



The Ministry of Defense holds a ceremony to commemorate the opening of a green space in the Lower Plaza area of Plaza Housing, which straddles Okinawa City and Kitanakagusuku Village, Okinawa, March 30, 2024.

This area, scheduled to be returned to Japan, will be used jointly as a public park. The Okinawa Defense Bureau representatives say they hope many visitors will use the space for recreation and friendship.

防衛省は2024年3月30日、沖縄市と北中城村にまたがるロウワー・プラザ地区内の緑地ひろば開設記念式典を開催した。

この地域は、日本に返還される予定のフォスター基地旧ロウワープラザ住宅地区の一部で、公共の公園として共同で利用される。沖縄防衛局の担当者は、 レクリエーションや親睦の場として多くの人々に利用してほしいと話している。

(Photo by Yoshie Makiyama / 写真 槙山由江)



# Big Circle 大きな輪

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〒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

#### **Commanding General**

Maj. Gen. Stephen E. Liszewski

### Communication Strategy and Operations Director

LtCol. Daniel M. Huvane

**Managing Editor** 

Yoshie Makiyama

#### **Editorial Support**

Staff Sgt. Averi M. Coppa Toshiyuki Nakamoto Sgt. Maximiliano Rosas David S. Sidney

#### 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

#### E-mail:

MCBPAC.
MCBBUTLER.O



# Note: The stories start from here for

from here for English readers. Big Circle's first page starts based on the Japanese style.

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。

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# MARINES LEARN CONSEQUENCES AT AN-**NUAL BITS TRAINING: GET YOUR MIND** RIGHT, GO BACK TO THE BASICS



Lee Shelby shares his personal mishap experience to service members at Camp

2月7日、キンザー基地映画館にて、架線作業員と して勤務していた時の自身の事故についての体 験を隊員らに話すリー・シェルビー氏。

very year after the winter holiday season, early January to mid-February at the latest, the United States Marine Corps requires a "Back in the saddle" safety training for units to reinforce Marines' responsibility and safe practices, in and out of the workplace, to minimize accidents and keep the workforce safe.

Marine Corps Installations Pacific Safety Office has invited experts as guest speakers on a variety of topics in the past. This year the safety office reached out to Lee Shelby to share his personal mishap experience while employed as a power lineman in 1991. He gave 1300 Marines, Sailors, and civilian workers assigned to MCIPAC in Okinawa, six one-hour-long presentations from Feb. 6 to 8, 2024. Afterward, he flew to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and Combined Arms Training Center,

Camp Fuji, where he gave five more presentations.

Aaron M. Davis, MCIPAC Safety director, said he hoped that Shelby's self-reflection about the consequences he faced as a result of his own choices would make others stop and think.

At one of the Okinawa presentations, Col. David M. Banning, camp commander for Camps Foster and Lester, said, "This is the Marine Corps. We're in the business of doing dangerous stuff and that's what we do. But then, over your career, seeing people get hurt and killed in both garrison training and combat environments makes you realize that as leaders, our literal number one job is ensuring the safety of our force.

"No matter what job you do," Banning continued, "whether as an infantryman, administrator, or motor transport operator, if you cannot preserve your force, you cannot accomplish any mission."

He told 360 audience members gathered at Camp Foster Theater to pay attention to what Shelby was going to say about situational awareness and what lessons they could learn in making decisions.

Shelby started his presentation by describing the day he woke up in a hospital bed in a burn unit after coming into contact with 13,000 volts of electricity. His accident resulted from a short circuit caused by contact between the primary and neutral wires through bolt cutters. Shelby was cutting the secondary line to the house, and his arm came into contact with the primary and secondary lines at the same time. He did not choose the proper personal protective equipment.

"(Do) not take shortcuts, (Do) not be complacent in your jobs, (Do) not get distracted. Look out for each other and be an example to each other!" asserted Shelby, whose decision not to use proper PPE resulted in him waking up in a hospital with both hands missing from the elbows down, causing him lifelong suffering.

Shelby told the audience that everyone is accountable for what they do. "Make good choices every day and always focus, so you don't end up in the hospital or funeral home." Shelby said that they are the only ones that ensure their own safety.

He talked about months of rehabilitation and learning how to use prosthetic claws. The audience also asked Shelby how he handles everyday life, such as eating, writing, driving and so on. Although his claws can do most daily routines, he emphasized that the metal claws cannot touch with feeling. He cannot feel the warmth of his children with them.

Takeshi Tsuhako, a Japanese battalion chief of training division, MCIPAC Fire and Emergency Services-Japan, stated that Shelby's message was best conveyed when he told the audience to look at their own hands at the end of the presentation and that people should be thankful for them.

Tsuhako agrees with Shelby that "safety is achieved one day at a time." He said, "Safety is not about the whole year at a time, but about one day at a time. No matter how many times you repeat the same thing to the team, you should say something about the safety of that day every day."

"I felt blessed," said Sgt. Kameron Franklin, food service specialist at Mess Hall 488, Camp Foster, who used his day off to attend the session in Camp Kinser, Feb. 7. He

Continued on Page 18 ▶ BITS



2月8日、キャンプ・フォスターで適切な個人用保護具を見せるリー・シェ



on Camp Foster,

Camp Hansen U **Easter Egg Hunt** Marine volunteers from Camp Hansen USO held Easter Egg Hunts for local children from Kin Town, Mar. 31 and Apr. 6. Although both days were rained on, the children enjoyed a small-scale indoor egg hunt. 3月31日と4月6日、ハンセン基地で、ハンセンUSO(米軍慰問 団)の海兵隊ボランティアたちが地元金武町の子供たちを招 いて行うイースター・エッグハントを開催。両日ともあいにくの 雨だったが、参加者は室内での小規模な卵探しを楽しんだ。

### BITS Continued from Page 20

expressed that the presentation was like preaching, and motivating. He said that he always tries to be proactive and ensure his fellow Marines' safety by talking to them about the importance of proper attire for the job and the use of correct PPE.

