

OKINAWA MARINE

OCTOBER 18, 2013

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CFC-0 participation encouraged

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — As the Combined Federal Campaign is well underway, service members and federal employees on Okinawa still have time to participate.

The CFC is an annual U.S. federal employee charity donation system supported by more than 200 campaigns worldwide, which provides a venue for direct

donation to numerous charities. The 2013 campaign, which began Sept. 1, is scheduled to conclude Dec. 15.

The CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace charity campaign, according to Elaine Kaplan, acting director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, in a memorandum. Since its creation in 1961, the CFC has raised over \$7 billion.

"I encourage people to give

through the CFC for many reasons," said Kaplan. "The payroll deduction option lets you spread your contribution across the entire year. It gives your charity a steady source of revenue throughout the year, it has low overhead costs, so more money goes to your charity, and it shows all Americans that federal employees care about our communities."

CFC-Overseas, responsible for all campaign giving for service

members and federal employees stationed abroad, raised almost \$14 million during the 2012 campaign.

CFC streamlines the giving process by making it simple and easy to select the charity, donation method and amount that is right for each federal employee.

"The CFC is kind of like a 'one stop shop' for charities," said 1st Lt. Melissa D. Lewallen, a budget

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Service members, Okinawa residents participate in Naha Tug-of-War

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The ceremonial king of the East is carried to the center of festivities as he prepares to demonstrate his strength and skill Oct. 13 at Naha City, Okinawa, during the 43rd annual Naha Otsunahiki, or Naha Giant Tug-of-War. The event symbolizes a struggle between warring factions during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom on Okinawa. The event is considered the world's largest tug-of-war, using a 200-meter-long, 43-ton rope. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

Philippine forces, Marines complete PHIBLEX 2014

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

FORT BONIFACIO, MANILA, Republic of the Philippines — Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. Marines held a closing ceremony Oct. 11 to conclude Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 at Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

Bilateral training throughout PHIBLEX 14 ensures that Philippine and U.S. forces are capable of integrating effectively to conduct humanitarian assistance and regional security missions.

"Our units are now more capable of responding where our services are needed," said Maj. Gen. Romeo T. Tanalgo, commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps. "It has also strengthened the bond, partnership and friendship of the Philippines and U.S. We cherish and value the learning that took place throughout PHIBLEX 14. We look forward to more close training together in the future."

Throughout PHIBLEX 14, Philippine and U.S. forces executed a staff exercise, small-boat operations training, combined-arms training, close-air support training, combat lifesaving classes, flight mission planning, convoy operations and casualty evacuations training, all bilaterally.

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ENHANCE LOGISTICS CAPABILITIES**

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SKILLS SHARP**

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RECOGNIZES SERVICE MEMBERS**

PG. 10

Good road manners save lives

Robert D. Eldridge

The other day I heard a story that was quite stirring, and made me very proud about U.S. forces and their families here in Okinawa. Actually, it was more than "a story." It was a statement of immense gratitude based on countless examples and little stories.

The conversation happened at a reception in Ginowan City for a visiting delegation from mainland Japan. Two local off-duty firemen and I were talking, and the conversation turned to the great cooperation that exists between the Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler fire and emergency services and those in the local community, the mutual learning that takes place, and the mutual respect that exists.

One of the local firemen turned to me and said, "And our respect goes out not only to those personnel with whom we interact, but also extends to you and all the other Americans here."

I asked him what he meant. He continued, "Whenever there is an emergency vehicle on the road, you Americans clear the path to allow us to go through immediately. We can get to the fire, or to the scene of an accident, so much more quickly because of this. You help us save lives." He then shook my hand repeatedly, and I mean repeatedly, as did his friend from a different fire department.

Not having ever been in their shoes, I could only guess what it must be like trying to rush to the scene of a disaster and navigate their way through traffic knowing that every millisecond counts.



Robert D. Eldridge, second from left, discusses disaster preparedness with members of the Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler fire and emergency services Jan. 25 at the Camp Foster fire department. Four officials from the Shizuoka prefectural government visited to discuss disaster management with members of III Marine Expeditionary Force and MCIPAC. Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs, MCIPAC. Photo by Cpl. Brianna Turner

I felt their sincerity not only in their eyes but by their warm handshakes.

I asked them if local drivers make room for them on the roadways. They responded, "slowly and only grudgingly." I said there must be laws for that. They answered, sadly, "yes, but that does not seem to matter. The manners of the public have dropped significantly."

I have often written about the importance of our being "good ambassadors." This is yet another concrete example of doing the right thing, which in this case has a direct connection with emergency service personnel being able to help

others in need more quickly.

I introduce this episode not to imply that I was right in what I previously wrote, but to say that you are right in your actions and manners on the local roadways. Keep up the good work, and continue to set the example of good driving. Our actions here not only reflect on us, but can also help influence driving manners more positively.

Keep up the good work – I mean – driving.

Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

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AROUND THE
CORPS



Machine gunners with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire the .50-caliber Browning machine gun during crew-served weapons training Oct. 8 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The Marines fired throughout the day, employing the M240B medium machine gun in addition to the .50-caliber Browning, engaging targets up to 500 yards away. 3rd Marines is a part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Suzanna Knotts

Marines from Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, navigate the obstacle course Oct. 4 at Camp Geiger, N.C. The Marines are with Company D, the first company at ITB with female students as part of a measured and deliberate collection of data on the performance of female Marines when executing existing infantry tasks and training events. The Marine Corps is soliciting entry-level female Marine volunteers to attend the eight-week basic infantryman and infantry rifleman training courses at ITB. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Paul S. Mancuso



OKINAWA MARINE

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DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
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SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

VWAP educates, aids personnel affected by crime

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Victims and witnesses play a key role in the military justice system. They also sometimes endure a heavy burden within the legal process.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program was established in accordance with Marine Corps Order 5800.14 to help those most affected by crime participate in the legal process while maintaining their dignity and reducing negative effects.

