

OKINAWA MARINE

JANUARY 17, 2014

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31st MEU raid force dominates night

**Cpl. Henry Antenor**

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, executed a night raid Jan. 9 at Camp Courtney as part of the unit's Realistic Urban Training Exercise.

Following their insertion by aircraft with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, within a security perimeter provided by riflemen from see **RAIDS** pg 5

Marines approach a surrendering combatant, role-played by another Marine, during a night raid Jan. 9 at Camp Courtney. The raid was the first event of the Realistic Urban Training Exercise, which is part of the pre-deployment training for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's regularly scheduled spring patrol. The training is designed to challenge the full spectrum of Maritime Raid Force capabilities. The Marines are with MRF, 31st MEU.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Koppers

Marines, sailors deploy to Fuji for ARTP 13-4

Sgt. Brian A. Marion

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — More than 400 Marines and sailors deployed Jan. 13-15 to Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan, to participate in Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-4.

The program is a 17-year-old regularly scheduled training cycle, which is designed to enhance the combat readiness of U.S. Marine forces in support of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

The participating artillery Marines are currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During their time at CATC Camp Fuji, the service members will practice basic field training, fire M777A2 lightweight 155 mm howitzers, and execute small-arms live-fire training evolutions to maintain proficiency and enhance combat readiness. The unit also intends to participate in community relation events in the local area, according to 1st Lt. Gregory M. Scott, an artillery officer with Battery L.

"It's definitely going to be a new challenge for us," said see **ARTP** pg 5

Infantrymen take on Okinawa's jungle

SEE PAGES 6-7 FOR
STORY & PHOTOS

Lance Cpl. Remington Ostrem wades into water as Cpl. Ronald Mitchell follows closely behind during an endurance course Jan. 12 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. Ostrem is a machine gunner, and Mitchell is a mortarman. Both Marines are with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

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PATIENT TRANSPORT LIFE
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WINTER WORKHORSE CONCLUDES
ON COURTNEY

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A CLOSER LOOK AT JAPAN'S
NATIONAL SPORT: SUMO

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LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE

Setting example strengthens Corps

Cpl. Anne K. Henry

The Marine Corps has been referred to as the pride of America. It contains some of the brightest young leaders, the most loyal and honest individuals, and hardest workers our country has to offer. In other words, the Marine Corps has set the example for other branches to follow, both as an institution and individuals.

Setting a good example for those around us ultimately stems from a sense of responsibility – from the moment we step on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or San Diego, our drill instructors begin instilling this in us. We make our beds every morning and clean the bathroom because we were told to. We are given specific directions on everything – from how we dress to firing a rifle.

Eventually, we learn that we do these things not because we are told to, but because we need to. We wake up in the morning for physical training not because we are told to, but because we know that we need to stay mission ready. We go to work not only because our superiors are making us, but because we take pride in our work. By taking pride in our work, we set the example by maintaining high working standards as well as a healthy working relationship with our subordinates, peers and superiors.

For many, setting the example can be a heavy responsibility. As the drill instructors told us, someone is always

watching – a high standard must be maintained at all times, or a moment of poor judgment could jeopardize the mission, lives and your perception among peers. Without Marines setting the example for other Marines, the Marine Corps would not function as we know it.

It is human nature to follow someone – this concept becomes a key factor in determining social dynamics and behavior in less-formal environments, such as during liberty. Individuals who act with dignity and pride are often followed by junior Marines.

Setting a good example and being a good leader does not stop when we leave the office on a Friday afternoon. Not wearing a uniform is not an excuse for a Marine to lose their way.

For the Marine Corps, setting a good example is critical not only to the environments in which we work but also for mission readiness. Everything we do, from the way we lead to the examples we set, contributes to how well our unit functions.

Setting an example and leading does not only fall on the shoulders of officers and

staff noncommissioned officers. Setting a good example is the responsibility of every Marine, no matter their rank. In this regard, we must take this to heart, remember the values instilled in us, and set a good example even when no one is looking.

Henry is a combat correspondent for the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

“Setting a good example and being a good leader does not stop when we leave the office on a Friday afternoon. Not wearing a uniform is not an excuse for a Marine to lose their way.”

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AROUND THE CORPS



Marines prepare to clear a building Jan. 7 after throwing a flash-bang grenade during training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Flash-bang grenades emit a flash of light to disorient enemies during a raid. The Marines are with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua Murray

Marines jump from a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during training Jan. 8 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Marines are with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force. The helicopter and crew are with Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 164, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Lauren Falk



OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Kinser
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Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Corpsmen test new MOVES

Pfc. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Corpsmen, doctors and nurses with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, attended classes and trained with the Marine Corps' new portable patient transport life support system Jan. 7 at Camp Kinser.

The Marine Corps started looking for a new PPTLSS in December of 2012. The goal was to replace several, outdated patient movement systems and create a more compact and portable piece of equipment.

The lightweight, self-contained, mobile, oxygen, ventilation, and external suction system, more commonly known as the MOVES system, met all requirements for the Marine Corps to designate as a new PPTLSS, according to Allen L. Schweizer, a logistician for the medical team with Marine Corps Systems Command, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"A MOVES is designed to combine the oxygen concentrator, ventilator, suction and patient monitoring systems into one compact machine," said Schweizer.

The MOVES system uses ambient air to produce oxygen and then delivers the oxygen directly to the casualty. Additionally, the MOVES system can monitor vital signs including blood pressure, heart rate, pulse oximetry, temperature, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, and electrocardiogram. Each system is designed to support and treat a single trauma patient at one time.