"It's 100% different because now you're actually seeing the consequences of not following the safety rules and safety PPE for your designated job," said Franklin. "Seeing it in person really is an eye opener for not just me, but for everybody else. Always, safety

の免許証を受け取っ

のスタン

参加者は講習後、

comes first."

In 20 years of sharing his personal story, this is the first time Shelby spoke to a military audience, and he said that he felt privileged to stand before them and speak to those who serve the country to keep him safe.

them be safer."

information about his accident and

what he has experienced through all these years with people.

even though it was a civilian to what the military people do," for Camp Hansen and le Shima training facility, MCIPAC Safety everybody works a little bit in They have to use their PPE, they have to be aware, have situational awareness, and take one day, one safety day at a time."

分自身を守ることも 全も確保できる 手順を踏むこと 周りの人の

の安全と命を守るた るから守るのではな に守るものだ」と

もう大成功じゃないですか?」

リウィス上等兵はこの日をとてもために

本当にいい勉強 んは微笑んだ。 ケガをしないよ

を投げて逃げる姿や、

第3海兵後方支援群第3整備大隊のア 縄の地域社会を知るための手段 ような楽しい経験をできる人は多くないの ここに参加できてとてもラッキ

知らぬ人たちに怯えながらも、 していたが、鬼は外国人だとわかったそうともは、スタッフが鬼に変装していると予 に通っている8歳の

誰が鬼をやるかわからない、子供たちを 局い海兵隊員に着てもらいたかったんで -の戸田奈菜センタ-いコスチュームを用意したのですが、 は、児童らが当惑しながら、反応を見たかったんです。 長は目を輝かせた。

Marines from Camp Schwab interact with children

Marines from Camp Kinser eat the Eho-maki, a rolled sushi, at Miyagikko Children's Center in Urasoe City, Feb 3. 2月3日、浦添市の宮城っ子児童館で恵方巻きに挑 戦するキンザー基地海兵隊員ら



after the Setsubun event at a local nursery school in 2月2日、本部町の保育所での節分行事の後、子供たちと 触れ合うシュワブ基地からの海兵隊員ら。

"My whole mission, ever since I got injured, was to help other people," said Shelby. "What I can show them and talk to them about is to help

Shelby said that there is a purpose for his survival after being electrocuted. Shelby stated that he was on a mission to share

"I think the message goes across, industrial accident. It kind of relates said Vincent Keller, safety specialist Office. "Regardless of what they do, it's an important message because danger. They have to pay attention.

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

日本の伝統的行事食である恵方巻きが振る舞

った初めての挑戦はとても素晴らしいこと 、噛むのと飲み込むのを同時にやるのはと、口に全部詰め込んで噛み始めたんです「どうやって食べたらいいのかわからなく カの文化とはまったく違うけ

逃してしまうかもしれないと述べた。「友達外を探検しなければ、せっかくのチャンスを 舎から出て、文化の一部となる機会を与えるなる体験だったとし、もっと多くの隊員が兵

Foster Theater, Feb. 8.

Lee Shelby talks to Marines, Sailors and civilian employees about the importance of safety one day at a time at the Camp

2月8日、フォスター基地映画館にて、隊員や 軍属に一日一日の安全の大切さについて話 すリー・シェルビー氏。

誰もが自分の行動に責任がある 、生涯の苦難に見舞両手の肘から下を失っ

確実にするのは自分しかい

きないのだ 活をどのようにこなしているのか質問した いことを彼は強調-氏に、食事、 金属製の義爪には感覚がな 筆記、 運転などの日常生 供たちのぬくも

練課大隊長の津波古武志され ジが最もよく伝わったのは、

ついての体験談を紹介した。シェルビー氏業員として勤務していた際の自身の事故にルビー氏が迎えられ、1991年に架線作

して招いてきた。

今年はリ

海兵隊太平洋基地安全部はこれまで、

意を払い、自分たちの行動を決定する上でからシェルビー氏がこれから話す内容に注

状況認識といった観点 基地映画館に集まった

ような教訓を得ることができるかを学

マで専門家をゲストスピ-

✓ 月中旬にかけて、 ■ズン後、1月上旬 国海兵隊は毎年、

月上旬から遅くとも2年年、クリスマスシー

事であることに気づかされる」と話した

「歩兵であれ、

部隊を守ることがで

自動車輸送

の安全を確保することが文字通り第一の仕目の当たりにすると、指導者として、部隊

人たちを

部隊を対象とし

海兵隊員

海兵隊太平洋基地で働く海兵隊員、

岩国海兵隊航空基地とキャの人に1時間ほどの講演を

側と中性線の接触によるショ

した初日の様子から語り始めた。触し、火修乳末(こ 火傷病棟の病院のベッドで

氏の自らの選択によっ

なることが大切なのです!」シェルビー氏にならず、互いに気を配り、互いの模範と

ロン・M・デイビ

4年2月6日から8日まで

氏のメッセ 講演の最後に聴衆に自らの手を見るように 「安全は一日ごとに達成さ

津波古さんは 一日一日が大事 年を通して

た状態で病院で目覚め、生涯の苦難に自身の誤った判断が、両手の肘から下

引き締

Col. David M. Banning, camp commander for Camps Foster

2月8日、フォスター基地で隊員や軍属に話しかけるフォスタ

and Lester, speaks to Marines and Sailors and civilian

-&レスター基地司令官、デビッド・M・バニング大佐

employees on Camp Foster, Feb. 8.

