

# OKINAWA MARINE

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

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## Damayan relief efforts continue

Cpl. Jose Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PAMPANGA, Republic of the Philippines — In a time-sensitive operation where every minute counts, military forces and humanitarian workers from around the world are supporting the Government and Armed Forces of the Philippines in an effort to provide relief to those people whose lives have been affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

Aid is arriving to remote areas at the request of the Government of the Philippines, while the U.S. Pacific Command continues to send more support to the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the Philippines.

A total of 14 Ospreys are currently operating around the clock to provide essential supplies like food and water to the most isolated areas affected by the typhoon. The Ospreys are with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons 262 and see **RELIEF** pg 5



Capt. Joseph White, left, and Philippine Army Pfc. Vic D. Victorlano carry U.S. Agency for International Development relief supplies from an MV-22B Osprey Nov. 18 at Pasay, Luzon, Republic of the Philippines, to support Operation Damayan. White is the deputy logistics officer of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Osprey is with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, currently assigned to the aviation combat element of Joint Task Force 505. Photo by Capt. Caleb Eames



Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band rehearse Nov. 14 at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo for the 2013 Japan Self-Defense Force Marching Festival.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

## Budokan Festival creates international harmony

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

TOKYO — Marines from the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band participated in the 2013 Japan Self-Defense Force Marching Festival Nov. 15 – 16 at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo.

The III MEF band joined the Japan Ground, Air, and Maritime Self-Defense Force bands, the JSDF Academy band, the Kingdom of Thailand's Royal Thai see **BUDOKAN** pg 5

## Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officers tour Ospreys

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Officers from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force visited Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 15 to tour a static display of an MV-22B Osprey.

The officers' visit with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, served to inform the JGSDF officers about the aircraft and helped build relations between them and the Marines, according to Col. Jonathan C. Goff, the Marine Corps Forces Pacific liaison to the JGSDF.

“By letting them see the Ospreys up close and learn about them, we’re building upon the trust between our forces and improving our ability to work together,” said Goff. “If they learn what the Marines are capable of doing, they can prepare for that and learn to work together with us to achieve mission accomplishment.”

The Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that has the functionality of a fixed-wing aircraft and can take-off and land see **OSPREY** pg 5

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# Holiday season begins

## Embracing spirit with families, friends

Lance Cpl. David Hersey

Family is the driving point behind many of our decisions. Many of the things we do are for our family, and every family has their own traditions that they pass down to each generation. This is even more evident when the holidays come around.

For those of us who are stationed or deployed overseas, the holidays allow us a new way to celebrate. We carry fond memories of the holidays spent with our families and have the opportunity to forge new experiences with our brothers and sisters stationed with us.

As fun as we make them, the holidays can serve as a time of hardship as well. The separation between us and our families may be a source of stress at the best of times. That stress becomes significantly more noticeable when the time to celebrate the holidays comes around.

Each family has unique traditions they share during certain holidays that make a "normal" celebration unforgettable. My family, for instance, celebrates my father's birthday and Thanksgiving at the same time. We never get him a birthday cake, instead we share a pumpkin pie with a single candle in the middle, each of us getting a slice and a scoop of ice cream.

Our Christmas was close to the traditional celebrations most would expect, but we never got to touch the presents under the tree until after our family had eaten. The best plates and silverware were brought out and food filled the table and counters in our kitchen. After everyone had enjoyed the bounty of food to their hearts content we would open the presents.

While those of us stationed overseas are unable to celebrate exactly like we would if we were home, modern technology has given us an opportunity to share our holiday celebrations with families a world apart. Social networks, video streaming services, voice over internet protocol services, email, instant messaging and even plain old phones calls can help us keep in contact with our families. These services and technologies give us the opportunity to open presents, eat together over a video chat, or just sit down and talk with your family to let them know that everything is all right.

During this holiday season, sit down and let your family and friends know that you wish them well and are thinking about them. It will mean the world to both parties. They will know that no matter how far away you are, you still think about them and you know that they still think of you.

*Hersey is a combat correspondent for the Okinawa Marine newspaper.*

**"We carry fond memories of the holidays spent with our families while forging new experiences with our brothers and sisters stationed with us."**

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AROUND THE CORPS



**Marines with Marine Corps University run at the National Mall Nov. 7 in Washington, D.C. The Marines passed by monuments and memorials throughout the capital and ended the run in front of the Iwo Jima Monument in Arlington, Va.** *Photo by Cpl. Michael C. Guinto*

**Recruits of Company K change positions above a small pond during the confidence course Nov. 7 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The course is comprised of 15 obstacles designed to help Marine recruits build confidence by overcoming physical challenges. The company is with 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.** *Photo by Cpl. Caitlin Brink*





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Service members and Department of Defense civilians, who are part of the Joint Task Force 505, work to support Operation Damayan Nov. 18 at the joint operations center on Camp Courtney. The JTF coordinates with major subordinate commands and civilian organizations to supply the deployed forces with what they need to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to Filipinos in response to Typhoon Haiyan.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Lena Wakayama

# JTF-505 supports Operation Damayan from Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Lena Wakayama

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — The Joint Task Force 505's joint operations center officially activated to support Operation Damayan Nov. 16 at Camp Courtney.