"When you're downrange and a life is on the line, it feels like everything is against you; almost as if you brought Murphy himself and his law along for the ride," said Michael Nace, a former Navy corpsman and class instructor. "The smallest thing can make a difference on determining whether someone lives or dies."

The 3rd MLG received 22 MOVES systems that will be put to use by III MEF personnel during future exercises and operations.

"There are many benefits with this system



Naval medical personnel execute the startup process of the mobile, oxygen, ventilation and external suction system Jan. 7 at Camp Kinser. The sailors are with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Donald T. Peterson

compared to the old equipment," said Lt. Cmdr. Angela M. Dougherty, the company commander for Company B, 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd MLG, III MEF. "The MOVES system generates its own oxygen, which means (fewer) tanks of oxygen are needed when we deploy with it. It has a battery life of up to seven hours, which is extremely convenient, and it can run off of an external power source as well."

Although the MOVES system is currently used by the Marine Corps, it was designed for use by all branches.

"It's such a great piece of equipment to work with," said Dougherty. "Just the little bit of time we had to actually try it out and play with it made it easy to tell that this (system) will be a huge asset in future operations."

BRIEFS

USPS NEW MAILING PRICES

The U.S. Postal Service will change postal prices for mailing and shipping services effective Jan. 26.

The following is an overview of some of the price increases:

First-Class mail-

- 1 to 5 cent increase

Priority mail-

- Flat rate envelopes: \$19.99
- Flat rate box: \$44.95

Extra services-

- Certified mail: \$3.30
- Registered mail: \$11.95
- Return receipt: \$2.70
- Insurance up to \$50: \$2.10
- Insurance \$50.01-\$100: \$2.60

For more information, contact your local post office.

ID SCANNING AT COMMISSARIES

Commissaries on Okinawa will now be scanning Department of Defense ID cards with every purchase.

This is part of a new DoD policy and encompasses all service branches.

When your DoD ID is scanned no personal information will be collected. Only individuals with a valid DoD ID will be authorized to make purchases.

CONSTRUCTION ON EXPRESSWAY

Maintenance work is ongoing between Okinawa Expressway Yaka (Exit 7) and Kin (Exit 8) interchanges through March 31.

A section of the highway will have reduced lanes and no center divider. Traffic congestion is expected during peak commuting hours and major events.

NEGATIVE SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNTS MAY PROMPT COMMANDER NOTIFICATION

In an effort to continue offering school lunch services, the Exchange School Meal Program must notify commanders regarding personnel in their units with delinquent school lunch accounts in excess of \$50 as of Jan. 14, 2014.

Complete account balance information is available at www.MyPaymentsPlus.com.

Funds can be added at participating post and base exchange customer service locations, the school cafeteria or through www.MyPaymentsPlus.com.

For more information about the Exchange School Meal Program, visit www.ShopMyExchange.com/Community/SchoolLunch/ or contact Craig Masek, Region Food Program specialist at DSN 645-6380 or email MasekGr@aafes.com.

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.

Physical readiness key year round



Marines and sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit make their way up a hill during a 4.4-mile formation run Jan. 3 at Camp Hansen. The 31st MEU's leadership used physical training to refocus the unit after the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The Marines and sailors are resuming pre-deployment training in preparation for the regularly scheduled spring patrol. The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps' force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region and the only continuously forward deployed MEU. Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Kuppers

Combat Logistics Regiment 3 prepares for future with Winter Workhorse

Cpl. Anne K. Henry
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA — Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 3 trained in a variety of military and occupational skill-sets Jan. 13-18 at the Central Training Area during the Winter Workhorse field exercise.

Winter Workhorse takes place annually and is designed to train Marines to carry out their mission essential tasks in a simulated forward-deployed environment.

Throughout Winter Workhorse, Marines practiced different tactics and techniques to prepare for various aspects of deployments and combat, according to 1st Lt. Kathryn C. Evezich, the regimental adjutant for CLR-3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We are running both maintenance in the field as well as practicing convoy operations, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (defense) training, and responding to ambushes," said Evezich. "This is a huge learning opportunity for all the Marines out here."

For the duration of the exercise, Marines maintained an operational

mind-set during their daily tasks, keeping safety at the forefront of their actions, according to Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Tisdale, the engineer equipment maintenance chief with the regiment.

"The Marines need to understand how to operate the equipment they have been trained on while wearing the proper protective gear," said Tisdale. "Everywhere they go, from the time they leave their tent in the morning, they are utilizing their gear. Along with that, we are simultaneously conducting any training that the regiment sees fit, such as annual training."

With Marines who are new to the regiment, the training tests their skills and affords an opportunity to gauge their performance in a controlled setting, according to Tisdale.

"This not only tests their (MOS) capabilities, but it also allows me to evaluate them and see how much they have learned since leaving the schoolhouse," said Tisdale. "It also allows me to see where their skill level is and where we need to start focusing our training once we get back into garrison."

With a multitude of Marines from the unit trained in one area,



Marines maintain a 7-ton truck Jan. 14 during the Winter Workhorse field exercise at the Central Training Area. The Marines are with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Anne K. Henry

it was critical that they worked as a cohesive team, according to Lance Cpl. Daniel N. Meggerson, a heavy-equipment operator with the unit.

"I am out here trying to learn all I can, and I think it is great that we have classes going all the time," said Meggerson. "We are in a very different environment than when we are in garrison and have a lot of different sections here. It is important that

we work together as a team."

The training evolution left Marines of all ranks confident in their own abilities, as well as those of the Marines around them, according to Tisdale.

