

OKINAWA MARINE

NOVEMBER 14, 2008

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Marines celebrate Corps' 233rd birthday in Afghanistan

Lance Cpl. Monty Burton
SPMAGTF-AFGHANISTAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 3rd Marine Regiment, and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit celebrated the 233rd Marine Corps birthday here, Nov. 10.

The Marines and sailors, hundreds of whom deployed to the region Nov. 5, are part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Afghanistan.

Although the Marines were located in a combat zone and couldn't attend a formal Marine Corps birthday ball, the birthday traditions here remained the same.

On the dry, dusty air field, the ceremony began with a troop formation and reading of the birthday message from the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway.

"Your actions, in Iraq and Afghanistan and across the globe, are the core of why America loves her Marines," the message read.

Conway's message was followed by that of the 13th Commandant, Gen. John A. Lejeune, which is customary at Marine Corps Birthday celebrations.

The ceremony concluded with the traditional cake cutting and recognition of the oldest and youngest Marines present.

Col. Gary P. Shaw, 52, the oldest Marine, and Lance Cpl. Francisco Martinez, 19, the youngest Marine, were presented the first pieces of the birthday cake.

Shaw, a liaison officer to the Kandahar Air Field Command, said it was an honor to be recognized as the oldest Marine and celebrate the birthday while deployed.

"I liked it. It was definitely the most memorable birthday I have celebrated," he said. "I've spent birthdays deployed but never to a combat zone, so it was definitely memorable."

Lance Cpl. Jerick Austria, an administrative clerk with SPMAGTF-A, said he wouldn't want to celebrate the birthday anywhere else.

"I would much rather be here than at the ball," he said. "Marines are trained to be deployed, so us celebrating the birthday here is very meaningful."

RECON RETURNS



Staff Sgt. Chadwick Charlton, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, holds up his 14-month-old daughter, Isabella, Nov. 6 after returning to Camp Schwab from a seven-month deployment to Anbar Province, Iraq. The battalion conducted more than 600 patrols, uncovering 50 weapons and explosives caches throughout the province. SEE STORY PAGE 4. Photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

Liberty order outlines Courtesy Patrol policy

Lance Cpl. Antwain J. Graham
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Editor's note: The following is part of a continuing series of articles highlighting the Marine Corps Bases Japan and III Marine Expeditionary Force order 1050.7, the Liberty Campaign Order, signed by III MEF and MCBJ Commanding General Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer Sept. 29.

LIBERTY CAMPAIGN CAMP FOSTER — Marines and Sailors who go off base for liberty should expect to see uniformed Marines and officers patrolling the streets, clubs and bars. These uniformed patrols are called "Courtesy Patrols" and their actions are mandated and regulated by MCBJ and III MEF Order 1050.7, the Liberty Campaign Order.

According to the order, it is Courtesy Patrol's responsibility to deter acts of misconduct while providing leadership and assistance to

Status of Forces Agreement personnel and local businesses.

Courtesy Patrol consists of teams of three or four service members in uniform. The teams patrol during weekends and holiday liberty periods in areas frequented by Status of Forces Agreement members during liberty hours, according to the order. Courtesy Patrol is intended to build positive relations with the community by projecting a visual representation of responsible ambassadors of the U.S. military. Courtesy Patrols have been conducted in Okinawa throughout the years.

Since its implementation, Courtesy Patrol has proven to be an effective measure to deter and minimize off base incidents resulting from misconduct.

"Courtesy Patrol is a proactive presence in the sense that when our service members see them, they will reconsider their actions while

SEE **COURTESY** PG 5

INSIDE

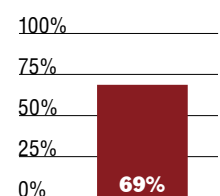
233 YEARS OLD, STILL GOING STRONG

Commands across Okinawa celebrate the Corps' birthday in several ways. Also, in case you missed your ball, the OkiMar is proud to present the Commandant's message in its entirety.

PGS. 6-7

MARINE CORPS FORCES JAPAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN '08

- The goal is 100 percent unit member contact
- As of Wednesday, 10,977 unit members were contacted, approximately 69% of the total personnel goal



Navy Medicine, VA team up, help wounded warriors

Submitted by Lifelines

Navy Medicine and Veterans Affairs have had a long history of sharing services dating back to the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II. Mass casualties resulting from the infamous Dec. 7, 1942, bombing demanded Navy medicine and the Veteran's Affairs work together to produce the best outcome for wounded service members and their families.

Today the Navy is sharing best practices and the use of staff and medical facilities to ensure the finest treatment for Navy and Marine Corps personnel involved in the Global War on Terrorism through the Navy's Safe Harbor Program.

Probably the most encouraging news is the establishment of a Navy to VA Seamless Transition Program to address the logistical and administrative barriers for service members transitioning from military to VA-centered care at navy military treatment facilities from coast to coast.

The best example is at Bethesda, Md., where a full-time VA liaison office is open for the sole purpose of coordinating follow-on care requirements and providing education on VA benefits to wounded warriors from all services treated at that facility. The objective is to place these VA offices in all of the major Navy treatment locations.

Currently there are 10

military transition facilities throughout the military health care system that are coordinating VA processing prior to discharge to eliminate gaps in services or benefits.

Additionally, Navy medicine is working closely with the VA on traumatic brain injury, which now appears to be the injury most associated with the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Navy and VA now have a unified shared strategy to conduct a more accurate and rapid diagnosis and are maintaining a continuity of care for those injured.

Full electronic transfer of the entire medical record and radiological images, as well as physician-to-physician hand-off, is a

matter of day-to-day practice for the Navy and VA. Best of all, the program is ensuring families are both informed and involved in the care of service members.

Navy Medicine is also exploring new relationships with the VA, such as at the Balboa Career Transition Center to help in employment for Navy and Marine Corps personnel as they are discharged into the VA system.

Navy medicine insists that every wounded Navy or Marine Corps service member is provided quality VA benefit information and claims intake assistance, vocational rehabilitative services, career guidance and employment assistance for service members and their families.

