

# OKINAWA MARINE

FEBRUARY 28, 2014

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**Staff Sgt. Demarius D. Jackson, left, plays the clarinet while Nepal Army Lt. Col. Amul Karki Dhali plays the saxophone in a duet during the combined concert Feb. 22 at the Nepalese Army Headquarters Kathmandu, Nepal. The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band performed with the Nepalese Army Band as part of a bilateral training exercise. Jackson is the small-ensemble leader with the III MEF Band. Dhali is the director of music for the Nepalese Army band.** Photo by Cpl. Terry Brady

## Nepalese, III MEF Band play in harmony

**Cpl. Terry Brady**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KATHMANDU, Nepal—The Nepalese Army Band and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band performed a combined concert at the Nepalese Army Headquarters Feb. 21 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Upon the request of U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Peter W. Bodde, the III MEF Band traveled there to participate in a bilateral training exercise and public performance between the two forces.

Since the event marked

the first time the III MEF Band has performed in Nepal, the intent of the concert was to strengthen bonds between Nepal and the U.S. through means other than humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts and drills, according to Chief Warrant Officer Joshua A. Stone, the officer in charge of the III MEF Band.

The event was a continuation of the positive relationship between the U.S. and Nepalese governments. The Marine Corps has recently conducted HA/DR training

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## Okinawa, Pacific area Marine news available online now

In an effort to best serve its readership with relevant, timely news and information and to remain competitive with modern news resources and the immediate news cycle, the Okinawa Marine newspaper is being discontinued. This will be the final hard-copy publication and distribution of the Okinawa Marine newspaper. To view Okinawa and Pacific-area Marine news, please visit any of the following sites.

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## Cobra Gold 2014 concludes



**SEE PHOTO ESSAY pg 6-7**

**Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines attempt to right their raiding craft during amphibious operation familiarization drills as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 at Hat Yao Beach, Rayong, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 12. The drills were completed through the joint efforts of Royal Thai Marines with Reconnaissance Battalion; U.S. Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force; and ROK Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Bn.** Photo by Sgt. Matthew Troyer

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# Women's History Month: A New Perspective

Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika O. Vann

**W**omen's History Month in March is mandated to be identified and recognized by the Department of Defense, and it has a certain significance articulated by a specific theme, consistent with our current state of affairs as a nation.

The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment." It is designed to honor the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women.

Women's History Month has a special designation that we are all to be familiar with to understand its true significance and base our observance events and small-group discussions around.

Unlike other observances, I have a new perspective as it pertains to this month. This year, I have been inspired by someone very dear to my heart to view the world in a slightly different regard. I have a renewed concern regarding the state of our nation for future generations.

The person I am speaking of is my eight-month-old daughter, Neriah, and the new perspective from which I am speaking is that of a mother.

We have the ability to look back into historical documents to learn about the many accomplishments of known and unknown figures of our past. This is obviously important. What is even more relevant to us is looking within our daily lives at the individuals within our sections, office spaces and living spaces here on Okinawa.

How powerful would we be if we looked within our own units and families to find these women? We would be even more powerful if we recognized the amazing men who work and live beside these women.

Supporting, understanding and appreciating women and the unique characteristics they have to offer enables us to go further in accomplishing our nation's mission.

It is this perspective that provides me with hope that we will begin to look inward for examples of influential women.

This includes the young lance corporals and noncommissioned officers, who provide me with fresh, intelligent, updated ideas for training venues and symposiums.

It includes the SNCOs and officers who work tirelessly to affect change with no expectation of recognition.

It also includes the many wonderful civilian Marines and contractors who provide ready and willing support regardless of what it costs.

The women who accomplish the everyday routine tasks are those who enable us to make history in the end. Right now, they are the ones who are shaping this nation into what it will be for my daughter.

As I watch my infant daughter grow and develop, and look into her curious and innocent eyes, I cannot help but wonder what the world will be like for her.

I hope we truly capture the essence of Women's History Month, as a month that represents something much more important than ourselves. It is a time to reflect on the women of character, courage and commitment who have made history.

It is also a time to consider how we can develop the authentic potential of the next generation of women, to teach them to respect themselves as they join forces with others to enhance our mission as a nation and, ultimately, as a world.

Vann is an Equal Opportunity Officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force.