令官デビッド・M・バニング大佐は、一縄での講演で、フォスター&レスター

我々は危険なことをするこ

えのは自分しかいないのだからと常に集中すること」自分の安全を 毎日良い選

聴衆はシェルヒリと、義爪の

海兵隊太平洋基地消防隊日本

シ、シェルビー人従業員訓

リン三等軍曹は、「わたしは祝短ス専門員であるキャメロン・Dフォスター基地隊員食堂のフ 保するようにしていると語った の使用の重要性を話して、仲間の安全を確らにも、作業に適した服装と正しい保護具て行動するよう心がけており、仲間の隊員 やる気が出たと話す。 暇を利用してキ でした」と言った。 話す。とてい講演はまるで説法のようで、講演はまるで説法のようで、イインフ・キンザーでの講習 「わたしは祝福された気分 彼は2月7日、半日休 彼は常に先を見越し

新年講習 ┫ワヘーシヘ

arines stationed in Okinawa

are spread out across

the island, from Camp

Gonsalves, home to the Jungle

Warfare Training Center in the

north, down to Camp Schwab in

Camp Hansen, Camps Courtney

Lester, Marine Corps Air Station

Their purpose is to secure and

enhance their capabilities, and

Japan and the U.S.. However,

Marines also spend their time

volunteering in neighboring

language lessons, and other

community exchanges.

strengthen the alliance between

Urasoe City.

Futenma, and all the way to Camp Kinser, the most southern base, in

Nago City, le Shima training facility,

and McTureous, Camps Foster and

## MARINES IMMERSE IN JAPANESE **CULTURE WITH LOCAL CHILDREN**

the nursery school, the exchange

Schwab started when a former

with Marines and Sailors from Camp

student who attended the day care

over 20 years ago offered the events

with service members to the school.

Three Marines were introduced

to the children, ages zero to five, and sat together while the children

sang and listened to the story

of Setsubun. Two Marines then

one interacted with the children.

outside, they began throwing

their aim, a teacher appeared

disguised as oni. The students

were surprised when two more

onis joined the teacher. Since the

children did not know the service

members, their responses were a

mix of freezing in fear and bravely

to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine

as part of the Unit Deployment

Lance Cpl. Tucker J. Miller, assigned

Regiment, currently with 4th Marine Regiment, who came to Okinawa

throwing beans.

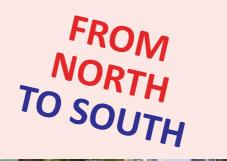
recognized their teacher, but

soybeans at demons built out of

boxes. As the children practiced

Once the older age groups went

disappeared to disguise as oni, while



Marines, given the role of oni, demons, approach children during the Setsubun event, or were chased

節分行事で子供たちを追いかけたり、子供たちに追われたりする鬼役の海兵隊員ら。(上・本部町 2月2日、下・浦添市

away by children. (top, Motobu Town, Feb. 2, and bottom, Urasoe City, Feb. 3)

# 海兵隊員、地元の子どもたちと ボランティアで日本文化に浸る



北から南から

どもたちとゲー

that children actually approached them and leaned closer to them. It was a great success."

### Camp Kinser

On Feb. 3, another group of volunteers, four Marines and Sailors, visited two children's centers in Urasoe City, near Camp Kinser. Participants were all with the Single Marine Program of Marine Corps Community Services Okinawa. Maki Eda, Morale, Welfare and Recreation program aide, Camp Kinser, MCCS, and Ichino Doshida, community relations specialist of Camp Kinser, invited them for the Setsubun event as a cultural exchange.

"I've been dying to get out

# In February 2024, six Marines and a Sailor had a new experience

communities, doing beach cleanups,

when they participated in volunteer activities. They were a group from Camps Schwab and Kinser who joined a traditional Japanese event for Setsubun in a neighboring community.

Setsubun originally has the meaning of the division of the seasons, but also is an event to drive away "oni (demons)," representing bad fortunes, as people throw roasted soy beans at them. Setsubun takes place before the first day of spring on the lunar calendar. This year it was on Feb. 3.

#### Camp Schwab

Maiko Kamiya, Camp Schwab community relations specialist, and a few volunteers visited a local nursery school in Motobu Town located in the western part of Nago City, on Feb. 2, 2024.

The nursery school began having events together with service members in 2023, when they celebrated Halloween and Christmas together. According to the head of

Program last August, participated in a volunteer activity for the first time because he heard that it would be around children and he is an oldest

brother with many siblings. He was given the role of oni.

After being chased by small children, Miller laughed and said that the children had good aim and good intuition. "They always go for the head, but it was awesome. It was a lot of fun," said Miller with a big smile on his face.

"This (Setsubun event with service members) is actually our first attempt," said a nursery school head. "Having this kind of exchange, interacting with foreigners, is a very good thing. Marines treated the children in a normal way without much hesitation. I was surprised

Continued on Page 14 > SETSUBUN

16 — May 2024

he staff of Marine Thrift Shop Okinawa presented

International at the Okinawa Harborview Hotel in

Naha City, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 22, 2024. This donation

To support the neighboring community, the Marine Thrift

\$10,000 to representatives of Lions Clubs

set a precedent as the first time that a donation was

directly given to a local national organization by the

Shop donated this money through LCI as a conduit to

support funding for local Japanese children with medical

and special educational needs. LCI will use the donation

accordingly to help the surrounding Okinawa community.

LCI is a service organization that supports the serving

clubs and 1.4 million members, LCI uses humanitarian

service projects and grants to impact people's lives.

of communities around the world. With a total of 48,000

"Typically, the American Welfare and Works Association

is the one deciding which organization can receive the

grants," said Jeahn Creviston, a native of Kansas and

president of Marine Thrift Shop Okinawa, "With the

help of the G-7 branch, this is the first time we were

directly without the involvement of the AWWA."

Spouses Club of Okinawa, Marine Gift Shop, the

able to identify an organization and make the donation

The Marine Thrift Shop belongs to the AWWA, along

with the Kadena Officers Spouses Club, Naval Officers'

Okinawa Enlisted Spouses' Club, and more. The AWWA

is responsible for the distribution of charitable funds for

organizations to improve the quality of life for Japanese

The Marine Thrift Shop procured this money through

Marine Thrift Shop.

