

OKINAWA MARINE

AUGUST 30, 2013

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KMEP 13-8 strengthens alliance



SEE PAGES 6-7 FOR STORY & PHOTOS

Artillerymen direct-fire an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer at the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex Aug. 21 as part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8. Direct fire is used when the enemy comes within 2,000 meters of the battery's location. This firing method does not require coordinates in order to plot and engage targets, but relies on the accuracy of the artilleryman looking through the gun's sights. The artillerymen are with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

ARTP 13-2 commences

Sgt. Anthony Kirby

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines with Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, will begin artillery relocation training Aug. 26 in support of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-2 at the Ojojihara Maneuver Area, Sendai, Japan.

The battery training includes using artillery and small-arms live-fire, along with basic field training to enhance combat readiness and to increase its ability to provide indirect fires in support of infantry units.

The ARTP promotes regional stability and security by allowing units stationed on Okinawa to maintain their ability to support III see **ARTP** pg 5

III MEF Marines command from sea during UFG

Capt. Caleb D. Eames

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

USS BLUE RIDGE, OFF THE COAST OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA — Approximately 70 Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force

embarked the USS Blue Ridge from Busan, Republic of Korea, Aug. 17, for Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2013.

The Marines flew from their forward-deployed location in Okinawa, Japan, to Busan to participate in the exercise as command and control elements,

planners and liaisons on ship. Approximately 170 other service members with III MEF are participating from other locations across Japan and the ROK.

“III MEF is an excellent force to respond to any situation in the Asia-Pacific region because see **UFG** pg 5

Pilots evade Smokey SAMs

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IE SHIMA, Japan — Pilots of CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters and KC-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft practiced their threat reaction flight techniques using simulated missiles Aug. 27 on a training island off the coast of Ie Shima.

The CH-46E pilots are with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The KC-130J pilots are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, MAG-36.

The simulated missiles were GTR-18 surface-to-air missiles, or better known as, “Smokey SAMs,” which are small rockets used to simulate the launch of a surface-to-air missile, according to Sgt. David S. Chang, see **SAM** pg 5



A Smokey SAM, also known as a GTR-18, travels through the air Aug. 27 on a training island off the coast of Ie Shima. Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

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CONTAMINATION RESPONSE

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Parent involvement key to education

Marie Lewis

Congratulations parents and students, you've survived the first week of school! This is an extremely busy time of year for both educators and families — especially those of you who have just arrived on Okinawa.

We at the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity Okinawa District want you to know we are here to help, and we are eager to partner with you to set your child up for success this school year.

Quality education is a team effort. The personal responsibility you teach at home carries over to the classroom. Our teachers strive to provide rigorous and engaging lessons, but you are your child's best teacher. That is why taking an active role in their education is so critical.

Throughout the month of September, each of DODEA Okinawa District's 13 schools will be hosting an open house. This is the perfect opportunity to meet your child's principal and teachers and see firsthand what is happening inside the classroom. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. Your children are eager to share their accomplishments, and they thrive off of your enthusiasm.

Whether your child is new to Okinawa or returning to school here for another year, they will be surrounded by new faces. Encourage your child to sign up for a club or sport. DODEA Okinawa District offers a wide variety of academic, musical and athletic opportunities that support educational and social development. Okinawa is a wonderful place to make lasting friendships.

In an environment as fluid as a

military community, the needs of our student population are in a state of constant change, and communication is key. The stronger the relationship between you and your child's educators, the greater our ability to meet every child's unique needs.

Throughout the school year, avoid "cruise control" mode and continue to engage your child. Ask them about their day, and when they share something that happened at school, dig a little deeper. Kids need to know we care. Don't be shy about talking to your child's teacher if you have a concern. Our top priority is to provide an outstanding education in a safe, enriching environment, and we can't do it without your support.

Lewis is the DODEA Okinawa District news liaison.

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Open House Schedule

• Amelia Earhart Intermediate School
Sept. 5 @ 3:15 - 4 p.m.

• Bob Hope Primary School
Sept. 5 @ 4-5 p.m.

• Kubasaki High School
Sept. 5 @ 5-7 p.m.

• Zukeran Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 3 p.m.

• Kinser Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 4:15 p.m.

• E.C. Killin Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 5 p.m.

• Stearley Heights Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 5 p.m.

• Kadena Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 5:30 p.m.

• Bechtel Elementary School
Sept. 12 @ 5-6:30 p.m.

• Kadena Middle School
Sept. 19 @ 5-7 p.m.

• Lester Middle School
Sept. 19 @ 5-7 p.m.

• Ryukyu Middle School
Sept. 19 @ 5-7 p.m.

• Kadena High School
Sept. 26 @ 5-7 p.m.