**The women who accomplish the everyday routine tasks are those who enable us to make history in the end.**

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**THE  
AROUND  
CORPS**

**Col. Christian G. Cabaniss leads "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and ceremonial marchers as they march toward the gravesite of retired Col. Charles H. Waterhouse and his wife Barbara at Arlington National Cemetery, Feb. 19. Waterhouse and his wife were laid to rest 69 years to the day after he landed on Iwo Jima during World War II. Waterhouse originally left the Corps in 1946, but accepted a special commission as a major in the reserves in 1972 as the Marine Corps' first and only artist-in-residence. He painted more than 160 works for the Marine Corps, depicting its Marines and history until his retirement on Feb. 19, 1991. Waterhouse, 89, passed away Nov. 16, 2013. Cabaniss is the commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.** Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter



**U.S. Marines with 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force observe illumination rounds during Exercise Iron Fist 2014 aboard San Clemente Island, Calif., Feb. 13. Iron Fist 2014 is an amphibious exercise that brings together Marines and sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, other I Marine Expeditionary Force units, and members of the JGSDF to promote military interoperability and hone individual and small-unit skills through complex and realistic training.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Anna K. Albrecht

**OKINAWA MARINE**

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Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

# "Thundering Third" departs for Forest Light

Lance Cpl. Joey S. Holeman Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, departed Feb. 22 for Sekiyama Training Area, Eastern Honshu, Japan, to participate in Exercise Forest Light 14-2.

Forest Light is a bilateral exercise between the "Thundering Third" 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members with the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 12th Brigade, with the JGSDF Eastern Army. The exercise will consist of command post and field training events that will build stronger relationships with the JGSDF.

"During Forest Light, we will be doing cold-weather training and partnering with the Japanese to learn how they operate in cold weather," said U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Michael C. Del Favero, a platoon commander with Co. I, 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

Operating in these types of conditions is vastly different from training in California where these Marines are stationed, according to Favero.

During the cold-weather training, Marines will be learning and training with their Japanese counterparts to familiarize themselves with a foreign ally.

"It is good for us to train with other countries because you don't know when we will be called into a big situation where we have to work with our allies," said U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Calderon, a platoon sergeant with

the company. "It's good to know what their training consists of along with them learning about ours."

During the exercise, Marines and JGSDF members will train together to improve their cold-weather survival skills, basic helicopter operations and snow maneuver training to increase interoperability with each other.

Exercise Forest Light will also give Marines a chance to experience the unique culture of Japan.

"We will be integrating with them in a cultural capacity too," said U.S. Marine Sgt. Jordan C. Lee, a squad leader with the company. "We are going to go out and have a chance to meet some of their family members and learn their customs and (traditions)."

JGSDF and U.S. service members have a long relationship of training with one another. "Definitely coming together in unit readiness is going to be huge," said Lee. "I think they are going to build a lot of camaraderie out of spending a lot of time in close quarters together."

So far, the Thundering Third's Okinawa-based training has consisted of company-sized attacks and squad-level tactics, but it has yet to work in cold weather, leaving the Marines with a challenge ahead.

"We haven't done any cold-weather (training), but Marines will adapt and overcome," said Calderon.

Forest Light demonstrates the continued commitment of the U.S. and Japan to increase interoperability of their forces and maintain a strong partnership to protect Japan from external aggression.

## Marines increase speed in QRF training



**Marines with the quick reaction force of Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, practice speed reload drills Feb. 19 during the East Fuji Battery-level Exercise at Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji. "An artillery battery can't really turn its guns to protect its flank, so that's where the QRF comes in," said Sgt. Carlos Moreno, an artilleryman with Battery L, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Brian Marion**

## BRIEFS

### COMMANDANT ANNOUNCES RETURN OF ROLLED SLEEVES

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, has released a letter concerning the return of rolled sleeves when wearing the desert Marine pattern camouflage utility uniform March 9 during the seasonal uniform change.

For more information, please visit [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil) and search for MARADMIN 078/14.

### DELAY IN GLASS COLLECTION SERVICE

Due to various limitations, there will be a short delay for glass collection throughout Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

Please continue to use available glass-only recycling containers until full. Thereafter, please secure overflow glass in clear plastic bags weighing under 20 lbs. each.

Your patience is greatly appreciated during this time.

For more information, call the MCB Butler Recycling Center 645-3139.

### FREE III MEF BAND CONCERT

III Marine Expeditionary Force Band and University of the Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club will present a spring concert March 14 at the Camp Foster Theater. The concert is free and open to the public. No tickets are required. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the concert starts at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 645-3919 or visit [facebook.com/band.IIIMEF](http://facebook.com/band.IIIMEF).

