

OKINAWA MARINE

OCTOBER 11, 2013

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Typhoon damage may qualify for claims

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — When a typhoon strikes, there may be little left untouched by the storm. Even when proper measures are taken to secure and protect personal property, items may still suffer damage or destruction in the wake. If this occurs, there are

steps one can take.

Capt. Sean P. Raymond, deputy installation law attorney with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, offered some insight on how to minimize damage and properly claim losses after the storm.

One of the most important steps one can take is to properly prepare

before the storm arrives, according to Raymond.

"Actions such as properly securing items, stocking-up on nonperishable food items, and securing the home are the first steps to minimizing damage," said Raymond.

During the preparation, taking pictures of items that may be affected by storm damage can prove

proper steps were taken to avoid unnecessary storm damage and loss, according to Raymond.

Once the storm has passed and cleanup begins, it is important to remember to avoid throwing away any damaged items until authorized to do so by claims personnel, according to Judy A. Barney, the see **CLAIMS** pg 5



Wissler discusses future with minister for foreign affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida shakes hands with Lt. Gen. John Wissler during a conference Oct. 8 at the Harborview Hotel in Naha City, Okinawa. During the meeting, Wissler and Kishida discussed the long-standing relationship between Japan and III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It was truly an honor to have this meeting with you today," said Wissler. "We are very appreciative of the close bilateral working relationship we have with the Japan Self-Defense Force, and we look forward to continuing to build on that relationship now and into the future." Kishida is also a member of the House of Representatives of Japan. Wissler is the commanding general of III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Air delivery specialists train in Philippines

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PAMPANGA, Republic of the Philippines — Marines completed mass-supply load training from a KC-130J Hercules aircraft Oct. 2 in Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines, as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014.

During the training, Marines delivered supplies via parachute from an aircraft, demonstrating expeditionary capabilities that could be used during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions or to resupply Marines during contingency operations.

Heavy equipment drops are one of the quickest and easiest ways to supply individuals in a field environment or those in need of humanitarian assistance, according to Staff Sgt. Crystal Salinas, an airborne and air delivery specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, currently assigned to the logistics combat element of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, see **PHIBLEX** pg 5



Marines stand at the back of a KC-130J Hercules and observe a drop zone on Basa Air Base, Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines, during mass supply load training Oct. 2 as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. The Marines are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which is currently part of the aviation combat element of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

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WITH SCHOOL CLEANING**

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Tuition assistance guidelines effective FY14

MCCS Education Center Staff

There are many reasons why pursuing higher education is important, to include better future employment opportunities, achieving a greater understanding of your current occupation and, perhaps most importantly, overall personal growth.

The Marine Corps has numerous opportunities to further a Marine's education. One of the most valuable opportunities, yet often overlooked or misunderstood, is tuition assistance.

Tuition assistance provides active-duty and reserve Marines financial support with the cost of taking college

courses during off-duty hours.

Before a service member can receive the monetary incentives associated with TA, they must complete the application process and meet certain guidelines.

Additional guidance for fiscal year 2014 was recently released by Headquarters Marine Corps with the publication of Marine Administrative Message 456/13 – Tuition Assistance Guidelines Update. There are a number of changes in the eligibility criteria required to receive TA, particularly for first-time TA applicants.

Marines are encouraged to meet with an education counselor at the Marine Corps Community Services Education

Centers for assistance with their educational goals and other opportunities available to help fund their education.

For questions, please contact your local MCCS Education Center:

- Camp Foster Education Center, Bldg. 5679, 645-7160
- Camp Courtney Education Center, Bldg. 4412, 622-9694
- MCAS Futenma Education Center, Bldg. 636-3036
- Camp Hansen Education Center, Bldg. 2339, 623-4376
- Camp Kinser Education Center, Bldg. 1220, 637-1821
- Camp Schwab Education Center, Bldg. 3429, 625-2046

The below information should help most Marines looking to apply for and receive tuition assistance:

- First-time TA applicants will be required to have a minimum of 24 months in active-duty service.
- First-time TA applicants will be authorized one course unless an exception is granted.
- First-time TA applicants must have completed the Personal Finance Marine Corps Institute Course 3420G.
- First-time TA applicants with a general technical score of less than 100 are required to take the Test of Adult Basic Education and earn a score of 10.2 or higher in order to be eligible for TA.
- Marines who are deemed to be in training status by their command will not be eligible for TA.
- TA requests can be submitted 30 days from the start date of the class.
- Marines must be deemed eligible for promotion by their command.
- TA will not be authorized for Marines actively enrolled in classes.
- A GPA of 2.5 or higher must be maintained in order to receive TA.
- Open issues such as incomplete courses, reimbursement issues and waivers must be resolved prior to receiving TA.
- Enlisted Marines must have an end of active service date of 60 days beyond the end date of the course.
- Reserve component Marines must have an EAS date of two years beyond the completion date of the requested class in order to be approved for TA.
- Marines attending vocational/technical certificate programs with more than one class/module will only be approved for up to two classes/modules at a time.

