

OKINAWA MARINE

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Exercise Cobra Gold officially begins



Royal Thai Marines move up the beach during an amphibious assault rehearsal Feb. 13 at Hat Yao, Kingdom of Thailand, as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2013. The amphibious assault combined the capabilities of Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and elements of the Royal Thai Marine Corps. The purpose of CG 13 is to improve the capability to plan and conduct combined-joint operations and provide an opportunity for participating nations to build relationships and improve interoperability across the range of military operations. Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood

Army Spc. Catherine Sinclair

122ND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OPERATIONS CENTER

CHIANG MAI PROVINCE, Thailand — The opening ceremony for Exercise Cobra Gold 2013 Feb. 11 in Chiang Mai province, Thailand, marked the beginning of the 32nd iteration of the largest multinational exercise in the Asia-Pacific region.

Service members from 15 nations attended the ceremony and are participating in CG 13 to develop greater interoperability among forces, improve relationships, and further develop the ability to solve regional challenges.

The event was presided over by a delegation of Thailand and U.S. leaders, all expressing their excitement about the continued success of Cobra Gold.

“As you know, Cobra Gold has become a truly multinational exercise,” said Royal Thai Army Lt. Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, the Thailand-directed lead of CG 13 and director of joint operations for the Royal Thai Armed Forces. “Its size see **CG13** pg 5

Corps’ top leaders address combat exclusion policy termination

Sgt. Megan Angel

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta officially announced the end of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule excluding women from assignment to units and positions with the primary mission to engage in direct ground combat Jan. 24.

“It’s clear to all of us that women are contributing in unprecedented ways to the military’s mission of defending the nation,” Panetta said. “They’re serving in a growing number of critical roles on and off the battlefield. The fact is, they have become an integral

part of our ability to perform our mission.”

Rescinding the exclusion opens about 237,000 positions to women Department of Defense-wide. Of the DOD total, 54,721 are Marine positions, with 38,445 positions in combat-related military occupational specialties and 15,276 assignments with ground combat units.

“The entire Marine Corps is dedicated to maintaining the highest levels of combat readiness and capitalizing upon every opportunity to enhance our warfighting capabilities and the contributions of every Marine — it’s simply the right thing to do,” said Gen. James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps.

see **CEP** pg 5

Outfitting begins at new Naval Hospital

Brian J. Davis

U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP LESTER — Outfitting and inspections are currently in progress at the new U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa facility on Camp Foster, and planning is underway to transfer hospital operations to the new facility in March.

The new hospital will have the same capabilities as the current facility on Camp Lester.

According to Navy Medicine West detachment officials overseeing the new hospital construction project, the construction stage of the facility is finished, government of Japan inspections are complete, and the building is currently being outfitted

see **HOSPITAL** pg 5

IN THIS ISSUE

INFANTRY, LOGISTICS UNITS HEAD TO GUAM FOR EXERCISE

PG. 4

DEMOLITION TRAINING WITH SPECIALLY SHAPED CHARGES

Specialists learn about the effects of different types of explosives.

PGS. 6-7

SAFETY BOAT COURSE

Instruction familiarizes Marines with operation and upkeep of safety boats to enable future training.

PG. 9

Month recognizes African-Americans, history

I, Too

"I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow,

I'll be at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

Say to me,

'Eat in the kitchen,'

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America."

-Langston Hughes



Cpl. Arvin L. Ghazlo demonstrates a technique for disarming the enemy during recruit training in 1942 at Camp Montford Point, Jacksonville, N.C. *Courtesy photo*

Gunnery Sgt. Madyun M. Shahid

The words above were written by the great American poet Langston Hughes. His words represented the feelings of African-Americans at the beginning of the 20th century, feelings which resounded throughout American society, including the military.

Hughes wrote, "I, Too," in 1925, when segregation was the way of life. Each branch of the military allowed African-Americans to serve as long as they adhered to segregation rules except the Marine Corps,

which had a different policy, and did not allow African-Americans to serve until 1942.

As National African-American History Month, February provides an opportunity to highlight and reflect upon the first group of African-Americans to volunteer to serve in the Marine Corps.

On May 25, 1942, the commandant of the Marine Corps issued formal instructions to begin recruiting qualified "colored male citizens of the United States between the ages of 17 and 29, inclusive, for service in a combat organization."

However, African-Americans in the ranks would be separated based on their skin color under segregation policies.

Those black volunteers the Marine Corps accepted would enter the reserve for the duration of the war plus six months, but their active-duty service would be delayed until the completion of segregated recruit training at Camp Montford Point, Jacksonville, N.C. Some of the new recruits would serve as cooks, clerks and other positions in the day-to-day operations of the racially-exclusive training camp.

These volunteers would later be known as the Montford Point Marines, and some eventually saw combat in the Pacific. Ironically, even though there was a well-trained group of Montford Point Marines, the 51st Defense Battalion, they would only be allowed to serve as orderlies, administrators and logisticians during World War II.