Without the cooperation of victims and witnesses, the military justice system would cease to function. To this end, the U.S. Congress enacted a series of laws between 1982 and 2004 designed to provide information to crime victims and witnesses regarding their rights and position in the criminal justice system, according to the order.

The program is designed to inform victims and witnesses of their rights and reduce physical, psychological and financial hardship. It also provides education about the military justice and administrative process, and uses all reasonable efforts to foster cooperation with the legal system.

"The program has increased understanding by victims and witnesses, which has led to them making more informed decisions about how they want to participate in the military justice (system)," said Capt. John H. Aaron, a former regional victim and witness liaison officer for Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Due to this, it has increased the effectiveness of the military justice system in terms of not pushing cases in which the victim or witness do not want to participate, and ensuring the case is handled at the proper forum based on the victim

or witness's participation."

The VWAP is not limited to court-martial offenses; it is also available to victims of crimes processed as nonjudicial punishments or other administrative means, with special attention being paid to victims of violent crimes, according to the order.

The program is designed to implement a multidisciplinary approach to reduce the trauma, frustration and inconvenience that may be experienced by victims and witnesses during the military justice and administrative process.

"Much of the policy that guides the VWAP, and the order behind the VWAP, is there to ensure that the Marine Corps is doing right by victims and witnesses," said Aaron. "This means all victim and legal organizations providing (their) best efforts to ensure the victim or witness is fully apprised of the realm of possibilities as a case moves forward. A victim is better equipped to take on the personal challenges associated with testifying at trial when they have been educated on their case's progression and military process."

MCIPAC's Regional Victim Witness Liaison Office serves service members stationed on Okinawa. The office, which is unique in the Marine Corps, plays an especially important role in helping those far from traditional support structures, such as family and friends in the U.S.

"All other installations have a person assigned to run VWAP for their installation, either as a collateral billet or full-time job, (instead of a dedicated office)," said Aaron. "The VWAP also acts as a referral service, ensuring victims and witnesses are linked with the proper support organizations. While the military justice section and a victim or witness's command work to handle the logistics of travel and lodging, and (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program) or (Family Advocacy Program) ensures there are personnel in place to provide emotional support, the VWAP serves as a second line of defense to ensure these issues do not fall by the wayside."

For more information on the resources available through the VWAP, contact the Regional Victim and Witness Liaison Office at 645-4303.

BRIEFS

FLU SHOTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Flu vaccines are now available 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. 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.

INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE CLOSURE

The Installation Safety Office will close Friday, Nov. 8 for annual staff training.

The office will reopen on its normal schedule the following Monday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 a.m.

Personnel with government owned vehicle and privately owned vehicle licenses expiring on Monday, Nov. 8 requiring reissue are highly encouraged to visit the Installation Safety Office prior to date of closure during the weekday from 12:30-4:00 p.m. except on Wednesdays.

For more information, contact the deputy safety director at 090-6861-4270.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

If you're leaving a room for any length of time, shut off the lights, appliances, or anything that is using electricity that doesn't need to be on.

Unplug battery chargers; such as cell phone chargers when they aren't in use. Conventional battery chargers even when not actively charging a product can draw as much as five to 20 times more energy than is actually stored in the battery.

If you have any creative energy saving ideas please contact the Energy Office at 645-3320.

DODEA OKINAWA DISTRICT COLLEGE NIGHT 2013

Volunteers are needed to represent their respective colleges for The Department of Defense Education Activity Okinawa District College Night Fair Nov. 7 at Kubasaki High School from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The sign-up deadline is Oct. 25. Volunteers can sign-up at <http://okinawacollegenight.weebly.com>.

For more information, call 634-1204.

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.

EXERCISE CONSTANT VIGILANCE 2013 GUIDANCE

Exercise Constant Vigilance 2013 is scheduled to take place Oct. 21-25 throughout Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

This exercise will involve Marine Corps Installations Pacific security forces, participating services, Department of Defense Dependent Schools, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members and participating status of forces agreement personnel.

Japan and neighboring countries in the Asia-Pacific region have experienced natural disasters to include earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons.

The overall mission of the exercise is to assess and validate the capability of MCB Butler to respond to and recover from a tsunami landfall event that results in casualties and/or damage to critical assets. Scheduled events such as civil unrest, search and rescue, safe-haven and evacuation operations, bilateral evacuation of civilians through the camp, mass-feeding scenario and medical triage training will take place across Okinawa.

One of the goals of CV13 is to familiarize persons on Okinawa with evacuation drills and emergency procedures. Interested individuals can participate in the events listed on the right or contact their respective installation for more information.

Camp Courtney:

Oct. 22

- Starting at 9 a.m. a voluntary evacuation drill will be held for the South Courtney (East) multifamily housing unit.
- At 2 p.m. a voluntary vertical evacuation drill will be held for the South Courtney (West) tower apartments.
- At 9 a.m. Bechtel Elementary School will practice an evacuation.

Oct. 23

- At 2 p.m. a voluntary evacuation drill will be held at Camp Mctureous (Northeast) multifamily housing units.

Camp Kinser:

Oct. 22

- Kinser Elementary School will practice an evacuation.
- Okinawa citizens will practice an evacuation through Gate 5 to Gate 1 and return via the same route.

