

# OKINAWA MARINE

APRIL 26, 2013

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## Expo highlights training capabilities

**Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific learned about various training devices available to them on Okinawa during the III MEF combat camera training device expo April 18 at Camp Hansen.

The annual expo allows service members a rare opportunity to see how the Marine Corps is keeping pace with an ever-changing world, and

ever-changing adversaries.

“The purpose of the expo is to inform operational units about training opportunities available to them,” said Herbert Gray, the director of the combat camera center, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

In a technologically advanced world, service members have tools at their disposal designed to allow them to train while providing the most realistic sense of a combat situation.

“Our company operates a six-vehicle convoy simulator

on Camp Hansen, allowing units to gain experience in simulated combat convoys,” said Steve Sapien, a site supervisor with Tatilek Training Services Incorporated. “We can simulate nearly any combat scenario, which allows service members to gain a sense of what combat feels like.”

The development of these virtual trainers provides the Marine Corps with a safer and more cost effective capability to train America’s 911 force in readiness.

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**Sgt. Jonathan D. Vanburen** trains in a 7-ton truck simulator at the III Marine Expeditionary Force motor vehicle simulator facility April 23 at Camp Hansen. Vanburen is a maintenance management specialist with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

## Balikatan 2013 ends with blast

SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 4



Armed Forces of the Philippines Marines fire an M101 105 mm howitzer during artillery live-fire training April 12 at Crow Valley, Republic of the Philippines. Philippine and U.S. Marines took turns demonstrating their equipment, according to U.S. Marine Capt. Ricardo R. Bitanga, the executive officer of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, under the unit deployment program. The training is part of Exercise Balikatan 2013, an annual bilateral exercise in its 29th iteration, which provides a venue for Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military forces to develop and continue to enhance interoperability across a wide range of military actions. 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, is part of the 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force Photo by Cpl. Courtney G. White

## 2013 road taxes deadline nearing

**Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — U.S.-Japan status of forces agreement personnel with registered vehicles must pay the 2013 road tax and display the road tax sticker on their vehicles by June 1.

Road tax payment is required to legally operate vehicles while stationed on Okinawa and must be paid annually. Owners of vehicles not deregistered by April 1 must pay the tax.

Payments can be made at multiple locations on various U.S. military installations. The joint service vehicle registration office will operate on-base collection points at the Surf Side on Camp Kinser, the Chapel annex on U.S. Army Garrison Torii Station, The Palms on Camp Hansen, the camp services building on Camp Schwab and the base theaters on Camps Foster and Courtney, and Keystone Theater on Kadena Air Base.

All payments must be made in Japanese Yen. Credit cards, checks and U.S. dollars are not accepted.

“Cars with ‘Y’ license plates are the see **TAXES** pg 5

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Marines and sailors volunteer time at Nagomi Nursing Home for Children, bringing food and fun.

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### MARINES SHARE LOVE OF MUSIC WITH PACIFIC-AREA STUDENTS

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### REMOTE REFUELING

Marines establish mobile-forward refueling point for multiple aircraft on Ie Shima.

**PG. 8**

# Programs recognize, support military children year-round

Tiffany Mattson

Have you seen "Today's Marine Corps Family," the video on YouTube of Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos and Mrs. Amos talking about their 40-year journey through the Marine Corps? Early in the video clip, Mrs. Amos mentions that through their journey, they have moved 28 times and their kids had been to 25 schools! That is a lot of moving and a lot of schools for a child to experience!

Your typical civilian child will be enrolled in a minimum of five schools during their educational development: preschool, elementary school, junior high school, high school and college. Moving and changing schools so often are only two of the many sacrifices military children make throughout their childhood and adolescent lives.

The military lifestyle presents innumerable challenges for military families. It is important for parents and family members to realize children need a support system to handle this experience. Marine Corps Family Team Building offers workshops for our military children that help them work through the challenges of family life within the Marine Corps and appreciate the many opportunities available to them. Through lifestyles, insights, networking, knowledge, and skills for kids, tweens and teens, youth can connect with each other interactively and come up with ways to

make new friends at new duty stations, keep in touch with the old friends, explore their new community, and appreciate the military lifestyle. Through the kids & deployment program, kids learn communication skills that allow them to share their thoughts and feelings about the more difficult times they endure during deployments and how to grow from these experiences. Overall, these free workshops provide our military youth with the skills and tools they need to become

**"The military lifestyle presents innumerable challenges for military families. It is important for parents and family members to realize children need a support system to handle this experience."**

strong, independent and resilient individuals. The programs also help children realize how truly special, unique and vitally important they are to their family and the Marine Corps family!

While April is the month of the military child, a time to highlight the sacrifices our children make, it is important to remember these sacrifices are made throughout the year. Take

advantage of these workshops to help your children connect with others around the island, and let them see how proud you are of them for their sacrifices and the challenges they overcome. Let them know how important and special they are and all that they are gaining by being a part of the Marine Corps family!