DoD, VA evaluate experimental, combined disability evaluation system

Submitted by Lifelines

Sailors and Marines serve for many reasons, but the bottom line is – they want to. Sometimes this becomes problematic for wounded, injured, or chronically ill service members. In these cases, a physical evaluation board will make a determination about the troop's "fitness to serve." If discharge is required, the nation supports those who have given to the point of disability with an annuity, and the Veterans Administration supplies their medical needs.

Before 2007, all military members faced additional physical evaluations and disability ratings after leaving the military to receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While both the DoD and VA use the same rating tool, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities had a different physical exam process.

Even in cases when the same exam was administered, the institutions came to their own decisions on disability percentage calculations.

This led to differences between the VA and DoD rating of the exact same injury or illness and delays in VA benefits processing and disbursements.

As a result, the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors recommended removing the dual-evaluation process. The departments were directed to conduct one medical exam and rating determination by the VA, which the DoD could then use for determining fitness at the evaluation board. In November 2007, the DoD and VA initiated a joint program in the national capital region to improve the timelines, effectiveness and transparency of the review process. The DoD and VA are currently evaluating the test program's results and hope to expand its benefits to all recovering service members.

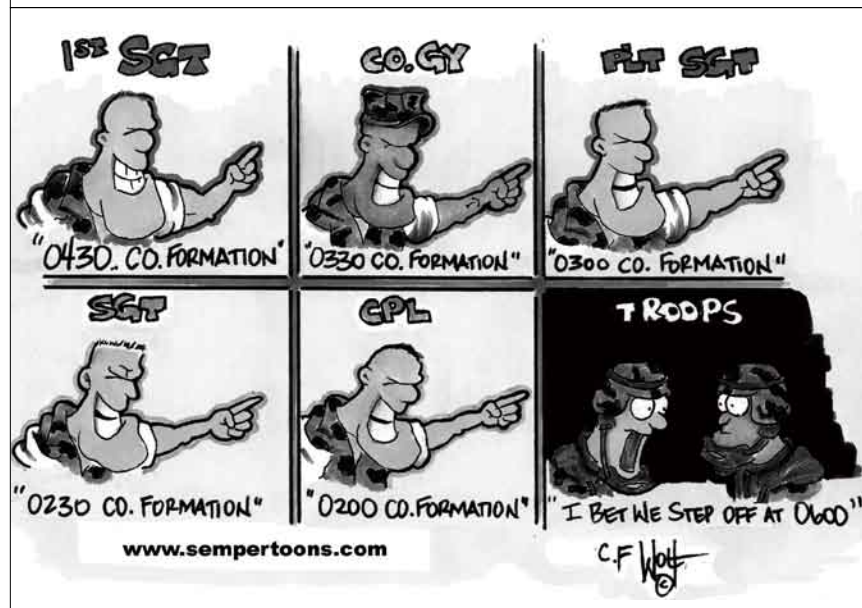
The program would allow military members to file a VA disability claim when they are referred to the Defense Evaluation System. Using the new method, the DoD relies on the

VA to perform the full medical exam used by the medical and physical evaluation boards to determine if the member meets service retention standards. The VA provides a rating for each condition found during the exam; the board uses these ratings to determine which type of separation or retirement the member is eligible for.

Although the DoD and VA expect the pilot program to be faster and fairer, there are still differences in the departments' final combined disability percentage. The VA determines disability ratings for all service-connected conditions, even the ones that would not result in a negative finding for continued military service; the DoD can only consider event-specific injuries or illnesses. The DoD uses the VA disability percentages for each condition, but may have a different combined disability rating than VA awards because conditions which do not designate a service member unfit for duty are not considered in DoD calculations.

Sempertoons

Created by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



FACT CHECK

DRESS BLUES

Q: Do I have to buy a set of Dress Blues if I wasn't issued them in recruit training?

A: Yes. According to Marine Administrative Message 504/07, in October 2007 Marines began receiving the full Dress Blue uniform in recruit training with their standard uniform issue. Marines who joined before this date will get an increase in clothing allowance and be required to purchase the uniform by October 2011.

Recruiting officials stress importance of early reenlistment

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cordero

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Due to the large number of boat spaces – available quotas for a military occupation specialty – being filled, recruiting officials addressed the importance of submitting reenlistment packages early for first-term Marines desiring to reenlist in fiscal year 2009.

According to Marine Administrative Message 596/08, a large number of Marines have executed early reenlistments. Officials are encouraging Marines to submit

their packages as soon as possible to have a better chance of reenlisting in their desired military occupational specialty and receiving all reenlistment incentives.

“If a Marine waits until the last minute to place a reenlistment package, he may end up not being able to reenlist in his MOS,” said Gunnery Sgt. Corey Moore, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge for Marine Corps Bases Japan career planner.

The Marine Corps is continually working on meeting annual retention requirements. Although occupational fields have a limit to

the number of Marines who can be retained, there are ways to reenlist into a closed MOS.

According to the message, the Quality Reenlistment Program will begin in December. In order for Marines to apply for a reenlistment under the program, they must first meet certain prerequisites. They must be a non-commissioned officer, have 4.5/4.5 proficiency and conduct marks and have a first class physical fitness test. Under the QRP, an MOS will accept reenlisting Marines up to 105 percent retention.

After QRP reenlistments, a field will close for the remainder of the

fiscal year, although reenlistment opportunities will still be available for Marines who desire to make a lateral move from a different occupational specialty.

“If a Marine meets the requirements to lateral move, it can become a reenlistment incentive,” said Sgt. Alfred L. Kennard, the career retention specialist for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

Marines interested in reenlisting should contact their unit’s career retention specialist for information on reenlistment benefits and other incentives.

November 2008 declared Warrior Care Month

Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates has designated November 2008 as Warrior Care Month to raise awareness of resources and programs available for wounded service members and their families.

“We need to make it easier for our troops and their families to benefit from all of the assistance now available to them,” Gates said. “This month, let us rededicate ourselves to helping those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf.”

In his 2006 planning guidance, Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, outlined specific goals to care for wounded Marines and sailors, serving with Marine Corps Units, and their families.

“Just as every Marine makes a commitment to the Corps when they earn the title Marine, the Corps makes an enduring commitment to every Marine, and an enduring commitment to their family,” said Conway in his 2006 Planning Guidance.