### https://www.japan.marines.mil/Misc/BigCircle

strangers, she said that it was fun to throw beans, paper balls, at them, and she was happy that she did not get caught after her bean hit one of the onis while being

"It was a huge success!" said Nana Toda, director of the

wanted Marines to try them on

because they were taller. We wanted to surprise children by not telling who would do onis, and see how they would react."

Toda smiled and said that it was interesting to see that the children were confused but still throwing their beans and running away, and at the same time, the Marines disguised as onis also looked lost at first but threw the beans back and chased the children.

After the chase outside, the

volunteers were served Japanese traditional food for

the event, Eho-maki, a rolled sushi wrapped with dried

seaweed paper. You face "Eho," the lucky direction of the

year, and make a wish while eating it without talking. On

average, Eho-maki are about 8-10 centimeters (3-4 inches)

Members of Marine Thrift Shop Okinawa and Lions Clubs International Okinawa, pose for a group photo at the Okinawa Harborview Hotel, Naha City, Feb. 22. 2月22日、那覇市の沖縄ハーバービューホテルで集合写真を撮る

マリーンスリフトショップ沖縄と国際ライオンズクラブのメンバー

From April of 2023, Marine Thrift Shop Okinawa staff members began the process of finding which organization to donate the money to. LCI was ultimately decided on

because of their long-term

regular store operations and

including the Neighborhood

Pantry, Foster Single Marine

Program, Foster Commissary,

regularly provides grants

for other organizations

and the Foster USO.

MARINE THRIFT SHOP DONATES \$10,000 TO

SUPPORT OKINAWA CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

commitment and the alignment of goals.

According to Creviston, staff members decided on this specific organization due to the strong conviction they felt towards the foundations it supports. LCI will help the Marine Thrift Shop meet their goals by using the donation towards a new hospital and also contribute money to the Cancer Children's Parents Association.

The Marine Thrift Shop makes environmental and geopolitical impacts through their store operations and donations. Their intake of items reduces waste by offering items that other service members might need. They also use their network to help funding for different programs that benefit service members and the local community.

In the year of 2023, Marine Thrift Shop Okinawa provided American and Japanese recipients with over \$126,000.

Story and Photo by Cpl. Thomas Sheng

#### **SETSUBUN** ▶ Continued from Page 16

and American communities in Okinawa.

here and do some volunteer opportunities with kids in Japan," exclaimed Hospital Corpsman Third Class Kristin McKenzie, Combat Logistics Regiment 37 of 3d Marine Logistics Group, and a former elementary school physical education teacher prior to joining the U.S. Navy. She participated in a game similar to tag and said that she was happy to have a chance to interact with Japanese children. Camp Kinser SMP and Morinoko and Miyagikko children's centers have engaged in the various exchange programs for seven years. Once a month, Marines and Sailors visit Miyagikko at night to play sports with junior and high school students. Lance Cpl. Ramos P. Sebastian, 3rd Sustainment Group (Experimental), 3d MLG, who participated in the night volunteer program a week before, expected to see familiar faces among the children, but this was a younger

In Morinoko, the service members listened to a story about Setsubun and played games with the children.

Then they moved to the Miyagikko center, where the staff handed two Marines oni inflatable costumes and gave instruction on how to do the role of onis. While the children played outside, two onis ran out from two different corners and started chasing the children. Paper balls were set on the ground for beans and children were to ward off the onis with them.

"It was pretty fun," said Lance Cpl. Am Aliwis, 3d Maintenance Battalion, 3d MLG, while catching his breath after the chase. "I feel very lucky to be here because not a lot of people get to experience this as a pretty fun way to get to know the community around Okinawa."

One eight year-old at Miyagikko center expected the staff to be disguised as an oni, but figured out that the onis were foreigners. Although she was scared by the

chased. Miyagikko Children's Center. "We got new costumes and

Lance Cpl. Tucker J. Miller reacts to a boy, Feb. 2. 2月2日、園児に向き合い反応するタッカー・J・

long. It is not usually cut into bite size pieces, as it is meant to bring good fortune. "I didn't know how exactly I was supposed to eat it, so I just stuffed it all in my mouth and just started chewing and it was very hard to chew and swallow at the same time," said Aliwis. "It's very different from American culture, but

trying it out for the first time is very cool." Aliwis said that it was a very informative experience. He suggested that more service members get out of the barracks and engage in volunteer activities, which give them an opportunity to become a part of the culture. He stated that if you do not explore outside, you may miss chances. "I'm glad that my friend dragged me along and invited me."

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

2024年 5月号 — 13 14 — May 2024

many islands in various sizes.

Among all islands, the largest

is the main island where about 1.35

than a day to drive the perimeter of

the island, at about 450 kilometers

However, the island holds two world

Nations Educational, Scientific and

On Feb. 22, three Marines visited

the upper reaches of Gesashi River

in Higashi Village, a 40-minute drive

Yanbaru National Park, which is part

endemic and rare species of animals

north of Camp Schwab. Higashi

Village is in the southern part of

of Japan's newest World Natural

Heritage Site and home to many

"It is a world heritage site, and

other side is the largest mangrove

Maiko Kamiya, community relations

downstream of the river on the

forest in the prefecture. It's a

national natural treasure," said

specialist for Camp Schwab, to

invasive alien plants, Mikania

the Marines while pointing to the

thick forest next to them. "We will

help the Higashi Village to remove

Micrantha, to protect the treasure."

regions of North and South Americas

According to the Ministry of the

**Environment Yambaru Nature** 

Conservation Office, Mikania

Micrantha is native to tropical

(less than 300 miles) around.

