

OKINAWA MARINE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

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“Flying Tigers” celebrate change



Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 was redesignated as Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 during a ceremony Aug. 30 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The “Flying Tigers” squadron formerly flew CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters. The ceremony signified the squadron’s transition to MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft.

VMM-262 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“As I look at (VMM-262), I see the tremendous opportunities for our nation, our defense of Japan, and our plans for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief around the Pacific,” said Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder, the 1st MAW commanding general. “I’m truly honored to be here at this point in history with this great squadron and its great commander.”

This is the squadron’s fourth redesignation since its activation in 1951. It has supported operations in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic and Vietnam from its duty station at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. It relocated to MCAS Futenma in 1992, going on to

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JSDF, 3rd MEB prepare, train for disasters

Cpl. Terry Brady
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE, Japan — Members of the Japan Self-Defense Force, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and U.S. Forces Japan conducted the 2013 Shizuoka Disaster Preparedness Drill Sept. 1 at Togami Sports Field in Shizuoka prefecture, Japan.

The annual drill is a prefecture-wide natural-disaster planning and preparation exercise designed to improve community, military and government readiness for humanitarian crises similar to the 1923 Tokyo earthquake or the Great East Japan earthquake and subsequent tsunami of 2011.

“Approximately every 150 years, there is a major earthquake in the Shizuoka prefecture, and there are always other potential disasters pending,” said Capt. Ralph E. Lemaster, a current operations officer with 3rd MEB, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “We provided logistics on our disaster response capabilities to the local government and showed them hands-on equipment such as tactical aircraft and vehicles.”

see **DISASTER** pg 5

Community members rehearse evacuation routes

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Approximately 150 members of the local communities around Camps Kinser and Foster took part in disaster relief drills Sept. 1 and Sept. 4 at the camps in conjunction with Marine Corps Installations Pacific Marines.

The goal of the drills was to familiarize community members with planned evacuation routes through the camps. During a natural disaster such as a tsunami or typhoon, the route would be used to provide the most direct evacuation possible

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Children from the local community participate in a disaster relief drill Sept. 4 at Camp Foster. Approximately 100 participants from the Camp Foster area attended the drill to learn the safest route to protected areas in the event of a natural disaster. The drill was also performed at Camp Kinser with approximately 50 attendants. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

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Naive no more; Remembering Sept. 11

Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Growing up in a small, mountain community, life was carefree. The only fears I had were being caught sneaking in or out of the house past curfew, or if my teacher called my parents from school saying I failed a test. The truth is, I did not have a real comprehension of the true, overwhelming power of fear and how helplessly weak it can make you feel. I would not say my parents sheltered me from the cruel realities of the world, but I can say I was naive; naive until Sept. 11, 2001. On that day, I learned what it felt like to be truly afraid, and I was thousands of miles away from the attacks.

I was a high school sophomore and it was a typical Tuesday morning for the Miller household, just as it was for most American families. My stepmom woke me to get ready for school. I could hear her pouring a cup of coffee and clicking over to the news channel as she always did. The program was usually a panel of talking heads squawking about politics or gabbing about celebrities, things I could not have cared less about. Not this morning. This morning there was no talk or footage of such trivial things.

I remember the images I watched on TV. The gaping hole between the 92nd and 98th floors of the World Trade Center's North tower where the first plane crashed, flames rushing out of its opening and billowing clouds of gray smoke filling the sky above New York City.

As scary as that was to watch, it wasn't even the worst part for me to see. It wasn't what triggered my first feelings of what fear really is. It was seeing a businessman standing at the edge of a broken window, high above the street and falling to his death. I thought to myself, "This man's only options were to jump, be burned alive, or crushed inside the failing structure of the tower."

The days and weeks following that terrifying morning left me in a seemingly perpetual state of fear and stress that I could not shake. I thought I was being selfish for feeling the way I did because nothing actually happened to me, my family or anybody I knew. Everyone I loved was fine. I thought it was not fair to feel sorry for myself

because there were more than 2,900 people who died that day; their friends and families left behind without a warning or goodbye. I tried telling myself it wasn't my problem or that I should not feel this way, yet I still could not shake off the stress it caused me. The only way I can possibly describe it is by comparing it to claustrophobia and paranoia.

After three weeks had passed, I finally worked up the courage to talk to my dad about it. I told him I was afraid something horrific might happen to us. I told him I couldn't understand how something like this could happen in the first place since we are supposed to be the world's super power and best-protected country.

My dad told me that no matter how heinous this act of terrorism was, and no matter how bad it makes us feel, there will still be more, maybe even worse, and that there were attacks in our history too. He told me that these things happen all over the world, but the reason I felt so upset about it was because it happened relatively close to home. But then he told me something that changed me forever, he said, "Adam, you feel this way because you feel guilty, not guilty for doing something, but guilty for not being able to do anything."

I thought about it for a minute. I thought it didn't make sense. How could I be feeling guilty for something that had absolutely nothing to do with me? But my dad was right. I was naive and oblivious, but not anymore.

"The important thing, Adam, is that we always remember the times in our history like this, so we can learn from them," my dad said. "If we allow ourselves to forget, then our efforts to make things right will have been in vain."

I often think about why I joined the military and I'm sure the reasons change every time it comes up, but the one reason that always sticks with me without change is this sense of responsibility I owe to my country; my personal understanding of patriotism. I do not know for sure when or where I picked it up, but I think it might have something to do with how I felt on 9/11 and the days since.