Visit [mccsokinawa.com](http://mccsokinawa.com) for more information on upcoming workshops or call 645-3689. We look forward to serving you and your family!

*Mattson is a program trainer for the lifestyles, insights, networking, knowledge, skills program.*

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YouTube



[www.youtube.com/3mefcpao](http://www.youtube.com/3mefcpao)

AROUND THE CORPS

Sgt. Robert Fraser provides security while an MV-22B Osprey lands at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 17. Maj. Gen. Walter L. Miller Jr. and other key personnel conducted a battlefield circulation visit to Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam in order to meet with Marines and discuss important issues. Fraser is a personal security detail team member with Regional Command (Southwest). Miller is the commanding general of RC (SW). Photo by Sgt. Tammy K. Hinline



Cpl. Angelica M. Lamb uses a laser target designator April 15 at the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gun Range, Calif., while participating in a weapons and tactics instructor course. WTI is intended to train Marines on the combined-arms capabilities of both air and ground elements. Lamb is a field radio operator with 9th Communication Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I MEF. Photo by Sgt. Christopher R. Rye



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**Sgt. Guadalupe Menera plays atop a jungle gym alongside American and Japanese children April 20 at Nagomi Nursing Home for Children. Approximately 20 service members and family members donated part of their Saturday to play with underprivileged children and provide an American-style barbecue of cheeseburgers and hot dogs. Menera is a data network specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.**

## Delivering burgers, smiles CLB-31 spends time with orphans

**Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.**  
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

NAGO, OKINAWA, Japan — As part of the Marine Corps' force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region, the Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, are expected to be ready for anything. For one occasion, that meant being ready to play.

Approximately 20 service members and family members donated part of their Saturday to play with local orphans and provide an American-style barbecue April 20 at the Nagomi Nursing Home for Children. For a variety of reasons, the volunteers jumped at the opportunity to brighten the day of 26 Japanese children.

"I'm new to the island, so this was a great way to see some of the area while doing something nice for the kids," said Cpl. Steven V. Stroud, a metal worker with CLB-31, 31st MEU. "The language barrier is tough, but fun is universal."

The group began the day by getting to know the kids through sports, music and other activities. Service members could be found alongside Japanese children climbing the jungle gym, pushing toy cars, kicking soccer balls, playing musical instruments and more.

The joy of having new playmates brought smiles to the children's faces, and those smiles brought joy to the Marines and sailors who happily filled the role.

"I used to be a teacher, so I missed this kind of interaction with children," said 2nd Lt. Ciara G. Mamangun, the adjutant with CLB-31, 31st MEU. "It's great for these children to see people who care and want to spend time with them."

While most played, a few Marines and sailors tended the grill to provide lunch for the group. Cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and tea satisfied everyone's appetite.

As the group ate, they were treated with traditional Okinawan music played by one of the students and popular American songs played by one of the family members. The event came to a close with a group photo and a message of gratitude by the students and staff of the orphanage.



**2nd Lt. Ciara G. Mamangun helps a Japanese child eat a cheeseburger April 20 at Nagomi Nursing Home for Children. "I used to be a teacher, so I missed this kind of interaction with children," said Mamangun. "It's great for these children to see people who care and want to spend time with them." Mamangun is the adjutant with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Paul Robbins Jr.**

"We are very thankful for the visit and enjoyed spending time with (the Marines and sailors)," said Naoto Nakasone, a resident at Nagomi. "We really liked the food and ask that our friends come back very soon."

Marines and sailors have visited Nagomi more than a dozen times throughout the past two years. Both parties hope to continue this tradition. "They know that the Marines and sailors truly care for these children and want to maintain this special relationship," said Navy Lt. Kyu C. Lee, chaplain with CLB-31, 31st MEU.

The Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU are dedicated to matching their excellence in expeditionary capabilities with excellence as members of the Okinawa community, according to Lee.

## BRIEFS

### III MEF BAND, UNIVERSITY OF RYUKYU HOLD JOINT CONCERT

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band and University of the Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club present a joint concert May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call 645-3919.

### CREDO MARRIAGE RETREAT

Spots are currently available for married couples during the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation retreat May 14-16 at the Kafuu Resort Fuchaku.

For more information or to register, visit [www.mccsokinawa.com/CREDO](http://www.mccsokinawa.com/CREDO) or contact CREDO at 645-3041 or [CREDO.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil](mailto:CREDO.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil).

### MEDICATION TAKE-BACK DAY

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and the Camp Smedley D. Butler Provost Marshal's Office are sponsoring a medication take-back day April 27 at the Camp Kinser base exchange. Status of forces agreement personnel and retirees will have the opportunity to turn in unused or expired medication for safe and proper disposal from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call the USNH Pharmacy Department at 646-7191.

