

OKINAWA MARINE

FEBRUARY 1, 2013

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ROK Marine leader visits

Pfc. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP GONSALVES — Lt. Gen. Ho Yeon Lee, the commandant of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, visited Okinawa Jan. 29 to tour Marine Corps installations and discuss future training between the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps.

During his visit, Lee met with senior Marine Corps leaders on Okinawa in an effort to facilitate further bilateral training between the two nations' Marine Corps and had the opportunity to fly in an MV-22B Osprey.

"I was really looking forward to getting on board an Osprey," said Lee. "As I expected, the Osprey was quieter and smoother than other military aircraft I've flown in, and has the high level of safety see **ROKCMC** pg 5



Republic of Korea Marine Lt. Gen. Ho Yeon Lee discusses the purpose of the Jungle Warfare Training Center with Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. Jan. 29 during a visit to the center at Camp Gonsalves. Lee was also briefed on the MV-22B Osprey and its capabilities and had the opportunity to fly in an Osprey. Lee is the commandant of the ROK Marine Corps. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Mike Granahan

Talleri receives National Safety Council award

1st Lt. Gregory Carroll
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, was recognized by the National Safety Council as a recipient of the 2013 CEOs Who "Get It" award Jan. 17.

The annual awards recognize business leaders who demonstrate commitment to world-class safety practices.

The NSC selected award winners who excel in leadership and employee engagement, sound safety processes and procedures, continuous risk reduction, and measuring and improving performance.

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Ospreys conduct low-altitude training in Philippines

1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

ANTONIO BAUTISTA AIR BASE, Philippines — Three MV-22B Ospreys and approximately 30 Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 conducted low-altitude flight training here Jan. 23-24, marking the Marine Corps' first Osprey training in the Republic of the Philippines.

The Marines flew routes approved by the Philippine government and used during previous flight training exercises. The flights also marked the first low-altitude training the squadron has conducted since arriving to Okinawa.

"The flights we conducted are important for our pilots and crews to maintain proficiency," said Maj. Joshua T. Fraser, the operations officer for VMM-265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The routes here provide a great venue for low-altitude training."

Philippine Air Force members accompanied Marines on the flights, providing an see **PHILIPPINES** pg 5



An MV-22 Osprey prepares for take off for night low-altitude training Jan. 24 on Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines. Ospreys conducted day and night low-altitude training Jan. 23-24 in the Republic of the Philippines, marking the Marine Corps' first Osprey training in the Republic of the Philippines and the first low-altitude training the pilots and crew have conducted since the aircraft's Oct. 2012 arrival to Okinawa. The Osprey is with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

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Super Bowl XLVII: Who will win?

Balance key to victory

Experience equals title

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

Ahhh, the annual, great January debate is upon us – Who will win the Super Bowl? There is no argument this year. The Baltimore Ravens do not stand a chance.

If you asked a Ravens fan why their team was going to win the Super Bowl, you would get a one-word answer – defense. If you posed the same question to a 49ers fan, they would most likely say their all around superior team. So who is correct?

This season, the 49ers 3rd-ranked defense held opponents to a mere 17.1 points and 294.4 total yards per game, while the Ravens 17th-ranked defense allowed 21.5 points and a whopping 350.9 yards per game.

Once you let a Ravens fan ponder that for a moment, they would probably tell you about their team's 16-6 victory over the 49ers in the 2011 regular season. However, two major factors will decide this long-anticipated rematch – the aging and ongoing recovery of Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis from significant injury and the playmaking ability of 49ers rookie quarterback sensation Colin Kaepernick.

At 37, Ray Lewis, the former all-pro linebacker, is not what he used to be. He recorded just 57 tackles and one sack this regular season and missed games due to injury. Meanwhile, all-pro linebackers Patrick Willis, Aldon Smith and NaVarro Bowman of the 49ers combined for an unbelievable 335 tackles and 22 sacks.

Despite spending the first half of the season on the bench, Kaepernick has looked like a veteran in the postseason, leading the 49ers offense to an astonishing average of 476 yards per game. Meanwhile, Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco has failed his team in its quest for a Super Bowl the past four years.

Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers will cruise and bring the 49ers record in Super Bowls to a perfect 6-0, reasserting themselves as an NFL powerhouse while leaving the Ravens and Jim's older brother, John, nursing broken wings.

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

In a battle of brother against brother, John Harbaugh and the Baltimore Ravens will be Super Bowl victors.

The writing is already on the wall. The older brother with extensive National Football League coaching experience and a veteran squad will show his second-year head coach brother the NFL is built around experience and stout defense.

The pistol offense, a novel new scheme that blurs the line between a passing and power running formation, helped the 49ers on their path to the Super Bowl. The scheme was popularized by the alma mater of the 49ers starting quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Look for Kaepernick and the pistol to follow in the footsteps of other gimmicky offenses and fizzle out on the big stage.