Camp Schwab:

Oct. 21

- Essential equipment will be relocated from low-lying areas during an evacuation drill.

Camp Foster:

Oct. 22

- Evacuation and safe-haven procedures will be executed for department of defense dependents schools and personnel on Camp Foster.

Oct. 23

- A bilateral mass feeding and medical training event is scheduled to take place of the football field near Gunners Fitness Center.

Be sure to contact your installation's camp services office for more information concerning events taking place during Constant Vigilance 2013.

SRT perfects marksman-observer training

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA — With time ticking and a hostage situation growing more dangerous by the second, a special reaction team marksman-observer has moments to set up for a well-aimed shot and await the order to neutralize the threat, leaving the hostage unharmed.

SRT Marines executed marksman-observer training Oct. 10 at Range 22 in the Central Training Area.

The Marines are with the Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The monthly training for the SRT marksman-observers ensures the Marines are properly qualified and maintain the high-level of readiness required of them.

"SRT marksman-observers are the top shooters of SRT and play a similar role as a sniper would for a SWAT team," said Cpl. Corbin L. Renner, a marksman-observer with SRT. "We do qualification shootings every month, which consist of shooting five rounds into a 2-inch circle from 100 meters away."

As well as shooting to maintain their qualification, the Marines trained using several other shooting drills to sharpen the skills needed in high-threat situations.

"We (trained in) hostage-scenario drills by having a target being partially covered by the other, and we have to neutralize the hostage-



Cpl. Troy A. Biggs prepares to fire the M24 sniper weapon system Oct. 10 at Range 22 in the Central Training Area. Marines with the special reaction team executed marksman-observer training to refresh their skills as well as remain qualified. SRT marksman-observers qualify monthly to maintain their position on the team. Biggs is a marksman-observer with SRT, Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

taker without hitting the hostage," said Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy, the SRT platoon commander. "As well as a timed exertion drill, which is when we sprint from a certain distance to our weapon system, load the weapon, and take four shots."

The exertion drills add stress, increase heart rate, and create heavier breathing during the drills; all factors that affect marksmanship skills, according to Hardy.

"We have to be able to execute a well-aimed shot at any point in time and know that no matter how stressed or exhausted we may be, we can neutralize a hostile target," said Hardy.

The SRT Marines used the M24 sniper weapon system during the course of fire, which fires 7.62 mm rounds.

"It's not the usual weapon system we use, but

it's good training to be able to use other weapon systems like this because we never know what weapon will be at our disposal when an incident occurs," said Cpl. Troy A. Biggs, a marksman-observer with SRT.

By having the marksman-observers train regularly, the SRT has more options to save lives and complete the mission during high-threat situations.

"We provide the edge to be able to neutralize a target from a distance without the target even knowing we are there," said Biggs. "For this reason, it is important to ensure that we are fully capable of doing our job because a moment of hesitation, or a bad shot, could be the (difference between) life and death for a hostage or someone else on the team."

Mess halls offer choices, value to service members

Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — From permanent installations to forward operating bases, almost every Marine establishment has an area for service members to gather and share a meal. The ever-present facilities and the Marines who operate them provide service members a hot meal with the nutritional requirements to keep them in the fight.

The Marine food service specialists at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, work daily to ensure Marines and sailors stationed on Okinawa have what they need to maintain a healthy diet.

The Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Mess Hall was selected during the 2013 Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Awards Program for Food Service Excellence as the best garrison mess hall in the Marine Corps. The Camp Kinser Mess Hall, recipient of the 2013 MCIPAC Best Mess Hall of the Year award, is slated to compete for the same honor in 2014.

"The different sides and meals that the (messhall) offers are what the Marines rate because of their meal cards," said Sgt. Samantha K. Ogden, a training noncommissioned officer and a cash collection agent with the Camp Foster Mess Hall. "The lines offer structure, and it helps to know where everything is."

The mess halls are generally comprised of an entrée line, specialty bar and to-go line complete with a complimentary take-out window to give service members several options to fit their individual taste and hectic schedule.

The entrée line changes its menu daily on a 21-day rotational schedule to keep the menu fresh and offer Marines diversity in their selection.

Coupled with the entrée line menu is the specialty bar, which offers highly popular menu items such as sub sandwiches, pasta, tacos and hot dogs among other choices, rotating these choices daily on a weeklong cycle. The specialty bar may also offer more unique dining options like an "Okinawa burrito" during breakfast periods and

Mongolian-style barbeque on Saturday evenings.

The mess hall staff makes a point to offer traditional and familiar meals during holidays such as Thanksgiving, Cinco de Mayo and Mardi Gras among others, to help Marines and sailors celebrate special days.

"We try to provide a hot meal to remind you of back home," said Pfc. Idarius D. Holman, a food service specialist with the Camp Foster Mess Hall. "We try to do different things to mix it up."

To help work around the busy and sometimes unpredictable schedule of service members, mess halls offer flexibility to diners.

The Camp Foster Mess Hall, for example, provides pizzas to take back to the barracks via the to-go line or take-out window on Thursday afternoons to accommodate service members executing their weekly field day cleaning.

For Marines heading back to their barracks following morning physical training, their mess hall may provide a to-go option designed to aid Marines and sailors recovering from grueling workouts, including high protein content to fuel muscular growth and recovery, according to Master Sgt. Clinton L. Deviney Jr., the food service manager for the Camp Foster Mess Hall.

The mess halls also offer to-go trays for service members without the time to sit down and enjoy their meal.

Service members can take advantage of everything the mess halls have to offer with either a valid meal card or a relatively low-price per meal, according to Staff Sgt. Ronald B. Burrellmedley, a chief chef at the Camp Foster Mess Hall.

