sulfur combined with the pop of gunfire fills the air. Marines clad in flak jackets and Kevlar helmets line up and wait for the command to fire. However, there is one peculiarity not seen on a live-fire range in some time.

Marines shared the rifle range with members of the Guam Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics team to rekindle the relationship between Guam's police force and the Marine Corps. The event took place March 6 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Guam.

The training provided an opportunity to share techniques and ideas, according to Staff Sgt. Phillip S. Clinton, a range safety officer and platoon sergeant with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which

is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

"It's always a great thing when we train with each other and learn what the other knows," said Clinton. "While this helps the Guam police and our Marines expand knowledge, it also helps to instill added confidence in the capabilities of the police force, specifically the SWAT team."

The day began midmorning, with the Marines running through their intermediate and advanced rifle combat marksmanship drills. They then watched as members of the SWAT team demonstrated their marksmanship drills with pistols and rifles. Once the team members completed their drills, the Marines taught the SWAT team members the Marine Corps rifle qualification drills. The day came to a close with both teams



Marines discuss firing techniques with members of the Guam Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics team during marksmanship training March 6 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Guam. The Marines are participating in Exercise Guahan Shield, which is designed to facilitate multiservice engagements, set conditions for bilateral and multilateral training opportunities, and support rapid response to potential crises and contingency operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The Marines are with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

shooting combat marksmanship qualifications side-by-side.

The Marines appreciated the significance of training with the local police, according to Cpl. Aaron Piccolo, a team leader and rifleman with Company L.

"It's not often we get to train with local police departments," said Piccolo. "Events like this are a great opportunity to exchange ideas and procedures, which ultimately benefits everybody."

Members of the SWAT team have not trained with Marines in over eight years, according to police Sgt. John C. Aguon, officer in charge of the marine patrol section of the Guam Police Department.

"It's great to get back to the tradition," said Aguon. "We used to do this all the time, so it feels good to come back to exchange and refresh ideas. Plus, it's great to connect with the Marines here for Exercise Guahan Shield."

The Guam Police Department works with resident sailors, Coast Guard members and Marines, according to Aguon. This helps them understand the visiting and resident service members, as well as allows the service members to understand and respect the local police department. The added benefit is the chance to become better trained, which makes both sides ready for a wide range of missions, according to Aguon.

"Every chance we get to connect with the military is a chance to enhance and improve our skills," said Aguon. "We all share the same mission, which is keeping our nation safe, whether on the local police force or the military side."

SWAT team members enjoyed the day's training and look forward to more events like it in the future, according to Aguon.

"I'm very thankful the Marines are willing to train with us," said Aguon. "I look forward to getting together to exchange procedures and train more often."



Police Sgt. John C. Aguon



Members of the Guam Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics team conduct marksmanship training while Marines observe March 6 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Guam. The Marines are with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Capt. Tetsuya Sato conducts three bands March 17 during the 18th Annual Combined Concert at Tedako Hall in Urasoe City. The JGSDF 15th Band, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Southwestern Air Band and III Marine Expeditionary Force Band concluded the concert with a combined performance. Sato is the conductor of the JASDF Southwestern Air Band. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ian M. McMahon

## Bands unite during annual combined concert

**Lance Cpl. Terry Brady** OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

usic is often called a universal language, and the ability to communicate for service members stationed overseas with neighbors in their host nation can be an invaluable experience.

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Band, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Southwestern Air Band and III Marine Expeditionary Force Band performed together March 17 during the 18th Annual Combined Concert at Tedako Hall in Urasoe City.

"Though we regularly play with the JGSDF, this is the first time for most of us to have all three bands play at the same time," said Gunnery Sgt. Shannon L. Farquhar, the enlisted conductor of the III MEF



From left to right, Staff Sgt. Demarius D. Jackson, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief Master Sgt. Satoru Joda, and Japan **Ground Self-Defense Force Sgt. 1st Class** Naoki Honzumi play smooth jazz March 17 in the lobby of Tedako Hall in Urasoe City prior to the 18th Annual Combined Concert. Photo by Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

Band. "Everyone is excited, and it is an honor to be able to perform with them."

The concert featured a variety of performances from all the bands, including pieces of concert band music and music accompanied by traditional Japanese instruments and choreographed dances.

"Since I've been with the band, we've played three times with the JGSDF 15th Band," said Sgt. Joshua T. Crissey, a euphonium player with the III MEF band. "We have a history working together, and we are all looking forward to putting on a good show."

The bands coordinated with each other prior to the concert, enhancing the overall experience.

