

OKINAWA MARINE

MAY 10, 2013

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General briefs Okinawa Marines

Sgt. Brian A. Marion
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP SMEDLEY D. BUTLER — Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. spoke to Marines and sailors assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific May 6-8 at all-hands briefings across the island.

Glueck, the commanding general of III MEF

and senior general officer on Okinawa, talked about crises response, bilateral and multilateral training and reconstituting III MEF.

“We have really raised the bar in terms of our abilities as a crisis response force over the past couple of years due to your efforts,” said Glueck. “I am highly confident in our ability to respond tonight if a crisis were to occur in our area of operations.”

After Glueck’s address, he took questions from the assembled audience.

“It is great that the commanding general is taking time out of his schedule to speak with his Marines,” said 1st Sgt. Tricia M. Smith-Leavy, the first sergeant of Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. “He is feeling the pulse of the Marines. He is letting them know that their voices are heard.”

While talking about crises response, Glueck highlighted III MEF’s ability to respond rapidly and
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ROK, US forces conclude Exercise Ssang Yong ‘13

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A U.S. Navy landing ship prepares to offload during an amphibious landing by Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines on Doksuk-ri Beach using assault amphibious vehicles April 26. The amphibious landing was the culminating event of Exercise Ssang Yong 2013. The annual exercise, which is designed to strengthen the readiness and interoperability of the U.S. and ROK forces. ROK Marines participating in the exercise are with 1st ROK Marine Division, and the U.S. Marines are with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve.

Photo By Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

Military women’s symposium enhances leadership traits

Cpl. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — III Marine Expeditionary Force hosted the 2013 military women’s leadership symposium at Camp Hansen May 2 and at Camp Kinser May 9.

The theme of this year’s symposium was “self-empowerment, leading to a positive command climate.” It brought female service members assigned to various installations on Okinawa together to discuss gender-specific issues.

“The symposium is a way to close a gap that has been identified by many senior leaders on island as a hindrance to command climate,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika O. Vann, the III MEF equal opportunity advisor. “I have received a lot of phone calls in the past from senior
see **SYMPOSIUM** pg 5



Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika O. Vann shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. during the 2013 military women’s leadership symposium held at Camp Hansen May 2. Glueck listened to the leadership panel discussion and asked the audience for feedback. Vann is the III Marine Expeditionary Force equal opportunity advisor and Glueck is the commanding general of III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Brianna Turner

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Mother's Day

Reflecting on family members away from home

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

Military life can seem difficult, especially when stationed overseas. Holidays such as Mother's Day often lay bare the difficulties of maintaining close family relationships.

Service members on Okinawa may experience complications when keeping in touch with their families. While technological advances make contact with our families easier, time differences still make it difficult to call home, and phone and video calls are poor substitutes for quality time together. Nevertheless, we do our best and work with what we have.

For some like myself, this will be their first Mother's Day away from home. While I debate whether to send flowers or one of those edible bouquets, I reflect on how much my mother has influenced my life — both as a person and as a Marine.

To me, my mother represents family pride. It was through her I learned to hold my head high, work for what I want, and that no one owes me anything. It was through her I learned loyalty — to stand by my family and friends.

My mother's lessons helped form the Marine I am today. She taught me that what I earn would mean more to me than things I was given, which made earning the Eagle, Globe and Anchor more meaningful. It makes me work harder for that next Marine Corps martial arts program belt. It makes taking Marine Corps Institute courses even more valuable.

My mother taught me the only way to get better at something was practice and patience. It takes practice, sweat and time in the weight room to increase pullups. It definitely took practice, patience and sweat to learn drill techniques.

She taught me the importance of personal accountability. If something was my responsibility, she would not accept excuses for my failures. I learned to own up to those failures, and celebrate my victories loudly. I was proud of my successes and solely responsible for my disappointments. I was accountable for my attitude, and my outlook on life was mine to determine. In that vein, my attitude about the Marine Corps is what I make it.

My mother taught me to be dependable. It is because of her that I understand the importance of hard work, fulfilling promises and having integrity. I know that if she gave me a task, I was going to accomplish it to the best of my abilities. I have used this important lesson from my mother more than any other in the Marine Corps.

However, the most valuable example she set for me was how to stand up for myself. If I did not know how to stand up for myself, I would not go after what I desire. If I had listened to the people who said I would not make it past the first week of boot camp, I would never have earned the title U.S. Marine.

My mother lived every lesson she wanted her children to learn. I learned by observing the example she set every day. I watched her be strong, patient and proud. I saw her maintain her poise during the hardest times of her life. I watched as she supported my father through everything. I have seen her cry, wipe away her tears, and continue to care for the rest of us. I have watched her fall and get back up, all while maintaining her dignity.