Conway’s idea came to fruition in April 2007 with the launching of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. Headquartered in Quantico, Va., and with battalions on the East and West Coasts, the regiment provides and facilitates assistance throughout the recovery phases for wounded Marines.

According to a Warrior Care Month fact sheet, since the launch of the Wounded Warrior Regiment almost 18 months ago, the regiment has stood up a call center to receive calls from active duty and former wounded Marines along with their family members.

Other highlights include standing up a Wounded Warrior Operations Center to monitor day-to-day procedures that ensure progress is being made in individual cases.

Establishing a charitable organization cell and the establishment of a job transition cell have helped make considerable gains for the regiment.

The regiment’s commanding officer, Col. Gregory A. Boyle, said “Through the Marine Corps’ caring and concerned leadership, we will keep faith with our wounded, ill and injured Marines and their families.

We will ensure awareness of their needs and provide the necessary mechanisms to address those needs.”



(From left) Sgt. James Bone, Cpl. Ray Hennagir, and Cpl. Matt Bridges model Marine Corps Running Suits Feb. 29 while attached to the Wounded Warrior Regiment at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Official U.S. Marine Corps photo

Gates added, “Caring for these men and woman is the highest priority of this department.”

During Warrior Care Month, a service day will be held Nov. 14 where media will be permitted to come, view and ask questions about the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, director, Bureau of Medicine, will be attending the event, which will be held at the regiment’s operations center on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and start at 9 a.m. Every service will be recognizing Warrior Care Month.

For assistance, information and referral services, please contact the Wounded Warrior Regiment Call Center at (877) 487-6299 or visit the Wounded Warrior Regiment Web site at www.woundedwarriorregiment.org.

Marine Corps eases stress of renters in volatile housing market

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

CAMP FOSTER — In the current volatile housing market, banks continue to foreclose on homes despite residents paying their rent. This problem occurs because landlords are unable to pay their mortgage.

To provide assistance for service members who find themselves in such situations, officials signed a Marine Administrative Message concerning the issue Oct. 20 and pertaining specifically to short distance moves.

According to MARADMIN 588/08, a service member who relocates from a leased or rented residence due to foreclosure action against the landlord is authorized a funded short distance move.

The same applies to a dependant not living with the service member. The short-distance move is not authorized if the service member or family member is the home owner.

Service members who find themselves in this situation should request authorization for a short distance move from the local military housing office. A letter of authorization should be issued at the office. The service member should take the letter to the personal property shipping to schedule a move. A copy of the eviction notice and foreclosure letter should be presented as well if available.

The service member must move to a dwelling from which they will commute daily to their permanent duty station.

The move will be funded at the installation level using operations and maintenance Marine Corps funding, according to the order.

Service members may consult a legal assistance attorney to determine if additional solutions apply.

BRIEFS

RANGE HIGH SCORES

October 27-31

KD02 - SCHWAB

Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Daniels
7th Communications Bn. 311

PD01 - HANSEN

Sgt. Gregory W. Lowry
Headquarters Bn., 3rd MarDiv 379

CREDO WORKSHOPS

The Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation is scheduled to host two one-day workshops for family readiness officers Tuesday and Thursday covering subjects such as understanding others and considering personal and professional goals.

CREDO is also scheduled to host a marriage enrichment workshop Nov. 21. The retreat is designed to provide couples tools to communicate more effectively and work as a team to preserve and enhance their love, commitment and friendship.

For more information or to sign up, call 645-3041.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

An American Indian Heritage presentation is scheduled to be held at Camp Hansen Theater Thursday, from noon to 3 p.m., to celebrate and educate all about the history and heritage of American Indians.

To find out more about the presentation contact Gunnery Sgt. Carolyn Dukes at 623-4403 or (090) 6861-7877.

NAVY COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

The U.S. Naval Hospital career counselor and representatives from the USNH Officers' Wardroom will have a briefing on Navy commissioning programs Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. in the Camp Lester chapel.

The briefing will cover the different Navy commissioning programs and offer advice on how to prepare a successful application.

Active duty sailors as well as Marines are eligible for many of these programs.

All interested sailors and Marines on Okinawa are welcome to attend.

SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The Military Child Education Coalition is holding an essay contest for a scholarship to attend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Camp.

Student applicants must be a child of an active duty military parent or activated guard or reservist, and be enrolled in grades 6 through 9. Applicants must submit a hand-written essay that includes why they should be selected, essays should include such topics as evidence of their patriotism, their future goals, community service and 'after camp' intentions. The students must also submit two letters of recommendation with contact information.

The contest deadline is March 10, 2009.

For more information on the contest, visit <http://www.militarychild.org>.

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



Senior Chief Petty Officer Chris Weaver, a master diver with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, embraces his wife Nov. 6 after returning to Camp Schwab from a seven month deployment to Anbar Province, Iraq. Photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

3rd Recon Bn returns from Iraq

Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — After more than 600 patrols in 25 major operations, more than 180 Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, returned home Nov. 6 from a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

Buses filled with Marines and sailors pulled up in front of the Recon battalion headquarters here to the open arms of cheering family and friends who anxiously awaited their arrival.

The battalion lost one Marine during the deployment. Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke Jr. was killed Aug. 10 during house-to-house searches in a town north of Baghdad.

The mission for 3rd Recon Bn. was to conduct reconnaissance, surveillance, and raids in Anbar Province in an on-going effort to stop insurgent activity.

"All of the recon Marines performed fantastically considering the conditions," said Maj. Brian Howlett, the executive officer for 3rd Recon Bn.

Throughout the summer, the units of 3rd Recon Bn. conducted long patrols, assisting the Iraqi military and police in temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees in some of the most desolate areas in Anbar Province.

"Every task that was given to us was completed 100 percent," said Howlett.

The Marines discovered more than 50 weapons and explosive caches throughout the province while conducting raids and house-to-house searches.

Through success and adversity, the Marines remained professional throughout the deployment, carrying out operations and remaining vigilant in a nation where violent acts are becoming few and far between but still happen, said Howlett.

