

OKINAWA MARINE

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Memories made at Kadena Special Olympics



Makoto Hokai, age 15, prepares to light the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the 14th annual Kadena Special Olympics Nov. 2 at Kadena Air Base. Hokai is a participant from Okinawa City.

Photo by Senior Airman Maeson Elleman

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE — Marines and service members from other branches and their families deepened relations with community members by volunteering at the 14th annual Kadena Special Olympics Nov. 2 at Kadena Air Base.

Since its inception in 2000, the KSO has broken down barriers and created an environment of understanding and acceptance for the members of the community with physical and mental disabilities, according to Brig. Gen. James B. Hecker, the commanding general of the 18th Wing.

The opening ceremony featured

a torch run to light the Olympic monument, opening remarks from military service members and local government officials, and music performed by the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band.

“The Kadena Special Olympics provides an opportunity for the participating athletes and artists to display their talents and to meet and interact with many people through sports and art activities,” said Hirokazu Nakaima, the governor of Okinawa prefecture.

The events the athletes participated in included the 30-meter and 200-meter dashes, softball throws, floor hockey, ground golf and

see **OLYMPICS** pg 5

Future amphibious force discussed at Courtney

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and III Marine Expeditionary Force planners held a conference Oct. 30 at the III MEF Headquarters Building on Camp Courtney to discuss the future of amphibious capabilities within the JGSDF.

Col. Osamu Fujiwara, the director of the Amphibious Office for the Ground Staff Office, JGSDF, and Col. Russell Burton, the assistant chief of staff with G-5, plans, III MEF, attended the briefing to discuss the future plans.

The JGSDF is currently working on developing amphibious capabilities similar to those of the Marine Corps, according to Lt. Col. Christopher Krajacich, a Marine Air-Ground

see **AMPHIBIOUS** pg 5

Marines summit Suribachi



SEE PAGES 6-7 FOR STORY & PHOTOS

Marines with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 hike toward Mount Suribachi Nov. 1 during a professional military education tour of Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima. MWHS-1 is with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

3rd Medical Battalion prepares Marine Corps' future leaders

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Twentyfive lance corporals and privates first class completed 3rd Medical Battalion's Lance Corporals' Symposium Oct. 30 at the Chapel Center on Camp Foster.

The three-day symposium, developed by staff noncommissioned officers within 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine

Expeditionary Force, helped junior Marines develop their leadership styles in preparation for the next rank as well as introducing them to the NCO mindset.

“Every single Marine has the ability to become an outstanding leader,” said Staff Sgt. Duane C. Pineda, a water support technician with 3rd Med. Bn., who was the lead instructor for the symposium. “They just need a push. As leaders, we need to be the ones to enforce the standards and make sure that

see **LCPL** pg 5

IN THIS ISSUE

MARINES VISIT CAMP NAHA

PG. 4

III MEF BAND TWINS MOTIVATE OTHERS

PG. 8

SAILOR RECOGNIZED FOR HELPING OTHERS

PG. 10

Black market undermines economy

Marine Corps Installations Pacific Inspector General's Office

Within most societies, there is an established and legal method of purchasing and acquiring goods and services that is sanctioned by an appropriate authority – the government. This is the normal economy. Some people establish systems of buying, selling and trading goods outside the normal economy. These unauthorized systems generally exist for profit and are called the “black market.”

The status of forces agreement between the U.S. and Japan allows goods to be brought into Japan free of customs duties. This reliable supply chain, combined with participants willing to violate regulations, makes Okinawa ripe for black market activities.

Items sold in base resale activities, such as the exchanges, commissaries and package stores are exempt from taxes and are popular on the black market in Okinawa. Because of their popularity and the potential for abuse, all items sold in resale activities on base are controlled.

While all items sold on base are controlled, some have a higher demand on the black market than others, requiring additional restrictions and scrutiny when purchased. These items include, but are not limited to, any type of alcohol, petroleum products or cigarettes. There are limits on the quantity of items that may be purchased from these categories, and exceeding those limits is a violation of Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5800.4D.

For out-of-the-box thinkers, it is a violation of the order to purchase from more than one store with the purpose of avoiding the limitations. Active duty members who desire to purchase above the set limits are required to present a letter of authorization from their battalion or squadron commander or higher. Civilians who desire to purchase above the set limits are required to present a letter of authorization from the commander of the camp where they wish to make the purchase.

The limitations on petroleum products apply even if there is no intention of gaining income. As such, gasoline may not be dispensed into any vehicle not owned

by SOFA personnel. The only exceptions are vehicles owned by the U.S. Consulate and vehicles rented or owned by SOFA personnel with temporary registration. Retirees who live on Okinawa and drive Kanji-plated vehicles may purchase gasoline as long as their vehicles display the armed forces retired sticker.

A frequently asked question is, “May I purchase an item from the exchange as a gift for a non-SOFA status friend?” The order is not intended to interfere with gift-giving or normal social courtesies. Gifts may be purchased when the value is not greater than \$250 and commensurate with established practices in Japan. Most importantly, there must be no compensation or favors attached to the gift.

The Criminal Investigative Division of the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Provost Marshal's Office is responsible for investigating and monitoring black market activities. This includes working closely with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service who assist by monitoring purchases and reporting suspected violations.

People who engage in black marketing are usually observed during CID investigations. When they are observed, CID or military police may apprehend and detain suspected violators. Law enforcement personnel may also impound vehicles that are suspected of being used during violations.

All violators may face, at a minimum, revocation of driving privileges, vehicle deregistration and restriction from on base resale activities.

Black market purchases are illegal and hurt the authorized economy. Black market purchases also violate the order and spirit of the SOFA and simply have no place within the Department of Defense community. Don't do it.

If you have other questions, please contact the military police at 645-7441, MCIPAC Command Inspector General's Office at 645-3788, or consult MCBJO 5800.4D.