Miller is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

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AROUND THE CORPS

Marines with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion fire the M327 Expeditionary Fire Support System, a rifled, towed 120 mm mortar Sept. 3 during an integrated, live-fire exercise for Exercise Koolendong 13 at the Bradshaw Field Training Area, Australia. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit moved a battalion-sized force more than 300 miles inland to conduct the training. BLT 2nd Bn. is part of 4th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU. Photo by Sgt Jonathan Wright



Bulk fuel Marines perform annual live-fire training Aug. 28 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. During the training more than 200 gallons of fuel were poured into a circular pit and then ignited to simulate an incident. The Marines are with Bulk Fuel Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Shawn Valosin

OKINAWA MARINE

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Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Battery C races clock during MEDEVAC training at ARTP 13-2

Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OJOJIHARA MANEUVER AREA, Japan — Marines and sailors with Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, participated in a medical evacuation drill Aug. 31 as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-2 at the Ojojihara Maneuver Area in Miyagi prefecture, Japan.

The drill prepared the service members for possible medical emergencies that may occur and familiarized them with the procedures to move a casualty safely and efficiently to the next level of care if needed.

The ARTP promotes regional stability and security by allowing units stationed on Okinawa to maintain their ability to support III 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.

"We need to be able to instinctively respond to a situation," said Petty Officer 1st Class Evan Hershey, a hospital corpsman with the battery. "Time is very critical, from when the injury happens up to when we (stabilize) the patient."

The training required coordination between the battery, Japan Defense Bureau personnel and Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces.

"We can't do it all on our own," said Chief Petty Officer Sandra Go-Lubiano, the senior enlisted medical member with the battalion. "This is a team effort. We have to rely on the Marines, our corpsmen's skills and our Japanese counterparts. If we're not in sync, then we'll fail as a group."

Casualty evacuation training helps everyone understand their role and how they can improve in the event of an actual casualty situation.

"This gives us an opportunity to see our strengths and weaknesses," said Go-Lubiano.

"By doing the drills, we can become more familiar with our surroundings and smooth-out any discrepancies in the plan, so we are ready to take care of the Marines."

As the procedure became second nature, the Marines and corpsmen moved more quickly, improving the chances of the casualties receiving effective treatment, according to Go-Lubiano. The importance of rapidity cannot be stressed enough.

"When it comes to saving a life, every second counts," said Go-Lubiano. "As time goes on, you could be losing blood, your risk for brain damage increases, as well as the risk to limbs or eyesight."

Although the battery and battalion staff put a great deal of effort into the training, there is always room for improvement, according to Go-Lubiano. But she feels her staff is up to the task.

"I know our corpsmen have the heart and initiative to take care of our Marines," said Go-Lubiano.

BRIEFS

24-HOUR POW/MIA VIGIL RUN

The 2013 POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony is slated to begin with a 24-hour vigil run at Marek Park on Kadena Air Base from 6 a.m. Sept. 19 to 6 a.m. Sept. 20.

Following the run, a ceremony will be held at the 18th Wing Headquarters building flagpole at 6:30 a.m. Sept. 20, followed by a recognition breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Rocker NCO Club ballroom.

MANPOWER MANAGEMENT BRANCH VISITS OKINAWA

Personnel with Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments branch will visit Okinawa commands Sept. 13-17.

MMEA will conduct a series of manpower in-calls, presentations and interviews in order to update commanders on enlisted manpower issues and assist Marines in making well-informed career decisions.

First-term alignment plan briefings will be held for fiscal year 2014 first-term sergeants and above on the following dates and locations:

- Sept. 13 at the Kinser theater from 8-9 a.m.
- Sept. 16 at the Foster theater from 8-9 a.m.
- Sept. 17 at the Hansen theater from 8-9 a.m.

For a complete schedule of briefing times and locations, visit www.facebook.com/3mef.mcipac.

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 Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. 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.

PREP WORKSHOP FOR ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

A free workshop for engaged and married couples is scheduled for Sept. 12 at the Camp Foster Education Center from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This free workshop is designed to equip married and engaged couples with valuable communication and problem-solving skills, and help them gain a deeper understanding of each other in their relationship.

For more information, call 625-2644.

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

3rd MLG Help Desk recognized as best in DOD



Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, second from left, and Col. Edmund J. Bowen, far right, present the Defense Travel Management Office Elite Award to the Pacific Region Defense Travel System Tier II Help Desk Aug. 28 at Camp Kinser. The Elite Award is presented to the best DTS Tier II help desk team whose superior efforts best result in continuous improvement and outstanding customer care. DTS is a fully integrated, automated, end-to-end travel management system used for Department of Defense travelers. Nelson is the 3rd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, and Bowen is the Combat Logistics Regiment 37 commanding officer. The DTS Tier II Help Desk is part of the Disbursing Office, 3rd MLG. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

Marines ensure security posture with K-9s

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Military working dog handlers with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion assisted Combat Logistic Regiment 35 and CLR-37 in conducting security training and exercise support Aug. 28 at Camp Kinser.

The training included establishing a security posture, which is a significant defense to prevent or deter threats, and guarding a high-value area during the exercise.

CLR-35 and 37 are part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“Our job is to assist other units in setting up their security posture, maintaining their security posture, and responding to any crisis,” said Staff Sgt. Keyon S. Spence, a platoon sergeant with 3rd LE Bn., III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. “The K-9 units are here to participate in the exercise by strengthening the security measures and representing a show of force with the security posture in place.

“Individuals who might attempt to break the security lines know it will be hard to get through, especially with our K-9 units at hand.”

Cpl. Dustin K. Campbell, a military working dog handler with 3rd LE Bn., and his dog, Sgt. Sydney, a combat-tracking dog with the battalion, patrolled the perimeter

and assisted in the training. The combat-tracking dogs are trained to locate targets by following their targets’ scents, according to Campbell.