AROUND THE CORPS

Recruit Drew Ashe attempts to pull himself over a raised log at an obstacle course Aug. 19 on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The course is one of many physical training tools used to help Marine recruits improve their strength and stamina. Parris Island has been a site of Marine Corps recruit training since Nov. 1, 1915. Parris Island is home to entry-level enlisted training for approximately 50 percent of males and 100 percent of females in the Marine Corps. Ashe is a recruit with Platoon 3085, Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. Photo by Cpl. Caitlin Brink



Mongolian Armed Forces Junior Sgt. G. Enkhtuushin, standing right, rehearses a pressure-point strike on Junior Sgt. U. Bazarvaani after a demonstration by U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Alan Stowers, center, during the Nonlethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2013 field training exercise Aug. 20 at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia. NOLES is an annual Marine Corps Forces Pacific theater-security-cooperation event focusing on the use of nonlethal weapons. Stowers is a nonlethal weapons instructor with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Sgt. Ben Eberle

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.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of military services stationed overseas, at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

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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



Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson



Marine Corps Installations Pacific Commanding General's Guidance

Mission statement: Marine Corps Installations Pacific provides base and installation support to Marine Forces Pacific and III Marine Expeditionary Force; ensures garrison quality of life support to Marines, sailors and their families; and executes Defense Policy Review Initiative and Aviation Campaign Plan-related actions in order to enable Operating Force combat readiness.

Intent: MCIPAC's fundamental reason for existence, our *raison d'être*, is embodied in our focus on the III MEF Private First Class and Lance Corporal forward-based and forward-deployed in the Pacific.

The Marines' ability to train, deploy and redeploy, coupled with the quality of life for Marines and their families, are our business. Whether that Marine is assigned in Hawaii, Korea, mainland Japan or Okinawa, maintaining our focus on those we support constitutes a sustained and overarching principle of this command. We must ensure that the individual Marine, throughout the Marine Forces Pacific area of responsibility, is provided the installation resources, training and operational support required to execute the assigned mission.

We will ensure that our installations are ready and capable deployment and employment platforms for a "fight tonight" scenario.

Additionally, because family readiness is a critical component of force readiness, we will execute Marine and family programs that ensure the highest quality standard of living possible for Marines and their families.

That is why we are here! That is why we must execute with a sense of urgency!

I expect MCIPAC Marines, sailors and civilians to continue to aggressively conduct our normal day-to-day tasks. Beyond this uninterrupted pursuit, the actions immediately below require a comprehensive, concerted effort of a higher level to ensure that this Command meets/exceeds Marine Corps senior leadership expectations. Hence, they will be our areas of focus:

- Taking care of Marines, sailors and their families
- Supporting III MEF operational forces as the 5th element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force
- Enabling and executing the "USMC return to the Pacific"
- Execution of Defense Policy Review Initiative and Aviation Campaign Plan-related actions
- Ensuring the long-term viability of our installations
- Promoting and sustaining critical coalition and joint partnerships



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson addresses his new commands June 14 outside Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler headquarters on Camp Foster during a change of command ceremony. "(My wife and I) are extremely excited and honored to be a part of this command and part of the Marines in the Pacific area of responsibility. We will do our utmost to continue to provide support to the Marines assigned to the Pacific area and their families during our tour," said Hudson during the ceremony. Hudson accepted command of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler from Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

BRIEFS

CAMP FOSTER POST OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to a scheduled power outage requested by the Okinawa Electric Power Company from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 7, the following adjusted services will be in effect at the Camp Foster Post Office:

- Parcel pick-up: normal working hours (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Retail services: CLOSED.

During the power outage, a preventive maintenance inspection on the circuit breakers, relay switches and cables at the OEPC Zukeran Substation will be performed.

FREE COMEDY SHOW

Marine Corps Community Services Entertainment and Armed Forces Entertainment will host comedian George Wallace during a free, live comedy show 8 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster.

This show is open to all status of forces agreement personnel and their authorized guests 18 and older.

For more information, call 645-5821, find MCCS Okinawa Entertainment on Facebook or log onto mccsokinawa.com/entertainment.

18TH ANNUAL COMBINED BAND CONCERT

The 15th Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Band and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band will host their 18th annual combined concert at 7 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Okinawa Civic Hall.

The concert is free and will feature march and concert band music.

Tickets are available for pick up at the III MEF Band Hall on Camp Foster.

For more information, call 645-3919.

USNHO PHARMACY REFILL HOTLINE

The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa's pharmacy has changed its phone number for the medication refill hotline.

On base: 646-7999

From a cell phone: 098-971-7999.

OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

A U.S. overseas citizenship ceremony is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. Sept. 6 at the Camp Foster theater.

Military members and Department of Defense civilians may attend.

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

9th ESB demolishes safety hazard

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion worked tirelessly to deconstruct two buildings previously used to store M777A2 howitzer artillery pieces for the 12th Marine Regiment Aug. 9-30 at Camp Hansen.

Before the deconstruction process began, it was determined that the buildings were no longer sturdy enough to withstand the harsh weather on Okinawa. Their dilapidated state posed a threat to the security of the howitzers previously stored inside, according to Staff Sgt. Christian J. Keyser, a heavy-equipment operator with the unit. The buildings had to be demolished, to eliminate danger to personnel and property.