Montford Point was deactivated in 1949. African-American Marines then joined their white counterparts at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., for recruit training and have fought


beside them ever since. The site where Camp Montford Point stood is now known as Camp Johnson after Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, the first African-American drill instructor and one of the earliest African-American Marine enlistees.

The current commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, has embraced the Montford Point Marines and their heritage, awarding several survivors with the Congressional Gold Medal. Amos also added Alonza McLaurin's "The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines," to the commandant's professional reading list, emphasizing the importance of telling the Montford Point Marines' story throughout the Corps.

Take the opportunity during National African-American History Month to do your part in ensuring the Montford Point Marines are remembered as an important part of both African-American and Marine Corps history.

Shahid is the travel staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3rd Marine Logistics Group disbursing office.

AROUND THE CORPS



Pfc. Austin B. Jasper-Martinez provides suppressive fire during company-sized assault training Jan. 31 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., as part of Exercise Iron Fist 2013. During Iron Fist, the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conducted bilateral training to improve interoperability of forces. Jasper-Martinez is a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 13th MEU.

Photo by Sgt. Christopher O'Quin

Marines push logs through freezing-cold water Feb. 8 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., during the Montford Point Challenge competition. Instructors with The Basic School and the staff of Officer Candidates School, both located on MCB Quantico, competed to celebrate the sacrifices and heroism of the Montford Point Marines. The Marines are with artillery instructor battery, TBS, Training Command, Training and Education Command.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Antwaun Jefferson



OKINAWA MARINE

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COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Emanuel K. Melton

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092



Maj. Jason Johnson discusses courses of action for responding to a simulated earthquake with members of the government of Nepal, Nepalese Army and U.S. Army Pacific Feb. 5 in Katmandu, Nepal, during the Nepal humanitarian assistance and disaster relief table-top exercise. The purpose of the exercise, conducted Feb. 2-8, was to improve III Marine Expeditionary Force's ability to respond to an HADR scenario in Nepal through coordination and planning with the government of Nepal, U.S. Departments of Defense and State, international and national agencies, and multinational parties. Johnson is a civil affairs officer with III MEF. Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeremy Alexander

Exercise strengthens Nepal, US readiness, relationships

2nd Lt. Jeremy Alexander
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force returned to Okinawa following the conclusion of the Nepal humanitarian assistance and disaster relief table-top exercise.

The purpose of the exercise, conducted Feb. 2-8, was to improve III MEF's ability to respond to an HADR scenario in Nepal through coordination and planning with the government of Nepal, U.S. Departments of Defense and State, international and national agencies, and multinational parties.

"Recognizing the ongoing earthquake risk, we continue to emphasize preparation and enhance interoperability to build U.S. and Nepalese response capacity," said Col. Gregory Winston, the defense attaché with the U.S. Embassy Katmandu, Nepal.

Members of the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal escorted Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen with III MEF, U.S. Army Pacific and Pacific Air Forces on a vulnerability tour and earthquake walk through Katmandu Feb. 3.

The purpose of the tour was to help participants identify key earthquake vulnerabilities in Katmandu and existing resources available in the event of a disaster and familiarize themselves with typical features of construction in the area.

Following the tour, exercise participants spent four days discussing, planning and preparing for an earthquake, altogether and in smaller groups based around functional areas and specialties. The final portion of the exercise saw participants use the knowledge gained and relationships built throughout the week to conduct a one-day earthquake simulation exercise.

This one-day simulation involved a variety of earthquake scenarios presented to the group. Participants discussed and presented resources they could provide based on the scenario and how they would plan and work together with other organizations to mitigate and solve the presented problem.

Lt. Gen. Nepal Chand, the chief of general staff of the Nepalese Army, and Peter Bodde, the U.S. ambassador to Nepal, attended presentations and the closing ceremony along with various government of Nepal and the Nepalese Army leaders.

"Coordination that is done now, in advance of an earthquake, will pay immeasurable dividends later in the form of time and lives saved," said Bodde. "The relationships you forged this week will put us several steps ahead when an earthquake occurs. The plans and preparations you have discussed together on paper must be put into action."

Following the closing ceremony, Col. John A. Ostrowski, the chief of staff for 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III MEF, and Chand exchanged gifts and participants from both sides attended a friendship event.

III MEF is scheduled to return to Nepal later in 2013 to participate in a field training exercise to further test and refine plans and practices discussed during the table-top exercise.

"The invaluable inputs you have contributed while discussing daily issues during the course of this exercise will certainly contribute to a better HADR response in your respective fields," said Chand. "I sincerely thank you for your active participation during the exercise, which not only helped you to reach a common understanding, but helped you formulate recommendations, which are certain to aid in saving lives and mitigating human suffering during an earthquake."