“If someone manages to get inside or manages to escape, we can pursue the suspect using just their scent,” said Campbell.

Tracking dogs can also be used for search and rescue operations, according to Campbell.

“The Provost Marshal’s Office sometimes calls us to help find missing people,” said Campbell. “We can help find them and bring them back. That is just an example of how well-rounded and capable our dogs are. They can secure a perimeter, search for suspected culprits, and aid other units in finding missing people.”

In addition to providing military working dogs and handlers, the battalion helped the regiments set up their perimeter with concertina wire and engineer stakes to support the compound’s defense. They also taught 3rd MLG Marines how to operate an entry control-point, establish inner and outer perimeter security and staff a quick reaction force with riot control personnel.

“This exercise is a good chance to teach other Marines about security and what it means to be a part of the interior guard,” said Lance Cpl. Derek E. Hayes, a military policeman with the battalion.



Cpl. Dustin K. Campbell walks the perimeter of the area with his military working dog Aug. 28 at Camp Kinser in support of various exercises. Campbell is a military working dog handler with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

The interior guard is a group of Marines charged by a commander to preserve order, protect property and enforce regulations within the jurisdiction of the command.

While Marines like Hayes are experienced with the duties of a security force, Marines who work in other job fields used this opportunity to refresh themselves on the basics of security operations by standing duty and remaining

vigilant for threats, according to Lance Cpl. Jesse C. Combs, a warehouse clerk with CLR-35.

“I think our job is essential in supporting exercises because if there isn’t anyone out here to defend the perimeter, who would stop the perpetrators,” said Combs. “This is a good exercise to be a part of because it establishes the fundamentals of being a Marine on watch.”

MWSS-172 constructs landing pads on Ie Shima

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

IE SHIMA, Japan — Service members operating heavy equipment grade mounds of gravel and dirt, flattening and leveling the landing zone. Other sweat-soaked service members place large planks into place with a thud.

The feverish scene, filled with moving equipment and materials, was all part of a well-planned landing zone construction project.

Marines and sailors with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 constructed four landing pads Aug. 28 at Ie Shima training facility, located off the northwest coast of Okinawa, for rotary-wing aircraft training use.

The landing pads help broaden the training opportunities for units using the facility by providing increased access for helicopters and Ospreys, according to Master Sgt. Juan C. Manco, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of expeditionary airfields, MWSS-172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“This is exactly what we do (on deployments) anywhere we go,” said Manco. “We did this in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I’ve had the opportunity to do this for both the Army and the Air Force.”

The location and size of Ie Shima training facility allows for a wide spectrum of aviation combat element training evolutions, according to Manco. The increased access helps the Marines and sailors of III MEF realize these capabilities.

Building the landing pads was originally intended as a core-competency skill training for members of MWSS-172.

The construction became a full-blown operation and an end goal in itself by the time work began due to the long-term importance of main-

taining serviceable landing areas at the facility, according to Staff Sgt. James C. Atakoglu, the operations chief with the unit. The importance stems from the need for training areas to prepare for possible humanitarian or contingency operations that could develop within the region.

When completed, the area will have the capability to accommodate large-scale training, including division-sized landing operations, according to Atakoglu.

Each pad must be extensively prepared to support large-scale operations without suffering damage from the throughput of Marines, equipment and vehicles, or damage from long-term exposure to the elements, according to Cpl. David J. Fredenberg, a crew leader with MWSS-172.

“To get the landing pads safe, we have to compact the area and ensure it’s perfectly level,” said Fredenberg. “We also have to make sure it’s at the correct gradient. If it is not flat, the pads will break or there will be standing water. If the gradient isn’t right, water won’t drain (which can damage the landing pads.)”

The landing areas are completed when the top layer of the pad surface is successfully laid on top of the prepared surface, creating a safe and durable landing zone.

Whether the construction is a training evolution or an operation, the service members have a valuable opportunity to expand their skills and help III MEF and MCIPAC maintain its training areas, according to Manco.

“Our engineers are getting phenomenal training that they wouldn’t get anywhere else,” said Manco. “It not only provides training for the aircrew, it provides training for our Marines (to help accomplish overall missions in the Asia-Pacific region.)”

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for citizens seeking refuge.

"Today, we are conducting a drill to practice a set route in the event that a natural disaster does occur," said Col. Edmund J. Bowen, the commanding officer of Camp Kinser and Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We must work together and show our support to the surrounding community."

Participants started at locations off base in natural-disaster hazard zones before making their way to gate 5, known as the commissary gate, at Camp Foster and gate 4 at Camp Kinser, known as the northern gate, upon the sound of the area alarms. Crossing on to the camps, the participants were able to move directly out of the danger areas to higher elevation.

The event provided an opportunity for the coordinators to get an estimate of how long it would take for community members to get to safety.

"These are the shortest routes to safety," said Tetsuji Matsumoto, the Urasoe City mayor. "It is critical we practice these drills so should something happen, all movements will be smooth and more lives will be saved."

Natural disasters and tropical storms are common in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Masaki Okuhama, an event participant. It is critical that individuals living in the region are prepared for the worst and educated on how to respond if a disaster does strike.

"I now feel much more prepared for a natural disaster," said Okuhama. "Because our town is crowded, it would be hard for us to get to safety. This has been an

excellent learning experience for me as well as the other people (involved)."

It is necessary for the citizens to continue to practice the drill and ensure maximum participation and education among the community, according to Haruhisa Takeuchi, the acting ambassador in charge of Okinawa Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

"This has been a great start to (preparing) for a natural disaster," said Takeuchi. "If disaster does strike, we must all help each other reach safety."

Due to the inherent importance of proper preparation for saving lives and minimizing the effects of a natural disaster, the drill is scheduled to be conducted biannually.