Cultural Organization.

and plants.

heritage sites, both natural and cultural, as designated by the United

million people reside. It takes less

MARINES FIGHT FOR NATURE: HELP RE-

the 100 most invasive alien species.

call it "Mile-a-minute-vine." When

it grows, it covers the original plants

Before starting, Marines received

a sickle and were taught how to use

it to cut the plants. They were also

shown how to distinguish the "Mile-

a-minute-vine" from native plants.

leaves that grow in pairs from the

stem with jagged edges and three

veins that extend toward the tip of

"I've never used a sickle before

because we'd always have electric

Tovarduran, 3rd Reconnaissance

my first (time), but I was actually

He also said it was easy for him

the invasive plants and the native

plants. "You see the shape (of the

Tovarduran. He used to help out his

to see the difference between

leaf). It was very distinct," said

Yuya Shimabukuro, a volunteer

from the community, said that it

is more important to have people

participate with knowledge and

motivation rather than a large

number of people. Yet he also

otherwise, it is good if they can

deepen their understanding while

Shimabukuro is a member of the

Gesashi Ranger. Gesashi Ranger is

2019 by the non-profit organization

Higashi Village Tourism Promotion

Council. It is similar to a park ranger

district in the U.S. They provide

guidance to Gesashi River users,

a group of volunteers created in

stated that even if they come

they are doing it.

father with landscape work.

Battalion, 3rd Marine Division,

trimmers," said Lance Cpl. Alejandro

whose father is a landscaper. "It was

surprised how well it worked. It was

The plant has two heart shaped

It spreads very quickly and some

like a cloak and kills whatever is

**MOVAL OF INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT** 

kinawa Prefecture consists of and it is globally considered one of

below it.

the leaf.

easy to handle."

らに匀、低の川の下流

力の熱帯地

物は 人の

隊員と海軍兵が参加 初回は20

Marines work together with members of Gesashi Ranger in front of the forest of Yanbaru National Park in Higashi Village Feb. 22 2月22日、東村のや

業する海兵隊員ら。

attention to before

take measures against invasive

of labor, and it is difficult to find

information.

alien species, and collect and report

"Currently, Higashi Village is short

local people to help with the work,"

Hayami Higa, a chief of Construction

and Environment Division, Higashi

Village Office, said. "That is why

it is very helpful when Marines

offer us support." He hopes for

their continued participation in the

"It (could) build a good relationship with us as Marines and locals,"

said Tovarduran. "When we go out

there, and help out the community,

it (is) really good for not just them,

but also us." He said that he thinks

Lance Cpl. Mason R. Lowman, 2nd

Marines' contributions can bring

Marines and Okinawans closer.

Battalion, 7th Marines, currently

assigned to 4th

Marine Regiment on

Camp Schwab, said

he learned that the

invasive species is an

actual problem which

drastically affects the

he never paid

this event.

ecosystem, something

removal efforts.

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

んばる国立公園の 森の前で、慶佐次レ ンジャーと一緒に作

Marines carry the

bags of removed

Mikania Micrantha.

ア・ミクランサの袋を

除去されたミカニ

運ぶ隊員ら

Kamiya said it was their second time participating in the Mikania Micrantha pulling. The first time was Jan. 22, 2024 and eight Marines and Sailors participated. Since the weed invaded quite a large area, Kamiya plans to engage in ongoing





the soles of his seeds after Micrantha. サの防除作業後に 種の拡散防止のた めに靴底をきれい にする海兵隊員。

shaped leaves that grow in pairs from the stem with ツルヒヨドリは、 ハート形の葉が2 枚、茎から対にな って生え、縁はギ ザギザしている。

## **OKINAWAN MAYOR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS** THROUGH BOOK READING AT KINSER ELE-

**MENTARY SCHOOL** 

eople can learn many things through books. You acquire logical thinking, memory, and information processing skills while gaining new knowledge and a wide range of values. Above all, reading enriches your imagination.

Because of such beliefs, a lot of schools in Japan give children time for book-reading, whether students themselves read or someone else reads to them. In many schools, volunteers—mostly parents of the students—come to school to read books to children.

Tetsuji Matsumoto, mayor of Urasoe City, was one such parent who volunteered to read books at his children's school when they were school age.

"When I became mayor, I thought I was lucky because I could now go and read books at not just my children's school, but also all 11 (elementary) schools in the city," said Matsumoto.

Ayano Shimojo, a Japanese culture teacher at Kinser Elementary School, said, "After I heard about the mayor reading books to the local children at schools, I wished he would come to our school and read a book to our children."

Ever since, Shimojo has looked for an opportunity, and when the time finally came in March 2023, during the National Reading Month to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, she invited Matsumoto to be a guest reader. He read a book called "The Giving Tree" to the fourth graders for the first time in English.

On Feb. 7, 2024, Matsumoto again appeared in the library at Kinser Elementary School. He had a book in his hand, and an audience of 31 children from the second grade waiting for story time.

"American children are very energetic," said Matsumoto. He

thinks both Japanese and American children listen attentively, but the atmosphere is different. This year he was invited on "World Read Aloud Day" in which people celebrate

oral forms of

storytelling as

the earliest way of preserving human knowledge, insight, and creativity. Matsumoto chose the same book, "The Giving Tree" to read for children.

After introducing himself, Matsumoto began reading and, at the end of each page, he stopped and asked questions to the children. Some questions were about the words, sentences, and illustrations in the book, but some questioned the reasoning of the characters' actions and what the children thought about it. Matsumoto said that he felt the children understood what he was trying to convey from their responses.

"He asked questions that the children would be interested in and wanted to engage in," said Shimojo. "Because the story is short, the children of that age can follow it and read it together." She said that it touches the children's hearts and minds, especially having a mayor come down to their level and teach them important things, while interacting with them in such a way.

"The Giving Tree," published 60 years ago, is a story about an apple tree and a boy. From the surface, it looks like the tree is always giving and the boy is always taking, and there is no give-and-take

Urasoe City Mayor Tetsuji Matsumoto reads "The Giving Tree" to the students at Kinser Elementary School library, Camp Kinser, Feb. 7. 2月7日、キンザー小学校図書館にて同小学校2年生に「おおきな木」の読み聞 かせをする松本哲治浦添市長。



relationship there, but Matsumoto sees it in a positive way. In the final pages, both the tree, as just a stump which has nothing, and the boy, who aged,

meet once again. The tree is not happy at that moment because it has nothing to give him but the boy tells it all he wants is "a quiet place to sit and rest" and makes it happy.