JTF-505 was established to coordinate the U.S. military's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, in conjunction with the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to support the government of the Philippines-led response to Typhoon Haiyan. The task force is comprised of U.S. Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force personnel and elements.

"The mission of the JOC, or main, is to facilitate (Lt. Gen. John Wissler's) command and control of JTF-505," said Maj. Bob Williams, a senior watch officer at the command center. Wissler is the commanding general of III MEF. "We do that by functioning as a fusion center. The main is where data is collected, assembled to form a coherent picture and then used to provide Lt. Gen. Wissler with the situational awareness he needs to make informed decisions."

The JOC maintains direct contact with forward elements and coordinates with the major subordinate commands to support forward elements' operational needs, according to Staff Sgt. Harold Vincent, the surface chief for G-4, supply and logistics, III MEF, currently serving with the Joint Deployment and Distribution Operations Center of the JOC.

"Each section has a specific button to push," said Vincent. "They know what they have, what they can support and what they can use. That's why we have the Air Force, Navy and Army representatives, and other civilian representatives; we can reach out to them and ask them what they can bring to the mission."

"Somebody has to get the supplies needed for the personnel as well as shelter, food and water for the displaced personnel," said Sgt. Norris E. Avery, an air fires chief with G-3, operations and training, III MEF. G-3 is currently in charge of tracking the flow of aircraft coming in and out of the Philippines and sourcing out aircraft. "That's what we're trying to get out there as fast as possible. What we do is very important."

Having representatives from the Department of Defense, DOS and USAID in the JOC ensures all assets and capabilities are used effectively and efficiently, according to Williams.

"If we need to talk to 7th Fleet, we don't need to send a message via Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Pacific Command and Pacific Fleet," said Williams. "I can talk face to face with the 7th Fleet (liaison officer) who sits four feet away."

Every unit in JTF-505 has a representative present at every hour of the day, every day of the week until the operation ends, according to Vincent.

"As long as Marines are forward (deployed), someone's going to be here waiting for their call, just in case something comes up and they need support," said Vincent.



## BRIEFS

### NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT ON FUTENMA

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the Government of Japan have established a new traffic light at the intersection of MCAS Futenma Gate 3 and Highway 330 for safety reasons.

Drivers are to obey all traffic laws when entering and exiting any installation. When exiting Gate 3, be sure to stop before the yellow line and not in the cross walk.

Please drive safely and remember you are considered a professional driver in Japan.

Report any issues or concerns about the traffic light or activity around the Gate 3 area to your chain of command, the MCAS Futenma Mission Assurance at 636-3058, or the MCAS Futenma safety office at 636-3330.

### POST OFFICE HOURS

All Marine Corps post offices on Okinawa will be closed Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

For questions, please contact the post office at 637-5011.

### BEATING THE BLUES SCHEDULE

Marine Corps Community Services, Marine and Family Programs Branch, will coordinate and present Beating the Blues 2013.

Attendance is mandatory for all active duty service members assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force/ Marine Corps Installations Pacific units on Okinawa.

The scheduled presentations are as follows:

- Camp Hansen Theater: Dec. 2-5 from 8-9:30 a.m., 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.

### MARINE & FAMILY PROGRAMS-RESOURCES HOURS

Marine Corps Community Services, Marine & Family Programs-Resources hours of operation for all facilities Nov. 29 are as follows:

- Camp Foster MFP-R (building 445): 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Camp Kinser MFP-R (building 1220): closed
- Camp Courtney MFP-R (building 4425): closed
- Camp Hansen MFP-R (building 2339): closed
- Camp Schwab MFP-R (building 3327): closed

If there are any questions, please contact Joe Cassidy at 645-3150 or email [joseph.cassidy@usmc.mil](mailto:joseph.cassidy@usmc.mil).

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

# Marine saves community member's life

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER — Marines train to prepare for any event, including caring for the injured or wounded. Not only did one Marine remember his training when it counted, he also saved a life in the process.

Lance Cpl. Angel Servin, a field radio operator with the Jungle Warfare Training Center, recently used his medical training to save a local community member's life.

While driving from Camp Hansen to JWTC, Servin witnessed a man collapse on the shoulder of the road.

Springing into action, Servin pulled over to help any way he could, according to Gunnery Sgt. Alvin L. Johnson, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of JWTC, Camp Gonsalves, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The actions were purely instinctual and a result of training, according to Servin.

Once Servin determined CPR was the necessary course of action, he applied it until emergency responders arrived, according to Capt. Frank S. Buerger, the operations officer with JWTC.

"It was all happening so fast," said Servin.

"I didn't know if he was going to make it or not, but once I noticed he was getting better, I felt relieved."

CPR is an important life-saving tool, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 lives could be saved each year by immediate use of CPR. This makes it vital to learn and maintain basic CPR knowledge and skills, and to use it when the situation requires.