The IG's Office exists to improve safety, operational health, individual opportunity and quality of life for uniformed and civilians members and their families.

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AROUND THE
CORPS



Marines with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, board a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 31. The Marines practiced different entering and exiting drills from a CH-53E before executing an interdiction operation. 1st Bn., 9th Marines, is currently assigned to 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force. The CH-53E is assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I MEF. Photo by Sgt. Gabriela Garcia

Marines fire an M327 120 mm mortar Oct. 30 during a monthlong sustainment exercise in Djibouti, Djibouti. The Marines are with Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 4th Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 13th MEU is deployed with the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve and crisis response force throughout the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Orr



OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Foster
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NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

JGSDF, Marines discuss legal support for amphibious operations

Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Japan Ground Self-Defense Force judge advocates met with U.S. Marine judge advocates Oct. 31 to discuss military legal topics during a bilateral training event on Camp Foster.

The discussion topics included basic military justice, cyber operations, operational law and legal support for amphibious operations.

"This conference was designed to allow us (Marines) to have a face-to-face engagement with our Japanese legal counterparts," said Col. Peter S. Rubin, the staff judge advocate for Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Our collective goal is to promote and sustain the cooperative relationship between the Marine Corps and JGSDF, learn from each other, and become more effective legal practitioners."

The Marines are with III Marine Expeditionary Force and MCIPAC Offices of the Staff Judge Advocate, and the JGSDF judge advocates are members of the 15th Brigade, Western Army of the JGSDF, and the Ground Staff Office of the JGSDF.

The conference took place as JGSDF leaders begin planning for the establishment of an amphibious capability.

It is important for the JGSDF officers to understand their many responsibilities during the conduct of amphibious operations, so that the process of creating an amphibious unit will flow smoothly, according to Capt. Jordan M. Gwiazdon, an operational law attorney for III MEF.

The Marines discussed the role of judge advocates during amphibious operations, including the judge advocate's role during operational planning, detainee handling and training service members about the rules of engagement.

"Even the lowest-ranking individual can have the biggest influence on the battlefield," said Gwiazdon. "It's important that every service member understands the ROE and that JGSDF judge advocates understand their importance."

As the meeting progressed, the JGSDF judge advocates described the plan for their future amphibious force, highlighting the importance of current planning and preparation.

The JGSDF is expected to establish a complete amphibious component in the future, according to Col. Shoji Katsui, the deputy staff judge advocate for the JGSDF. It is a big step for the JGSDF, moving them closer to creating the new unit.

It was a sincere privilege for the Marine judge advocates to have the chance to meet with and assist the JGSDF judge advocates as they work through the complexities associated with amphibious operations, according to Rubin. The JGSDF understands the vital role that judge advocates play in the operational context, and following the conference, they can better recognize, analyze, and resolve legal issues associated with amphibious operations.

Each discussion period ended with a question and answer session that displayed differences between each military's legal process.

"Japan will need to amend its constitution if there will ever be anything similar to a court martial," said Katsui. "Currently, military members being prosecuted are tried in civilian court and (JGSDF lawyers) help defend them."

As the conference ended, the closing comments carried the theme of joint operations, continued partnership and appreciation.

"We are very appreciative of (the Marines') hospitality," said Katsui. "We hope to complete more successful training with you, our friends and allies."

BRIEFS

FORCE PROTECTION EXERCISE

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa will execute a force protection exercise from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 20 at the main hospital facility, Bldg. 960, on Camp Foster.

The hospital will continue normal operations during the exercise.

The hospital is conducting the exercise to train staff members on procedures for securing the building and moving patients to safety during an armed-intruder scenario. Security and emergency response personnel from the Camp Foster Provost Marshal's Office will also participate in the exercise.

For more information, contact U.S. Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office at 646-7024 or nhokipao@med.navy.mil.

POST OFFICES HOURS

All Marine Corps post offices will be closed on Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

VETERANS DAY 5/10K RUN

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 1553, is hosting a Veterans Day 5/10K Run Nov. 11 starting 8 a.m. at the Risner Gym on Kadena Air Base.

Runners are encouraged to wear patriotic themes for Veterans Day.

At least 10 percent of all contributions will go to Combined Federal Campaign charities supporting wounded warriors.

For more information, contact Master Sergeants Nicholas Tonino or John Barboni at 634-9514.

TRANSITION READINESS SEMINARS

Marines nearing the end of active service need to attend a transition readiness seminar 12-14 months before and no later than 180 days prior to their EAS date.

For more information, Marines can consult Marine Administrative Message 514/13 or contact their career planner.

MANPOWER MANAGEMENT DIVISION VISITS OKINAWA

Personnel from Headquarters Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, will be visiting Marine Corps installations across Okinawa to conduct briefings Nov. 18-22.

Briefings are scheduled to be conducted as listed below:

- Camp Foster Theater: Nov. 18 at 9 a.m.
- Camp Kinser Theater: Nov. 19 at 9 a.m.
- Camp Courtney Theater: Nov. 20 at 9 a.m.
- Camp Hansen Theater: Nov. 22 at 9 a.m.

Marines can contact their career planner for more information.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mccb.fct@usmc.mil. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Hansen USO hosts Halloween party



Nakasone Hinata paints Keira C. Hegel's face during the 2nd annual Haunted Hansen Halloween Party Oct. 31 at the Camp Hansen USO. The party further developed relationships between the Marines and the communities surrounding Camp Hansen. Hinata is a 4-year-old student with Kin Preschool, and Hegel is a Marine spouse. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

Marines strengthen ties at JGSDF's Camp Naha

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP NAHA — Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 36 visited the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's Camp Naha Oct. 31 for a tour of the base and to continue fostering the strong bonds between Marines and JGSDF members.

During the tour, Marines received a briefing about the Battle of Okinawa, explored an underground cave used by the former Imperial Japanese Army during World War II, and visited several buildings, including a dining facility, barracks, and a morale, welfare and recreation services facility.