"At the beginning of the concert, (each) band performed musical works that they had rehearsed on their own," said Farquhar. "By the end of the concert, members from each band came together to perform in unison with music we rehearsed together.'

The crowd was entertained through the bands' charisma.

"The bands learn from each other and teach others consistently," said JGSDF Sgt. 1st Class

Sho Furusada. a band member with the JGSDF 15th Band. "Most of the time, we communicate through our mutual understanding of music. It has

become a language understood by our musicians."

The JASDF band offered a different variety of music for the concert, veering away from common concert hall movements in favor of iazz music.

"The air band's presence for the concert really stimulated everyone," said Furusada. "Having them play with the other bands has heightened our excitement in

performing tonight."

"It's not just about having a good

time or giving the audience a good

relationships with the bands while

■ Sgt. Joshua T. Crissey

learning from their experiences."

performance, it's about building

At the closing of the performance, the bands' collaboration was met with thunderous applause that engulfed the auditorium.

"I had a wonderful night listening to the performances of the bands, especially the final performances with the bands combined,"

said Kiyoshi Higa, a concert attendee. "We would like to see this more often.'

The bands came together after the performance to congratulate each other on their performances.

"It's not just about having a good time or giving the audience a good performance, it's about building relationships with the bands while learning from their experiences," said Crissey.



Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Band and Shima Uta Shojo Ten, an Okinawa musical group, perform during the combined concert March 17 at Tedako Hall in Urasoe City. Each band that played during the concert brought with it a unique style of music. The bands participating in the concert included the JGSDF 15th Band, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Southwestern Air Band and III Marine Expeditionary Force Band. Photo by Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

## In Theaters Now

#### **MARCH 22-28**

#### **FOSTER**

**TODAY** The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6 p.m.; The

SATURDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), noon; The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Call (R), 6 and 9 n.m.

**SUNDAY** Escape from Planet Earth (PG), 1 p.m.; The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 4 p.m.; Les Miserables (PG13),

MONDAY Mama (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Dead Man Down (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13),

THURSDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.

#### **KADENA**

TODAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6 p.m.; The

SATURDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), noon; The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 3 p.m.; Mama (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Call (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Oz the Great and Powerful (PG), 1 p.m.; The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Call (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Les Miserables (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** Identity Thief (R), 7 p.m.

#### COURTNEY

TODAY Mama (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), 2 p.m.; Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 2 p.m.; Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Mana (PG13), 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY** Closed

WEDNESDAY Dead Man Down, (R), 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY** Closed

#### **FUTENMA**

TODAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6:30 p.m. SATURDAY The Call (R), 4 p.m.; Dead Man Down (R), 7 p.m. SUNDAY Mama (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

#### KINSER

**TODAY** The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6:30 p.m. **SATURDAY** Oz the Great and Powerful (PG), 3 p.m.; The Call

(R), 6:30 p.m. SUNDAY Jack the Giant Slayer (PG13), 3 p.m.; Dead Man

**MONDAY-TUESDAY** Closed

WEDNESDAY Les Miserables (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Call (R),

THURSDAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13),

#### **SCHWAB**

**TODAY** The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Call (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Les Miserables (PG13), 6 p.m.; Mama (PG13),

SUNDAY Beautiful Creatures (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 9 p.m. **MONDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

#### **HANSEN**

TODAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.; Dead Man Down (R), 10 p.m. SATURDAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6 p.m.;

SUNDAY Oz the Great and Powerful (PG), 2 p.m.; Dead Man Down (R), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6 p.m.;

Mama (PG13), 9 p.m. TUESDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY** Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m. THURSDAY Mama (PG13), 7 p.m.

#### 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.



## MARINE VENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

#### **BUSHIDO MUD RUN CHALLENGE - MARCH 30**

 The Bushido Mud Run will be held March 30. Signup deadline is today at any Semper Fit Gym. Check-in time is 8 a.m. March 30, and race begins at 10 a.m. The 10 km course will challenge participants' physical and mental endurance with natural log hurdles, low crawls, inclines, declines, water obstacles and trail runs. For more information, call the SMP.

#### **OKINAWA WORLD - MARCH 31**

• The SMP is offering a daylong adventure to Okinawa World. Experience Okinawa's history, culture and natural wonders all in one location. Sign-up deadline is today. Bus will leave Camp Courtney Gym at 10 a.m., Camp Foster Field House at 10:50 a.m. and Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 11:40 a.m.

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



When in the carry position, the tip of a Marine's sword will fall within what distance of the height of the eye?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: What Korean War-era Marine received the Pulitzer Prize for his work as a civilian photojournalist in Vietnam?