"(Servin) started CPR as soon as he realized that's what (the victim) needed," said Buerger. "When he saw another bystander, he asked him to call for help. Servin continued to use CPR until emergency help showed up 10 minutes after he first noticed (the victim) go down."

Helping a complete stranger showed unselfishness and a desire to help those in need, according to Buerger.

"When we do things like this, it not only demonstrates the depth of our character as U.S. service members and subsequently, ambassadors; it shows the depth of human character," said Buerger.

Instances such as Servin's also help enhance friendships between Okinawa and the U.S., according to Johnson.

"This story has multiple positive implications," said Johnson. "Not only does it help the

local community feel more at ease about our presence, it shows us our training goes beyond the battlefield and into everyday life."

The experience also highlighted the importance of being aware of your surroundings at all times, according to Servin.

"If I had to (give) a lesson about this, I'd have to say maintain situational awareness," said Servin. "They teach us this in boot camp, and it couldn't be more right; you never know what could happen."

Despite receiving accolades for his meritorious actions, he remains humble.

"I was just doing my job," said Servin. "As a Marine and a human being, I was trying to be as helpful as I could."

Before this event, and most certainly after, Servin has proven himself a valuable asset to the Marine Corps and to his command and has been nominated for an award for his actions, according to Buerger.

"We at JWTC are very proud of all our Marines," said Buerger. "Lance Cpl. Servin has made himself a great addition to our shop as well as the Marine Corps. He remained aware of his surroundings even though he was on his own time. This demonstrates a great level of commitment to everyone around him, the Marine Corps and his country."

## 3rd MLG Marines celebrate before deployment

Sgt. Anthony Kirby

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — It is never easy for service members to leave behind loved ones to execute a mission, but it is moments of celebration that eases the transition and boosts the morale of everyone involved.

Marines of Retrograde and Redeployment, in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, gathered at the Hai Sai Center on Camp Kinser Nov. 7 for a going-away barbecue.

"We just wanted to have something special for the junior Marines to show them that they're appreciated for the hard work they've done to get to where we are right now," said Sgt. Randy T. Crotzer, a warehouse clerk with the group.

The group is comprised of Marines from multiple major subordinate commands under III Marine Expeditionary Force, and is slated to leave for a six-month deployment to Afghanistan this month.

"Our mission is to bring back the Marine Corps' equipment to help fill equipment deficiencies Marine Corps wide," said Maj. Terence F. Moroney, the detachment officer in charge.

The group organizes, repairs and sends Marine Corps weapons, vehicles and other equipment back to the U.S. From there, the equipment will be distributed as needed to all MEF commands. The operation's outcome will save the Marine Corps money. The deadline for all the gear in Afghanistan to be retrograded and redeployed is January 2015.

"You guys are going to go out there to find the gear we need and get it through the process of coming back here," said Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "I'm excited for each one of you."

In preparation for the upcoming deployment, the group has been actively involved in a three-week pre-deployment training program consisting of rifle range, vehicle egress trainers, combat lifesaver procedures and other training events.

"We've also been doing our own (military occupational specialty) training to stay proficient in our job, but the PTP training prepares us for the theater of operations where we will be," said Gunnery Sgt. Junior E. Diaz, a motor transportation chief with the group.

The Marines of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group have also been preparing themselves for the stress of leaving behind their loved ones.



**Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson speaks to deploying Marines Nov. 7 at a going-away barbecue at the Hai Sai Center on Camp Kinser. Nelson is the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Marines, who are deploying to Afghanistan, are with Retrograde and Redeployment in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, 3rd MLG. Photo by Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby**

"My wife and I met while I was already in the Marine Corps in between deployments, so she understands when I have to go," said Diaz. As the families temporarily separate, there is a feeling of loneliness for both the husband and wife, according to Crotzer.

"This will be the first time I'll be deployed while we have kids, but we're as ready for it as we can be," said Crotzer. "My family has a good support system here."

Though the group will miss their loved ones, they will remain focused to take care of the mission at hand.

"As long as we complete the retrograde out there, and come back together safe and sound, then that's mission accomplished in my eyes," said Crotzer. "I just want the Marines to come back to their loved ones."

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265, both assigned to the aviation combat element of Joint Task Force 505.

“The aircraft will really display how it’s made for this part of the world when we fly south delivering the supplies to the people and reaching those remote areas where people have not been able to receive supplies,” said Capt. Robert S. Swartz, a pilot with VMM-265. “We don’t need an airport to land, especially

with all the damage the airports took down there. All we need is enough space, like a soccer field, and there are definitely a number of those zones for us to reach the people.”

The Osprey is the ideal aircraft for this HADR operation due to the capabilities it provides, according to Swartz.

With its vertical take-off and landing capabilities, it can operate in austere environments. Its ability to convert quickly to

fixed-wing configuration gives it greatly increased speed and range over traditional rotary-wing aircraft, substantially strengthening the ability to save lives and reduce suffering.

The typhoon has impacted millions of people throughout numerous provinces in the Philippines, and being the first on-scene is important in demonstrating U.S. support and friendship to the Government of the Philippines, according to Swartz.