Now back home at Camp Schwab, many of the Marines will go on to reconnaissance specific schools for advanced training, including the Marine Corps Combatant Diver Course, advanced marksmanship courses, and other reconnaissance-specific training, Howlett said.

Vets, troops not in uniform may salute US flag

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A change to federal law allows U.S. veterans and military personnel not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem.

The law took effect earlier this month, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs news release.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake said. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events

involving our nation's flag."

The provision builds on a change that went into effect last year. That change authorized veterans and military personnel not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag.

Traditionally, veterans' service organizations rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's headgear.

Otherwise, as with all other Americans, the etiquette is to place the right hand over the heart.

The most recent change

was part of the 2009 Defense Authorization Act, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran, sponsored both pieces of legislation.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Inhofe said in a written statement. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. The U.S. Code is now consistent for veterans and all service members in regards to the symbolic gesture of the military salute."

Joint ceremony honors those who served, those who serve



Harry T. Thomas, a veteran of World War II and the honored guest at a Veteran's Day ceremony held on Kadena Air Base, spoke at the ceremony Tuesday. "We who stand on the sidelines hope and respect what you do. I'm proud to call you all comrades." Service members from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force participated in the event to honor the sacrifice of all former and currently-serving military members. Photos by Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt

COURTESY FROM PG 1

on liberty in town," said Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Fierle, the sergeant major for III MEF. "They will be less likely to make the wrong choices."

Unlike gate sobriety and Okinawa and military police gate guards, courtesy patrol monitors the actions of service members in the local community. The service members on Courtesy Patrol serve as a preventive measure, not as a military law enforcement activity. If a Courtesy Patrol encounters a situation that cannot be resolved with verbal instructions, appropriate military law enforcement authorities will be notified.

Sgt. Maj. Cevet A. Adams, the sergeant major for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, clarified that Courtesy Patrol is not a police force that stops criminal acts or hostile situations out in town, but that their job is to intervene if they see signs of a situation that may escalate into an incident.

Courtesy Patrol's duty is to ensure Marines and sailors adhere to the rules and regulations of the Liberty Campaign Order, to include demonstrating proper behavior, adhering to the liberty buddy and liberty card policy, wearing proper liberty attire, and preventing alcohol abuse and illegal consumption.

Service members on courtesy patrol are responsible for patrolling areas to include, Henoko, Kin, Kadena Air Base Gate 2 and Chuo Park Avenue, and the American Village Districts south to Futenma. Courtesy Patrols in Okinawa are conducted at popular liberty locations during the most active times.

The MCBJ/III MEF Order 1050.7, the Liberty Campaign Order, can be accessed on-line at the MCB Camp Butler adjutant SharePoint homepage at the following CAC-protected site: <https://wss.mcbbutler.usmc.mil/G1/Adjutant/default.aspx>. Under the directives links, click MCBJ/III MEF orders and locate MCBJ/III MEF Order 1050.7.

Service members participate in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief training course

Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER – Marines and sailors recently participated in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training to better prepare them for future missions outside of combat operations.

Advisors from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance held a course concerning the United States Agency of International Development at the Globe and Anchor Oct. 31.

The Joint Humanitarian Operations course was held to help Department of Defense personnel understand the rules and regulations of humanitarian assistance relief in foreign countries and how to better plan for relief assistance.

"It provides training for something we don't train for on a daily basis," said Maj. James Y. Bounds, an operations officer with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, who attended the course.

The participants learned about the history of the U.S. government's progress in humanitarian assistance and the establishment of the government's leading federal agency and first responders for

overseas humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

"We're the ones who are actually out there with the (Joint Task Force)," said Kate Legates, an OFDA advisor for the U.S. military, and one of the course's instructors. "When we're not out helping, we're teaching this course."

The participants also learned how to identify and work with international, nongovernment, and private organizations as well as host nation organizations during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

Information concerning finding goods and services from outside organizations was also provided to course participants.

The instructors discussed coordinating efforts between DoD and humanitarian organizations to provide relief as quickly and effectively as possible during disaster response. The discussions included determining how to respond to disasters and how to best employ use of military assets during relief efforts.

"We were glad to have the opportunity to teach this course here and appreciate the effort to coordinate before disaster strikes," Legates said.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARINES!



Col. Matthew R. Cicchinelli, commanding officer of Marine Air Control Group 18 (center), leads more than 750 Marines from MACG-18 on a formation run down the Habu Trail Nov. 7 in celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Antwain J. Graham*



III Marine Expeditionary Force Band beats out a tune during the 3rd Marine Logistics Group Ball for staff noncommissioned officers Nov. 6. The Ball was held at the Butler Officers Club. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin*



Col. Frank H. Simonds Jr., the commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Bn., Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, and Sgt. Maj. Jamie Hunt, battalion sergeant major, stand at attention as the colors pass by at the H&S Bn's cake cutting ceremony Nov. 7. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost*



Capt. Rennie Givens, the 12th Marine Regiment adjutant, reads the 233rd Marine Corps Birthday message before the cake cutting ceremony of the 12th Marines Marine Corps Ball Nov. 6 at the Palms enlisted club. A tradition during the Marine Corps Ball is reading the 13th commandant's message and the current commandant's message. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph A. Cabrera*

Sgt. Maj. Paul Mckenna hands Lance Cpl. Francisco Martinez, 19, a slice of cake during the Special Purpose MAGTF Afghanistan 233rd Marine Corps birthday ceremony at Kandahar Airfield Nov. 10. Martinez was the youngest Marine at the ceremony. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Monty Burton*



A BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT, GENERAL JAMES T. CONWAY



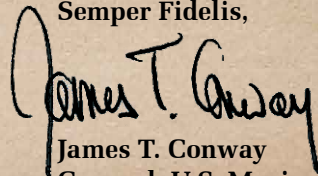
During the summer of 1982, in the wake of a presidential directive, Marines went ashore at Beirut, Lebanon. Fifteen months later, on Oct. 23, 1983, extremists struck the first major blow against American forces – starting this long war on terrorism. On that Sunday morning, a suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden truck into the headquarters of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, destroying the building and killing 241 Marines and corpsmen.