### MILITARY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Active-duty and reserve female service members on Okinawa are invited to attend the 2013 military women's leadership symposium May 2 at The Palms Club ballroom on Camp Hansen and May 9 at The Surfside ballroom on Camp Kinser from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The symposium will address effective gender-specific guidance, mentorship education for female service members and effects on their command climate. It will also address the gap in gender-specific resources in order to increase self-awareness to enhance overall combat readiness.

For more information, call 090-6861-7342 or 622-4010.

**TO SUBMIT A BRIEF,** send an email to [okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil](mailto: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.



Philippine Marines with Weapons Company, 3rd Marine Battalion, and U.S. Marines assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, walk in a column toward an MV-22B Osprey to participate in a training drill at Crow Valley, Tarlac province, Republic of the Philippines, April 16, as part of Exercise Balikatan 2013. Balikatan is an annual Philippine-U.S. bilateral exercise focused on humanitarian assistance and military-to-military readiness to enable the Philippine and U.S. service members to build lasting relationships, train together and provide assistance in communities where the need is the greatest. 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

## Balikatan exercise demonstrates commitment

Lt. j.g. Bryan Mitchell

COMBINED JOINT INFORMATION BUREAU

CAMP EMILIO AGUINALDO, LUZON PROVINCE, Philippines — Filipino and American troops reaffirmed decades of friendship and cooperation while aspiring toward a future of greater collaboration April 17 during the closing ceremony of exercise Balikatan 2013.

Senior leaders with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. military gathered on this urban military installation to praise the efforts of approximately 6,800 troops who participated in the exercise.

“I can confidently state that the shoulder-to-shoulder spirit of Balikatan is stronger than ever. The cooperation, determination and professionalism of our men and women training so vigorously together over the past few weeks have made Balikatan a tremendous success,” said U.S. exercise director Marine Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling, commanding general of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “We stand ready in solidarity to face tomorrow’s challenges.”

Robling noted the especially historic nature of China’s involvement in exercise Balikatan. Several key Asia-Pacific countries had long participated as observers in the exercise, but China’s presence at the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief tabletop exercise portrays a new era for the exercise.

Robling focused primarily on the strategic relationship between the U.S. and the Philippine island nation of 95 million people.

“Moving forward, we do so confident in the enduring strength of our alliance and the relationship between our peoples,” Robling said.

Filipino Army Maj. Gen. Virgilio Domingo, the commandant of the Command and General Staff Course and the Philippine exercise director, echoed Robling’s sentiments.

“We can look back with pride and celebrate what we have yet again accomplished as allies and friends,” Domingo said. “We have proven how technically we can work should-to-shoulder to achieve our common objectives. We have certainly raised the bar in terms of



From the left, U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Richard Simcock, Steve Weston, Ramon Lacbain and Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Jose M. Rodriguez cut a ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new San Pascual footbridge April 14 in the San Narciso municipality, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines. The footbridge was one of seven engineering-civic assistance projects completed by the combined joint civil military operations task force in support of Exercise Balikatan 2013. Balikatan is an annual bilateral training exercise designed to increase interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. military. Simcock is the exercise deputy director for Balikatan 2013. Weston is a representative from the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Lacbain is the vice governor of Zambales. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey

interoperability and operational readiness.”

In its 29th iteration, exercise Balikatan is the largest regularly scheduled exercise between the two longtime allies. The exercise focuses on strengthening interoperability between the two nations, as well as ensuring capability to respond to humanitarian disasters.

Zambales province, north of the capital city of Manila, was the site of a host of humanitarian-civic assistance projects. Troops in that region focused on medical, dental, veterinary and engineering-civic assistance projects.

Twelve-thousand Filipinos are estimated to benefit from the assistance projects.

Meanwhile, a command post exercise was held at Camp O’Donnell that included combined and joint training for a typhoon-based humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response.

Field training exercises, which included a

host of U.S. Marine Corps assets, to include MV-22 Ospreys, F/A-18 fighter jets and assault amphibious vehicles, tested the mettle of the combined teams working in temperatures that regularly topped 100 degrees. U.S. service members shared tactics, techniques and procedures in a host of military scenarios throughout the field exercises.

Their Filipino counterparts, meanwhile, shared their expertise in jungle warfare, which included consumption of natural food resources. Before the scorching sun rose and during its descent, U.S. Marines reveled in the opportunity to learn Filipino martial arts from expert AFP instructors.

“The exercises may have been exhausting, but I believe we have learned many things that will benefit our respective defense forces,” said AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Emmanuel T. Bautista.