There is a saying that our parents are our first teachers. I believe that to be true, and I am proud to say that my teacher was the best.

Rostran is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

“While I debate whether to send flowers or one of those edible bouquets, I reflect on how much my mother has influenced my life — both as a person and a Marine.”



AROUND THE CORPS

Marine Helicopter Squadron One Marines, past and present, family members and friends mingle on the flight line alongside the newest addition to the squadron, the MV-22B Osprey, after the aircraft's introduction ceremony May 4 in the HMX-1 hangar. The squadron is responsible for the transportation of the president, vice president, cabinet members and other VIPs. HMX-1 is scheduled to receive 11 more Ospreys by next summer.

Photo by Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite



U.S. Marines provide forward observation April 28 for Afghan National Civil Order Police assigned to 1st Kandak, 6th Brigade, during Operation California in Kajaki district, Helmand province, Afghanistan. Operation California was an Afghan National Civil Order Police-led mission to clear enemy presence from the village of Loy Mandah. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Cpl. Trent A. Randolph*

OKINAWA MARINE

The Okinawa Marine is published by Marine Corps Community Services under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Consolidated Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

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OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER
H&S Battalion MCB PAO
Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU
Camp Foster
DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Recognized by HQMC as
Best Tabloid Format
Newspaper, 2012



U.S. Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey addresses Marines and other service members during a town hall meeting April 25 at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Dempsey toured the Asia-Pacific region speaking with key leaders, service members and civilians about the Department of Defense budget, importance of building and maintaining good international relationships, and expressed his gratitude to service members. Dempsey is the 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Photo by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Dempsey visits Yokota Air Base, discusses rebalance to Asia-Pacific

Cpl. Adam B. Miller
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke with U.S. service members April 25 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, during a town hall meeting.

Dempsey stopped by Yokota Air Base as part of his tour of the Pacific to speak with Marines from Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan and hundreds of other service members from all branches of the armed forces about the rebalancing of regional security in the Asia-Pacific area of operations. Among other topics, Dempsey spoke about the Department of Defense budget, importance of building and maintaining good international relationships, and expressed his gratitude to service members.

“I wanted to take the opportunity to thank service members for what they are doing for the U.S. and for our alliance with Japan,” said Dempsey.

Particularly, Dempsey acknowledged service members for their role as part of the U.S. effort to rebalance its forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The rebalancing is about recognizing where the future trends are moving. They are moving demographically, economically and in terms of security to the Pacific,” said Dempsey.

Dempsey quoted Hall of Fame hockey player Wayne Gretzky as an analogy for the U.S. military’s strategy in the Pacific.

“We’re skating to where the puck is going,” said Dempsey. “We’re trying to position ourselves for a world where the priority of those demographic, economic and security issues will be the Asia-Pacific region.”

Although the rebalancing effort will take time due to other important requirements and responsibilities, a focus for the U.S. military will be the Pacific, according to Dempsey.

“It is not just the military. This is an entire

government effort,” said Dempsey. “Think of it as an intellectual bandwidth. We’re starting to pay more attention, we’re starting to do more engagements at every level, and we’re trying to send some of our best quality, not only human capital, but also our newest and best equipment. We’re just starting that journey, but it is going to take years.”

It was interesting and important to hear what Dempsey had to say about the shift in focus toward the Pacific region, according to Lance Cpl. Victor Corral, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji.

“I knew that a lot of attention was being focused toward what we are doing here in Japan, but hearing Gen. Dempsey talk about it in-depth really helped put it into perspective for me,” said Corral.

Dempsey addressed current budget issues by stating figures to clarify repercussions, but also reinforced that efforts are being made to soften the impact on global security.

“This year in particular is difficult because we are trying to absorb all of these changes of the last six months in the fiscal year,” said Dempsey.

The military will work through this by prioritizing its readiness efforts and maintaining the high level of financial scrutiny that the military has always operated under, said Dempsey.

“When the general was talking about our readiness, I thought about how Marines always adapt and overcome,” said Cpl. Daniel J. Dugger, an automotive maintenance technician with Headquarters Co., Camp Fuji. “I have total faith in my government and especially my leaders, so I think the best thing we can do is to continue doing our jobs the best we can and adapt to the situation.”

Dempsey concluded the discussion by saying that it is not the first time the military has experienced budget reductions, and that readiness and resolve will remain steadfast.

BRIEFS

UPDATED ORDER ON RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES

The commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific has changed sea condition policy III MEF/MCIPACO 5101.1.

Specific circumstances apply to sea condition danger for all service members.

For more information contact the MCIPAC Installation Safety Office at 645-3806.

MARSOC SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The Headquarters Marine Corps Special Operations Command Screening Team, or HMST, will visit Okinawa commands May 13-16.

During the visit, HMST will screen and assign qualified Marines for assessment and selection.