The deconstruction also provided a training opportunity for the combat engineers, according to 1st Lt. David A. Padgett, the officer in charge on the project.

"The Marines are getting to see how the building was constructed," said Padgett. "They also get to learn their trade as combat engineers by deconstructing it piece by piece."

The buildings were demolished in a methodical manner



Lance Cpl. Jesse R. Gribble slices through a piece of metal Aug. 9 while deconstructing a dilapidated building on Camp Hansen. The building, along with another, presented a hazard to both personnel, as well as the equipment being stored in them due to deterioration from severe weather. Gribble is a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

with the combat engineers cutting through materials and removing bolts and roof panels one by one, according to Sgt. Joseph W. Manning, a combat engineer with the unit. It was critical for the buildings to be deconstructed in such a meticulous way to ensure a safe working environment for the Marines involved with the project.

"We started this process by deconstructing the roof," said Manning. "On projects such as this, we always want to start from the top of the building and work our way down for safety purposes."

The task of demolishing the two weather-worn buildings

required hard work and hours of labor from the Marines working on the site, according to Manning.

In the end, the Marines of 9th ESB received valuable hands-on, real-world training they can use in the future when constructing weather-resistant, permanent facilities for howitzers.

"The Marines have worked very hard and gotten a lot done in a very short period of time," said Keyser. "Everyone worked together really well to accomplish the mission."

The 9th Engineer Support Bn. is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Kimble relinquishes duties

Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Kimble thanks Marines, sailors, civilian Marines and family for their commitment during his tenure as sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler Aug. 23 during a relief ceremony in front of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler Building 1 headquarters on Camp Foster. Kimble received the Legion of Merit Medal for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements while serving as the sergeant major of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler. Kimble, who served as the sergeant major since March 25, 2011, is scheduled to assume duties as sergeant major of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. His replacement will be Sgt. Maj. Robert K. Williamson, who is currently serving as sergeant major of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



SAM from pg 1

an aviation ordnance technician with VMGR-152. "The name comes from the white smoke that trails from the rocket after launch. The pilots have to react to that smoke and perform threat reactions and evasive maneuvers."

The Smokey SAMs are constructed from paper and plastic foam.

"This training is a safe way to practice threat reactions," said Chang. "It helps pilots practice the maneuvers they will need to avoid getting shot down during combat, without the threat of real danger or danger to the aircraft."

The threat response and evasive maneuvers make the training defense-oriented, meaning the pilots are trying to keep their crew, passengers and cargo safe, as well as the aircraft.

"The main goal of (the pilot) is to safeguard the crew and passengers," said Capt. William F. Lipstreu, a KC-130J pilot with VMGR-152. "We take a lot of Marines where they need to go and that includes combat zones, if necessary. Marines should know that they'll be safe in our hands because of training like this."

The Smokey SAM training also keeps pilots prepared in the case of a significant ground-to-air threat during a combat situation.

"Some of the new pilots that arrive to the squadron have no combat experience," said Lipstreu.



Lance Cpl. Bradley J. Vicchiollo prepares a Smokey SAM rocket Aug. 27 on a training island off the coast of Ie Shima. Vicchiollo is an aviation ordnance technician with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

"It's more difficult to get combat trained now, due to the fact that there are very few combat missions at this time.

"This training simulates a combat environment, which keeps us better prepared for tactical missions in our area of operations," said Lipstreu.

The two helicopters went first, flying together, and evaded the first set of Smokey SAMs.

The KC-130Js then had their turn. The missiles were aimed at different areas of the aircraft. After evading the missiles, the aircraft used flares to create new heat signature decoys for any other new enemy missiles to follow.

"Flares are ejected and fan out behind the aircraft," said Lipstreu. "While they act as decoys, pilots run

evasive maneuvers until the surface-to-air threat has been removed."

Pilots in the MAG are required to keep their threat reaction training up to date annually.

"Each pilot gets to do the training a few times a year and the squadron does the training two to three times a month," said Lipstreu.

The training gives the pilots and crew an idea of how they would react and contribute in the course of combat and legitimate surface-to-air threats.

"Just like all our training, it is important to be ready to fight and win when we get there," said Capt. Michael S. Linhares, a CH-46 pilot with HMM-262. "This training is essential for mission readiness and critical for success in any clime and place."

ARTP from pg 1

Marine Expeditionary Force's role in the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. ARTP also helps sustain unit proficiency in all weapons systems used by artillery units.

"My overarching goal for Battery C, the battalion and all the augments going up there is to get better," said Lt. Col. Jason P. Brown, the commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "We're pretty good now, but we can always grow and get better."

Japan's weather and climate will play a significant role in the training and especially during the live-fire portion according to Lance Cpl. Walter D. Sweet Jr., a field artillery cannoneer with the battalion.

"There is a big difference between the dry heat of Afghanistan, the volcanic rocks in Hawaii and the hills and jungles of Japan," said Sweet. "This difference adds a new, challenging element to the training."

The Marines of the battalion understand the importance of the training and how much the Marine Corps and government of Japan have invested into it, according to Brown.