**Happiness** 

becomes

only

real

when

shared.

At the end of the story, Matsumoto told the children that sharing what you can give makes everyone happy and he wants to be like the tree. Although the tree, which has nothing left at the end, he said, just keeps on giving, it can make other people around it happy and it becomes happy as well.

Matsumoto stated that his motto is "Happiness only becomes real when

According to Adrienne Arden, a school librarian at Kinser Elementary, the book has lots of different elements like happiness, sadness, loneliness, and growing up. "It is a day to not only read aloud and listen to books, but it is also about telling stories, and by the

Urasoe Mayor Tetsuji Matsumoto, left, asks questions to the students,

and Matthew Dolbow, U.S. consul general, Naha, back center, looks on 時折止まって児童に質問する松本哲治浦添市長(左)と、見守る在沖米総領事

3年3月

「幸せは分かち合ってこそ本物に

▶ mayor sharing with us, he is telling a small part of his story and sharing his life with our students," said Arden. "I believe he wanted students to have a giving heart and to be good to one another like how the tree was to the boy."

Arden hopes that connecting students to the host nation like this helps the students think about their community on a larger scale than just their family, their houses, and the base. Arden expressed that exposing children to and living in different cultures will help children see themselves as part of a larger global community.

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

々なことを学ぶ

10 — May 2024

しするために車両の後部に取り付ける装置)

(荷台から荷物を地

# U.S. MARINES ON OKINAWA FIRST TO KICKSTART THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND **HEALTH ORDINANCE CHANGES**

arine Corps Installations Pacific Safety Office held a series of one-day special land transportation safety & health training for the liftgate, a device attached to a vehicle's rear to lift and lower cargo from the vehicle bed to ground level, to Japanese employees working on Marine Corps bases in Okinawa in January 2024. The training was to educate employees on the changes in Japanese law for industrial safety and health.

The revision of the Japanese Industrial Safety and Health Ordinance, which is equivalent to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Code of Federal Regulations for U.S. personnel, went into effect Oct. 1, 2023. The change affects how Japanese employees handle cargo in freight areas of commercial trucks

with a maximum payload of two tons

According to the Safety Office, local residents laboring on Marine Corps Installations in Japan must work under the protection of a safety and health program that aligns with Japan's Occupational Safety and Health Regulations. Their office was the first to put this regulation, which covers the highest standards across U.S. and Japanese standards, into action among all U.S. service branches in Japan.

There are over 25,000 personnel employed by the Japanese government as Master Labor Contract (MLC) and Indirect Hire Agreement (IHA) workers on U.S. military facilities in Japan, with nearly 5,000 working for the United States Marine Corps.

"We have conducted the training three times already last week and will do more next week," said Mutsuko Nishihira, a safety technician at MCIPAC Safety Office and a certified trainer for this special class. "Our office sent out an email notification for this training to all MCBB logistics units, Marine Corps Community Services, and the Army

Japanese base employees listen to a one-day special land

transportation safety & health training for liftgate, Jan. 16.

別講習に耳を傾ける日本人基地従業員ら。

by this change."

in regulation.

1月16日、テールゲートリフターに関しての一日陸上輸送安全衛生特

and Air Force Exchange Store. We are

expecting to give training to over 300

employees whose jobs are affected

There were safety regulations for

but those were exclusively for five-

ton vehicles and above. According

20 affected trucks with a liftgate,

Other new requirements are to

equip lifting devices (including

liftgate and portable items such

as steps or a mobile ladder) for

users' safe access to the cargo area

of the two-ton trucks and above.

Even though the installation of

to G4 Motor Transportation Branch,

within MCIPAC-MCBB, there are now

compared to one prior to the change

liftgates in place before October 2023,

Japanese regulation when working at a height of more than 4.9 feet USMC implements U.S. regulation

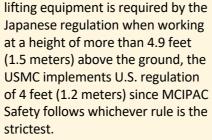
Wearing a fall protection safety helmet is also required if personnel are loading or unloading a truck's cargo area, to protect themselves not

just from falling objects but

protective equipment." She said using the liftgate as an elevator for you to get up to the cargo area is an example of incorrect usage and creating a hazardous environment.

In the morning, participants were instructed on the updated Japanese Ordinance concerning modifications to liftgate usage. The presentations featured slides and videos depicting

Continued on Page 4 LIFTGATE



also injuries from slips, trips, and falls themselves. These measures are in place to mitigate risks to the safety of workers and bystanders.

"The change was made because of numerous accidents," said Nishihira. "Because of the lack of user knowledge, there were accidents which could have been prevented if they were aware of the correct procedures, and had worn the appropriate personal

On Jan. 16, 35 local employees attended the mandatory liftgate special training. The trainees were from various offices across MCBB and from the U.S. Navy; all conduct cargo loading and unloading operations that access the affected truck's cargo area.

Industrial Safety and Health



during the use of a liftgate shown in class, Jan. 16. 1月16日、講習で示されたテールゲートリフター使用 中に起きた実際の事故事例

> 安全専門職であ 米海兵隊太平っている。

5000人近く

(陸軍・空軍が共同運営する福利厚生組織) の通知をEメ

事故事例を見ることがで

8 — May 2024

## **MARINES' SUPPORT OF NAGO ENGLISH DAY CAMP STILL GOING STRONG AFTER A DECADE**

t's that time of year again! Fumio Iha, Camp Schwab community relations specialist, sent out an email to over 80 Marines and Sailors who helped with Iha's Let's Play with English program in neighboring kindergartens and preschools, as well as various other volunteer activities, to recruit volunteers.

Every year, Camp Schwab supports the Nago City Board of Education for the Nago City English Day Camp. In 2024, 36 volunteers from Camp Schwab responded to Iha's email to participate in the three one-day camps for students; Feb. 3 was for grades one to three, Feb. 18 was for grades four to six, and Feb. 23 was for grades seven to nine.

