

Both MCAF men and the Ryukyu University women teams won Mr. INOFUKU'S Challenge Trophy.

The First Badminton Championship sponsored by the Okinawa Badminton Association was held at the Naha Commercial High School Gym at 10:00 A.M. anuary 18, 1964 under the participation of 13 men and 6 women teams.

s the results of competition, the MCAF Men's team and the Ryukyu University lomen's team were final winner's of the game and were presented trophics by r. INAFUKU, the Vice-Chief of Okinawa Badminton Association.

п

2

200 月日

水黑 材 141

16 2

211

C 2

# **Community exchange**

附连四 維 格 大 B REPRESENTE IN ちつ 1517 | \$11108 SE 口葉 0 3 158 133 19 0 0 III B







例子を大勢・ボールディン・オーノ管天際マ デオ仲村・鉄塔(強大A)のダブルス数



Japan-U.S. military and school bands perform during a music festival at Lester Middle School, Camp Lester, Chatan, Okinawa, May 20, 2023.

Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Band, band students from Lester Middle School and Mashiki Junior High School of Ginowan City play together at the Friendship Music Festival. The event came about after Asako Ishimura, Government and External Affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, initiated the idea of exchanges between the III MEF band and local school bands last year.

レスター中学校フレンドシップ音楽祭で共に合奏する日米の軍楽隊と中学生。

第三海兵遠征軍音楽隊と陸上自衛隊第15音楽隊のメンバー、レスター基地レスター中学校音楽専攻の生徒たちと宜野湾市立真志喜中学校吹奏楽部の生徒たちが、フレンドシップ音楽祭で共演。このイベントは、海兵隊太平洋基地政務外交部の石村麻子渉外官が、昨年から第三海兵遠征軍音楽隊と地元の学校吹奏楽部との交流を考えていたことから実現した = 2023年5月20日、沖縄県北谷町キャンプ・レスター (Photo by Yoshie Makiyama / 写真 槙山由江)

# Follow us / 最新情報はこちらで















# **Big Circle**

Big Circle is an authorized publication of the United States Marine Corps. However, the contents of Big Circle are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the Marine Corps, U.S. Government, or Department of Defense. It is published every four months by Communication Strategy and Operations, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Big Circle is on the Web at https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/1184/the-big-circle.

Email subscriptions to this publication are available online by subscribing via https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/1184/the-big-circle. Subscribers will receive an e-mail when the latest issue has been published on the Web. The publication can be viewed in PDF format online or downloaded.

# 大きな輪

「大きな輪」は、米国海兵隊認可の機関誌です。しかし、 内容は、必ずしも海兵隊や米 国政府、米国防総省の公式 見解であるとは限らず、また それらによって推奨されてい るものでもありません。当機 関誌はキャンプ・バトラー米 海兵隊太平洋基地広報企画 運用部(COMMSTRAT)が4 ヶ月ごとに発行しています。 大きな輪のウェブアドレスは https://www.dvidshub.net/ publication/1184/the-bigcircle.

当機関誌ウェブ版をご希望の方は、上記ウェブサイトに購読をお申し込みください。お申し込みされた方は、ウェブ上に新刊が掲載されると、通知メールを受信するようになっています。ウェブ版はPDF形式で、インターネットで閲覧、またはダウンロードすることができます。

# content

## 21

# Feature archive FOLEST

Camp Commander & Commanding General Cup 2002 information

# 20

Mother's heartbreaking plea delivered to US service members 'practice a pause'

### 16

Ryukyuan-American Youth Friendship Baseball Tournament continues

## 14

Young Gladiators, local counterparts compete in once-in-a-lifetime match

## **12**

Exchange game gives Japan-US softball players chance to learn from each other

## 10

US service members showcase Okinawan Eisa drum dance

# 6

Kinser Historical
Display shows
another face at
Ushijima descendant visit

From editor's room & Upcoming events

# BIG CIRCLE

大きな輪

# **Commanding General**

Maj. Gen. Stephen E. Liszewski

#### Communication Strategy and Operations Director

Lt. Col. Daniel M. Huvane

# Managing Editor

Yoshie Makiyama

#### **Editorial Support**

Toshiyuki Nakamoto Staff Sgt. Averi M. Coppa

### International phone

011-81-98-970-1220

#### **Mailing Address**

MCB Camp S.D. Butler Bldg. #1, COMMSTRAT Unit 35001 FPO AP 96373-5001

**Phone:** (098) 970-1220

#### **Email**

MCBPAC.MCBBUTLER.O@ usmc.mil

NOTE: The magazine starts with an English cover for English readers. However, Big Circle's first page starts with a Japanese cover based on the Japanese style. This is page 21. English readers follow the page numbers backward.

注:日本語読者は反対 側から読み進めてください。こちらは最後のページです。

# **Feature archive FOLEST**

**FOLEST** is a bilingual newsletter published since 1998 by Hiroko Tomimur. Camps Foster and Lester community relations specialist. It introduces the differences in lifestyle between on and off base, as well as information about the base at any given time. Below is about the open base sport events, Camp Commander and Commanding General cup in 2002.

「フォレスト」はキャンプ・フォスター&レスターの富村浩子渉外官によって1998年以来発行されている二か国語のニュースレターです。基地の中と外の生活様式の違いやその時々の基地の情報を紹介しています。以下は、2002年の基地内ゲート開放スポーツイベントの紹介です。



37th Issue published Jan. 2002
Note: The content is based on 2002, not present

# ON BASE SPORTS EVENTS OPEN TO LOCALS Year 2002 begins. This year, there will be opportunities for local nationals to participate in various sports competitions on base. The program is called 2002 Camp Commander & Commanding General Cup. The participation fee is FREE. The schedule is shown below. Starting hours vary depending on the sport. The dates shown below are Camp Commander's Cup. The first and second place teams are qualify to play in Commanding

Commander's Cup. The first and second place teams are qualify to play in Commanding General's Cup later in each month. The age limit is 18 years and older. Individuals are welcomed to apply. For registration forms, please call Hiroko@645-7766.

| Free February Racquetball | Sat 2 & Sun 3 | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 6 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 players/team | Sat 9 & Sun 9 | 10 pla

April
Basketball
Sat 6 & Sun 7
Sat 13 & Sun14
10 players/team

# フォレスト紹介 フォンブ・フォスター&レスター

# 第37号 2002年1月発行

注:2002年当時に基づいた内容で、 現在のものではありません

# 日本人も参加できる基地内スポーツイベント

2002年がスタート。今年は基地内の様々なスポーツ大会に日本人が参加できるチャンスが毎月あります。2002年キャンプコマンダーズ・コマンディングジェネラル杯というプログラム。要するに各米軍基地の司令官たちが地域の方も基地内のスポーツ大会にお招きしようという意向です。しかも大会への参加費用は無料、但し人数に制限あり、期日は下配の通り、開始時間は種目によって異なります。下記の期日はキャンプコマンダーズ杯。上位1、2位のチームはちに後日行われるコマンディングジェネラル杯へと進出できます。18歳以上の方なら誰でも参加可能、個人での申し込みまのKです。お申し込みは892~5111(交換)、645-7766(内線) ヒロコまで。



\*The layout has been changed slightly to fit the page. ページに合わせて、レイアウトが多少変更されています。

22 — Sept 2023

# MOTHER'S HEARTBREAKING PLEA DELIVERED TO US SERVICE MEMBERS: 'PRACTICE A PAUSE'



Marines and Sailors from Camp Foster and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma listen to the message of Jessica Niss, mother of a drowned Marine, at the Camp Foster theater, May 19.