"This really is the (goal) of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, when it comes to fulfilling our obligation to the defense of Japan and the defense of U.S. interests in the Pacific," said Brown. "From here on out, every moment is a moment to train and get better."

The battalion is scheduled to return to Okinawa in mid-September, and during the weeks of training they plan to grow as an artillery unit and continue to build the battalion as a team, according to Brown.

"At the end of this training, I hope the Marines can look back and say, 'I got better personally, and I got better professionally,'" said Brown.



A KC-130J Super Hercules releases flares Aug. 27 above a training island off the coast of Ie Shima. The flares are used to create new heat signature decoys for heat-seeking missiles to follow. The KC-130Js are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

UFG from pg 1

it provides a 'scalable' and 'tailorable' capability that can be rapidly employed," said Lt. Col. Neil Ahearn, current operations officer, III MEF (Forward). "We provide the theater commander with an expeditionary capability to respond to emergent crises."

The Marines aboard the USS Blue Ridge give the commanding general of III MEF continuity of operations, providing command and control at sea, closer to a potential operation than other Japan-based locations.

"Our commanding general can relocate to his location at sea and maintain his ability to command and control effectively," said Ahearn. "The Navy-Marine Corps team provides this unique amphibious capability."

UFG is an annual training event designed to ensure readiness to defend the ROK and sustain the capabilities that strengthen the alliance.

"The Marine Corps is known for always being ready," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Lars M. Luther, current operations chief, III MEF (Forward). "If the call comes, we will join our ROK allies and get the job done effectively and efficiently."

Approximately 3,000 personnel from the U.S. and bases in the Asia-Pacific region are participating in the ongoing exercise, and join more than 28,500 U.S. forces already stationed on the peninsula.

UFG is carried out in the spirit of the ROK and U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty signed on Oct. 1, 1953, and further contributes to training and enabling of the ROK military taking the lead for their combined defense in 2015.



Marines of III Marine Expeditionary Force prepare to board the USS Blue Ridge Aug. 17, in preparation for Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2013. The Marines flew from Okinawa, Japan, to join the exercise aboard ship. Other III MEF Marines are participating from several locations across Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Photo by Capt. Caleb Eames



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter carries a Marine Humvee during joint external lift training at the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex Aug. 19 as part of the Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8. The U.S. Marine Corps also familiarized themselves with U.S. Army operations during several training evolutions throughout the exercise. The Humvee belongs to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. David R. Morgan, left, discusses fire missions with Republic of Korea Marines at the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex Aug. 17 during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8. The exercise underlines the enduring alliance and friendship between the two nations and their combined commitment to the stability of the Korea Peninsula. Morgan is an artilleryman and battery gunnery sergeant for Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.



Lt. Col. Jason Brown shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Jin Su Bae Aug. 26 during an awards ceremony at a military location near the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex. Bae received a U.S. Marine Corps certification of appreciation for his performance during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8, an annual exercise designed to enhance the capabilities of ROK-U.S. relationships. Brown is the commander of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Bae is an artilleryman with 5th Battalion, 2nd ROK Regiment, 2nd ROK Division.

ROK, US Marines conclude KMEP 13-8

**Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock**
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The two countries' service members stood completely still at attention as they waited to be awarded. On this day, they did not stand representing different nations with different backgrounds, but as fellow Marines.

Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines concluded Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8 during an awards ceremony honoring the participants at a military establishment near the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex Aug. 26.

KMEP 13-8 is a regularly scheduled, combined training exercise that enhances the combat readiness and interoperability of ROK and U.S. Marine forces. The exercise is just one in a series of continuous combined-training exercises designed to enhance the alliance, promote stability on the Korean Peninsula, and strengthen ROK-U.S. military capabilities.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Guk Heom Park, the commander of 5th Battalion, 2nd ROK Regiment, 2nd ROK Division, and Lt. Col. Jason Brown, the commander of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, presented awards to those who

stood-out during the bilateral exercise.

"More important than the artillery skills we shared with each other were the lasting bonds that we built during this exercise," said Brown. "As Marines, we are always trying to better ourselves with anything that we do. By working together throughout this exercise, I'm confident that if we are ever in a situation fighting side-by-side, we will prevail."

Each battalion commander took turns presenting awards to the other country's Marines, showing the significance of the lasting relationships built between the two nations.

"I want to give special thanks and appreciation to all of those who participated and took from this exercise as much as they gave," said Park. "While everything we did throughout the exercise was important, today is of the most importance as we recognize those who put forward their best effort during the exercise."

Throughout the exercise, ROK and U.S. Marines completed live-fire training, helicopter operations, cultural exchanges and tours throughout the countryside.

While the majority of the U.S. Marines and sailors were with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, under the unit deployment program, a select few from



Cpl. Griffith D. Moore adjusts fuses on M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer rounds Aug. 21 at the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8. Moore is an artilleryman with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

various units within III MEF also supported the exercise.