"As a whole, I feel like the Marines are performing very well," said Tisdale. "I would feel comfortable taking these Marines into a deployed environment."

Logistics Marines establish command operations center on Courtney

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines with 3rd Supply Battalion established a command operations center Jan. 13-17 at Camp Courtney in preparation for Freedom Banner 2014.

A command operations center can be seen as the hub of an operation or exercise, according to Cpl. Pablo Arboledapalacio, a packaging specialist with the 3rd Supply Bn., Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. It is a centralized location where Marines with various mission critical skills coordinate together to improve efficiency and communication.

"The COC is the brains of the entire operation," said Arboledapalacio. "If a situation needs a fast response, we have the (subject matter experts) able to work together in the same place."

The training was executed to prepare for the unit's upcoming deployment during Exercise Freedom Banner 2014 later this spring, according to Capt. Joseph Petkus, a ground supply officer with CLR-35.

Freedom Banner exercises the Marine Corps' proficiency to expedite a fully operational Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

"We set this up to practice how we would operate during the exercise," said Petkus. "This

way we can teach our newer Marines what they would need to know, see if there are any problems with the gear we have, and practice working together before we're out in the field."

The training began with the Marines constructing a full COC, to include installing and familiarizing themselves with the necessary equipment. They rehearsed loading and offloading their equipment from transports, and practiced counter measures and troubleshooting techniques should a malfunction occur during the setup process.

The training allowed the Marines to learn individual roles when operating within a COC and prepared them to properly respond to any issues they might encounter, according to Lance Cpl. Shane L. Barks, a logistics and embarkation specialist with Landing Support Company, CLR-37, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

"This training gives us more time to get to know each other," said Barks. "We can learn how we work and be able to function properly as a unit."

The Marines concluded the training fully confident in their abilities to construct and maintain a COC during a training event, exercise or real-world operation, according to Arboledapalacio.

"Now that we have gotten some practice in before we actually go, things should go (smoother)," said Arboledapalacio. "We can trust each other and our abilities."



Lance Cpl. Nicholas Montgomery, left, executes an inventory review with Lance Cpl. Darrell W. Evans Jan. 15 at a command operations center training event at Camp Courtney. During the training, the Marines established a command operations center. Montgomery is a landing support specialist, and Evans is an airborne and air delivery specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

ARTP from pg 1

Scott. "Our Marines are definitely excited to be going on the program, but they are a little apprehensive because the snow and the cold are something we usually don't get in (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center,) Twentynine Palms."

Not only will the unit be challenged by the training and weather, they will also face the daunting task of transporting its equipment long distances.

"There is a huge difference from, figuratively speaking, shooting in your own backyard and moving your howitzers from one island to another," said Maj. James S. Birgl, the executive officer of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "Not only do we improve the battery's training and readiness standards, but the ARTP helps improve their logistics capabilities as well."

During their time at ARTP, the battalion leadership hopes to improve the capabilities of the batteries under its command, according to Birgl.

"Our goal is to send the UDP batteries back to their parent commands in a better shape than when we received them," said Birgl. "We want them to go back with a better knowledge of what it takes to fire the howitzers in various climates and how to employ them to accomplish their mission."



Marines with Battery F fire an M777A2 155 mm lightweight howitzer during a live-fire training evolution at the East Fuji Maneuver Area by Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji Oct. 2 during Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-3, the most recent iteration of the program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor



Marines and sailors advance on a targeted compound during a night raid Jan. 9 at Camp Courtney. The training was designed and evaluated by Special Operations Training Group. "One of our biggest goals, balanced with safety, is to make the training as realistic as possible," said Capt. Kevin P. Jones, the assistant officer-in-charge of the Expeditionary Warfare Branch, SOTG, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. "It is called Realistic Urban Training Exercise after all." The Marines and sailors are with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Koppers

RAIDS from pg 1

the MEU's Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, the MRF's Force Reconnaissance Platoon advanced on the targeted facility.

Waiting inside was an armed force ready and prepared to resist the MRF advance. A reactive mock enemy firing simulated ammunition provided the realistic combat environment needed for the training.

"To refine our skills, we have to do these realistic hits with live role players," said Cpl. Dru R. Turner, a reconnaissance man with FRP, MRF, 31st MEU. "You're going to act differently if you know there are actual people inside, and they are going to shoot back at you. A live enemy (role-player) is going to react to what we're doing and that enhances the training."

The complex raid required the small force to clear and search 27 separate areas while engaging the enemy, managing casualties, securing captured combatants, and searching for intelligence.

The training is designed and evaluated by the Special Operations Training Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, in order to challenge the full spectrum of MRF capabilities. Realism combined with complexity is the common theme for SOTG's pre-deployment training package.

"One of our biggest goals, balanced with safety, is to make the training as realistic as possible," said Capt. Kevin P. Jones, the assistant officer-in-charge of the Expeditionary Warfare Branch, SOTG. "It is called Realistic Urban Training Exercise after all."

After successfully neutralizing the enemy force and gathering valuable intelligence for future RUTEX operations, the Marines again embarked a CH-53E helicopter to extract. Reflecting on their recent actions, both the MRF and their SOTG observers came away with a feeling of satisfaction from the raid.

"There are always things to work on, but they performed to the high level expected of a maritime raid force," said Jones.

This raid was the first in a series of scenarios for RUTEX and is part of the 31st MEU's pre-deployment training in preparation for their regularly scheduled Spring Patrol.

The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region and is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU.



