

# OKINAWA MARINE

DECEMBER 20, 2013

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## 2013 defined by Marine Corps expeditionary success

1st Lt. Luke B. Kuper

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Immediately following Typhoon Haiyan, the worst typhoon to make landfall in recorded history, according to the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the men and women of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific responded with the rapidity and professionalism demanded and expected of Marines in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The U.S. military has a history of successfully working with international relief organizations and host nations to respond to those people affected by natural disasters,” said Lt. Gen. John Wissler, the III MEF commanding general. “We will be present as long as we are needed, but no longer than required.”

The success of Operation Damayan, the U.S. military’s response to the disaster, symbolized the hard work, dedication to partner nations, and expeditionary mindset ingrained through numerous theater security exercises and unit-level training events held across the region in 2013.

This year, III MEF and MCIPAC personnel positioned the Marine Corps to meet growing challenges to stability in the region, whether contingencies or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The highly capable MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft replaced the aging CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, ushering in a new era for Marine Corps aviation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Osprey’s ability to reach speeds twice as fast, travel four times further and carry triple the payload as the CH-46E proved invaluable during Operation Damayan.

Through nearly 2,000 community relation events, Marines demonstrated their willingness to not only integrate with but contribute to their

host nation. Agreements were signed allowing for the safe passage of personnel and vehicles onto U.S. installations in the event of crises, and readiness was maintained during knowledge-sharing exercises with the Japan Self-Defense Force.

Marines and sailors with III MEF and MCIPAC contributed to success on the ground as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, facilitating combat missions, engineering projects and the complex retrograde process taking place there.

Yet as the requirements for forward-deployed combat troops subsided, a new threat emerged, which jeopardizes the Marines of the Asia-Pacific region and the Corps as a whole.

Marines were reawakened to the damaging effects of sexual assault and harassment and other behaviors detrimental to the good order and discipline expected of U.S. service members. The noncommissioned officers of III MEF and MCIPAC led by example and are continuing to combat these deficiencies daily.

During 2013, Marines excelled elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region with a multitude of partner nations.

Cobra Gold, the largest multinational exercise in the region, encompassed 13,000 service members with seven different nations participating in crises and natural disaster response through increased interoperability during field training exercises in Thailand.

Approximately 200 Marines and sailors with Marine Rotational Force-Darwin completed the second iteration of the training program based out of Northern Territory, Australia. During the six-month deployment, the service members trained with Australian Defence Force members during exercises Koolendong, Tafakula and Gold Eagle.

A strong bond was also kept between the U.S. Marine Corps and Republic of Korea forces during the regularly conducted Korean Marine

Exchange Programs and Exercise Ssang Yong, which both demonstrate the continued dedication to the ROK-U.S. relationship and contribute to the security and stability on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the Asia-Pacific region.

Perhaps nowhere was the importance of bilateral training, knowledge-sharing and partner-enabling more vital than the Republic of the Philippines in 2013.

The lessons learned during Exercise Balikatan in April and Amphibious Landing Exercise in September prepared both U.S. Marines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the rapid response immediately following the tragic events associated with Typhoon Haiyan’s historic landfall.

The relationships formed between the two nations’ militaries throughout 2013 and the mutual understanding of standard operating procedures and capabilities allowed for the necessary level of support to be provided by Marines to affected areas; saving lives and reducing suffering in the process.

The success of Operation Damayan epitomized the active role the Marine Corps has played in the region long before the start of the 2013 pivot to the Pacific. The response and relief efforts carried out by the Marines of III MEF and MCIPAC defined the expeditionary role of the Marine Corps in the Asia-Pacific region to the world.

The unwavering commitment to maintaining standards, from the smallest units to their larger commands during periods of relative calm, resulted in a fully capable response force during a partner nation’s time of need.

This year, III MEF and MCIPAC maintained the high level of professionalism demanded of a forward-deployed force during unit-level training, numerous regional exercises, community involvement events and Operations Enduring Freedom and Damayan, representing the best the U.S. military has to offer in the Asia-Pacific region.

# 2013 Year in Numbers



**3,000**  
units of blood collected  
by the Armed Service  
Blood Bank Program

**\$10,364,911**  
raised through CFC-Overseas

more than **900**  
babies born at  
USNH Okinawa



Marine Gift Shop donated  
**\$54,850**  
to the community



**4.9 million**  
**LBS** of relief supplies  
transported during  
Operation Damayan



**2,000**  
community  
relation events

NMCRS gave more than  
**\$600,000**  
in loans to **756**  
sailors, Marines  
& family members

**13,455**  
service members  
participated in  
Damayan

## Make everyday your New Year's Day

Staff Sgt. Ken Melton

As we approach the New Year, many see it as way to begin again. The first day of the new year marks the beginning of a new journey, to make a resolution that will be life-altering or to forget the past year's mistakes and shortcomings and forge ahead. While this may work for some, it can be misleading.

While it is okay to use the new year as a springboard for self-improvement, we should not let it be the deciding factor in continuing this trend all year. For example, if your goal is to lose weight during the next year, and you start a diet or join a gym, but in February, you realize that it is not working, you should not wait until next year to start again. Your goal remains the same, but the way you achieve it can change.

Instead of giving up when things get difficult or interest is lost, you can use the next day to try something different, a new day to begin again.

Maybe your resolution is to become more of a citizen of the world by means of traveling or volunteering. Remember to start small and help others as you can. If you can only give two hours a week to your chosen organization or can only go on local mission trips, do not be discouraged. Who knows; maybe continuing to volunteer or travel

will open new doors to new opportunities. The volunteer efforts you make, no matter how small they are, could plant the seeds of compassion in others. By inspiring others to action, you accomplish your goal of being an effective world citizen. A simple trip to a different location can net you a contact that helps get you to other more unique locations. You never know what the next new day will bring.