### PREP WORKSHOP FOR COUPLES

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is hosting a free workshop for married and engaged couples March 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Foster Education Center. The deadline to register is March 10. To register, contact Chaplain Clifford Rutledge, 625-2644.

### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY AT STANFORD

Stanford Summer Session is excited to launch an all-inclusive scholarship opportunity for military veterans in community college who are headed to a 4-year university.

Information on this program can be accessed at <http://summer.stanford.edu/veterans/>.

The application deadline is March 31.

**TO SUBMIT A BRIEF,** send an email to [okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil](mailto:okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil). The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

# Communications hub key to exercise success

**Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Communication is one of the most vital aspects of military success, ensuring orders are received on time, troop movements are organized, and exercises are executed in a timely manner.

Marines with Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, established a command operations center Feb. 7-17 at Camp Kinser in support of operation Key Resolve.

The Marines assigned to the company are charged with establishing and maintaining communication between the units they support, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Ellanzo W. Higginson II, the communications chief for Comm. Co., CLR-37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We provide direct communications support for the 3rd MLG commanding general through the military exercises 3rd MLG participates in," said Higginson. "We do this by establishing a com-



**Cpl. Wilberto Maderadiaz, left, and David T. Marcus configure data transfer levels between a central communication hub and detachments Feb. 20 at Camp Kinser during preparation for Exercise Key Resolve. The Marines with Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, are charged with establishing and maintaining communication between the units they support in military operations. Maderadiaz and Marcus are field radio operators with Comm. Co., CLR-37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

mand operations center where the unit commanders can plan and communicate with other units."

Since the start of 2014, the company has been hard at work. The Marines are currently preparing for the upcoming exercise Key Resolve, a combined exercise in the Republic of Korea involving

U.S. and ROK Marines training together and reaffirming the alliance between the two nations, according to 1st Lt. Cody Chenoweth, the operations officer with the company.

"When we are involved in an exercise, we send a detachment of Marines out to the site at least two

weeks early to establish a point of command," said Chenoweth. "We send somewhere between 60-80 Marines for the central hub, and any detachment in the field will have around 2-4 of our Marines assigned to them to take care of the communications."

Following the completion of the main command structure, Comm. Co. began establishing the communications infrastructure and necessary satellite services Feb. 11. Verification for the services they provide was achieved by Feb. 17.

For the Marines in the company, the sense of responsibility brought by their work serves as a motivating factor and a way to ensure they stay efficient, according to Cpl. Brett A. Fyse, a field radio operator with the unit.

"We have extra equipment just in case there is an issue," said Fyse. "We have an operable replacement ready for use. What we do is a huge responsibility. If the gear we have out there is not operational, the units we are supporting will not be able to communicate efficiently."

## Community, Marines join together for evacuation drill

**Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Community and service members participated in a tsunami evacuation drill Feb. 22 through Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The drill was part of a joint effort by local and U.S. military officials to minimize the effects from a potential tsunami landfall event along the shores of Okinawa.

Although similar drills have taken place for civilians living on the island, this is the first time using the finalized blueprint involving both local community and service members, according to Col. James G. Flynn, the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"We've been working out the details and have put them into place today," said Flynn. "It's good to have (the rapport) that allows us to work together and carry out a strategy that saves lives."

The evacuation plan took over a year and a half to perfect, but the results address mutual concerns for safety, according to Flynn.

Constituents from eight districts took part in the mock evacuation, according to Masanori Matsugawa, the deputy mayor for Ginowan City.

For the exercise, community members gathered at Futenma's Gate 1 before walking with participating Marines around the flight line to a higher elevation at Gate 3.

Exercises like this are a necessary way to prepare for potential disasters, according to Matsugawa.

"We signed a (disaster response) agreement last year," said Matsugawa. "As city officials, this is a good way to see our route in action and ensure it is practical and safe."

Although few like to think about nature's wrath, safety depends on considering it, according to Atsushi Sakima, the mayor of Ginowan.

"It is unfortunate, but we must prepare for the potential of natural disaster," said Sakima. "If we know what to do and are ready, we can act fast and prevent injury and death. Our goal is zero injured or dead."

MCAS Futenma is a prime evacuation route, according to Sakima.