A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter drops off Marines and sailors during a night raid Jan. 9 at Camp Courtney. "To refine our skills, we have to do these realistic hits with live role players," said Cpl. Dru R. Turner, a reconnaissance man with Force Reconnaissance Platoon, Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "You're going to act differently if you know there are actual people inside and they are going to shoot back at you. A live enemy (role-player) is going to react to what we're doing and that enhances the training." The helicopter and crew are with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU. The Marines and sailors are with MRF, 31st MEU. Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Koppers

Infantrymen test mettle during endurance

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As day breaks, the already difficult activities ahead such as rappelling, stretcher carries and low-crawling are amplified by harsh terrain, exhaustion and something endearingly referred to as “peanut butter” mud. Steam rolls off the mud-covered camouflage utilities of Marines soaked in chilly water as they pause for a moment to drink chicken broth in an attempt to revive their senses. These Marines have just started the Jungle Warfare Training Center’s endurance course.



A Marine is pulled under an obstacle Jan. 12 during an endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. The Marines are with Co. K.

A group of infantry Marines attended the basic jungle skills course Jan. 6-12 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and completed the culminating endurance course event to gain a better understanding of operating in the jungle environment inherent to the Asia-Pacific region.

The Marines are with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

“The course is four-miles long and requires the squad-sized groups to negotiate more than 30 obstacles,” said Sgt. Jacob S. Navarro, an instructor with JWTC. “The Marines will have to perform multiple hasty rappels, wade and crawl through muddy water that is just barely above freezing, and finally, carry a 160-pound dummy on a makeshift stretcher one mile


through the harsh jungle terrain.”

Part of the stretcher carry requires Marines to pass through a pit of “peanut butter” mud, according to Navarro. The mud earned this nickname due to its unique sludge-like consistency, making the event all the more difficult.

“Operating in the jungle is vastly different from urban terrain,” said Capt. William O. Over, the commanding officer of Co. K. “Simply moving 200 meters in the jungle can take two or three hours. This (BJSC) training is unique to Okinawa, and we want to make the most of our time here.”

The unit received deployment training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., which focuses combat skills for desert terrain, according to Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy C. Stover, the company gunnery sergeant. The jungle terrain and hasty rappelling training are not readily available at state-side facilities.

“We are consumed by the elements out here,” said Cpl. Chance W. Breeding, a forward observer for the company. “This is a lot harder than any training I have received thus far. I’ve



Marines cross a rope bridge Jan. 12 during an endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. The basic jungle survival course is unique to Okinawa and allows Marines and other service members the opportunity to train in subtropical terrain. The Marines are with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

Endurance course

learned to respect the jungle.”

As the company progressed through the endurance course, the obstacles became more unit-oriented and less about the individual effort of a particular Marine.

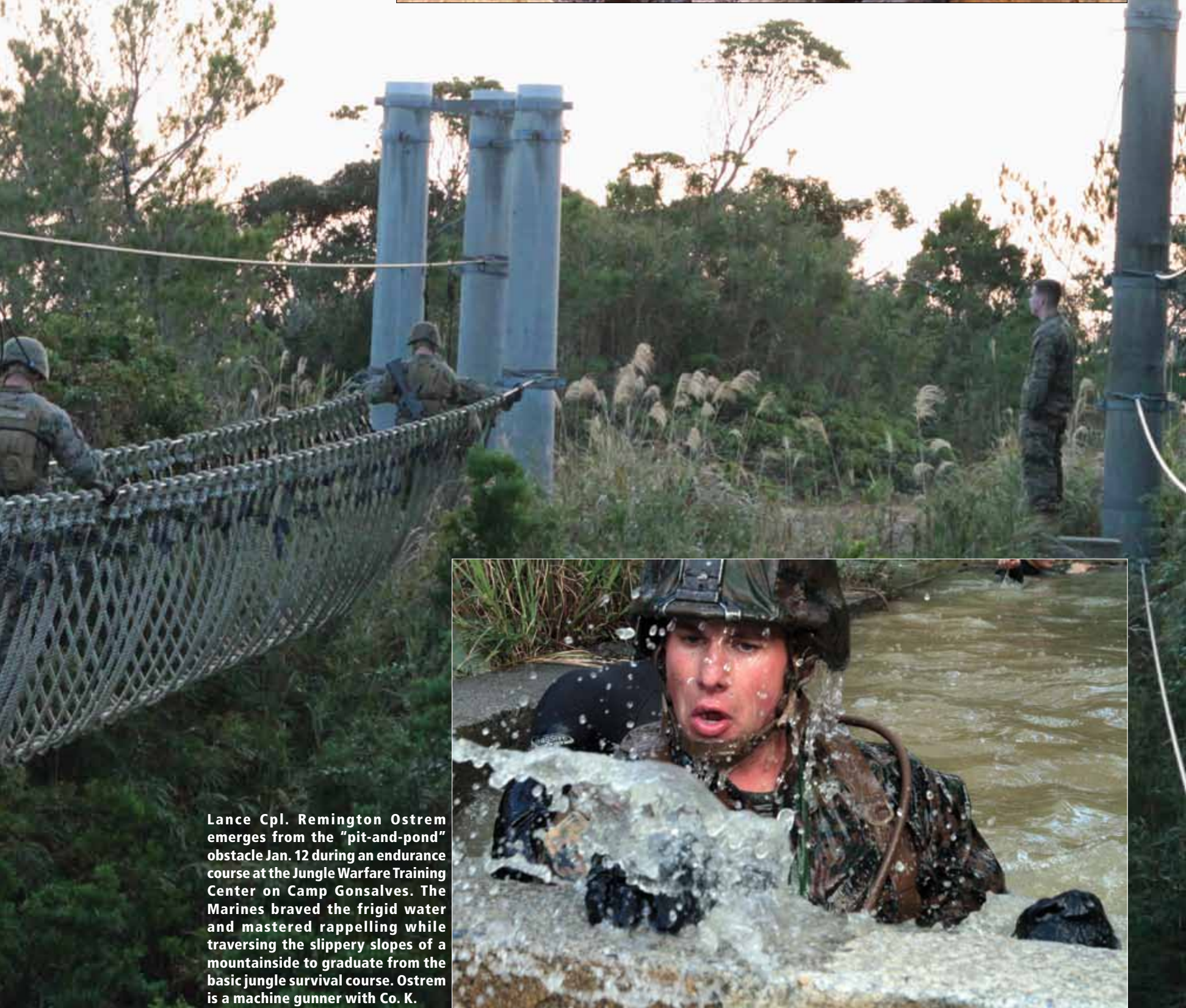
“It takes teamwork to move a platoon up and down a cliff,” said Over. “The endurance course provides a great opportunity to build small-unit leaders at the fire team and squad levels.”