MAG-36 is with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Camp Naha is home to the 15th Brigade, Western Army, JGSDF. The brigade is composed of an infantry regiment, reconnaissance company, artillery battalion and aviation squadron.

"It is extremely important for Marines to understand how our counterparts operate and live, so we can gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between our armed forces," said Sgt. Maj. Miguel A. Rodriguez, the sergeant major of MAG-36. "I want Marines to realize the importance of establishing friendships with the people who we could be supporting in the future."

Rodriguez met with Warrant Officer Akira Inoue, the 15th Brigade's command sergeant major, at the beginning of the visit. They discussed the similarities and differences between leading Marines and JGSDF members, and being senior enlisted advisors in their respective services.

"It is good that we have this open communication," said Inoue. "It is important to maintain a good relationship with our allies."



Sgt. Maj. Miguel A. Rodriguez, right, meets with Warrant Officer Akira Inoue, left, and Chief Warrant Officer Noriyuki Takasaki Oct. 31 at Camp Naha. The meeting was part of a visit from Marine Aircraft Group 36 Marines to familiarize themselves with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and their camp. Takasaki is the command sergeant major of the 15th Helicopter Unit, 15th Brigade, Western Army, JGSDF. Inoue is the command sergeant major of the JGSDF's 15th Brigade, and Rodriguez is the sergeant major of MAG-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

The tour began with a terrain model presentation of the Battle of Okinawa. The presentation featured major engagements, troop movements, and casualties suffered on both sides.

"I was (surprised) on the detail of their terrain model that was built more than 30 years ago, but was still very well kept," said Rodriguez. "Their narrative of the history of the battle gave me a visual picture of how the battle ensued and why there were so many civilian casualties."

Next, each Marine received a flashlight as they moved through the pitch-black underground tunnels while learning about how the former Imperial Japanese Army fought and saved lives during the battle.

"It was interesting to see how well-preserved their tunnels are,"

said Sgt. Jeremiah T. Isham, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge with MAG-36. "You can see how they consider their history sacred. It shows they care about the past."

The visit served as a humbling experience for the Marines as they moved through the base seeing how their counterparts live, work and play, according to Rodriguez.

The JGSDF members live in barracks with up to five personnel in each room and communal bathrooms on each floor, according to Sgt. 1st Class Sho Furusada, a liaison non-commissioned officer with 15th Brigade and tour guide during the visit.

Other differences included the dining facility only being opened for 45 minutes per meal while serving a set menu with two to three main

entrée options, and the members exercising on their own time with unit physical training as needed.

"Our cultures are different, what seems strange for us is normal for them," said Isham. "It is eye-opening to see how other cultures live and work."

With the success of this visit, the sergeants major of both services agreed that future exchanges would be ideal and visits like this will be a continuation of the strong relationship between the two services.

"Future exchanges will include visits to our maintenance and training facilities, sports competitions and a barbecue," said Rodriguez. "I think it will go a long way in (continuing) close relations. We are looking to generate some positive success stories and long-lasting relationships."

MCIPAC commanders set conditions for success

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Installations Pacific camp commanders and staff gathered Oct. 30-31 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster to discuss myriad topics concerning MCIPAC facilities and personnel.

During the meeting, commanders reviewed past events, annual training, and exercises to develop processes to ensure the success of future Marines, according to Col. Jonathan D. Covington, the MCIPAC deputy commander.

"We are taking a look at all the pieces that make up MCIPAC and asking ourselves what we need to focus on to set the conditions for success later," said Covington. "We're setting things up now for the Marines that will be on this island in the years to come."

The meetings also provided an opportunity to enhance communication between the camp commanders, and for them to discuss the wide range of duties and responsibilities they each hold, according to Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, the sergeant major of Camp Courtney and Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The majority of the commanders here work for III MEF, and they are also working as camp commanders," said Saucedo. "So, we are formalizing the relationship between both sides of their work and establishing a memorandum of understanding."

The memorandum of understanding will establish a basis of communication between the commanders of each camp with the commander of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

In addition to establishing an understanding, the meetings also served to help the commander

of MCB Butler build a command relationship with the camp commanders, according to Col. Duane A. Opperman, the assistant chief of staff, G-3, operations, training and plans, MCB Butler, MCIPAC.

"This was the final working group," said Opperman. "We have met several times over the month with the commanders to come up with a way forward that will meet the needs of the III MEF and Camp Butler camp commanders."

When the meetings ended, the commanders returned to their camps more confident of future endeavors, according to Opperman.

"This meeting was very successful," said Opperman. "We were able to develop a memorandum of understanding that can be used to establish a command relationship between the MCB Butler commanding general and the commanders of III MEF."

OLYMPICS from pg 1

more. Artists also displayed their artwork at the event.

“Growing up in the military, I’ve always done volunteer work,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Sonya R. Rood, an event volunteer and nondestructive inspection craftsman with the 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 18th Maintenance Group. “Being at this event is satisfying when you see how happy the athletes are.”

Service members served in multiple roles to support event participants.

“Today, I am going to be a ‘hugger,’ escorting my athlete to different events to cheer him on and support him,” said Marine Staff Sgt. Alan R. Stowers, an event volunteer and military policeman with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. “I think

it’s important to give back to the community and help benefit someone else’s life. I am really excited to see what my athlete accomplishes.”

Huggers made sure their athletes and artists were fed, supervised, and cared for between events.

“I am really happy to be here, it’s fun,” said Ikeshiro Satoshi, a participating athlete from Okinawa City.

During the KSO, participants and volunteers made lasting memories and relationships.

“The connection between the Okinawa and American communities to support the local games is unprecedented,” said Hecker. “This event proves to become a very special day for everyone involved, through which memories of heartfelt kindness, compassion and friendship will be forged.”