"The base is close to the middle (of Ginowan), which makes it quickly accessible to much of the area," said Sakima.

Cooperative evacuation drills demonstrate the U.S. military's commitment to the safety of community members, according to Maj. Joe L. Moore,



**Mayor Atsushi Sakima, second from the right, talks with Col. James G. Flynn, second from the left, Feb. 22 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma during a tsunami evacuation drill. Both men were integral in completing a disaster response agreement during late 2013 on an evacuation strategy allowing local residents to move to higher ground. Flynn is the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.** Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

the operations officer for MCAS Futenma.

"This is a perfect opportunity to show our positive impact on our community," said Moore. "Our goal is to be as productive in our surrounding community as possible."

The evacuation plan is an accurate demonstration of the U.S. will to help others and be a productive part of the community, according to Moore.

"Having a plan that lets us share (Futenma's) higher ground allows all of us to be safe," said Moore. "It also shows we're good neighbors and want to help. We wouldn't feel right keeping this area from the community."

The hope is that future evacuation drills will be carried out in a similar fashion, according to Flynn.

"I was just talking with the mayor," said Flynn. "They've had drills up to, and just into, our gate on Oyama, and we've had our own drills. Now that we have a blueprint and know it's practical, we plan on having a minimum of two (combined drills) per year."

# Family readiness officers discuss challenges

**Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Family readiness officers, advisors and military spouses attended the annual III Marine Expeditionary Force Family Readiness Command Team Advisor Forum Feb. 25-29 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster.

The forum is an annual function organized by the III MEF family readiness officer to connect spouses of senior officers, senior enlisted and command team advisors, so they can nurture relations with one another, share ideas, and discuss the challenges of overseas military life and the impact it can have on families.

"I think it's an opportunity to bring everybody together," said Col. Eric M. Mellinger, the III MEF chief of staff. "(It brings together everyone) from all the

supporting commands to share not only some information and training, but also to bring folks together who are interested, focused and dedicated to family readiness and to our families' health under one roof to exchange experiences, best practices and resources."

The event further educated the spouses and advisors about the shared history of the U.S. and Okinawa with an emphasis on positive relationships, understanding the U.S. military's role in the Asia-Pacific region, and why the U.S. military is located on Okinawa.

The event also made note of how families play a key role in supporting the service members along with providing simple ways to take care of themselves, so that they can continue to support their loved ones.

"When you first meet someone,

you don't know what path they've been on and what they've been through," said Sue Wissler, participant and wife of Lt. Gen. John Wissler, the III MEF commanding general. "Most of our military families are capable of getting through problems, handling a crisis, even dealing with the death (or injury) of their service member in battle, but most of us can't do that without some help. That is the role of the people in this room. It's to provide support for our families."

For many married Marines, their families are the cornerstone on which they lean against during times of trouble throughout their military career, according to Mellinger.

"I have been in the Marine Corps for 27 years," said Mellinger. "My family has endured deployments and separation. They are the rock I rest upon

when I'm not at work, and the support I get from them allows me to do the job that I do. It provides me the resilience to get through some challenging hours and experiences we have (in the military)."

A unique aspect for military service members is that family means more than just their spouses and relatives, according to Amy J. Hall, an advisor for 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. For service members, family is also their brother and sisters in uniform who provide encouragement and support in times of need.

"It's a lifesaver to have support from my Marine Corps family," said Hall. "Whether it's an encouraging word or somebody bringing you a meal when you're sick or your child is injured. I would never change it; it's wonderful, but hard."

## Japan MOD finance director visits Futenma

**Shigeo Shimizu**, center, discusses the layout of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma with a number of advisors Feb. 25 during a tour of the facilities there. Shimizu received an MCAS Futenma command briefing and windshield tour to gain an understanding of the air station as it relates to Japan's defense budget. Shimizu is the director of the Finance Division for the Bureau of Finance and Equipment with the Japan Ministry of Defense. Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders



### CONCERT

from pg 1  
with the Nepalese government in an effort to prepare for environmental-related disasters.

"This event is a community relations event to continue to develop rapport with the Nepalese Army," said Stone.

The concert featured an audience of government officials, including Bodde, Nepalese Army Gen. Gaurav Shumsher J.B. Rana, the Nepal Army chief, and local Kathmandu community members, who came to understand and appreciate the significance of the two bands performing together.

According to officials, the lineage of the Nepalese Army Band plays a vital role in inspiring the (Nepalese) troops and ensuring morale remains high.

