

OKINAWA MARINE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

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Commanding general delivers intent

Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler, the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, addressed Marines and sailors

Sept. 11, 13 and 16–18 during a series of all-hands briefings at Marine Corps installations to issue his guidance and commander's intent for III MEF.

Wissler's intent is to make III MEF the most ready and capable warfight-

ing MEF in the Marine Corps and to continually improve every day through focused ethical leadership at every level of the MEF.

"III MEF represents a significant combat capability in the region," said Wissler. "We are here, we are ready,

and we can get into the fight quickly; all attributes appreciated by every commander in the region."

Wissler challenged the Marines and sailors to focus on four primary objectives in order to reach

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PHIBLEX 14 begins with ceremony

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NAVAL STATION LEOVIGILDO GANTIOQUI, ZAMBALES, Republic of the Philippines — The Philippine and U.S. Marine Corps began bilateral Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 with an opening ceremony Sept. 18 here.

PHIBLEX is an annual, joint bilateral training exercise that enhances security and stability within the region while also helping to prepare for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

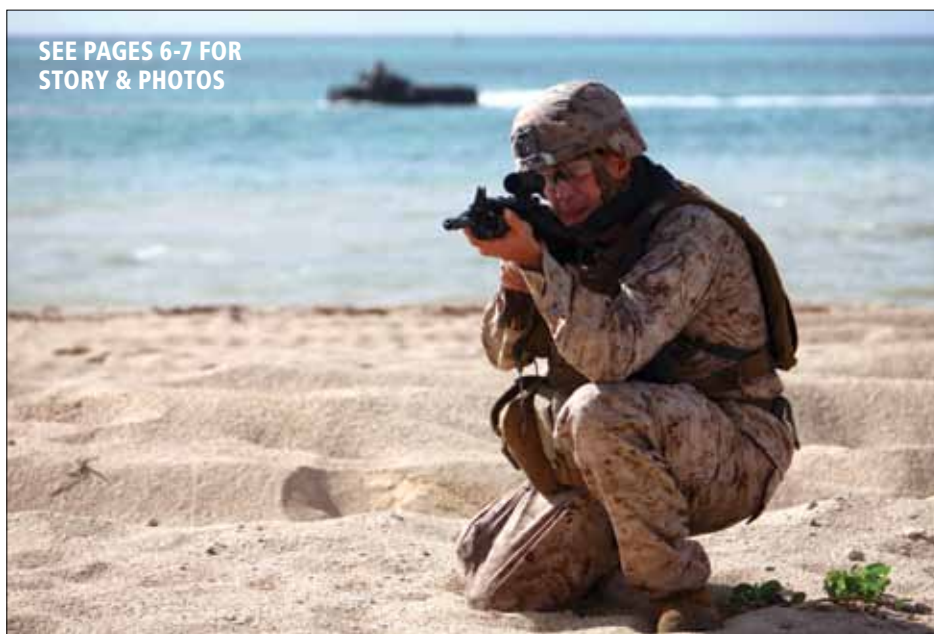
"Our two countries have a long and shared history across the Asia-Pacific region," said U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "Every year we continue to reinforce this bond with exercises such as PHIBLEX, which are designed to strengthen interoperability, defense, disaster relief and counterterrorism."

The exercise contributes to the historically strong ties between the Republic of the Philippines and U.S. and is primarily focused

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Marines, sailors go ashore

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STORY & PHOTOS



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan D. Watson sights-in with his rifle while participating in a basic amphibious assault exercise Sept. 18 on the beach at Camp Schwab. Watson is a hospital corpsman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano



Col. Scott F. Stebbins delivers the keynote address at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Okinawa conference Sept. 20 at the Crow's Nest on Camp Shields. Stebbins is the commanding officer of Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Western Army, Marines focus on communications

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's Western Army Signal Group joined Marines with G-6, communications, III Marine Expeditionary Force, for Japan/U.S. Signal Talks Sept. 18-19 at Camp Courtney and Sept. 20 at Camp Shields.

The second-annual bilateral communications forum focused on promoting a shared understanding of how each organization provides communications

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TO AN END

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Suicide prevention month encourages involvement

Navy Lt. Megan E. Soldano

Suicide is a difficult topic to approach. It is often linked to depression, and both topics can be scary and uncomfortable to think about, let alone manage. Sadly, there are still people who attach a negative stigma to seeking mental health treatment. Unfortunately, this stigma leads people to have misperceptions about mental health, especially when it comes to suicide prevention and intervention.

As you might expect, individuals with depression are at a higher risk for suicide than those without depression. Many individuals considering suicide can also experience symptoms of depression, including a sad mood, decreased interests in hobbies, feelings of guilt or hopelessness, low energy, decreased concentration, and changes in sleep, appetite or sex drive. But not all depressed individuals commit suicide, and not all depressed individuals think about committing suicide.

Everyone experiences depression at some point in their life. Individuals simply differ on the intensity and duration of symptoms.

Because the first step of prevention is awareness, be on the lookout for changes in your fellow service members. Have you noticed that a coworker or roommate has been acting different lately? Has he or she started to neglect self-care by not exercising or eating right? Has he or she suddenly started showing up late to work or getting more lax than normal with grooming or uniform standards?

If this sounds like someone you know, take the time to talk to that person about how they are doing and what they may be feeling.

Here's a secret to preventative care: Listen to the response! All too often we perform "drive-by" check-ins, meaning we ask someone how they're doing but don't take the time to hear the answer. As most people can imagine, it can feel discouraging, and even hopeless, when no one seems to notice that we are feeling down or care that we feel that way.

The Department of the Navy's theme for Suicide Prevention Month this year is "Thrive in Your Community." The idea is not to simply complete your tour, but to thrive in it.

For example, when is the last time you hiked to Hiji Falls or toured Shuri Castle? Have you asked your roommate if he or she wants to walk to American Village or along the seawall just to get out of the barracks? Have you tried scuba diving or even snorkeling if you are watching your budget? The idea behind offering all these suggestions is to get you out of your comfort zone and try something new.