5月19日、フォスター基地内映画館で、沖縄で水難事故にあい亡くなった海 兵隊員の母親ジェシカ・ニスさんのメッセージに耳を傾けるキャンプ・フォ スターと普天間航空基地所属の海兵隊員と海軍兵ら。

■ hen the Okinawa rainy season was announced, the mother of the late Marine Cpl. Eric-John Niss-DeJesus visited Okinawa to give a series of presentations to Marines and Sailors on various bases for one week in May.

Eric-John, a military working dog trainer at Camp Kinser, was 24 when he went missing June 5, 2021, while swimming with friends at Odo Beach, Itoman City,

Okinawa. He was found five days later, deceased in the sea about 1,000 feet from shore without a life vest. It was determined that he lost his life to a rip current. Jessica Niss, standing in front of nearly 300 Marines and Sailors at the theater on Camp Foster, gave her

first hour-long presentation, May 19. She delivered a message of safety from a mother's perspective and talked about the importance of using risk management in dangerous situations.

Niss's presentation was part of the annual Critical Days of Summer safety campaign which runs Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Every year as summer approaches Marine Corps Installations Pacific Safety Office conducts a series of training sessions to increase safety awareness among service members in hopes of reducing the potential of preventable mishaps. Okinawan summer starts right after the rainy season ends.

According to the Safety Office, among the many

dangers service members face, recreational off-duty, drownings and near miss drownings are the leading preventable mishaps among U.S. forces in Okinawa. Since 2000, a total of 41 Status of Force Agreement personnel have lost their lives in local waters. In addition, another 43 were rescued, although that number is said to be more, due to unreported near miss incidents.

Shawn Curtis, director of the Safety Office, said many of those water-related deaths and incidents could be prevented by understanding sea conditions, rip currents, and by wearing life vests.

Curtis also said that such incidents not only place a huge burden on the families, friends, and readiness, but also endanger civilian and emergency responders, as well as cause an unnecessary strain on emergency response resources of the host country and the U.S. military in Okinawa.

"They (the Safety Office) reached out to me in November (2022), as they wanted to create awareness," said Niss. "They have been sharing Eric-John's story since (the tragedy) but they were wondering if I would come out (to Okinawa) and put that extra link of connection." Her response was an immediate yes.

Curtis stated before the Niss presentation that because the greatest risk takers statistically were junior service members, the target audience was E5 and below, which was the main audience on May 19.

"They live in the moment, that is the mentality of the kids," Niss said. "But there are some key things. Water is

> powerful, it's no joke here. I brought a message from their families."

> What Niss wanted to emphasize was "Practice a Pause," which she taught Eric-John from a young age. When you are upset, in a crisis, or before taking action on a potential risk,

from the presentation slide. 講演会のスライドより

Two thirds of

drowning victims are

good swimmers.

溺死者の3分の2は泳ぎが得意な人である

pause and think of the consequences. She told her son, "Practice a pause." Taking deep breaths was his way.

While speaking of memories of her son, starting from his birth, sharing pictures, including his social media posts, and stories of him over the years, Niss got teary eyed. Her voice trembled. Niss learned to live life through the good and the bad with Eric-John, her first born and oldest of six children.

"Eric-John loved the water," Niss said. She showed a video her son sent her from the ocean. She told the audience that she repeated the beach warnings every time he headed out to the water. She said that he told her

Continued on Page 18 ► NISS

ニス

After the presentation,

highlights Cpl. Eric-John Niss-DeJesus.

講演終了後、外の安全ブー

スに設置されたエリック・

長の看板の前で語り合う

ジョン・ニス・デジーザス伍

Marines talk to each other in front of a banner that

れる方が隊員それを上層部

lessica Niss talks about her son.

亡くなった海兵隊員の息子につい

て語る母親、ジェシカ・ニスさん。

The ocean does not discriminate.

このこと

水上安全に関する詳

Download Liberty App for all the information you need to survive

while you are in Okinawa. It includes water safety maps, helpful Japanese texts, taxis, emergency numbers and so on. (在沖米軍に向けた

アプリ)

沖縄サバイバル情報

2023年 9月号 — 19 20 — Sept 2023

# NISS ▶ Continued from Page 20

he was doing everything he was briefed, and reassured her. However, what was missing was that she had never thought about wearing a floatation vest.

Cpl. Jordan Snell, 3D Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, said that hearing Niss' story made him think about himself. He reflected on himself saying that he has always been a strong swimmer, so even though he brought a life jacket, he has never really thought of using it until he heard her story.

Service members listen to the Niss' presentation at Camp Hansen, May 25. She gave an additional presentation that day for people who could not fit in the theater. 5月25日、ハンセン基地内映画館で、ニスさんのメッセージに耳を 傾ける隊員ら。この日は、会場に入りきれない隊員らのために追加 のプレゼンテーションが行われた。

> When her story reached the point of her receiving news from Okinawa that her son had gone missing in a distant country, and as she described how she felt day by day until his body was found, her voice sounded as if she was crying, as many in the audience sobbed as well.

Col. Jeffrey L. Hammond, deputy commander, MCIPAC, who was the commanding officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion when the Eric-John incident happened, contacted Niss about her missing son. In recalling the incident, Hammond said, "she's far away. She doesn't know what's going on. We called her a couple times a day, the goal was to help her feel as involved as she was able to be."

At the end of each session, numerous members of the audience walked up to her to thank her and offer condolences for the loss of her son. Snell also lined up after the session. He wanted to thank Niss for her bravery for continuing to talk about her loss.

"She has to relive it every time she talks about it," said Snell. "But she does it for others, not for herself. It's like she's living by his (Eric-John's) last Facebook post, which stated 'those who help you when they're struggling. That's what love is.' She's really sharing love by his definition."

"I'm a mom bound by nature," Niss

She felt heard and said that even if the service members took away just a simple little sliver of the message, it is so worth it.

She called it a real ripple effect. If a Marine shares her story of her

> son with another Marine who was unable to attend and hears her message, and remembers to be careful, that Marine is a part of the ripple effect. She hopes that those who heard her story continue being the ripple.

"It grabbed my heart!" exclaimed Sgt. Rodney Shirrel of Motor Transportation, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine

Regiment. He said that her story helped people understand that you have to take precautions and you cannot take the water as a joke because it can be a dangerous place.

Hammond said that to this day, he thinks about what he could have done to prevent the tragedy. "If I just spent a little bit more time on water safety talking, to me, it would only take maybe a couple more minutes, maybe it would have resonated, maybe it would've made an impact, and maybe we wouldn't have had this situation."

"There's nothing more difficult in life than calling someone's mother trying to tell her that he's not coming home. I would do anything that I could to not have to make that call," said Hammond.

However, he knew that it would be more impactful for service members to hear it from Niss than to hear it over and over again from their leaders, because her message would be bigger than just water safety.

Hammond stated that Niss

were much more important to their families, friends, and to their units than they could ever imagine. He continued that, unfortunately, it took a situation like this for them to see how impactful they were and how missed they would be.