The bands started the performance by playing each country's national anthem, symbolizing the continuing bond between the U.S. and Nepal.

"Since we now have relations (with Nepal), we're doing cross-training and performing with the band," said Stone. "We want to continue response efforts and exercises, but we also want to build an alliance with the Nepalese Army Band."

Though each band was given only a few weeks to rehearse their musical pieces, the bands addressed early concerns by practicing each other's

methods of playing music, including allowing the conductors of each band to lead all the musicians.

"Though we have played many types of music and have played at the U.S. embassy, we learned many things from each other," said Nepalese Army Lt. Col. Amul Karki Dhali, the director of music for the Nepalese Army Band. "This is a very good opportunity to play together."

Having learned from each other in the days preceding the event, the band members understood each other's musical capabilities.

"Music is a universal language between musicians," said Cpl. David V. Kelley, a musician with the III MEF Band. "I do not know any (Nepali), but I was able to understand how (they play) music."

The bands received a warm ovation in appreciation for their concert performance.

"I really enjoyed the concert," said Sep Shyam Sundar Shrestha, an event attendee. "The (III MEF Band) performed our music very well."

After the concert, the bands discussed their performance at the event and expressed their gratitude for the opportunity, as well as hopes for future performances together.

"I am happy (about the concert) and the professionalism the bands had," said Dhali. "We hope to hold this event with the bands in the future."

# Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 concludes



Royal Thai and U.S. Marines prepare to attach a container to an MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft at Utaphao, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 17 during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014. Thailand and the U.S. are committed to working together in areas of common interest for the betterment of regional security. Their long-standing alliance and partnership continues to grow and strengthen. The U.S. Marines are landing support specialists with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Royal Thai Marines are shore management specialists with Landing Force Company, Support Regiment, Marine Corps Division. Photo by Cpl. Zachary Scanlon



A Royal Thai Army Special Forces instructor demonstrates the proper technique to safely pick up a King Cobra snake Feb. 15 at Ban Dan Lan Hoi, Kingdom of Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014. The exercise, in its 33rd iteration, is a Thai-U.S. co-sponsored, multinational, joint theater security cooperation exercise conducted annually in the Kingdom of Thailand. The instructor is with Pratupha Special Forces Training Camp. Photo by Lance Cpl. Leah Agler



Royal Thai service members decontaminate a U.S. service member who was a mock victim of a simulated chemical terrorist attack during the counter-weapons-of-mass-destruction exercise at Wing One Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 16 during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014. CG 14 enhances and increases mission readiness and multinational interoperability. The U.S. service member is with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. James R. Smith



Royal Thai General Thanasaka Patimaprakorn, left, shakes hands with U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Michael S. Davidson after the completion of a combined live-fire exercise during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 at Royal Thai Navy Tactical Training Center Ban Chan Krem, Chanthaburi, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 15. Patimaprakorn is the chief of defense forces for the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Davidson is an infantry officer with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Troyer



Royal Thai and U.S. service members and students from Nakhon Ratchasima Punyanukul School in Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, partner together for a three-legged race during a community relations event for Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 Feb. 11. The U.S. service members are with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. James R. Smith



U.S. Marines shield themselves from the blast of an explosive breaching charge Feb. 17 at Ban Chan Krem, Kingdom of Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014. The day's training was intended to demonstrate how explosive ordnance disposal units prepare, construct and detonate some of their breaching charges and explain their underlying fundamentals. The Marines are with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF; and 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, as part of the unit deployment program. Photo by Cpl. Adam Miller



Republic of Korea and U.S. armed forces service members drive their assault amphibious vehicles through the water during a rehearsal for a combined amphibious landing demonstration conducted as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 at Hat Yao Beach, Rayong, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 13. Cobra Gold, in its 33rd iteration, demonstrates the U.S. and the Kingdom of Thailand's commitment to a long-standing alliance and regional partnership, prosperity and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Troyer

# Competition fosters growth, friendships for ROK, US Marines

**Story and photos by Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**F**rom skiing down steep, snow-covered hills, to “kicking-in doors,” Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines helped each other grow through friendly competition.

ROK Marines with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion and U.S. Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, participated in a squad competition during Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2 Feb. 17-20 in Pyeongchang Training Area, Pohang, Republic of Korea.