“What people need to understand is that the biggest typhoon in recorded history happened in the Philippines and we are out here supporting the request of the Government of the Philippines and their lead to fully (get this country) back on their feet,” said Swartz.

As the number of Ospreys nearly doubles, the amount of aid to the people of the Philippines will also. With more aircraft in the air, more help will be arriving at those isolated locations.

**Left: Cpl. Amanda V. Davis with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band sings Nov. 16 at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo during the 2013 Japan Self-Defense Force Marching Festival.**



**Below: Members of the Republic of Thailand’s Royal Thai Army Band rehearse Nov. 14 at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo for the 2013 Japan Self-Defense Force Marching Festival. The two-day event featured bands from Japan Maritime, Ground and Air Self-Defense Forces, as well as the JSDF Academy, the Royal Thai Army, U.S. Army Japan and III Marine Expeditionary Force, along with a performance by a Taiko drum ensemble.**

*Photos by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders*

**BUDOKAN** from pg 1

Army Band, a Taiko corps, and the 296th U.S. Army-Japan Band for six performances during the 49th iteration of the annual festival.

For decades, the arena has been a sought-after venue for famous performers from around the world, according to Sgt. Adam R. Tibesar, a musician, section leader and operations and logistics clerk with the III MEF Band.

“I see it as an honor – to perform in the same place as (many famed musicians),” said Tibesar.

Each year, the festival features performances based around a theme, according to Lance Cpl. Jean C. Salas, a musician with the III MEF Band. This year’s theme was ‘Power for Peace.’

“To me, the theme shows that music has the power to enable us to come together peacefully,” said Salas.

The theme alludes to a deeper meaning through the presence of several performing bands, according to Tibesar.

“The military is often perceived as a symbol of power,” said Tibesar. “The festival unites three powers (Thailand, Japan and the U.S.) through our common interest in

music and peace.”

Each band performed three songs individually, followed by the bands performing together in various combinations.

Bringing this many bands together for one event is no small feat, according to Lt. Kenichi Takano, assistant director and a musician with the JMSDF Band.

“This is traditionally a very large-scale event,” said Takano. “I have to give credit to event organizers for accomplishing something so large at such a historical stadium.”

Each band has given, and will continue to give, their full effort into every event where they perform, according to Tibesar.

“We’ve been preparing for this event for quite a while,” said Tibesar. “The bands have (put all of their) effort into this.”

With all the anticipation coinciding with this year’s event, next year’s festival is still on the distant horizon, according to Takano.

“It’s a huge honor to help host the Budokan Marching Band Festival,” said Takano. “I have no doubt that there will be another one next year. I can’t think about how much bigger it will be.”



**Maj. Benjamin J. Debardeleben, left, explains the capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey to officers of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Nov. 14 during a tour of the aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Debardeleben is an Osprey pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Goff is the Marine Corps Forces Pacific liaison to the JGSDF. Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey**

**OSPREY** from pg 1

like a helicopter. This gives it the ability to travel farther than conventional helicopters while maintaining its vertical takeoff and landing capabilities.

The officers took full advantage of the opportunity to see an Osprey up close and learn more about its capabilities, according to Col. Tetsuro Kagao, a researcher with 2nd Research Office, 1st Division of Research and Development Department, Ground Research and Development Command, JGSDF.

“We appreciate any opportunity to learn about our American brothers,” said Kagao. “Everything we learn here will help us to work together in future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and military operations.”

The experience strengthened the bonds between the two forces and encouraged learning more about each other, according to Col. Manabu Shimamoto, the chief of 2nd Division of Research and Development Department.

“We need cooperation between our forces in case of emergencies,” said Shimamoto. “Learning about each other helps to build coordination and friendship.”



An MV-22B Osprey prepares to land on Tacloban Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, Nov. 16 during Operation Damayan. The Osprey provides a unique capability and is ideal in this type of operation due to its vertical takeoff and landing capabilities, and its ability to convert quickly to a fixed-wing configuration, giving it increased speed and range. The Osprey is supporting the Government of the Philippines in providing relief supplies and airlift capability for citizens affected by Typhoon Haiyan. The Osprey is assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently assigned to the aviation combat element of Joint Task Force 505. *Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*



An Armed Forces of the Philippines service member leads children to Tacloban Air Field Nov. 16 during Operation Damayan. The Government of the Philippines is closely coordinating with international relief efforts to help those in need. The children are displaced due to Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Republic of the Philippines Nov. 7. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Caleb Hoover*