BRIEFS

USNH OKINAWA RELOCATION BRIEFS

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa will hold briefs to discuss the upcoming move to the new facility on Camp Foster as follows:

- Feb. 20, 6 p.m. at Kadena Officers' Club ballroom
- Feb. 27, 6 p.m. at the Camp Foster Community Center
- March 1, 11 a.m. at the Camp Lester Chapel

Briefs are open to all status of forces agreement personnel and retirees.

FOSTER COMMISSARY TEMPORARY CLOSURE FEB. 25-26

The Camp Foster Commissary will be closed Feb. 25-26 to conduct annual inventory.

For more details, call 645-2712.

YOUNG MARINE BOOT CAMP

The Okinawa Young Marine Battalion has scheduled registration and parent orientation sessions for upcoming boot camps. All children ages 8-18 who are U.S. citizens or hold resident alien cards and currently enrolled in school are welcome to join the Young Marines.

The Camp Courtney Young Marines will hold a registration drive March 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Camp Courtney post exchange. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Joseph L. Davila at joseph.davila@usmc.mil.

The Camp Foster Young Marines will hold a parent orientation and registration session March 1 from 6:30-8 p.m. at building 5710 on Camp Foster. For more information, send an email to campfosteryoungmarines@gmail.com.

SECURE PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The Provost Marshal's Office would like to remind everyone to secure personal belongings and vehicles while shopping, using the ATM, or visiting local sites throughout Okinawa. There has been an increase in reported off-base larcenies.

Ensure personal items are marked, record serial numbers to prove ownership, and assist law enforcement in returning recovered, lost or stolen items in a timely manner.

For more details, call 645-3955.

KINSER ELEMENTARY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FEB. 22

Kinser Elementary School is seeking 18 volunteers Feb. 22 from 8-11 a.m. to work with students in the front office, library and nurse's office.

Email serivia.smalls@pac.dodea.edu for more information.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Corps exercise brings ground units to Guam

Capt. Justin E. Jacobs

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATION GUAM — Two companies of Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force will begin training on Guam Feb. 11 during Exercise Guahan Shield 2013, which is scheduled to conclude in May.

The exercise will facilitate multiservice engagements, set conditions for bilateral and multilateral training opportunities, and support rapid response to potential crises and contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Guahan Shield will be conducted at existing military facilities on Guam by Combat Logistics Detachment 39. CLD-39 consists of about 175 members of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and about 175 members of Compay L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program.

Guahan Shield is being conducted as part of III MEF's responsibility to ensure Marines and sailors are thoroughly trained to meet mission requirements and perform at the highest level of readiness. Guam provides the diverse expeditionary opportunities Marines need to conduct dynamic, varied training evolutions necessary to maintain proficiency and operational readiness across the range of military operations. This further improves the Marine Corps' ability to rapidly respond to contingencies throughout the region.

"It is exciting for us to deploy for this exercise," said Capt. Chad Presley, a company commander for CLD-39. "We look to take advantage of the diverse training environments and opportunities Guam has to offer. Aviation units have conducted several exercises on Guam, but ground service support companies, specifically our engineering company, can also benefit from training and the opportunities for multiservice engagement projects here."

Additionally, Guahan Shield allows III MEF to build upon smaller training events recently conducted on Guam and throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. The exercise provides valuable training for current forces as well as an opportunity to develop expertise and lessons learned for future training operations throughout the region.

Guahan Shield also offers the opportunity for III MEF Marines and sailors to interact with local communities on Guam and the surrounding Northern Mariana Islands, facilitating constructive community engagements and community relations projects.

"Exercise Guahan Shield affords III MEF the ability to take advantage of unique training opportunities on U.S. soil," said Maj. Rob Thomas, the officer in charge of the forward command element for Guahan Shield. "In addition to training, we look forward to interacting with the local communities there and learning about the Chamorro culture."

Marines depart for artillery training

Lance Cpl. Terrence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — More than 180 Marines and sailors departed Okinawa to conduct Artillery Relocation Training Program 12-4 Feb. 11 to March 3 at the Ojojihara Maneuver Area in mainland Japan.

During ARTP 12-4, Alpha and Headquarters Batteries, both currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, will conduct artillery live-fire, small-arms, crew-served weapons and various types of sustainment training.

The purpose of ARTP 12-4 is to enhance unit proficiency and combat readiness while maintaining a commitment to the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. The Ojojihara Maneuver Area provides units with live-fire artillery and other training opportunities not available on Okinawa.

"While this ARTP will not involve bilateral training between U.S. and Japan forces,

there is a lot of coordination and relationship building between the two during the planning and training," said Capt. Ricardo R. Bitanga, the executive officer of Alpha Battery.

Alpha Battery will conduct its first live-fire training since arriving to Okinawa from Camp Lejeune, N.C., in November as part of the unit deployment program, Bitanga added.

While training at the Ojojihara Maneuver Area, the battalion's Marines and sailors will operate in colder temperatures and environments than they are used to, providing an opportunity for training in situations and scenarios not commonly found at other firing sites.