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AROUND THE CORPS



Marines fire a Stinger launch simulator during familiarization training Oct. 2 aboard the USS Kearsarge. The Stinger launch simulator mimics the launching procedure of the Stinger weapon system. The Marines are assigned to the Low Altitude Air Defense Platoon, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Reinforced), 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Sgt. Christopher Q. Stone

The Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif., has begun teaching an advanced horsemanship training course to instruct special operations forces personnel on how to ride horses and move through terrain that cannot be navigated by motor vehicles. Conditioned horses are able to travel more than 30 miles per day and can gallop at up to 40 miles per hour for short periods of time.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert M. Storm



OKINAWA MARINE

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU

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Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award

Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Required safety training has Dec 1 deadline for all Marine personnel

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — All Marine Corps personnel are required to complete training, covering new chemical labeling elements and material safety data sheets, by Dec. 1 in accordance with OSHA guidelines.

The Federal Registrar published an updated Hazard Communication Standard on behalf of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration March 26 to synchronize U.S. safety efforts with international standards.

The Marine Corps Installations Pacific Installation Safety Office developed online training with a 15-question test in English and Japanese to teach Marines, sailors and employees about the transition to the updated HCS.

The HCS is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals adopted by the United Nations to provide a universal identification system for hazardous chemicals.

"Everyone working around hazardous chemicals and other toxic substances has a right to know of possible dangers and how to protect themselves," said Dr. David Michaels, the assistant secretary of labor for the OSHA, during an online video address following the publication of the standard. "Ensuring that everyone knows the potential risk ... has always been at the heart of the OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard."

A revised labeling system makes up one of the core changes to the standard.

"The new labels alert people to potential hazards and provide important details on how to handle chemicals safely," said Michaels. "They tell you not only what you need to know ... but also what you need to do in a way that everyone can clearly and easily understand."

The hazard classification system was updated to provide specific criteria to address health and

physical hazards, as well as classification of chemical mixtures, according to OSHA.

Bilateral operations are expected to be streamlined as communication barriers surrounding chemical safety procedures are reduced or eliminated by the universal labeling and classification system.

"We are updating (the HCS) to meet the needs of our changing world," said Michaels. "Today we live and work in a global environment. Varying, and sometimes conflicting, national and international requirements can create confusion among those who need important, clear, concise information to protect themselves as quickly as possible."

"Under the new standard, instead of having a variety of different safety data sheets and labels, the hazard warnings will now be the same regardless of who produces it or where it is produced and, even more importantly, the message is the same regardless of who sees it," added Michaels.

OSHA plans to have compliance with all modified provisions by June 2015, according to its website.

"With this new system, workers in the United States ... and eventually workers worldwide ... will have the same, simple, concise information they need to understand how to prevent injuries and illnesses ... and save lives," said Michaels. "Nothing could be more important than that."

Supervisors can obtain a CD copy of training for personnel that do not have access to the Intranet by contacting Mr. Aaron Davis, the compliance supervisor with the MCIPAC Installation Safety Office, at 645-2087.

MCIPAC personnel looking for more information on the updated standard and training requirements may contact the Installation Safety Office at 645-3806. As each U.S. governmental organization is implementing the training differently, be sure to contact your organization's safety representative.

BRIEFS

FLU SHOTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

The 2013-2014 flu vaccines are now at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, which will remain fully operational during the government shutdown, and can be received at the below walk-in clinics:

- Oct. 17: 4:30-7 p.m. at the USNH Okinawa pediatrics clinic
- Oct. 19: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Camp Foster Education Center, Bldg. 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 Bldg. 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.

SCREENING TEAM TO VISIT OKINAWA

Headquarters Marine Corps Special Operations Command Screening team will visit Okinawa commands Oct. 16-18 to screen and assign qualified Marines for assessment and selection.

The visits are scheduled as follows:

Camp Foster Theater: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Oct. 16)

Camp Hansen Enlisted Club (The Palms): 8 a.m. to conclusion (Oct. 17)

Camp Schwab Theater: 8 a.m. to conclusion (Oct. 18)

For more information call the career planner for you respective unit.

CAMP COURTNEY YOUNG MARINES RECRUIT DRIVE

Enrollment for the upcoming Young Marines bootcamp will be available Oct. 12 at the Kadena Base Exchange and Camp Courtney Base Exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The first day of bootcamp is Oct. 16 on Camp Courtney. The program is available to children between 8 and 18 years of age.

For more information, call 645-9473.

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.

Camp Kinser Mess Hall best in MCIPAC



Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, left, congratulates Staff Sgt. Ricardo A. Dixon Oct. 4 for earning the 2013 Marine Corps Installations Pacific Best Mess Hall of the Year award at Bldg. 1223, the Camp Kinser Mess Hall. The mess hall staff will represent MCIPAC during the 2014 Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition for food service excellence. Hudson is the commanding general of MCIPAC, and Dixon is a food service specialist and mess hall manager for Bldg. 1223. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Marines enhance urban terrain skills

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines of 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion trained for military operations on urbanized terrain Sept. 30 through Oct. 3 at combat town in the Central Training Area.

“The purpose of this training was to be able to have the Marines (enhance) their MOUT skills,” said Capt. Richard D. Adams, the commanding officer of Military Police Company A, 3rd LE Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. “We wanted the Marines to get back to the fundamentals of conducting MOUT, so that no matter where we go in the Asia-Pacific region we will be able to conduct ourselves professionally and efficiently.”