Lastly, while the new year may offer a new start for some, we should not forget the past year's faults; they make us who we are today. Each day we learn something new and make mistakes, but we must be careful to not forget, but also not dwell, on them. They should be used as stepping-stones for improvement in your future endeavors. It has been said that "the biggest difference between who you are today and who you were yesterday is the lessons learned between that time." Every new day offers a chance to grow, as does the new year.

I encourage you to treat every new day as if it is New Year's Day. We should continually develop new resolutions, find solutions to them throughout the year, and remain optimistic.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Semper Fidelis!

Melton is the content production chief with the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

### BRIEFS

#### MARINE POST OFFICE HOURS

The following hours will be in effect for all Marine Corps Post Offices on Okinawa in observance of Christmas:

Dec. 23:

- Normal working hours

Dec. 24:

- Torii Station, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and Camps Kinser, Hansen and Schwab: Finance windows: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; parcel pick-up: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Camps Foster and Courtney: Finance windows: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; parcel pick-up: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Dec. 25:

- Closed

Dec. 26:

- Normal working hours

Questions may be directed to the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Assistant Postal Officer Chief Warrant Officer R.D. Howell at 637-5011.

#### CAMP FOSTER IPAC RELOCATION

The Installation Personnel Administration Center Okinawa has relocated from Bldg. 5717 at Camp Foster to Bldg. 5699.

IPAC is scheduled to be fully operational from Bldg. 5699 Dec. 23 with all services restored.

For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Jimmie Rogers at 645-0880.

# OKINAWA MARINE

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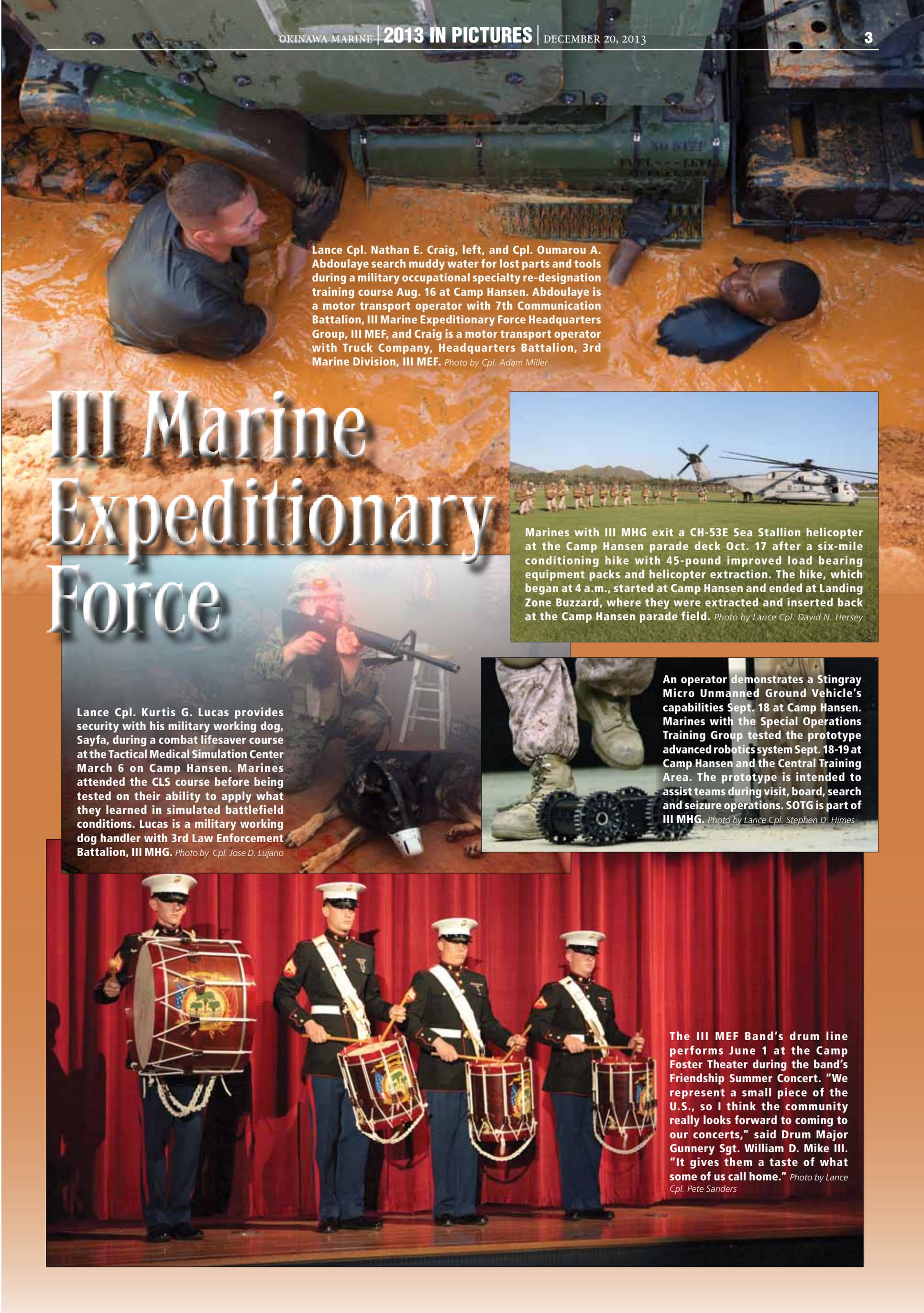
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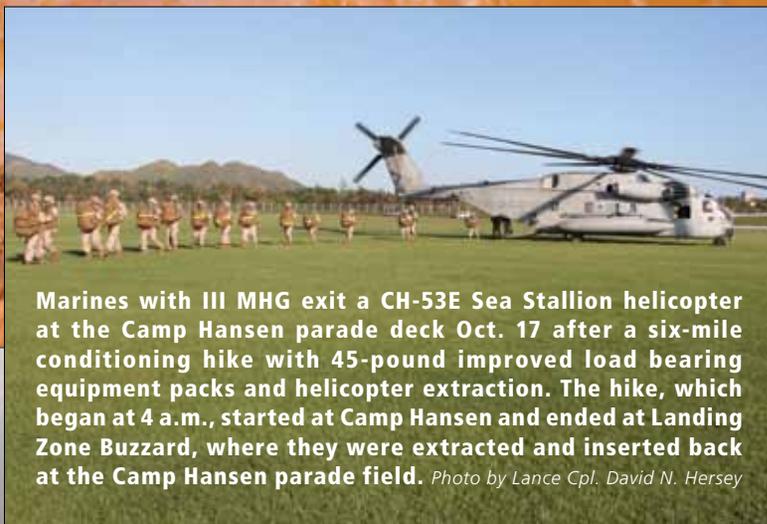
Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award

Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

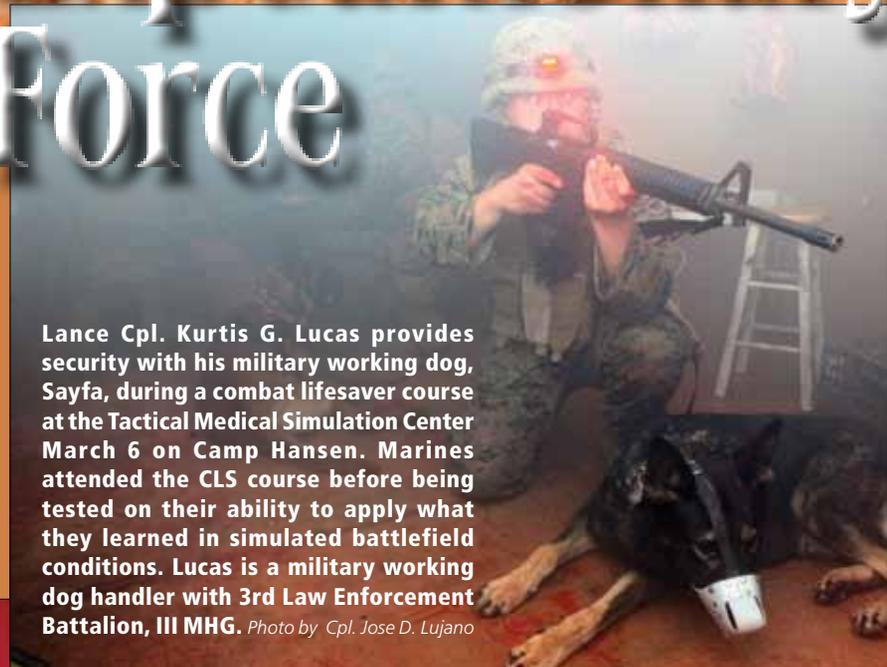


Lance Cpl. Nathan E. Craig, left, and Cpl. Oumarou A. Abdoulaye search muddy water for lost parts and tools during a military occupational specialty re-designation training course Aug. 16 at Camp Hansen. Abdoulaye is a motor transport operator with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and Craig is a motor transport operator with Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. *Photo by Cpl. Adam Miller*

# III Marine Expeditionary Force



Marines with III MHG exit a CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter at the Camp Hansen parade deck Oct. 17 after a six-mile conditioning hike with 45-pound improved load bearing equipment packs and helicopter extraction. The hike, which began at 4 a.m., started at Camp Hansen and ended at Landing Zone Buzzard, where they were extracted and inserted back at the Camp Hansen parade field. *Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey*



Lance Cpl. Kurtis G. Lucas provides security with his military working dog, Sayfa, during a combat lifesaver course at the Tactical Medical Simulation Center March 6 on Camp Hansen. Marines attended the CLS course before being tested on their ability to apply what they learned in simulated battlefield conditions. Lucas is a military working dog handler with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III MHG. *Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*