"This was a great opportunity for me and my guys to not only work alongside an artillery unit, but also with another country's military," said Cpl. Cody J. Sailor, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "While our mission out here was brief, it was definitely

an experience my Marines and I won't soon forget."

KMEP 13-8 is carried out in the spirit of the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty signed between the U.S. and ROK on Oct. 1, 1953. The exercise underlines the enduring alliance and friendship between the two nations and their combined commitment to the defense of the ROK and peace and security in the region.



Artillerymen prepare an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer for direct fire at the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex Aug. 21 as part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-8. KMEP 13-8 is a regularly scheduled, combined training exercise, which enhances the combat readiness and interoperability of ROK and U.S. Marine Corps forces. KMEP is just one in a series of continued combined training exercises designed to enhance the alliance, promote stability on the Korean Peninsula, and strengthen ROK and U.S. military capabilities.

MWSS-172 hosts 2nd annual Firebird Festival

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The aroma of food filled the air throughout the festival as Marines and their families enjoyed each other's company while competing to decide who would win the annual Firebird Festival Trophy.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, known as the Firebirds, hosted the second-annual Firebird Festival Aug. 16 at Camp Foster for members of the unit and their families.

"The purpose of the festival is to help build camaraderie, not only as a squadron but as a family," said Lt. Col. Nick I. Brown, the commanding officer of MWSS-172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "A lot of people in the unit do not have family over here in Okinawa, so it's important to ensure they realize the Marines in this squadron are close like a family."

The festival was composed of several events that the Marines, separated by company, competed in. Events included ultimate Frisbee, flag football, graffiti wall-painting, and a pie, marshmallow and hotdog-eating contests.

"The festival was a lot of fun," said Pfc. Logan K. White, a motor vehicle operator with the squadron. "Spending time with the rest of the unit like this was really enjoyable. It helped bring me closer with the Marines of my squadron."

The events tested the Marines across a wide range of activities, including athletic ability, creativity and teamwork. The winners of the competitions were determined by a group of judges, including the squadron's sergeant major and commanding officer.

"With each event being judged to win



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 participate in a flag-football game Aug. 16 as part of the 2nd annual Firebird Festival at the field behind on Camp Foster. "The flag football games were intense," said Staff Sgt. Talan J. Wyenandt. "Though it was a flag football game the teams came out and gave their all. They weren't afraid to get a little (aggressive) if they had to." Wyenandt is the operations chief for MWSS-172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

this year's Firebird Trophy, each team is taking the events seriously to impress us judges and to show off their skills outside of the work environment," said Sgt. Maj. Stephen W. Muller, the squadron sergeant major. "The graffiti wall-painting competition gave the Marines an opportunity to use their creative side and represent their companies through artwork."

The flag football tournament was the final event, which helped decide the first-place winner.

"The flag football games were intense," said Staff Sgt. Talan J. Wyenandt, the operations chief for the squadron. "The teams came out and gave their all. They weren't afraid to get a

little (aggressive) if they had to."

The festival was a great success, according to Sabrina Herring, the family readiness officer for the squadron.

"Everyone came out and had a good time," said Herring. "It was a great opportunity for the squadron as a whole to interact outside of their usual work environment and become closer as a family."

Once the festival's events ended, it was time to award the Firebird Festival Trophy.

"It was a close (competition) this year, however, in the end, Motor Transportation Company won the trophy," said Brown. "Their hard work after hours preparing for all the events paid off."

CDOS concludes though safety remains critical

Aaron Davis

Living on a subtropical island allows for summer activities to take place throughout the year, so letting your guard down as the fall season approaches could lead to injuries or worse.

Labor Day weekend marks the conclusion of the 2013 Critical Days of Summer campaign, but it is important to remember being safe is a year-round responsibility.

Ensure you use personal risk management throughout the year prior to participating in an activity, especially a new activity. Identifying potential hazards prior to participation can help eliminate or reduce dangers and mishaps.

The challenge of preventing a mishap is actively identifying and addressing the risks factors before the accident occurs. If something does not look or feel right, stop and assess the situation and determine the best course of action to prevent an accident from happening.

Always wear the proper protective equipment associated with an activity to address risks and enjoy all Okinawa has to offer safely and responsibly.

And though summer on Okinawa is coming to an end, the hot weather will remain. Staying properly hydrated is very important as the temperature and humidity remain high for the majority of the year. Staying hydrated lays the foundation for preventing most heat-related injuries.

Those trying to escape the heat may realize that beaches, which were fully staffed with lifeguards during the summer, may change to "swim at your own risk" during the off-season. Couple this with the possible sea state changing to more treacherous conditions in

the fall and winter months, and this leads to increased risks to those partaking in water activities.


Have a plan before going out and participating in activities like scuba diving. One easy way to minimize risks is to ensure you have a dive partner. Another risk mitigation practice is to let someone know where you are at all times by maintaining clear lines of communication. This could include staying in cell phone range in case you need to call for help.