If you or someone you know needs more than an open ear or some ideas to get out of the barracks, please seek appropriate help, including talking to your chain of command.

Again, everyone feels down sometimes. There are numerous options for care on the island, and they are listed below. You can also talk to your chaplain about any problems or issues you or someone you know may be experiencing.

Although suicide prevention month is coming to an end, it does not change the fact that we must all stand ready to assist those to the left and right of us throughout the year.

Soldano is a psychologist with USNH Okinawa Outpatient Mental Health Dept.



Outpatient Mental Health Clinic

USNH Okinawa, Bldg. 960, Camp Foster
646-7135/7645 or 098-970-7135/7645

Counseling and Advocacy Program

Bldg. 439, Camp Foster
645-2915 or 098-970-2915

Military and Family Life Consultants (MFLC)

Camps Courtney and Foster, and Kadena Air Base
645-0826 or 098-970-0826

Marine DSTRESS Line

645-7734 or 098-970-7734
www.dstressline.com

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**AROUND
THE
CORPS**

Marines engage a target with an M1A1 Abrams tank Sept. 14 during Exercise Gold Eagle 2013 at the Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia. The exercise is an annual, reciprocal, company-level military exchange between the Australian Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. The Marines and tank are assigned to Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Sarah Fiocco



Marines with 1st Marine Corps District and other service members in the Greater New York City area participate in the pregame ceremonies during the Denver Broncos versus the New York Giants football game Sept. 15 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. 1st MCD is a part of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command. Photo by Staff Sgt. Juan Vara

OKINAWA MARINE

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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

Marines need funding for today's threats

Responsibilities expand with cyber terror, embassy attacks

Gen. James F. Amos

In discussions in Washington about the sequester and defense strategy and resources, a basic question is often asked: "With the war in Iraq over and the war in Afghanistan winding down, why doesn't the U.S. military simply reset to its pre-Sept. 11, 2001, capabilities?" The underlying assumption behind this question is that we, as a nation, had funding mostly right then. I'm not sure I agree. In any event, what sense would it make to plan for future challenges and requirements by arbitrarily looking back to how things were done more than 12 years ago?

Consider what had happened to the Marine Corps by 2001. From 1990 to 2001, defense and security spending was cut by \$100 billion on average each year. The focus on technology, and calls for cuts in manpower and procurement, assumed the U.S. would not need to commit ground troops to a major conflict for the foreseeable future. During that decade, the Defense Department reduced total active-duty strength by 32 percent. In 2001, the Corps totaled roughly 172,000 Marines, down from 197,000 in the 1990 Gulf War.

Even at that time, manning levels consistently fell below target and equipment readiness suffered. At one point in 2000, one-third of the Marine aviation fleet was grounded due to maintenance issues. While assigned missions were expanding and crises were multiplying – for instance, in relation to developments in Iraq and terrorist threats in the wider Middle East – Marine capabilities were stretched thin. Then came 9/11.

Over the past 12 years, fighting in some of the toughest corners of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Marine Corps has learned a lot about the force it went to war with – what worked and what did not. In many cases, our prewar focus on the "Three Block War" – which assumed that a modern Marine in the field might be called upon to fight, conduct peacekeeping operations and deliver humanitarian aid – was spot on (although we didn't have the money and facilities to train all Marines to that very high standard). Over time, though, we found that as the conflicts evolved, we needed some adjustments – and needed them quickly.

"The suggestion that in an era of sequestration Marines simply 'go back to sea' ignores the fact that Marines never left the sea."



Gen. James F. Amos, center, exits the back of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter July 18 at Camp Hansen, where Amos spent time speaking with service members. Amos is the commandant of the Marine Corps and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Photo by Sgt. Brian A. Marion

For instance, Marines found themselves short of critical capabilities in intelligence collection and analysis, communication and mobility on land, sea and in the air. Marines didn't have enough light attack and utility aviation helicopters, for example. They also didn't have all the training teams needed to advise and assist other countries in enhancing their own security.

Furthermore, Marine logistics structure was not well-designed for our new, more spread-out style of fighting, which required supplying many small, autonomous units distributed across a large area. Unforeseen long-term conflict ashore meant that the Corps had to add not only personnel, but more skills and equipment.

The new challenges of the 21st century also meant rooting out technologically savvy enemies who blended into the urban terrain and populace that sheltered them. Marines played their part in this effort by adding a Marine component to the U.S. Special Operations Command. This and other expanded demands led Congress in 2007 to authorize a Corps expansion to 202,000 personnel.

Yet demands for these hybrid war capabilities – requiring highly adaptable Marines, able to shift rapidly between, say, a close-quarters firefight and a humanitarian mission – has not removed the need for more traditional capabilities. The suggestion that in an era of sequestration Marines simply "go back to sea" ignores the fact that Marines never left the sea. While most of our deployed force fought ashore, where the demand was, Marines continued to deploy Marine Expeditionary Units on amphibious ships.

Despite the withdrawal from Iraq and the continuing drawdown in Afghanistan, the

relatively new threat of cyber terror, and the traditional areas of embassy security and crisis response require uniquely skilled servicemen and women. Marines now provide a contribution to U.S. Cyber Command. They also provide increased support for embassy security, and currently provide a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force in order to increase U.S. crisis response capabilities in North Africa.

While fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Corps – along with the Navy – continued to answer calls to respond to natural disasters and skirmishes in the rest of the world. Marines also provided training and assistance that underpinned America's commitment to build partnerships and stability within the broader security environment. In our post-9/11 world, more of our people must remain ready to deploy on short notice, which demands increased readiness levels compared with the force of 2001.

These and many other commitments mean that even if you eliminate the requirements of Iraq and Afghanistan, commitments and requirements in other areas have vastly expanded since 2001. Today, the Marine Corps has planned for significant budget and personnel reductions, even before U.S. forces are withdrawn from Afghanistan. Yet this doesn't mean the Marines will ignore the lessons learned from the past decade of combat operations.