"There are always different terrains and weather conditions to practice our skills in," said Cpl. Denton C. Raabe, a fire support coordination center chief for Alpha Battery. "Most of the Marines have never performed live-fire training at Ojojihara."

Prior to their departure,

Marines and sailors convoyed and staged more than 30 tactical vehicles and six M777 A2 155 mm howitzers at Naha port in Okinawa for transportation to the maneuver area.

"Marines inspected the vehicles five days in advance, so the convoy could arrive at the port safely," said Sgt. Rodney V. Richards, the assistant motor transport chief for Alpha Battery. "If our part of this operation, which is the operability of the vehicles, was not functioning properly, the battery would not be able to conduct the training."

The schedule for ARTP 12-4 includes six days of live-fire artillery training, as well as small-arms and crew-served weapons live-fire ranges. The live-fire portion of training is scheduled to start Feb. 15.

Artillery live-fire training has been conducted on mainland Japan since 1997, when the training was relocated from Okinawa in accordance with the Special Action Committee on Okinawa's final report.

Consul General tours Camp Kinser to better understand its functions



Col. John E. Kasperski, right, discusses some of the functions of Combat Logistics Regiment 35 Feb. 5 at Camp Kinser with, left to right, Alfred R. Magleby, Matt O'Connor and John E. Buhler of the Consulate General's office, Naha. Magleby and his colleagues visited the camp to gain a better understanding of some of its functions. Kasperski is the Camp Kinser commander and Magleby is the consul general, Naha.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Adam B. Miller

Marines certify in rope tactics



Marines attach a stretcher to a single-rope bridge during the final portion of a tactical rope suspension techniques instructor course Feb. 7 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. Instructors with the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., traveled to Okinawa to teach the course Jan. 28 - Feb. 7 to increase the number of qualified instructors to support training at JWTC. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

HOSPITAL from pg 1

with equipment and supplies to support health care needs. The building and its satellite facilities are also undergoing U.S. government inspections of internal systems, such as fire alarm and suppression systems, to ensure the best possible safe, timely and quality patient care.

The outfitting process involves a wide range of activities, from assembling and placing office furniture to installing and calibrating sophisticated medical equipment. As with any project of this scale, careful planning is essential, and flexibility is the key to a safe and successful transition, according to Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo, the commanding officer of USNH Okinawa.

“For example, if we have a critical patient in the neonatal intensive care unit or adult intensive care unit that can’t be moved on the date the unit is supposed to move, we will re-schedule,” said Aiyelawo. “The NICU, ICU and all of the critical support functions patients need will remain available at Camp Lester until it’s safe to move them.

“The hospital will continue to provide uninterrupted health care leading up to and throughout the transition to the new hospital.”

The 443,000-square-foot facility is almost double the size of the current hospital on Camp Lester. The hospital is

constructed to withstand earthquakes and situated on the high ground outside of the tsunami flood zone.

“This new military treatment facility will represent the leading edge in medical facility design and embody our continued commitment to providing patient and family-centered care to those entrusted to our personnel,” said Aiyelawo.

The hospital will make a public announcement for the dates the move will take place, according to Aiyelawo.

“Once all of the physical and administrative requirements to safely set up and deliver care at the new facility are met, we will move in,” said Aiyelawo.

The design of the new hospital facility also incorporates features such as improved handicap access, more spacious patient care areas and energy-efficient technology.

USNH Okinawa is the largest overseas military treatment facility in the Navy, serving a beneficiary population of 55,000 active-duty personnel, family members, civilian employees, contract personnel and retirees. The hospital also provides referral services for more than 189,000 beneficiaries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

For more news and information about the upcoming move to Camp Foster, visit www.navy.mil/sites/nhoki or the hospital’s official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usnho.

CEP from pg 1

Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, the sergeant major of the Marine Corps, stressed that rescinding the policy will not impair readiness or degrade combat effectiveness or cohesion.

“Our plan is deliberate, measured and responsible,” said Barrett. “We will not lower our standards.”

The secretary of defense has worked closely with the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and military service chiefs to examine how to expand opportunities for women in the armed services.

“The decision as to whether or not to do this has passed,” said Lt. Gen. Robert Milstead, the deputy commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “We are doing this the right way. Does this mean that we’re immediately going to open every MOS? No. Some, like infantry, reconnaissance and special operations, will not be immediately opened.”

The DOD has established goals and milestones to support the elimination of gender-based barriers to service and provide the time necessary to institutionalize the changes and integrate women into occupational fields and positions in a climate where they can succeed and flourish.

“As our Corps moves forward with this process, our focus will remain on combat readiness and generating combat-ready units while simultaneously ensuring maximum success for every Marine,” said Amos. “The talent pool from which we select our finest warfighters will consist of all qualified individuals, regardless of gender.”