Extremists have attacked our nation, at home and abroad, numerous times since that fateful day in Beirut. Their aim has always been the same – to kill as many innocent Americans as possible. The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 changed our nation forever, and our president has resolved this nation will not stand idle while murderous terrorists plan their next strike. Marines will continue to take the fight to the enemy – hitting them on their own turf, crushing them when they show themselves and finding them where they hide.

Only a few Americans choose the dangerous, but necessary, work of fighting our nation's enemies. When our chapter of history is written, it will be a saga of a selfless generation of Marines who were willing to stand up and fight for our nation, to defend those who could not defend themselves, to thrive on the hardship and sacrifice expected of an elite warrior class, to march to the sound of the guns and to ably shoulder the legacy of those Marines who have gone before.

On our 233rd birthday, first remember those who have served and those “angels” who have fallen – our reputation is built on their sacrifices. Remember our families – they are the unsung heroes whose support and dedication allow us to answer our nation's call. Finally, to all Marines and sailors, know I am proud of you and what you do. Your successes on the battlefield have only added to our illustrious history. Lieutenant Gen. Victor H. “Brute” Krulak said it best when he wrote, “...the United States does not need a Marine Corps, the United States wants a Marine Corps.” Your actions, in Iraq and Afghanistan and across the globe, are at the core of why America loves her Marines.

Happy birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps

BEACONS OF HOPE, COURAGE

Thousands gather at Kadena for Special Olympics

Lance Cpl. Aaron D. Hostutler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — More than 5,000 people gathered near the Risner Fitness Center on Kadena Saturday to celebrate the ninth annual Kadena Special Olympics.

The event consisted of a variety of sporting events along with art displays showcasing the abilities of those with special needs, according to Air Force Maj. Colin Y. Sewake, the assistant director of operations for the Kadena Special Olympics.

“The whole point of today’s event is to celebrate the participants’ talents and skills,” said Sewake. “It’s not about them being victims of disability, but rather being beacons of hope and of courage.”

This year’s Olympics were a platform for over 1,200 participants consisting of approximately 900 athletes and 300 artists.

The athletes competed in a variety of sporting events including 50 through 400 meter track events, the softball throw, Frisbee toss, ground golf, floor hockey, basketball and tennis.

During the events, volunteers, consisting largely of service members from throughout Okinawa, cheered and ran alongside the participants providing encouragement and inspiration.

Many of the volunteers who came out were assigned to individual athletes as “huggers.”

The huggers remained with their athletes throughout the day.



Members of the Navy and Air Force stand with Mizuki-san as he holds up the Olympic torch after lighting the cauldron signaling the start of the Kadena Special Olympics Saturday, at Kadena Air Base. Kadena hosted the ninth annual Special Olympic for special needs Okinawan and American athletes. Official U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chrissy Best

Their job was to give encouragement to their athletes and provide any assistance needed from finding the lunch tent to helping the participants compete.

“This was my first year volunteering with the Special Olympics,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashaunet-ae Young. “I had the opportunity to run the 50 meter dash and 200 meter relay with my athlete and it was wonderful. The most important thing is to care for someone else, to be there and be supportive.”

The planning for this year’s Olympics began more than five months ago and consisted of more than 50 committees that worked together to make the event special for the participants, according to Sewake.

“Every year we try to make a

difference,” said Sewake.

He said he was confident the event hit the mark judging from the smiles and expressions of satisfaction among athletes and volunteers.

Sewake was proud of the fact so many service members volunteered to support the event.

“I think you could say-actually I know you could say-that you made

an impact on the life of a special needs athlete,” he said.

Planning for next year’s event is scheduled to begin in approximately six months.

Any individuals interested in volunteering, may contact the Kadena Special Olympic officials online at <http://www.kadenaspecialolympics.com>.



A young Okinawan girl sprints to the finish line during the Kadena Special Olympics Saturday, at Kadena Air Base. Kadena hosted the ninth annual Special Olympic Games. Official U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rey Ramon



A Kadena Special Olympics participant jumps as far as she can during the standing long jump contest Saturday, at Kadena Air Base. Official U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chrissy Best



Marines from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, out of Hawaii, took part in the 15-day long Urban Snipers Course at Camp Hansen Oct. 20 - Nov. 7. The students learned skills such as shooting from helicopters and through automotive windshields. Photos by Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bianco

SOTG trains 'invisible shooters'

Marines take shot at Urban Sniper Course

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bianco
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group recently helped reinforce the shooting skills of Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Bn., 3rd Marine Division, and 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, out of Hawaii, at the Camp Hansen Rifle Range Oct. 20 - Nov. 7.

Staff Sgt. Owen Mulder, the lead sniper instructor for SOTG, taught 10 Marines specific tactics utilized in urban terrain during the Urban Sniper Course.

The snipers were taught various shooting positions that help them adapt to their surroundings, taking them out of their standard prone shooting position, said Mulder.

Mulder, who is the only sniper instructor on staff with SOTG, gave instruction on firing from the standing, kneeling and sitting positions. He said this is one of the hardest parts of the course.

"They're not used to shooting in these positions," said Mulder. "In an urban environment, a lot of times you can't be in the prone."

Focusing on particular areas of the enemies' body is the other focus of the training and another challenging aspect of the course.

Mulder said the head shots, of only 1 to 6 inches in diameter, are the most important ones a shooter can take and if he doesn't hit, the miss will make for a much harder kill.

"The course prepares us for most of the situations we will find in theater. This allows us to know what to expect," said Sgt. Scott Hartmann, a scout sniper with 3rd Recon Bn.

The students are tasked with learning more advanced skills to become more knowledgeable and experienced shooters.

"When they're in the basic sniper course, they learn to take steady well-aimed shots, but in this class they are taught to combat shoot," said Mulder.

Normally when engaging with an enemy combatant, the scout snipers have a clear line of sight.