# US service members, Armed Forces of Philipp

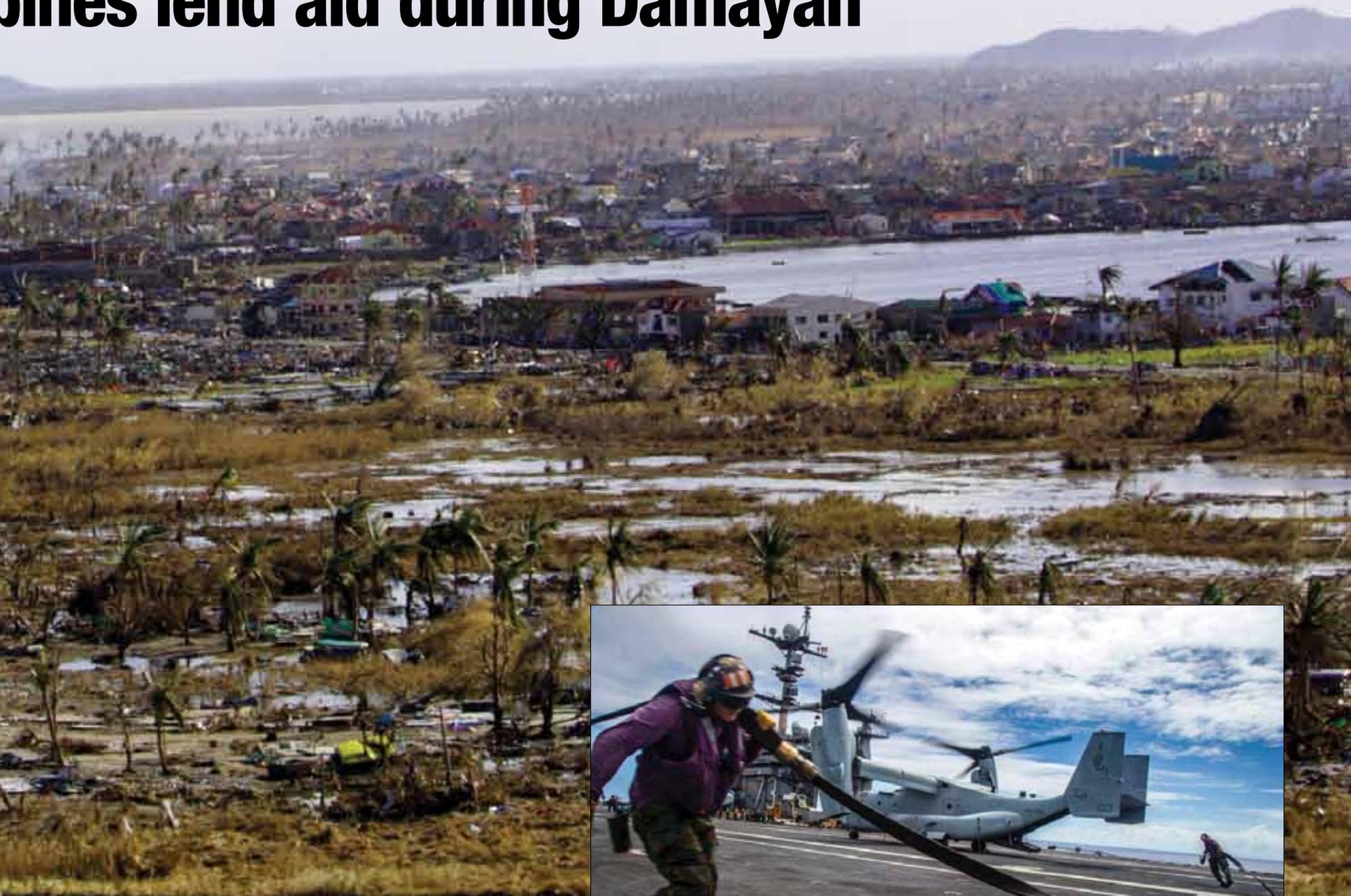


Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members wait to board an MV-22B Osprey aircraft Nov. 14 as part of Operation Damayan. The aircraft, JGSDF members and other relief personnel landed in Tacloban to provide support to the Philippine government who is spearheading relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. *Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood*



**U.S. Marines and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines assist civilians off a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft Nov. 13 at Villamor Air Base, Manila, Republic of the Philippines, during Operation Damayan. Typhoon Haiyan impacted more than 4.2 million people across 36 provinces in the Philippines, according to the Philippine government's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. The Hercules is with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and is currently assigned to the aviation combat element of Joint Task Force 505. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry**

# U.S. Marines lend aid during Damayan



**U.S. sailors refuel an MV-22B Osprey on the flight deck of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) in support of Operation Damayan. The George Washington Strike Group supports the JTF-505 to assist the Philippine government in response to the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Republic of the Philippines. The Osprey is with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently assigned as the aviation combat element of JTF-505. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Paolo Bayas**

# III MEF, MCIPAC units celebrate 238th Marine

For 238 years, the U.S. Marine Corps has proudly served our great nation with unflinching valor - bolstered by the enduring fortitude of our fellow Marines, our families, and our friends. This is why each year on Nov. 10, Marines from all generations gather together, in groups large and small, to celebrate the birthday of our Corps and to reflect on the proud legacy and warrior ethos we share. This is what unites us as Marines. From our first battle at New Providence to today in Afghanistan, Marines have always shown that they were made of tougher stuff - that when the enemy's fire poured in from all angles, and the situation was grim, Marines unequivocally knew that their fellow Marines would stay behind their guns, fight courageously, and drive the enemy from the battlefield. We have always known hardship, fatigue, and pain ... but we have never known what it is to lose a battle!