The world is a different place than it was on Sept. 10, 2001 – it's more dangerous. We continue to witness violent extremism, regional competition and increased sophistication and lethality among nonstate actors at unprecedented levels. As former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates pointed out, since we cannot predict where and when we will respond to crises, we have to plan for multiple scenarios.

The readiness and responsiveness of Marine Corps forces should not be anchored to a pre-2001 model of the Corps, because the world on which it was based no longer exists.

Amos is the commandant of the Marine Corps.

BRIEFS

FLU SHOTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

The 2013-2014 flu vaccines are now at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and can be received at the below walk-in clinics:

- Sept. 28: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at USNH Okinawa pediatrics clinic
- Oct. 3: 4:30-7 p.m. at USNH Okinawa pediatrics clinic
- Oct. 10: 4:30-7 p.m. at USNH Okinawa pediatrics clinic
- Oct. 17: 4:30-7 p.m. at USNH Okinawa pediatrics clinic
- Oct. 19: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Camp Foster Education Center, Building 5679

The vaccine is available to anyone 6 months or older and eligible for care at military medical facilities.

For more information, contact the USNH Okinawa Preventive Medicine Department at 643-7606/7615.

MMOA TO VISIT OKINAWA

Manpower Management Officer Assignment monitors will be on Okinawa Oct. 23-25 to meet with officers concerning the assignment process and future postings.

An MMOA briefing for all officers will be held Oct. 23 at 8 a.m. in the Camp Foster Theater. Interviews will take place in the first floor classroom of Building 494 for ground officers and at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Mess Hall 423 in classroom 3 for air officers.

For more information, please contact Malcolm Sellman at 622-7724.

FOSTER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The T-shaped intersection at Stillwill Drive and Saipan Road, the intersection in front of the Ocean Breeze, will undergo construction and lanes will be restricted 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 1-30.

Please follow posted signs and the flagmen, and use extra caution when driving through the area. For more information, contact camp services at 645-7317.

ANNUAL FOSTER FRIGHT NIGHT

Camps Foster and Lester will host Foster Fright Night 6-10 p.m. Oct. 25-26 at Building 5965, near Gunner's Gym, on Camp Foster.

Trunk-or-treat will be held Oct. 26, and is open to all members of the community. To enter the trunk competition, call 645-5722 or 098-970-5722.

Alcohol and pets are not authorized on either days. For more information, contact camp services at 645-7317 or 098-970-7317.

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.

SOTG operators put robots to test

Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — In recent years, there have been sweeping changes to combat technology designed to preserve the life of warfighters and provide a tactical edge. Recently those leaps and bounds have been in the field of advanced robotics.

Marines with the Special Operations Training Group tested a prototype advanced robotics system known as the Stingray Micro Unmanned Ground Vehicle Sept. 18-19 at Camp Hansen and the Central Training Area.

The prototype is intended to assist teams during visit, board, search and seizure operations.

"The prototype system is designed to provide extra eyes on the ground for (Marines)," said Kurt Talke, a mechanical engineer with the Unmanned Systems Branch of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific. "The prototype is meant to be dropped through a window or tossed through a door, after a breach, so the ground forces can see what is in the room before entering. This allows troops to enter situations knowing exactly what is going on, in real time, instead of entering blindly."

This prototype can aid in missions which require ground forces to search an



An operator demonstrates a Stingray Micro Unmanned Ground Vehicle's capabilities Sept. 18 at Camp Hansen. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

enemy vessel for armament or possible combatants.

These robot prototypes, which resemble small radio-controlled cars, were put to the test on both days.

"This is a great opportunity for my guys to see how robotics are advancing to help the warfighter," said Col. Sean Wester, the Special Operations Training Group commanding officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. "The benefit from testing this prototype (gives the Marine Corps) a chance to evaluate what type of possible future missions these robotics systems can be employed."

Commanders throughout the Asia-Pacific can contact Kate M. Mangum, the III MEF science and technology advisor, when the need arises for systems like the Stingray. Mangum is the

link that connects the operators with the right people and organizations who can develop new cutting-edge systems.

"I bring visibility and expertise on new technologies being developed by the Naval Research Enterprises," said Mangum. "My goal is to get the developers in Washington, D.C., to understand the needs of III MEF and inform its leaders about potential solutions to their technological needs."

The Stingray MUGV system comes with two vehicles and a user control unit. It weighs just over 12 pounds, and the vehicles are equipped with a controllable camera, infrared systems and a flashlight. The system's design allows the vehicles to be tossed or dropped short distances, as well as perform limited actions in aquatic environments.

Marines master new field kitchen

Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Food service specialists with Combat Logistics Regiment 37 tested and evaluated the capabilities of the new Expeditionary Field Kitchen Sept. 9-20 at Camp Kinser.

The EFK is set to replace the current Field Food Service System.

The new field kitchen provides Marines a way to prepare food as they would with conventional kitchen equipment. Food service specialists are able to roast, bake, boil, grill or pan-fry hot meals for hungry service members.

"In the field, the EFK will be able to feed more than 400 Marines in a four-hour time frame," said Master Sgt. Reynaldo Miranda, a new-equipment training team instructor overseeing the employment and training of the EFK. "The equipment can be set up by six Marines, which essentially makes the process of preparing the equipment and the food faster than the older food service systems."

The kitchen is more compact and efficient than the older systems, according to Sgt. Dwayne Z. Pete, a food service specialist with CLR-37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"In the old food systems, the field sanitation

unit would be separate from the kitchen section of the FFSS," said Pete. "With the EFK, everything is in the same facility, which drastically reduces the potential of exposing equipment and food to contaminants."

During the orientation training, the Marines performed various tasks involving the EFKs, such as functions checks, familiarizing themselves with the nomenclature of each part, and preparing field-mess meals.

"We provide classes for the Marines that go into full detail of each aspect of the EFK," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard Nelson, a NETT instructor. "At the end of each day, we go through all of the functions of the EFKs and test the Marines on their knowledge of the units."

"We have to be sure that they know all of the aspects of the EFK, inside and out, and understand the importance of the equipment they are dealing with," said Nelson.