Briefing schedules and locations:

- May 13: Camp Foster Theater, 2 p.m.
- May 14: Camp Schwab Theater, 2 p.m.
- May 15: Camp Hansen Theater, 2 p.m.
- May 16: Camp Courtney Hashmarks, 2 p.m.

Marines can contact their career planners for more information.

SCHEDULED POWER AND WATER OUTAGES

There will be upcoming scheduled power and water outages on Camps Foster and Lester including Plaza Housing throughout the month of May.

For questions or concerns, call 645-0883, or visit www.facebook.com/CampFoster.

NEW VEHICLE POLICY AT CAMP FOSTER PEDESTRIAN GATE

Due to safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers, stopping a vehicle next to the Kubasaki pedestrian gate, along Highway 330, to drop students off is prohibited. Any vehicle stopped in this location will be issued a citation.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Camp Foster camp services at 645-7317.

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.

Guam veterans share legacy with Marines

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

AGAT, Guam — A group of Guam's U.S. Military veterans hosted Marines participating in Exercise Guahan Shield as guests of honor during their third annual "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" barbecue April 27 at Nimitz Beach on Guam.

The veterans teamed up with the 3rd Marine Division Association to show the active-duty Marines Guam's hospitality, share Marine Corps-related stories, and carry on the fellowship the service is renowned for, according to Raymond Babauta, an event organizer and veteran.

"The Marine Corps is all about the bond that characterizes us as Marines," said Babauta. "Bringing everyone together is a good way to maintain that bond and provide the opportunity to exchange stories about how the Corps was and where it is going."

The Marines have been participating in Exercise Guahan Shield since early February. Guahan Shield is designed to increase operability between services while setting the groundwork for military operations and rapid response to potential crises in the Asia-Pacific region.

During Guahan Shield, Marines of Combat Logistics Detachment 39, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force,

combined forces with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program.

Throughout the exercise, Marines engaged in training events with special effects small-arms marking system rounds in military operations in urban terrain environments, field-clearing operations, helicopter operations training and community relations events.

"Throughout Guahan Shield, our Marines have been busy training and participating in community relations events to enhance the area and build relationships with the communities," said Staff Sgt. Ramell P. Dangerfield, a member of CLD-39. "The community relations activities are a way to thank Guam's residents for their hospitality."

But the barbecue was a way to give back to the Marines.

"When we got together to organize this year's event, we felt we needed to reward the Marines for their hard work, dedication and overall class," said Babauta. "They have helped make many communities more beautiful, boosted our economy, and made Guam a better island in the short time they have been here, all while training to be the best Marines they can possibly be."

Other residents in attendance agreed Marines have had a positive



Garrett Agun prepares food at Nimitz Beach, Guam, April 27. As a way to show their appreciation, veterans and the 3rd Marine Division Association hosted Marines who have been participating in Exercise Guahan Shield. The Marines in attendance are with Combat Logistics Detachment 39, which is comprised of elements of 9th Engineer Support Battalion and Company L, 3rd Bn., 6th Marines.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

impact on the area, according to Melissa R. Taitano.

"I think many residents have noticed the Marines are a positive force on the island," said Taitano. "They have helped us clean our parks, coached our Special Olympics athletes, and even walked some of our roads to clean up litter."

"I think putting something like this together, giving the Marines a chance to try local foods and exchange stories and lessons with our resident veterans, is one of the best ways to show our appreciation for all they have done," added Taitano. "The appreciation

goes beyond the exercise the Marines are here for; the Marine Corps helped give the island independence during World War II. Having the community involved in Marine get-togethers is a good way to educate our younger population about the integral part the Marines play in our rich heritage."

The cookout was able to bring area veterans and other residents together with the Marines in celebration of a band of brothers and sisters, according to Dangerfield.

"I think this event was a huge success," said Dangerfield. "I hope we can come back to this great island soon."

Sea condition policy modified, effective May 1

Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — New changes to the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific Order 5101.1 were signed into effect May 1 following modifications that allow service members to enter the water during sea condition danger under certain circumstances.

The changes in the policy allow personnel to enter the water for recreational daytime swimming in designated areas on military installations when the appropriate commanders determine allowable water activities, and off base when staffed by lifeguards. This applies during professionally monitored athletic competitions staffed with trained rescue personnel as well.

The modifications will align III MEF and MCIPAC with the same policy as the 18th Wing Command, Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa, and Army Garrison Torii Station.

"The rationale behind these changes is that lifeguards and other personnel designated as local authority have the knowledge and expertise to make locally informed decisions on whether water conditions are safe for recreational activities in their designated areas," said Shawn M. Curtis, the deputy safety director for Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, MCIPAC.

This new policy helps give precise and realistic definitions of the sea condition, according to Vincent M. Keller, a tactical safety specialist with III MEF.