"Most volunteers have experience in interacting with children," said Iha. "Some of them volunteered for all three camps." Iha laughed, saying that Marines and Sailors like to do something different from their daily

The Nago City English Day Camp first launched in 2013, according to Iha. The Nago City Board of Education asked Camp Schwab to provide opportunities for children and students to encounter English used in daily life.

During the junior high schoolers' day camp at the Nago City Youth Center, 21 students participated and 20 service members joined.

Iha said, at the opening remarks, "Don't be afraid of making mistakes. Life is all about mistakes. I make many mistakes when speaking, not only in English but also in Japanese. You got to speak, speak, and speak." He encouraged students to keep trying to speak English to the service members.

Although some students were hesitant to talk to English volunteers first, according to Cpl. Thomas Bigts, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment on Camp Schwab, said he could tell from the students' gestures and the atmosphere that they began to loosen up once talking and interacting started with the help of Japanese volunteers and five assistant language teachers (ALT), who are non-Japanese serving as assistant teachers in Japanese classrooms.

The day started with grouping of students and volunteers into five teams to introduce each other, then going through an ice breaker using music to ease the participants' tensions, and various games in English designed by the ALTs until before lunch.

One of the games was a telephone game, in which information is given to one person in a group and is whispered to the next person and then compared to hear if the original and final messages are the same. When an ALT gave the groups had the right word at the end of the line, but three groups' and "A-group." The word McDonald became "marv," "matano," and the toughest word with no group ending with the right word; instead "credit card," "birthday," "park" and "pallet." The participants laughed

and mistakes are embarrassing. mistakes too, and they relax.

Takizawa said English is about communication, not about good grammar or good test scores. She expressed that not many students get opportunities to communicate in English but once they do, they recognize their own abilities, and gain confidence to keep improving. "The volunteers are not good at Japanese, and students see them struggle and think it is okay to struggle and try. We're not the only ones," she added, "there's lots of

Volunteers act out what happens after the end of the tale Snow White on stage, Feb. 23. 2月23日、舞台で「白雪姫」のその後を演じるボランテ

first person the word apron, two last words were "paper," "April" "macademia." The word pattern was their final words were "pardon," out loud at the results.

Dorri Takizawa, English advisor for the Nago Board of Education, who observed all three camps, thinks that secondary school students are afraid of making mistakes However, once they realize that the subject is tricky and see other groups also make mistakes, they think it is okay for them to make

an official in charge of the Nago City English Day Camp for Nago City elementary and junior high school students. "I really appreciate volunteer members. Without their support, this event would not have been a success."

The official stated that the event was a valuable experience for students to make the most of what they had learned at school by communicating with people in English. She said she believes that they must have realized many things, such as their desire to learn more and frustration at not being able to communicate, and hopes this day would be a day that would lead to future opportunities.

"I can do it when I'm studying for a test or something, but when it comes to actually listening and talking, I realized once again that I can't do it at all," said an eighth grader from Nago Junior High School. However, she stated after finding something in common with service members, such as hobbies and favorite games, "I realized that

we can get along with them on a friendly level although I thought they were in a completely different world because of the different language, different features, but they all think the same way."

Lance Cpl. Tony Goo, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, said, "Being here is really a good experience. I'm learning a lot of new things from different angles and just meeting new people and I felt like I took full advantage of it." He said that he believes that as they learn about the Japanese culture, language, and new things, the students are learning something new from them as well.

Iha told participants at the end that there are many similarities between students and service members, even though they do not understand the languages and have different cultures. He said, "When you are hungry, you eat! If it's funny, you laugh!" The entire room roared with laughter.

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama



▶ room for trying and to keep trying to get it right."

A seventh grader from Sakura Junior High School said she believes that she can overcome the difficulties in communicating with foreigners in English as she realized that "it was ok to make mistakes" after the game. She felt even if she did not understand the meaning or could not understand what the service members were saying, they tried their best to convey it to her with gestures and such.

During the last program, volunteer members of the English Education Development Organization, co-host of the event, performed a theatrical play of "Snow White" narrated in both languages. Then all students and volunteers for both Japanese and English were given tasks to think and act out what could happen after the end of the tale.

"Students had to be creative and use phrases and other conditions that they had to discuss in order to develop the story. This time of discussion was great for them," said



「英語で遊ぼう」

市

援続

### **LIFTGATE** ▶ Continued from Page 8

accident scenarios, shown to exhibit the dangers that could possibly ensue. Following lunch, Safety Office instructors distributed daily liftgate inspection checklists. They then led attendees outdoors for a handson demonstration of the safety procedures, ensuring a thorough understanding before engaging in cargo area operations.

Although there are four types of liftgates—arm type lifting, vertical lifting, rear retractable lifting, and under-floor retractable lifting—two trucks outside the safety office had the vertical liftgate which is the main type in USMC in Okinawa.

"We have a truck with a vertical liftgate as well, and have followed and done most of the requirements," said Kenta Tokumoto, an operator from GF, Hansen Maintenance Detachment. "But we were not doing a step-by-step manner while vocalizing the process like the Safety Office showed us today. It was new."

After taking the role of a driver who

did "yubisashi-kosho," pointing-and-

calling-out, Tokumoto said although

he thinks the process will take more time, it is an important process to ensure their own safety.

"Seeing quite a few accident cases in the video during class helped me improve my safety awareness," said Tokumoto. While mentioning fall accidents when pulling the load backward in the cargo area of a truck without checking whether the liftgate is up or down, "such absentmindedness is more a human error. I think accidents happen because it was such a simple task, so I thought to myself that I'd be careful about that."

During the course presentation, statistics showed more than 60 % of the accidents related to liftgates are falling incidents, either operators falling themselves, or the cargo falling on them. It was stated that every year there are a number of fatal accidents.