It is also important to remember that typhoon season does not officially end until Nov. 30. You should remain prepared throughout the season with a typhoon preparation kit that includes food, water, flashlights, batteries, basic hygiene items and whatever else you need to make it through several days without leaving your residence because a typhoon could make landfall within 72 hours of any given time.

Although the Critical Days of Summer campaign is ending, the spirit of safety needs to continue. Pay close attention to changes in your surroundings during the transition in seasons. Remember, children are back in school so slow down, obey the posted speed limits, be observant for stopping buses, and watch for children crossing the street.

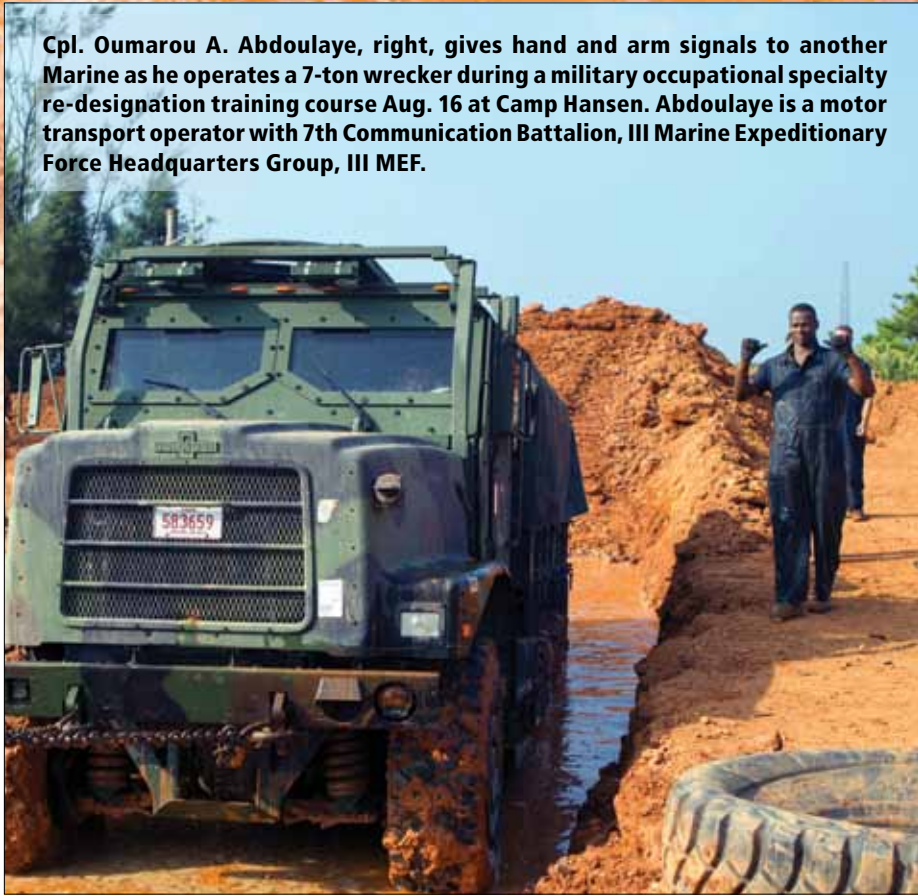
Continue taking care of yourself and look out for the welfare of those around you by actively considering risks and how to reduce the probability and severity of a mishap. Remember, it is important to ensure you are staying safe throughout the year.

Davis is the supervisory occupational safety and health specialist with the Installation Safety Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.



Lance Cpl. Nathan E. Craig, left, and Cpl. Oumarou A. Abdoulaye search muddy water for lost parts and tools during a military occupational specialty re-designation training course Aug. 16 at Camp Hansen. Abdoulaye is a motor transport operator with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and Craig is a motor transport operator with Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Transport Marines embrace mud, grime



Cpl. Oumarou A. Abdoulaye, right, gives hand and arm signals to another Marine as he operates a 7-ton wrecker during a military occupational specialty re-designation training course Aug. 16 at Camp Hansen. Abdoulaye is a motor transport operator with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Story and photos by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The advanced training of Marines is a requirement in most military occupational specialties. However, the associated temporary additional duty often requires Marines to be absent from their normal duties and units for extended periods of time. One resourceful group has solved this challenge and in doing so is saving precious TAD dollars.

Motor transport Marines underwent military occupational specialty re-designation training Aug. 16 at Camp Hansen.

For the past three years, motor transport Marines in the Pacific have been taking part in an ongoing program that allows the top ten percent of basic motor vehicle operators to be re-designated as vehicle recovery operators upon successful completion of the VRO course. This is done without sending the Marines stateside, as all the training is done on-island.

"Instead of sending 24 Marines back to the schoolhouse at Fort Leonard Wood, two instructors came to Okinawa to teach the vehicle recovery operator's course," said Sgt. Charles R. Thompson, a vehicle recovery course instructor with the Marine Corps detachment at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "By doing this, it has saved the Marine Corps (a lot of money) so far."

At the schoolhouse, the course typically takes a few months to complete, but by having the instructors come to Okinawa they are able to conduct a condensed curriculum.