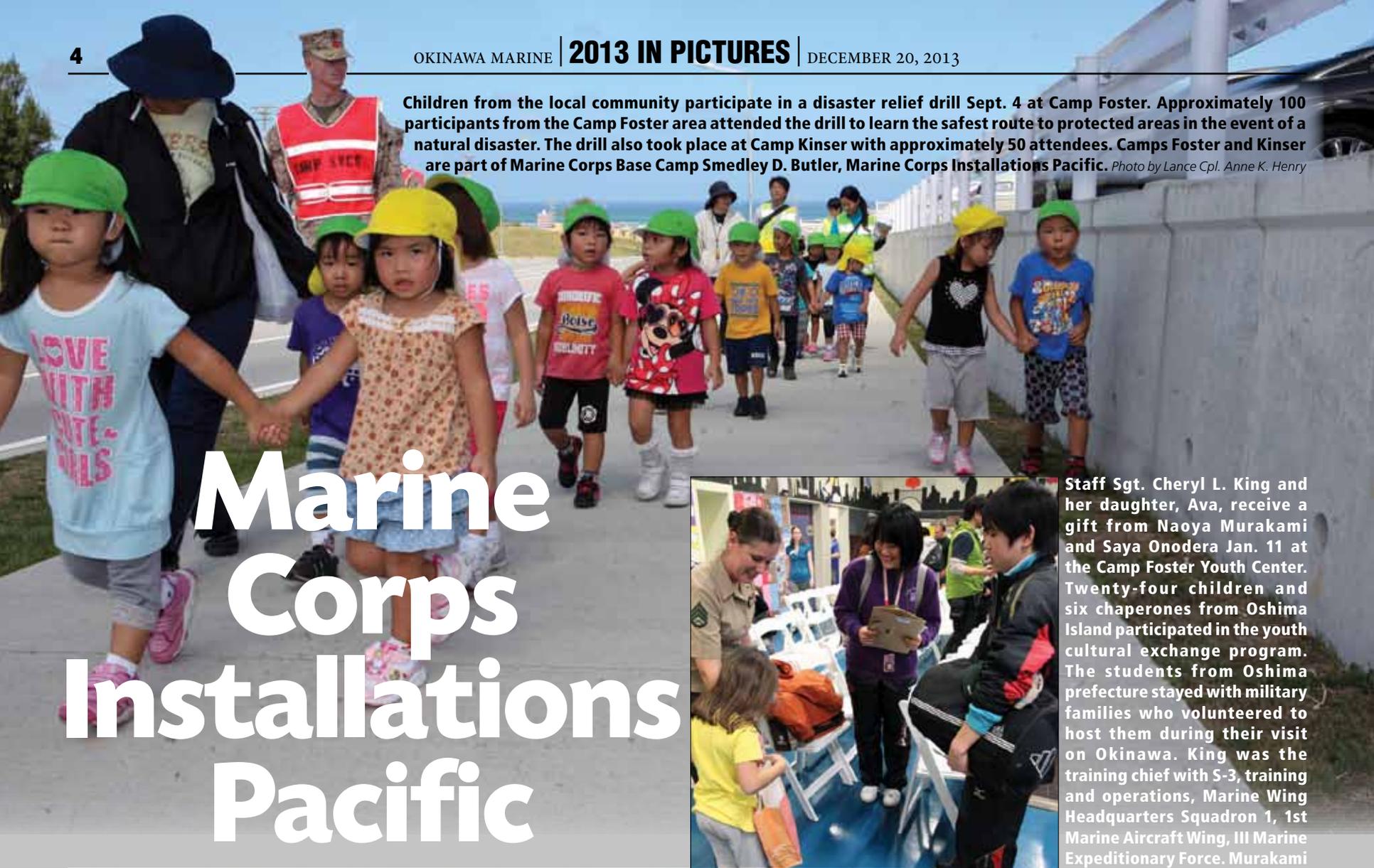


An operator demonstrates a Stingray Micro Unmanned Ground Vehicle's capabilities Sept. 18 at Camp Hansen. Marines with the Special Operations Training Group tested the prototype advanced robotics system Sept. 18-19 at Camp Hansen and the Central Training Area. The prototype is intended to assist teams during visit, board, search and seizure operations. SOTG is part of III MHG. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes*



The III MEF Band's drum line performs June 1 at the Camp Foster Theater during the band's Friendship Summer Concert. "We represent a small piece of the U.S., so I think the community really looks forward to coming to our concerts," said Drum Major Gunnery Sgt. William D. Mike III. "It gives them a taste of what some of us call home." *Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders*

Children from the local community participate in a disaster relief drill Sept. 4 at Camp Foster. Approximately 100 participants from the Camp Foster area attended the drill to learn the safest route to protected areas in the event of a natural disaster. The drill also took place at Camp Kinser with approximately 50 attendees. Camps Foster and Kinser are part of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry



# Marine Corps Installations Pacific

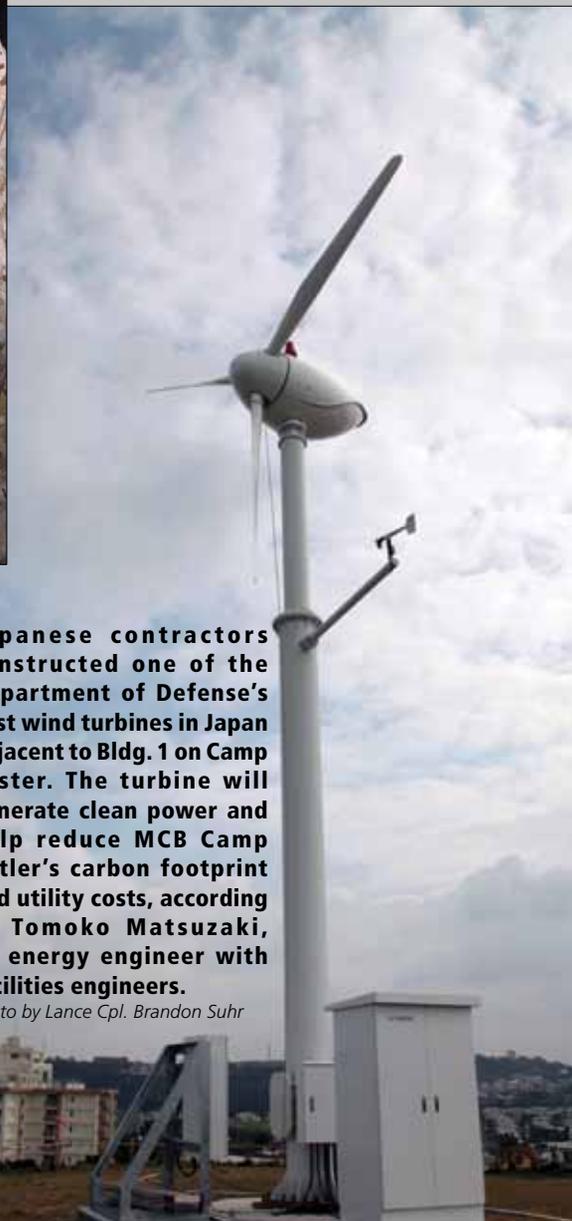
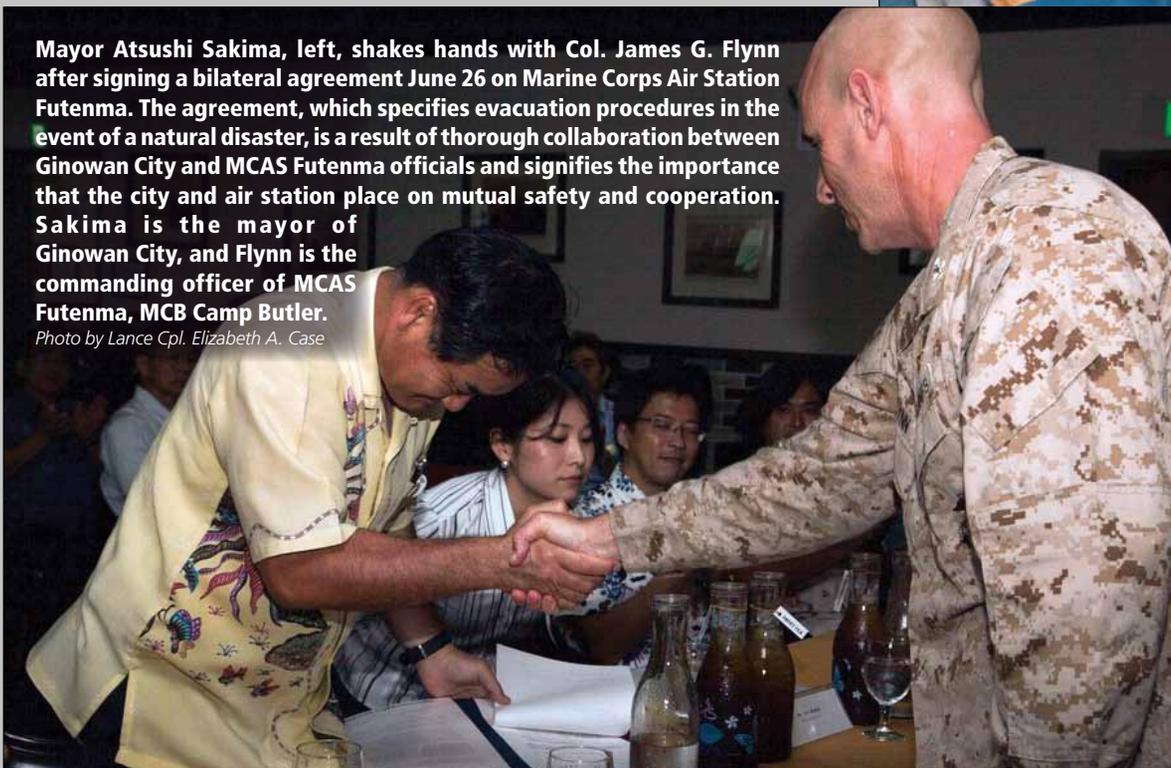


Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. King and her daughter, Ava, receive a gift from Naoya Murakami and Saya Onodera Jan. 11 at the Camp Foster Youth Center. Twenty-four children and six chaperones from Oshima Island participated in the youth cultural exchange program. The students from Oshima prefecture stayed with military families who volunteered to host them during their visit on Okinawa. King was the training chief with S-3, training and operations, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Murakami and Onodera are both students on Oshima Island, which was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami in March 2011.

Photo by Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

Mayor Atsushi Sakima, left, shakes hands with Col. James G. Flynn after signing a bilateral agreement June 26 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The agreement, which specifies evacuation procedures in the event of a natural disaster, is a result of thorough collaboration between Ginowan City and MCAS Futenma officials and signifies the importance that the city and air station place on mutual safety and cooperation. Sakima is the mayor of Ginowan City, and Flynn is the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma, MCB Camp Butler.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case



Japanese contractors constructed one of the Department of Defense's first wind turbines in Japan adjacent to Bldg. 1 on Camp Foster. The turbine will generate clean power and help reduce MCB Camp Butler's carbon footprint and utility costs, according to Tomoko Matsuzaki, an energy engineer with facilities engineers.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon Suhr

Staff Sgt. Jordan G. Hardy responds to a simulated-hostage situation with an M45 close-quarters battle pistol during training Aug. 27 at the battle-sight zero range on Camp Schwab. The drill

was designed to improve the basic skills of special reaction team Marines while improving unit cohesion. Hardy is the platoon commander of SRT, Provost Marshal's Office, MCB Camp Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Ranum



Below: U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy, far left, met with participants of the Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange field training exercise Sept. 11. Pacific Resilience is a civil-military disaster preparedness and response initiative between the Nepal Army, the government of Nepal, III MEF and U.S. Army Pacific. The exercise emphasized civil-military integration to field command and control, urban search and rescue techniques, engineering response and medical triage. This was the second phase of the Nepal Table-Top Exercise led by the Nepal Army. Activities like this strengthen both countries' bilateral relationship, increase the ability to save lives, protect property and prepare for the next major disaster. Kennedy is the deputy commanding general of III MEF and the commanding general of the 3rd MEB. *Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Alexander*



Above: Members of the U.S. military and Armed Forces of the Philippines carry an injured Filipino onto a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft Nov. 11 at Tacloban Airport, Republic of the Philippines. Four MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, and three KC-130Js, assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, both part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, arrived in the Philippines to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines in conducting the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation after Typhoon Haiyan struck, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and in need of assistance. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes*

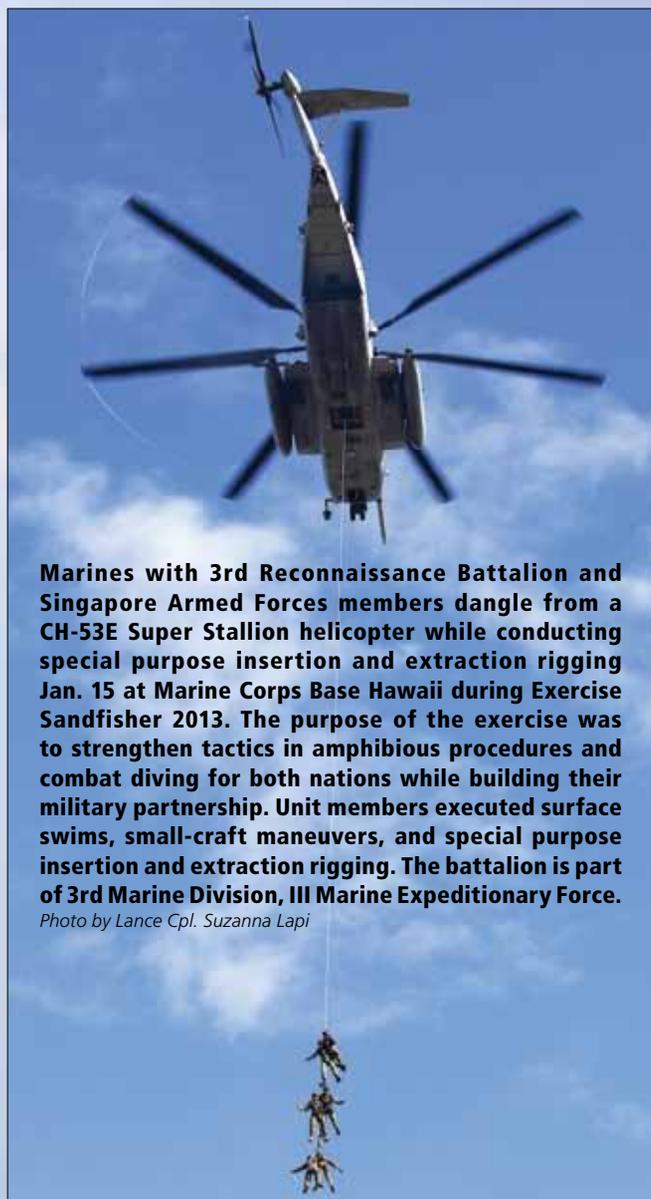
# 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade



A U.S. Marine forklift operator lifts pallets stacked with relief supplies from the U.S. Agency for International Development during Operation Damayan Nov. 21 at Villamor Air Base. Combat Logistics Battalion 4 was assigned to 3rd MEB in support of Joint Task Force 505. *Photo by Cpl. Brandon Suhr*



Filipino police officers and U.S. Marines remove mud and debris Sept. 29 as part of a community relations event at Olongapo City, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines, during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014. During the event, Filipino police officers, community members and soldiers worked alongside U.S. Marines and sailors to clean three flood-affected schools. PHIBLEX 14 is designed to improve interoperability, increase readiness, and enhance the ability for a bilateral force to respond to natural disasters or other regional contingencies. The Marines are with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*

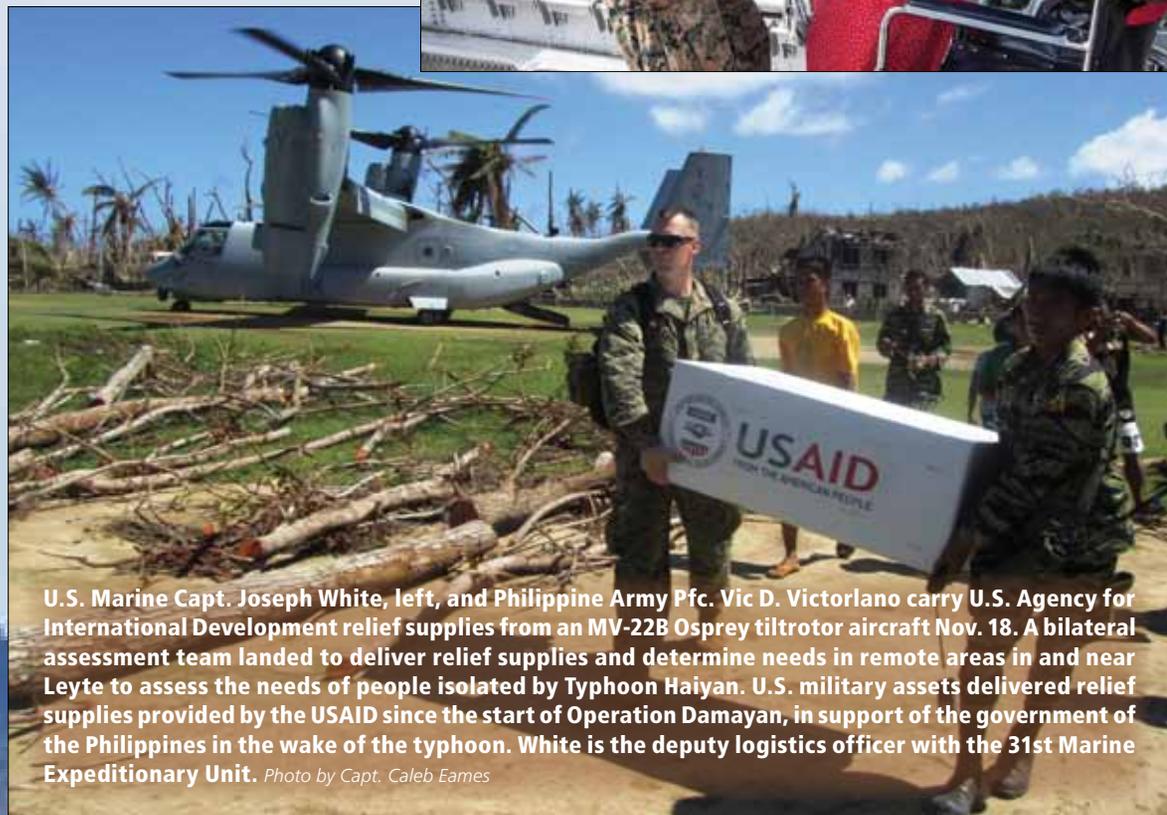


Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and Singapore Armed Forces members dangle from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter while conducting special purpose insertion and extraction rigging Jan. 15 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Exercise Sandfisher 2013. The purpose of the exercise was to strengthen tactics in amphibious procedures and combat diving for both nations while building their military partnership. Unit members executed surface swims, small-craft maneuvers, and special purpose insertion and extraction rigging. The battalion is part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Suzanna Lapi*