The training included vehicle operations, foot patrols, tactical site exploitation and key-leader engagements.

“Key-leader engagement training allows the leader of the unit that comes in contact with a village to be able to go up to the leader and speak to them tactfully and calmly,” said Staff Sgt. Eric J. Ellenberger, the

company gunnery sergeant. “Being able to engage with a local community will help us wherever we have to go in the future.”

The fundamental skills must be perfected before they can be employed in a real-world environment, according to Ellenberger.

“We use this time to get the basics right,” said Ellenberger. “Shooting, moving and communicating, and having each Marine become proficient in all three allows the fire-team leaders to communicate better with each other and their squad leaders. The squad leaders communicate better between themselves and the platoon commander, all the way up until the entire company is on the same page.”

Marines also took the opportunity to identify and correct deficiencies in their tactics and procedures, according to Ellenberger.

“With training that we have not done in a while, there will be errors that need to be fixed,” said Ellenberger. “We fixed what could be fixed during this training, and we will continue to fix what we could not in the follow-on training that we will have. No matter what it is,



Marines move to clear a building Oct. 3 during military operations on urbanized terrain training at combat town in the Central Training Area. The training provided an opportunity for Marines to perfect MOUT skills in a controlled environment against mock enemies using simulated rounds. The Marines are with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

we are always trying to improve.”

Part of improving is providing an intense and realistic training scenario through the use of simulated rounds fired by mock enemies, according to Ellenberger.

“Shooting (simulation) rounds teaches you to move quickly and get into cover, so that you are not hit, and to fire back while doing so,” said Lance Cpl. Grant A. Hudgins, a military policeman with the company. “I mainly provided my fellow Marines with a human enemy that could shoot back and provide the needed stress.”

Without regular training, Marines may begin to lose the knowledge and skills expected of them to complete certain tasks, according to Hudgins.

“Like any skill, MOUT (standards)

become rusty if you do not use them,” said Hudgins. “Coming out here allowed not only myself to improve but also my fellow Marines. The training allowed them to shake the rust off and sharpen their skills.”

The focused training introduced new tactics to junior Marines and provided a refreshed outlook for more senior Marines as everyone prepared for future contingency operations.

“This training really allowed the noncommissioned officers and junior lieutenants to take charge and shape their Marines,” said Adams. “Focusing on the small-unit leadership allows for growth to happen and the trust in their skills to be there. They did an excellent job, and I know (they) would be able to perform MOUT if we had to leave tonight.”

Intelligence mission synchronized across Asia-Pacific region

1st Lt. Jeremy Croft
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — The U.S. Army and Marine Corps have been working together over the past fifteen months to improve intelligence collaboration efforts focused in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Using the Distributed Common Ground System – Army, the III Marine Expeditionary Force has been participating in an ongoing joint field-user evaluation where it has been utilizing capabilities found in DCGS-A to support its mission. III MEF recently evaluated these capabilities during Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a bilateral exercise between the U.S. and the ROK.

The Marine Corps and the Army have different core intelligence requirements but share some common focus areas. The Marines have been using DCGS-A to identify elements to adapt into their own intelligence capabilities. This collaboration between services has increased the communication and clarified the common understanding of what interoperability enables between the two services’ organizations.

“Using DCGS-A has increased our collaboration with the Army,” said Marine Col. Sean McBride, the assistant chief of staff, G-2, intelligence, III MEF. “Implementing DCGS-A into our intelligence tool kit during exercises like UFG helps

us learn how we can use DCGS-A capabilities not only during combat scenarios but also for natural disasters and humanitarian missions that are a primary focus here for us in Okinawa.”

DCGS-A is the Army’s intelligence system, an enterprise that supports worldwide missions and is built on the intelligence community’s backbone standards, allowing for continued growth and sharing of intelligence capabilities with sister services and other federal agencies.

The system collates data gathered for the purposes of analytical processing, shares significant amounts of information pulled into a common environment, and allows for enhancements to situational awareness while improving the commander’s decision-making regarding the use of force.

The DCGS Enterprise enables commanders to access key information, track specific requirements, and make timely decisions through access to more than 600 data sources. This information can be used in a wide range of situations, from engaging with enemy combatants to assisting displaced personnel in a disaster situation.

“Increased communication is one of the most important benefits of this field-user environment,” said Marine Lt. Col. David Yost, the chief technology officer with the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, Quantico, Va. “We’ve been working at every level, from our intelligence analyst lance corporals using DCGS-A, to our general officers working on intelligence strategies.”

Exercise UFG gave units the ability to implement DCGS-A in an operational environment to improve real-time intelligence.

Units in Japan and the ROK were able to share intelligence across multiple networks to provide the most current, accurate and relevant

intelligence battlefield picture.

Continued collaboration on innovative ideas, along with the sharing of cutting-edge intelligence technology, is the backbone of the ongoing joint field-user evaluation between the U.S. Army and Marines.

“The Marines received multifunction work stations and intelligence fusion servers, a DCGS-A mentor and a field support engineer for the entire year,” said Army Maj. Shermon Daiyaan, assistant product manager for DCGS-A. “We trained III MEF Marines, providing them with user training and maintainer training.”