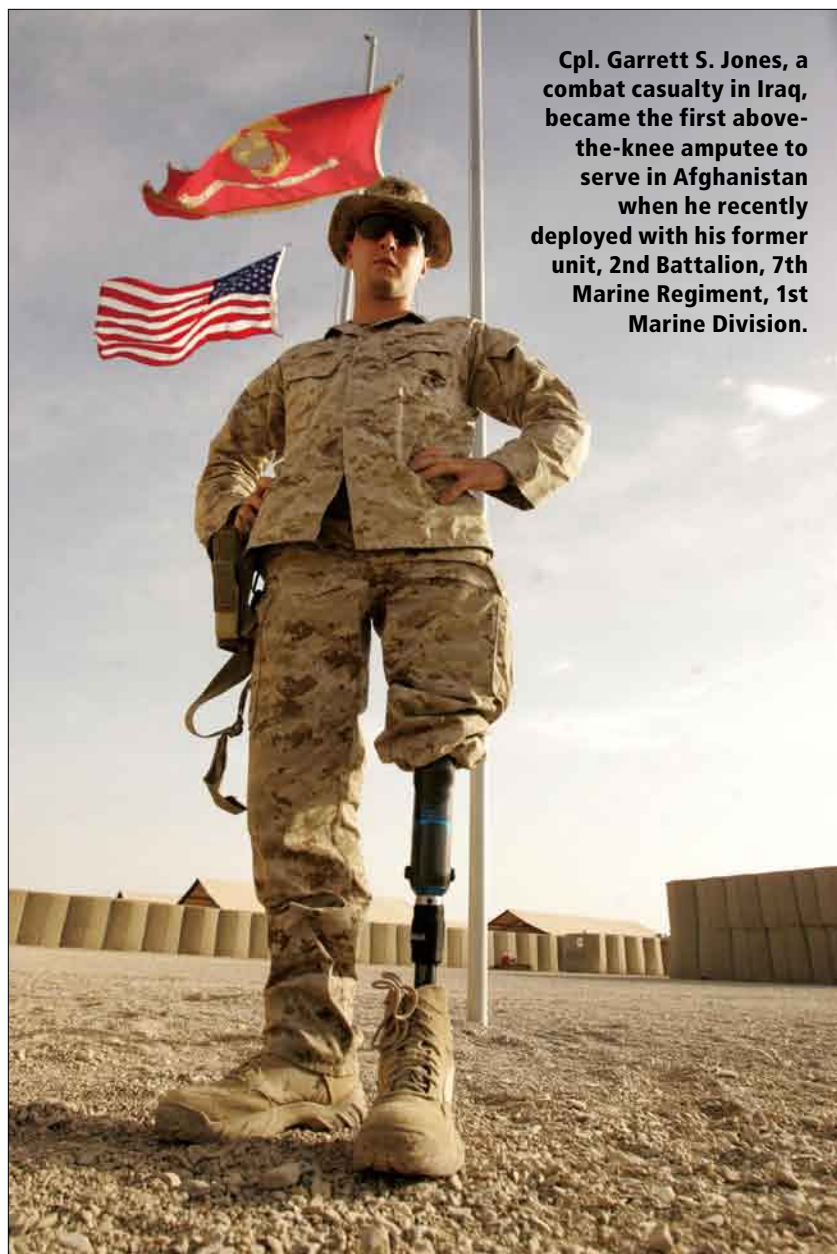
However, when in an urban environment, there are often more obstacles to consider, such as automobiles.

Mulder said in his eight years as a scout sniper there have been many instances where he has succeeded in mission thanks to the training taught at similar advance sniper courses.

"There have been times where I had to engage several targets at once or only had the target in for a few seconds. The training helps the Marines become familiar with scenarios such as these," he said. "This isn't the traditional hiding in the bushes and shooting."



Students of the Urban Snipers Course fired at targets shielded by automotive glass at the Camp Hansen Rifle Range, Nov. 4.



Cpl. Garrett S. Jones, a combat casualty in Iraq, became the first above-the-knee amputee to serve in Afghanistan when he recently deployed with his former unit, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

He's been called a walking legend, literally. He's ... one of those guys who doesn't let anything get to him, obviously.

— CPL. ROBERT C. POFAHL | FRIEND, FELLOW MARINE

able to serve in other sections within the battalion and was subsequently assigned to the intelligence section where he now provides his unit with information that can aid in keeping them out of harm's way.

"At first I didn't know what I was able to do," Jones said. "It's good to be able to do something that will keep Marines safe. Although I can't be out there with them, I get to directly help them."

Jones wanted to deploy with his unit when it was ordered to deploy to Afghanistan in April, but, he wasn't yet ready to undergo the intense Mojave Viper pre-deployment training. Regardless, he would take no handouts despite his handicap.

He knew he would have to prove himself all over again.

"It wasn't just a hookup," Jones said. "I had to do all the training all other Marines do."

Jones participated in hum-vee scenarios, close quarters combat drills, survival and machine gun training, combat life saver courses and several other pre-deployment courses.

"My leg popped off a couple of times in the humvee scenario and once when I was leaving a range," Jones said. "I thought it was funny because how many guys walk around with combat loads and have a leg fall off?" I still did it to prove that I could deploy as an amputee."

Once all the physical and administrative requirements were met, Jones was ready to deploy.

"I love being with the guys, the same people. I really do," Jones said. "If it wasn't for the guys in this unit, I wouldn't be here. It's an honor to serve with them and be in a place where many Marines don't get a chance to go."

Recovering in just nine months, Jones has become the fastest recuperating amputee to deploy to a combat zone, though many seem to doubt his ability to survive a seven-month tour on a prosthetic limb.

"A lot of people were skeptical of me because I'm a new amputee," Jones said. "It's been a little bit of a challenge for me, mentally at first. People were saying, 'Its going to be hard and he can't do it.'"

Jones still struggles with walking. He said it takes a lot of energy to walk in combat boots for 14 hours a day with all the sweating, straining and refitting inside of his prosthetic leg.

He said he will always feel slight discomfort on his left leg because of nerve and bone growth along the skin line of his amputated leg. But, he considers it a small price to pay when compared to a potential loss of life.

"We're talking about a guy who almost died in battle and came back to a similar fight," said Sgt. Paul E. Savage, an intelligence specialist with 2/7. "The fact that it didn't scare him to come back to his buddies truly speaks volumes of Jones' character."

Jones said he wants to stay in the Marine Corps because he enjoys serving in such a loyal organization. The career retention specialist has even submitted a permanent limited duty package so he can continue his career.