Tatsuya Nagayama, a heavy vehicle driver from AAFES, recalled a falling accident from the cargo area of a truck in the past and the person was not wearing a helmet. He said that it is common for people to wear hard hats without chin straps to protect

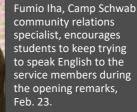
their heads from falling objects, but he had not thought of a person falling from a platform.

"After all, by following the steps, you will get used to it, and if you can do it naturally, you will be able to make sure that the people around you are safe," said Nagayama, who took the role of instructor during the "yubisashi-kosho" hands-on training. "We will also be able to take care of ourselves in the long term as the instructor said."

During the session, Nishihira had stated that rules are not for people to follow because there are penalties, but for them to follow to protect their own safety and lives in the end.

"It was really a good learning experience," Nagayama smiled. "I would be very happy if everyone would take this opportunity to get some training and do something to prevent injuries."

Participants received an updated license with a "liftgate qualified" stamp after the training. This is a one time requirement and no refresher training is required.



2月23日、冒頭の挨拶でボ ランティアに英語で話しか け続けるよう生徒たちを勇 気づけるシュワブ基地の伊 波文雄渉外官。

護市在住の小中学生を 名護青少年の家で 使われる英語に見 シュワブに対し要 日常生

Story and Photos by Yoshie Makiyama

かけ続けると

初は外国人ボランティアに話しかけることをためらう生徒も の日は、

年生から3年生までの英語体験学習に参加

のほとんどは、

2月18日が

年生から6年生、

合計36名のボラン

ムを英語で行った。 りを経て 参加者の緊張をほ

的に伝わったものは、 2組は正しい単語が最後尾まで届い ALTが1人目にエプロンとい元の伝言と最後の伝言が同じ

3つの英語体験学習をすべて見学した名護市教育委員会の しいことだと考えていると

伊波渉外官は冒頭 の生徒が参加し、20 人の隊員が加わった。 20 では、21人

は多くないが、ひとたび機会があれば、自分の点数ではないと話す。英語で会話をする機んは、英語は意思疎通のためのものであり、 の劇を日英両言語の

・シュワブの第4海兵連隊に現在配属されている

内の一人に情報を

主催者であるN この日の最後のプ ムでは、

form groups with the ension, Feb. 23.

2月23日、参加者の緊張を た雰囲気作りで、指示され た人数でグループを作る ために声を掛け合う生徒と ボランティアら。

する余地はたくさんあり、 している姿を見て、

ム後に、「間違えても

私たちだけではないのです。 うまくなるように努力し続ける

(Photos by Yoshie Makiyama / 写真 槙山由江)

ute fireworks show.

火を楽しんだという。

2024年 5月号 — 3





- 海兵隊、名護市の子供たちへ 支援続けて10年越え
- シュワブ・フェスティバル(写真)
  - 在沖米海兵隊、日本の労働安全
- 衛生規則改正施行にいち早く 着手
- キンザー小学校で浦添市長が 読み聞かせ・・・ 伝える思い
- 海兵隊、自然と奮闘 特定外来生物の防除を支援
- 海兵隊リサイクルショップ、沖縄 の小児病院に1万ドルを寄付
- 海兵隊員、地元の子どもたちと ボランティアで日本文化に浸る 北から南から
- 新年講習で実例に学ぶ海兵隊員 気を引き締め、基本に立ち返る
- ハンセンUSOでのイースター・ エッグ・ハンティング(写真)

# B ig Circle 大きな輪

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### 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。

キンザー(浦添市) フォスター 098-970-5555

(北谷町・他) 098-970-7766 シュワブ(名護市) [交換]

[内線] 637-1728 普天間 (宜野湾市)

コートニー (うるま市)

[交換] 098-970-5555 [内線] 636-2022 098-954-9561

098-970-5555 [内線] 625-2544

ハンセン(金武町) 098-969-4509

# **Upcoming Events**

Foster Festival・フォスター・フェスティバル 日時/date and time

7月6日 & 7日 13:00~21:00

Kinser Festival・キンザー・フェスティバル 日時/date and time

9月7日 & 8日 13:00~21:00

### フリーマーケット最新情報

電話:098-970-5829(英語のみ)と下記のURL からご確認を

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



In front of the long-awaited traffic light, Shu Ozawa, right, and his escort, Cpl. Hunter Smith from the Marine Corps Base Provost Marshal's Office, are interviewed by Toyama TV program staff, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Mar. 25.

Ozawa, an elementary school student from Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture, loves traffic lights. He applied to a local broadcasting station in the prefecture to participate in a program called "Granting the Wishes of the Prefecture's Citizens" when he saw a picture of a "hanging traffic light" used at the base on the internet, saying "I want to see a very rare traffic light!" With Camp Foster's full cooperation, this event was realized. The escort Marine happened to speak fluent Japanese.

3月25日、待望の信号機を前に番組関係者のインタビューに答える小澤鷲君とエスコートの海兵隊太平洋基地憲兵隊のハンター・スミス伍長。

富山県富山市の小学生、鷲君は信号機が大好き。ネットでフォスター基地で使われている「吊り下げ式信号機」の写真を見て、「激レアな信号機を見たい!」 と県内の地元放送局の「県民の願いを叶える」という番組に応募した。フォスター基地の全面的な協力を得て、実現したこの日、サポートについたスミス伍







All mangroves are raised by Nature Miraikan over a period of 7-8 years from stick seeds that had fallen on the beach. 提供されたマングローブ はすべて、浜辺に落ちていた棒状の種から7-8年かけ てネイチャーみらい館が育てた苗木。

Celebrating Earth Day, Children from Kin Town plant mangroves with Col. Rich Martin, right, Camp Hansen Commander, and Kin Vice-Mayor Tsukasa Kinjo, center, at Okubi River, Kin, Apr. 22, 2024. 金武町の億首川にて「地球の日 (アースデイ)」を祝い、ハンセン 基地司令官リチャード・マーテ ィン大佐(右)、金城司金武町副 町長(中央)とともにマングロー ブを植える金武町の子どもた ち=2024年4月22日。