## Schwab earns mess hall of quarter



Col. Richard D. Hall, left, congratulates Master Sgt. Vichien Sornchan April 24 at Camp Schwab for he and his Marines' efforts in earning honors as large mess hall of the quarter for the second quarter of fiscal year 2013. As of the second quarter of FY 2013, mess halls are now separated into two categories for the competition. To win large mess hall of the quarter, a mess hall has to be able to seat more than 400 people. "This is a tough and demanding job which requires long hours of work, but these Marines continue to perform it with professionalism and pride," said Hall, the commanding officer of 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Camp Schwab commander. Sornchan is the Camp Schwab mess hall manager with Headquarters Company, 4th Marines. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

### EXPO from pg 1

"Training has vastly improved, which allows Marines to train smarter and harder," said Chief Warrant Officer Keith E. Turner, the assistant division ordnance officer, material readiness branch, G-4, supply and logistics, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "The simulators are the eye-opener for me. When I was coming up through the ranks, we didn't have the tools available now."

The simulator arena provides an environment where Marines must work together in maintaining combat readiness, according to Sapien.

"We can simulate anything the units want, including medical evacuations, close-air support or call-for-fire," said Sapien.

Later in the day, service members had a chance to tour and experience some simulators on Camp Hansen, according to Gray.

Although simulators have advantages, training on live-fire ranges is still essential for Marines, according to Staff Sgt. Damien J. Pearson, an infantry unit leader and operations chief for range control, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

"Marines do not always understand what it is that we can provide," said Pearson. "Marines are always going to need to perform live-fire training, and we provide various venues where Marines can fire multiple weapons systems."

In addition to displaying newly developed training tools, contractors were also available and offered ways to preserve current training assets, which is equally as important as acquiring new equipment.

"As a part of my job, I deal with acquiring what units need," said Turner. "One thing that the artillery Marines needed was better covers to allow for less corrosion and longer life for their weapons. The expo allowed various civilian companies to come and display their covers."

With all of the advancements in technology, continued development of weapons systems and areas in which to employ those systems, Marines have the tools to forge a safer path to the future for America and all of her allies.

For more information about a tactical training device or simulator, call 623-2610.



Cpl. William R. Love, driver, and Pfc. Zagros Dawoudi, turret gunner, train in a 7-ton truck simulator at the combat convoy simulator April 23 at Camp Hansen. Civilian contractors who operate the simulator and others like it attended the combat camera training device expo to inform service members about the training opportunities available to them. The simulator provides Marines with a variety of combat scenarios where they can train in a safe environment. Love is a data network specialist, and Dawoudi is a motor vehicle transport operator. Both are with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

### TAXES from pg 1

only ones we can accept payment for," said Jeff Wheatley, the pass and registration supervisor, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Drivers who operate motorcycles or vehicles with yellow license plates must pay their taxes by May 31 to their local city, town or village office between 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The receipt is then taken to the JSVRO or tax collection site during normal working hours to receive a 2013 road tax sticker.

There are other alternatives for people who can't make it to one of the tax collection points.

"Service members have two options available to them if they are unable to go to an on-base collection point," said Wheatley. "The first choice people have is to go through their insurance company, and have it handle the payment processing and paperwork. The second choice is to stop by the automobile tax office near Camp Kinser to pay there. However, with both choices, service members must bring the orange 2013 road tax receipt back to either the JSVRO or a collection point to receive a 2013 road tax sticker."

The required documents for paying the 2013 road tax are military registration, 2012 road tax receipt, vehicle title, Japanese compulsory insurance and American insurance. All documents must be original. Copies will not be accepted.

### 2013 ROAD TAX COLLECTION:

Personnel are required to pay road tax on all vehicles not deregistered before April 1. All vehicles must display a 2013 road tax sticker before June 1. Road taxes may be paid at the following locations and times:

- **Camp Kinser Surfside:**  
May 7, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Camp Foster Theater:**  
May 8-10, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Kadena Keystone Theater:**  
May 13-17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Torii Station Chapel Annex:**  
May 20, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Camp Courtney Theater:**  
May 21-22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Camp Hansen The Palms:**  
May 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Camp Schwab Camp Services:** May 24, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The following original documents are required: military registration, 2012 road tax receipt, vehicle title, Japanese compulsory insurance and American insurance. Road taxes must be paid in Japanese yen only.

For more information, contact the Joint Services Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481/3963.

**Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove conducts musicians of the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific High Schools' concert band as they perform a song for friends, families and guests during the 2013 DODEA Pacific Far East Honor Music Festival Concert at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster April 19. The event featured live performances by the concert band and choir, and the string orchestra. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr**



**Miguel Perez keeps a steady beat during a song performed by the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific High Schools' concert band at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster April 19. The band, assisted by the concert choir and string orchestra, performed at the school during the 2013 DODEA Pacific Far East Honor Music Festival Concert. Perez is a sophomore at the Seoul American High School in the Republic of Korea. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr**



**High school musicians of the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific High Schools' concert band and guests during the 2013 DODEA Pacific Far East Honor Music Festival Concert. The event featured live performances by the concert band and choir, and the string orchestra.**



**James McKeithan sings a solo during a musical piece performed by the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific High Schools' concert at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster April 19. Students worked alongside Marines in the III MEF Band to improve their musical abilities April 15-19. McKeithan is a junior at Kubasaki High School. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr**

# Marines mentor music students

**Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**S**tudent musicians struck a harmonic chord with Marines during the 2013 Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific Far East Honor Music Festival April 15-19.

Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band collaborated with students from DODEA Pacific high schools to help advance the students' musical abilities.

The festival featured an orchestra and choir performance, and involved DODEA Pacific participants from Guam, Korea, Okinawa and mainland Japan.

The students worked alongside Marines in the III MEF Band hall to improve their musical abilities. Throughout the week, students worked closely with the band, honing their musical talents in preparation for the culminating April 19 concert at Kubasaki High School.

"They taught everything from basic musicianship to advanced techniques," said Kevin Hanson, the director of music at Zama American High School, Camp Zama, Japan. "A lot of these students do not have the opportunity to take private lessons, but through the festival, they can work with highly trained musicians to learn new tips and develop techniques that help inspire them to be better musicians."

Participation in the music festival is highly selective. To earn the chance to attend, students had to first be ac-

cepted into the honor band, which is comprised of the most talented musicians from 12 DODEA high schools in the Pacific region.

"Students from each school, whether they are band, choir or orchestra, audition for a spot in their group," said Hanson. "The students are selected to staff each of these groups, but they must maintain a good grade-point average."

The Marines provided the students with hands-on training while enhancing their musical skills.

"We get specialized help from professional musicians," said Nathan H. Rosenblatt, a high school senior and participant in the festival. "The advice we get from them is one of a kind; you would have to pay a tutor to get that kind of special help, and we get it for free."

Working with the Marines allowed students to pinpoint goals for improvement that would otherwise only be realized in private lessons, according to Rosenblatt.

"The entire experience has been great," said Jonathan A. Pickens, a high school senior and festival participant. "In past years we did not have as much involvement from military bands, so it was really helpful to receive outside help from people who have experienced certain instruments for a long period of time."

The festival also gave students a chance to get to know a variety of different people who have the same interests, and it refined their skills to a higher level than they would be able to achieve in a normal classroom environment, according to Pickens.

"It is in Marines' natures to show off what they know, what they do, and what their job is," said Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, the officer in charge of the III MEF Band. "It is a win situation for both parties. The Marines get to show what they do, and the students get to learn how to become better musicians, which is the purpose of the festival."

While students expanded their musical abilities, Marines exercised a critical component of leadership: effective communication. By listening to the unique experiences of each individual student musician and explaining how to improve performance on a given instrument, Marines passed on the tools students need to focus on their goals.

The festival did not only improve the communication skills of the Marines; it also allowed junior Marines the opportunity to lead.

"It gives some of the younger Marines a chance to take charge," said Gunnery Sgt. Shannon L. Farquhar, the enlisted conductor for the III MEF band. "We have anywhere from two to four Marines per section acting as mentors, and it gives an opportunity for corporals and sergeants to take ownership of their experiences as they share with the DODEA students."

Students left the festival having increased their musical skills.

"Anytime we can get professional musicians, who have that love and that passion of playing, to mentor and work with our young music students is fantastic," said Hanson.



**Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific High Schools' concert choir perform a song for friends, families at the Far East Honor Music Festival Concert at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster April 19. The event featured an orchestra, band and choir, and the string orchestra. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr**



Marines lay out fuel hoses during an aviation-delivered ground refueling exercise on Ie Shima April 15. "From the moment we land, we have a ten-minute time frame to set up our refueling station," said Sgt. Daniel C. Tozer, the refueling supervisor for the exercise and crew chief with the squadron. "This training allows us to ensure we can complete our mission in the proper amount of time and increase proficiency in carrying out the task." Tozer is a crew chief with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

## VMGR-152 practices ground refueling skills

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Ian McMahon

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The smell of jet fuel and the sound of propellers spinning through the air accompanied Marines as they raced against the clock to establish a mobile-forward refueling point on a tiny island nearly five miles off the west coast of Okinawa.

Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 refueled MV-22B Ospreys during an aviation-delivered ground refueling exercise on Ie Shima April 15.

The exercise allowed VMGR-152 to practice assembling and operating a mobile forward refueling point.

"There are no gas stations on the front lines," said Capt. Kyle J. Service, the power line officer in charge and pilot with VMGR-152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Our job is to provide fuel to the front-line units whenever they need it."

Marines with VMGR-152 used KC-130J Super Hercules as their transportation and mobile refueling source, and the landing zone consisted of a dirt and gravel road.

Finding and establishing a safe place to land is the most common obstacle to overcome, according to Service. Most fixed-wing aircraft are unable to land on such terrain. However, the KC-130J has the ability to land at austere airstrips. This ability makes it an excellent aircraft to perform aviation-delivered ground refueling missions.

Upon landing on the makeshift runway, Marines exited the aircraft and quickly established the refueling point.