Marine Corps Systems Command has allocated the fielding of 18 EFKs to III MEF.

"Providing Marines with warm meals improves morale in the field," said Master Sgt. Anthony J. Gonzales, a food service operations chief with CLR-37. "Most people don't realize it, but it does improve their attitude in the field, and the EFKs will be a huge contribution to that."

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the desired end state: be prepared to fight tonight and win; be ready to respond to any crisis and make a difference; be partner-enabled in everything III MEF does; and value the contribution from every member of the force while eliminating risk to mission and people.

"Less than one-half of one percent of the people in America have ever served in the Marine Corps," said Wissler. "You are part of that tiny percentile. You all volunteered to come serve your military in the Marine Corps when you could have done anything else. You chose the tougher path, and I am proud to serve alongside each of you."

Wissler addressed junior enlisted, noncommissioned officers and staff noncommissioned and commissioned officers separately at each camp, targeting his message to each group.

"Junior Marines need to understand the big picture," said Cpl. Annie R. Bolda, a field radio operator with G-6, communications, III MEF. "After this brief, I understand why we are here and what our future goals are in the Asia-Pacific theater."

The commanding general and senior enlisted advisors also emphasized the importance of individual Marines and sailors seeking and achieving tactical brilliance at their jobs and, as leaders, paying special attention to the importance of peer leadership.

"Peer leadership is the hardest because peer leadership is leadership from which you have no position of authority," said Wissler. "You simply have to do what is right and convince the other Marine or sailor that it is right – all the while setting the example through intrusive leadership."

Wissler went on to explain that there are high-risk behaviors that he will not tolerate, and this zero tolerance perspective applies to all members of III MEF.

"The worst high-risk behavior that I have zero tolerance for is sexual assault," said Wissler. "Not specifically because it's a hot topic in Washington, D.C., not because it has the nation's attention, and not solely because it is a heinous act, but because sexual assault tears at the very fabric of warfighting readiness. Sexual assault is the ultimate disrespect of one Marine by another, and as such it destroys

warfighting cohesion by disintegrating trust between warriors."

Exceptional warfighting readiness is the end state for all III MEF actions, and it can only be accomplished through job proficiency and strong leadership, according to Wissler.

"In order to be ready, I want you to seek tactical brilliance," said Wissler. "When improving job proficiency and leadership come to the forefront of your mind, you will have to demand excellence of yourself and your fellow Marines, and enforce all standards at all times. You have to focus on your training, on eliminating your weaknesses individually and collectively, and then improve your strengths."

Sgt. Maj. Steven D. Morefield, the sergeant major of III MEF, wanted the junior Marines to understand how much of an impact their actions have on not only their personal future but the futures of the Marines to their left and right and III MEF as a whole.

"When General Wissler said we would be talking to lance corporals first, I thought this was great," said Morefield. "I was excited because you are the group who has the biggest influence on the Marines and sailors

you serve with. I know this from personal experience when I was a private first class. When lance corporals correct their peers and stop them from doing something potentially harmful to themselves or to their career, you are not simply changing that moment of time in their lives. In many cases you are positively changing the rest of their life and giving them the opportunity to achieve great success in the Marine Corps and in life.

"These conversations cannot end here. So please take these discussions back to the barracks, your home, or wherever you live," added Morefield. "Talk to your fellow Marines and sailors about it, and let our III MEF commander's intent be a living document."

Wissler finished the brief explaining the difference he saw between Marines and the other branches in a combat zone.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the commandant gave me the privilege of serving 34 months in Iraq," said Wissler. "I saw a lot of great units. I saw some incredibly capable (U.S.) Army units. Let me tell you though, nobody has a warfighting ethos like Marines."

PHIBLEX from pg 1

on improving interoperability and readiness of both forces.

"PHIBLEX improves our operations and readiness," said Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Jaime S. Bernardino, vice commander of the Philippine Navy. "This exercise allows us to sustain our relationship, as well as enhance our training, especially for (bilateral) operations. PHIBLEX will also greatly contribute to disaster response within the region."

During the exercise, U.S. Marines, with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd MEB and III Marine Expeditionary Force, will partner with Philippine Marines. Together, they will conduct training, including a staff planning exercise, field training exercises, and humanitarian and civic assistance projects. Field training will include small-boat operations, combined-arms training, combat life-saving techniques, jungle

survival, marksmanship and combat service support.

"PHIBLEX allows us to maintain readiness for any crisis or contingency that may arise," said Kennedy. "This exercise covers the full range of military operations."

Kennedy also emphasized how the relationships built during past Philippine-U.S. exercises will be enhanced during PHIBLEX.

"Many of the returning Marines and sailors will recognize familiar faces among the Armed Forces of the Philippines service members; which I believe is the most positive thing about this exercise," said Kennedy. "I am confident that this exercise will provide both forces with the opportunity to build our partnership. As we train together over the weeks, we will continue to emphasize the importance of our continuing relationship and alliance."



U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy, right, presents Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Jaime S. Bernardino with a 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade plaque Sept. 18 during the opening ceremony of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, San Antonio, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines. Bernardino is the vice commander of the Philippine Navy. Kennedy is the commanding general of 3rd MEB.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

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and command-and-control capabilities to their forces.

"We have continued (the talks for a second year) because it is the perfect forum to allow interaction to happen," said U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Rufino H. Gomez, the chief of staff, G-6, communications, 3rd Marine Division. "From my perspective, it has been extremely successful just allowing the staffs to come together and ask those questions that can minimize the friction and the fog of not understanding what the other country brings and the capabilities they have."

The WASG and III MEF G-6 expect the increased mutual understanding and strengthened relationship to pay dividends in future bilateral operations.

"Operations can only exist through communication's ability to enable operations, so I think that our talks bring us to a common ground on how both of our countries do communications," said U.S. Marine Col. Brian S. Pagel, the assistant chief of staff, G-6, communications, III MEF. "(This) is critical to making operations work in the future."

The JGSDF members and Marines began the communications discussion at Tengan Castle, discussing a wide range of issues from technical specifications of each service's equipment, to communications doctrine and the regional challenges of operating across a widely-dispersed chain of islands, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Allen III, communications chief, G-6, communications, III MEF.