Prior to the changes, lifeguards had the authority to cease water activities during all-clear conditions if they deemed it necessary. This was to protect swimmers from approaching inclement weather or if

dangerous sea life was present. Now, if sea condition danger is set, lifeguards and appropriate commanders can decide to allow swimmers into the water, according to Curtis.

"As long as appropriate measures are implemented and adhered to, personnel should be able to safely enjoy the water for recreational use," said Curtis. "No status of forces agreement personnel drowned in designated areas under the surveillance of lifeguards during the last 13 years."

This policy modification will help service members further enjoy their time on Okinawa.

"Before this policy change, family members were allowed to enter the water during sea condition danger, but service members could not," said Curtis. "The changes offer Marines a chance to spend time enjoying the water with their families."

Even with changes to policy, it is important to realize that this only allows service members to enter the water during sea condition danger for recreational purposes in authorized areas with lifeguards.

"This does not authorize anyone to go diving, snorkeling or swimming in a secluded area during harsh conditions," said Curtis.

As long as people remain aware of their surroundings, this change will safely open up new opportunities for service members on Okinawa.

"The most important thing to remember is awareness," said Keller. "But, it is important that service members are always aware of the weather, sea conditions, and always look out for one another."

For more information on sea conditions and water safety, please refer to III MEF/MCIPACO 5101.1 Ch1 or contact the MCIPAC Installation Safety Office at 645-3806.

III MHG welcomes new sergeant major



Col. Stephen B. Lewallen Jr. and Sgt. Maj. Howard L. Kreamer, front right, lead more than 600 Marines and sailors on a perimeter run of Camp Hansen May 3 to welcome Kreamer, who is the new III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group sergeant major. After the run, Kreamer expressed his excitement about his future with the unit. "The Marines of III MHG are impressive, and I am honored to serve as their sergeant major," said Kreamer.

Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

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efficiently to natural disasters. One possible scenario could be the city of Katmandu, Nepal, Glueck stressed, whose population of 2 to 3 million people live on a major geologic fault line.

"If a magnitude-7.0 or larger earthquake hits Katmandu, the result could be about 900,000 people homeless and 300,000 people killed or injured," said Glueck.

With scientists predicting a major earthquake approximately every 100 years, III MEF developed a comprehensive, proactive crisis response plan.

"It's good that Lt. Gen. Glueck is keeping us informed of what could be happening in our area," said Lance Cpl. Paola C. Govea, an intelligence analyst with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. "With information like this, we can make sure we are ready for anything that happens."

As III MEF stands ready to aid in natural disasters, Marines in the Asia-Pacific region continue to work side-by-side with partner nations during integrated training.

It is Marines training with other nations' service members and first-responders that make nations stronger, according to Glueck. III MEF conducts exercises throughout the Pacific region, ensuring Marines and sailors of III MEF build strong and lasting relationships.

"Doing these exercises is a good thing because it prepares us to work together with other nations," said Lance Cpl. Caleb I. Otoki, a fixed-wing aviation mechanic with VMGR-152, MAG-36, 1st MAW, III MEF. "It gives us an understanding of how our partner nations' militaries work, so we can operate together."

Glueck concluded by noting that III MEF will soon have all the units required for a fully functioning MEF-level Marine air-ground task force.

Currently, III MEF has two of the three infantry battalions on-island, and the final battalion is scheduled to arrive in the near future, according to Glueck. This will allow III MEF to remain America's force in readiness, will increase opportunities to train with regional partners, and will enable better response to myriad crises.

"We will continue doing good things in the nations and communities we engage with across the Asia-Pacific region," said Glueck. "Thank you for a job well done."



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. speaks to Marines and sailors at Robert's Field on Camp Kinser May 6. Glueck spoke to Marines and sailors assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific May 6-8 during all-hands briefings about crisis response, bilateral and multilateral training and reconstituting III MEF. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Marines and sailors in attendance are with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. Photo by Sgt. Brian A. Marion

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leaders looking for ways to answer questions or provide mentorship to female service members."

The purpose of the event was to provide resources and knowledge, so women know they are not alone, according to Vann. There are people to reach out to when there are questions that may not be able to be answered by the immediate chain of command.

"Despite having great leadership, there are some things women go through that are not relatable to men," said Vann.

During the seminar, service members were organized into three groups and visited three different workshops: the person within, finding the balance and let's get to work. As part of each workshop, service members discussed things such as sexual harassment and assault, personal and professional relationships, and adjusting to changes to the physical fitness test.

"I think the best workshop was 'finding the balance' because that is when the chief warrant officer, the master sergeant and a lot of other senior female leaders talked to us and showed they have gone through the same problems as us," said Lance Cpl. Megan R. Irvin, a participant at the symposium and a field wireman with 7th Communication Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

One of the biggest lessons learned at the symposium was that there are women struggling with the same challenges, according to Irvin.