Additionally, the 49ers defense has descended to mediocrity, allowing 27.5 points per game during the playoffs, up 10.4 points from their regular season average.

Success in the NFL is not built around feel-good stories of younger brothers making good in their coaching debut, second-string quarterbacks stealing the hearts of the nation, highlight-reel plays or revolutionary offenses – it is the result of steady perseverance and development of a team.

John Harbaugh stepped in as the Ravens' head coach five years ago and has led his team to the playoffs each year.

Proven locker room leaders such as Ed Reed, a seven-time all-pro safety, and Ray Lewis, a probable future hall of fame linebacker, have the experience and confidence to play their best games and inspire teammates on the biggest stage in professional football.

The Ravens have the experience, talent and desire to make this a one-sided game. Expect Lewis, whose first sack as an NFL rookie was against 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh when he was a quarterback, to prove once again he is one of the all-time great competitors in sports and earn his second Super Bowl most valuable player recognition in a Ravens victory.

THE
AROUND
CORPS



An AV-8B Harrier sits on the deck of the USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) Jan. 22 while at sea during integration training between Amphibious Squadron 4 and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 26th MEU operates continuously across the globe, providing a forward-deployed, sea-based quick reaction force for the U.S. The Harrier is assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 (Rein), 26th MEU. Photo by Cpl. Kyle N. Runnels

A Marine Corps color guard participates in the opening ceremony of the Grand Rapids Pond Hockey Classic Jan. 25 at Reeds Lake in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Marines braved sub-zero temperatures and fierce winds to present the colors on the frozen surface of the lake, where the classic was held Jan. 25-27. The Marines are with Recruiting Station Lansing and Recruiting Substations Grand Rapids North and South. Photo by Sgt. Kevin Maynard



OKINAWA MARINE

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Pillar-raising ceremonies lead up to Cobra Gold 2013

Staff Sgt. Kenneth G. Lewis

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PHITSANULOK, Thailand — Five schools throughout the Kingdom of Thailand hosted pillar-raising ceremonies Jan. 22 to dedicate the construction sites of new buildings each school will receive as part of several ongoing engineering civic assistance projects during Exercise Cobra Gold 2013.

While the exercise officially begins Feb. 11, ENCAPS started earlier to ensure the buildings are complete before the exercise concludes Feb. 21. Cobra Gold is an annual Thailand-U.S. co-sponsored multinational, multiservice exercise that includes participating forces from Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia and observers from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pillar-raising ceremonies, known as “Yok Sao Eak,” meaning “standing up the first pillar,” are designed and performed by community and religious leaders to bless the building for good luck and longevity, according to Capt. Annop Krataitong the chief of the construction site at Ban Wang Hau Krang School and member of Maung district Mobile Development Unit 34, Royal Thai Army.

Service members with the Royal Thai Army, Singapore Army and U.S. Marines, sailors and soldiers have been working side-by-side to provide a brighter future for children and community members.

“This new building is very good for our school,” said Somchai Intang, the principal at Ban Khao Rai Sriracha School in the Wat Bot district. “We currently have 67 students, and with this new addition we will be able to allow more children to attend the school.”

The children have been anxiously waiting for the projects to begin, and Intang took full advantage of their eager attitudes.

“The children have been really excited waiting for their new building,” said Intang. “We started teaching them English, so they could interact more with the soldiers.”

The excitement does not stop with the youth, as parents and community members are equally thrilled to see the structural upgrades.

“Everyone will be able to use



Singapore, Thailand and U.S. service members center a pillar for a new school structure during a pillar-raising ceremony Jan. 22 at Ban Hua Wang Krang School, Maung district, Phitsanulok province, Kingdom of Thailand. The construction is part of several ongoing engineering civic assistance projects leading up to the commencement of Exercise Cobra Gold 2013. The Thai service members are with the Mobile Development Unit 34, Development Command, Royal Thai Army. The Singapore service members are combat engineers with the Singapore Army. The U.S. service members are with the 643rd Engineer Company (Vertical), 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose Lujano

the new buildings as multipurpose rooms,” said Noppharat Sakkong, a village leader in the Wat Bot district.

While the work is exhausting, service members realize their effort produces rewarding results.

“One of the great things about being an engineer is building something that will have a lasting impact,” said U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Michael R. Banks, a general engineer with the Washington National Guard’s 176th Engineer Company (Vertical) and the officer in charge of the project at Khao Rai Sriracha School. “It is extremely fulfilling to be a part of something like this and help put smiles on hundreds of faces.”

Each country’s service members are taking full advantage of the opportunity to learn each other’s profession and way of life.

“Being able to work with not just one nation, but several, provides opportunities for enhancement and development,” said Krataitong. “We come together not only to work alongside our counterparts and enhance our job knowledge, but to experience each other’s culture to better understand each other.”