#### ANSWER:

ANSWER:
Eddie Adams, who served as a combat photographer in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. Adams returned to Vietnam as a photographer for the Associated Press and won his Pulitzer for a photograph taken during the Tet Offensive.

## HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES

### **CAMP FOSTER CHAPEL**

#### - Catholic -

- March 23, 4 p.m. Confessions; 5 p.m. Mass
  March 24, 10 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
- March 25-27, 11:45 a.m. Daily Mass
- March 28, 6 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper • March 29, 4:30 p.m. Good Friday of the Lord's
- March 30, 7 p.m. Easter Vigil

• March 31, 10 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass • **Protestant** -

- March 24, 8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Service
- March 29, 6:30 p.m. Joint Protestant & Gospel Service
- March 31, 6 a.m. Protestant & Gospel Sunrise Service at Kadena Marina; 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship; 9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt (Foster Chapel Center, Bldg 455)

- March 24, 11:45 a.m. Worship Service • March 29, 6:30 p.m. Joint Protestant & Gospel
- March 31, 6 a.m. Protestant & Gospel Sunrise Service (Kadena Marina); 11:30 a.m. Easter Service

March 25, 6 p.m. Passover Seder (Ocean Breeze)
March 30, 10 a.m. Shabbat/Passover Morning Service (Foster Jewish Chapel)

- Christian Science 
• March 24, noon Worship Service (Bldg 442)

- March 31, noon Worship Service (Bldg 442)

- Orthodox (Lay Leader Services) April 28, 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Typika
   April 29, 6 p.m. Holy Monday Bridegroom Matins
- April 30, 6 p.m. Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Matins
  May 1, 6 p.m. Holy Wednesday Bridegroom Matins
  May 2, 6 p.m. Holy Thursday Matins with 12
- **Passion Gospels**
- May 3, 6 p.m. Holy Friday Matins with Lamentations
- May 4, 6 p.m. Pascal Matins • May 5, 9:30 a.m. Pascha Typika

### **CAMP LESTER CHAPEL**

- March 24, 10 a.m. Worship Service
- March 31, 10 a.m. Worship Service

### MCAS FUTENMA CHAPEL

#### - Protestant Services -

- March 24, 5 p.m. Contemporary Service
- March 29, noon Passion Memorial
  March 31, 5 p.m. Contemporary Service

#### **CAMP KINSER CHAPEL** - Catholic -

- March 24, noon Palm Sunday Mass
- March 31, noon Easter Sunday Mass

### - Protestant -

- March 24, 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Service
  March 28, 6:30 p.m. Worship Service
- March 29, 6:30 p.m. Worship Service • March 31, 6:15 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship Service at Roberts Field; 9:30 a.m. Worship Service; 11:15 a.m. Faith Community Easter Brunch at Kinser Surfside followed by Egg Hunt

#### **CAMP HANSEN CHAPEL** - Catholic (East Chapel) -

- March 24, 10 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
  March 29, 1 p.m. Ecumenical Service: Reading of
- March 31, 10 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass
   Protestant (West Chapel)-
- March 24, 11 a.m. Worship Service
- March 29, 1 p.m. Ecumenical Service: Reading of the Passion
- March 31, 11 a.m. Easter Service and Baptism

#### **CAMP SCHWAB CHAPEL**

#### - Catholic -

- March 24, noon Palm Sunday Mass
- March 29, 2 p.m. Ecumenical Service: Reading of the Passion
- March 31, noon Easter Sunday Mass

#### - Protestant -March 24, 4 p.m. Worship Service

- March 29, 6 p.m. Good Friday Dinner and
- "Passion of the Christ" movie showing

   March 31, 4 p.m. Worship Service

#### **CAMP COURTNEY CHAPEL** - Catholic

- March 24, 8 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
- March 28, 6 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
- March 29, noon Ecumenical Service: Reading of
- March 29, 6 p.m. Passion of the Lord
- March 30, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil
   March 31, 8 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass
   Protestant Services -

- March 24, 11 a.m. Worship Service
  March 29, noon Ecumenical Service: Reading of
- March 31, 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at the beach pavilion area: 11 a.m. Worship Service

### (No confessions will be held during the Easter Triduum)

 $FOR\ UPCOMING\ SPECIAL\ WORSHIP\ SERVICES\ AND\ EVENTS\ FOR\ ALL\ MARINE\ CORPS\ BASE\ CHAPELS,$ CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER "AROUND MCIPAC"