"I think anytime two partner nations can get together and talk down to the tactical level and understand how each country approaches the differ-

ent military problems we have, the better off we are," said Pagel.

The participants paid specific attention to discussing the challenges associated with maintaining communications across a force during modern amphibious operations.

"Communications is always a challenge, but especially so in amphibious operations," said Pagel. "On the modern battlefield, the ranges and some of the challenges that naval forces have makes it even more difficult because the ship-to-shore ranges have been extended over the years."

The JGSDF members and Marines attended an Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Okinawa conference during the final day of the talks.

AFCEA is a non-profit organization founded to promote the exchange of information and strengthening of relationships among the military, government and academia in the fields of communications, electronics, computer sciences, intelligence systems and command-and-control systems.

The JGSDF plans to host next year's talks in mainland Japan, continuing the process of strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

"Shared understanding and lasting relationships are critical to both of our organizations' success in conducting operations," said JGSDF Col. Yoshio Hamasaki, the commanding officer of the WASG. "To enhance the interoperability between Japan and the U.S. is immensely important, and the WASG faces many challenges in the field of communications. III MEF has learned many lessons during various experiences and operations, so in that sense I think that this conference will be very fruitful for us."

Marines focus on amphibious roots, A

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Battle of Inchon, during the Korean War, silenced critics of amphibious assault as the grueling combat which followed the landing resulted in a crucial victory and turned the tide of the war in favor of the U.S. The amphibious capabilities the Marines employed led to the recapture of the Republic of Korea's capitol, Seoul, and severed crucial supply lines reinforcing most enemy forces south of the 38th parallel latitudinal line.

Approximately 150 Marines and sailors with Weapons Company disembarked the USS Ashland aboard assault amphibious vehicles to execute an amphibious assault landing off the coast of Camp Schwab Sept. 18 upon their return to Okinawa from the Republic of Korea.

The Marines and sailors of Weapons Co. are with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. The AAVs are with Assault Amphibious Vehicle Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

During their training in the Republic of Korea, the Marines and sailors participated in a re-enactment of the landing at Inchon with their ROK counterparts to not only train for amphibious operations but also as part of a commemoration ceremony for the historical event, according to 1st Lt. Jonathan M. Brown, a platoon commander with AAV Co.

"We heard nothing but great things from our ROK brothers, and they continue to sing our praises and are excited about having more Marines

back in the Asia-Pacific region," said Brown. "The Corps in putting Marines back (in the Asia-Pacific region) and re-establishing a Marine Corps presence where we can provide security and operational capabilities other than warfare."

Amphibious operations continue to be a pillar of the United States Marine Corps' mission, according to Brown.

"The majority of the world is covered with water, and in coordination with naval assets, it is (important) to maintain our traditional role as 'fighters from the sea,'" said Brown. "This is what separates us from other military branches."

In keeping with the Corps' amphibious roots, the AAV community has swam back into the spotlight, as it provides amphibious transportation for infantry units.

"We move around the globe by ship. However, we move from ship to shore via AAV, utility landing craft and air-cushioned landing craft," said Capt. Paul M. Lowman, the commanding officer of Weapons Co. "While we have focused on ground combat, our fight on shore is solid, but the transition is where we needed to strengthen our capabilities."

Therefore, training with the AAV and becoming familiar with it is key to an infantry unit's overall competency in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Lowman.

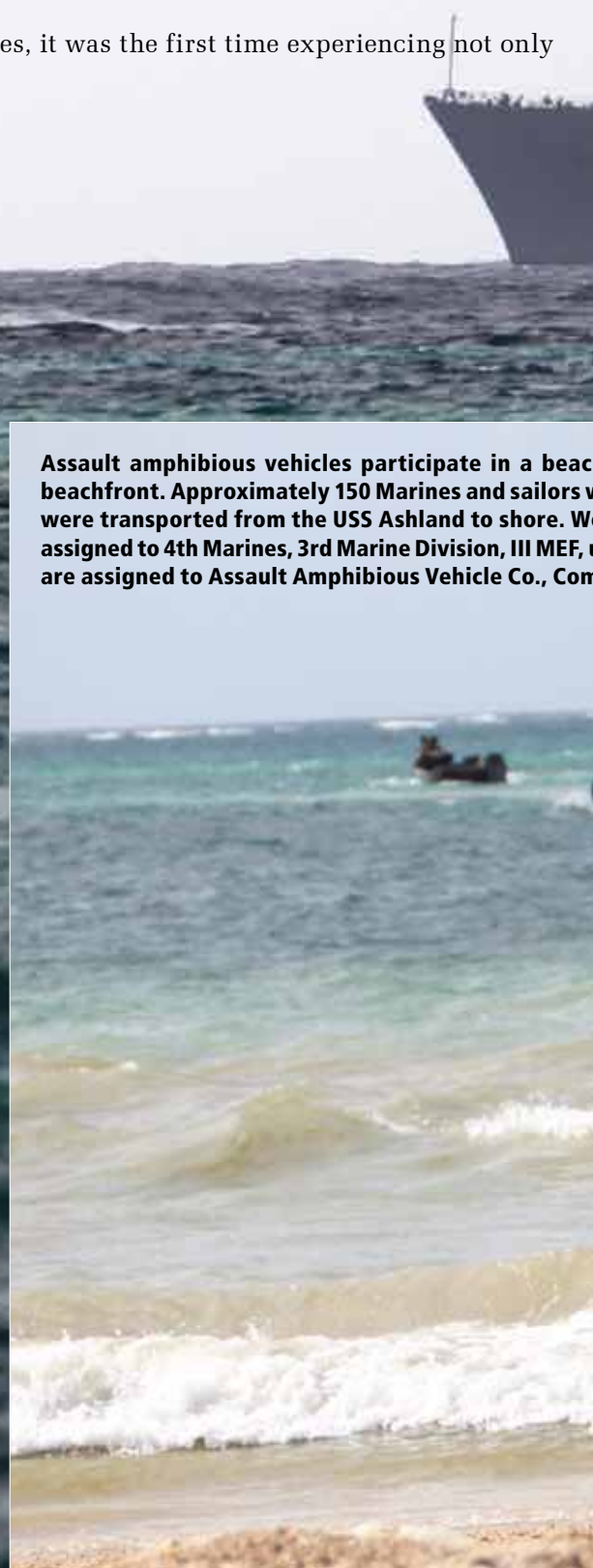
"These exercises are one of numerous steps in the track to (perfecting) our core competency and are intended to develop proficiency in amphibious operations, but also to learn new concepts, procedures and techniques," said Lowman.