The buildings will officially be dedicated during ceremonies near the conclusion of CG 13. For Saditha Kudmun, an 11-year-old student

at Khao Rai Sriracha School who dreams of becoming an English teacher, that time cannot come soon enough.

“My friends and I are so happy we will have this new building,” said Kudmun. “We can’t wait to use our new rooms.”

Cobra Gold 2013 is the exercise’s 32nd iteration, scheduled to be held in various areas throughout the Kingdom of Thailand. The exercise will consist of a staff exercise, various senior leader engagements, a field training exercise and humanitarian and civic assistance projects.

Other military units conducting the civic assistance projects are elements of the Royal Thai Air Force and Marine Corps, Republic of Korea Marine Corps, Indonesia National Armed Forces, Malaysian Armed Forces, the U.S. Army’s 643rd Engineer Company (Vertical), U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 and various III Marine Expeditionary Force units.

The projects, which are coordinated and supported by the combined joint civil military operations task force, are progressing steadily, according to U.S. Marine Maj. Jared C. Voneida, the deputy commander for CJCMOTF during CG 13.

“All of the pillar-raising ceremonies went well, and now we get to settle in and accomplish our mission,” said Voneida.

BRIEFS

AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK RENOVATION TO TEMPORARILY ALTER SERVICES

AFN-Okinawa is scheduled to undergo building renovation that will affect most of AFN’s services Feb. 1 - April 1.

Radio and television channels will be off the air Feb. 1 for system maintenance. Super Bowl coverage should not be affected.

Starting Feb. 2, WAVE 89.1 and SURF 648 AM radio signals will begin airing the same programming. There will be no talk radio or other recorded programming. It will be local, live radio or Joe Radio via satellite. This could last until April 1.

From mid-February through April 1, the FM radio signal will be temporarily off the air. Listeners can still tune into AFN Okinawa programming on SURF 648 AM and receive important updates at www.Facebook.com/Wave89.

For more details or to contact AFN Okinawa, send an email to det11-afn.radio@us.af.mil.

TAX CENTERS OPEN FEB. 4

The tax centers at Camps Foster and Hansen will open Feb. 4 to provide free tax advice, preparation and electronic filing to all SOFA personnel, retired military members, and family members of deceased active-duty and retired military members.

Tax payers can schedule an appointment or walk-in.

For more details or to schedule an appointment, call 645-4829 or 623-4177.

Tsunami Warning System Testing



- **Test:** On every Friday at noon, an audible test message
- **Alert:** On the last Friday of every month at noon, the following sequence will be heard: test message, then alert message, then test message
- **Where:** All Marine Corps installations and White Beach Naval Facility.

Cambodia, US personnel share surgical techniques

Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and U.S. Navy medical personnel conducted a subject-matter expert exchange Jan. 23-24 at the Phnom Penh Preah Ket Mealea Hospital during Cambodia Medical Exercise 13-1.

The RCAF and U.S. Navy have conducted medical exercises together since 2007. The purpose of this year's exercise is to share expertise, ideas and further develop both militaries' medical capabilities.

"I was curious to see their operating room and how things work in Cambodia," said U.S. Navy Lt. Kim Nguyen, a general surgeon with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Being here, we're able to foster relationships and exchange information, experiences and expertise."

With medical practices and techniques constantly changing, developing and improving, Nguyen and the other medical personnel feel the continued collaboration among health professionals is needed to remain on the cutting edge of healthcare.

"We are sharing how we create uses for our equipment to overcome (challenges)," said Royal Cambodian Army Col. Vuthy Long, a general surgeon at the hospital. "We may have old equipment, but it is still good and helps patients."

On this particular day, the hospital did not have a chest tube apparatus and a patient needed one.



U.S. Navy Lt. Kim Nguyen, left, observes as Royal Cambodian Armed Forces surgeons operate on a patient Jan. 24 at the Phnom Penh Preah Ket Mealea Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during Cambodia Medical Exercise 13-1. "It's inspiring to see the doctors overcome the challenges they face every day," said Nguyen. "They are aware they are sometimes short on resources, but modify their care and techniques for the good of patients." The U.S. service members are working alongside Royal Cambodian Armed Forces medical personnel during subject-matter expert exchanges to increase Cambodia and U.S. medical capability, capacity and interoperability. Nguyen is a general surgeon with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

In order to save the patient's life, a Cambodian doctor improvised and constructed a water seal and suction device powered by a hydraulic pump, which was brought in from a local farm.

"It's inspiring to see the doctors overcome the challenges here," said Nguyen. "They are aware that their resources sometimes fall short, but they modify their care to adapt."

This exercise is beneficial for many reasons, according to Cambodian military officials.

"This is a great opportunity (for our patients)," said RCA Lt. Gen. Sovan Ly, director of the hospital. "We can also practice our English, and develop friendships."