"Many hours have been spent planning this out," said Bowen. "But the route we have set has the potential to save many lives."

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The event marked the second year Marines have participated in the drill, showing strong support for mutual preparation and the importance of interoperability.

"Last year, we sent a smaller humanitarian assistance survey team to observe the drill and evaluate where we would fit in and how we could help the community," said Maj. Eric J. Mattson, the III MEF Japan observer exchange program officer. "We brought tactical vehicles from Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji to give the community an idea of the capacity of supplies and equipment our vehicles can handle during a disaster event."

The coordination during the exercise strengthened the two forces' relationship and improved interoperability, according to Mattson.

"This year, we were able to land military aircraft at the airport to maneuver to the drill site," said Mattson. "This shows how serious the local government and community are taking this training, and it attests to how strong our bond has become."

Heita Kawakatsu, the Shizuoka prefectural governor, attended the event and stressed the importance of the community's ability to plan and prepare, as well as accepting support from the JSDF and U.S. military.

"It is crucial that you plan and take care of yourself, as ensuring self-sufficiency will make it easier for the humanitarian effort to help those in need," said Kawakatsu. "We hope that planning at the community level will help humanitarian efforts like Operation Tomodachi become faster and more efficient."

Kawakatsu also discussed the roles of the military and how humanitarian assistance is only part of its mission and having community support helps the military accomplish this.

"The function of the military is first to be combat ready, and then ready to aid those in need," said Kawakatsu. "While they are here to help the community, we must also be ready to help them, as well as support ourselves during natural disasters."

The optimism and the coordination between the community, the government and the military reinforced the participants' strength and readiness, said Mattson.

"Training like this is important because it shows where everyone's mind-set is in regards to the seriousness of potential disasters," said Mattson. "If everyone is ready to work together, we can make the relief efforts even more successful."



Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder addresses the crowd Aug. 30 during the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 redesignation ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The redesignation symbolized the squadron's transition from CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters to MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and the improvement of III Marine Expeditionary Force operational agility. VMM-262 is a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Rudder is the commanding general of 1st MAW. Photo by Cpl. Matthew J. Manning

VMM-262 from pg 1

participate in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines and Japan.

"For more than 60 years, 262 has earned many honors ... I'm confident that their great legacy will continue," said Col. Brian W. Cavanaugh, the MAG-36 commanding officer. "I said 262, not HMM or VMM because in aviation units it's the last three numbers that really matter. There are many units that transition to different aircraft, but it's those three numbers that carry the full weight."

The Sea Knight helicopter, nicknamed "The Phrog," has served the Marine Corps since before the Vietnam War.

"What you see here today is the transition from the mighty battle Phrog, which earned its mettle in Vietnam and many engagements after, to the journey of another combat-proven aircraft, the MV-22B Osprey," said Cavanaugh. "Today's ceremony honors those who have gone before us, not only in the CH-46 community, but the pioneers whose dedication allows us to provide this great capability (of the Osprey), not only to our nation, but to our partners."

The Osprey has a speed of 280 knots, an altitude ceiling of 24,700 feet, and a lift capacity of 20,000

pounds. The tiltrotor aircraft can carry 24 Marines with full combat load and can travel a combat radius of 325 nautical miles. These capabilities make the Osprey twice as fast, able to carry almost three times the payload, and have four times the range of the CH-46E.

While the squadron's name and aircraft have changed, the unit's most valuable asset remains the Marines, according to Lt. Col. Larry G. Brown, VMM-262's commanding officer.

"No aircraft would land in a hot landing zone to support the Marines on the ground if it weren't for Marines working (in various fields and jobs to get it there)," said Brown. "It's these Marines who make all those things possible."

Brown is certain that the "Flying Tigers" will continue to be an asset to III MEF and partner nations across the Pacific region and uphold the legacy the Marines who came before them built.

"As we begin the next chapter, and continue our transition from good to great, how we do things will continue to change, but why we do them and who we are shall remain," said Brown. "One thing that hasn't changed is our selfless service and sacrifice in support of the Marines fighting on the ground—it's just what we do. The "Flying Tigers" will remain always faithful."

Combat engineers explode

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Five, four, three, two, one — fire in the hole!” A moment later, the live ordnance explodes and a loud explosion shatters the ground and echoes through the atmosphere.

This was just another day at the office for Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion as they completed a demolitions training evolution, employing several types of explosives Aug. 27-29 in the Central Training Area.

The combat engineers maintained and improved demolition capabilities with common types of explosives like C-4, dynamite, TNT, bangalore torpedoes and various shaped charges during the training, according to 1st Lt. Richard J. Fitzgerald, a platoon commander

with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The training evolution provides newer combat engineers with a solid foundation for future training on how to handle explosives safely, so they can effectively demolish defensive obstacles,” said Fitzgerald.

During another part of the training, the Marines focused on working with the different initiation methods when firing the explosives.