The company is with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

KMEP is a regularly scheduled combined training exercise that increases the combat readiness and interoperability between the ROK and

U.S. Marine Corps forces, and is designed to promote stability on the Korean Peninsula, enhance the alliance between the two nations, and strengthen ROK-U.S. military capabilities.

The ROK and U.S. Marines executed the course over four days. The first two days, Feb. 17-18, were practice while the last two days, Feb. 19-20, were for timed evaluation.

“The intent of this course is to evaluate the ROK and U.S. Marines’ ability to move through rough terrain while accomplishing certain objectives along the way within an eight-hour time limit,” said 2nd Lt. Stephen S. Fergerson, a platoon commander with Company F.

Twenty-seven teams, some of which were composed of ROK and U.S. Marines, went through the six-mile, four-station course. “The course gives us (U.S. Marines) a feel for what their mission is, which is to infiltrate, locate and call for fire,” said Fergerson. “They’re not a direct action unit like we are. They’re teaching us (stealth) tactics to combat the enemy, and



**Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines walk to the next station of a squad competition course during Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2 Feb. 18 at the Pyeongchang Training Area in Pohang, Republic of Korea.**



**Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines participate in the assault ski portion of a squad competition course as part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2 Feb. 18 at the Pyeongchang Training Area in Pohang, Republic of Korea. The six-mile, four-station course had to be completed within eight hours. The ROK Marines are with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, and the U.S. Marines are with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.**

we're teaching them tactics to combat the enemy head-on."

Through initial preparation, the Marines from both nations were able to better navigate the grueling course during the timed portion of the event.

"The practice days allowed us to plan and set a pace for going through the course, but the time (sensitivity) on evaluation day still made it difficult," said U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. John D. Watson, a joint forward observer with Weapons Co., currently assigned to Co. F. "You understand that you need to push yourself, even at those steep hills."

The course embodies the strengths of both the ROK and U.S. Marines, creating a foundation for both militaries to learn from each other.

The four-station course began with an assault skiing event, which required the teams to cliff rappel then ski downhill in formation while protecting each other and stopping to engage mock enemy combatants.

The next station had teams set up security and call for accurate fire support. Following this, they executed immediate action casualty evacuation drills. This required teams to patrol, then execute buddy rushes when they received enemy fire, as one person acted as a simulated casualty. A few teammates assessed the casualties and escorted them to a designated spot

while the rest of the team provided security.

The last station consisted of a simulated close-quarter battle, in which teams carried out military operations on urbanized terrain with multiple mock enemies.

The course tested the teams physically and mentally, according to Watson.

Along with a desire for the fastest time, pride and encouragement within the teams helped them complete the course. Even with the practice days, it was still a strenuous course.

"We developed a great sense of camaraderie with the ROK Marines we were working with," said Watson. "They love the fact that we push ourselves not just for the race, but for pride as well. You can tell they want to win and be there for their teammates, and it feels good to see that in foreign allies."

It was a knowledgeable experience with ROK and U.S. Marines working together, according to ROK Marine Pfc. Jun Beam Ko, a driver with 2nd Recon Bn.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn and train with them," said Ko. "Both of us have done a lot we haven't experienced before. If we go to war together in the future, the bond we've made now will help us win."



**U.S. Marines assess a simulated casualty as part of the immediate action casualty evacuation portion of a squad competition course, which is part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2 Feb. 18 at the Pyeongchang Training Area in Pohang, Republic of Korea. Twenty-seven teams, some of which were composed of ROK and U.S. Marines, went through the six-mile, four-station course. The ROK Marines are with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, and the U.S. Marines are with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.**



**U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Grant E. Vanalstyne provides security while his teammates simulate calling for fire support as part of a squad competition course Feb. 18 during KMEP 14-2. The ROK Marines are with 2nd Recon Bn., and Vanalstyne is a rifleman with Co. F.**

# Operational Support Aircraft provide flexibility for commanders



**Pilots with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron prepare to land a UC-12W Beechcraft King Air 350 aircraft Feb. 14 at Utaphao Royal Thai Navy Airfield, Kingdom of Thailand. The pilots were initially trained on other Marine aircraft and then trained to fly the Operational Support Aircraft as part of H&HS, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.**

**Story and photos by**  
**Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**B**reaking through the clouds, the sleek jet slices through the air carrying its precious cargo. While this aircraft does not fit the normal pattern of military aircraft, it has a special mission that only it and its crew can accomplish.