Volunteers and participants release balloons to begin the 14th annual Kadena Special Olympics Nov. 2 at Kadena Air Base. “The Kadena Special Olympics provides an opportunity for the participating athletes and artists to display their talents and to meet and interact with many people through sports and art activities,” said Hirokazu Nakaima, the governor of Okinawa prefecture. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

AMPHIBIOUS from pg 1

Task Force planner for III MEF.

The JGSDF anticipates developing an amphibious unit in the future.

“The JGSDF are planning on making a massive jump when creating this force,” said Lt. Col. John M. Baseel, a foreign area officer with Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group.

Prior to this conference, the JGSDF and III MEF representatives met to start working on the details of creating the force and came together during the conference to review the current status.

“The JGSDF has a good initial template for building up their amphibious force,” said Baseel. “They have a plan to establish (assault amphibious vehicle) and amphibious operations schools that will teach the courses needed for operating the AAVs and AAV military occupational specialty progression.”

The JGSDF and III MEF representatives are planning to hold an exercise in approximately one year to test possible training scenarios that the JGSDF and III MEF amphibious forces can execute bilaterally.

“The (scheduled exercise) will help show what capabilities and types of training the JGSDF amphibious force is hoping to conduct alongside their Marine counterparts,” said Maj. Tyler J. Moore, a foreign area officer with III MEF.

With key aspects of the amphibious force’s details worked out, both the JGSDF and Marine planners left confident and ready for their next meeting.

“The brief was very informative and brought up some good subjects for the next time we meet to discuss our plans for the future,” said Fujiwara. “I hope in the future we can conduct more bilateral training together using our amphibious force.”

LCPL from pg 1

everyone upholds those standards.”

The course was designed to mentor junior Marines and dispel misconceptions about the Marine Corps in preparation for when they become NCOs, according to Pineda.

“We held guided discussions and scenarios about what they would do if they were forced to act as NCOs,” said Pineda. “In the beginning, they didn’t really know what to do. After a few trials, they started to get into it.”

The symposium focused on financial management, proficiency and conduct scores, mentorship, the leadership traits and principles, and combat leadership.

“It was like a wake-up call,” said Lance Cpl. Jasmine O. Davis, a motor vehicle operator with 3rd Med. Bn. “They showed lance corporals that they don’t need to be corporals and sergeants to be leaders. It teaches them that they could be doing more now.”

The instructors reminded the students that as Marines they are always leaders and should conduct themselves as such.

“It was definitely a motivational symposium,”

said Lance Cpl. Bradley J. Newman, an embarkation specialist with 3rd Med. Bn. “The staff sergeants reignited our fires and did a fantastic job explaining things thoroughly. Their passion for the Marine Corps is where their hearts are.”

The instructors hoped to teach the Marines habits they should sustain during their career, lessons they should pass on, and skills they will need to maintain proficiency in.

Holding Marines accountable while still treating them with respect is a key aspect of good leadership, according to Davis.

“The Marine Corps isn’t a joke, not something you play with,” said Davis. “It will make you grow up. You need to be responsible. Just because you’re a lance corporal doesn’t mean you don’t have responsibilities to Marines.”

At their informal graduation ceremony, each student explained what they learned and would take away from the course as they moved on through their careers and navigated upcoming changes in the Marine Corps.

“Adapt and overcome; that’s what makes good leaders,” said Newman. “We’re the new Marine Corps; we are the future.”



Staff Sgt. Duane C. Pineda speaks with junior Marines at 3rd Medical Battalion’s Lance Corporals’ Symposium Oct. 30 at the Chapel Center on Camp Foster. The three-day symposium was developed by staff noncommissioned officers within 3rd Med. Bn. to help lance corporals and privates first class develop their leadership styles in preparation for the next rank as well as introducing them to the NCO mindset. Pineda is a water support technician with 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

MWHS-1 Marines visit hallowed ground

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“By their victory, the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and other units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps have made an accounting to their country which only history will be able to value fully,” said Fleet Admiral of the U.S. Navy Chester W. Nimitz in a statement following the Battle of Iwo Jima. “Among the Americans serving on Iwo island, uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

Following five weeks of fighting in early 1945, the rugged, volcanic terrain of Iwo Jima, renamed Iwo To in 2007, became one of the most iconic locations in Marine Corps history. The remote island hosted one of the most brutal and hard-fought battles of the Corps’ 238-year history.

During the battle, the dominant geographic feature of the island became the scene for perhaps the most enduring image in Marine Corps history – the raising of the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi. Five Marines and one Navy corpsman risked their lives to raise the nation’s colors at the highest point of the island, signaling the allied capture of the mountain.

Marines with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 visited the island Nov. 1

during a professional military education tour to learn more about the battle and commemorate the sacrifices of the Marines and sailors who went before them.

“There are many Marines who go their entire careers without the opportunity to come here,” said Lt. Col. Curtis V. Ebitz, the commanding officer of MWHS-1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “For those of you who have it on your bucket list, you can now check it off.”

A total of 140 Marines and sailors visited Iwo To for the PME tour, including hospital corpsmen with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

The tour centered around a hike from North Field, the island’s sole airfield, to the summit of Mount Suribachi on the southern edge of the island. The Marines and sailors stopped at monuments and historically significant sites along the route, including the invasion beaches, to discuss the battle and its significance.

“The hike itself

was challenging because of the heat, it gave us a small taste of what it was like (during the battle),” said Lance Cpl. James A. Whitehead, an administrative clerk with MWHS-1. “We walked up a paved path on Mount Suribachi though – they had to climb it while getting shot at.”

The Marines and sailors discussed the importance of the island to the history and culture of both the U.S. and Japan.

“The other (memorials we) saw were from Japanese families because it is hallowed ground for them as well,” said Gunnery Sgt. David J. Richardt, an advanced avionics electrician with MWHS-1. “They had very heavy losses.”