"They (service members) forget how important they are. They're just doing the day in and day out," expressed Niss. "There is definitely someone that will be affected if you don't come home. That's the baseline of it all. So do what you can to be safe."

Curtis, safety director, said "it doesn't matter who you are. As a human, this relates to you. As a Marine, as a Sailor, this story is native to your experience. As a child, and as a parent, it's related. It personalizes and cuts to the bone."

At the safety booth outside, U.S. Navy Seaman Patrick Forbes, 3d Medical Battalion, from Camp Foster, said, "that presentation that she gave was very touching. I know that every time at least when I go out, it's going to be in the back of my mind. Probably take those extra safety precautions, take a pause."

The six-day long training, which consisted of 14 sessions concluded on May 26 at Camp Kinser, with nearly 5000 Marines and Sailors from all over Okinawa, and a little over 1000 students from Kubasaki and Kadena High Schools, participated.

unit conduct mandatory preliberty safety brief before every weekend. Especially when summer approaches, a lot of units focus on water safety. On top of that, one of the topics at the Newcomers Orientation Welcome Aboard brief when new Marines arrive at Okinawa is water safety.

More information on water safety can be read at https://www.mcbbutler.marines. mil/Base-Information/MCIPAC-MCBB-Installation-Safety-Office/ Water-Safety/.

# conveved to the audience that they

The Marine Corps requires each

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama



各基地の海兵隊員や海軍兵らに

れ国や在沖米軍の

で軍用犬の訓練員をして

6月5日、

れるまでの一日一日の

わたる初めての講演を行った。

夏が近づくと米海兵隊太平洋基地安全部は、 られたが、この数とした日米地位協定 の一環である

ン伍長とともに

ニスさんの話を聞

Service members walk up to Niss at the end of the session to express their gratitude for her bravery in talking about her late son and condolences for her loss. 亡き息子について語る勇気への感謝と、息子を失 ったことへの哀悼の意を表するために、講演の終 わりに二スさんのもとに歩み寄る隊員ら。

まる練習を

# RYUKYUAN-AMERICAN YOUTH FRIENDSHIP **BASEBALL TOURNAMENT CONTINUES**

n April 8, Easter weekend for the Americans and the end of spring break for Japanese school children, the 17th Ryukyuan-American Youth Friendship Baseball Tournament was held at ANA Ball Park in Urasoe City to deepen the friendship between Japan and the U.S. through sports. This event was hosted by the Consulate of the United States in Okinawa and cohosted by Urasoe City.

Ten Japanese teams, aged 13 to 15, from throughout Okinawa, and two American high school teams from U.S. military bases participated. The Kubasaki Dragons of Kubasaki High School and Kadena Panthers of Kadena High School faced their Japanese counterparts in the tournament, and played together in a Ryukyuan-American All-Star game as the tournament finale.

The opening ceremony started at 8:00 a.m. with players marching onto the baseball field. Last year's winner returned the champion flag, then Tetsuji Matsumoto, the mayor of Urasoe City, and Matthew S. Dolbow, consul general of the U.S. Consulate Naha, gave remarks.

Matsumoto said, "the purpose of this event is to deepen the friendship and goodwill between junior high and high school students, parents, and coaches from both the U.S. and Okinawa. I hope that all the athletes who have gathered here will enjoy this event and also show the results of your daily practice to the best of your ability."

Dolbow commented that Japan and the U.S. are the world's baseball

Spectators watch the Kubasaki Dragons' game.



powerhouses and Okinawa has produced many great players, and he hoped that future baseball stars might also play in the tournament, referring to the 2023 World Baseball Classic, which ended with the final played between Japan and the U.S. a few weeks before the

Representatives from both the American and Japanese teams recited oaths in both languages, promising fair play and to give their best effort. When Japanese player, Nirai Nakanndakari, captain of the Urasoe Boys Baseball Club, delivered his oath in English, he forgot the words and tried to recall, but at the end he looked at his note, as the spectators cheered him on. The second oath was delivered by Nicholas Adams, captain of the Kubasaki Dragons. He said his team would do their best in the competition.

The opening day tradition at the start of the first game is the ceremonial pitch. Last year, Dolbow took the role of first batter when Matsumoto threw the ceremonial pitch. This year they put the spotlight on Col. Andre M. Ingram, the Camp Kinser commander.

"The consulate invited us to send a representative to take the first pitch," said Maj. Gen. Stephen E. Liszewski, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Because Col. Ingram is the commander of Camp Kinser down here in Urasoe, and we knew that the mayor of Urasoe was going to be pitching, he is the perfect guy to go to bat."

"I was nervous but very excited." Ingram expressed that as the Camp Kinser commander and Matsumoto as Mayor of Urasoe City, they had met on many occasions in fostering their relationship.



Once the first pitch was over, the Kubasaki Dragons met the Urasoe Boys, and the three-day tournament

"We do not often have opportunities to compete against teams other than ourselves," said David Wray, the head coach of the Dragons and Physical Education teacher at Kubasaki High School. "Whether we won or lost, it was an honor just to be included." Wray said that the Japanese players were technically advanced, bunting and hitting the ball exactly where they wanted it to go. However, he was proud that his players did well against such powerful teams.

The game ended with a victory for the Dragons' seven to five.

"I think American teams are getting better and better every year," said Takashi Yonamine, representative of Urasoe Boys. He said that American players are powerful even if they only play seasonally.

Urasoe Boys have participated in the Ryukyuan-American Youth Friendship Baseball Tournament since its launch in 2004, according to Yonamine. This tournament is a valuable experience for his players since they get to play against not only American players, but also players from

Continued on Page 11 ▶ **BASEBALL** 

Liszewski, second from left, Ingram, far right, and others follow the path of a ball hit by a Kubasaki Dragons

クバサキドラゴンズの選手 が打ったボールの行方を追 う少将(左から2人目)と大佐 (右)ら。

left, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and Ingram, right, after the opening ceremony.

開会式後の米海兵隊太平洋基 地司令官スティーブン・E・リズ ウスキー少将(左)とイングラム 大佐(右)。

Participating players in the 17th Ryukyuan-American Youth Friendship Baseball Tournament listen to remarks of Matthew Dolbow, U.S. consul general, U.S. Consulate General Naha, during the opening ceremony

第17回琉米中高生友好親善野球大会開会式で、在沖米国総領事館のマシュー・S・ドルボー総領事の話を聞く参加選手たち。





to have fun." Maj. Zachary T. Yuno Furugen, in red, continues wrestling while crying. (series of , photos) 泣きながらも試合を続ける古

**COMPETE IN ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME MATCH** including one during each season inviting Japanese competitors.

> Leuthardt, president of the association continued, "I want them to wrestle hard because this is a hard sport. I want them to go out there self-confidence."

中縄の方言で士気を高めるグラディエーターの参加選手ら

"One, two, three, Chibariyo!" The venue filled with shouts and cheers. The first Okinawan open tournament, in which Gladiators invited local youth wrestlers, was held in 2015, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Cope, one of the first coaches of Gladiator Junior Wrestling.

YOUNG GLADIATORS, LOCAL COUNTERPARTS

competition in Okinawa.

COVID-19.