Marines and civilians with Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's Operational Support Aircraft, also known as "Magic," provide transport of troops and cargo to various objectives throughout the Pacific.

OSA's mission is to provide reliable, swift travel for personnel and equipment to reach their troops on exercises and operations in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Maj. Jeremy E. Reinfeld, the operations officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"III Marine Expeditionary Force's area of operation encompasses nearly a third of the globe," said Reinfeld, "and none of it is connected by roads. We provide the III Marine Expeditionary Force commander and his forces with time-critical transportation throughout the AO on short notice. We can get into many airfields that aren't serviced by scheduled airlines."

The unit flies two aircraft: the UC-12W Beechcraft King

Air 350 and the UC-35D Cessna Citation Encore.

The UC-12W is a twin-turbo-prop aircraft that can carry up to eight passengers comfortably and has a maximum takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds. With a cruising speed of over 330 miles per hour, this aircraft has a range of almost 2,000 nautical miles.

The UC-35D is a twin-engine aircraft that holds up to eight passengers with a maximum takeoff weight of 16,300 pounds. Though it has a smaller wingspan than the UC-12W, the UC-35D can reach almost 575 miles per hour and boasts a range of 1,800 nautical miles.

During their average 2,500 to 3,000 flight hours per year, Magic pilots will fly to various locations in mainland Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, Cambodia and Guam, according to Reinfeld. These trips are made to support various exercises such as Cobra Gold, PHIBLEX, Ssang Yong and Forest Light.

Typical OSA passengers include high-priority commanders, dignitaries and public figures, but Magic also provides services to enlisted Marines and space-available flyers.

"Our passengers range from four-star generals to family members riding space-A," said Reinfeld. "We support all of III MEF's requirements for travel throughout the area of operations, regardless of rank. If it is a valid

mission that cannot be serviced by a scheduled airline or it is more cost effective to use OSA, we provide the service."

With a wide variety of passengers and various cargo, the OSA pilots and crew must always be on top of their game.

"When we're moving passengers and gear, it's because they're high-priority and these things need to get done expediently," said Cpl. Nicholas C. Grasso, a transport air crewman with H&HS. "That is why we have these smaller aircraft that are mission specific."

While in most units the pilots' main priority is to fly the planes, and the crews' is to keep the planes in the air, at Magic, every-

one fulfills multiple roles within the unit, according to Grasso.

"The transport air crewmen hold other jobs within the unit: (such as) flight scheduling, logs and records," said Grasso. "On top of fulfilling our flight requirements within Magic, we also are responsible for scheduling the flights and taking care of the pilots. It's two or more jobs rolled into one."

The pilots come from a variety of different flight backgrounds to fly these aircraft, according to Reinfeld.

"I am an AV-8B pilot, we also have (fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter) pilots flying with us," said Reinfeld. "Some of our pilots are assigned to H&HS Futenma on flying orders; others are attached to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing or MCIPAC and fly with us as augment pilots."

While their missions may be less recognized than those of more well-known aircraft squadrons, OSA provides a much needed service in the Asia-Pacific region for the Marine Corps.

"We are probably the most flexible flying unit anywhere in the military," said William J. Devogel, a transport air crewman with H&HS. "We can change plans in a minute. We can always find pilots because some of them belong to different squadrons on different bases."

Throughout Magic, there's a sense of pride in the services it provides.

"One of the most important things that we provide to III MEF and MCIPAC commanders is flexibility," said Reinfeld. "We are able to save them time and money by getting them throughout the (area of operations) on short notice."



**Cpl. Nicholas C. Grasso inspects the UC-12W aircraft in preparation for a flight Feb. 14 at the Utaphao Royal Thai Navy Airfield. Grasso is a transport air crewman with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, MCIPAC.**

# In Theaters Now

FEB. 28-MAR. 7

## FOSTER

**TODAY** Pompeii (PG13), 6 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 9:00 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Lego Movie (PG), noon; Pompeii (PG13), 3 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6 p.m.; Her (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** RoboCop (PG13), 1 p.m.; RoboCop (PG13), 4 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** RoboCop (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Her (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Pompeii (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 7 p.m.