Once the new system operators were trained and plugged in, the Marines of III MEF were able to reach more than 7 million data entries utilizing DCGS-A.

“3rd Intelligence Battalion’s evaluation of the DCGS-A multifunctional work station and intelligence fusion server architecture gets us much closer to looking at the same intelligence data as our U.S. Army counterparts in Korea,” said Marine Capt. Matthew Kralovec, the executive officer with Production and Analysis Company, 3rd Intel Bn. “The initial results of the evaluation indicate that our use of DCGS-A may break down several barriers to intelligence interoperability between Marines in Okinawa and Army units in Korea.”

The benefit of the evaluation has the potential to reach beyond the two services currently involved, according to Yost.

“The lessons learned in the evaluation could translate to numerous efficiencies in multiple programs,” said Yost. “While initial exercises focus Marine Corps and Army intelligence functions, this lays the foundation for future collaboration across naval maritime operations and fixed sites associated with the U.S. Air Force.”

CLAIMS from pg 1

claims supervisor with the Office of the SJA, MCIPAC. As soon as possible, take pictures of all damaged items for future use during the claims process.

Anything vulnerable to the wind can, and often will, become part of the storm's casualties, according to Barney.

"Some of the most common items damaged by severe storms such as typhoons are outdoor items such as grills, sheds and vehicles," said Barney.

If a vehicle is damaged in a typhoon, a minimum of two repair estimates from any garage is required. If there are no used parts available, the estimate must contain a statement saying so. Although the SJA cannot recommend or discourage specific garages, it is recommended claimants shop around for repair costs, according to Barney.

There is a maximum of \$3,000 per claim, per incident, not per vehicle. A typhoon victim should also keep in mind the military sponsor owns all vehicles in the household, therefore all vehicles in a household damaged in a storm fall under the same claim, Barney added.

Those with other damaged items from a typhoon have two years from the time of the incident to make a claim; however, it is in the potential claimant's best interest to file the claim as soon as damage is determined, according to Raymond.

After filing a claim, expect it to take up to 90 days to process, according to Barney. Marine Corps claims must process through Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, Va., before being returned to disaster victims.

Claims for items except food will need the following documentation:

- Forms DD 1842 and 1844
- Direct deposit form
- Power of attorney (if applicable)
- Estimates of repair and/or replacement cost validation, including photos
- Proof that property was properly secured, including pictures

Claims for food spoilage require the following:

- Forms DD 1842 and 1844
- Direct deposit form
- Certification of nonavailability of private insurance
- Power of attorney
- Pictures of the discarded items
- Itemization of food loss (with description and cost of each item)
- D13 food safety list
- D2 disaster claims checklist – individual family information

All forms and checklists are available through your claims office, according to Barney. Disaster victims are encouraged to call their claims office prior to arriving to ensure all forms are correctly filled out.

Military and civilian personnel must submit claims through their respective service, according to Barney. For personnel attempting to file a claim or obtain more information about filing a claim, below is a list of respective services' numbers.

Air Force claims – call 634-1662 or visit Bldg. 15, Kadena Air Base.

Navy claims – call 634-8235 or visit Bldg. 3554, Kadena Air Base.

Army claims – call 644-4742, 644-5213 or visit Bldg. 218, Torii Station.

Marine claims, including civilians assigned to Marine Corps units – call 645-9429, 645-7460 or visit Bldg. 1, Camp Foster and ask for the Office of the SJA.

PHIBLEX from pg 1

III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We have several different air drops that we can utilize using disposable (and reusable) parachutes," said Salinas. "We can drop food, water and medical supplies. In a humanitarian effort, an air drop would be crucial."

The air delivery specialists in charge of the drop ensure that everything is perfectly positioned on the pallet before the drop to prevent damage to the aircraft or the pallet itself, according to Salinas.

"It is very critical that everything goes right throughout the rigging process," said Salinas. "Before we even put the load on the aircraft, we have several inspections on it, including a before-load and an after-load inspection. One (mistake) could cause a malfunction, causing the canopy to not inflate."

The air drop also allowed the crew of the KC-130 to perfect its skills in this area, according to Staff Sgt. Nicholas E. Sellman, a fixed-wing aircraft crew chief with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, currently assigned to the aviation combat element of 3rd MEB, III MEF.

"This is good training for us because we don't get to do it a lot," said Sellman. "It gives us a chance to rig up all the equipment and also provides us with proficiency in resupplying. I would feel more confident doing this in a real-life scenario now."

Upon the completion of the drop, the KC-130 landed at an airfield on Basa Air Base, Pampanga, for the air delivery specialists to retrieve the pallet and parachute for re-use during future drops.

"This training was very successful," said Salinas. "I feel comfortable with my Marines' abilities should they ever need to use them in a future crisis or contingency."

The recurrence of PHIBLEX, now in its 30th year, demonstrates the commitment of the U.S. and the Republic of the Philippines to mutual security and their long-time partnership.