It was the largest youth wrestling

Col. David M. Banning, camp

commander for Camps Foster

and Lester, said, in his opening

ceremony remarks, "we are now

able to come back together" after

As Banning speaks Japanese, he

children the translation "go for it"

wrestlers from the U.S. and Japan to

in the Okinawan dialect and told

say the phrase together.

introduced to all the American

the cooling off from 2020 due to the

The Gladiator Junior Wrestling Association has three teams: Kadena Spartans, Foster Wolfpack, and Courtney Crushers. This season, 148 wrestlers signed up to join the

Gladiators. They practice three days per week. Like most American youth sports, Gladiators also run seasonally. They do two seasons per year with four tournaments,

"What I want the kids to do is

and give maximum effort to help gain

Leuthardt added that he wanted them to take advantage of the fact that they were now able to work so closely with Japanese

children and that was a once in a lifetime opportunity for some of them.

Although their wrestling styles are differentthe Okinawan Wrestling

League utilizes freestyle wrestling, which is used in the Olympics, while the Gladiators utilize folk style-Japanese wrestlers were excited to come and compete with the Gladiators in the opponent's style of wrestling, according to Leuthardt.

Continued on Page 12 ▶ GLADIATORS

NPO法-

Older wrestlers match in the afternoon. 午後の部で試合をする年長選手ら。

Col. David M. Banning, camp commander for Camps Foster and Lester, gives

here are thousands of U.S.

living in Okinawa, and they

people. Most of the children of the

personnel who come to Okinawa

school education provided by the

Department of Defense Education

Activity. And, just as children in

Japan participate in after-school

especially sports.

April 29.

activities in addition to their studies,

U.S. military children in Okinawa are

involved in extracurricular activities,

Association is one such club. It was

established in 2013 to help children

of base personnel, age five to 15,

participate in sports while their

families are stationed in Okinawa.

The association held a Japanese-

U.S. Youth Wrestling tournament,

About 100 American and 38 local

wrestlers from throughout the

island met at the Camp Foster

afternoon tournament sessions.

Fieldhouse for morning and

The Gladiator Junior Wrestling

share their lives with the local

with their families receive a

military and civilian personnel

開会式で挨拶するフォスター&レスター基地司令官デビッド・M・バニング大佐。

remarks at the opening ceremony.



# **EXCHANGE GAME GIVES JAPAN-US SOFTBALL PLAY-ERS CHANCE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER**

kinawa has about 20 fast-pitch softball teams with members ages 13-15. One of the teams from local junior high schools played against Americans, April 2.

The American Legion fast-pitch softball team, newly established January 2022, reached out to Chatan-Bitou Junior High School's combined softball team in March. Reina Rogers, a graduate of Chatan Junior High School and now a pitcher of American Legion, became the bridge between Japanese teams and her own. She contacted her former team members for this game while they were practicing at school.

The American Legion fast-pitch softball team consists of female children ages 9-18 that are associated with military members serving in Okinawa. Chatan-Bitou joint junior high softball team finished third in the Okinawa prefectural Women's Junior High School Rookie Softball Tournament in January. Prior to this exchange game,

the team had just traveled to mainland Japan in March for a higher-level competition.

"I want my players to test their strengths and weaknesses," said Viktoria Hubberstey, the coach of the American Legion fast-pitch softball team. She wanted her players to learn from the local players.

According to Hubberstey, the play styles are different due to rules that vary from federation to federation in the U.S. However, if they want to advance in the future, she wants them to learn from Japanese teams which follow the rules to meet the Olympics.

"They play differently, like the pitching style is one example," said Kokone Tsuha, the captain of the Chatan-Bitou team. "We can learn from them. Also we can practice bringing out more of our weaknesses and strengths while we play with them."

Morihiko Inamine, a coach of the Chatan Junior High School softball team, said playing against Ameri-

cans was a good opportunity for the students. He likes the idea of his team playing in different atmospheres because they might feel nervous but need to overcome the situations.

They played two games and the Japanese team won both.



**BUILD BRIDGES THROUGH SPORTS** 

地域社会をスポーツでひとつに

The American Legion fast-pitch softball team in red, white and blue, plays against a combined local junior high school team. 地元の中学校の合同チームと対戦する赤、白、青のユニフォームに身 を包んだアメリカンリージョン・ファストピッチ・ソフトボールチーム。

# 互いに学びあう日米ソフトボール選手

GLADIATORS ▶ Continued from Page 14

Freestyle and folkstyle are the same in that competitors face each other on the mat and fight one-on-one, using techniques to put both shoulders of the opponent on the mat to win. The main difference with freestyle is that if the person on the bottom goes up, they get the same number of points as a takedown.

In the match between the younger and lighter weight group, a six-year-old Japanese wrestler, Yuno Furugen, competed against a Gladiator. Every break, she rushed to her mother crying, however, she did not give up. After getting encouragement from her mother and coaches, she went back to the mat. During her match, even though she was still crying, her eyes showed a strong competitiveness. "At the last match, she almost gave up but after I told her

Yuno Furugen, center, smiles at her first place finish. 一位の表彰を受けて笑顔を 見せる古堅結音ちゃん(中央)



if she won the match, she would get a gold medal, then she went back," said Kaoru Furugen, Yuno's mother. Although Yuno, herself, started wrestling when she was four, she had been following her older brother to the dojo of the local wrestling club since she was two. Her mother said wrestling was part of her everyday life.

"She cries normally after she loses the match," her mother said. "But today this is the first time I saw this side of her. I have never seen her cry like this during the match." Kaoru said that she must have been so overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the audience and cried with emotion.

All four Japanese teams at the competition are with Okinawa Wrestling Association under the non-profit organization Japan Kids Wrestling Federation, where most teams practice at their high school dojos.

> According to Hirosane Ikei, a coach from one of the Japanese wrestling clubs, due to the low wrestling population in Okinawa, only about 50 to 60 competitors, they set the goal on high school students and in strengthening their efforts to build up wrestlers from elementary school age.

> "You can't win at nationals anymore if you start in high school," said Ikei.

> > Since the Japanese

counterparts train year-round and the Gladiators only two seasons, the Japanese-U.S. Youth Wrestling tournaments play an important role to some military children. According to Cope, whenever wrestlers are off the mat, their technique gets a bit rusty, so some Gladiators register for Japanese clubs during the off-

Although there is a language barrier, the wrestlers do not seem to mind. They have a common language: wrestling. Technique, gestures, and facial expressions are also elements that break down the barriers. The rules are different, but that is another benefit for both to learn.

What individual wrestlers from both Japan and the U.S. learn is that in wrestling one's performance is what matters. If you lose a one-on-one match, it is due to your lack of practice. You cannot blame the outcome on anyone else like other team sports. However, if you win, it gives you confidence and a great mental workout.

"Today, for the first time, something awakened in her," Kaoru described after her daughter's match against the American wrestler while smiling. "She might have gotten power from everyone as the atmosphere was different from a competition with only Okinawans."

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

# **BASEBALL** ▶ Continued from Page 16

teams in other leagues.

Kayano Occomy, mother of Dragons' pitcher, Luka Occomy, who pitched against Urasoe Boys, thought that the American teams were at a disadvantage because they only practiced baseball for a few months in a year, but at the same time felt bad because the Dragons and Panthers players were older than their counterparts; however, after she talked to some Japanese mothers and was told that Japanese children could learn from American players how to show their excitement and enjoy the game to the fullest even when losing, she thought it was a win-win.