## KADENA

**TODAY** The Lego Movie (3-D) (PG), 1:00 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6:15 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 9:00 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 11:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Lego Movie (PG), 11:00 a.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 1:30 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 4:00 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 6:45 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 9:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** The Lego Movie (3-D) (PG), 11:00 a.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 1:15 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 4:00 p.m.; RoboCop (PG13), 6:45 p.m.; About Last Night (R), 9:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY** The Lego Movie (3-D) (PG), 4:30 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 7:00 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** RoboCop (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 7:00 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** The Lego Movie (PG), 4:30 p.m.; Pompeii (PG13), 7:00 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; Her (R), 7:00 p.m.

## COURTNEY

**TODAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13) 9:00 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Pompeii (PG), 3 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG), 3 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** The Wolf of Wall Street (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Pompeii (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Closed

## FUTENMA

**TODAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 4 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** The Monuments Men (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## KINSER

**TODAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** The Lego Movie (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; RoboCop (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Pompeii (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY-TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Her (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Her (R), 6:30 p.m.

## SCHWAB

**TODAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 9:00 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Pompeii (PG13), 6 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 9:00 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 7:00 p.m.  
**MONDAY** About Last Night (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Her (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## HANSEN

**TODAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Pompeii (3-D) (PG13), 10 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Pompeii (PG13), 6 p.m.; About Last Night (R), 9:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Pompeii (3-D) (PG13) 2:30 p.m.; Three Days to Kill (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** About Last Night (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Three Days to Kill (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Her (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Pompeii (PG13), 7 p.m.

## THEATER DIRECTORY

<b>CAMP FOSTER</b>	645-3465
<b>KADENA AIR BASE</b>	634-1869
( <b>USO NIGHT</b> )	632-8781
<b>MCAF FUTENMA</b>	636-3890
( <b>USO NIGHT</b> )	636-2113
<b>CAMP COURTNEY</b>	622-9616
<b>CAMP HANSEN</b>	623-4564
( <b>USO NIGHT</b> )	623-5011
<b>CAMP KINSER</b>	637-2177
<b>CAMP SCHWAB</b>	625-2333
( <b>USO NIGHT</b> )	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.

### DRAGON BOAT RECRUITMENT

• SMP is recruiting for its 2014 dragon boat team. Practices start March 14. Don't miss this great opportunity! For more information, call the SMP office at the number above.

### BUSHIDO MUD RUN RESCHEDULED

• SMP has rescheduled the Annual SMP Bushido Mud Run from March 29 to May 10. For more information, call the SMP office at the number above.

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

## TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which Marine battle was immortalized in the Marines' Hymn as "the shores of Tripoli"?

See answer next Friday at [www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac](http://www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac).

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: Which Marine assisted in the iconic flag raising on Iwo Jima and was later immortalized in a Johnny Cash song?

ANSWER: Ira Hayes, in the song "The Ballad of Ira Hayes."



## Japanese phrase of the week:

"Omedeto."

(pronounced: oh-meh-deh-toh)

It means "Congratulations."



## CHAPLAINS'

### How Old is the Earth?

**Lt. Cmdr. Alfred V. Pena**

DEPUTY MCIPAC/MCB CHAPLAIN

**H**ow old is the Earth? This question has sparked many debates in recent years, especially when words like "creation" and "evolution" come up.

Some answer this question with "4.5 billion years." Others answer with "6,000 years."

Those who believe in an older Earth also tend to cite "physical evidence" such as fossils dating back millions of years or mineral deposits dating back billions of years. Those who believe in a younger Earth tend to cite "physical evidence" as well as interpretations of religious texts.

Additionally, there is a common perception that if one accepts scientific teachings (evolution in particular) then one would have to abandon one's religious faith teachings and vice versa.

However, another perspective is that science and religious faith, though different things, are actually not entirely opposed to each other.

What they do share is a common goal to liberate humankind from the things that bind us.

A religious person, in one sense, is one who seeks liberation from selfish desires and petty things of this world because of its eternal spiritual value.

A person who utilizes scientific insights, in one sense, is one who seeks liberation from physical maladies and human limitations of this world because of its value in rational understanding.

Thus both are meant to enlighten humankind in order to achieve our personal and collective hopes.

When seen from this perspective, the question of "how old is the Earth?" is actually a minor topic. In terms of overall benefit to humankind, the endeavor of both true religious faith and true science requires self-discipline, setting aside one's personal agendas, and rising above trivial matters.

Albert Einstein, though himself not a "religious" person, remarked: "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind."

One does not have to abandon one in order to benefit from the other. They can complement each other, at different levels, in their overall goal to liberate and to enlighten those who wish to learn from them.