Above; A heavy drop platform is let out of the back of a KC-130J Hercules aircraft during mass supply load training Oct. 2 as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 at Basa Air Base, Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines. PHIBLEX 14 ensures Philippine and U.S. forces are capable of integrating effectively to conduct humanitarian assistance and regional security missions. The KC-130 is with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, currently assigned to the aviation combat element of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry



Left; Staff Sgt. Crystal Salinas checks a pallet dropped from a KC-130J Hercules aircraft at an airfield on Basa Air Base, Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines, during mass-supply load training Oct. 2 as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. During the training, Marines delivered supplies and equipment by parachute from a KC-130, demonstrating expeditionary capabilities that could be used during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. Salinas is an airbourne and air delivery specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, currently assigned to the logistics combat element of 3rd MEB, III MEF.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

From fire-mission to impact, artillery defined

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Thirty seconds can be the difference between life, death and victory. One second too late and all could be lost. It is within that demanding time standard that artillerymen must execute their fire-missions in support of the infantry.

Marines with Battery F trained to this high-pressure and rigid standard at the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji Oct. 2 in support of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-3.

Battery F is with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

On the gunline, the fast-paced process of a fire mission begins with an order issued over the radio via Marines from the fire direction center, or what could be seen as the nerve center of an artillery battery.

For gun one of Battery F, that order is issued to Lance Cpl. Austin B. Duane, who relays the message as the Marines assigned to the M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer spring into action.

"I keep track of everything that happens, like how much ammunition we used," said Duane. "I keep track of the deflections and the quadrants by writing it down and reporting it to the section chief. Once I relay that to the chief, he verifies if it is safe."

The deflection determines which way to turn the howitzer left or right, and the quadrant dictates the elevation. These numbers are crucial to keeping the gun on target, and communication between the recorder and the section chief has to be quick and clear in order to avoid making a mistake.

"As a section chief, I am responsible for everybody and the gun," said Cpl. Kenyun D. Scott. "Lance Cpl. Duane is my right-hand man, writing down everything the FDC says and verifying what I say is correct as well. Then my gunner will turn the gun based on the deflection and my assistant gunner will elevate it based on the quadrant."

Cpl. Anderson Castano, the gunner for gun one, must react immediately to input the information into the M137A2 panoramic telescope and turn the traversing hand-wheel.

"My sights are going to move, so I realign it with the hand wheel. When the sights are correct the round is going to hit accurately," said Castano.

Meanwhile, the assistant gunner Lance Cpl. Krystofer A. Harris is altering the quadrant of the gun by using the M138 elbow telescope and elevation hand-wheel.

"I am elevating the tube up and down to increase or decrease the (distance) we are going to shoot," said Harris. "After I enter the sight, I spin the wheel and make sure the gun is aligned. If I get it wrong, the gun can overshoot or undershoot."

As Castano and Harris align the howitzer, Lance Cpl. Gabriel Alcantar hauls a 155 mm high-explosive round weighing 110 pounds to the section chief, Scott.

"My job is to get the ammo ready, make sure the fuses go on the correct round, and take it over to the section chief to verify it," said Alcantar. "I want to make sure nobody is waiting on me, so I do my job as fast as possible."

After Scott verifies the round with Duane, he orders Alcantar to put the round on the howitzer's feed tray and it is left to Cpl. John J. Stubbs and Lance Cpl. John R. Chiri to load the round. This is through a method known as ramming in which two Marines must ensure the round is properly seated in the firing tube.

"Ramming takes a lot of strength," said Stubbs. "Once Alcantar places the round on the tray, we place the staff behind it and I'll say 'ready, drop!' The tray drops and we run it in (to the firing tube). It's a two-man job."

Once the round is seated and the ramming staff is removed, a Marine loads the charges necessary to propel the round down range.

"I load the powder (charges), open and close the breech, and prime it," said Cpl. Eric D. Barr, cannoneer two for gun one. "I have to make sure I don't get ahead of myself, like opening or closing the breech when I am not supposed to. A mistake like that can slow us down."

At this point, Barr has already received the charges from Lance Cpl. Adam J. McPherson, cannoneer three for gun one.

"It's very essential for me to run powders so we can shoot faster, or Barr would have to run back and forth as well as maintain the duties of his job," said McPherson.

Scott verifies that the correct charge is inside the tube before ordering Barr to close the breech. Scott runs back and forth, looking through the quadrant sights and the deflection sights and shouts to verify with Duane. Scott stands back and looks to cannoneer number one who holds a lanyard, which initiates the firing mechanism.

"As cannoneer number one, I have to pay attention to the rammers and to cannoneer two because I drop and raise the loading tray," said Lance Cpl. Michael M. Doughty. "The round can't be loaded without me, and the breech can't be closed unless I lift the tray. On the command 'stand-by,' I hook the lanyard to the firing mechanism."

With everything in order and all safety checks completed Scott commands "fire!" Doughty pulls the lanyard, sending the round to its target, bringing a thunderous end to the chaos of man and machine, which had begun 30 short seconds before.

Marines with Battery F fire an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer Oct. 2 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-3. The ARTP was established by the governments of Japan and the U.S. in accordance with the Special Action Committee on Okinawa's final report and is integral in ensuring combat readiness in support of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Battery F is with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.



Marines with Battery F fire an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji Oct. 2 as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-3. The Marines are with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.