In addition to commemorating the sacrifices of those who fought on the island, the Marines of the squadron held promotion, award and reenlistment ceremonies at the summit of Mount Suribachi.

Almost all Marines would love to visit Iwo To, but to be awarded there is even more of an honor, according to Whitehead, who received a certificate of commendation at the summit.

“It will always stay with me,



Sgt. Maj. Brian D. Olea, left, and Lt. Col. Curtis V. Ebitz, right, promote Sgt. Brandon R. Crook Nov. 1 at the summit of Mount Suribachi on Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima. Olea is the sergeant major and Ebitz is the commanding officer of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Crook is a Marine Air-Ground Task Force planning specialist with the squadron.

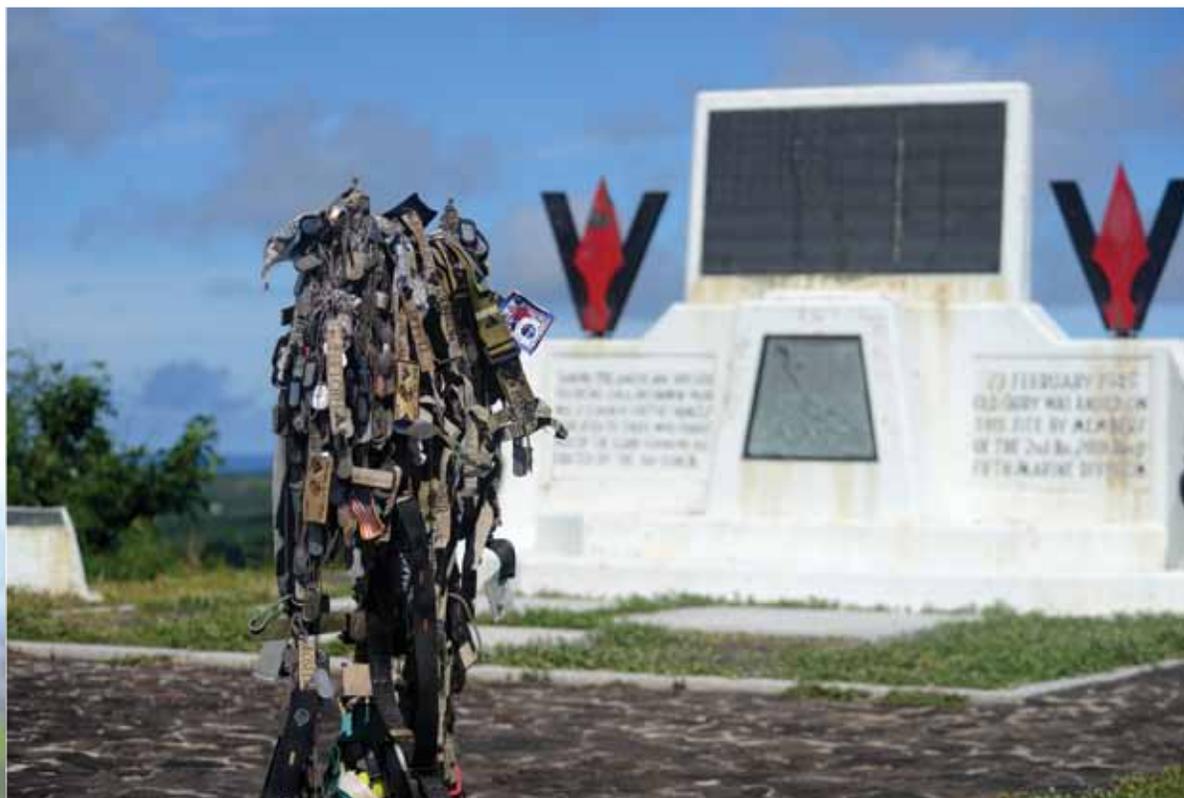
and it is something I will always be proud of," said Whitehead.

The leadership implemented this trip after the idea arose during a unit breakfast as a way to reward the Marines for their performance and conduct, according to Ebitz. It also provided them with an opportunity for professional growth.

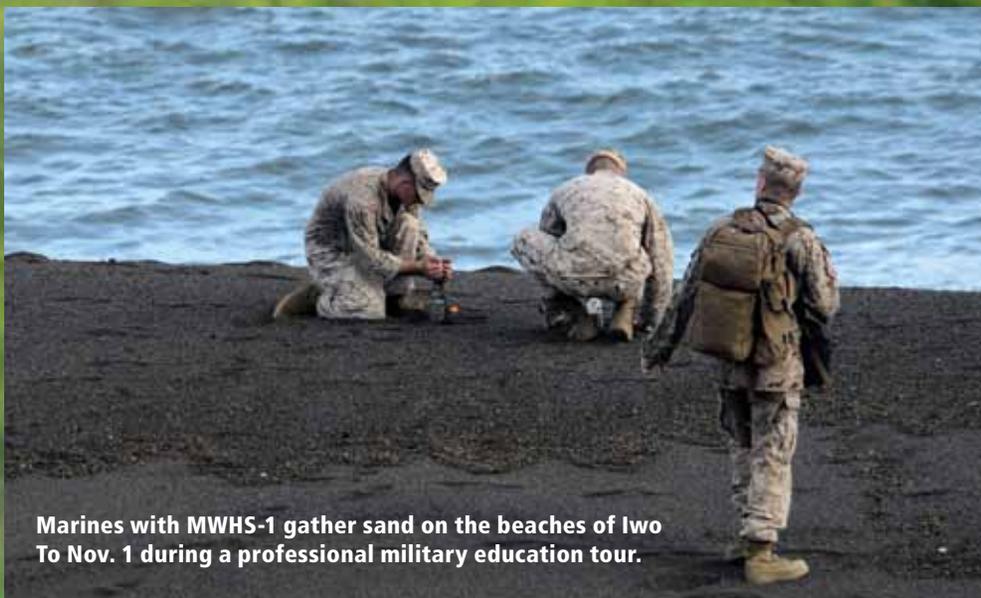
The hardest leadership is peer leadership, according to Ebitz.