The practical application training is important because in this particular occupation Marines are required to recover the military's tactical vehicles under a variety of circumstances, according to Thompson. For example, having a scenario taking place in mud and water creates a challenging training evolution, which, when properly overcome, builds their confidence.

The course reiterates to its students the importance of how their new job skills factor into mission readiness and mission accomplishment.


"Total accountability of personnel and equipment is important because without it, the Marine Corps would not function properly," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Gilberto J. Rivera, motor transport maintenance chief for III Marine Expeditionary Force. "There is a shortage of vehicle recovery operators currently, so having a course like this, taught outside of the schoolhouse, is really beneficial not just to the Marine forces in Okinawa, but also the (entire) Marine Corps."

During the training, the instructors implement ways to drive-home the necessity of accountability.

"The instructors are always bringing up the importance of accountability," said Lance Cpl. Nathan E. Craig, a motor vehicle operator and student in the VRO course with Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "It's not just about accountability of Marines, but tools and equipment as well because they are vital to (mission accomplishment)."

The best training scenarios are often those that are most realistic, according to Thompson.

"So far this training evolution has been good for the Marines in the course," said Thompson. "But I think what is really great about it is that everyone has kept a good attitude even though they have been working so hard."



Motor vehicle operators conduct vehicle recovery operations training during a military occupational specialty re-designation course Aug. 16 at Camp Hansen. The MOS re-designation is part of an ongoing program that has taken place on Okinawa for the past three years. It gave motor transport Marines an opportunity to become vehicle recovery operators upon successful completion of the course. The Marines are with Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines train to handle hazardous materials

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

During the training scenario, Marines dressed in sealed protective suits step into the tent, testing the smoke-filled air for toxins with a handheld sensor. Once the readings display it is safe to proceed, they step farther into the structure and approach the hazardous material.

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense teams with III Marine Expeditionary Force completed a contamination response drill Aug. 19-23 as part of a weeklong hazardous-material training exercise.

The three teams spent the week building proficiency and confidence in their hazardous-material-handling capabilities through classroom and practical-application training.

“Our mission is to train Marines who don’t know how to do these things and make sure they have the knowledge and skills necessary to work effectively in the field should they encounter such scenarios,” said Chief Warrant Officer Paul T. Pritchard, a CBRN defense officer with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. “By gathering together and sharing what we know, we’re better able to equip our Marines with the (necessary knowledge).”

During the exercise, the Marines practiced investigating a contaminated site, contained hazardous materials, extracted simulated casualties and secured a mock contaminated site.

“Our work is very open-ended,” said Cpl. Caitlin M. Carmella, a CBRN defense specialist with CLR-37. “This means that there can be (many) ways to do one

thing. The experienced Marines have shown us the ways they’ve found work, so we don’t have to learn (exclusively) through trial and error.”

A month of planning and preparation was put into arranging the training, according to Staff Sgt. Bradley A. Mowrey, a CBRN defense specialist with CLR-37. The units made the scenarios as realistic as possible to ensure the Marines got the most out of the training.

“We gathered all of these Marines under one roof to share the wealth of knowledge they have,” said Mowrey. “This gives the Marines more to work with and makes it easier to establish and standardize methods of tactics, techniques and procedures for handling these kinds of situations.”

In addition to providing the Marines with valuable knowledge and experience, the exercise also

helped identify areas the Marines need to improve, as well as highlight the challenges they will face when executing their job, according to Pritchard.

“The protective suits the Marines wear add at least 20 degrees to the ambient temperature,” said Pritchard. “We plan to do exercises to help adapt to the heat and other elements to get familiarized with

the suits, further decreasing the chances of heat casualties.”

The Marines returned to their units with their knowledge enriched and experience gained to further aid them in completing their

mission, according to Carmella.

“The training was incredibly effective,” said Carmella. “It helped familiarize the members of the units should we ever need to form a joint unit in the field while also providing new information to help us stay current on procedures and new techniques.”

“We gathered all of these Marines under one roof to share the wealth of knowledge they have.”

Staff Sgt. Bradle A. Mowrey

Combat Town tests LAR Marines’ readiness

Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines pride themselves in their role as a force in readiness, a role that demands continuous training and a drive for operational excellence.

Marines with Combat Assault Battalion demonstrated their commitment to maintaining their edge as a force in readiness Aug. 12-15 during platoon-level military operations in urban terrain and counterinsurgency operations training at Combat Town in the Central Training Area.

The Marines are with Weapons Platoon, Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, currently assigned to LAR Company, CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

“This is the first time we have conducted MOUT training in (a counterinsurgency) scenario as a platoon, but I believe we showed that we were capable of accomplishing the mission,” said Staff Sgt. Mateo V. Camargo, the platoon sergeant. “This gets the Marines prepared for any contingency they could face in a MOUT environment or any potential threats we feel could occur in future operations.”

Counterinsurgency operations are mission essential during deployments where insurgencies could threaten to erode the stability of the region.