"After today, I realized that whether it is myself with a child and work, or it is another Marine with personal relationship issues, you can find a way to make it work, and there are resources available to help you," said Irvin.

Along with benefiting their professional lives, the symposium also helped attendees recognize ways to improve their personal lives, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Danielle M. Hedges, the aviation supply chief for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

"This symposium gives women tools to be better Marines and sailors," said Hedges. "It helps them become better leaders and shows them that there is a way to be single parents, or to be a mother, a wife and a phenomenal Marine or sailor all in one package."

If every Marine and sailor walked away from the seminar with one thing, it should be additional self-pride, according to Hedges.

"I wish when I was younger that someone would have shared their experiences with me because it would have made some of my decisions a little easier," said Hedges. "This seminar helps them grow, and it helps them think about different paths they can take throughout their careers."

ROK, US Marine forces strengthen relations at Exercise

Republic of Korea Marine Corps assault amphibious vehicles advance past a smoke screen as their crews execute an amphibious landing at Doksuk-ri Beach April 26 in the Republic of Korea during Exercise Ssang Yong 13. Ssang Yong, which means "twin dragons" in Korean, is an annual bilateral training exercise in the ROK designed to strengthen combat readiness and interoperability of U.S. and ROK forces. The landing was the culminating event of the annual exercise. The ROK Marines are with 1st ROK Marine Division. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*



U.S. Marines fire the M777A2 155 mm howitzer April 17 in support of a combined arms live-fire exercise at Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-5, which was part of Exercise Ssang Yong 13. The Marines are with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*



Exercise Ssang Yong 2013



U.S. Marine Corps assault amphibious vehicles come ashore during an amphibious landing on Doksuk-ri Beach April 26 during Exercise Ssang Yong 13. The AAVs and their crews are assigned to Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo By Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson*



Republic of Korea Marine Cpl. Ty Yong Kim, standing center, fires the 81 mm mortar April 13 during a fire-support coordination exercise at Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-5, which was part of Exercise Ssang Yong 13. The training evolution emphasizes the interoperability and cohesion of U.S. and ROK forces while enhancing combat readiness. Kim is a mortarman with Battalion Landing Team 71. The Marines are with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*



Marines fire an M1A1 Abrams tank during a live-fire drill April 25 at Suseong-ri Firing Range. The live-fire was conducted as part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-7, which was part of Exercise Ssang Yong 2013. The Marines are with Company A, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve. *Photo By Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson*



Marines stand atop Kakazu Ridge as Capt. Brad A. Danks, left, discusses how U.S. intelligence gathering affected the Battle of Okinawa as part of a battle sites tour April 29 near Urasoe City. The tour is provided every three months to Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, so they better understand the battle and conditions Japan and U.S. service members endured. Danks is the deputy chief of staff, G-2, intelligence and security, 3rd MLG Headquarters, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines visit Battle of Okinawa historical sites

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Battle of Okinawa, often referred to as “the typhoon of steel,” was one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. During the battle, approximately 100,000 Japanese soldiers and 65,000 Allied service members were killed or wounded while tens of thousands of civilians perished.

To better understand the battle and the conditions endured more than a half century ago, Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, toured historic battle sites near Urasoe City April 29.

“War is brutish, inglorious and a terrible waste ... the only redeeming factors were my comrades’ incredible bravery and their devotion to each other,” wrote Eugene B. Sledge, a Marine veteran of the Battle of Okinawa and author of “With the Old Breed,” a first-hand account of the battle. “Marine Corps training taught us to kill efficiently and to try to survive. But it also taught us loyalty to each other and love. That esprit de corps sustained us.”

Quarterly, the Marines of 3rd MLG embark on a tour led by David Leipold, the deputy information management officer for the III MEF command element at Camp Courtney.

“The Marines here today are standing on historic ground,” said Leipold. “It is a great opportunity for them to see the terrain and gain an appreciation for what happened here 68 years ago. It is part of their heritage as Marines.”

Leipold began the day with a lecture on the battle, touching on myriad topics from the commanders who led troops to the battlefield tactics used by Japan and U.S. forces.

“I think Marines have a vested interest in the battle due to our heritage,” said Maj. Alberto MartinezDiaz, the Service Company commander with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd MLG. “It is important for us to understand the struggles and the fighting that Marines before us went through.”

Marines began their tour visiting Kakazu and Hacksaw Ridges. Some of the bloodiest and most tenacious battles took place along these steep, cave-riddled ridges. Marines also provided presentations about logistics, com-



Sgt. Robert J. Novotny looks at the remains of a fortified Japanese pillbox from World War II during a Battle of Okinawa tour April 29 near Urasoe City. Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group are given the tour quarterly to help them understand their heritage and remember the sacrifices of Japan and U.S. service members and civilians who perished during the battle. Novotny is a financial management resource analyst with 3rd MLG Headquarters, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

munications and other elements of the battle during the tour.