One of the Japanese on-lookers was surprised to see how American players added excitement to the game, and even their parents enjoyed the children's performance from the bottom of their hearts by cheering loudly. She said that Japanese parents can learn from them.

"It's great to see sports, and the Japanese and American teams, playing against each other and enjoying the competition," said Liszewski. "If they play together on the field, they're probably going to be friendly with each other when their paths cross in other parts of life. I think it breaks down barriers that may exist. If we can bring them together, there's a lot of goodness."

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

# **US SERVICE MEMBERS SHOWCASE OKINAWAN EISA DRUM DANCE**



ines of vehicles and pedestrians waited to enter Camp Foster ■on May 14, as the base opened its gates to residents of Okinawa. Camp Foster hosted an Eisa festival featuring young adult Eisa groups as well as a new group of Marines and Sailors performing Eisa drum dances in front of an audience for the first time. Both U.S. and Japanese audience members sat together to spend an evening watching Eisa.

#### Background - 2022

It started more than a year ago when Col. David M. Banning, camp commander for Camps Foster and Lester, talked with leaders in Chatan Town, which borders Camp Foster, about sharing their drum dance, Eisa, with U.S. service members and their families.

While Eisa performances on base are not new, Banning's goal is for Marines and Sailors to participate and perform with the local dancers.

Banning started with inviting the Jaagaru Young Adult Association from Chatan Town last September to Camps Foster, Lester, and Plaza Housing. The Jaagaru Eisa group marched through the residential area streets on base while they performed.

Eisa is one of the most wellknown Okinawan folk performing arts centered around taiko drums. In Okinawa, young people from each district parade through the community roads while dancing to

honor the spirits of their ancestors during Obon on the lunar calendar. Obon typically lasts three days but varies from region to region. In a lot of regions in mainland Japan, Obon falls in mid-August. People in Japan traditionally believe the spirits of their deceased ancestors come back to spend time with their family during Obon.

The event gave an opportunity for the American communities to learn about Eisa and understand more about Okinawan culture.

## One step at a time

On the night of March 21, 2023, sounds of loud drums beating were heard near the Chatan Chamber of Commerce building. It was the sound of Eisa drums. Japanese and Americans, young and old, all mingled in one room.

"The first (event), it was just to show and now it's a chance to participate," said Banning. This was his next step to bring his idea to life. "We're very thankful that Jaagaru and Eguchi Young Adult Associations sent their teams to teach us this very complicated part of their culture."

Eguchi Young Adult Association is one of the only two remaining eisa teams in Chatan Town, along with Jaagaru.

Nine Marines and Sailors gathered to learn Eisa through coaches from Chatan Young Adult Federation, consisting of those two young adult associations, with support from Firebird Taiko Club drummers from Amelia Earhart Intermediate School. Kadena Air Base.

"I'm interested in dance, so I'm here," said Cpl. Steven M. Sayson of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Aircraft Control Group 18. He found out about the event through the Single Marine Program. Although he has never done any dance with drums, he had seen Eisa a few times before. According to Sayson, the first day was local Eisa performers showing Marines and Sailors the whole set of Eisa drum dances. "I will forget everything," he said. However, "it got easier just by looking at the dancers. All I have to do is stay on beat."

"It's not an everyday opportunity that we get to dance with professionals and with drums," Sayson smiled.

many people did not have the opportunity to experience activities with local communities. "It is an attempt to try to make up for lost time and to help show both sides (Okinawan and U.S. community) that we want to make these connections. We want to not just reconnect, but make our relationship stronger," he continued.

According to Hiroko Tomimura, community relations specialist of Camps Foster and Lester, Banning's strong enthusiasm remained unchanged from the beginning. Despite taking into account the numerous possible obstacles, Banning made the joint Eisa practice between the service members and the Chatan teams possible.

As time passed on, several changes were made, such as moving the practice location to base. Since the Marines and Sailors took a bus to the venue. if someone was late due to work, it would affect the entire group. However, by having the practice site on base, service members could come on foot and practice as soon as the local Eisa crews arrived. Banning appreciated that Chatan members helped teach service members after work, even though it was the off-season for Eisa.

Continued on Page 8 ► EISA

Service members and drummers show off their jumping performance.

らの演舞を披露する隊員ら と嘉手納ファイヤーバード の若手太鼓演者。

ら」と、バスが、町の中にいか、町の中にい

Banning said that because of COVID,

## Trial and error

On April 4, Eisa practice took

A Marine and a local member give each other a fist bump after the performance. 演舞終了後、互いの労をねぎらいグ ータッチをする海兵隊員と地元青年会メンバー。

# **EISA** ▶ Continued from Page 10

place as normal; however, the atmosphere was similar to that of a cram school. Many big sheets of paper with words were spread out on the whiteboard in front of the Eisa group. A local Eisa member with a drumstick stood by the whiteboard and pointed to the note here and there throughout the practice.

"They (service members) were having a hard time learning heshi (shouting) just by hearing people say it," said Christina Scarborough, a teacher at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School and founder of Firebird Taiko Club, who came up with the idea of using the note on the board. "Especially with so many new military people who have never done Eisa before seeing the words can help them know how and what to say and remember it."



A local member points out notes for shouting during practice. 練習中、お囃子のタイミングに合わせてメ モを指す地元青年会メンバー。

## Deeper understanding of the history of Eisa

On April 20, less than halfway to their event target date of May 14, Marines and Sailors showed up an hour earlier than their usual practice time. That day, they were to learn about the history of Eisa, taught by personnel from the Chatan Town Board of Education.

Banning wanted to give his fellow service members an opportunity to know more about Eisa, which they would be performing with their Okinawan friends in front of many spectators in less than a month, according to Tomimura.

"Learning about the history of Eisa, and interacting with the seinenkai (young adult association) members, I think will give them a better sense of connection to the local community," said Banning. "And they'll see their community group is more than just the base, but that they've actually got connections out in town."

Chatan Mayor

Masashi Toguchi stated that there would be meaning in not just doing Eisa but also learning about the history and background in advance. He thought the degree of concentration in practice may differ after having a deeper understanding of Eisa, and might have made the degree of improvement increase.

# Cry or laugh - Last practice week

The day is approaching; Eisa practice was done outside. They needed to learn the movement, not just drumming but also formations. Eisa can be performed while the dancers walk through the streets of a residential area, staged inside a building or outside at a huge venue.

"They improved a lot," said Hiroshi Ahagon, former member of Eguchi Young Adult Association who was supporting the practice from the start in March. Ahagon acted as the group's Jikata, a singer and sanshin player in practice, and as a Chondara, a comical character of the performance who pumps up spectators and helps the formation to stay in order during the actual performance. "Handling drumsticks, dropping hips, swinging drums, it all got much better. I think we will make it. The drums are all in place, and so is the performance."

Tatsuki Higa, a vice leader of the Eguchi Young Adult Association, gave a passing score of 80% for the level of the service members' performance that had improved greatly in just over a month and a half. The deduction was due to the line formation falling apart if no marks were present.