The U.S. service members and RCAF medical personnel will continue to conduct subject-matter

expert exchanges to increase Cambodian and U.S. medical capabilities, capacities and interoperability.

"I look forward to seeing the U.S. in the future because this is a good opportunity," said Long. "We can work together and learn from each other and exchange experiences. We are in a developing country, and we can work with other countries to support our patients."

Driving distracted dangerous, results in severe consequences

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Narrow lanes, large buses, crowded streets and school zones make it important for drivers to pay close attention and maintain their focus when driving on the roads of Okinawa.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific safety offices are taking steps to ensure service members are focused on driving by implementing the distracted and impaired driving campaign.

"Inattentive driving is a major cause of accidents on Okinawa," said Lawrence J. Jacobs Jr., the safety director for MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "One of the biggest causes of inattentive driving is texting, so it is important to enforce that texting or talking on the phone while driving is illegal."

However, distracted driving does not always mean the driver is on their phone.

"While texting is a major cause of inattentive driving, (the Provost Marshal's Office) will often see people eating, reading or putting on makeup while they are driving," said Jacobs. "Anything

that takes drivers' eyes off the road is considered being distracted."

If a driver is pulled over for any kind of distracted driving, they will receive a citation, according to Staff Sgt. Robert J. Hubauer, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of accident investigation PMO, MCB Camp Butler. Once they have received a citation, their command will take punitive action, and they will have to attend traffic court, where a judge will determine their punishment.

"The judge can choose to assign a variety of punishments depending on the severity of the offense," said Hubauer. "Some receive a ticket and have to attend a driver's course, while others will have their driver's license suspended or revoked."

One of the punishments given by traffic court is the remedial driver's course.

"Individuals are assigned to attend this course by the base inspector or a judge during traffic court," said Paul E. Green, an instructor for the course. "People may volunteer to take the course through the base safety office, but it is mainly for individuals who receive traffic citations."

The course is meant to refresh participants

on the rules of the road and some of the things they need to look out for, according to Aaron Davis, the supervisory occupational safety and health specialist with the MCIPAC safety office and an instructor for the course.

"The purpose of this course is to practice good driving habits," said Davis. "We want people to realize why they were sent to the course and make sure they do not drive distracted again."

The course also covers driving under the influence, unsafe reversing, moving violations, running stop signs, and other reasons participants are attending.

"When I teach the course, I start by asking every participant why they are there," said Davis. "I write all of the answers on a board and check them off as the course goes on. I want to ensure I cover every topic they are there for."

The course teaches the participants the correct way to operate a vehicle, according to Davis.

"The most important thing we are trying to do is show everyone the risks of driving distracted," said Green. "We share the road with other drivers, and we are reminding the students of this course that driving safe is everyone's responsibility."

Military Saves Campaign engages Marines' personal finance, debt, goals



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri signs the proclamation for the 2013 Military Saves Campaign Jan. 29 at Marine Corps Installations Pacific headquarters on Camp Foster. The year-round campaign's goal is to engage Marines and their families on personal finance topics such as debt reduction and elimination, investing, saving for college education, tax savings and transition and retirement planning. The campaign's theme this year is "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically," and Feb. 25 to Mar. 2 has been designated Military Saves Week as an opportunity for leaders at all levels to motivate and educate service members and families on financial topics. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case*

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"It is an honor for the council to recognize this year's distinguished group of CEOs Who 'Get It'" said Janet Froetscher, NSC president and CEO. "The strong examples these leaders have set in living the journey and protecting their employees is something we hope all business leaders will follow."

The eight individuals selected to receive the award represent national and multinational organizations of all sizes from a wide variety of industries, including the Marine Corps.

"Safety is an essential part of everything the Marine Corps does to ensure mission accomplishment, which includes training, deployments, recreation and day-to-day business," said Talleri. "Having a robust safety program to ensure the

safety and welfare of all employees and family members is a key element that supports the warfighter."

Talleri is the first Marine to be recognized with the award. He took command of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler July 23, 2010. MCIPAC consists of installations located throughout the Asia-Pacific region to include Hawaii, the Republic of Korea, Okinawa and mainland Japan.

"Our employees are our most valued asset, and leadership must ensure they have the right tools to perform the job, as well as ensure they are working in a safe environment," Talleri said.

To ensure MCIPAC maintains its high safety standards, an annual commanding general inspection program is in place to

inspect each installation's safety program.

"The MCIPAC safety office conducts an annual assessment using an in-depth inspection checklist to measure the effectiveness of safety programs implemented," said Lawrence J. Jacobs, the safety director for MCIPAC. "We work hard to put sound safety procedures in place before there is a safety issue."

Additional Marine Corps safety programs include traffic safety, confined space operations, operational risk management, range and explosives safety, off-duty recreation, heat injury prevention, hearing conservation and industrial safety.