Lance Cpl. John R. Chiri, left, and Cpl. John J. Stubbs ram a 155 mm high-explosive round into the breech of an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer at CATC Camp Fuji Oct. 2 as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-3. Ramming the round is a two-man job, according to Stubbs. It takes a lot of strength and, through teamwork, Stubbs and Chiri are able to load the howitzer quickly. Chiri and Stubbs are field artillery cannoneers with the unit.





Satoe Chie teaches spouses of the 4th Marine Regiment proper tea etiquette Sept. 26 during a cultural exchange in Nago. Chie is the leader of the Women's Group of the Okinawa Defense Association. 4th Marine Regiment is part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Spouses learn traditional art of ancient Japanese tea ceremonies

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

From the 9th century onward, the cultural importance of tea has evolved in Japan. From relative obscurity, to an entrenched tradition with up to four hours of ceremony, the rituals accompanying tea consumption tie past to present.

The tea ceremony was brought from China during the Kamakura period (A.D. 1185-1333). The Japanese developed it as a way to discipline one's self and find spiritual fulfillment. The four most important elements of the tea ceremony are harmony, respect, purity and tranquility.

Once the tea has been made by the tea master, each participant is then offered a bowl and, depending on the tradition followed, is expected to perform various etiquette-based interactions to not only acknowledge the master's skill but also the quality of the tea itself.

Such was the case during a visit by spouses of Marines and sailors with the 4th Marine Regiment Sept. 26 to the home of a member of the Nago City Women Leaders group in Nago. "We normally conduct a tea ceremony once a year with the Nago City Women Leaders group, so that we can build a relationship with the community members near Camp Schwab," said Audrey C. Mills, the family readiness officer of 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We also try to invite them over to our houses, so that they can experience some American culture. We just try to improve the relations between us (and the people of Okinawa), and (participation in) this ceremony is one way that we do that."

Every movement and action of the meticulous tea ceremony is dictated by tradition, according to Mills.

"Part of coming to a new country is learning the culture and traditions," said Mills. "Having the chance to try traditionally made tea by a master is something that is unique. We also got an opportunity to try on traditional Okinawa dresses, which we did not have that opportunity last year to do, so that is something I am thankful for."

A new respect was gained for the intricacies and care taken when making tea, according to Grace Carmichael, a Marine spouse and ceremony attendee.

"The detail in the ceremony is astounding," said Carmichael. "The pride that they take in making something as simple as tea; I would just boil some water and throw in a tea bag and call it good. They have a tradition for every part of the ceremony, from preparing the tea to drinking it. It is simply amazing."

The military spouses were not alone when it came to enjoying and learning from the tea ceremony.

"(Members of the Women's Group of the Okinawa Defense Association) are always pleased and happy when we have the opportunity to meet the spouses and show them the ceremony," said Satoe Chie, a member of the WGODA and ceremony attendee. "We hope to provide more entertainment next time in the way of traditional dance, so that they may learn (even) more about our culture the next time we have this ceremony."

Having an opportunity to experience this event was educational and eye-opening, according to Carmichael.

"If someone offers you a chance to participate or watch a ceremony like this, then do it," said Carmichael. "Do not hesitate, and do it while you can because if you are shy about it then you will miss out on an excellent opportunity to learn about your host country."

"If someone offers you a chance to participate or watch a ceremony like this, then do it ... learn about your host country"

Grace Carmichael

Marines, Okinawan children connect during visit

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

More than 60 students with the Asunaro Higashi Nursery School in Nago and 13 Marines participated in a cultural exchange Sept. 26 at the school.

The exchange allowed service members to spend time teaching English, playing with the kids, and building upon the friendship between the school and the Marines stationed at Camp Schwab.

"Originally (I thought I was) going to a school and teaching the kids English in a classroom type of a setting," said Cpl. Hasani A. Ferraro, an assault amphibious vehicle mechanic with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "When we got there I was surprised at the reception from the school. The children were excited to see us, and we spent the morning playing games and interacting with them."

The goal of the event was to increase the interactions between the Marines and residents of their host nation by spending time with the children of the school.

"The students like it when the Marines come to the school," said Azusa Higa, the head teacher for the school. "The first time the Marines came out, the students (didn't know what to think) of them. Now that the Marines have been here six times, the children really enjoy the visits and look forward to playing with the Marines."

Having the children interact with different cultures, specifically Marines, is difficult during the school year, according to Higa.

"We usually do not have a lot of time to interact with Americans," said Higa. "This allows the students to meet and talk with Marines, and it is a very good experience for them to have as they grow older."

The students were not the only participants to have a good time during the visit, according to Lance Cpl. Joshua D. Sasser, a maintenance management specialist with CAB.

"This was a great event, and I would recommend that people sign up for more," said Sasser. "When you sign up for events like this you will have fun and make the kids happy too. That is what this event was about; making sure the children have a good time."

A benefit of volunteering to help teach English is that the Marines also leave a favorable impression with the children, according to Ferraro.

"We want to interact with the children as much as possible to build (upon) that relationship we have with them," said Ferraro. "You never know if you will see them again or what they will become in the future, so it is necessary to leave them with a good impression."

"Sometimes it is good to just get out and go somewhere where you can be humble and just bring a smile to a child's face," added Ferraro.