Marine of generations past built our reputation as the most disciplined and honorable warriors to ever set foot on a battlefield, and we have triumphed in every battle because our Corps has always focused on iron discipline and combat excellence. This is who we are ... this is what we do! It matters not whether you carried an M-1, an M-14, or an M-16. It matters not whether you fought on a lonely island in the Pacific, assaulted a citadel in the jungle, or marched up to Baghdad. It matters not whether you are a grunt, a pilot or a loggie. What matters most is that, when the chips were down and things got

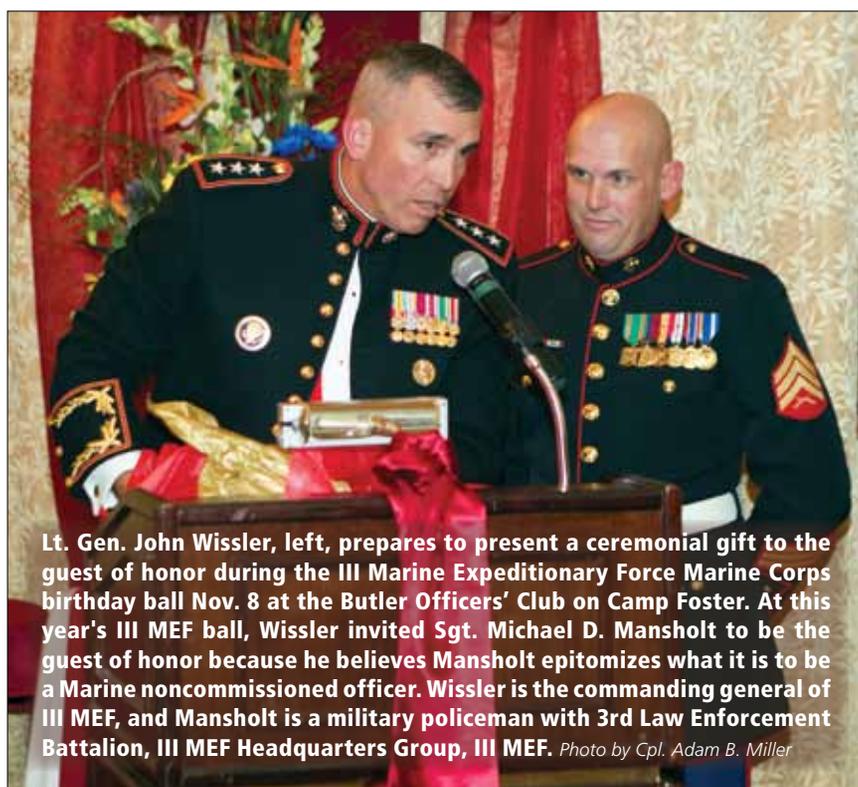
tough, your fellow Marines could count on you to stand and fight ... and fight we did!

This year, we celebrate the anniversary of several epic battles in our celebrated history: the 70th anniversary of the 2nd Marine Division landing on Tarawa, the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Hue City, and the 10th anniversary of the march up to Baghdad. Marines who fought in these legendary battles each made their mark upon the history of our Corps. They have passed a rich and illustrious legacy on to us - a much heralded reputation. It is ours to jealously guard, and it is up to us to make our own marks and thus proudly pass it on to the generations of Marines who will follow.

Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett joins me in congratulating each of you. Because of you, your selfless service, and your many sacrifices, our Corps remains strong and ready to respond to any crisis. Throughout history, Marines have faced tough times and there will be tough times ahead, but there is no challenge we cannot overcome if we remain honorable and always faithful to our nation, our constitution and each other. Happy birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis.

Gen. James F. Amos  
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Lt. Gen. John Wissler, left, prepares to present a ceremonial gift to the guest of honor during the III Marine Expeditionary Force Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 8 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster. At this year's III MEF ball, Wissler invited Sgt. Michael D. Mansholt to be the guest of honor because he believes Mansholt epitomizes what it is to be a Marine noncommissioned officer. Wissler is the commanding general of III MEF, and Mansholt is a military policeman with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Adam B. Miller



Left: Retired Lt. Gen. Michael J. Byron gives a speech during the 3rd Marine Division Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 15 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster. Byron was the commanding general of 3rd Marine Division from 1991 - 1993. "This is more than just a Marine Corps Birthday Ball for me," said Byron. "It's more like a homecoming celebration." Byron served as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve from 1959 - 1963. Upon graduating the University of Miami in 1963, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the Marine Corps. His first time on Okinawa was as part of the unit deployment program with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and was in the first group of Marines from 3rd Marine Division to go to Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Byron was the guest speaker for the ball. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson



# Corps birthday



Gen. Steven R. Rudder, right, presents Air Force Brig. Gen. James B. Hecker with the guest of honor gift during the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing SNCO and Officer Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 2 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster. Hecker was the guest of honor and is the commander of the 18th Wing. Rudder is the commanding general of 1st MAW, III MEF.  
Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathalie M. Rostran