Marines need to be in compliance with the commandant's direction about the reawakening of the Corps and uphold the standards established during this and many other battles throughout the Corps' history, according to Ebitz.

"So keep thinking of those ideas, those PMEs," added Ebitz. "That is why we are here. It is not for me; it is not for the sergeant major; it is for you. You are the ones who make the squadron run; you are the ones who keep our reputation what it is."



The Marines of MWHS-1 observed, and in some cases added to, informal memorials of identification tags, name tapes, rank insignias and other memorabilia Nov. 1 at the summit of Mount Suribachi at Iwo To. U.S. and Japan memorials were a common sight across the island, which was the location of one of the fiercest battles of World War II.



Marines with MWHS-1 gather sand on the beaches of Iwo To Nov. 1 during a professional military education tour.



Marines with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 hike toward Mount Suribachi Nov. 1 during a professional military education tour of Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima. MWHS-1 is part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Twin brothers inspire others with passion for music

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band begins its performance, the horn section can be heard playing their melodies. When an audience member looks to match the sound of the trombones to the musicians, they may think they are seeing double.

Sergeants John and Wayne Geary are identical-twin trombone players, who along with their shared passion for music, also share a sense of duty to the Marine Corps and their nation.

"We have experienced things together throughout our whole lives, and being able to serve alongside each other has brought us together even more," said John. "When we were in college or high school, we were always in different musical ensembles, so we never really worked together before the Marine Corps. For once, we are finally learning together and developing our careers together."

The Geary brothers have maintained a strong friendship their entire lives. Their father was in the U.S. Army, and they moved every three years, but they call Manassas, Va., home. As they moved through different schools, they discovered their passion for music and developed a desire to join the military.

"When we got to high school, our band teacher was really

passionate about music and he really conveyed that to us," said John. "That was when we knew what we wanted to do. We wanted to be music teachers."

The twins went on to earn music education degrees at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., and used their knowledge as a basis for their Marine Corps careers.

"We both want to be music teachers, but we know we are not ready right now to begin teaching," said Wayne. "We want to play more first, and by playing in the III MEF Band, when we actually get to teach, we will be able to tell our students what it is like to be a musician in the real world."

The twins' drive and motivation to be better at music is seen in every aspect of their lives, according to Sgt. Joshua T. Crissey, a euphonium musician with the band.

"They are both very ambitious," said Crissey. "They take plenty of time out of their personal schedules to practice music, and it is clear they are experienced. They always work on their own time to help their fellow Marines."

John and Wayne were promoted at the same time and continue to compete against each other to achieve new skills.

"We always try to find a new way to be better than one another," said Wayne. "Whether we are doing Marine Corps Institute classes or when we became martial arts



Pictured here before their promotions, Sergeants Wayne Geary, second from right, and John Geary high-five another set of twins following a III Marine Expeditionary Force Band concert in 2012. The Gearys are members of the III MEF Band. *Courtesy photo*

instructors, or just learning something new for music, we compete a lot with each other."

Many join the Marine Corps for the sense of brotherhood, but the Geary brothers are able to enhance an already existing relationship through their passion for music and teaching.

"When you teach music to someone, you need to have the patience and the ability to help them look toward end goals," said Wayne. "I feel this translates directly to the Marine Corps because we always get put in these situations where we need to overcome adversity and reach goals here, too."

As the brothers move throughout their military careers, they will continue to succeed and inspire future musicians and fellow Marines, according to Crissey.

"I had to play the trombone for a concert once before, and they both took the time to help me become a better trombone player," said Crissey. "They both lead by example. They are good at everything they do and the junior Marines have an advantage because of that. Sergeants Geary learn, then teach, and they always find some way new to make themselves and others better."

31st MEU Marines train with nonlethal weapons



Capt. Jayson M. Downing reacts after being shot with an X26 Taser Oct. 25 during a nonlethal weapons demonstration at Camp Hansen. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit completed a nonlethal weapons course provided by 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. The course included Oleoresin Capsicum, commonly known as OC spray, and taser training. Downing is a platoon commander with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Bn., 4th Marines, 31st MEU, III MEF. *Photo by Sgt. Jonathan G. Wright*

Generals emphasize rich history of Corps



Since 10 November 1775, Marines have been defending our great nation against foreign aggression and maintaining peace and stability throughout the world. Today's Marines carry on that great legacy and as we gather to celebrate the 238th birthday of the Marine Corps, 11,150 Marines are deployed to the Middle East in support of combat and security operations, with another 10,100 Marines deployed across the rest of the globe supporting allies and partners in various operations and exercises building partners and growing the capacity for peace on foreign shores. In every endeavor, Marines continue to prove we are America's choice to get the job done – demonstrating to those that have gone before that we are the history of generations to come.

The forward-deployed Marines of III Marine Expeditionary Force are writing today's chapters in history, providing an effective, relevant, expeditionary force in readiness; a community of sacrifice ready to meet the needs of our nation now and in the future. Forged over 71 years ago in some of the toughest battles our Corps and our nation has ever encountered, III Marine Expeditionary Force remains heavily engaged in defending our national interests and her allies.

As the tip of the spear in the Pacific, each of you has played an integral role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. Whether acting as a force-in-readiness to deter aggression – the fight tonight force that can win – a force of goodwill to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations – or the crisis response force that can make a difference, every MEF Marine has proven themselves brothers and sisters bonded through selflessness and duty. I challenge each of you to continue building upon this legacy of operational and warfighting excellence founded on a warrior ethos that demands excellence and seeks and achieves tactical brilliance.