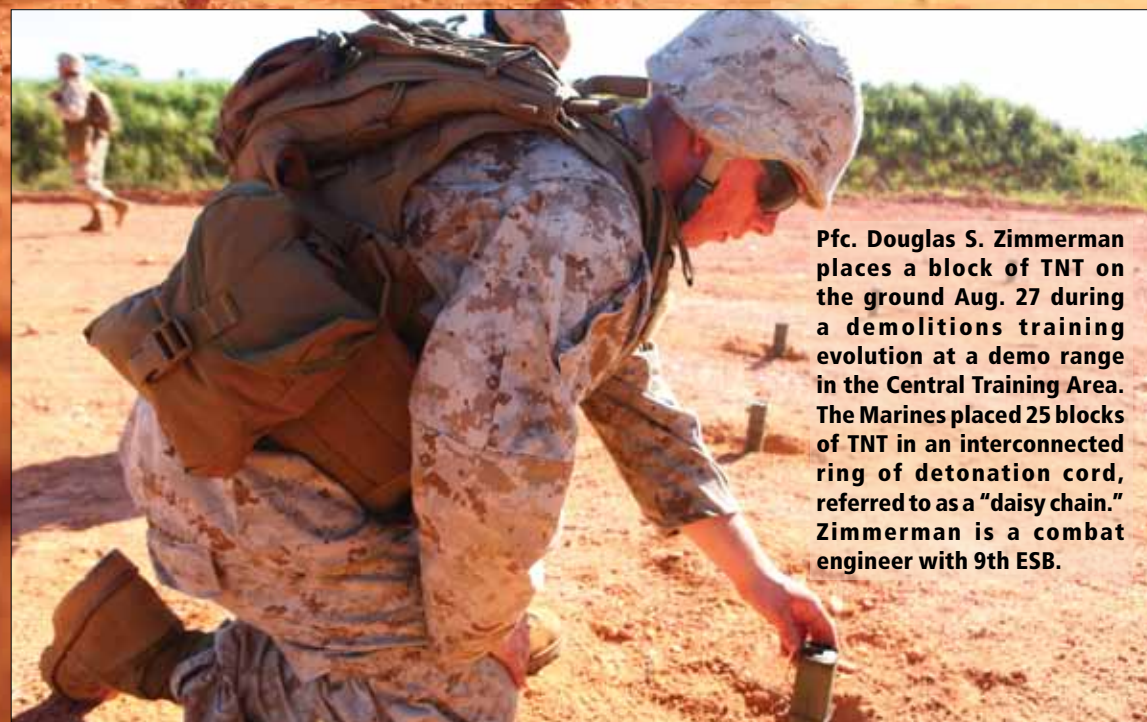
“Working with nonelectric blasting caps it allows Marines to do the math to calculate the time until detonation,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Heinzelman, a platoon sergeant with the battalion. “However, the biggest benefit was the hands-on training the Marines received,

since most of them have not seen these types of charges since they were in (military occupational specialty) school.”

Using different explosives and methods, the combat engineers moved from a bunker to a breaching position closer to the blast for a safe but more realistic experience.

“The urban mobility breaching consisted of a stack of several Marines moving together as a team behind a protective blanket to a safe standoff from where the charge is placed on the target,” said Heinzelman.

The Marines’ proximity to the obstacle being



Pfc. Douglas S. Zimmerman places a block of TNT on the ground Aug. 27 during a demolitions training evolution at a demo range in the Central Training Area. The Marines placed 25 blocks of TNT in an interconnected ring of detonation cord, referred to as a “daisy chain.” Zimmerman is a combat engineer with 9th ESB.



Combat engineers watch an explosion Aug. 28. The explosion was controlled during a breaching encounter in a combat scenario.

e with confidence

reduced allowed the combat engineers to rapidly move through the opening that the explosives created to conduct room-clearing operations.

Urban mobility breaching is an important skill-set because it provides a unique capability for the Marine ground combat element to breach defensive obstacles, such as concertina wire, walls and entrenchments, according to Heinzelman.

The training built the Marines' confidence preparing and detonating explosive charges.

"Confidence is important when we strive every day to prepare to fight tonight by applying the

knowledge given to us in these training exercises," said Pfc. Mario A. Velasco, a combat engineer with the battalion.

To further enhance a real-world scenario, the combat engineers spent their nights at the range, creating an opportunity to develop camaraderie within the unit during the training, according to Velasco.

"It builds unit cohesion when we are living in the same conditions and building trust in each other to do the right things, so we can execute our job safely and effectively," said Velasco.



Combat engineers completed a demolitions training evolution employing several types of explosives like C-4, dynamite, TNT, Bangalore torpedoes and various shaped charges Aug. 27-29 at a demo range in the Central Training Area.



A stack of Marines takes cover behind a protective blanket during an explosion Aug. 28 while completing a demolitions training evolution at a demo range in the Central Training Area. The knowledge of the different types of explosives in urban mobility breaching is vital to combat engineers as they perform a key role in a war-time theater. The Marines are combat engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



expedient bangalore torpedo explode at a demolition range in the Central Training Area Aug. 28. The Marines are combat engineers with 9th ESB.

Many observe, commemorate 19th Amendment

Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” as written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the Declaration of Sentiments.

Due in part to the Declaration of Sentiments, the 19th Amendment came to fruition Aug. 26, 1920, granting suffrage to women.

Ninety-three years after Congress passed the amendment, Marines, spouses and civilian employees from various units on Okinawa came together for an annual Women's Equality Day observance luncheon Aug. 30 at Camp Hansen.

The observance was hosted with the intent to educate service members and civilian employees of the significance of equality in the Marine Corps and how it is defined, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika O. Vann, the equal opportunity adviser for III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During the luncheon, the attendees viewed a video about

women's suffrage, which revealed to them how limited women's rights had been before advancements were made during the suffrage and civil rights movements, according to the video. On average, women were paid less and endured undesirable working hours.

The 19th Amendment brought women closer to the ability to pursue a life of their choice, according to the video. The amendment also gave women a voice in what happened around them and affirmed their importance in society.

A more recent step toward equality happened in January when the Department of Defense announced its intention of opening combat-arms jobs to female service members by 2016.

“I've been fighting alongside women since 2003,” said Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and guest speaker at the event. “The infantrymen of our battalion welcomed these women as their own. They were treated as a part of the team.”

