



# Community Engagement between the US Marine Corps and Okinawa



The Marines, Sailors, US civilians, and family members conduct approximately 2,500 community relations activities and programs in Japan annually, including 1,500 in Okinawa. The activities range from sports, cultural and education programs to medical internship programs with both U.S. and Japanese members. Our education programs are in high demand from the local communities. Other efforts include cooperation between MCIPAC and local governments. We routinely participate in combined training and table top exercises with the Okinawa Prefecture Government, JGSDF 15th Brigade and other local partners to prepare for disaster response. Below are other activities and programs:

## Volunteer Activities

- Beautification and clean-up activities at beaches, senior homes, hospitals and orphanages.



## English Education Activities

- Volunteering at Okinawa elementary schools and kindergartens to assist English teaching through games and songs
- Weekly English conversational classes for adults
- Volunteering at Okinawa universities to assist in teaching English
- English Exchange Program with local technical school and Single Marine Program
- Summer English immersion program with Uruma City Board of Education

## Sports Exchange activities

- Youth sports exchange program by MCCC
- Friendship Sports Exchange by DODEA high school & university students
- Baseball clinic for children, Special Olympics at Camp Hansen and Kadena, Field Day with JSDF, and Friendship Wrestling Tournament by USO
- Women's Professional Soccer Team Clinic
- Okinawa Special Olympics support



## Medical exchange programs

- US Naval Hospital Japanese Physician Intern Program
- Implementation of Okinawa organ donor project
- Disaster/emergency response exchange and joint medical training with Okinawa hospital and Ryukyu University General Hospital
- Medical exchange program with Ryukyu Rehabilitation Institute by Camp Hansen

## Internship Programs

- Internship program for university students at G-7 and Public Affairs
- Parliamentary Internship for junior grade USMC officers



## Cultural Exchange/Awareness programs

- Visits to local schools, senior homes, welfare facilities and cultural celebrations to include Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Seminar on Okinawa history & culture by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Participation at local festivals (traditional

dance contest, walking, marathons, tug-of-war, dragon boat race, etc.)

- USO Pottery Festival, Miss USA, Teen USA Cultural Exploration, Halloween Parties
- Participation in the Uruma Festival held every October
- DODEA participation at Okinawa Science exhibition and Art Contest and Okinawa Soroban contest

## Local Level Cooperative Events

- Full day intensive Marine Corps 101 seminar, base tours, visits and briefings to promote understanding of role in Japan for local community, national leaders and civil society
- Participation in Cooperative Working Team meeting chaired by MOFA to discuss measures for prevention of incidents/accidents
- Bilateral Aircraft Mishap Exercise with Okinawa Crisis Management Office and local governmental organizations
- Base tours and visits to promote understanding of USMC role (average of 20 visits per month)
- Renewed and new community agreements for use of base as emergency evacuation routes.
- Natural disaster cooperation with local communities and Red Cross
- Disaster response lessons learned information exchanges with local communities, Red Cross, prefectural and national government.



## III MEF Band



- Annual concerts at Okinawa Convention Center and joint concert with 15th Brigade Band, JGSDF
- Participation in annual Japan Self-Defense Forces Marching Festival in Budokan, Tokyo
- Music and performances at approximately 100 local-hosted events

## Donations

- More than 8 million U.S. dollars in donations to local community
- Monetary donations to Okinawa facilities and charities by American Women Welfare Association and Navy & Marine Wives Club

## Open Base Events for Community

- Courtney Fest
- Futenma Flight Line Fair
- Kinser Fest
- Hansen Fest
- Foster Fest
- Schwab Fest
- Halloween Events for local children
- Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies

**Relationships with off-base community are our most important!**