“At first, there were a few rocky points we had to (adjust) in our use of operational tactics, causing us to go through the town twice,” said Cpl. Ryan A. Gardner, a squad leader with the platoon. “The first run shook the cobwebs off, and when we went through the second time, we did significantly better.”



Cpl. Nikolas C. Wurdelman returns fire Aug. 15 during platoon-level military operations in urban terrain and counterinsurgency operations training at the Combat Town facility in the Central Training Area. Wurdelman is a team leader with Weapons Platoon, Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, currently assigned to LAR Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

The Marines used special effects small arms marking system rounds to provide them with a training evolution that realistically simulated possible contingency operations.

The Marines took turns playing the role of insurgents and civilians during the training evolution to add the final touch of realism, according to McCartney.

“The value of this training is exposing the Marines to challenging environments they could encounter in the future,” said 2nd Lt. Charles M. McCartney, the platoon commander. “It’s good to get the Marines out here and give them a taste of what it’s

like to operate in those environments.”

Maintaining readiness across the entire spectrum of warfare is especially important to the Okinawa-based Marines because the Asia-Pacific is a complex operating environment with continuously changing security threats, according to McCartney.

“The biggest thing is preparation,” said McCartney. “These Marines can get called on to do a variety of different missions, and many of those missions require operating in an urban environment, so this gives them the necessary exposure to (successfully complete those types of missions).”

In Theaters Now

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 5

FOSTER

TODAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Monsters University (G), noon; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3 & 6:30 p.m.; The World's End (R), 10 p.m.

SUNDAY Planes (PG), 1 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 4 p.m.; The World's End (R), 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY The World's End (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY The World's End (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Planes (PG), noon; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3 & 6:30 p.m.; The World's End (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Planes (PG), noon; Percy Jackson: Sea (PG), 3 p.m.; Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain (R), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Turbo (PG), noon; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6:30 & 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY Percy Jackson: Sea (PG), 1 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 4 p.m.; The World's End (R), 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY The Butler (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY The World's End (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Despicable Me 2 (PG), 3 p.m.; Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Despicable Me 2 (PG), 3 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Despicable Me 2 (PG), 3 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY The World's End (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The World's End (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain (R), 4 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY The World's End (R), 4 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY 2 Guns (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The World's End (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Despicable Me 2 (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY The World's End (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Butler (PG13), 9 p.m.

MONDAY The Conjuring (R), 6 p.m.; The World's End (R), 9 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; The World's End (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 3 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6 & 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; The World's End (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY We're the Millers (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY The Conjuring (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Red 2 (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.

BATTLE SITES TOUR

• Brush up on your history and enjoy a day with the SMP during a battle sites tour Sept. 13. Transportation will be provided from Camps Foster and Kinser, and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Sign up by Sept. 5. For more information, contact the SMP office via the number above.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• Want to give back to the community? Contact the SMP office via the number above for more information on volunteer opportunities.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What Korean War-era Marine earned the Pulitzer Prize for his work as a civilian photojournalist in Vietnam?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Which unit was established in Nov. 1947 to test experimental rotary-wing aircraft?

ANSWER:

Marine Helicopter Squadron One, which has become synonymous with helicopter transport of the U.S. president, still tests and evaluates Marine aircraft and systems.

日本語

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Sore de wa nochihodo!”

(pronounced: soh-reh-deh-wah noh-chee-hoh-doh)

It means “See you later!”

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“We all need friends who will check in and look out for our well-being.”



Friends raise others during low times

Lt. Kevan Q. Lim

COMBAT LOGISTICS REGIMENT 37 CHAPLAIN

Sometimes we are most vulnerable when everything is going our way. That is because the fall from high to low is very painful should the unexpected occur.

Take, for example, the case of a newly emerged dragonfly I once observed while working as a summer-camp counselor. It was perched on a dock post atop its split nymph skin; having been drying in the sun and air, its eyes became green prisms and its abdomen brightened into iridescent red until its wet tissue-like wings unfurled into shimmering crystal paper. It gave a few test flaps in preparation to fly. But what had once been an ugly brown water dweller was now a bejeweled master of the air. In dragonfly terms, everything was going its way.

Then the unexpected appeared in the form of a camper whom I called Screaming Jack due to his habit of screaming every hour, on the hour,

every night, all through the night.

While I watched my dragonfly friend, Screaming Jack had crept up behind me. Catlike, he closed within striking range, and then — shot a chubby devil of a finger past my shoulder and flicked the dragonfly back into the water, where it landed wings down and legs kicking.

Because the fall from high to low is painful, we all need friends who will check in and look out for our well-being.

This is true not only in bad times, but also in good times when all is going our way. We also need to be uplifting to our friends. That way, when others help us after our fall, we can reciprocate. Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend loves at all times.”

Because the dragonfly had a friend, it quickly recovered. With loud words, Screaming Jack hustled back to the shore. Then the friend scooped the dragonfly out of the water and posted guard while it dried. A few minutes later, with a flick of its wings, the dragonfly was on its way.

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”