The Marine Corps has already opened the Infantry Officers Course to female service members and has announced



Lance Corporals Kamber L. Borders, left, and Ashlee N. Brown discuss equality during a Women's Equality Day observance luncheon Aug. 30 at Camp Hansen. Borders is a field radio operator and systems administrator with G-6, Communication and Information Systems, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Brown is a data systems technician with 7th Communication Battalion, III MHC, III MEF.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden

its intention of integrating the Infantry Training Battalion in an effort to study the gender-integration of combat-arms jobs.

“We need equality,” said Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Breeding, a guest speaker and intelligence analyst with Production and Analyst Company, 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group. “We cannot

survive as a species, at the most basic form, without working with others and using other people's differences to reach a culminating point and expounding upon that.

“Eventually, I think we will resolve the issue and we will live together as people. We will not be man or woman, black or white. We will just be people.”

Okinawa teens practice English with Marines

Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The sound is unmistakable. Giggling, laughter and words being over-emphasized and articulated, followed by attempts to mimic, all with varying degrees of success. It's a classroom.

“This camp showed me that Marines are nice and kind people,” said Rinna Ishikawa, a Maehara High School student and third year attendee of the annual Camp Courtney English Camp.

Ishikawa and 21 other students attended the camp Aug. 11-16 to learn English, with the help of Marine volunteers, as well as get to know their neighbors.

The camp was started by Ichiro Umehara, the community relations specialist for Camp Courtney, 13 years ago in response to requests from parents in the surrounding community.

“I started the camp because parents in Okinawa were asking how their kids could learn English,” said Umehara. “It is so expensive to send children to America, and I thought that since we had Americans here, they would probably be willing to help teach English.”

The Marine volunteers serve in various units, but all share the common goal of wanting to give back to the local community.

“We have a standing policy to help strengthen and enhance the relationship between Japan and the U.S. military here on Okinawa,”

said Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence W. Watters, a team chief with G-3, Civil Affairs, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “It's all about fostering and developing what we already have in place. We need to enhance that relationship every chance we get.”

The camp served as a two-way cultural exchange. In addition to teaching English, both parties learned more about their neighbors, and it gave the Marines a chance to learn some Japanese.

“I wanted to learn Japanese, and this was a great chance to do that,” said Pfc. Tracey V. Rodriguez, a civil affairs specialist with G-3. “I got a chance to teach a group of students English and also learn Japanese from them at the same time.”

Students and teachers relied on the creativity and dedication of each other rather than using an interpreter.

The Marines employed visual aids as well as translation software as two of the main tools to help bridge the language gap and help the students learn, according to Rodriguez.

The students received tours of Camp Courtney, Foster and Schwab and also learned some Marine terminology for common English words, such as referring to floors as decks, according to Ishikawa.

Umehara also coordinates a weekly English class hosted by Marine volunteers in addition to the yearly camp.

The time the Marines gave back to the community by teaching English has helped strengthen their relationship with the Okinawa people and demonstrated the Marines' desire to positively contribute, according to Umehara.

The camp concluded with a ceremony in Uruma City where each student received a certificate of completion from Toshio Shimabukuro, the Uruma City mayor, and Col. Michael W. Taylor, Camp Courtney's commanding officer.

“I had a lot of fun,” said Ishikawa. “I'm excited to come back next year and learn more.”

“It's all about fostering and developing what we already have in place. We need to enhance that relationship every chance we are given.”

Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Watters

USO hosts community

Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Camp Hansen's USO hosts a fun-filled evening semi-monthly to entertain service members looking to have a night out without emptying their pockets. Titled the Pre-Payday Pig-Out, the event offers service members free food and games.

The USO spiced-up the Aug. 31 pig-out with an Okinawa theme that included local musicians performing traditional Okinawa music and inviting students from the Nikkei Business College in Naha to come out and socialize with the service members.

"The American service members were very friendly, and I enjoyed spending time with them," said Yurino Higa, a student at Nikkei Business College. "We showed them how to use our Okinawa-made musical instruments and (performed a few traditional Okinawa songs)."

The exchange was mutual with service members performing American-style music and demonstrating the use of American-style instruments.

"After they performed, they

taught us how to play the Okinawa instruments and they were not shy about it one bit, so I returned the favor by teaching them how to play guitar," said Lance Cpl. Sheldon M. Stelter, a geographic intelligence specialist with Production and Analyst Company, 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

The shared passion of music was not the only highlight of the night.

"The interaction started rolling once we started the Okinawa-style feast," said Stelter. "Some of the students sat down with us and shared the background of where the food came from."

Camp Hansen's USO hosts other similar events throughout the year.

"My goal is to have at least one community relations event every month to help build the relationships between the two nations," said LouBee Zielinski, Camp Hansen's USO center manager. "Every time we have hosted a community event, it has been a huge success."

The USO is able to provide recreation, but it can also be educational for people about (the culture) they are in, so they can enjoy it that much



Ryoko Yamada teaches Pfc. Nigel T. Carroll how to play the san shin, a traditional Okinawa instrument, during an Okinawa-themed evening Aug. 31, at the USO on Camp Hansen. The USO is a nonprofit organization that provides programs, services and live entertainment for United States troops and their families. This non-government agency currently operates 160 centers worldwide. Yamada is a student at the Nikkei Business College in Naha. Carroll is an electrician with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

more, according to Zielinski.

"At the end of the day, we are all people and it's nice when you get the opportunity to have people from the same generation, even if they are from different cultures, get together, have a good time and appreciate each other's company," said Zielinski.

Both parties valued the exchange

of knowledge and culture.

"It was so great that it shouldn't be a one-time thing," said Stelter. "Everybody was having fun tonight, so it shouldn't stop here or be the last one."