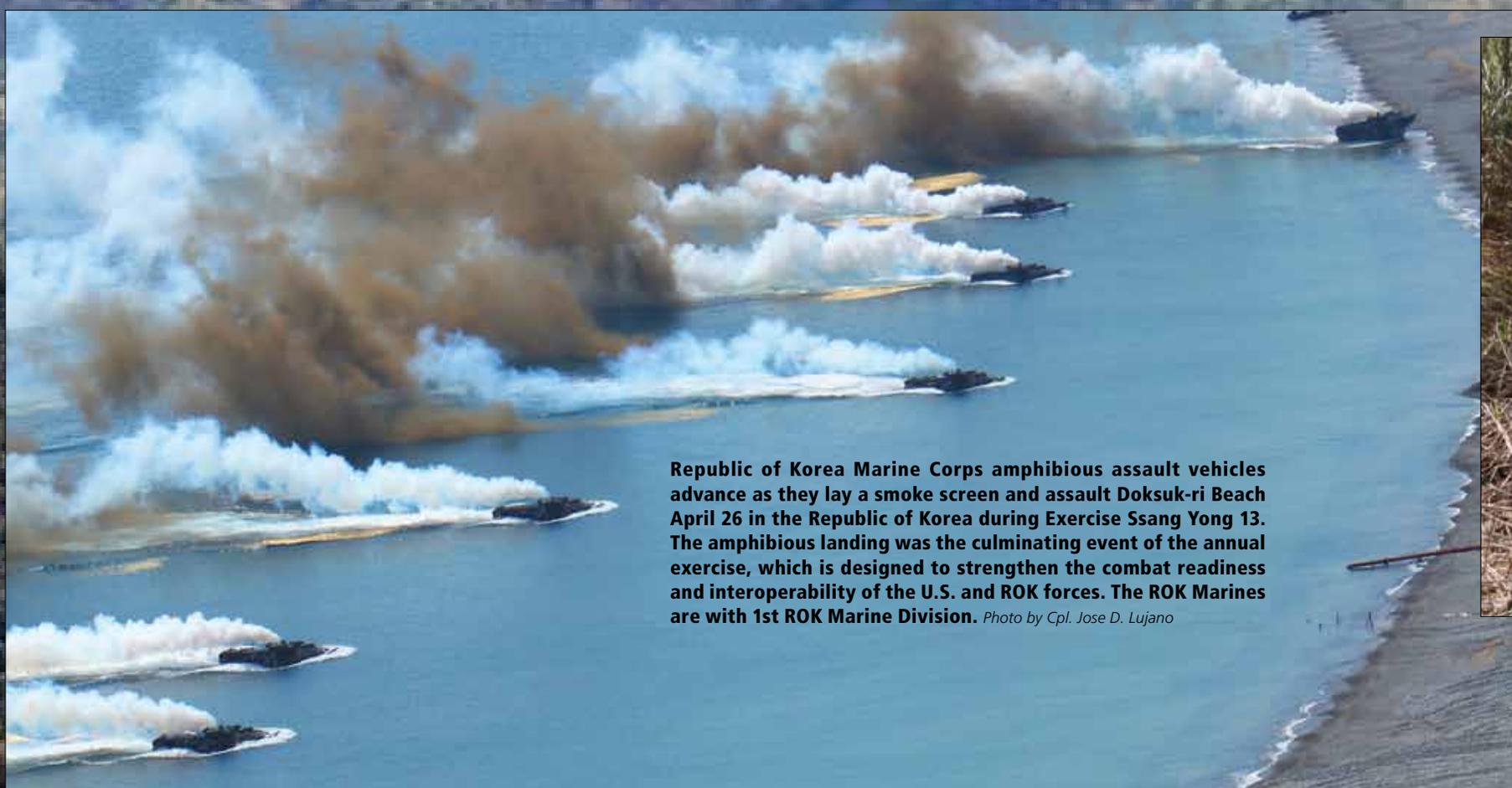
Lance Cpl. Xavier L. Cannon, left, and members of the Philippine Armed Forces assist civilians off a C-130 aircraft Nov. 13 at Villamor Air Base during Operation Damayan. The U.S. and Philippine Armed Forces have transported more than 4,990,000 pounds of relief supplies and more than 13,400 displaced personnel. The militaries of the two nations have partnered and trained together for decades, which prepared both forces for the real-world challenges associated with the extreme circumstances.

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry*



U.S. Marine 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 tiltrotor aircraft Nov. 18. A bilateral assessment team landed to deliver relief supplies and determine needs in remote areas in and near Leyte to assess the needs of people isolated by Typhoon Haiyan. U.S. military assets delivered relief supplies provided by the USAID since the start of Operation Damayan, in support of the government of the Philippines in the wake of the typhoon. White is the deputy logistics officer with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. *Photo by Capt. Caleb Eames*

# OPERATIONS AND



Republic of Korea Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicles advance as they lay a smoke screen and assault Doksuk-ri Beach April 26 in the Republic of Korea during Exercise Ssang Yong 13. The amphibious landing was the culminating event of the annual exercise, which is designed to strengthen the combat readiness and interoperability of the U.S. and ROK forces. The ROK Marines are with 1st ROK Marine Division. *Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*

Marine pilots execute familiarization flights over various locations in the Republic of the Philippines April 5 in preparation for training events during Exercise Balikatan 2013. Throughout the exercise, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, and other elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, conducted various flight operations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The exercise, in its 29th iteration, is an annual bilateral training evolution aimed at ensuring interoperability of the Philippine and U.S. militaries during planning, contingency and humanitarian assistance operations.

Photo by Capt. Breck Archer



Royal Thai Marines move to their objectives Feb. 14 during an amphibious assault demonstration alongside U.S. Marines in Sattahip, Kingdom of Thailand, as a part of Exercise Cobra Gold 13. CG 13, in its 32nd iteration, is the largest multinational exercise in the Asia-Pacific region and demonstrates the commitment of participating nations to building interoperability and supporting peace and stability in the region.