You should be justifiably proud of your service, and I am honored to serve with each of you. Collectively, we serve each other and our nation – willing to endure the harsh conditions of war, and the preparation for its challenges, so that others might live free. As we redesign our force to meet America's ever evolving strategic requirements, I assure you Marines will remain relevant and valued by leaders at every level, as long as your every action burnishes our well-earned reputation as the most frugal and effective combat force in our nation's arsenal. You are the key component to our effectiveness on or off the battlefield – continue to make a difference through your own commitment just as our forefathers in III MEF made such a historic difference in the Pacific through their sacrifice and professionalism.

I ask each of you to take the time to remember those who are currently in harm's way and honor the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great nation. Equally important, let us not forget our families whose sacrifice and dedication to the Marine Corps have underwritten every success on the battlefield. Finally, on this 238th anniversary of our Corps, let us enjoy the camaraderie and friendships that are our Corps, and for each of us – in ways as varied as the great men and women of III MEF – define its true fighting spirit. Happy Birthday Marines!

God bless, stay in the attack, and Semper Fidelis,

Lt. Gen. John Wissler
III MEF Commanding General



Marines, sailors, and family members, it is my pleasure to celebrate our Corps' 238th birthday. We share this week's festivities with Marines in every clime and place whose unwavering devotion to duty reflects the uncommon valor that is our common virtue. We commemorate 238 years of dedication to the principles of honor, courage and commitment.

Unique among all military forces of the world, the United States Marine Corps holds a special place as our nation's force in readiness. This truth is etched in our history and is claimed as our heritage, from the first two battalions of Marines established by the Continental Congress on 10 November 1775, to the brave warriors who fought at Belleau Wood; from Marines who valiantly committed themselves to their duty in Iraq and Afghanistan to those who selflessly eased the suffering of our allies during Operation Tomodachi.

As Marine Corps Installations Pacific Marines and sailors stand at the forefront of larger efforts to rebalance towards the Pacific region, we remain focused on our primary purpose – to be ready to fight tonight.

Your efforts have earned the respect of a grateful nation and guarantee that the Marine Corps will possess the strength necessary to surmount the challenges ahead. As we face the future together with our Pacific allies, we are reminded of lessons learned in previous eras. Marines remain indomitable in the face of adversity, armed with the knowledge that our brethren throughout history have delivered victory in the midst of uncertain times and have never failed in their duty to Corps and country.

Present-day Marines continue to fulfill the legacy handed down by our forbearers and commit themselves to the virtues of integrity, discipline and sacrifice. As we keep faith with past generations of Marines, we maintain the honor of the Corps to deliver into the safe-keeping of future generations. This heritage of honor is the unbroken tradition that we celebrate together.

My wife and I would like to offer our sincere thanks to you and your families for your continued exemplary service. We salute our Japanese and civilian partners whose hard work and dedication reflect an unyielding commitment to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. We are proud to live and work here in Okinawa and look forward to MCIPAC's continued success. It is an honor to celebrate with you all.

Happy Birthday, Marines and Bravo Zulu!

Maj. Gen. C. L. Hudson
MCIPAC Commanding General

Sailor displays passion for volunteer work, awarded

Cpl. Terry Brady
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Many service members join the military not only to protect their country but also for self-improvement. Some go beyond that calling to improve the well-being of others through volunteer service and support.

It is for this reason that the USO recognized Petty Officer 2nd Class Bradley C. Smith for his work in the community as the USO Pacific volunteer of the quarter Nov. 1 at the Headquarters Supply Building on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

"I was not expecting this (award)," said Smith. "I really am thankful for receiving it."

The award is part of the ongoing USO volunteer recognition program. Smith is one of the few service members from military installations around the world who are recognized for their dedication to helping others and offering their time to support military functions.

"Smith was actually the volunteer of the quarter in Okinawa, which led to him being

selected as the volunteer of the quarter in the Pacific," said Freddie Cotton, the central manager at USO Futenma.

Due to his passion and selflessness, Smith earned the attention and respect of his peers, leadership and the USO staff.

"(Smith) is a very dependable sailor and always strives to be the best," said Lt. Wesley Scholtz, the chaplain of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. "He helps support the USO whenever he can."

Smith organized multiple USO sponsored events last year.

"Smith took charge of the quarterly blood drive and increased support and units of blood from an average of 20 units to approximately 30-35 per quarter," said Cotton.

"His efforts have seen USO Futenma bring in over 500 dollars of donations this past year.

He has also helped USO Futenma see an increase of 20 percent for our center-based programs like 'Dinner and a Movie Nights' and 'Flapjack Friday.'"

The USO mission of "lifting the spirits of American troops and their families" was Smith's top priority when he volunteered.

"He just has it in him to naturally want to help people," said Cotton. "He doesn't ask 'why,' he asks 'what can I do to help.'"

"(Smith) mentioned today that he does not see volunteering as work," added Cotton. "He also stated that he does not volunteer for awards or personal gain, he just truly loves what he does."

The USO and the chaplain's office decided that it would be best to present the award in

front of a formation to inspire his peers and to encourage them to pursue other volunteer opportunities.

"This award will affect (Smith) in the near future because he has seen how satisfying it is to volunteer and help someone else just because of his passion for what he does," said Cotton. "In the long run, every one of his peers will remember this

moment when he received this award and think to themselves, 'I want to help someone else.'"

"He just has it in him to naturally want to help people. He doesn't ask 'why,' he asks 'what can I do to help.'"

Lt. Wesley Scholtz

Commissary on Wheels rolls through northern camps

Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

For Marines and sailors stationed on Camps Hansen and Schwab, a trip to the commissary requires a great deal of time and effort.

With the closest commissary located on Camp Courtney, more than 30 minutes from Hansen and an hour from Schwab, Marines and sailors generally have to wait for the weekend to purchase groceries.

Once a quarter, employees with the Camp Courtney Commissary bring a variety of goods to the camps via the Commissary on Wheels.

With each visit, the Commissary on Wheels offers a broad selection of drinks, vegetables, fresh fruits and meats, which are not readily available in the northern camps' stores.