For more details on upcoming events, visit the USO's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USOHansen.

Language barriers crumble during CLR-35 field meet

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Excitement was in the air as children shouted-out in delight as they rounded the bases during a competitive game of kickball, cheered on by U.S. Marines.

Children between the ages of 5 and 16 from the Tai Chu En Orphanage participated in a field meet hosted by Combat Logistics Regiment 35 Aug. 25 at Camp Kinser.

CLR-35 is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We like to do something with the children once a month," said Lt. Cmdr. Harvey Macklin, the CLR-35 chaplain. "Our goal here today is to bridge gaps, and by coming out here and doing athletic events, we can do it."

The day was filled with different summer-time activities, which both the children and Marines participated in, including kickball, swimming and soccer.

"It is great for the children to come out here, do something constructive, and spend time with the Marines," said Yoshino Uehara, an event volunteer and orphanage employee.

Volunteer opportunities not only benefit the surrounding community, but they also offer Marines positive ways to spend their time, which allows them to get out of the barracks and help the local community.

"I think it is great for us and the kids to come out here," said Lance Cpl. Austin D. Adams, a supply administration and



Lance Cpl. Marianne I. Novak swims with children from the Tai Chu En Orphanage at a field meet on Camp Kinser Aug. 25. Combat Logistics Regiment 35 hosted the field meet for the children of the orphanage. The day not only provided summer outdoor activities, it also gave the Marines a chance to get out of their barracks and spend time with community members. Novak is a warehouse clerk with CLR-35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

operations specialist with the regiment. "I love coming out here and seeing the difference we make. The response we get from the kids, how happy they are to be out here playing sports, is wonderful."

The day provided the children with different, constructive activities while also spending time with the Marines.

"I am enjoying being here today with the Marines," said Aika Hiyana, an 11-year-old Tai Chu En resident. "My favorite parts so far

have been the kickball and swimming."

As the day drew to a close, the children and Marines anticipate having another field meet and more opportunities to interact both at the Tai Chu En Orphanage and at Camp Kinser.

"Watching the walls breaking down was amazing to see and be a part of," said Macklin. "Even though we may have a language barrier to overcome, we do not have a friendship barrier."



Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy engages a simulated-hostage situation target with an M4 service rifle Aug. 27 at the battle-sight zero range on Camp Schwab. Scenario-based targets, including those based on hostage situations, were used to acclimate the Special Reaction Team members to performing professionally and efficiently in a high-stress environment. Hardy is the SRT platoon commander, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Special Reaction Team masters CQB basics

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the Marine sights-in, he imagines a stress-filled scenario of a screaming hostage and an unstable gunman. He takes a deep breath, slowly squeezes the trigger, and sends a round through the paper target, successfully saving the victim and completing the mission.

This scenario and others were practiced by the Marines of the Special Reaction Team during basic close-quarters battle marksmanship training Aug. 27 at the battle-sight zero range on Camp Schwab.

"The training we did today helps the Marines build themselves as a team while also improving each individual's speed and accuracy with the weapons systems," said Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy, the SRT platoon commander, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "We have a mixture of experience on the team currently, which ranges from one year to nearly 15 years. This training allows the more experienced Marines to pass on their skills to those who have just started."

The training evolution was part of a continuous cycle designed to maintain and improve SRT Marines' technical and tactical proficiency.

"I look at what training we are required to do and build from that," said Cpl. Troy A. Biggs, an SRT member. "Today's training involved using the carbine and pistol that we take into missions and training to improve the team's skills. The different drills that we train for are not only designed to improve our aim, but to also build the right mind-set for our job."

The Marines must be able to perform their duties and operate the weapons systems in high-

stress environments where the cost of a mistake is measured in lives lost, according to Biggs.

"We use different types of targets to give them an idea of what they may face," said Biggs. "We use everything from basic silhouettes to simulated hostage situations. We have to be prepared to respond to any situation that we may be called upon."

The unit strives to keep ahead of the game by honing its techniques and equipment usage.

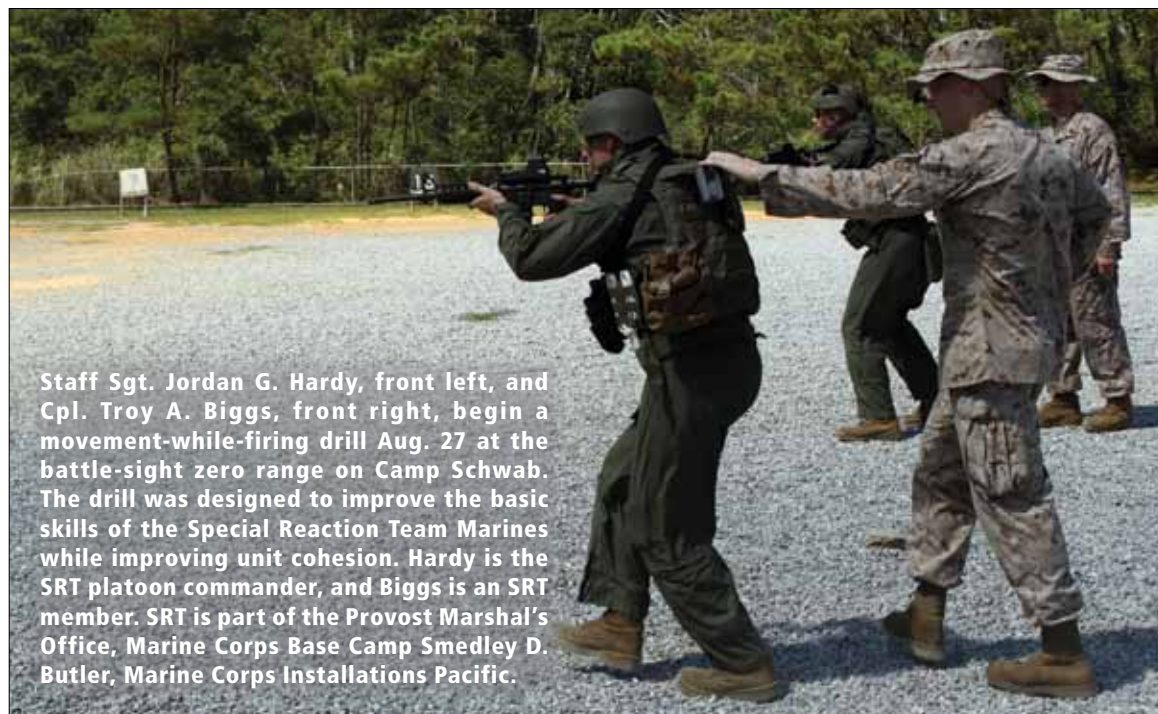
"The tactics and equipment we use now are very different from what I started out with," said Staff Sgt. Travis L. Chittock, the SRT platoon sergeant. "That is necessary as threats evolve and our priorities evolve with them. The M45A1 is new to the team, and this is really the first time that we have shot with it. Overall, the team did well to incorporate the new weapon into training."