Before us tonight stands an empty chair and a single lone table draped in black, signifying all of our fallen comrades who are not with us this evening because they have given the full measure of devotion to our country and to our beloved Corps. The single lighted candle reminds us of the flame of eternal life and that the memory of our fallen comrades will be with us always. The purple heart medal is displayed to reflect the shedding of blood and the ebb of life in battle. The identification tags are blank, yet they could bear the name of any of us here tonight, according to Marine Corps tradition. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathalie M. Rostran



Above: Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, left, cuts the ceremonial birthday cake during the Marine Corps Installations Pacific staff noncommissioned officer and officer Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 14 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster. The Marine Corps ball celebrates the founding of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10, 1775, in Tun Tavern, Philadelphia. Hudson is the MCIPAC commanding general.



1st Lt. Roxanne E. Kilmer narrates during the 3rd Marine Logistics Group SNCO and officer Marine Corps birthday ball Nov. 1 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster. The event celebrated the Marine Corps' 238th Birthday on Nov. 10. Kilmer was the ceremony's adjutant and is an adjutant with 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force.  
Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

Right: Marines prepare to present the colors during the MCIPAC SNCO and officer ball Nov. 14 at the Butler Officers' Club. It is customary during the birthday ball to begin with a ceremony dedicated to the traditions of the Corps and to honor its rich history.  
Photos by Lance Cpl. Matt Myers



# Single mom, NCO inspires others

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Commandant of the Marine Corps General James F. Amos' recent letter to sergeants and corporals, "The Reawakening," describes the noncommissioned officers as the backbone of the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Shakyra S. Parrish is one such motivating Marine. Between acting as the supply administration chief for the Consolidated Combat Camera, G-3/5, operations and training, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, and being a single mother of a six year old, Parrish inspires and encourages all Marines she meets.

"After (having the baby), I found myself on food stamps with no car, catching the bus everywhere," said Parrish. "I looked at my life and thought, 'this isn't me, and this isn't the life I wanted.' While I was still pursuing my college education, it didn't feel right. I didn't want my mom to have to support my son and me; I wanted to be the one taking care of my family."

Parrish decided that the Marine Corps was the stable lifestyle she needed.

Parrish's first test of will came during boot camp, where the hardest part was being apart from her son, but she turned her misery into the motivation to never quit.

"I did it for my son," said Parrish. "I had to stick it out because I left my son at home for this opportunity. He was my motivation. Nothing anyone said or did was going to steer me away from that. I did it all for him."

Parrish took to life after boot camp with ease. She understood the concept of working yourself up the chain of command and paying your dues. She took the examples of her leadership in all its forms.

From her time as a private first class, she naturally took leadership over others, according to Chief Warrant Officer Nemiah Johnson III, the ground supply operations officer for 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

"From the start, she stood out from her peers," said Johnson. "The younger Marines would look to her for guidance; they naturally tended to lean on her."

Parrish prefers to lead by setting a good example. She considers herself firm but fair, and does not hold grudges. She is a strong believer in second chances.

"I try my best to be personable with the Marines, but I am also very firm," said Parrish. "I keep it professional and keep my personal problems at the door when I come to work. I deal with my Marines as they are. If they do something wrong, we fix it and discuss how to move forward."

The Marines in Parrish's section trust in her leadership and that she will help them overcome obstacles to better themselves.

"My Marines know that I will not hold their failures against them," said Parrish. "You have to learn to move forward with your Marines because everyone makes mistakes."

The Marines under her charge appreciate her steadfast ways, according to Lance Cpl. Chantelle Henderson, a supply administrative clerk for combat camera.

"She's firm but steady and consistent," said



Sgt. Shakyra S. Parrish and her son Michael, age 6, take a warm-up lap around the track Nov. 3 at Kadena Air Base. "I did (Marine Corps recruit training) for my son," said Parrish. "I had to stick it out because I left my son at home for this opportunity. He was my motivation ... I did it all for him."

Henderson. "She has a genuine, continuous concern for the well-being of her Marines."

As an avid runner, she still dreams of being an Olympic hopeful in 2016 and trains almost every day for it. In addition, Parrish also takes online classes and has three years of college under her belt.

However, with all the things she has on her plate, the hardest thing she does is raise her son as a single parent in the military.

"It's tough," said Parrish. "People normally have their support systems, their mom, dad, sisters and brothers, to help with a baby. For military personnel, being a single parent brings on a whole new meaning. Typically, it's just you and your child."

Parrish attributes her understanding senior leadership to helping her with her obligations as a single parent, but she does not use it as an excuse to lose focus at work.

"I'm very dedicated to my work," said Parrish. "If I'm at work, I'm working hard. I know that my senior leadership doesn't have to allow me to leave early or take a day off. Your work determines how your chain of command takes care of you. So I take pride in my work ethic."

Parrish's work and dedication have spoken for themselves, according to Johnson. Her professionalism is an example others should learn from.

"I wish that more (noncommissioned officers) were like her," said Johnson. "She's the embodiment of what an NCO should be. I would pick her to be on my team for any dangerous mission."