"Normally when a new person starts Eisa, it takes at least a year for them to be able to perform without

Marines and Sailors perform eisa for the first time in front of the audience with local Eisa members and Amelia Earhart Firebird Taiko Club

地元青年会と、嘉手納ファイヤーバード太鼓クラブのエイサーメンバー と共に、観客の前でエイサーの演舞を初お披露目する隊員ら。

> senior performers' support," said Higa, who has been performing Eisa with the association for four years since he was in the ninth grade, "but because Eisa season starts in June and ends on the last day of Obon, normally only about four months a year, they need two Eisa seasons."

"Our progress is all because of them (the Associations)," said Banning. "They've been exceedingly generous with their time, and it's very humbling that they are willing to invest their time and expertise to teach us about their culture."

# The day has come - culmination

Over 1500 spectators, according to Camp Foster Camp Services, gathered at the parking lot by the Exchange on Camp Foster, May 14. Ten Marines and Sailors debuted as Eisa drum dancers.

Lance Cpl. Christian Cardenas with **Headquarters and Support Battalion** expected a few people to show up but after seeing the crowd, he said, "I'm very nervous, but this gives the opportunity for a lot of people to see a little bit of Okinawan culture."

The event began when Marines, Sailors, members of the young adult associations, and Kadena Firebird drummers marched into the venue. They played "Chatan-mura," "Shichigachi (July) Eisa," "Hananu-Kajimaya," "Tenyo-bushi," and

Continued on Page 5 ► **EISA** 

への海兵隊員と海軍兵ら。

彼らの太鼓踊りで

「何もかっ

太鼓の音だった。

日本人

々が地域社会との交流活動を経

海軍兵らはバスで会場に向

いる

北谷町教育委員会の職員からエイサ -の歴史について教れた。その日、彼月2日、隊員らは

Spectators from on and off base watch Eisa performance at the Camp Foster Eisa Festival. キャンプ・フォスターエイサー祭りで演舞を見る基地内外からの観客

# KINSER HISTORICAL DISPLAY SHOWS ANOTH-**ER FACE AT USHIJIMA DESCENDANT VISIT**



shijima is a name probably too familiar to Okinawans. It is the last name of the Japanese Imperial Army commander whose death is said to have ended the Battle of Okinawa. That later established the Okinawa Memorial Day as June 23\*.

Toward the end of World War II, in the pacific theater, Commanding General Mitsuru Ushijima, who led the 32nd Army, made two military orders which became controversial in post-war. In the so-called "Southern Retreat," he withdrew the Imperial Army to Mabuni, the southern part of Okinawa where residents had evacuated. Another order was left before his death, "fight bravely to the end and live up to the eternal cause," which meant a never-ending battle until every last soldier was killed. Both orders caused many casualties among residents in Okinawa.

Sadamitsu Ushijima, the grandson of the general, visited the Kinser Battle of Okinawa Historical Display, April 20. For nearly 30 years, he has been collecting information to track down what happened to his grandfather and why he made such orders during the Battle of Okinawa.

Although he is the grandson of the commanding general, Ushijima had long been conflicted and avoided facing this fact. "I stopped thinking

about my grandfather when I entered the rebellious teenage years," said Ushijima. "Even when I became an adult, I still tried not to think about him because I was afraid of being asked 'Are you Ushijima's relative?"

In 1994, he arrived on Ikema island near Miyako island. He was an elementary school teacher at the time, studying Okinawan nature for a school project. He was still hesitant to set foot on Okinawa soil. However, on the last day of the trip, Ushijima came to the mainland and visited Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum when, for the first time in almost three decades. he realized that he wanted to learn more about the Battle of Okinawa and his grandfather.

As soon as Ushijima entered the Kinser Battle of Okinawa Historical Display, he presented Chris Majewski, a Marine veteran and the director of the display, with reports he had collected about the 32nd Army, and materials he used for a recent class on the Battle of Okinawa. Ushijima's interest was to get more information on the tunnels of the 32nd Army's Shuri Castle command center bunker.

He introduced himself, saying that he had been very much looking forward to coming to see the display as the U.S. Army's research was

excellent, precise and extremely informative about what happened 78 years ago. He hoped to see if the Kinser display carried more photographs, other documents and materials which were in the archive Ushijima was not able to see.

As Majewski was informed of the request by Ichino Doshida, Camp Kinser community relations specialist, he prepared a book for Ushijima. It was an Intelligence monograph of the 10th U.S. Army. The monograph had detailed information and diagrams with photos of the 32nd Army headquarters bunker that America had learned about during the battle, according to Makoto Nakamura, director of Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum Fellowship, who accompanied Ushijima.

Ushijima wanted to see the original, but this was only a copy. He looked through the pages and analyzed them. At a certain page, he compared the drawing on the book with an aerial photo of the area he brought with him.

Nakamura said the Japanese did have a rough plan of the site, but the only thing that actually measured and determined the length, depth, and more was the Intelligence monograph.

Ushijima hoped to see more photos which were not attached to the monograph. He believed that the images would be good since the U.S. cameras were better quality and professional combat photographers took them.

After going through the Intelligence monograph, Ushijima toured the display and stopped at one place.

"Okinawa Convention and Visitors Bureau told me about this place," Ushijima said. "They visited here and saw the picture of my

\*Note: When Memorial Day was established, it was set on June 22 but was changed in 1965 to June 23.

Continued on Page 4 ▶ USHIJIMA



fragments on 画面上の銃弾 の破片が何か とマジェフスキ -館長に尋ね る牛島氏。

Young Adult Federation, which is said to be one of the top in Okinawa, Marines and Sailors did a great job. "If they practice a few more months or a year, they could be in the same shape as our Chatan Town Young Adult Federation."

"It was really amazing!" exclaimed Issei Ameku, a vice leader of the Eguchi Young Adult Association who has supported the practice. After all the performances were done, he could not hide his excitement and said, "it is difficult even for Okinawans. And for overseas military personnel to be able to perform at such a high quality in two months, and with only two practices a week instead of every day, is amazing potential!"

He knew that service members had filmed and reviewed their own performances and those of the Jaagaru-Eguchi members, and had practiced Eisa on their own when they were off. "I could feel their hard work came through," said

Banning said that being able to

learn about Okinawan culture and participate in significant events would make the service members' experience in Okinawa more than just a military experience. "I want to try to make sure everybody else has the same opportunities to share those experiences."

Banning stated that through this event he was able to show people more possibilities when Marines, Sailors, and Okinawans work together, while stressing that without the support of the local community, this event would not have been possible. He added, "I think it's a great example of what is possible when the base and off-base communities are able to cooperate as closely as they have. Even with the language barrier and schedule conflicts, you're still able to make really cool things happen."

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

# **EISA** Continued from Page 8

"Toshin-doi."

Then, the Kadena Firebird young drummers, Eguchi and Jaagaru Young Adult Associations followed with performances of their own.

Masaru Tsukamaya, one of the Japanese on-lookers, stated that after seeing the Eisa performance of young students from Firebird Taiko Club, he was deeply touched by the effort the young children put into learning and remembering foreign cultures, which he thinks even many of his own kind have long forgotten.

Toguchi was curious about how the Marines would hold the Eisa event, saying that Eisa is a good form of cultural exchange from the perspective that better understanding each other's strengths could make the city a better place to live in many ways.