CG13 from pg 1

is growing ever larger, in terms of the number of the parties participating. We will address military operations other than war, such as peacetime support, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. These allow the nations to work close to enhance interoperability.”

The exercise, which ends Feb. 21, will improve forces’ capabilities to plan and conduct combined-joint operations and provide an opportunity to build relationships and improve interoperability across the range of military operations, added Srisuwan.

Cobra Gold is designed to advance regional security and ensure effective response to regional crises by exercising a robust multinational force of nations sharing common goals and security commitments in the Asia-Pacific region.

“It is critical to building our multinational coordination,” said U.S. Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command. “Our interoperability with all our partners in the region allows us to collectively respond to crises and to protect the peace and prosperity of all our people.”

The exercise includes humanitarian and civic assistance projects, a staff exercise and field training exercises. Joint and multinational training is vital to maintaining the readiness and interoperability of all participating military forces, according to Kristie A. Kenney, U.S. ambassador to Thailand.

“When you train together, talk together, plan together ... I know that if a disaster strikes my country or a neighboring country you will all be there,” said Kenney. “You’ll be there at once because whether it’s flooding in Thailand, a typhoon in the Philippines or a tsunami in Indonesia, you know because you’ve worked together to respond immediately and effectively to save lives. As a civilian, I know that makes us safer and more productive and prosperous.”

Cobra Gold provides a platform for participating nations, including Thailand, the U.S., Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as observers from other countries in the Pacific, to promote regional prosperity, security and cooperation.

“Every citizen of every nation in this region has a stake in their security and should be interested in what happens here at Cobra Gold,” said Locklear. “I hope we all continue to work together for the betterment of peace and prosperity — it’s really our only choice. Together, we will meet the challenges and forge a better future for this region and the world.”

Participation in Cobra Gold demonstrates the commitment of attendees to building military-to-military relationships and strengthening long-standing ties with partner nations.

“Whether you’re a participant or an observer, whether you have been here 32 years or this is your first year, you being here demonstrates your country’s resolve to peace and stability in this region and the world,” said Locklear.



Lance Cpl. Adam A. Abbett uses a right-angle knot to attach a charge to a length of detonation cord Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab during basic demolition training. The training was hosted by Marines with 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, III MEF. Abbett is a motor vehicle mechanic with 9th ESB.



Cpl. Robert A. O'Connell places an improvised shaped charge on a piece of steel-plate armor Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab during basic demolition training. Sticks were used to isolate the effects of the shaped charge, providing a safe stand-off distance for when Marines detonate the charge. O'Connell is a combat engineer with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Explosive ordnance

An explosive charge detonates Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab during training hosted by 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company. Marines learned about assorted shaped charges, common and demolition charge preparation. The company is part of 9th Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary



Explosive disposal specialists teach demolition basics

During basic demolition training, various types of explosives and shaped charges are used with Engineer Support Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



An explosive ordnance disposal specialist with 9th ESB demonstrates how to prepare a wine bottle for use as an improvised shaped charge Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab during basic demolition training. The middle of the bottle was heated along a single line using burning twine before rapid cooling in a bucket of water. The difference in temperature between the heated area and the surrounding glass split the bottle in a controlled manner. The bottom half of the bottle was then used as a shaped charge during the training.



Lance Cpl. Terence A. Hawkins Jr. packs a linear shaped charge with C-4 Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab during basic demolition training. The linear charge was used to cut through a piece of steel-plate armor. Hawkins is a motor vehicle operator with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Story and photos by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The combination of wine bottles and high explosives is not typically associated with military training, but the Marines of 3rd Explosive Ordnance Company used the unlikely duo, among other training devices, to conduct realistic basic demolition training Feb. 8 at Camp Schwab.

During the range, the company, part of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, trained with assorted shaped charges, common types of explosives and practiced demolition charge preparation.

“The Marines got to see the effects of different types of explosives, like C-4, dynamite, TNT and different shaped charges,” said Staff Sgt. Hart E. Holmberg, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the company. “Every tool has a job, and it is pairing the right tool to the right job that makes you successful. This training prepared the Marines to do that.”

The participants prepared and tested several charges against steel-plate armor approximately 1 1/2 inches thick during the training, along with preparing and detonating blocks of TNT, sticks of dynamite and improvised shaped charges.

Shaped charges use a specially shaped, explosive-filled cavity to focus the effect of the explosion. Marines employed commercial as well as improvised shaped charges made out of some of the same materials insurgents use, such as wine bottles and soda cans. The EOD specialists also demonstrated a water-jet shaped charge, which uses a shaped stream of water accelerated by C-4 to cut through steel-plate armor.

Three members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force were present for the training as part of the Japan Observer Exchange Program.

“I came here to study how III MEF conducts EOD, and it was very interesting to see how they used the different demo charges,” said 1st Lt. Takuya Tajiri, an engineer officer with 12th Brigade Headquarters, 12th Brigade, East Army. “It was the first time I have seen improvised charges like the wine-bottle shaped charge. It was very beneficial to observe the training.”