For some of the Marines, it was the first time experiencing not only



Lance Cpl. Lewis H. Sparks provides security during a basic amphibious assault exercise on the shore of Camp Schwab Sept. 18. Sparks is an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. The assault amphibious vehicles are assigned to AAV Co., Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Assault amphibious vehicles participate in a beach landing exercise. Approximately 150 Marines and sailors were transported from the USS Ashland to shore. Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, is assigned to Assault Amphibious Vehicle Co., Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.



Asia-Pacific region

life aboard a U.S. Navy ship but also an AAV executing its amphibious capability.

“I would have never thought a tank could basically swim, and that caused many of us to be nervous,” said Lance Cpl. Lewis H. Sparks, an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Co. “When we came back in for the final exercise there definitely were no more butterflies in our stomach, so our focus was on training like we fight.”

Part of fostering the Marine Corps’ amphibious capabilities is the initial familiarization at the lowest levels, according to Sparks.

“I was able to reuse basic naval terminology, and experience and learn the intricacies of the daily life on ship, but most importantly work with our Navy brothers and sisters,” said Sparks. “As Marines, we’re constantly deployed on ships. This (training) allowed (our unit) to return to our amphibious roots.”



Lance Cpl. Christian J. Milkey looks through his optic during a basic amphibious assault exercise on the shores of Camp Schwab Sept. 18. Milkey is an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program.



The USS Ashland floats off the coast of Camp Schwab Sept. 18. Service members with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, were aboard, ready to execute an amphibious landing.

h assault Sept. 18 along the Camp Schwab
with Weapons Company, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines,
eapons Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, is currently
under the unit deployment program. The AAVs
bat Assault Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.



Battery C connects with neighbors

Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines and sailors with Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, trained day and night for nearly three weeks, through favorable and unfavorable weather conditions. With the training a success, the Marines shifted focus to the surrounding community.

The service members visited citizens throughout Miyagi prefecture, Japan, Sept. 10-12 following the conclusion of live-fire training during Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-2.

The battery, with 1st Bn., 12th Marines, is currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

The Marines and sailors visited Asaina Gakuen, a facility for mentally handicapped adults, and the Ohira Manyo Kodomoen nursery home, along with participating in a cultural tour of the city of Sendai.

The service members played games, participated in a scavenger hunt, ran in relay races, and dressed up in costumes with the residents

and staff of Asaina Gakuen.

"I thought it was cool to see everyone dressed up, wearing wigs and having a good time," said Lance Cpl. Kagney W. Alexander, a field artillery cannoneer with the battery. "It was a good time to (relax) and let loose."

Yet the battery was not there just to have fun. Another reason for the visit was to perform general grounds keeping and assist clean up around the facility.

Service members were happy to lend a hand, according to Cpl. Zachery S. Knoebel, a field artillery cannoneer with the battery.

At the nursery home Sept. 11, the service members had the opportunity to play with the children and help prepare a traditional food known as "mochi."

Mochi is a Japanese food item made out of rice pounded into a paste. The service members assisted preparing the mochi in two large mortars, called "usu," while using large mallets known as "kine."

"It's funny because I've seen those (mallets) before in stores but had no idea that's what they're used for," said Gunnery Sgt. Steven C. Howk, a field artillery operations man with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "It was great, and if I can



Marines race against children of the Ohira Manyo Kodomoen nursery home Sept. 11 in Miyagi prefecture, Japan. The Marines are with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

Photo by Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby

find a smaller (mallet) and bowl, I'll probably make some at home."

In addition to making mochi, the service members played the board game Othello with the kids, and competed against them in a foot race.

Grouped into pairs, the Marines and sailors' legs were tied together to add an additional element to the challenge.

Following the time spent volunteering throughout Miyagi prefecture, the Marines of Battery C participated in a cultural tour that took them to numerous historical sites across the city of Sendai.

The battery learned about the community's path to recovery after the devastation of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and subsequent tsunami, which left more than 25,000 people dead or miss-

ing along Japan's eastern coast.

"I'm amazed at how much of the land was covered (by water) when it happened," said Howk. "It's very impressive to see how far they've come in two years."

Following a boat tour of the different islands in Matsu-shima Bay, the service members explored the Zuiganji Temple area, Zuihoden Temple and Sendai Castle.

The overall experience was informative and helped the service members gain a better appreciation of the unique culture of Miyagi prefecture, according to Howk.

"The time we've been spending in the community has been a good cultural exchange and good learning experience," said Howk. "I've had a good time and will be going on more of these trips."

Community, service members celebrate years of friendship

Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Festive music played as community members, Marines and sailors gathered Sept. 14 to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the opening of the Hikarigaoka Nursing Home and the nearly 20 years of ongoing friendship between the residents and 7th Communication Battalion.

The Marine and Navy volunteers have visited the nursing home twice a month in recent years to provide grounds maintenance and engage in fellowship.

During the visits, the volunteers mow and rake the grass, and trim trees, according to Navy Lt. Stephen F. Brown, the 7th Comm. Bn. chaplain, a unit with III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

The relationship between the battalion and the nursing home started with Chiyoko Kochi, who formerly served as the Camp Hansen community relations specialist, and wanted to educate the Marines and sailors about Okinawa culture and build bonds between the nursing home residents and service members, according to Ayako Ginoza, the nursing home manager.