"From the moment we land, we have a ten-minute time frame to

set up our refueling station," said Sgt. Daniel C. Tozer, the refueling supervisor for the exercise and crew chief with the squadron. "This training allows us to ensure we can complete our mission in the proper amount of time and increase proficiency in carrying out the task."

Within seconds of establishing the refueling station, two MV-22B Osprey aircraft with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, MAG-36, appeared over the horizon.

Once the Ospreys landed, Marines used both radios and hand-and-arm signals to communicate with the pilots and guide them to the refueling stations.

"It is all about bringing the fuel to the fight and supporting the Marines on the ground," said Service. "In a live scenario, it is not just Ospreys we are refueling; it is all Marine Corps equipment in the area of operation."

As the sun set, Marines switched to their night-vision



Capt. Kyle J. Service, right, and Capt. William Seabrook pilot a KC-130J Super Hercules to an aviation-delivered ground refueling exercise on Ie Shima April 15. The landing zone on Ie Shima consisted of a dirt and gravel road. Most fixed-wing aircraft are unable to land on such terrain. However, the KC-130J has the ability to land at austere airstrips. This ability makes it an excellent aircraft to perform aviation-delivered ground refueling missions. The KC-130J and crew are part of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Service is the power line officer in charge, and Seabrook is the flight operations officer.

goggles and continued training.

"It doesn't matter if it is night or day," said Lance Cpl. Joseph J. Kemp, a crew chief with the squadron. "We fly into an area and set up operations within minutes. Doing this training gives us chance to master it before we do the real thing."

With the Ospreys fully refueled, the Marines directed them to a

safe takeoff location and after they departed, packed up the refueling station. Just as quickly as they arrived, the Marines boarded the KC-130J and flew back to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

"Training like this is important to the squadron," said Service. "It helps us maintain 100 percent readiness in mission capability for today's and tomorrow's battles."



An MV-22B Osprey takes off after refueling during an aviation-delivered ground refueling exercise on Ie Shima April 15. During the exercise, Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 set up a forward refueling point for day and night refueling. The squadron is a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Osprey and crew are assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, MAG-36, 1st MAW, III MEF.

# Marines recognized for volunteer efforts

**Cpl. Matthew Manning**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

When stationed abroad, it is important to be a contributing member of the local community. Volunteering can help service members open doors to new friendships during their time overseas and bring about strong, lasting friendships.

Due to their volunteer efforts and involvement with the Reimei No Sato Handicap Facility, Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, found themselves invited to the facility's first spring festival April 20 in Ishikawa.

"In previous years, the facility hosted a plum blossom festival for residents instead of a spring festival," said Maeshiro Tokushichi, the manager of the facility. "There were many plum trees that surrounded the facility, but a typhoon last year damaged these trees and the flowers did not bloom."

During the festival, the facility's staff acknowledged community relations projects the Marines and



**Maeshiro Tokushichi, left, presents a painting to Capt. Caleb A. Murphy, center, and Takayuki Kayo, right, April 20 during the Reimei No Sato Handicap Facility's first spring festival in Ishikawa. The painting reads "Thank You," and was created by residents of the facility. Tokushichi is the manager of the Reimei No Sato Handicap Facility. Murphy is the commanding officer of Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Kayo is the community relations specialist for Camp Hansen. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning**

sailors of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, and 12th Marine Regiment participated in during the past year, according to Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph J. Elkins, the religious program specialist for the battalion.

"Once a month for more than a year, we have taken residents to the Ishikawa Recreational Park to walk around with them," said Elkins.

"We socialize with them, talking and taking pictures, which gives them a break from their day-to-day

routines. Also, to help the facility recover from the effects of the typhoon that hit the facility last year, we painted a couple buildings they use as storage for arts and crafts."

To show appreciation for the volunteer efforts of the Marines and sailors, the facility presented 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, with gifts, according to Tokushichi.

"First we gave them a letter of appreciation for all their hard work in helping us repaint the damaged

buildings," said Tokushichi. "After that, we gave them kanji paintings created by the residents which say 'Thank You.' Finally, we presented them with flowers the parents of the residents prepared to show appreciation for all their efforts."

Capt. Caleb A. Murphy, commanding officer of Headquarters Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, accepted the gifts on behalf of the 12th Marine Regiment.

"I would like to express our appreciation to them for letting us be a part of the community and giving the Marines a chance to give back while they are here on Okinawa," said Murphy.

The Marines and sailors plan to continue volunteering and strengthening their relationship with the facility, according to Elkins.

"Coming out and volunteering here gives the community a chance to recognize the Marines and sailors for their humanity and helpfulness," said Elkins. "It also gives the Marines and sailors the chance to get off base and experience parts of the island and ways of life they would not see if they did not volunteer."

# Marines strengthen camp security augmentation force

**Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

"Control your suspects," was the command given as Marines apprehended their fellow Marines posing as suspects.

Marines of the camp guard and the security augmentation force on Camps Hansen and Schwab engaged in security augmentation force training on Camp Schwab April 15-19 to sharpen their skills in installation security.