All the opportunities that the Marine Corps has given her have left her with a deep love for the organization. If she finds herself speaking to a less-than-motivated Marine, she tries to remind them of all the chances for success the Marine Corps provides.

"The Marine Corps is an awesome organization," said Parrish. "I pump it up to all my Marines. The Marine Corps (provides) a paycheck on the 1st and 15th, and unlimited gym, dental, and medical benefits. If you look at all the opportunities (it) offers, then you realize that these benefits are hard to find elsewhere."

Parrish was not always this organized with her life. She understands that Marines need time to find themselves, and she urges all Marines to keep true to the core values in the Marine Corps if they want to succeed in this lifestyle.

"Hold dear the basics, as they are what really separate the good Marines from the mediocre," said Parrish. "Have pride in your work and your appearance. Remember your customs and courtesies. Don't fall back into the bad habits the Marine Corps has broken you of. Find your source of motivation and never forget it."

Sgt. Shakyra S. Parrish stretches on a track Nov. 3 at Kadena Air Base. She considers warming up and stretching therapeutic and an essential part of running. Parrish is the supply administration chief with Consolidated Combat Camera, G-3/5, operations and training, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

# In Theaters Now

**NOV. 22 - 28**

**FOSTER**

**TODAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 & 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Free Birds (PG), noon; Free Birds (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 & 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Gravity (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Frozen (G), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Frozen (3-D) (G), 1 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 8 p.m.

**KADENA**

**TODAY** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), 3 p.m.; Ender's Game (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Free Birds (PG), noon; Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), 3 p.m.; Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY-THURSDAY** Not updated.

**COURTNEY**

**TODAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 & 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Free Birds (PG), 3 p.m.; Gravity (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Thor: The Dark World (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Thor: The Dark World (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Frozen (3-D) (G), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Closed

**FUTENMA**

**TODAY** Escape Plan (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Counselor (R), 4 p.m.; Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Ender's Game (PG13), 4 p.m.; Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

**KINSER**

**TODAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Thor: The Dark World (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Free Birds (PG), 1 p.m.; Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY-TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Frozen (3-D) (G), 6:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

**SCHWAB**

**TODAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 & 9:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R), 6 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** The Counselor (R), 4 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Thor: The Dark World (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Ender's Game (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

**HANSEN**

**TODAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6:30 p.m.; Carrie (R), 10 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Best Man Holiday (R), 6 p.m.; Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 9:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Ender's Game (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (PG13), 9:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY** The Counselor (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Carrie (R), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Thor: The Dark World (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6 & 9:30 p.m.

**THEATER DIRECTORY**

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

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



## SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

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

**IE ISLAND DAY TRIP**

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

**DUCK AND COVER GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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

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

# TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which Marine claims the title of most prolific sniper in Marine Corps history?

See answer in next week's issue

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:** What weapon provides Marines with man-portable anti-aircraft capabilities?

**ANSWER:** The FIM-92 stinger surface-to-air missile, the primary weapon for low-altitude air defense Marines.



## Japanese phrase of the week:

"Ohayo gozaimasu!" (pronounced: oh-hah-yoh goh-zah-ee-mahs)	"Konnichiwa!" (pronounced: kohn-nee-chee-wa)	"Konbanwa!" (pronounced: kohn-bahn-wa)
It means "Good morning!"	It means "Good afternoon!"	It means "Good evening!"

# CHAPLAINS'

**OPINION**

*"...we should always take the opportunity to stop and say, 'thank you!'"*



## Establishing an everlasting foundation

**Lt. Scott Shafer**  
3RD MEDICAL BATTALION CHAPLAIN

There is a lot of work that goes into building a house. Walls have to be framed, windows installed, and cabinets built.

Framing, building and painting occupy most of our attention. We see these first when we look at a house. But what we often forget about is the foundation. After all, a foundation is not really something that catches our eye. Yet if that foundation is not solid, then it does not matter how good the rest of the work is, it will not last.

As a chaplain, I do a lot of work that is visible for people to see. I listen to people. I talk to people. I visit people.

What people do not see is the foundation. The foundation of my ministry in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps starts with a religious program specialist who does all of the thankless work that is foundational to ministry. Do you go to worship? An RP sets that up! Did you donate money? An RP looks after that! Are

you going on a visit outside the wire? An RP is there to protect the chaplain! It is not the kind of work that draws attention to itself – it is foundational.

As I get ready to leave active duty service, I want to pause and thank this group of people that have been foundational to my ministry in the Navy and Marine Corps. Professionals like one RP, who ran a community relations program that was recognized as best in the Navy! There was another RP who continued and expanded this already successful program. And an RP who once developed an Angel Tree program for some children out in town within 12 hours. I came in with all kinds of ideas about what could be done and she was already finished! Great work! It was foundational to everything.

All of us are blessed with countless professionals in the RP rating whose work is foundational to our success. It may not always be noticeable, but we should always take the opportunity to stop and say, "Thank You!"

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT [WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL](http://WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL) AND LOOK UNDER "AROUND MCIPAC"