The training focused on the basics of demolition, providing the participants with a solid foundation for future training, including nonelectric detonation methods and preparing different knots to effectively use detonation cord as a means of initiating C-4, dynamite and TNT charges.

“Nonelectric blasting caps are the simplest to use, and training with them teaches Marines to do the math to calculate the time until detonation,” said Holmberg. “The knots are good to know for when you are limited on tools and equipment. You don’t always need the expensive tools — you can get the job done with the basics.”

The company’s Marines vary in military occupational specialty, from combat engineers to supply administration and operations specialists, with correspondingly varied levels of experience in demolitions.

“The EOD specialists put on some very good training, and I learned a lot of new things,” said Lance Cpl. Aaron J. Rene, a supply administration and operations specialist with 9th ESB. “I have a tremendous amount of respect for the EOD specialists who put their life on the line executing their job.”



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. gives opening remarks on the significance of the equal opportunity senior leadership workshop Jan. 30 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster. Glueck emphasized the importance of understanding one's self and realizing how individual biases and prejudices can be harmful unless everyone is aware of them and how they impact the effectiveness of leadership, as well as the Marine Corps' combat readiness. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Keith E. Turner

Leaders refresh equal opportunity skills

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Senior leaders from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs sit together in no particular order. Without prejudice, all are joined by a common thread — their sense of service to country.

The Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and Marine Corps Installations Pacific equal opportunity offices hosted an equal opportunity senior leadership workshop at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster Jan. 30 to Feb. 1. The workshop was held to refresh leaders' knowledge on overcoming issues, such as stereotypes and personality conflicts in a diverse work environment.

"We make them ask themselves if their decisions are fair or based on some bias," said Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark, an equal opportunity adviser with MCIPAC. "We also believe it is important to remember what it was like when (Marines) were a lower rank."

The workshop focused on stereotypes commonly associated with a person's skin color or gender, according to Clark. A common problem in society is that people cannot see past superficial differences and preconceived biases to the benefits of diversity.

"The truth is, diversity is good for the Marine Corps," said Clark. "It allows different skill sets and experiences to integrate into one mix that can work together

to better accomplish the mission."

The workshop encouraged leaders to remember that people come from different backgrounds and never make a decision based on prejudice or face value, but with fair treatment in mind and on a level playing field.

"A lot of people come from a society brimming with prejudice," said Navy Capt. Brenda B. Davila, the command chaplain for MCIPAC. "We have to look past that prejudice and work together in order to make progress in tearing down these walls that have been built between us."

The equal opportunity advisers who organized the workshop used interactive exercises to encourage leaders to think about stereotypes associated with certain people and determine how to rise above them and maintain a neutral mindset. This allowed them to make more calculated rational decisions in order to complete the exercise.

"If we take what we learned during this workshop and use it, we will be a lot better for it," said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Tanis, the chaplain for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC. "Classes like this help break down preconceived (notions and) misconceptions we have about one another."

The course ended with a graduation ceremony, and the leaders returned to their daily routines, now equipped with more knowledge and experience to draw on to ensure fairness and equal opportunity when leading their Marines.

"Diversity is good for the Marine Corps. It allows different skill sets and experiences to integrate into one mix that can work together to better accomplish the mission."

Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Clark

Chaplains discuss emergency response procedures, plans

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

When one thinks of personnel who respond to emergencies or crises on Okinawa, they tend to picture Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office or Navy medical personnel with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

However, equally important to the physical well-being and security of those affected is their emotional state, requiring a different group of first-responders to train for emergencies.

Chaplains with III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific and emergency management personnel with MCIPAC gathered Feb. 8 at the Camp Foster Chapel to refresh their knowledge on emergency and crisis procedures during a table-top exercise.

The chaplains discussed potential support roles they may have to serve during an emergency and how to improve their standard operating procedures in the event of a crisis.

The exercise consisted of a series of discussions centered on several theoretical crises, such as natural disasters and mass casualty scenarios.

In most cases, it takes approximately 10-15 minutes for a call to reach emergency personnel and another 10-15 minutes to close off an affected area and for medical care to arrive. Chaplains discussed what their roles should be during these time periods to provide the moral and emotional support needed by those affected.

"There is always going to be chaos when a tragedy occurs," said Chief Petty Officer Lyon J. Kennelly, the leading chief petty officer for the MCI-PAC chaplain's office. "What is important is how we are able to provide assistance and support."

The exercise brought together chaplains with MCIPAC and its major subordinate commands, according to Navy Capt. Brenda B. Davila, the command chaplain for MCIPAC.

"We chaplains are always so busy, so it can be hard to find a time where we can all participate," said Davila. "Still, we hope to make this at least a semiannual training exercise and continue to involve as many of the chaplains as possible, so we get a variety of opinions and experiences in our discussions."