The small-unit leaders gained leadership skills throughout the course to navigate the unit through obstacles in an expeditious manner during the culminating endurance event.

The Marines agreed the course is both physically and mentally exhausting, according to Stover. The fatigue creates a realistic training environment that is invaluable.

“These Marines are getting a taste of something they have never had before,” said Stover. “This is a completely different life experience, and accomplishing this course (BJSC), and even more so this single event, is an incredible achievement.”

Lance Cpl. Jordan D. Taylor, right, and Cpl. Miguel A. Ruelas provide security during an endurance course Jan. 12 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. The final stage of the endurance course is a one-mile stretcher carry through the harsh jungle terrain of Okinawa. Both Marines are riflemen with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.



Lance Cpl. Remington Ostrem emerges from the “pit-and-pond” obstacle Jan. 12 during an endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. The Marines braved the frigid water and mastered rappelling while traversing the slippery slopes of a mountainside to graduate from the basic jungle survival course. Ostrem is a machine gunner with Co. K.



MEU Marines smash resistance with tracks

Sgt. Jonathan G. Wright
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

A high-pitched whine arose in the distance, making the enemy turn its attention toward the north. Trigger fingers started getting itchy as the whine grew louder, as if some sort of iron giant was

fast approaching. However, the whine suddenly died to silence, and minutes later the tree line exploded with gunfire.

Marines with Company E, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, recently executed a mechanized raid against a notional enemy base of operations.



Marines and sailors stage AAVs before a mechanized raid Jan 24, 2013 at Landing Zone Cardinal on Camp Schwab. The service members are with Company A, BLT 1st Bn., 5th Marines, 31st MEU. Photo by Lance Cpl. Katelyn Hunter

The company, faced with a possible platoon-sized element of resistance, utilized the armor and firepower capabilities of assault amphibious vehicles, the operational “ace in the hole” for the company. Thirty tons of steel and a large quantity of munitions gave the advantage to the raid force.

“We have the ability to roll off a boat, head on shore, and push inland to an objective with that armor

capability to get us in close,” said Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Garcia, a rifleman with Co. E, BLT 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, 31st MEU. “The ‘tracks’ also bring that shock and awe to the enemy. Small-arms fire isn’t going to do a thing to the AAVs, and they realize that quickly.”

The Marines also used another feature of the AAVs to their advantage: their noise. The Marines offloaded east of the enemy camp in the tree line while the “tracks” swung north, drawing the enemy’s attention away from the insertion point.

The raid force opened fire from the trees and swept in, making short work of the outflanked opposition.

After the last shot was fired, the Marines had captured the simulated leader of the insurgent

training camp, as well as maps and plans he had been working on before the raid struck. There were no friendly casualties and following a thorough site survey, the force loaded onto the AAVs and headed home.

Although this training package is just one of many before the next scheduled deployment, both the raid force and the opposition maintained a high level of realism, ensuring optimal training value.

“We need to

make every attempt to have the scenario be as realistic as possible,” said 1st Lt. Matthew J. Baumann, a platoon commander with Weapons Company, BLT 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, 31st MEU. “Our goal is to induce decision-making at the lowest level and create an environment where information must be passed up for the raiding force to be successful, and to do that the exercise needs to be treated as a real mission.”

Intelligence and maps recovered in the command tent were relayed back to the mission planners to help plan future missions against the overall enemy presence in the area.

The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps’ force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region and is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU.

“The ‘tracks’ also bring that shock and awe to the enemy. Small-arms fire isn’t going to do a thing to the AAVs, and they realize that quickly”

Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Garcia



An assault amphibious vehicle transporting Marines arrives during a mechanized raid on a notional enemy base of operations. The exercise was part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit’s pre-deployment training package, designed to prepare the Marines of the MEU for the next regularly schedule theater security deployment. The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps’ force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region and is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU. The Marines are with Company E, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st MEU.

Photo by Pfc. Brian Bekkala



Petty Officer 3rd Class Dan B. Harlan drags Seaman Justin B. Hampton, a simulated casualty, during tactical combat casualty care training May 16, 2013 at Camp Foster. Harlan and Hampton are hospital corpsmen with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Brianna Christensen

Corpsmen provide variety of support

Cpl. Anne K. Henry
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Every military occupational speciality contributes to the overall success of the U.S. military. This is especially true for corpsmen with 3rd Medical Battalion who provide vital medical support to the Marines and sailors of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Corpsmen with the battalion carry out daily tasks, which involve a wide variety of skills at heightened stress levels, according to Petty Officer 3rd Class James J. Romero, a corpsman with 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

"The important thing to remember is to always be flexible," said Romero. "We must always be prepared to fill (unfamiliar) billets."