For additional information about Talleri's award, view his profile in the February 2013 issue of Safety and Health magazine or by visiting www.nsc.org.

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opportunity to familiarize themselves with the aircraft and learn about its capabilities firsthand from the pilots and crew.

"It was exciting to fly in the Osprey and experience what it can do," said Tech. Sgt. Edwin Agang, operations chief for 570th Composite Tactical Wing, PAF. "The Marines flew by the same rules and regulations the Philippine Air Force abides by and used similar routes to those flown by our aircraft."

Marines also briefed PAF personnel on the capabilities of the MV-22 Osprey and gave tours of static displays of the aircraft, emphasizing its ability to support diverse missions including combat, disaster relief and noncombatant evacuation operations.

"We appreciated the Marines coming down and taking time to discuss the Osprey with us, answer our questions, and provide us tours,"

said Agang. "We are glad to host them at our base and look forward to future bilateral training opportunities with the U.S. Marines."

The low-altitude training the Marines conducted is critical for the squadron's pilots and the crew, according to Fraser.

"Pilots may have to fly at low altitudes for a variety of reasons, from evading detection by enemy aircraft and radar to locating and evacuating casualties or delivering troops and supplies," said Fraser. "The assigned mission and terrain will dictate altitudes for flight, so it is important Osprey pilots train at low altitudes."

The squadron was able to meet all its goals for its first training evolution in the Republic of the Philippines, conducting both day and night low-altitude flights. The Marines look forward to returning for future training alongside Philippine Armed Forces personnel, according to Fraser.

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needed to conduct operations. The Osprey's operational range can contribute to successful bilateral operations. We hope to continue training with the aircraft and U.S. Marines, and we want to learn more about how they employ the Osprey."

Lee flew in an Osprey to the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves, where he spoke with Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, about the center's purpose and received rappelling and water-crossing demonstrations from course instructors.

"Since both our Marine Corps conduct training together so often and with a variety of equipment and personnel, we are always ready to operate side by side, no matter the terrain or type of operation," said Lee.

The alliance between the U.S. and The Republic of Korea dates back to the 1950s, and grows stronger every day, said Lt. Col. Larry A. Bailey, the Korea exercise officer for III MEF.

"We supplement each other's abilities very well, and we learn just as much from them as they do from us," said Bailey. "The best attributes from both of our respective Marine Corps are merged, making us both stronger."

The relationship between the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps continues to grow through the frequent training exercises, discussions and visits continuously conducted throughout the year, according to Lee.

"We consider the relationship between the Republic of Korea Marine Corps and the United States Marine Corps to be more like a brotherhood," said Lee. "The other services in the ROK military are envious of how close-knit our Marines are, and we will continue to enhance our interoperability and strengthen the relationship between our Marines."



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., silhouetted on the left, discusses Marine Corps installations throughout Okinawa Jan. 29 with Republic of Korea Marine Corps distinguished visitors aboard an MV-22B Osprey. Glueck also discussed the strong relationship between the two nations' Marine Corps and emphasized the importance of bilateral training between the U.S. and ROK. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Pfc. Mike Granahan*

Artillerymen receive assault amphibio

Story and photos by
Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with 12th Marine Regiment received assault amphibious vehicle familiarization training with members of Combat Assault Battalion Jan. 24 in the North Fuji Maneuver Area at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji on mainland Japan.

The training was part of Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2, a regimental artillery exercise taking place at CATC Camp Fuji throughout

January and February.

“Each week, we conduct route patrols with our AAVs while we are training at Fuji, so we invited some of the Marines from 12th Marine Regiment to go on the patrol with us,” said Cpl. Christopher M. Ault, an AAV crew chief with CAB, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “While on the patrol, we took contact from Marines acting as oppositional forces and were able to display how a convoy of AAVs responds to hostile forces.”

The patrol was an excellent way to demonstrate the capabilities of

AAVs to the artillerymen, according to Staff Sgt. Alan E. Simmons, a howitzer section chief with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

“I was able to spend most of the patrol in the troop commander’s seat, which allowed me to observe how the driver operates the vehicle, how the weapons turret functions, and how the convoy reacts and maneuvers when ambushed,” said Simmons.

The Marines with CAB familiarized the artillerymen through

instruction and firsthand experience with the AAVs.

“At one point, the convoy reached a landing zone in the maneuver area,” said Simmons. “We dismounted the vehicles there and the crew members gave us a period of instruction on the driving controls for an AAV. Following

Assault amphibious vehicle crew members instruct Pfc. Nathan E. Craig, center, on how to operate an AAV Jan. 24 in the North Fuji Maneuver Area at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji on mainland Japan. Marines with Combat Assault Battalion provided artillerymen the opportunity to experience the capabilities of AAVs firsthand. Craig is a motor transport operator with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The AAV crew members are with CAB, 3rd Marine Division.



us vehicle familiarization at Camp Fuji

that period of instruction, the crew chiefs then gave our Marines the opportunity to drive the AAVs under their supervision.”