The cost is significantly cheaper than eating at local restaurants where meals frequently cost \$7 or more, added Burrellmedley.

"When you're going to (the food court) for breakfast and lunch, you're paying for breakfast and lunch twice" said Burrellmedley. "You have to stop and think, 'should I go up here and pay \$7 for whatever, or come here and get a buffet that's already paid for?'"

The mess hall staffs of MCIPAC are continually striving to improve their service, to include providing a curry bar scheduled to open Nov. 1 at the Camp Foster Mess Hall.

"We're always looking to improve the mess hall," said Deviney. "The mess hall (determines) foods and services based on suggestions, complaints and expressions of gratitude."

Contact or visit an installation mess hall to find out more about specific services, menus and hours available at that location.

CFC from pg 1

officer with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "There's a list of charities you can donate to (online at) the CFC website or through pledge cards that representatives from each unit have."

Service members and federal employees can choose to make a one-time donation for the year, or choose to give a set amount from each paycheck to the charity of their choice.

Unit or department CFC representatives are responsible for working with service members and federal employees to answer any questions regarding the donation process.

Participants may choose one or more charities on the list to receive the donation, or choose none and have the money distributed evenly among all CFC organizations.

The CFC is known to be the most inclusive workplace-giving campaign in the world, with

the number of participating charities estimated at over 20,000 nonprofit charitable organizations worldwide, according to the CFC website. The charities supported through the CFC range from small, community groups to large, well-known charities.

Service members or federal employees looking to find out more or get involved can contact their unit or department representative or visit the CFC website at www.cfctoday.org.

PHIBLEX from pg 1

"Forces from the ground combat elements conducted squad competitions, machine gun and rocket ranges," said Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade commanding general. "This truly improved our interoperability and combat readiness. They also exchanged jungle warfare survival techniques, learning together, building a stronger partnership, and becoming friends. I was truly impressed by the professionalism and dedication shown at each of these sites."

Not only did the AFP and U.S. forces execute field training together, they also conducted cooperative health engagements and engineering-civic assistance projects, building relationships with the communities in Legazpi City, Albay province.

"I have seen completed renovations of an elementary school where we worked together to improve the learning environment for grateful children," said Kennedy. "In addition to this, members of the AFP, U.S. forces from 3rd MEB and members of the Philippine health organization conducted community health engagements at three different sites to treat more than 3,000 patients, while conducting medical classes and distributing needed goods to the community throughout PHIBLEX 14."

PHIBLEX 14 left both the AFP and U.S. forces confident in the training and in their long-lasting partnership.

"I am extremely proud of all the hard work and committed efforts that made PHIBLEX 14 a success," said Kennedy. "PHIBLEX 14 has strengthened the Philippine and U.S. bilateral ties, demonstrating our two nations' commitment to mutual security. I am confident that training together has improved our readiness in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief situations and regional contingencies. I am looking forward to future engagements in the Philippines."

To see related video, visit www.youtube.com/PHIBLEX.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Stewart H. Miller assists Philippine Marine Sgt. Jose P. Lapgote with loading and firing an M240B medium machine gun at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines Oct. 5 during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. Bilateral training during PHIBLEX 14 is focused on enhancing interoperability and the readiness of forces. Miller is a machine gunner with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, currently assigned to 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Lapgote is with Marine Battalion Landing Team 3. Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey



Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy gives remarks at the closing ceremony of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 Oct. 11 at Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Republic of the Philippines. PHIBLEX 14 is focused on improving interoperability and enhancing the ability for a bilateral force to respond to natural disasters or other regional contingencies. Kennedy is the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry



Philippine Navy Ensign Jeremiah Praed, left, a medical officer with Naval Forces Southern Luzon, competes in a sack race against U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Joshua Sheets, with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, at a school during Amphibious Landing Exercise 14 in Legazpi, Philippines, Sept. 27. PHIBLEX is a bilateral training exercise designed to improve the interoperability, readiness and professional relationships between the U.S. Marine Corps and partner nations. Photo by Lance Cpl. Katelyn Hunter

Service members, Okinawa residents

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

With roots dating back to the 15th century, the largest tug-of-war in the world is firmly grounded in tradition and ceremony. The tightly choreographed displays of martial arts, fireworks and dancing preceding the event further highlight its deep cultural history.

Service members and visitors from around the world joined tens of thousands of Okinawa residents in Naha City, Okinawa, to participate in the 43rd annual Naha Otsunahiki, or Naha Giant Tug-of-War, Oct. 13 at the Naha Matsuri Festival.

The festival is held to pray for the prosperity of Okinawa and the good health of all people, according to the Office of the Conservation Society of the Naha Giant Tug-of-War.

"This is one of those events that if you are on Okinawa when it's going on you should definitely go see it and participate," said

Lance Cpl. Kyle Reid, a defense message system specialist, with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "It's just a spectacular sight to see so many people in one place competing against each other. Everyone's screaming, and happy and enjoying themselves. It is definitely an experience I will remember."

The competitors formed East and West teams that symbolized opposing dynasties from the time when Okinawa was a part of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

In preparation for the competition prior to pulling the rope, each team held a ceremony that included a karate exhibition and dancers with colorful ceremonial flags.

The rope, which weighs 43 tons and connects two separate pieces into one 200-meter-long cord, is one of the largest ropes in the world and takes thousands of people to pull, according to Takeshi Onaga, the Naha City mayor. The teams have to pull the rope five meters in order to claim victory.

If neither side succeeds in pulling the rope five meters across the finish line, the team that is able to move the rope two meters at the end of 30 minutes is declared victorious.