Despite his abrupt loss of limb, Jones remains upbeat and always keeps his peers in high spirits.

"He's always motivated," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Ortiz, the battalion intelligence chief. "His morale is always high. The only time I see him upset is when he sees someone hurt or killed, because he takes it personal. But he always bounces back and visits whoever it is in the hospital to see how they are."

Jones said he personally meets with new amputees to show them there is "light at the end of the 'canal.'" He wants them to know just because they are an amputee doesn't mean they can't reach their goals.

"I've told them to keep their head up," Jones said. "I want to show them that if I can do it, they can do it. I want to set the example for other amputees."

Jones is the first Marine with an above-the-knee amputation to deploy to Afghanistan.

"Ninety percent of the guys in his situation would have likely walked away with their disability and called it a day," Savage said. "But, he's still striving to make a point and it's remarkable."

Jones continues to push his personal, mental and physical limits. When he returns to the United States, he wants to train in Utah to represent the Marine Corps in adaptive snowboarding competitions in Colorado, Canada, and possibly Italy. He said the competitions will help him prepare for snowboarding in the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver, Canada.

Jones wants to continue serving with the 1st Marine Division as an intelligence specialist. He also wants to keep helping fellow amputees continue their service in the Marine Corps.

He said he is sending a letter to the commandant entitled, "Back on their Feet and Back in the Fleet."

The letter entails getting permanent limited duty packages completed for more wounded Marines in a timelier manner for those who desire to stay in the Marine Corps.

"Just because you have an injury, it doesn't mean you have to leave the Marine Corps," Jones said. "You just have to work hard. I want to let those guys know back in the States that there is a place for you. I plan on being one of those examples."

GETTING BACK ON HIS FEET

(CHAPTER II)

Story and photo by Sgt. Ray Lewis
2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Public Affairs

Cpl. Garrett S. Jones focused on his recovery, yet the desire to return to his unit stayed on his mind.

In February, Jones was visited by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway. Seizing the moment of this rare opportunity, he asked the Marine commander for orders to return to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif., so he could once again serve with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

"I asked to come back to 2/7, and his assistant took my info," Jones explained. "And a couple of days later, I had orders back to 2/7. I was so excited I almost didn't believe it."

When Jones checked back into his battalion, many of the Marines were awestruck. They couldn't believe how much progress he had made on a prosthetic leg in less than a year.

"None of us knew how advanced prosthetics were," said Cpl. Robert C. Pofahl, Jones' friend and fellow infantryman. "He's been called a walking legend, literally. He's a really positive and hard worker; one of those guys who doesn't let anything get to him, obviously," Pofahl said.

Although Jones couldn't return to the infantry, he was

IN THEATERS NOV 14 – 20

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

FOSTER 645-3465

TODAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 6 p.m.; Quarantine (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY The House Bunny (PG13), 12 p.m.; Traitor (PG13), 3 p.m.; Righteous Kills (R) 6 p.m.; College (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Quarantine (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Disaster Movie (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA 636-3890

TODAY Body of Lies (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY College (R), 4 p.m.; Eagle Eye (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY College (R), 4 p.m.; Babylon A.D. (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Pride and Glory (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN 623-4564

TODAY Righteous Kills (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Pride and Glory (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Tyler Perry's The Family That Prey's (PG13), 2 and 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY The Women (PG13) 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY The Women (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB 625-2333

FRIDAY Pride and Glory (R), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY College (R), 5 p.m.

SUNDAY Babylon A.D. (PG13), 5 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KADENA 634-1869

TODAY Tyler Perry's The Family That Prey's (PG13), 6 p.m.; Righteous Kills (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 12, 3 and 6 p.m.; Tyler Perry's The Family That Prey's (PG13), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 1 and 6 p.m.; Righteous Kills (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Pride and Glory (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Pride and Glory (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY 622-9616

TODAY Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG), 5 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG), 2 p.m.; Bangkok Dangerous (R), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Pride and Glory (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY College (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

KINSER 637-2177

TODAY The Women (PG13), 3 p.m.; Righteous Kills (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY Closed

MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

USO MOVIE NIGHTS

The USO hosts movie nights at the locations below.

For schedules and start times, call:

CAMP SCHWAB 625-3834

MCAS FUTENMA 636-2113

CAMP HANSEN 623-5011

KADENA AIR BASE 632-8781



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

All bus pick-up points will be at Semper Fit gyms or the Foster Fieldhouse.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer at Kinser Elementary School by reading to students and participating in class activities every Friday from 8:45 to 11 a.m.
- The Marine Thrift Shop on Camp Foster requests two volunteers on a weekly basis from Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Hansen and Schwab and MCAS Futenma.
- Volunteering dates at the Ai No Mura Nursing Home occur on the fourth Friday of each month. Call 636-3092 for more information.
- To sign up as a volunteer contact your SMP representative or call the SMP office at 645-3681 by Wednesday of each week.

NOV. 21 | NORTHERN CAMPS DISCOVER GOLF

- Free class teaches about setting up a tee time, cart and club rental, club types and stroke techniques. Times are from 9 to 11 a.m. To arrange transportation contact the SMP office.

JAN. 16-20 | THAILAND TRIP

- Once-in-a-lifetime four-day temple and shopping tour in Bangkok, Thailand. The registration deadline is Nov. 28, call the SMP office for more information or to register.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486/7487

- *Catholic*: Mon., Wed., Fri., 11:45 a.m.; Sat., 5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.
- *Christian Science*: Sun., 11 a.m., Bldg. 442
- *Eastern Orthodox*: Sun., 9:30 a.m.
- *Gospel*: Sun., 11:30 a.m.
- *Jewish*: Fri., Traditional, 6 p.m.; Informal: Fri., 6:30 p.m.
- *Muslim*: Fri., Prayer, 12:45 p.m.
- *Protestant*: Sun., 8:30 a.m.
- *Seventh Day Adventist*: Sat., 10 a.m.
- *Hindu*: Sat., 3:30 p.m.

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- *Catholic*: Sun., 8 a.m., Lester Chapel
- *Protestant*: Sun., 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel Sun., 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- *Catholic*: Sun., 11 a.m.
- *Gospel*: Sun., 8 a.m.
- *Protestant*: Sun., 9:30 a.m.