During the event, the nursing home residents and the service members enjoyed a performance by the Kin Junior High School



Lt. Col. Ken Sandler, left, receives a certificate of appreciation on behalf of 7th Communication Battalion from Ayako Ginoza Sept. 14 at the Hikarigaoka Nursing Home. Sandler is the commanding officer for 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Ginoza is the Hikarigaoka Nursing Home manager. Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden

band and a traditional eisa dance. For some of the Marines, this marked the first time they volunteered in the community.

The service members view their relationship with the nursing home as a way to become more directly involved in the local community, and many take advantage of this opportunity, according to Lance Cpl. Yvonne E. Sanchez, a supply administration and operations specialist with the battalion.

In the past, as a sign of their appreciation for the service members' friendship and assistance, the Hikarigaoka residents have invited the volunteers to local festivals and cultural exchanges like mochitsuki ceremonies, a traditional rice-pounding event, according to Lt. Col. Ken Sandler, the commanding officer.

"We've also tried to share important American holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas (with the residents)," said Sandler. "Because of that (exchange), Okinawa culture has taken on a deeper and more significant meaning for every Marine and sailor in 7th Comm. Bn."

The residents have made the service members feel at home during the visits, which uplifts those Marines and sailors whose families reside in America, according to Sandler. The Hikarigaoka residents have always been very welcoming when the volunteers come to help with the grounds.

"We're very happy," said Ginoza, when discussing the long history of camaraderie between the residents and the Marines. "We want to continue this strong relationship."



A group of service members carry John F. Kennedy's casket into the Capitol in Washington, D.C. During his time with the Silent Drill Platoon, William R. Hapgood served as a member of the honor guard during Kennedy's funeral. *Courtesy photo*

Force Recon, Silent Drill Team Marine retires

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

"I had heard that the Marine Corps was a bunch of tough animals so I said, 'Why, I think I can match that' and I joined in," said William R. Hapgood, the range director at Range Control, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Scheduled to retire Sept. 27, Hapgood first joined the Navy Reserve in 1951 at the age of 17. He enlisted in the Marine Corps four years later as a basic rifleman, beginning a career that spanned 62 years and 12 presidents, influencing generations of Marines.

"The number of Marines who have gone through (training ranges) here that Bill Hapgood is responsible for, is hard to imagine," said Harry Farmer Jr., the deputy assistant chief of staff with G-3/5, operations and training, MCB Camp Butler. "He helped guys who were deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan doing their (pre-deployment training) prior to leaving. Because of the improvements he was responsible for over here, they were better able to prepare themselves before they left."

Hapgood joined the Marines because of his desire to be the best.

"The total experience of the Marine Corps historically is what made me join," said Hapgood. "They were the guys you go with if you want to fight and want to be best at what you do. (I wanted to be a rifleman) because that is what the Marine Corps is, you can have all these other fancy jobs but, you are always a rifleman and you are always going to be out there on the front lines somewhere."

From early in his career, Hapgood enjoyed the opportunity of being on the forefront of setting Marine Corps training standards, starting with his time at 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company shortly after the unit's formation.

"I don't even know if anyone used pencil and paper in those days to set the training standards," said Hapgood. "The officers would disappear in the morning, and we had guys like (Capt. Paul X. Kelley), who was our company commander and who later became the

commandant, and I'm sure that they put pen to paper to cause certain things to happen, but the grunts, the foot pounders, just went out there and worked out and trained.

"I don't know what else you could call it, but that is what we did," added Hapgood. "And as for the classes, you either learned how to jump out of planes or you didn't – the same thing for going out of submarines."

Hapgood was introduced to a more formal training environment when he joined the Silent Drill Team following his time with force reconnaissance.

"They are the most extraordinary personnel, from a military precision machine standpoint, that I had ever worked with," said Hapgood, who rose to the position of platoon sergeant during his time with the team. "We would go to different places to do centennials, and at each place we would put on our demonstration and each one would have to be different because of the size of the area that we were moving in. We would always have to get there first, look at the area, and figure out how we want to do the drill."

During his time with the Silent Drill Team, Hapgood served as a member of the honor guard during President John F. Kennedy's funeral, conducted ceremonial firing parties at the funerals of President Herbert Hoover and Gen. Douglas MacArthur and posted guard for Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa."

Hapgood went on to earn his commission in 1965, serving three tours in Vietnam before eventually retiring from active duty at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1988 as part of the G-3/5, operations and training, MCB Camp Smedley D. Butler. Hapgood rejoined the U.S. Forces Japan family in 1989 as a civilian employee, reaching his current position as range director in 1996.

"The changes in the ranges from 2000 to now are like night and day," said Farmer. "We have underwent so much modernization and gained many new capabilities out there."

Hapgood has been responsible for many developments such as Army ranges, a new pistol range and the modular military operations in urban terrain facility, according to Farmer.

Hapgood has applied his straightforward leadership style, and the sum of his experience and

knowledge to be successful as range director.

"His leadership style is definitely old-school Marine Corps," said Farmer. "He is a product of the Marine Corps in the 50s and 60s. A lot of people don't get the benefit of talking to someone with the range of experience that he has. It is great that we have someone with that kind of experience to educate people out here."

As his retirement nears, Hapgood intends to remain on Okinawa, enjoy the island, and get back into going to the gym.

"He really is a legend in the range community, he has been around a long time, and he knows weapons systems and tactics," said Farmer. "He is just a wealth of knowledge gained through experience. It is hard to imagine the large number of people who he influenced, whether they knew it or not."



Maj. William R. Hapgood travels to the Republic of Vietnam during the early 1970s. *Courtesy photo*

Ammunition technicians stand FASP

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines remove tarps protecting caches of ammunition, uncovering them, so they can start counting every single round. From 5.56 mm ball rounds to M67 fragmentation grenades and 12-gauge shotgun shells, no piece of ammunition goes uncounted before it is distributed to the units requiring it for training.

Marines with Ammunition Company maintained a field ammunition supply point Sept. 9-23 at Landing Zone Dodo in the Central Training Area.

Ammunition Co. is assigned to 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The FASP provided the perfect opportunity to train Marines and heighten overall readiness when supporting training, exercises and operations across the Asia-Pacific.