“The fighting must have been very intense and completely different from modern-day battles,” said Cpl. Sean McCabe, an information management clerk with CLR-37, 3rd MLG. “Because of the conditions they were living in ... the mud and the rain, it just seemed like a horrible situation to have gone through.”

Later that afternoon, the Marines visited the Battle of Okinawa Historical Society display on Camp Kinser.

Tour members were reminded that there were tremendous losses on both sides.

“A large number of Japanese lives were lost due to the battle that occurred,” said MartinezDiaz. “It was a very unfortunate time. Japanese soldiers were following orders, just like American service members were. There were many innocent bystanders that were also killed. It is important to remember that we were not the only side to lose people during the battle.”

By the end of the 82-day battle, the island of

Okinawa had been reduced to what many who fought referred to as a vast field of mud, lead, decay and maggots.

“The men digging on both sides of me cursed the stench and the mud,” wrote Sledge. “I began moving the heavy, sticky, clay mud with my entrenching shovel to shape out the extent of the foxhole before digging deeper. Each shovelful had to be knocked off the spade because it stuck like glue.”

Although the Marines who participated in the tour will never fully comprehend the conditions in which both sides valiantly fought, having walked where so many paid the ultimate price will have a lasting impact.

“To know that it was their individual actions and small-unit leadership of Marines making a difference in the battle makes me feel a real connection with them,” said MartinezDiaz. “As Marines today, we want to follow in their footsteps. Therefore, it is important for us to understand what they struggled through and live by the memories of those courageous men who fought in this battle.”

Firefighters receive unique training opportunity

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As smoke and flames fill the air from a replicated aircraft fuselage, firefighters work hastily to quench the fire and enter the burnt hull to thoroughly extinguish any remaining flames.

Marines assigned to aircraft rescue and firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, partnered with their civilian counterparts of MCIPAC Fire and Emergency Services to participate in a mobile aircraft fire training device exercise at the Camp Hansen Joint Training Facility May 2.

Fire and Emergency Services rarely train using the MAFTD since the firefighters typically battle structural fires and train using a burn tower, which is similar to the MAFTD, according to Tetsuya Kudeken, southern battalion chief with MCIPAC FES at Camp Kinser.

Firefighters with both organizations are required to train using live-fire facilities to provide efficient emergency response. Firefighters use the MAFTD to create controlled burns in the training fuselage.

The flames, coupled with smoke machines and audio devices, create a true sense of an actual fire, said Cpl. John R. Blalock, an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist



Firefighters battle a fire during a mobile aircraft fire training device exercise at the Camp Hansen Joint Training Facility May 2. Firefighters used the device to create controlled burns in a replicated fuselage. The flames, coupled with smoke machines and audio devices, create realistic training conditions for the firefighters. The firefighters are with Marine Corps Installation Pacific Fire and Emergency Services.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

with ARFF. "It is equipped with eleven different fire scenarios, such as airframe, cockpit, cargo, engine, wheel and ceiling light fires."

During an actual emergency, time is precious and rescuers know their attention to detail during training will pay dividends when responding to real-world emergencies.

Prior to training with the device, Marines with ARFF provided a period of instruction on how to properly respond to a fuselage blaze.

At the beginning of the response scenario, FES firefighters drove to the mishap site and began the process of identifying a starting point, explained

Cpl. Brett A. Penny, an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist with ARFF. "The decision to identify a location to begin fighting the fire is based on wind direction and fire location," he said. "Then they don their gear and battle the blaze."

In order to combat the heated chassis and raging flames, FES firefighters team up in groups of four. Two men direct two hoses while a third man ensures they have enough slack to move about freely and battle the fire safely. The group's movements are coordinated by the fourth firefighter who leads the team, according to Blalock.

Techniques for battling fuselage

fires are different than those used when the FES firefighters battle structural fires.

Firefighters assigned to ARFF have to be mindful of how they extinguish aircraft fires because parts may still be salvageable. Additionally, the composite materials used to construct the aircraft react differently to various firefighting techniques, according to Gunnery Sgt. Kadorn D. Phuorng, an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist with ARFF.

Once the firefighters extinguished the external flames, they entered through one of the doors to contest the inferno inside. Afterward, firefighters spray their hoses from the interior of the fuselage through the doorway to force out toxic fumes.

"The fire from the MAFTD was hot and felt very real," said Anthony Toguchi, a firefighter with MCIPAC FES. "The smoke was blinding and made it hard to see where you were going, which is good because in a real fire, sight is not always available."

The firefighters enjoyed the training opportunity and know their paths could cross during an emergency situation, according to Phuorng.