All discussion and key points made during the exercise will be used during the revision of the III MEF and MCIPAC chaplain crisis response plan, according to Carl D. Hinson, the emergency management analyst for MCIPAC.

Since installations and units are spread throughout Okinawa, it was important for the chaplains to come together and discuss crisis response together, according to Lt. Cmdr. Alfred Pena, the deputy command chaplain for MCIPAC.

"It is important to (conduct) this exercise and review the plan because we need to know how to respond anywhere at any time to provide support, just as medical personnel and the Provost Marshal's Office do," said Pena. "Chaplains should be prepared for when people are traumatized or need help coping with a situation. We need to be ready to help Marines, sailors, civilian personnel and their families, and this exercise will help us continue to refine our procedures in the event of a crisis."

Marines conquer safety boat course

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

As the safety vessel cuts through the ocean swells, its operator makes a sharp turn, inadvertently causing the power steering to go out. Without panicking, he uses skills recently learned during a safety boat course to safely steer the vessel back to the dock without issue.

Service members participated in a safety-boat qualification course Feb. 1-7 at White Beach Naval Facility to enhance future training opportunities for their units. The service members are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

“This course allows Marines to be able to use a safety boat when they’re conducting training,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Colby, a safety boat qualification course instructor with Marine Corps Systems Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., who traveled to Okinawa to teach the course. “This course makes it possible for their units to conduct more advanced training in the water, like dive training, with the benefit of having a safety boat on scene with a qualified driver.”

The course familiarized students with the operation and upkeep of safety boats.

“During the course, we teach service members about the equipment on the boat, the fundamentals of driving the boat during the day and night, and how to plot a course, use the radar, and launch and recover the boat with a trailer,” said Colby. “All these skills are



Sgt. Johnathon C. Beck navigates using an onboard computer Feb. 7 at White Beach Naval Facility during a safety boat qualification course. The weeklong course familiarized students with the operation and upkeep of safety boats. Beck is a reconnaissance man with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

mandatory to operate the boat and use it as a safety platform.”

Even with experience operating other types of boats, some of the service members had to overcome an initial learning curve.

“The first time I operated the safety boat, it was different than what I’m used to because it has dual engines,” said Sgt. Johnathon C. Beck, a reconnaissance man with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. “It took awhile for me to get used to using a different control for each motor, but it comes in handy when the power steering goes out, since you can still control the boat with the motors.”

Secondary steering is possible by using each motor’s throttle individually, one in forward and the other in reverse, to steer the boat.

“The most beneficial part of the course was being able to actually go out into the open water and practice going to different grid points,” said Beck. “It helped show the importance of following a plotted route, so you don’t run into a reef or shallow waters.”

After a week of instruction and testing, all of the service members passed the course and received certification as official safety boat operators.

“The training received from the course will be extremely useful in the future,” said Beck. “It will be easier now for the Marines (with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion) to execute more open-water type training without having to worry about arranging for a safety-boat driver from another unit.”



Service members practice recovering a safety boat Feb. 7 at White Beach Naval Facility during a safety boat qualification course. The service members learned the fundamentals of operating the boat during the weeklong course. Marines and sailors with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in the course along with Marines of Special Operations Training Group, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Echo Battery leads live-fire training for Exercise Fire Dragon

Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Fire for effect!” The bellowing command echoes in the maneuver area before a thunderous blast rings out, shaking the snow-covered ground. The 155 mm high-explosive round impacts on the center of its target, ending another fire mission.

Marines with Echo Battery conducted live-fire artillery training during Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2 Jan. 28 to Feb. 8 in the North and East Fuji Maneuver Areas at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji.

The battery, part of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, is participating in Fire Dragon to increase technical proficiency and enhance its ability to provide fire support to maneuver elements, according to Capt. Morris M. Sharber Jr., the commanding officer of Echo Battery.

“This exercise allows us to integrate all the assets of the battery together to put rounds downrange,” said Sharber. “Prior to live fire, we tactically convoyed throughout the maneuver areas and conducted reconnaissance, scouting, occupation and positioning drills.”

The drills helped Echo Battery prepare for the firing portion of Fire Dragon, according to Sgt. Terry C. Lott, a field artillery cannoneer and section chief with the battery.

“While conducting convoys in the training area, we repeatedly stopped to set up local security positions for the M777 A2 155 mm howitzers and conduct dry-fire missions to prepare for the live-firing days,” said Lott. “We are here to enhance our efficiency at sending rounds downrange through repetition of our tactics, techniques and procedures.”

After finishing the drills, Echo Battery transitioned to the live-fire portion of the exercise, according to Lance Cpl. Austin J. Lapierre, a field artillery cannoneer with the battery.

“Once we set up in East Fuji (Maneuver Area), the forward observers started feeding fire missions to our fire direction center, which in turn relayed the missions to the cannoneers to be executed,” said Lapierre.

The three-stage process for executing a fire mission is essential to

ensure rounds hit their intended targets, according to Lapierre.