"This exercise teaches the Marines how to receive, store and distribute ammunition from a field environment," said Brig. Gen. Niel

E. Nelson, commanding general of 3rd MLG.

"You can't get this from a standard bunker-to-bunker scenario at the regular ammunition supply point. This allows our Marines to know they have roving patrols, issue requirements, weather requirements; to validate the procedures for trucks coming in and out."

Throughout the two-week evolution, Marines were challenged to maintain security while keeping precise counts of all the ammunition stockpiled at positions nearly 100 meters apart.

Each cache was marked with a number depicting the type of ammunition being stored in regard to how dangerous an accidental ignition may be. One signified the most dangerous and four the least. If fires were to break out or the security of the position was compromised, firefighters and first-responders would be able to properly dispose of the respective ammunition.

In order to maintain accountability, the Marines navigated the concertina wire surrounding each pile and removed the protective tarp, which ensured limited exposure to adverse weather conditions.

Then the tedious but essential task of opening the wooden boxes and manually counting every round by hand began. The resulting manual total was compared to the numbers reported on an ammunition roster.

"While in the field, we have to keep the ammunition outside and secured by concertina wire and tarp to keep it safe from the elements," said Lance Cpl. Jordan L. Morford, an ammunition technician with the company. "We keep account of all the ammunition fueling the operations in III MEF. Part of our job is to make sure the ammo is in good condition, boxed, stored and marked correctly."

Like at a regular ammunition supply point, Marines operating the FASP do not distribute ammunition to units unless requests are approved in advance, according to Sgt. Damon R. Wheeler, an ammunition technician with the company.



A Marine examines 12-gauge shotgun shells during a field ammunition supply point exercise Sept. 18 at Landing Zone Dodo in the Central Training Area. The Marine is with Ammunition Co.

"None of this ammunition goes anywhere without records telling Marines where to move it because records (are key in) keeping the overall accountability," said Wheeler. "The Marines have a lot to learn about the procedures of operating an ASP from the field, but from what I have seen so far, the Marines are eager and anxious to do their job. Everything has been going well."

In the Asia-Pacific region, the FASP is crucial to getting Marines ready for operations taking place in similar environments and amplifying their ability to support III MEF, according to Morford.

"This job is more important than some people realize," said Morford. "Being out here enforces the precautions we have to take to protect the ammunition. Without us handling and distributing it properly, how would units in III MEF train (and operate) if there aren't any bullets to fire?"



Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, left, reviews operational documents with Sgt. Damon R. Wheeler Sept. 18 at Landing Zone Dodo in the Central Training Area. Nelson is the commanding general of 3rd MLG, and Wheeler is an ammunition technician with Ammunition Co.

Lance Cpl. Mariah C. Redlo examines detonator assemblies during a field ammunition supply point exercise Sept. 18 at Landing Zone Dodo in the Central Training Area. Redlo is an ammunition technician with Ammunition Company, 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



In Theaters Now

SEPT. 27 - OCT. 3

FOSTER

TODAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), noon; Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 p.m.; Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain (R), 10 p.m.

SUNDAY Despicable Me 2 (PG), 1 p.m.; Battle of the Year (PG13), 4 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 & 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Despicable Me 2 (PG), noon; Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Riddick (R), 6 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 1 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 4 & 8 p.m.

MONDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 4 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Insidious Chapter 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Prisoners (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY The Smurfs 2 (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Battle of the Year (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Prisoners (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 6 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle of the Year (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Kick-Ass 2 (R), 6 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY We're the Millers (R), 6 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 3 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 & 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Battle of the Year (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; Prisoners (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Insidious Chapter 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY Elysium (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Kick-Ass 2 (R), 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 10 volunteers are needed for security at the Smash Mouth concert from 7-10 p.m. Oct. 19 on Camp Kinser.
- 10 volunteers are needed to help from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 19-20 at the Promise Keepers Homeless Shelter.
- 50 zombie-dressed volunteers are needed to assist with the Haunted Highway 5K Fun Run at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 on Camp Kinser.

*If interested in volunteering, contact the SMP office at the above number.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which Marine parachuted twice into France during World War II to aid French resistance?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

When in the carry position, the tip of a Marine's sword should fall within what distance of the eye?

ANSWER:

The sword must be within one inch of the height of the eye, per Marine Corps Order P1020.34G



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Okaeri nasai!”

(pronounced: oh-kah-ee-ree nah-sah-ee)

It means “Welcome back!”

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

“Life is as good, or as bad, as you think that it is going to be.”



Life too short for negative thoughts

Lt. Cmdr. Carl M. Barnes

1ST MAW DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

In Joel Osteen's “Best Life Now,” he tells the story of Jose Lima, a star pitcher for the Houston Astros for several years in the late 1990s. Lima was an outgoing, energetic, likable young ballplayer who usually exuded a positive attitude. But when the Astros built its new ballpark, Lima was upset. The fence in left field was much closer than the fence at the old Astrodome. In fact, the new park has one of the shortest distances from home plate to the left-field fence of any ballpark in Major League Baseball.

The first time Lima stepped onto the new pitcher's mound and looked into the outfield, he immediately noticed the close proximity of the left-field fence. “I'll never be able to pitch in here,” said Lima.

The next season, despite the enthusiasm of the fans and the excitement of

playing in a brand-new ballpark, Lima had the worst year of his career. He plummeted from being a twenty-game winner to being a sixteen-game loser in back-to-back seasons. Never in the history of the Astros' franchise had any pitcher experienced such a pronounced negative turnaround.

What went wrong with Lima? He focused on the negative, he spoke about the negative, and thus he began to live the negative.

Life is as good, or as bad, as you think that it is going to be. When you set your mind to the positive side of thinking, you begin to see positive things, speak positive things, and live a positive life.

Lima could not change the distance of the fence, but he could throw the ball with a focus on striking opposing players out. We are not where we can be, and we can be where we are not presently at. Our future grows best with an optimistic attitude that never releases its grip on hope.

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”