"We try to understand each other as best we can, so we can work together to get the job done, which is putting out fires and saving lives," said Phuorng.

Marines assist JSDF members during drill competition

Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The U.S. Marines are taught drill to build esprit de corps, impart military traditions and, most importantly, ingrain discipline and bearing. The Japan Self-Defense Force utilizes drill for all of these reasons while also employing it for another purpose, language training.

Students with the JSDF 3rd Sergeants Training Unit participated in a drill competition April 26 at Camp Itazuma, Gotenba, Shizuoka prefecture, as part of their basic enlisted English course curriculum.

"The purpose of the competition was to build confidence and improve the sergeants' English-speaking abilities," said JSDF Capt. Mamoru Takahashi, the chief instructor of the basic English course for the 3rd Sergeants Training Unit. "We need to study English in order to properly communicate with our U.S. allies, and I think it lends a hand to mutual understanding and human resource development."

The basic English course is three months long and has three events in which U.S. Marines play a role; a visit to Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, a speech contest and the drill competition. Upon graduation from the course, the JSDF soldiers can attend an intermediate or advanced English course.

"We wanted to include the U.S. Marines in this course because we are neighbors and because we regard them as the finest of all U.S. forces."

JSDF Capt. Mamoru Takahashi

a squad of up to five JSDF soldiers through five minutes of drill movements, communicating solely in English. Two U.S. Marines and three JSDF basic English course instructors evaluate them on their pronunciation and overall demeanor.

"I was most impressed with how serious the JSDF take their drill," said Sgt. Bryon D. Boyd, a food service specialist with Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji. "I think they wanted

U.S. Marines to help judge the competition because they want to know what we look for in a leader and because they appreciate how seriously we take our drill."

Marines appreciated the opportunity to assist with the competition.

"The experience was well worth the time because it allowed me to see something that not a lot of people can say they've seen, and my participation directly reflects the Corps' ongoing commitment to fostering good relations with our allies," said Staff Sgt. Cynthia E. Vasquez, a former drill instructor who now serves as the postal chief for Headquarters Company, Camp Fuji.

The most enjoyable part of volunteering during the competition was helping the JSDF soldiers, who are dedicated to perfecting their drill commands and movements, according to Vasquez.

"It was good motivation for our soldiers to have Staff Sgt. Vasquez and Sgt. Boyd judge the competition and interact with them when it was over," said Takahashi.

Once the scores were tallied, it was JSDF Sgt. Shun Ubukata, a tank mechanic, who triumphed on the parade deck, according to Takahashi. Ubukata was presented with a first-place certificate signed by the U.S. Marine and JSDF judges.

Infantrymen sharpen skills during live-fire training

Story and photos by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Two popular reasons why people become U.S. Marines are the opportunities to be a member of America's force in readiness and to travel the globe. Marines assigned to the unit deployment program not only get to travel, but they have the opportunity to train in environments across the Asia-Pacific region.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment,



Lance Cpl. Jesse A. Kessler fires the M32 semiautomatic grenade launcher during individual weapons drills at Range 2 on Camp Hansen April 29. Kessler is a rifleman with 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.

ment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the UDP, held weapons systems familiarization and fire-and-maneuver exercises at Range 2 on Camp Hansen April 29.

Marines fired the M203 grenade launcher, M32 semiautomatic grenade launcher, AT-4 light anti-armor weapon and the MK153 shoulder-fired multipurpose assault weapon to increase proficiency.

This training was conducted to prepare the battalion for its upcoming final field training exercise while assigned to the UDP and future operations, according to Staff Sgt. Owen I. Wood, a platoon sergeant with the battalion.

"We train in order to maintain our skills and remain proficient," said Wood. "A lot of the things we did today provided great training for our Marines. The different battle drills we conducted provided a more realistic aspect than just standing online and shooting on a range."

Following the weapons systems familiarization training, Marines conducted fire-and-maneuver rehearsals.

"For the battle drills, we focused on making them as realistic as possible," said 1st Lt. Zachary W. Devlin-Foltz, a platoon commander with the battalion. "We practiced gaining fire superiority, selecting positions for fire teams, coordinating small-arms suppression prior to movement, engaging enemies according to target precedence, and adjusting placement and rate of fire."

The battalion engaged in several training evolutions while on Okinawa to sharpen the Marines' warfighting skills, according to Wood. Training days like this are considered routine for infantry battalions, but the day also assisted in preparation for its final exercise in June.

"The opportunities we have had to train on Okinawa were even better than we originally thought," said Wood. "The different climate and terrain adds a more realistic element to the training we do. We look forward to taking advantage of all other opportunities we have while under the UDP."