Adapting the training to reflect the realities that reaction teams could encounter when called into action helps the Marines maintain their edge, according to Biggs.

"By using the information provided by other teams, both civilian and military, we can make our team better (and maintain readiness)," said Biggs.

A well-trained and prepared SRT gives a commander more options if the worst should arise.

"As SRT, we give the commander the ability to resolve a situation that a normal military police officer would not be trained to handle," said Hardy. "Everything from hostage situations to barricaded hostiles — we are expected to be able to deal with. It all comes down to the training we conducted today and the skills we reinforced by practicing the basics of our job."



Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy, front left, and Cpl. Troy A. Biggs, front right, begin a movement-while-firing drill Aug. 27 at the battle-sight zero range on Camp Schwab. The drill was designed to improve the basic skills of the Special Reaction Team Marines while improving unit cohesion. Hardy is the SRT platoon commander, and Biggs is an SRT member. SRT is part of the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

In Theaters Now

SEPT. 6 - 12

FOSTER

TODAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 4 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; One Direction: This is Us (PG), 6 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Planes (3-D) (PG), noon; One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 6 & 9 p.m.

SUNDAY One Direction: This is Us (PG), 1 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 4 p.m.; 2 Guns (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY 2 Guns (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Getaway (PG13), 6 & 9 p.m.

SATURDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; Lone Ranger (PG13), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY One Direction: This is Us (PG), 3 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Kick-Ass 2 (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

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

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Getaway (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (PG13), 4 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Elysium (R), 4 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSEY

TODAY Getaway (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Wolverine (PG13), 3 p.m.; One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Monsters University (3-D) (G), 1 p.m.; One Direction: This is Us (PG), 3:30 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6:30 p.m.

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

SCHWAB

TODAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY One Direction: This is Us (PG), 6 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Getaway (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Red 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Getaway (PG13), 6 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 6:30 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY One Direction: This is Us (PG), 3 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 6 & 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Kick-Ass 2 (R), 2:30 p.m.; Getaway (PG13), 6 p.m.

MONDAY One Direction: This is Us (3-D) (PG), 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY 2 Guns (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Getaway (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 KINSEY 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.

GAME EXCHANGE DAY

• Tired of playing the same video games? SMP is hosting a game exchange day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Camp Kinser Hai Sai Center. Contact the SMP office via the number above for more information.

PAINTBALL TRIP

• Join SMP for a paintball adventure from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 27. Sign up with the SMP office by Sept. 20. For more information, contact your SMP representative or the office number above.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

When was the noncommissioned officer sword adopted?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

Eddie Adams, who served as a combat photographer in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. Adams returned to Vietnam as a photographer for the Associated Press and won his Pulitzer for a photograph taken during the Tet Offensive.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Chotto matte kudasai.”

(pronounced: cho-toh-mah-teh koo-dah-sah-ee)

It means “Just a moment please.”

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“When we hold something dear, that is where our focus tends to be.”



One should assess personal treasures

Lt. Rodney Weaver

MARINE AIR GROUP 36 CHAPLAIN

There is a scripture that reads, “Where your treasure is, there is your heart.” When we hold something dear, that is where our focus also tends to be, and we do all we can to protect it. Our treasure can be relationships, jobs, sports, activities, faith or even possessions. A question always worth asking: is our treasure worth our focus? Or is our treasure a waste of time and energy?

A Russian army officer was walking along in a courtyard when he came across a soldier standing guard in a very isolated, empty and odd place. He walked over to the soldier and asked him what he was doing. The soldier responded that he was standing guard. The officer then asked him how long he had been standing duty there. The soldier answered that he had assumed the present duty for over a year. The officer

was puzzled by the odd location of the sentinel. As their conversation continued, he found out that there was a guard posted at that odd location 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The officer began to research why a guard was posted at an empty location. He discovered that long ago, Catherine the Great had been given a rose bush and had it planted at the location. She had a guard posted there in order to protect the rose bush. Catherine the Great and the rose bush had both been dead for more than 100 years, but the guard was still posted at that spot.

A good lesson here is that every one of us has treasures that are important to us. We all have things that we guard and protect. Some of them are worthy of our focus and others, quite frankly, are a waste of time and energy. Are you guarding a valuable treasure or simply a spot where a rose bush used to be? What is your treasure?

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”