Toguchi continued that considering the time of practice and the complexity of Eisa from Chatan

2023年9月号 — 5 6 — Sept 2023



A picture shows the bodies which are said to be that of Genera Jshijima and Isamu Chou, chief of staff. 牛島中将と長 勇参謀長の遺 体とされる写

# **USHIJIMA** ▶ Continued from Page 6

grandfather's body and said they were speechless with emotion." He looked up to the displayed panel on the wall. It was a picture of the bodies which are believed to be that of General Ushijima and Isamu Chou, chief of staff. Ushijima said he doubted the body in the photo was his grandfather's because of the body's condition and the background of the place differed from his memory.

"He was thin and the place is not right. Where he died, the command bunker at Mabuni, didn't have wood pillars but the photo shows a pillar," said Ushijima.

Ushijima continued on the photo saying that, according to the American interrogation record, Lt. Kiyoshi Haginouchi, a former deputy of the Okinawa Military Police who confirmed the bodies, even said the picture is not that of the general.

"Therefore, this photo is neither from Mabuni nor Mitsuru Ushijima's," said Ushijima.

Majewski agreed about the doubt because the background of the cave where the bodies were lying looked different from what he remembered about Mabuni, as he had been to the cave many times. "There was no ledge in Mabuni," said Majewski.

Majewski also said he doubts the general, a Satsuma native of the current Kagoshima Prefecture, would have died in the way that was reported because he had a strong sense of samurai spirit. Reports suggest he died by gunshot suicide, which would have conflicted with his personal values, according to Majewski.

Normally in Japan, those who believed in the samurai spirit followed the traditional samurai style ritualistic suicide which is to cut their own stomach and to be beheaded by someone at the same time. That was considered to be a death to restore honor for themselves or for their families.

Ushijima and the museum officials agreed to replace the embedded photo caption to reflect their conversation.

Ushijima also noted, in front of the display of his grandfather's replica uniform with the rank insignia of lieutenant general and a note of his death as June 21, that his family has the anniversary on June 22 based on the information the commander's wife received. He also said the Army promoted his grandfather to general after his death.

Majewski said if Ushijima had questions about the display, or wanted to know something about it, he would know it intimately and could give him an answer.

After looking around the display, Ushijima asked Majewski if he could tell the size of the bullet found at Komesu, Itoman, on his laptop monitor. The picture showed a fragment of a bullet. Ushijima wanted to know whether it was from land-based artillery or if it was from a ship and what type.

Majewski guessed by looking at the size of the piece that it would have been 12-16 inches and could have been launched from a battleship. He showed Ushijima an eight-inch bullet, the biggest size from land-based artillery to back up his theory.

"I use this piece in my class, I want to make sure where the thing came from. Class materials must have a basis," said Ushijima. "It could be from the Japanese side."

Ushijima explained that during the course of his research into his grandfather, he discovered many things that helped him understand what the Battle of Okinawa was like and what his grandfather did with what authority.

"When I thought about what I



should do with this information, I

myself, but pass it on to others,"

decided that I should not keep it to

Ushijima continued. "My aunts and

uncles respected my grandfather so

much that they would not look into

The grandson expressed mixed

emotions, saying he was not sure if

his feelings and thoughts about his

grandfather had changed before

and after his research, and mused

that he had stopped thinking about

him for a long time, that he did not

want to touch the subject, and that

it had taken him quite a while to

"People are not two sides of the

change depending on the situation,

not to lead that situation into war,"

Ushijima said. He expressed that it

is his responsibility to learn about

decisions and to pass it on to the

Ushijima visited the display to

Majewski said that there were

items which might help him. A

sake cup found at the general's

headquarters cave in Mabuni was

one of them. Majewski handed it

over to Ushijima, saying, "the cup

may mean more to you because

it came from the cave where your

Majewski believed in hands-on

learning and understood that having

the students actually see and touch

real war-related artifacts or pieces

parts of weapons could have a great

impact. He was happy to pass onto

Ushijima items that give him more

of iron or brass that used to be

to show to his students.

seek information for research, and

the impact of his grandfather's

same coin, good or bad, but can

and it is important to know how

think about it.

next generation.

grandfather died."

it the other way around."

Sadamitsu Ushiiima and reads a note Chris Majewsky, in front of his director of the grandfather's Kinser display, look replica into the U.S. 10th Army Intelligence 祖父の軍服 Monograph. レプリカの前

米第10軍のインテ リジェンス・モノグラ フを覗き込む牛島 貞満氏とキンザー 資料館のクリス・マ ジェフスキー館長

入ると、 その事実と

Ushijima looks

at the sake

cup found in

Mabuni.

the command

headquarters in

マジェフスキー

館長から手渡さ

れた、摩文仁の

司令壕で発見さ

れた盃を見つめ

る牛島氏。

しかし、旅行の最終日に本島に渡り、んはまだ沖縄の地に足を踏み入れる 課題で沖縄の

、後に沖縄慰霊の日は6月23日の死によって沖縄戦は終結したか。日本帝国陸軍第32軍の司令

令官の

問

の顔を見せるキ

:祈念資料館友の会事務局長の

司令官の孫でありな

を追究するために情

決定したのはインテリジ

彼の

に一冊の本を用意した

なぜなら、

将は銃で自ら命を

Artifacts from Mabuni display.

<sup>微量だったと言っていました</sup> んは言う。「彼らはここを訪 牛島中将と長勇

尉がこの写真は

のでも牛島満のもの

現在の鹿児島県の薩摩出身である

摩文仁で発見された展示物。

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

この場所のことを

# 編集担当より

読者の皆様、いかがお過ごしでしょうか? 今年も早、残すとこ ろあと4ヶ月となりましたね。今号は、かねてから特集を組みたい と思っていたスポーツに焦点を当ててみました。

9月は、日本では秋。秋と言えば、かつては「食欲の秋」「読書の 秋」「スポーツの秋」と言われていました。しかし、前述の2つはと もかく、地球温暖化を通り越したかのような昨今の猛暑で、「ス ポーツの秋」というイメージはなくなりつつあるのではと感じま すが、それでも、海兵隊とその関係者、そして地域社会のスポー ツを通じての結びつきや交流に関しての話題を集めました。

表紙を見てお気づきの読者もおられるかもしれませんが、在 沖米海兵隊は1972年の本土復帰以前から、かつて琉球政府下 にあった沖縄の地元チームとお互いの技術を競い合ってきまし た。そして、それは、現在においても同様で、選手たちは言葉の 壁を乗り越え、親善試合や交流試合、トーナメントで自分たちの 技術や能力を披露しています。

取材をしていて感じたことは、同じ目的、目標に向かって励む 選手たちに海兵隊、アメリカ人、日本人の区別はないということ でした。皆が、口を揃え、お互いの良いところを学び、弱点を改 善する機会だと言っていたのが印象的でした。

本号を通じて、読者の皆様に交流の雰囲気などを少しでもお 伝えできれば幸いです。

# From Editor's Room

In Japan, autumn used to be called "the season of appetite," "the season of reading," and "the season of sports." Japanese have thought that autumn is the best season for all of these because it is neither too hot nor too cold. Aside from the two aforementioned, however, it seems that sports are no longer associated with autumn due to the recent heat wave that seems to have passed global warming by the wayside. Nevertheless, I have featured the sports activities among Marines, their family members, and the local community.