The UDP was established in 1977 by then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Louis H. Wilson Jr. as an initiative to improve unit cohesion by lengthening training evolutions. As part of the program, infantry battalions stationed in the U.S. deploy to Okinawa for a six-month training cycle.

After the Marines finished the maneuver exercises, they employed all the weapons in an isolated battle drill.

"The training we conducted today was important because, in the infantry, we can always use the experience," said Lance Cpl. Naim K. Olverson, a rifleman with the battalion. "In the near future a lot of our guys are leaving, getting promoted, and taking on new responsibilities. This requires junior Marines to step up and take the lead. Training like this gives us the experience and confidence to do that."



Lance Cpl. Richard G. Deans fires an M203 grenade launcher at Range 2 on Camp Hansen April 29. Marines trained with various weapons systems and held fire-and-maneuver exercises, increasing readiness and preparing for future operations. Deans is a rifleman with 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.

Comic convention draws hundreds to community center

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

In vulnerability, incredible speed and the ability to fly are just a few superpowers that draw people to comic books. Fans brought their love of comic books, video games and movies to the third annual Comic Con Okinawa, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services May 4 at the Camp Foster Community Center.

Many children emulate their favorite superheroes as they grow up, according to Rebecca Baldwin, a library technician with MCCS Okinawa.

"The convention gives people of all ages an opportunity to dress up as their favorite superheroes and interact with other fanatics," said Baldwin.

Comic Con was hosted in the Camp Foster Library for two years before moving to the community center due to increased popularity, allowing more space for guests and activities.

A shared interest in comics provided attendees with the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, according to Lance Cpl. Justin W. Ivie, an attendee at the convention and a calibration technician with 3rd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd

Marine Logistics Groups, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"My favorite part of the convention was being able to get together with a group of friends who enjoy comics and video games as much as I do," said Ivie.

The convention included video and board game stations, prize drawings, art contests, costume competitions and screenings of movies based on comic books.

Attendees were given the opportunity to meet famous anime and comic icon Justin R. Cook, the director of productions for Funimation Entertainment and voice actor in several popular anime movies. Noah Bunyan, the 12-year-old author of the Lightning Man series, was also at the event to meet fans and answer questions.

"I love having the chance to meet people who are fans of what we do," said Cook. "When I get to see how many people appreciate something that I'm a part of, it reminds me of why I do this."

The large crowd did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance as they explored the assortment of collectibles and art pieces and took pictures with their favorite heroes and villains.

"I had a great time at the convention this year," said Ivie. "I wish I was still going to be in Japan this time next year, so I could come back!"

In Theaters Now

MAY 10 - 16

FOSTER

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), noon, 3:30 and 7 p.m.; Safe Haven (PG13), 10:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Safe Haven (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Dead Man Down (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Call (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 12:30, 3:30, and 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Call (R), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Dead Man Down (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Pain And Gain (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Dead Man Down (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Call (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Call (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Dead Man Down (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Call (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Iron Man 3 (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 and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

OKUMA MEMORIAL DAY

• The SMP is providing a shuttle service to Okuma Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27. There will be a \$10 bus fee payable to the SMP office. Deadline for registration is May 17. For more information call the SMP at the phone number above.

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:

Which Marine went on to design the AR-10 rifle, which evolved into the M16 and M4 service rifles currently used by Marines?
 See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
 Which conflict saw Marine intervention and police actions in Central America and the Caribbean from 1900-1916?

ANSWER:
 The Banana Wars, during which Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler received both his Medals of Honor for separate actions in Mexico and Haiti.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“America-jin desu.”
 (pronounced: Ah-meh-ri-kah jin-dehs)
 It means, “I am an American.”

CHAPLAINS'

OPINION

“The person we influence today, either positively or negatively, will turn around and influence someone else, and so on.”



Influence is exponential

Lt. Robert Bailey
 MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172 CHAPLAIN

How many people will you influence and how? That number is truly incalculable because influence is not a one-time, cause-and-effect, isolated event. It is more like a stone's-throw into a pond that creates concentric ripples which continue for years to come. By influencing one person, we might be influencing entire nations.

Others are watching us all the time. They are listening to our words and to the tone with which we speak. They are being impacted by the decisions we make and the example we set. They are being touched by the gifts we offer. Our efforts, combined with those of others, have a cumulative force on this planet.

In kindergarten, we learned the numbers one through 10. Add them together and you get 55. But now, multiply them, and the total comes to 3,628,800.

We might think we are influencing people one by one, but really it is exponential. The person we influence today, either positively or negatively, will turn around and influence someone else, and so on. When you crunch the numbers, you will see how our influence, gifts, generosity, acts of kindness or lack thereof has multiplied.

What are you multiplying in the lives of others? Who are you influencing? If you are a blessing to others, you will receive multiple blessings in return. Go and be a positive influence in the life of others and help change our society for the better.

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"