"The primary place of eating for Marines and sailors aboard Hansen and Schwab is the mess hall," said Mark L. Roberts, the camp director of Camp Hansen. "For that reason, plus the fact we are less populated on the northern camps, we don't have commissaries. The Commissary on Wheels is a great treat for the service members up north because it is not something they see very often. When the Commissary on Wheels is coming, word spreads fast to the service members, and you can see a lot of them taking advantage of it."

The program, which has been in place for approximately four years, also accepts requests for specific items available for purchase at the quarterly visits, according to Frank Santos, a grocery manager for the Camp Courtney Commissary.

"Everything we do is for the service members," said Santos. "It's great to come out here, be a part of this program, and see the excited looks on the service members' faces when we come out here. We wish we could be up here more often."

Every time the Commissary on Wheels visits a northern camp, Marines and sailors are excited and enthusiastic about it, according to Cpl. Alexander M. Clem, a supply administration and operations specialist with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

"I know a lot of people who will be shopping at the exchange, see the Commissary on Wheels outside, and completely stop what they're doing to go shop," said Clem. "It really is an awesome thing for us. Quite a few service members do not think about what it would be like to not have a commissary on their camp. Even though this is only



Marines and sailors from Camps Hansen and Schwab visit the Commissary on Wheels April 27 at the Camp Hansen Post Exchange. "Everything we do is for the service members," said Frank Santos, a produce manager for the Camp Courtney Commissary. "It's great to come out here, be a part of this program, and see the excited looks on the service members' faces when we come out here. We wish we could be up here more often." Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

quarterly, it is a great thing and I take full advantage of it."

The Commissary on Wheels brings with it about eight employees, including cashiers and managers.

"Even though we provide the employees, the Marines with Camp Services always come out to help us assemble and disassemble our displays," said Santos. "They play a huge part in our success, and I'm always amazed at our Marines' willingness to volunteer."

Once at the respective camps, the Commissary on Wheels is set up inside the post exchange, making it highly visible and easily accessible.

The Commissary on Wheels improves the quality of life on the northern camps, especially for junior Marines, according to Troy Yarbough, a produce manager with the Camp Courtney Commissary.

"I enjoy my job and what I'm able to do for the troops stationed out here," said Yarbough.

For more information about future Commissary on Wheels' visits, call 622-7590.

In Theaters Now

NOV. 8 - 14

FOSTER

TODAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), noon; Free Birds (PG), 3 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; Don Jon (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Free Birds (PG), 4 p.m.; Don Jon (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 4 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Free Birds (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 5 & 8 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 11 p.m.
SATURDAY Free Birds (PG), noon; Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Family (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG), noon; Free Birds (PG), 3 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 9 p.m.
MONDAY Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 4 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Free Birds (PG13), 4 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 4 p.m.; Don Jon (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 4 p.m.; Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Free Birds (PG), 3 p.m.; Don Jon (R), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Free Birds (PG), 3 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R), 4 p.m.; Ender's Game (R), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Carrie (R), 4 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Counselor (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 3:30 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Free Birds (PG), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; Runner Runner (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Don Jon (R), 6 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 9 p.m.
MONDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 4 p.m.; Captain Phillips (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Machete Kills (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6:30 & 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6 & 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6 & 9:30 p.m.
MONDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Don Jon (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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

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



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

IE ISLAND DAY TRIP

• Join SMP Dec. 1 on a trip to visit Ie Island. A bus will pick up participants at 7:15 a.m. at the Camp Kinser gym, 8 a.m. at the Foster Field House, and 9 a.m. at the Camp Courtney Gym. Sign up with your SMP office by Nov. 26.

DUCK AND COVER GOLF TOURNAMENT

• SMP will be hosting a "Duck and Cover Golf Tournament" Dec. 6 at Taiyo Golf Course. Registration begins at 6 a.m. and play begins with a shotgun start at 7 a.m. Sign up with your SMP office by Nov. 29.

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

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What is the top marksmanship award authorized for wear on Marine Corps' uniforms?
 See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
 Which Marine composed the national march?

ANSWER:
 Warrant Officer John Phillip Sousa, who led the President's Own Band for five U.S. presidents while on active duty.



Japanese phrase of the week:

"Ie, do itashimashite."
 (pronounced: ee-eh, doh ee-tah-shee-mah-sh-the)
 It means "Don't mention it; no, you're welcome."

CHAPLAINS'

OPINION

Have you positioned yourself to make an impact or are you sitting on the fringes?



Make an impact on lives around you

Lt. Wesley Scholtz
 H&HS SQUADRON CHAPLAIN

At some level, we all desire to know that we have made an impact with the lives we have been given. We want to know that we have made the people and the world around us a better place.

Ronald Reagan has been famously quoted as saying, "Some people work an entire lifetime and wonder if they ever made a difference to the world. But the Marines don't have that problem."

The truth of this statement stems from the reality that Marines are always first to fight. They are in the middle of the conflict working towards a resolution.

The Bible tells us in the Old Testament of a warrior named Jonathan. He was the son of Israel's first king, Saul. As you can imagine, many luxuries and opportunities were afforded to Jonathan.

It is easy to imagine that he might

have had some means of staying in the palace instead of being on the battlefield. Jonathan chose to be in the battle and to be a leader where God had placed him.

He led an assault on the enemy accompanied only by his armor bearer, which led to a rally of the entire army and a great victory for Israel.

In the same vein, our most decorated Marine often found himself in the middle of a conflict. Chesty Puller is attributed for saying "We're surrounded. That simplifies the problem."

He did not become our most decorated Marine by accident. He sought to be in the fight and make a difference.

Where are you right now? Have you positioned yourself to make an impact or are you sitting on the fringes? Where is God calling you? It may not be a "fight," but He is always calling us to make this life as meaningful as possible.

Step out in faith and seek to make an impact on the lives of those around you.

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"