The opportunity to operate an AAV came as a surprise to most of the Marines, according to Pfc. Nathan E. Craig, a motor transport operator with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment.

“There was not a single Marine who passed on the chance to drive,” said Craig. “As a motor transport operator, I mostly drive 7-ton trucks. Before I joined the Marine Corps, I operated bulldozers and other heavy equipment, so I was interested to

learn how to drive the AAV.”

The familiarization on AAV operations and capabilities was beneficial for all the Marines involved, as it will aid in future operations and training between the regiment and battalion, according to Ault.

“Training together helps us know what type of fire support we can call in from the regiment and what kind of support we can provide them with our AAVs,” said Ault. “Ultimately, this type of training is effective because it provides the chance to experience Marine Corps’ capabilities outside of a Marine’s daily job and strengthens our ability to fight as one team.”



Cpl. Christopher M. Ault provides rear security during an assault amphibious vehicle patrol Jan. 24 in the North Fuji Maneuver Area at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji on mainland Japan. During the patrol, Ault instructed Marines with 12th Marine Regiment on AAV capabilities and operations. Ault is an AAV crew chief with Combat Assault Battalion. Both units are part of 3rd Marine Division.





Communities strengthen bonds during local festival

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Through the smell of traditional Okinawa foods and the sight of blossoming cherry trees, Okinawa residents, service members and families alike listened to the sounds of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band performing Jan. 27 at the 51st annual Nago Cherry Blossom Festival at Nago

Central Park.

“Every year, the band comes to interact with the public in support of the festival,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jesse G. Gerhardt, the operations chief for the III MEF Band and trumpet section leader. “This festival is a great way for us to strengthen our relationship and build camaraderie between the local community and the U.S. Marine Corps through music.”



Audience members applaud following the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band's ceremonial band performance Jan. 27 at the 51st annual Nago Cherry Blossom Festival at Nago Central Park. The festival is held annually to celebrate the cherry blossom season and includes a variety of cultural food, games and stage performances.



Audience members watch as Gunnery Sgt. Shannon L. Farquhar conducts the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band's ceremonial band Jan. 27 at the 51st annual Nago Cherry Blossom Festival at Nago Central Park. The band performed at the festival as a way for the local and military communities to build relationships and celebrate the cherry blossom season.

Hearing the band perform is an enjoyable experience for the local residents, according to Yoshinori Kinjo, a Nago resident who attended the festival.

“The music of the III MEF Band brings me back to the old days, when I used to listen to marching music like this,” said Kinjo. “The sound is marvelous. The participation from the Marines is a great way to bring our communities together.”

At the festival, attendees could purchase traditional foods and drinks from vendors and play a variety of cultural games while viewing the cherry

blossom trees and Nago Castle ruins.

“This is our second year attending the festival,” said Lt. Col. Chris Dalton, the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-4, supply and logistics, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. “It's a great chance to experience the culture and the food. This is a very relaxing and enjoyable experience.”

Farther down the street, music and various cultural performances were featured, including the III MEF Band's ceremonial band.

“Since this is an annual event, we always like to be here,” said

Ayako Kinjo, Yoshinori Kinjo's wife. “I always look forward to the (III MEF Band's performance) when we come here. It is something we always have to see.”

With all the various ways to celebrate the emergence of the cherry blossoms, the 51st annual Nago Cherry Blossom Festival was a great experience for everyone, according to Dalton.

“We love the III MEF Band,” said Dalton. “They show the people of Okinawa a lighter side of the Marine Corps, and I really feel like events like this bring the local and military communities closer together.”



LESSONS LEARNED

Cpl. Neil N. Sookdeo teaches Marines with various III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific units a proper prone shooting position during the Far East Division Matches Jan. 23 at Camp Schwab. The Marine Corps Shooting Team travels to every division match, Far East in Okinawa, Pacific in Hawaii, Western in Camp Pendleton and Eastern in Camp Lejeune, to teach Marines advanced shooting techniques for both pistol and rifle marksmanship. Sookdeo is a small-arms weapons instructor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, Weapons Training Battalion, Training Command, Training and Education Command.

Corps shooting team teaches marksmanship

Story and photos by Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Being recognized as the best at anything is an accomplishment in itself. Being recognized as the best shooters in the Marine Corps is an honor some consider second to none.

Members of the Marine Corps Shooting Team traveled from Marine Corps Base Quantico to Okinawa to teach Marines with various III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific units proper shooting techniques during the Far East Division Matches Jan. 18-31 at Camp Schwab.

The Marine Corps Shooting Team consists of marksmen handpicked from the Corps' top shots as demonstrated through exceptional performance at shooting competitions.