"The SAF training prepares individuals to do a six-month rotation as part of camp security," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Mendoza, the chief trainer with the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The course contained a variety of training, including baton fundamentals, oleoresin capsicum, or OC, spray certification, escalation of force and mechanical advantage control hold techniques, which are defensive hand-to-hand tactics, according to Mendoza.

"MACHs are a part of a system taught in the nonlethal weapons instructor course," said Mendoza. "It utilizes mechanical advantage control holds where you use your suspect's momentum to benefit you in implementing takedowns and contact controls."

Camp guards are not only trained to extend law enforcement capacity, they are also on standby for emergencies, according to Mendoza.

"They are going through this training in order to help with any incidents that happen or when any extra security may be needed," said Mendoza.



**Cpl. Kayla E. Morales, left, demonstrates how to properly use a takedown technique with Lance Cpl. Christopher R. Hutchingson at Camp Schwab April 15 during security augmentation force training. The training included baton fundamentals, oleoresin capsicum, or OC, spray certification, escalation of force and mechanical advantage control hold techniques, which are defensive hand-to-hand techniques. Morales and Hutchingson are currently assigned to Camp Hansen's SAF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor**

There are procedures in place to keep the installation and the public safe if weather conditions turn for the worst, according to Mendoza.

"If the threat of a typhoon becomes dangerous in nature, the SAF will stand security at all entry control points wearing Kevlar helmets and flak jackets," said Mendoza.

For the Marines undergoing this training, it was an enjoyable change from their everyday responsibilities, according to Mendoza.

"Marines benefit from receiving this training because it gives them a chance to better themselves and their fellow Marines," said Mendoza. "They get certified with OC spray, and they also get to practice baton-striking techniques. Additionally, they build camaraderie with their fellow Marines."

Coming out each morning ready to train and

learn gave the Marines serving as members of the SAF an experience they would not have in their regular jobs, according to Lance Cpl. Anthony C. Verdi, a Marine currently assigned to the security augmentation force.

"I like the physical aspects of the course, especially the blocking techniques and defensive skills," said Verdi. "I felt lucky to go through this course because it is something I have never done before."

There are challenges to overcome in the course including a written exam for the escalation of force test, a circuit course for the OC spray certification, and learning the techniques for the MACHs, according to Mendoza.

"They can overcome this if they pay attention in class and have the drive to succeed and pass the class," said Mendoza.



Marines with camp auxiliary security forces assist Petty Officer 1st Class Elton Reece while he assesses the simulated injuries of Pfc. Christopher J. Ochs April 12 during an emergency protocol training exercise at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. The training exercise requires Marines, sailors and firefighters to respond quickly in the event of a mass-casualty incident on or near Camp Fuji. Reece is an independent duty corpsman with the branch health clinic, Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji, and Ochs is a supply administration and operations specialist with Headquarters Company.

## Emergency first response exercised at Fuji

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines and sailors are the backbone of the Marine air-ground task force. In order to ensure the MAGTF is successful, Marines and sailors train in a variety of environments, each with its own risk involved. Despite efforts to mitigate those risks, Murphy's law suggests that every now and again something can go wrong. When something does go wrong, first-responders must be prepared.

Marines, sailors and firefighters took part in an emergency protocol training exercise April 12 aboard Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan.

The installation conducts the exercises at CATC about every two months to ensure the readiness and capability of military personnel in the event that natural disasters or other unforeseeable events take place on or within the immediate area of operation.

For this training evolution, the Marines, sailors and firefighters specifically tailored training for quick and safe

emergency response in the event of an incident on or near Camp Fuji, according to Staff Sgt. Dennis P. Conforti, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of camp auxiliary security forces for CATC Camp Fuji.

"This training is important for (CATC) because we need to be prepared to save lives in the event of a catastrophe," said Conforti. "The closest military base to us is about two hours away, so we have to be the first to respond and not rely on or expect immediate, outside support," he added.

The training required good coordination and proper communication from the CATC Headquarters Company, CASE, explosive ordnance disposal, branch health clinic and the fire department.

**"I am glad we did the training for it because one of the best things we can do as Marines is train for the unknown."**

— Staff Sgt. Dennis P. Conforti

Duties were well delegated by the company commander,

which allowed the exercise to go smoothly, according to Conforti.

"The training is very significant for the sailors who work in the branch health clinic," said Petty Officer 1st Class Elton Reece, an independent duty corpsman with Headquarters Company, CATC. "This training gave the BHC sailors an experience



Petty Officer 1st Class Elton Reece checks the vital signs of a simulated casualty April 12 during an emergency protocol training exercise at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. The training exercise evaluates the expertise of corpsmen and other first-responders who would need to act in response to a mass-casualty incident on or near the camp. Reece is an independent duty corpsman with the branch health clinic, Headquarters Company, CATC Camp Fuji.

they might not otherwise get at a larger installation because it isn't in their job description and because Camp Fuji is such a small base, everyone needs to be able to help and know how to help."