Lance Cpl. William P. Biagas, left, enters a compound Oct. 1 during a two-week-long special reaction team course at Camp Hansen. Room clearing is one of several SRT skillsets the Marines trained for during the course. The Marines are with the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

SRT Marines certify capabilities, training

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Special reaction teams provide installation commanders the internal capability to resolve high-threat situations involving potential loss of life, limb or property.

This high-stakes job requires the SRT members to be ready to respond to a vast range of contingencies without advanced warning. Successfully rising to this challenge requires extensive preparation and high training standards.

Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, attended a qualification course administered by the advanced training group with the Marine Corps Police Academy East from Sept. 23 through Oct. 4 at Camp Hansen.

The Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., based training group certified the PMO Marines' training and capabilities and helped identify suitable applicants for the SRT.

"Prior to the (training) team coming out here, we received a request to certify SRT members on Okinawa," said Maceo B. Franks, the East Coast senior law enforcement coordinator, Security Division, Plans, Policy and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps. "The course that we normally teach is three-weeks long, but we compressed it down to two weeks.

"We cover weapons handling with the M4 service rifle, M1014

joint service combat shotgun, the M9 service pistol, the M45A1 close-quarter battle pistol and tactics they will use with those weapons and different scenarios that they will face," added Franks.

An SRT is expected to be capable of clearing rooms, vehicle assaults, building assaults and breaching, according to Franks.

"To become a fully qualified SRT, the Marines must be able to perform all of the missions and be able to solve problems and make critical decisions when different situations occur that are not normal or not practiced," said Franks. "To become familiar and confident with the training, the Marines have fired approximately 1,000 rounds of (5.56 mm rifle ammunition), approximately 1,000 rounds of .45-caliber pistol rounds and approximately 200 rounds of 12-gauge shotgun shells."

The firearm training included door-breaching techniques using the M1014 shotgun in compliment with the use of battering rams and crowbars to breach entrances.

"The (training) that these Marines are getting is just one step in the long process of becoming certified and confident in the tactics," said Franks. "You want the Marines to be fully confident and ready for any situation they face while in the line of duty."

The Marines were assigned to either an active team or a reserve team following the training depending on their performance.

"All the Marines going through this training were handpicked



Staff Sgt. Travis L. Chittock (center, top) uses a battering ram to breach an entryway Oct. 1 during building-clearing training at Camp Hansen. The training was part of a two-week-long course designed to make Marines proficient in the tactics and procedures of special reaction teams. Chittock is the platoon sergeant for SRT, PMO, MCB Camp Butler, MCIPAC.

by our leadership," said Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy, the SRT platoon commander. "After this training, the best of these Marines will become part of the 10-man (active) SRT while the rest are returned to their regular duties. We can use the reserve to fill in gaps or can (activate) them if necessary."

Regardless of active or reserve, the participating Marines all expanded their capabilities during the training.

"The training provided by the advanced training group is great," said Hardy. "The basic SRT skills that the course (teaches) Marines is something that I can build on as the platoon commander. When I combine this with the future courses and ranges, the Marines will be the best."

Reaching the pinnacle of training is a difficult and labor-intensive process that requires re-evaluating prior training standards.

"This course really challenges everything that you learn as a

military policeman and as a Marine," said Lance Cpl. Lawrence A. Rukse, a military policeman with PMO. "While working as a military policeman you write citations, do paperwork and other (essential) activities. As SRT, you are going into a building, making it your own, and bringing good order and discipline back to a dangerous situation."

The mission requires extensive experience working together, developing teamwork, and instilling trust within your fellow SRT members, according to Rukse.

"The thing that this training teaches is the value of teamwork," said Rukse. "This training took guys from across Okinawa that have never worked together and made us into a team in two weeks.

"It shows us that we cannot take a (building) by ourselves," added Rukse. "No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we will be able to handle it with speed, efficiency and proficiency."

3rd MEB assists in cleanup of flooded schools

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

No nation or community is immune to the hazards of severe weather and, unfortunately, the community of Olongapo City, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines, is no different.

Heavy rainfall from Typhoon Usagi flooded Olongapo streets, homes and schools with mud and debris during late September. The magnitude of the flooding caused the city's council to declare Olongapo under a state of calamity.

Once the flood-waters receded, a group of 39 U.S. Marines and sailors volunteered their time to assist Olongapo police officers and community members as well as Philippine soldiers to clean three flood-damaged schools Sept. 29 during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014.

The Philippine soldiers were with the Philippine Army Reserve Command. The Marines and sailors were with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"This community relations project exemplifies the strong partnership and spirit of cooperation formed between the U.S. and Philippine Armed Forces over our 63-year alliance," said Col. John M. Peck, the 3rd MEB chief of staff.

PHIBLEX 14, a bilateral training exercise, is designed to improve Philippine-U.S. interoperability, increase readiness, and enhance the ability for a bilateral force to respond to natural disasters or other regional contingencies.

The team of Filipino and American volunteers assisted cleanup efforts at Santa Rita High School, Santa Rita Elementary and Olongapo City Elementary, according to Peck.

"Seeing Marines working side-by-side with our Filipino counterparts strengthens the bonds we've forged over the past, while at the same time providing some assistance to a community that has been such gracious hosts to us over the years," said Peck.