Representatives from each team, dressed in traditional Okinawa attire, called out a steady cadence for the participants to coordinate their efforts and pull in unison.

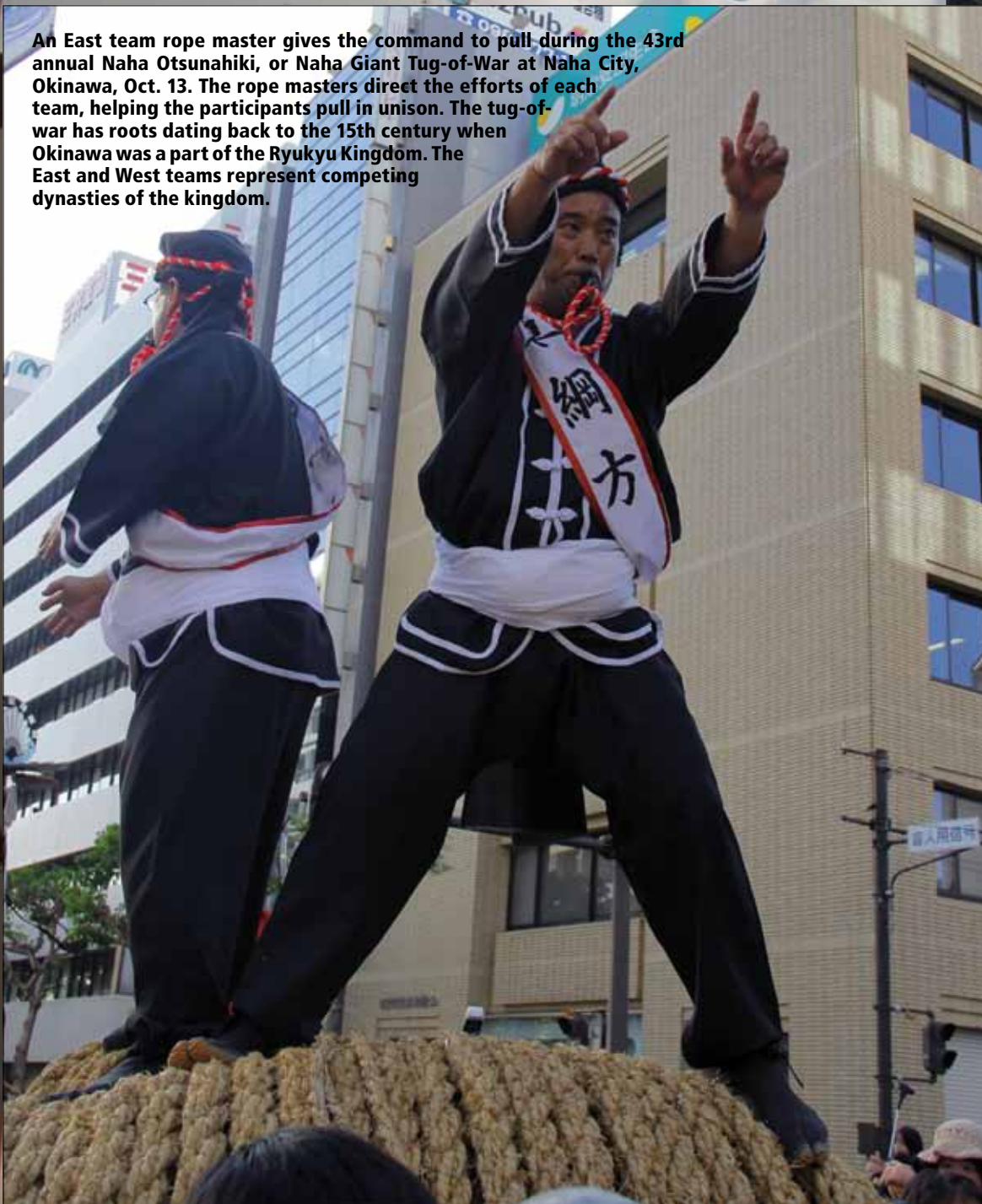
"The key to victory was teamwork," said Reid. "Every time we were cued to pull the rope by the rope master with a whistle blow, we would all pull simultaneously, allowing us to get as much power behind each pull."

Thousands of participants, grasping at 280 smaller ropes extending off the main length, struggled for 27 minutes before the East team pulled through with a hard-fought victory.

"It was a good fight," said Taosa Oshiro, a Naha resident and tug-of-war participant. "There was a few times you could feel the rope get pulled back away from us, but in the end we were victorious."

Both the East and West teams joined in

An East team rope master gives the command to pull during the 43rd annual Naha Otsunahiki, or Naha Giant Tug-of-War at Naha City, Okinawa, Oct. 13. The rope masters direct the efforts of each team, helping the participants pull in unison. The tug-of-war has roots dating back to the 15th century when Okinawa was a part of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The East and West teams represent competing dynasties of the kingdom.



pull together

celebrating the conclusion of the annual event and continued celebrating the Naha Matsuri Festival with a traditional rope cutting.

"It is a common tradition to take a piece of rope home," said Oshiro. "The pieces of the rope are considered to bring good luck to whoever the new owner is. So it's important to get a piece."

Volunteers with the American Chamber of Commerce in Okinawa, including service members with MCIPAC and III Marine Expeditionary Force, assisted in cutting off pieces of rope and handing them to the crowd to help keep the process orderly and safe for all involved.

With both teams currently tied in victories in the all-time series, this gives both of them something to work toward for the 2014 competition.