Corpsmen earn their namesake after completing training at the Medical Education and Training Campus preceding field medical training. The extensive training is approximately seven weeks long and covers a variety of Marine Corps knowledge, as well as combat lifesaving skills.

"Our initial training consists of an 'A' school, which is a few weeks long and tests the corpsman's proficiency through laboratories and practical applications," said U.S. Navy Lt. Dennis R. O'Connor, the medical officer in charge of shock trauma platoon with the battalion. "Then we attend the seven-week Marine Corps proficiency training, which is focused primarily on field medicine skills and how to deal with casualties in the field."

The average day for the corpsmen in garrison is vastly different from that of a deployed environment. When deployed, the corpsmen will follow the same routine as their Marine counterparts, according to Romero.

"When on deployment, we have the same jobs and the same schedules as the Marines," said Romero. "In garrison, many of us are tasked-out to do various jobs."

Corpsmen provide mandatory support during almost every significant training evolution. Without it, the Marine Corps mission would be adversely affected.

"Whatever training the Marines are doing, if it requires medical coverage, we are

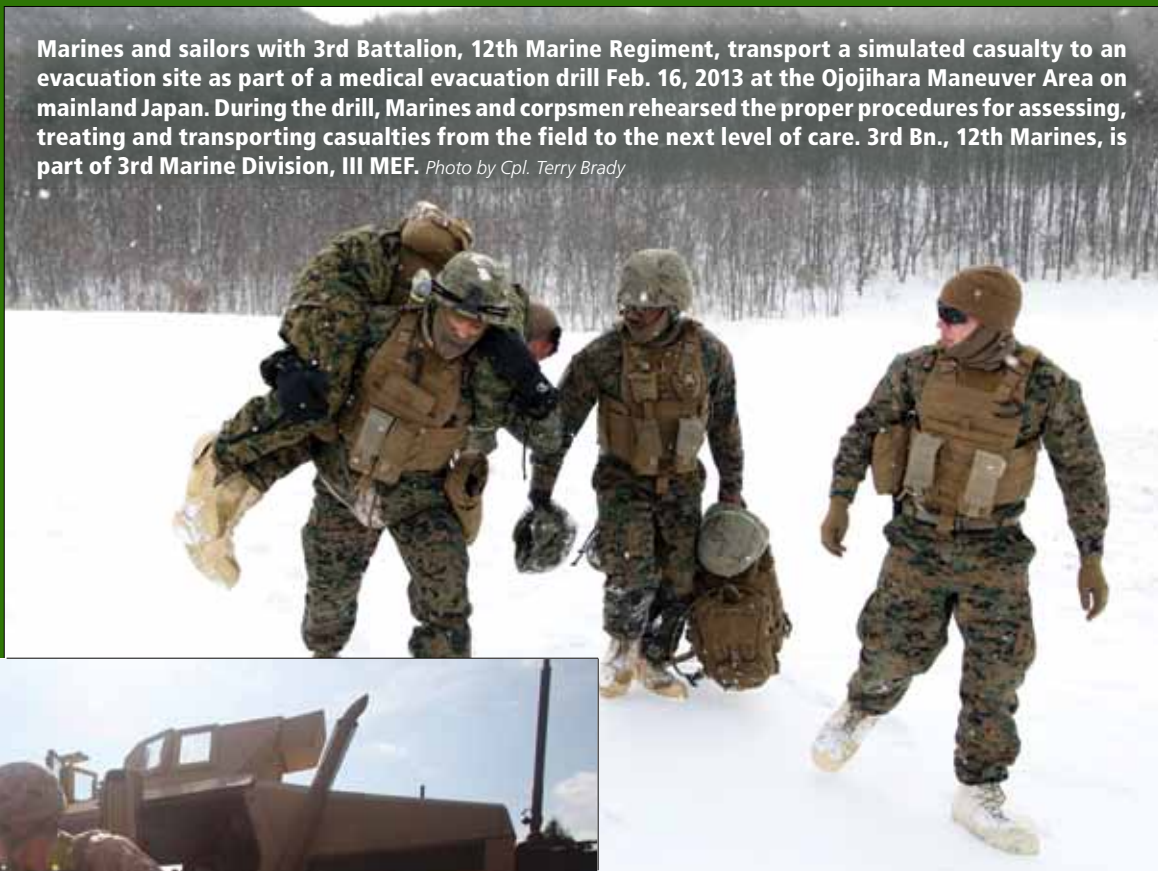
there," said Romero.

Examples of this training include live-fire exercises, annual rifle and pistol ranges, and both the physical and combat fitness tests, added Romero.

Having a firm understanding of both Marine Corps and Navy knowledge and traditions allows the corpsmen with 3rd Medical Bn. to be a versatile and vital force, according to O'Connor.

"I feel that my corpsmen bring new perspectives to the military by understanding both Marine Corps and Navy traditions," said O'Connor. "I feel like they perform to exceed the standards that are set for them by providing the best medical support possible."

Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, transport a simulated casualty to an evacuation site as part of a medical evacuation drill Feb. 16, 2013 at the Ojoihara Maneuver Area on mainland Japan. During the drill, Marines and corpsmen rehearsed the proper procedures for assessing, treating and transporting casualties from the field to the next level of care. 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, is part of 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Terry Brady



Petty Officer 3rd Class Wen P. Mirando, left, and Petty Officer 1st Class KC E. Lorilla treat Cpl. Joshua O. Benedictus for simulated injuries during a medical evacuation exercise June 8, 2013 at Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan. The simulation was executed to support 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, during Artillery Relocation Training Program 13-1. The simulation tested the ability of the Navy corpsmen assigned to the battalion to diagnose, treat and evacuate casualties as quickly as possible. Lorilla and Mirando are corpsmen assigned to the battalion, and Benedictus is a field artillery cannoner with Battery C, 1st Bn., 12th Marines, currently assigned to 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, as part of the unit deployment program. Photo by Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

Japan's national sport influenced by history

Maj. Giuseppe A. Stavale

If you have not been to a sumo match then your Japan experience may be incomplete. Sumo is Japan's national sport and has its origins in Shinto, the traditional faith of Japan. In keeping with Japanese folklore, the Japanese people were created due to gods struggling in a sumo match. As a result, sumo matches were held at Shinto shrines as offerings for good luck and good harvests among other things.

If one pays attention, you will see the signs of Shinto surrounding modern sumo. Above the dohyo, or sumo ring, is a roof designed as a Shinto shrine's roof to symbolize the sacred nature of the sport. This is just the start of the influence that Shinto has on sumo.

Sumo wrestlers are called rikishi, or powerful person. Before an actual match, sumo wrestlers execute very traditional movements which are actually ancient rituals. For example, upon entering the ring, each rikishi will clap their hands as they would at an actual Shinto shrine to get the attention of the deity at that shrine. Then, they will extend their arms with their palms facing up to show they are concealing no weapons. Next, they will lift one leg at a time toward their side and bring it down with an exaggerated stomp to drive out any bad luck or evil spirits. The rikishi will repeat this about four times.

Rikishi will also rinse their mouth with water as a symbol of purifying themselves, just as a person would purify themselves at the purifying well upon entering a shrine's grounds and before approaching the main hall of the shrine to offer a prayer.

In accordance with Shinto, rikishi will also throw salt because it is believed it drives evil spirits away. The rikishi will go back and forth in the dohyo throwing salt and stretching while keeping an eye on the referee, or gyoji. As the gyoji turns to his side it indicates to the rikishi the next time they step back to the "starting lines" the match will begin.

Confucianism also influences sumo. In accordance with Confucian principles, everything is ranked.

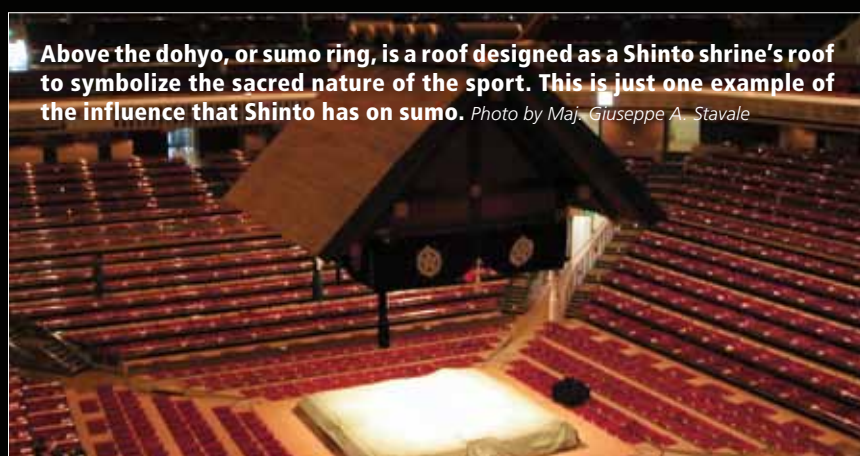
There are 10 individual sumo ranks and the gyoji are also ranked and only the tate-gyoji, or chief referee, will officiate a match involving the yokozuna – the highest ranking rikishi. The Japan Sumo Association maintains a detailed description of all the ranks. The banzuke, or official ranking, is published prior to each tournament in classical Japanese kanji, and the heading is extraordinarily large. The bold characters are the names of the upper division rikishi, known as the maku-uchi. Following the maku-uchi ranking in smaller characters are the ranks of the juryo and maku-shita, and then the san-dan-me, jo-ni-dan and the jo-no-kuchi.

The matches start in the morning with the lowest ranking rikishi, followed by those of higher rank, ending the day with what all have been waiting for – the matches involving the great yokozuna.

In 2013 there were about 800 rikishi in professional sumo that compete in grand sumo tournaments throughout Japan on a set schedule, according to the Japan Sumo Association.

There are six grand sumo tournaments held annually, and each tournament lasts about 15 days. It is tradition that the prime minister or other distinguished person will present the grand champion of the tournament with the trophy.

After each grand sumo tournament, rikishi are either promoted



Above the dohyo, or sumo ring, is a roof designed as a Shinto shrine's roof to symbolize the sacred nature of the sport. This is just one example of the influence that Shinto has on sumo. Photo by Maj. Giuseppe A. Stavale

or demoted based on their performance; however, only the yokozuna cannot be demoted. A yokozuna will always be and hold the title yokozuna until he retires from the sport.

The word yokozuna means horizontal rope which refers to the tsuna, or rope, that is worn by the yokozuna. The tsuna resembles the shimenawa used in Shinto to mark something sacred and has an interesting history as to why it is bestowed upon a rikishi. This, along with other historical and modern aspects about the yokozuna makes an excellent self-study topic while exploring sumo.