"We travel to every division match: Far East in Okinawa, Pacific in Hawaii, Western in Camp Pendleton and Eastern in Camp Lejeune," said Gunnery Sgt. Heath A. Fernald, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, Weapons Training Battalion, Training Command, Training and Education Command. "Our mission is to teach advanced fundamentals in marksmanship and make sure the division matches are kept within the standards of the competition-in-arms program for small-arms competition."

As part of their duty during division-level matches, the shooting team makes sure competitors know what goes into taking a well-aimed shot, according to Fernald. The competition is about learning and applying advanced shooting techniques, and the team taught the Marines everything from basic positions to proper trigger control.

"Over the course of the match, we taught Marines basic fundamentals such as muscle relaxation, proper bone support, shooting positions, grip alignment, sight alignment and sight picture," said Fernald. "If Marines



Cpl. Neil N. Sookdeo, center, teaches a shooter the proper pistol shooting position during the Far East Division Matches Jan. 23 at Camp Schwab. Over the course of the match, the Marine Corps Shooting Team taught Marines basic fundamentals such as trigger control, muscular relaxation, bone support, position, grip alignment, sight alignment and sight picture. Sookdeo is a small-arms weapons instructor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team.

master all these shooting techniques, they will be successful, but it's their job to find what works."

Repetition is everything, according to Staff Sgt. Jonathan E. Shue, a small-arms weapons instructor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team. Since the courses of fire are different from standard rifle and pistol qualifications, such as requiring 20 shots from the standing position, a magazine change during rapid fire, and firing the pistol with only one hand, it is very important to find a rhythm, so every shot is the same and the rounds impact on target.

"There are multiple ways to hold the rifle," said Shue. "Marines should always place the butt stock of the rifle in the same place in their shoulder every time they shoot."

A problem some Marines have is jerking the trigger, meaning they are anticipating their shot and pulling back too hard, according to Cpl. Neil N. Sookdeo, a small-arms

weapons instructor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team.

"This can be fixed by placing the trigger on the joint of their index finger and slowly pressing back until the round fires," said Sookdeo. "Being completely relaxed is the key to great shooting. If the Marines want to succeed, they need to be consistent and stress-free."

While the competitors take what they learn and apply it to the competition, the instructors hope they also go back to their units and teach the Marines around them the advanced techniques and fundamentals they learned here, according to Fernald.

"More Marines need to get involved in this competition to see how important and valuable this is to the Marine Corps and individual Marines," said Fernald. "It's a competition that breeds excellence."

The Far East Division Matches concluded Jan. 30. Results will be published Feb. 8.



Tristen McElroy, No. 20 of the Kubasaki Dragons, leaps toward the rim for a layup against the Ginowan Red Hawks Jan. 26 during the opening round of the Okinawan-American Friendship Basketball Tournament 2013 at Risner Gym on Kadena Air Base. The Dragons narrowly won their game against the Red Hawks and took home the third-place trophy for the tournament.

Tournament builds friendships

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Service members, civilian employees and their families commonly experience local culture while stationed in Okinawa by visiting tourist and historic sites throughout the prefecture.

However, the hardwood floors of the basketball court can provide the same opportunity to build friendships as the castles and street festivals of Okinawa.

Four Okinawan and two American high school boys and girls basketball teams competed in the seventh annual Okinawan-American Friendship Basketball Tournament Jan. 26-27 at Risner Gym on Kadena Air Base.

"The purpose of the tournament is to encourage cultural awareness and friendship through sports," said Frederick Bales, the tournament director and athletic director at Kubasaki High School. "It provides an opportunity for a large group of young people to communicate for a weekend through the language of basketball, which they all speak.

"These young people's lives will be permanently and positively impacted by their experiences at this tournament."

Children of military families aside, there are relatively few high school-aged students who can say they played in an international sports tournament, let alone that they lived in another country, according to John R. Fick, the head basketball coach at Kubasaki High School.

"It's a great tournament for all the kids playing," said Fick. "Although Okinawa culture classes are taught in the classroom, events like this tournament are much better because the kids get to experience it firsthand."

Even though the tournament is highly competitive, the players relish the opportunity to learn about each other and develop friendships.

"I was amazed with how tall and strong the American players were," said Kan Saisho, a 16-year-old freshman and the team captain for the Konan High School boy's varsity basketball team. "In Okinawa, we don't always get to play teams like this."



Jasmine Rhodes, No. 2 of the Kadena Panthers, aggressively fends off a defender Jan. 27 during the championship game against the Kubasaki Dragons in the Okinawan-American Friendship Basketball Tournament 2013 at Risner Gym on Kadena Air Base. The Kadena High School girls and boys teams both won first place in the tournament.

The Okinawa high school teams sometimes travel to mainland Japan for competition, so this tournament is always a good opportunity to compete and improve, according to Saisho.