"It was a great time," said Reid. "Everyone came together, and worked as a team to accomplish such a spectacular achievement. There were a few times the West team regained some of the inches they lost from the East team, but in the end, the East team was victorious. I can't wait until next years to see which team will win."



A young boy executes karate techniques prior to the 43rd annual Giant Naha Tug-of-War Oct. 13 at Naha City to demonstrate one aspect of his team's skill and strength. The tug-of-war is the largest in the world and takes place during the Naha Matsuri Festival. The festival is held annually to pray for the prosperity of Okinawa and the good health of all people, according to the Office of the Conservation Society of the Naha Giant Tug-of-War.



Members of the East team celebrate after winning the 43rd annual Naha Giant Tug-of-War Oct. 13 at Naha City, Okinawa. The team moved the enormous rope five meters in order to claim the victory.



An MV-22B Osprey lifts a Humvee off the USNS Sacagawea in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, during exercise Freedom Banner 2013. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

Landing support specialist maintain expeditionary logistics lines

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“There is always a lot of curiosity about the red patches,” said Lance Cpl. David V. Whitehead, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, referring to 3-inch by 1-inch red patches sewn onto the trouser legs and covers of landing support specialist Marines. “If (junior) Marines are around we can be asked up to five times a day why we wear them. It’s always surprising how many people don’t know what they are.”

The patches date back to the Pacific island-hopping campaign of World War II where the predecessors of LSS Marines would frequently become intermingled with infantry immediately following an amphibious assault.

The landing support mission required the LSS Marines to be at the forefront, in the thick of operations along the beaches. The red patches allowed for quick and positive identification of the Marines and their vital role in the confusion during and following the battles.

“LSS Marines play a very important role in the force-generation process during expeditionary operations simply because they are experts in on-loading and off-loading personnel, supplies and equipment; they ensure the resources that set deployed Marines up for success are readily available as quickly and efficiently as possible,” said 1st Lt. Mason D. McKee, a platoon commander with Transportation Services Company, CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “The same thing can be said about the force sustainment process during expeditionary operations ... landing support can continue to focus its energy on receiving additional

supplies and gear from ports or airfields after the initial push into the area.”

The ability to maintain logistics support for remote patrol bases and forward operating bases, and in areas affected by natural disasters, expands the capabilities of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force significantly.

“(Landing support) operations are extremely vital to mission accomplishment when the mission demands troops to operate in remote, austere environments because they offer an expedient way to move supplies and equipment to and from areas that are not conveniently accessible by truck,” said McKee. “Having a reliable system in place that allows us to sustain troops operating far beyond the wire is remarkably advantageous because it helps us maintain momentum and initiative, two things necessary for prevailing in any conflict.”

Helicopter support team missions are one of the more unique and sought-after capabilities of LSS Marines. Helicopters or tiltrotor aircraft deliver or retrograde, vehicles, equipment or supplies by means of suspending the cargo beneath the aircraft using cables during HST operations. LSS Marines quickly attach or detach the cables in a landing zone allowing the aircraft to spend a minimum amount of time vulnerable while hovering at low altitude.

“Landing support Marines are formally trained in HST operations and are capable of deploying specialized teams in order to send and receive gear, equipment and supplies on a moment’s notice to remote and hard-to-reach locations or areas that have been devastated by a natural disaster,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Gonzales, a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd MLG.

The wide-ranging capabilities and services



Landing support specialists attach a 7,000-pound cement block to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter during dual-point external training at Landing Zone Swan, Central Training Area, May 10, 2012. The training consisted of transporting the cement block to different locations around the landing zone, with the block simulating a Humvee. The helicopter can carry externally slung loads up to 36,000 pounds and is often used for cargo loads like military vehicles, supplies, food and water. The helicopter is assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

provided by LSS Marines maintain expeditionary missions across III MEF and give commanders the confidence to deploy their Marines into even the most austere environments.

“Landing support Marines (provide) continuity for the flow of personnel, gear and supplies for the duration of the operation or exercise,” said Gonzales. “They get the right gear to and from the right place at the right time.”

Father, son restore sign on Camp Courtney

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

On a hot and humid August morning, Maj. Jonathan M. George stumbled upon an old and decrepit-looking sign during his morning run. Unbeknown to George, the sign, which was only about 30 feet from his military housing residence on Camp Courtney, marked the location of an old Okinawa shrine.

“Before I even knew what it was, I looked at the sign and immediately wanted to fix it,” said George, an intelligence officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force. “I’m a handyman, always have been. When I see something that needs to be fixed, I naturally want to take on the task.”

George reached-out to his chain of command to figure out how he could restore it, and he learned that it was on a list to be fixed.

“When they told me it was scheduled to be fixed within the next three to four years I (volunteered) to do it myself,” said George. “I figured it would be a good project for me and my son.”

Using his personal brushes, scrapers and paint, he and his son began restoring a piece of Okinawa history.

“My daddy let me do a lot of the scraping and painting,” said Nicholas J. George, a first-grader at Bechtel Elementary School. “Even though I really like the beach, this has been my favorite thing I have done so far on Okinawa.”

The shrine stands at a sacred place known as Tengan Koshimori, where guardian deities of Tengan Village reside and Okinawa community members pray.

Throughout many of the installations on Okinawa, shrines are commonly seen by service



(From left to right) a before and after photo of the sign for an Okinawa shrine aboard Camp Courtney. Maj. Jonathan M. George noticed the old sign during a morning run and decided to take on the project of restoring it with his son. George is an intelligence officer with III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photos by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

members but remain off-limits out of respect to the Okinawa community.

While George and his son worked on the wooden structure that held the shrine’s sign, the sign itself was taken to a metal shop for restoration.