The exercise was a success for the fire department because it created an opportunity to hone the firefighters' individual skills, and it familiarized them with an extraordinarily difficult situation, according Shinji Ozawa, a firefighter for Marine Corps Installations Pacific Fire and Emergency Services, CATC Camp Fuji.

There are a limited number of firefighters available for immediate response to such a large-scale incident for which the training is conducted, so it is vital that everyone works together and performs his or her duty appropriately, according to Ozawa.

"Hopefully our Marines and sailors will never have to deal with a real scenario like this, but I am glad we did the training for it because one of the best things we can do as Marines is train for the unknown," said Conforti.

# In Theaters Now

**APRIL 26 - MAY 2**

## FOSTER

**TODAY** The Big Wedding (R), 6 p.m.; Side Effects (R), 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Croods (PG), noon; Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 3 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 6 p.m., Silver Lining Playbook (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 1 p.m.; The Croods (PG), 4 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Side Effects (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Tyler Perry's Temptation (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Olympus has Fallen (R), 7 p.m.

## KADENA

**TODAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 7 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 1 p.m.; Oblivion (PG13), 4 p.m.; Side Effects (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Tyler Perry's Temptation (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Side Effects (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Closed

## COURTNEY

**TODAY** The Big Wedding (R), 6 and 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 3 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 6 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 3 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Side Effects (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Closed

## FUTENMA

**TODAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Big Wedding (R), 4 p.m.; Oblivion (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Side Effects (R), 4 p.m.; Evil Dead (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Oblivion (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## KINSER

**TODAY** The Big Wedding (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Safe Haven (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Big Wedding (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 12:30 p.m.; Safe Haven (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY-TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Side Effects (R), 6:30 p.m.

## SCHWAB

**TODAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6 and 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Side Effects (R), 6 and 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Identity Thief (R), 6 and 9 p.m.  
**MONDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## HANSEN

**TODAY** The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.; Side Effects (R), 10 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Big Wedding (R), 6 p.m.; Silver Lining Playbook (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** The Big Wedding (R), 3 p.m.; Silver Lining Playbook (R), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Side Effects (R), 6 p.m.; Silver Lining Playbook (R), 9 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Silver Lining Playbook (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Side Effects (R), 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 and 3-D availability visit [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).



## SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

### FOSTER LIBRARY'S COMIC CON OKINAWA - MAY 4

• Volunteers are needed in support of Foster Library's Comic Con Okinawa. Duties include facility maintenance and assisting library staff. Call the SMP to sign up.

### DISCOVER GOLF LESSONS

• Golf lessons are available to single Marines and sailors at Taiyo Golf Course the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the Camp Foster SMP office by 8 a.m.

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

# TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

The M7 bayonet was replaced in 2003 by what model bayonet?

See answer in next week's issue

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**  
 What is the top marksmanship award authorized for wear on Marine Corps uniforms?

**ANSWER:**  
 The Distinguished International Shooter Badge, which can be earned through cumulative points acquired at Civilian Marksmanship Program excellence-in-competition matches.



## Japanese phrase of the week:

“Dame desu.”  
 (pronounced: dah-mah dehs)  
 It means, “It is no good.”



# CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

“Is your faith serving as your foundation?”

## Foundation sets path to future

**Lt. Genevieve Clark**  
 MACG-18 CHAPLAIN

Nearly every day on Okinawa I find myself using at least one staircase that has words stenciled on the riser of each step. Usually these words are about our core values. They are values like honor, courage, commitment or some of the lesser quoted but equally important values like leadership, strength, teamwork, etc. Every time I climb one of these staircases I consider the words on them. I ask myself if I am treading on them, or allowing them to uphold me and really be a solid foundation.

I strive to not merely tread on them, just stomping and squashing, squandering or tearing down the meaning each step represents. Sometimes, if I am taking those words and their meanings to heart, it is eye-opening to really consider how I am using those “stepping stones” in my life and work.

Many of the words on the stairs are fading or almost gone completely. I ask, “Have these words rubbed off on to our lives and our souls? Have they become

not just stenciled on stone, but etched in our hearts so there is no need to repaint them? Or, have they simply worn away because they have been ignored and have not been renewed for fear they will convict us?”

The faith background with which many people enter military service is the spiritual foundation which is based on similar values and meanings. Often, however, service members have fallen out of practicing their faith, and their foundations are chipping away and fading.

Perhaps the staircases can ask each of us this question: “Is your faith serving as your foundation? Although faded and worn, are your faith foundations still directing, correcting, and strengthening your course of actions; or has your faith become faded, only to be something tread upon and no longer relevant or important?”

How solid is your foundation? Does it need some attention? Some improvement? Another coat of paint? Or are you rock-solid, renewed and strong? Remember your faith foundation; it will provide you with strong footing!

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT [WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL](http://WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL) AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”