“When a forward observer spots a target that needs to be neutralized, he calculates the coordinates for where fire support is required,” said Lapierre. “After that, the forward observer sends the information to the fire direction center, where Marines determine what type of charge and round will be best for neutralizing the target. The FDC passes the fire mission to the gun crews, who fire the first round. The forward observer verifies if the gun crew hit or overshoot or undershot the target, and relays adjustments, so the crew can fire again until rounds impact where needed and the target is neutralized.”

While the live-fire portion of Fire Dragon helped the battery’s gun crews enhance their proficiency in conducting fire missions, all Marines, regardless of their job, gained valuable experience from the exercise, according to Sharber.

“At the end of the day, I want the Marines to realize that brilliance in the basics will save the day,” said Sharber. “They can always rely on their brothers to the left and right of them. If you are doing your job and doing it correctly, there is no mission you cannot accomplish.”

Marines fire high-angle shots from M777 A2 155 mm howitzers Jan. 31 in the East Fuji Maneuver Area during Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2. During the live-fire portion of the exercise, Marines practiced firing at various angles to increase their ability to provide fire support to maneuver elements. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Dominguez attaches fuses to high-explosive rounds Jan. 30 in the East Fuji Maneuver Area during the live-fire portion of Exercise Fire Dragon 13-2. The high-explosive rounds were the primary ordnance used during the exercise. Dominguez is a field artillery cannoneer with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Carl G. Payne



In Theaters Now

FEBRUARY 15 - 21

FOSTER

TODAY Bullet to the Head (R), 6 p.m.; Broken City (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon; Warm Bodies (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; Broken City (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), noon; Warm Bodies (PG13), 4 p.m.; Identity Theft (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Hotel Transylvania (PG), 1 p.m.; Warm Bodies (PG13), 4 p.m.; Broken City (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Warm Bodies (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Stand Up Guys (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Identity Theft (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 6 p.m.; Skyfall (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Skyfall (PG13), noon; Bullet to the Head (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Skyfall (PG13), noon; Bullet to the Head (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Skyfall (PG13), 3 p.m.; Bullet to the Head (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bullet to the Head (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Identity Theft (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Skyfall (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 2 p.m.; Parker (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Warm Bodies (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Flight (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Last Stand (R), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Parker (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Warm Bodies (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 3 p.m.; Skyfall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Playing for Keeps (PG13), 3 p.m.; Skyfall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Identity Theft (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Stand Up Guys (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Parker (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Red Dawn (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY No showings due to MCCS event
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Stand Up Guys (R), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (R), 6 p.m.; Stand Up Guys (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Skyfall (PG13), 2 and 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Identity Theft (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Identity Theft (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Skyfall (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Bullet to the Head (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 host 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!

DRAGON BOAT RACE PRACTICE

• The Dragon Boat Races, called haarii (the Chinese word for "dragon"), are held at the beginning of May each year at Naha port. The SMP is sponsoring two teams of 36 members each for the 39th Annual Dragon Boat Races. Practices are every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at White Beach Naval Facility. SMP will provide transportation.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"Who was the oldest Marine recruit to graduate from basic training?"

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What do the parts of the eagle, globe and anchor represent in the Marine Corps emblem?

ANSWER:
 Eagle: country
 Globe: worldwide service
 Anchor: naval traditions



Japanese phrase of the week:

"Sumimasen."

(pronounced: soo-mee-mah-sehn)

It means, "Excuse me."

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

"Any good quality or goal that we want to attain takes time, dedication and practice to develop."



Practice, dedication makes goals reality

Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Carlton

CHAPLAIN, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION, MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP SMEDLEY D. BUTLER

This weekend, many of our friends and family will join thousands of others in the painful, yet rewarding experience of running in the Okinawa Marathon. If you are one of those people, I wish you the best.

There is something awe-inspiring about a person undertaking the goal of running 26.2 miles. It takes months of preparation and training to do it properly. During that time, there is a personal transformation that takes place. A person starts off with the goal of completing the race, but over the course of training, that person becomes a "runner."

What applies to running, applies also to our character. Any good quality or goal we want to attain takes time, dedication and practice to develop, whether it is to be a good husband, father, Marine, sailor or leader.

There is a saying I often share with others, "Sow a thought, reap an act.

Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny." I love that statement, not just because it fits well in a sermon, but because I believe it makes a valid connection between habits and character. It connects what we practice every day with who we are and who we are becoming. These connections are easy to overlook in day-to-day life, but they matter a lot.

If you practice telling the truth and not exaggerating, you will be an honest person. If you habitually compliment your wife and do nice things for her, you become a better husband. If you set aside time to read to your kids and help them with their homework, you become a better father. If you engage in professional disciplines, you become more proficient. If you maintain spiritual practices, you become a better and more balanced person.

Think about what you have done today. Will the habits you practiced lead you to become the person you want to be? Remember — practice makes possible!

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"