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- *Catholic*: Sun., noon
- *Contemporary*: Fri., 7 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.
- *Special service for highschool seniors*: Sat. 6 p.m.

CAMP SCHWAB | 625-2644/2866

- *Catholic*: Sun., 5:30 p.m.
- *Protestant*: Sun., 11:30 a.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

- *Buddhist*: Sat., 10 a.m., Bldg. 856
- *Catholic*: Sun., 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun., 11:30 a.m., Reconciliation, Chapel 1; Sun., 12:30 p.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun., 5 p.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun., 10:30 a.m., CCD, Amelia Earhart School; Daily Mass, Mon.-Thurs., noon, Chapel 2
- *Protestant*: Sun., 10:30 a.m., Contemp., Chapel 1; Sun., 8:30 a.m., Inspirational, Chapel 2; Sun., 10:30 a.m., Traditional, Chapel 2; Sun., 10:30 a.m., Gospel, Chapel 3; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m., Bldg. 856
- *Wiccan/Pagan*: Fri., 7 p.m., Chapel 1; Sat., 6 p.m., Bldg. 856

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- *Catholic*: Sun., 10 a.m., E. Chapel
- *Latter Day Saints*: Sun., 1 p.m., W. Chapel
- *Protestant*: Sun., 11 a.m., W. Chapel

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- *Catholic*: Sun., 8 and 11:15 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.
- *Protestant*: Sun., 9:30 a.m.

CAMP McTUREOUS | 622-7537

- *Gospel*: Sun., 12:30 p.m.
- *Lutheran*: Sun., 9:30 a.m.

CAMP SHIELDS | 632-4192

- *Protestant*: Sun., 6 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AUTOMOBILES

'95 TOYOTA SPRINTER
JCI Apr. '09,
\$2,200 OBO,
(90) 6861-7827

'93 TOYOTA HILUX SURF
JCI Nov. '09,
\$1,900 OBO,
622-8554

'93 TOYOTA CALDINA
JCI Jul. '10,
\$1,000 OBO,
645-1038

'98 NISSAN PULSAR
JCI Apr. '09,
\$1,500 OBO,
(90) 6861-5506

'91 NISSAN SKYLINE
JCI Sept. '10,
\$3,400 OBO,
(90) 6859-9719

'98 MARK II GRANDE
JCI Sept. '09,
\$5,000 OBO,
(90) 6861-7229

'02 HONDA ODYSSEY
JCI '09,
\$7,295 OBO,
(90) 3070-0698

'95 TOYOTA CARINA
JCI Sept. '10,
\$1,850 OBO
646-3799

'94 MARK II GRANDE
JCI Jan. '10,
\$2,500 OBO,
(90) 6859-9719

'93 MAZDA DEMIO
JCI Jan. '10,
\$2,500 OBO,
623-9111

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Staff Sgt. Raman Arredondo (left) and Roberto Iwashita (right) speak to soccer enthusiasts following the first day's tryouts for the Brazilian Soccer Club Nov. 1, on Camp Foster. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

Soccer club crosses cultures in Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER – The first professional soccer club available on base recently held its initial open tryouts on Camp Foster.

The Brazilian Soccer Club, open to all Status of Forces Agreement personnel, is aimed at improving the competitive level of soccer play amongst the military camps.

The club is called Brazilian Soccer Club because it's coached by a professional soccer player from Brazil who will be teaching players the Brazilian style of soccer, according to Staff Sgt. Raman Arredondo, the club's assistant coach.

"The Brazilian style of soccer includes the technical aspect, not so much for kicking the ball, but dribbling it and making short passes and the tactical aspect, the team's ability to work together as a collective," Arredondo said.

The club founders' hope as knowledge of the soccer club spreads to the military community on Okinawa, more soccer enthusiasts will try out for the BSC and more local Japanese

teams will compete in Marine Corps Community Services soccer tournaments.

Head coach Roberto Iwashita was a professional soccer player in Brazil for 24 years until he was recruited by Requiros FC, a local Japanese soccer club, to coach soccer on Okinawa.

Arredondo met the Brazilian coach while refereeing at a local soccer tournament. Iwashita was switching between broken English and Spanish to coach his team, immediately causing Arredondo to notice the coach because he spoke Spanish himself. Arredondo translated for him the remainder of the tournament.

Arredondo and Iwashita continued to talk after the game. They agreed there was a difference in soccer skill between American and Japanese soccer players on Okinawa.

"In America, soccer is one of many team sports played, but it doesn't really get competitive until players start high school or college," Arredondo said. "However, in Japan, baseball and soccer are recognized as the two main sports,

(with baseball being more focused on individual ability, soccer focuses on team play) so children in Japan start playing competitively at an earlier age."

They realized the difference in skill level may be why few local teams participate in on-base soccer tournaments. So they attained sponsorship from Marine Corps Community Services and Puma, a sports equipment organization, to purchase uniforms and establish the club.

With sponsorship and funding, they next needed SOFA soccer enthusiasts to join the club.

Arredondo and Iwashita posted fliers around military camps weeks in advance, inviting personnel throughout Okinawa to participate in BSC's first tryouts on Nov. 1 and 2.

Iwashita evaluated players on technique more than physical shape, checking to see if they could dribble and pass the ball as they scrimmaged. He never hesitated to stop the game to show them what needed improvement. Iwashita even played the second day during the last scrimmage.

More than 30 players attended tryouts.

The roster for a professional soccer team requires a minimum of 24, but Iwashita was only accepting 25 players.

"With the quality that we have right now we're looking to play against our first team in a month and play our first tournament by the end of this year," Iwashita said.

If soccer players missed the first tryouts or want to participate in the club's adult team later, tryouts are scheduled at least once a month, however applicants must attend two to three practices before competing for a BSC player's spot.

Practices are scheduled on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at field one next to Gunner's Fitness Center on Camp Foster.

The schedule may change however, so contact should be made with a coach before attending, Arredondo said.

For more information about BSC call 646-6452 or (080) 1769-2040 or e-mail Arredondo at ramon.arredondo@usmc.mil.



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Unit 35002
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