“Someone from base personnel was here almost immediately to take the sign to the metal shop,” said George. “After about a month, it was back and looking brand new.”

Even with the busy schedule familiar to most military families, only two short months had passed before the sign’s restoration was complete.

“We spent a lot of time getting rid of all of the moss, mold and old paint that was on the structure,” said George. “Knowing that we had the opportunity to do our part and give back to the Okinawa community made it all worth it in the end.”

For George, the self-proclaimed handyman, restoration of the sign was nothing new to him.

“It is something I wasn’t surprised about when I heard it because of the kind of person he is,” said Col. Sean M. McBride, the assistant chief of staff, G-2, intelligence and security, III MEF. “I was impressed with his initiative to take the time and notice the damage to the sign that many people have probably walked by in the past.”

“The fact that he involved his son to give back to the community with him will influence him for life and make him stop and think how to make the community better when he gets older,” added McBride.

Now, as George laces up his running shoes and heads out the door, he can run knowing that the interest and initiative displayed by himself, his son and the Marine Corps revived a small piece of Okinawa history.

TRT keeps Marines’ combat skills sharp, mission ready

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Any Marine can be a rifleman, they can be called upon to use those skills at any time,” said Capt. Evan Brashier, officer in charge of Tactical Readiness and Training, G-3, training and operations, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “It is impossible to predict the location and the threat environment we will encounter when we are deployed.”

The Marines of the 3rd MLG TRT, comprised of infantry unit leaders and officers with combat-arms backgrounds, have made it their mission to ensure that the Marines of the logistics group are ready to fulfill their mission as a Marine rifleman at a moment’s notice. To this end, the TRT plans and supervises combat-arms training across a wide spectrum of offensive and defensive operations.

“What we focus on are Marine Corps’ common skills; the core competencies that (every) Marine needs to know regardless of where they are deployed,” said Brashier. “By maintaining these core competencies, not only are the Marines better prepared for situations that arise within their current unit, but they will be better prepared for the future as well.”

The core competencies include proficiency within small-unit operations, patrolling, establishing and maintaining security, setting

up landing zones, coordinating with aircraft to medically evacuate wounded personnel and weapons proficiency.

The TRT training evolutions challenge the Marines to execute their mission in adverse environments.

“We trained mounting and dismounting vehicles in full gear; disassembling and reassembling crew-served weapons on patrols; running speed drills up hills to see who could move the weapons systems to the top of the hills, set it up, call (it in) and set up a fire-plan sketch the quickest,” said Lance Cpl. Samuel M. Depriest, who trained with TRT while serving as a machine gunner with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG. “It built our confidence knowing exactly what to do in different scenarios. It was the confidence of knowing we could do it when we were sweating, tired and in full gear.”

Continuing the combat arms training of Marines in the combat service support specialties helps maintain a solid foundation of common skills across the Marine Air Ground Task Force, improving interoperability.

“Interoperability between combat-arms Marines and those in support specialties begins with standard weapons and tactics training,” said Staff Sgt. Jesse R. Lopez, an infantry unit leader with TRT. “Giving the Marines updated weapons and tactics training, as well

as refreshers on common skills, gives them a greater understanding of how the infantry operates. This separates the dependency line between the two, allowing for better support.”

While there is no formal training school for TRT instructors, the Marines currently serving in this billet work to provide feedback to their peers to maintain a high-training standard.

“When a staff noncommissioned officer checks in, he is required to teach his peers classes on weapons systems along with various classes such as land navigation and convoy operations,” said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas R. Fuller, an infantry unit leader with TRT. “All the (infantry unit leaders) provide feedback and ensure each Marine is (knowledgeable) before he goes out on any mission or any training event.”

The Marines of TRT measure their success in terms of the growth they witness in the Marines they train.

“We have trackers to help us record annual training requirements ... but the real achievement is actually seeing these units become proficient,” said Lopez. “When you take a Marine (who has not had much machine gun experience) and he is suddenly performing maintenance and disassembling, assembling, mounting, and operating the weapon while performing immediate and remedial actions and having good effects on target, you know you’ve achieved something (positive).”

Hispanic Heritage Month acknowledges history, instills pride

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As Marines, we carry a certain pride about us. We are considered the world's finest fighting force and with good reason. We are expected to be faster, stronger and better all-around.

On top of being a Marine, I am very proud to be an American. Our country's landscape is made of towering metropolises, vast farm fields, and the snow-capped Rocky Mountains. It is our sense of democracy and work ethic that make Americans such proud people.

As a first-generation American, my parents raised me to be proud of my American citizenship but to never forget my heritage.

I am a proud Latino. My parents are both from Honduras, a Central American country.

It was in New York that my parents met, married, and started a family. It was in New York that my brother and I announced our intentions to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps, and our parents couldn't have been more proud.

They are honored to have two children serving the country that gave them the freedom and success they have today. They brag to anyone who will listen about their two Marines; one in Afghanistan, the other in Japan.

Becoming a Marine was the proudest moment of my life. I never had to work so hard for something before, and that made it even sweeter. The months of hard work, blood and sweat were worth it.

Hispanics have been serving in the Marine Corps since before the Boxer Rebellion at the turn of the 20th century.

It was during this life or death struggle that Mexican-American Pvt. France Silva earned the Medal of Honor for his meritorious conduct during the Siege of the Legations.

Silva's Medal of Honor was the first for a Marine of Latino descent and was a notable moment in our illustrious Marine Corps history. We have fought and perished alongside each other as Marine brothers and sisters ever since.