When the final whistle blew, it was the Kadena High School boys and girls teams that brought home the first-place trophies.

It was interesting to compare the teams' styles of play and get to know the opposing players, according to Saisho.

"I made some friends from the American teams, and it was fun hanging out with them when we weren't playing," said Saisho. "It was a great tournament, and I look forward to participating again."

Marines, Henoko residents work together to clean up local community

1st Lt. Jeremy A. Croft

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Volunteers young and old, Japanese and American, and military and civilian came together to put in a selfless, hard day's work during a cleanup Jan. 20 for the benefit of the Henoko community in northern Okinawa.

The combined effort of Henoko citizens, members of Boy Scout Troop 102 and Camp Schwab Marines and sailors made the cleanup project a success.

"The scope of this project was truly unprecedented," said Col. Richard D. Hall, the camp commander for Camp Schwab and commanding officer of 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "As Marines, we conduct regular cleanups and other community relations events, but to bring so many different parts of the community together like this is really something special."

The work lasted approximately four hours, and resulted in volunteers removing more than nine truckloads of trash from Matsudano-Hama Beach, Peace Monument Park and a senior citizen's recreation field.

The project was spearheaded by Boy Scout Troop 102, with the Camp Schwab community relations office assisting in coordinating the participation of local Okinawa senior citizens with Yasumasa Oshiro, the District Mayor of Henoko, and Nobuyuki Kinjo, Henoko Senior Citizens Association president.

"Camp Schwab has the privilege of working closely not only with the Boy Scouts, but also with local community leaders," said Fumio Iha, the community relations specialist for Camp Schwab. "This project was something that we all knew would be beneficial, so we decided to combine our efforts."

The cleanup effort took on even more significance because Tokusei Oshiro, the former president of the Henoko Senior Citizens Association and Mayor Oshiro's uncle, passed away Jan. 13. The late Tokusei was a well-respected man in the community, and the volunteers dedicated the cleanup to his memory.

As testimony to the enduring friendship between the service members and the local community, the Marines and sailors of Camp Schwab will donate a plaque to be displayed in the recreation field.

The cleanup will become a semiannual event between service members, Boy Scouts and the local community, according to Hall.

"The Marines and sailors of Camp Schwab, the Boy Scouts of Troop 102 and the hard-working citizens of Henoko deserve all the credit for making this happen," said Hall. "I'm proud to be a part of bringing this community together and continuing the outstanding relationship Camp Schwab has with the citizens of Henoko and other nearby communities."

In Theaters Now

FEBRUARY 1 - 7

FOSTER

TODAY The Last Stand (R), 6 p.m.; Broken City (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; The Last Stand (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 1 p.m.; Parker (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Parker (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Broken City (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Parker (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 2 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 2 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Parker (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY This is 40 (R), 4 p.m.; The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Gangster Squad (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 3 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 3 p.m.; Killing Them Softly (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Parker (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Gangster Squad (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Paranormal Activity 4 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Gangster Squad (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 2 and 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Parker (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Parker (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Killing Them Softly (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Broken City (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, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

ROBSKI'S ULTIMATE GAME SHOW - FEB. 17

• The SMP will be hosting Robski's Ultimate Game Show at the Camp Schwab theater Feb. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Join the fun for your chance to win great prizes!

SMP BUSHIDO MUD RUN - MARCH 30

• Are you ready to challenge both your physical and mental ability by completing a rigorous and empowering obstacle? This year the SMP will host a Bushido Mud Run! Join us March 30th for an unforgettable experience. Are you brave enough? Details coming soon.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"Which Marine was awarded the first Medal of Honor in World War II?"

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which core value is the mental, moral and physical strength ingrained in Marines?

ANSWER: Courage



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Wakarimasen.”

(pronounced: wah-kah-ree-mah-sehn)

It means, “I don't understand.”

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“We must be able to lend a caring ear, even when it seems to be inconvenient for us.”



Everybody needs somebody to listen

Lt. Robert Chapa

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 36,
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

How many of us have been in this situation before? You are just about to leave your work space for a meeting or special function, and an individual walks in at the last minute wanting to talk because there are difficult circumstances going on in their life.

They want to talk with someone right now!

As the conversation starts, you look at your watch because you are being “inconvenienced.” However, as the conversation continues and you begin to listen to that person, you start to understand that this “someone” really does need “somebody” to listen to them.

The situation could be any number of things, a loved one is sick or injured, a family member just passed away, or the person just received a phone call from their boyfriend or girlfriend back home saying their relationship is over.

We must be able to lend a caring ear, even when it seems to be inconvenient for us. By listening, we can support a person through a difficult time and may be able to prevent that person from doing something they might later regret. Regardless of what our schedule is, that person is still coming to us. I'll bet we can all remember at least one time when someone has done the same for us, especially when we needed someone to listen to us.

Let's return the kindness!

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"