The flooding disrupted the city as a whole, and several schools closed for about a week due to the damage.

"It was a terrible feeling seeing our school destroyed," said Josephine A. Abarro, the Santa Rita High School principal. "Our books, chairs, tables, computers and cabinets were damaged by the water, and the only thing that was really left was the building



Liza N. Valencia, right, shovels mud into a sack held by Lance Corporals Katherine B. Edelman, middle, and Emily E. Weber Sept. 29 as part of a community relations event at Olongapo City, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines, during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. The Marines are with 3rd MEB, III MEF.

and some of the students' desks."

The community members saw that not only was the Philippine government concerned for its community and country, but its American guests as well, according to Abarro.

"It is a good and safe feeling seeing the Filipino soldiers and U.S. Marines work together maintaining a good relationship with each other," said Abarro.

The devastation left many community members without a home and clean water.

"Since the students reside close to the school, many of their homes were also destroyed by the flood and that's why very few community members were able to help because they have their homes to take care of," said Abarro.

While donations were appreciated, the actions of the group were worth more than money, according to Abarro.

"Money donations would not compare to the care that was demonstrated when we saw Filipinos and Americans working together helping our school," said Abarro. "The first thing we will tell our students is that (Filipinos and) Americans helped clean our school, so that (the students) can continue to grow to become

educated civilians of the world."

For some service members, this event marked the first time they worked side-by-side with another nation's military to help a community in need.

"While this is my second time in the Philippines, this was the first time in my career doing any volunteer work with anyone beside Marines," said Cpl. Ericka M. Schork, an administrative specialist with 3rd MEB. "I took a lot of pride in helping out. There was a lot of mud, and we had only a few supplies and a little time to do this.

"I grabbed handfuls of mud trying to clean the school faster because that's what I would do if it was my community," she added.

The disaster recovery accounted for more than just cleaning up mud and debris; it provided an additional venue for service members to get involved with the community.

"I enjoy helping out the community doing humanitarian work and felt (like) it fostered a lot of camaraderie," said Schork. "While getting to know each other together, we accomplished what we set out to do and helped reopen the school so that the children could resume their education."



Filipino police officers, community members and soldiers as well as U.S. Marines pile sacks filled with mud as part of a community relations event to clean up flood-damaged schools Sept. 29 at Olongapo City, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines, during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. The Filipino soldiers are with the Army Reserve Command. The Marines are with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

In Theaters Now

OCT. 11 - 17

FOSTER

TODAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG), noon; Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG), 1 p.m.; Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Smurfs 2 (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Gravity (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), noon; Gravity (PG13) 3 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6 & 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Planes (PG), noon; Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), noon; Gravity (PG), 3 p.m.; Riddick (R), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
MONDAY Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG), 1 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Gravity (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG), 4 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Gravity (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6 & 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Jobs (PG13), 3 p.m.; Paranoia (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Gravity (PG13), 3 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Planes (PG), 3 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Runner Runner (R), 4 p.m.; Insidious Chapter 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Family (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Runner Runner (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Gravity (PG13), 3 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Smurfs 2 (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Gravity (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Riddick (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Gravity (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Gravity (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
MONDAY Insidious Chapter 2 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Battle of the Year (PG13), 6 p.m.
TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Riddick (R), 7 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Gravity (PG13), 3 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6 p.m.; Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Gravity (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Family (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Prisoners (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

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:

What load-carrying system was replaced by the improved load bearing equipment system?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What Marine facility was used in the training of the first African-American Marine recruits?

ANSWER:

Camp Montford Point, N.C., later renamed to Camp Johnson in honor of Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, a Montford Point Marine and drill instructor.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Moshi moshi!”

(pronounced: moh-shee moh-shee)

It means “Hello!” (when talking on the phone)

CHAPLAINS'

CORNER

“... small improvements eventually lead to big and beneficial changes and a better quality of life.”



Kaizen principle teaches commitment

Lt. Cmdr. Alfred V. Pena

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN

I have come to know the Japanese word “kaizen” well. Its basic meaning is “change for the better.”

The underlying concept here is that small improvements eventually lead to big and beneficial changes and a better quality of life.

The kaizen principle is one of the reasons why Japan was able to transform from post-WWII devastation to a major world economic power. It was a slow but deliberate process that the people of Japan committed themselves to over decades.

There are many people today who are constantly seeking that “quick fix” or the “magic pill” that promises to immediately make their lives better; only to be left continually seeking and empty handed.

Most of how we operate is based on learned behavior.

Thus, the events from our past are

what affect our lives today.

These behaviors are also what lead us to repeat the same mistakes.

The good news, however, is that the kaizen principle can help you reformat your subconscious to create better experiences in your life, but it will take time.

As with Japan, true and lasting improvements occur a little at a time over a long period of time. This applies to bad habits you wish to eliminate, to new habits you wish to establish, or to a skill you wish to acquire.

Ultimately, these small incremental changes build upon previous small changes, leading to amazing and long-term transformations.

This also implies that one must not wait, but rather start now and be committed to making small improvements over whatever time it takes.

The lesson of kaizen is that true success and long-term happiness tend to come mainly from being committed to doing the little things better and better, day after day after day.

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”