Hispanic Marines fought in both World Wars, the Banana

Wars in Central America, the Korean War and in the Vietnam War. More recently, we've served in the Gulf War and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Even here on Okinawa, Hispanic Marines have a history of valor.

In 1945, Maj. Gen. Pedro A. del Valle, the first Hispanic Marine general, led the 1st Marine Division during the Battle of Okinawa.

That same year, on Okinawa, Pfc. Harold Gonsalves earned the Medal of Honor after giving his life for his fellow Marines by shielding them from an enemy grenade with his body. Gonsalves is the only Hispanic Marine to earn the Medal of Honor during World War II.

Camp Gonsalves, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, home to the Jungle Warfare Training Center, is named in his honor.

As Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close, I reflect back on all the Latino service members who came before me – Marines who served honorably and just happened to also be Hispanic.

I was born a Hispanic female in America; those are factors I couldn't control. I chose to become a U.S. Marine, and that's the part of me I'm most proud of.

I am a Latino woman, I am an American, and above all, I am a U.S. Marine.



Erika Cecilio (left) and Chief Warrant Officer Ricky T. Brown, conclude a traditional Mexican dance at a Hispanic Heritage Month observance Oct. 10 at the Kinser Surfside on Camp Kinser. Hispanic Heritage recognition was started by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and was extended to a monthlong observance by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The celebration recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Brown is a data and communications officer with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Cecilio is a dancer with Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Okinawa. Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden



Maria Hayden (left), and Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson listen intently to remarks given during a Hispanic Heritage Month observance Oct. 10 at the Kinser Surfside on Camp Kinser. Nelson is the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Hayden is an executive assistant with 3rd MLG, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden

In Theaters Now

OCT. 18 - 24

FOSTER

TODAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 6 p.m.;
Machete Kills (R), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Smurfs 2 (PG), noon; Captain Phillips (PG13),
3 p.m.; Parkland (PG13), 6 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY The Smurfs 2 (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Parkland (PG13),
4 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Parkland (PG13), 3 p.m.; Captain Phillips (PG13) 6 p.m.;
Machete Kills (R), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Parkland (PG13), noon & 3 p.m.; Captain Phillips
(PG13), 6 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Parkland (PG13), 1 p.m.; Captain Phillips (PG13),
6 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 3:30 p.m.;
The Butler (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Parkland (PG13), 4 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Runner
Runner (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Parkland (PG13), 4 p.m.;
Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 6 & 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Parkland (PG13), 3 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Elysium (PG13), 3 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Parkland (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Machete Kills (R), 4 p.m.;

Parkland (PG13), 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Parkland (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 3 p.m.;

Machete Kills (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY One Direction: This Is Us (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Captain
Phillips (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Machete Kills (R), 6:30 p.m.

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

SCHWAB

TODAY Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.;

Captain Phillips (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.;

Captain Phillips (PG13), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Parkland (PG13), 3 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Parkland (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 6:30 p.m.;

Machete Kills (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Parkland (PG13), 3 p.m.; Captain Phillips (PG13),
6 p.m.; Machete Kills (R), 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Captain Phillips (PG13), 2:30 p.m.;

Machete Kills (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Parkland (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Gravity (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Machete Kills (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.

FIELD TRIP

• There will be a field trip to Okinawa World and
the Peace Prayer Memorial Park Oct. 27. The
deadline for signup is Oct. 24.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• 50 zombie-dressed volunteers are needed Nov. 2
to assist with the Haunted Highway 5K Fun Run at
7 p.m. on Camp Kinser.

*If interested in participating, 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 weapon
provides Marines with
man-portable anti-
aircraft capabilities?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

The Modular Lightweight Load-
carrying Equipment or "MOLLE"
pack, which was the basis for the ILBE.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Mondai nai desu.”

(pronounced: mohn-dah-ee nah-ee dehs)

It means “No Problems.”

CHAPLAINS'

OPINION

*“If you want to be successful in building
relationships and advancing in life, you will
strive to be a person of noble character.”*



Actions uphold words, oneself

Lt. Cmdr. Clifford P. Rutledge

CAMP SCHWAB BASE CHAPLAIN

Have you ever wondered why the
phrases “to be honest” or “to
tell you the truth” are so com-
monplace in our speech? For some,
these phrases help emphasize the really
important stuff – another way of saying,
“if you’re only going to retain one thing I
say today ... this is it!” For some, they are
merely filler words – touches of linguistic
color to ordinary communication, like the
overly used additive, “ya-know?”

Unfortunately, for others these other-
wise harmless expressions are desperate
attempts to overcome a tainted reputation.
A subtle way of saying, “I know I’ve been
less than trustworthy in my words and ac-
tions before, but this time I’m really telling
the truth.”

They are efforts to mask a track record
of being late, missing commitments, exag-
gerating accomplishments, and making
excuses. They are empty words at best.

You are measured by performance, not

words. You may expend a vast amount
of energy garnishing a friend with verbal
compliments, even tagging him or her as
your best friend on Facebook. But if your
words are supported by broken promises
and repeated disappointments, you’re
likely going to lose a friend. You won’t be
able to talk your way out of it!

If you want to be successful in building
relationships and advancing in life, you
will strive to be a person of noble character.

You will follow-through when you
make a commitment, no matter how small
and seemingly insignificant.

You will resist the temptation to embel-
lish on the facts.

You will own-up to your mistakes and
accept the consequences for them.

You will gain a reputation of integrity
and trust that will precede your words.

Whether or not you occasionally say “to
be honest” or “to tell you the truth,” you
will be known as a person of your word.

You will truly exemplify the instruction
of Jesus, “Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes,’ and
your ‘no,’ ‘no’” (Matthew 5:37).

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”