When watching sumo in person or on television you will notice a parade of banners. The banners are paid for by sponsors for advertising. The payment includes placing prize money on the match for which their banner has been paraded. Each banner represents 60,000 yen, in which 30,000 yen is marked for the Japan Sumo Association (which covers retirement costs and other fees), and the other 30,000 yen is placed in the envelope which is presented to the winner of the actual match.

Next time you watch sumo, pay close attention to the number of banners paraded for a particular match, especially if two yokozunas are facing each other in a match, and multiply the number of banners by 30,000 yen and you can calculate the total cash the winning rikishi will take home.

Sumo connoisseurs appreciate the tradition and continuity this sport contributes to Japanese culture, which has endured under the same rules, more or less, for centuries. However, just like other aspects of Japanese life, sumo has its contradictions to tradition, many of which have been positive toward promoting the sport internationally.

In recent years many foreigners have entered professional sumo, something unthinkable in the past. Sumo pioneers such as American-born Akebono Taro contributed toward sparking this interest by being the first non-Japanese-born wrestler to earn the title of yokozuna in 1993.

Just as a country's theater and literature can assist in understanding its culture, sports and local pastimes can do the same. No matter your tour length in Japan, consider viewing sumo in person during one of the grand sumo tournaments in mainland Japan. For more information on venues, schedules and ticket prices, visit <http://www.sumo.or.jp/en/index>.

Stavale is the law enforcement integration and anti-terrorism/force protection officer in charge with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and a Japan foreign area officer.

An audience watches Sumo wrestlers, or rikishi, begin a match recently at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Hall. Before a match, sumo wrestlers execute traditional movements, which are actually ancient rituals. For example, upon entering the ring, each rikishi will clap their hands as they would at an actual Shinto shrine to get the attention of the deity at that shrine. Photo by Maj. Giuseppe A. Stavale



In Theaters Now

JAN. 17-23

FOSTER

TODAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Frozen (PG), noon; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 3 & (3-D) 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Frozen (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Lone Survivor (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Frozen (PG), 1:30 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Frozen (PG), 1 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 7 & 10 p.m.
SUNDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), noon; Frozen (PG), 3 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6 & 9 p.m.
MONDAY Frozen (PG), noon; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 3 & 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Frozen (PG), 4:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13), 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Frozen (PG), 4:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 7:30 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 6 & 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 3 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 3 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Lone Survivor (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Lone Survivor (R), 4 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Lone Survivor (R), 4 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSEY

TODAY Lone Survivor (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 1 & (3-D) 3:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
MONDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 4 p.m.; Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Lone Survivor (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Lone Survivor (R), 6 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Legend of Hercules (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Lone Survivor (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Lone Survivor (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 KINSEY 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

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



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

• SMP will provide transportation Jan. 25 to the Cherry Blossom Festival. Foster Field House: noon; Futenma Semper Fit Gym: 12:20 p.m.; Kinser gym: 12:50 p.m.; Courtney gym: 1 p.m.; Hansen House of Pain: 1:30 p.m.; Schwab gym: 2 p.m. Sign up with the SMP office by Jan. 22.

SOUTHERN HILLS ICE SKATING TRIP

• Spend your afternoon on ice or doing another activity with SMP Feb. 1 at the Southern Hills Sports Complex. A bus will pick up participants at Camp Schwab Semper Fit Gym: 11 a.m.; Camp Hansen Semper Fit Gym: 11:25 a.m.; and Camp Courtney: noon. Sign up with the SMP office by Jan. 29.

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



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Moichido onegaishimasu.”

(pronounced: moh-ee-chee-doh on-neh-gah-ee-shee-mahs)

It means “One more time please.”

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Words have meaning



Lt. Barrett Craig
3RD SUPPLY BATTALION CHAPLAIN

350 words. I get 350 words to say something meaningful, thought-provoking, yet spiritual and encouraging. 350 words – and these words accumulate quickly! At every click, every hit of my spacebar, I am one word closer to my limit.

Most of us social junkies know that social media restrains our word limits, too. Twitter famously keeps our profound tweets to 140 characters, which average out to about a whopping 15 words. Facebook, on the other hand, allows us to unleash our verbal dam with 63,206 characters, probably around 10,000 words. In five posts, you could write a book!

350 words, however, is not an unreasonable number to communicate a life-changing message. Abraham Lincoln riveted the country in 2 minutes, heralding human equality and the advance of freedom in 272 words during the “Gettysburg Address.” William Shakespeare captivated our hearts through 116 words to communicate the deep love between

“Romeo and Juliet.” Psy captured our attention causing us to sing and dance to a song we didn’t even understand in his 272 words of “Gangnam Style.” Certainly more memorable, however, was when at Mount Sinai God, through Moses, gave the people of Israel some of the most piercing 324 words in all of history – the “Ten Commandments.”

350 words. What would you write if you had 17 score and 10 words? Could you say something meaningful, thought-provoking, yet spiritual and encouraging? Would you seek to offer a new and fresh idea or reiterate an old one? Would you be lighthearted, or would you give gravity to your words? It’s not an easy task.

What would I do in 350 words? I would probably use them to draw attention to one word, a word I am persuaded gives true joy and ultimate hope, but a word so controversial one might be rejected for aligning with it. And I believe it’s more than a word, I believe it’s a word who out of love became man, lived perfectly, died for sin, and resurrected on the third day to provide salvation for all who would trust him – that one word is Jesus.

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”