As some readers may have noticed from the cover photos, the U.S. Marines in Okinawa have been engaged in competitions with local teams in Okinawa, formerly under the Ryukyuan government, since before the return of Okinawa to mainland Japan 1972. It has not changed and the same goes for today, with athletes overcoming language barriers to showcase their skills and abilities in friendly competitions, exchange games, and tournaments.

During my interviews, I found that there seemed to be no distinction between Marines. Americans, and Japanese, as they all strive to achieve the same goals and objectives. I was impressed by the fact that they said that having competition between two different cultures was an opportunity to learn from each other's good points and, at the same time, to improve their weaknesses.

We hope that through this issue we can convey some of the atmosphere and other aspects of the exchange to our readers.

# もくじ

編集担当より

基地内イベント情報

3

牛島司令官の孫が訪問 別の顔を見せるキンザー沖縄戦 資料館

7

在沖海兵隊員、地域住 民にエイサー披露

11

互いに学びあう日米ソフ トボール選手

13

日米の若き闘士、またと ない機会でレスリング を楽しむ

**15** 

皆の思いを乗せて続く、 琉米中高牛友好親善野 球大会

**17** 

母の叫び、届け、米兵へ (水上安全)

「いったん立ち止まる練習を」

21

フォレストプチ紹介

2002年に発行されたキャンプ・ フォスター&レスター渉外官によ るニュースレター

基地内ゲート開放スポーツイベ ントの告知: 2002年基地司令 官&総司令官杯情報

# **Upcoming Events**

キンザー・フェスティバル **Kinser Festival** 

日時/date and time

9月10日 & 11日 13:00~21:00

普天間フライトラインフェア **Futenma Flightline Fair** 

日時/date and time

9月30日 & 10月1日 13:00~21:00

コートニー・フェスティバル **Courtney Festival** 

日時/date and time

10月21日 & 22日 13:00~21:00

コミコン沖縄 **Comic Con Okinawa** 

日時/date and time 12月2日 & 3日 10:00~17:00

場所/location

Camp Foster/フォスター基地

フリーマーケット最新情報は

電話:098-970-5829(英語のみ)と本誌 1ページ右下のURLからご確認を

We want your feedback on the Big Circle magazine! Please take our survey and let us know what you think by visiting this link:

#### https://bit.ly/201q125

「大きな輪」は、性別・年齢・国 籍を問わず、多くの読者の皆様 のご意見、ご感想、ご質問をお 待ちしております。氏名、住所、 電話番号を明記の上、ファクシ ミリ、メール、または封書にて 下記の「大きな輪」編集係まで お送りください。

アンケート調査は: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HQRL3D2

〒901-2300

沖縄県北中城村石平 在沖縄米海兵隊基地 BLDG.1, COMMSTRAT (UNIT 35001) 大きな輪 編集係

電話番号:

(098) 970-1220

メール:

MCBPAC.MCBBUTLER.O@ USMC.MIL



Local children and Kinser Elementary School students play a game at a one-day camp at Camp Kinser, Urasoe, Okinawa, June 24. While Ayano Shimojo, Japanese cultural teacher, held summer camp from June 13 to July 1, she, together with Asako Ishimura, a community relations specialist, Government and External Affairs, organized one-day camps on the weekend to invite local children and let them experience that the language barrier is not an obstacle but something that can be overcome through many activities. キンザー小学校サマーキャンプ交流会で、チャレンジゲームに興ずる地元の子供たちとキンザー小学生。

6月13日から7月1日まで、日本文化教師の下條綾乃さんが生徒たちを対象にサマーキャンプを開催する一方、海兵隊太平洋基地政務外交部の石村麻子渉 外官とともに、子どもたちに言葉の壁は障害ではなく、さまざまな活動を通して乗り越えられるものであることを体験してもらおうと、地元の子どもたちを招 いて各週末に一日のサマーキャンプ交流会を開いた = 2023年6月24日、沖縄県浦添市キャンプ・キンザー (Photo by Yoshie Makiyama / 写真 頼山由江)

# cove a ۲ $\subseteq$ Ō



Collage of old newspaper clippings from the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's handmade album. The upper left (JP cover) is an announcement of Futenma Basketball friendly game (1965), the lower left is a Judo tournament (1963) among all Okinawa Police Departments, and the right (EN cover) is the championship of Futenma male team at a Badminton tournament (1964). They show that Marines have been actively involved in sports exchanges with the surrounding area even before Okinawa's reversion to mainland Japan. 普天間航空基地の手作りア ルバムから、古い新聞記事切り抜きコラージュ。左上(日本語表紙)はバスケッ トボール親善試合のお知らせ(1965年)、左下、職域柔道(1963年)、及び 右(英語表紙)、バドミントン大会(1964年)は普天間マリンの活躍記事。 沖縄本土復帰以前から同基地が周辺地域とスポーツ交流で盛んに関わっ ていたことがうかがえる。 Graphic by Yoshie Makiyama / 槙山 由江

# 各基地渉外官へのお問合せ

基地渉外官は、在沖縄米海兵隊各基地と地域社 会との架け橋です。各基地の渉外プログラムに ついては下記までお問合せください。電話での お問合わせは以下の通り。メールでご連絡され る場合は、MCBPAC.MCBBUTLER.O@usmc.mil まで。件名の欄にお問合わせ先のキャンプ名を ご記入ください。

シュワブ (名護市) [交換] 098-970-5555 [内線] 625-2544

フォスター (北谷町・他) 098-970-7766

ハンセン(金武町) 098-969-4509

コートニー (うるま市)

[交換] 098-970-5555 [内線] 636-2022

は本誌2ページと下記URLへ

普天間 (宜野湾市)

キンザー (浦添市) 098-954-9561 [交換] 098-970-5555 [内線] 637-1728

基地内イベント情報/フリーマーケット情報

https://www.japan.marines.mil/Event/

2023年 9月号 — 1 2 — Sept 2023



O-KINA-WA



The Okinawa Times Morning edition, 28 August 1965

Marine Corps Air Facility, Futema Basketball team will meet Fukucka University Basketball team as their fourth day of goodwell Basketball tournament at MCAF Gymnasium at 1830.

Free military bus to MCAF Gymnasium will depart front of Ryukyus University Gym at 1700.





コールの数をうけ、 会は対しい反響をきる。 の数をつけてから致じの をつけてから致じの をつけてから致じの をあり、悪大は和分子を追っ 、悪大は和分子を追っ であり、一人は、悪大の は、悪大の

間大が連勝

スポーツを通じたの地域で流

CKHLANA TIMES 27 MAY 1963

· 刑部所" 物心尿"—— · 郑 顺明 問の味るーロコザ等、数の味るー C相は着天胸マリンが二度質の後 道大会は二十六日午前十時から勝 ご中央主道法語主張の金属環境法 別初め入る-9コサ著、 B組 コザーマ決勝リーグ 弊路学校3-8神犬 マムプロックチェリーグ マンフロック予語リージ マBプロックチボリーグ -- 四十人、 班大 -- 三 新教 C 組 ▽一副戦 - 琉大B 1)

All Okinawa
Judo Federation
held All Island
Ocupational
Judo competitions among
police departments, May 26,
1963. Futenma
Marines won the
championship in
the C group two
years in a row.