Photo by Pfc. Mike Granahan

# EXERCISES

Marines patrol through strong winds and heavy snow March 2 during a comprehensive bilateral field training exercise as part of Exercise Forest Light 13-3 at the Hokkaido-Dai Maneuver Area in Hokkaido prefecture, Japan. The FTX began with the Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members patrolling separately on foot and with mechanized vehicles to reach an area where they set up a defensive position. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock



Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. Marines practice combat assault tactics during convoy operations training April 7 at Camp O'Donnell, Republic of the Philippines, during Exercise Balikatan 2013. "The Philippine Marines are very humble and welcoming people which made training with them a very positive experience," said U.S. Marine Cpl. Adrian E. Sandoval, a supply administration clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Their approachability made sharing knowledge and experience easy regardless of the language barrier." Photo by Cpl. Courtney G. White





Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 traverse an obstacle during the endurance course July 15 at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. Marines and sailors with MWSS-172 negotiated the endurance course as the final event of the eight-day basic jungle skills course. MWSS-172 is a part of MAG-36. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson



A KC-130J Hercules transport aircraft executes a touch-and-go landing Oct. 29 on a reconditioned runway at the Ie Shima Training Facility. The newly reconstructed coral runway is designed for KC-130J aircraft. The KC-130J and its crew are with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, MAG-36. Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran



CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters practice landing and taking off at a confined landing zone in the Central Training Area Sept. 6 as part of a sundown flight held to commemorate the aircraft. Sundown flights are conducted as a military tradition for retiring aircraft. The Marine Corps phased-out the CH-46E and replaced it with the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft. The CH-46Es were part of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

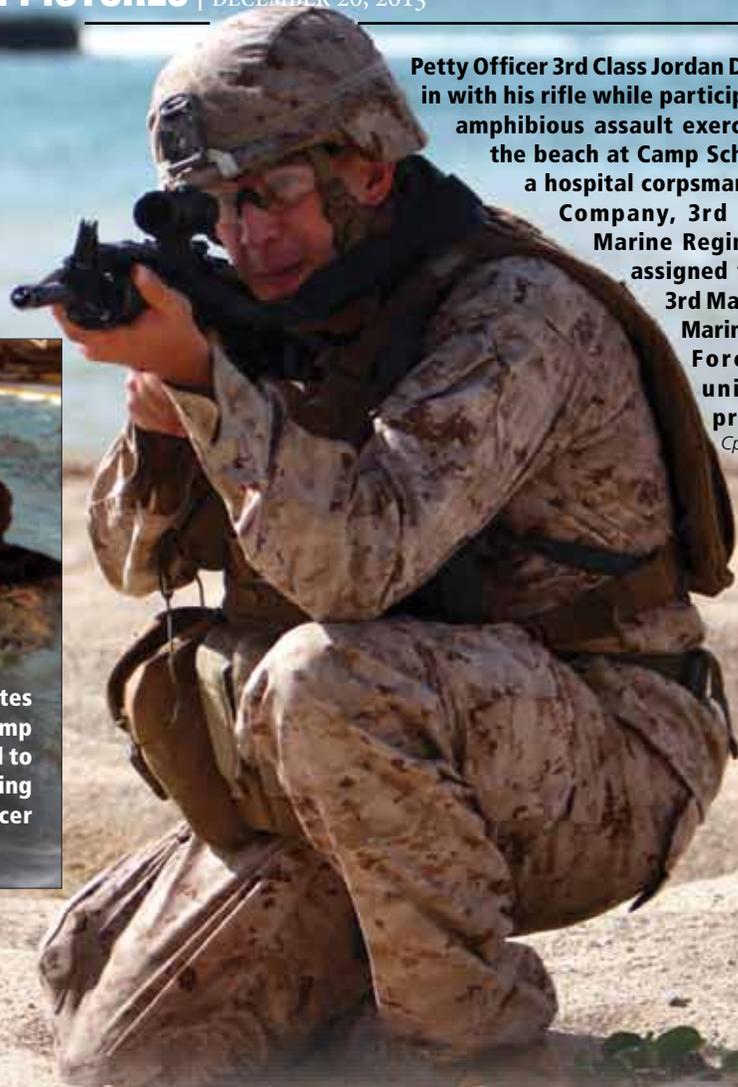
# 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING



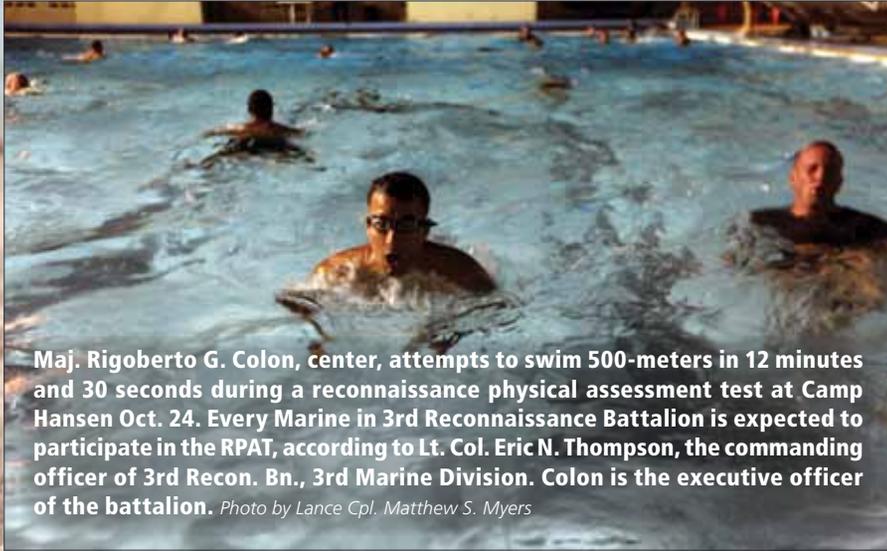
Pilots with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 fly F/A-18C Hornets Dec. 9 from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, during Exercise Forager Fury II. VMFA-232 is currently assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW, while participating in the unit deployment program. FFII improved the aviation combat readiness of MAG-12 and 1st MAW during simulated operations in a deployed environment. Photo by Lance Cpl. Richard Currier

MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft land at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Aug. 12 after flying from MCAS Iwakuni. The tiltrotor aircraft combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft, enabling it to fly twice as fast, carry three times as much, and fly four times the distance of the older CH-46Es it replaced. The Ospreys and crews are assigned to VMM-262. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Himes





Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan D. Watson sights-in with his rifle while participating in a basic amphibious assault exercise Sept. 18 on the beach at Camp Schwab. Watson is a hospital corpsman with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

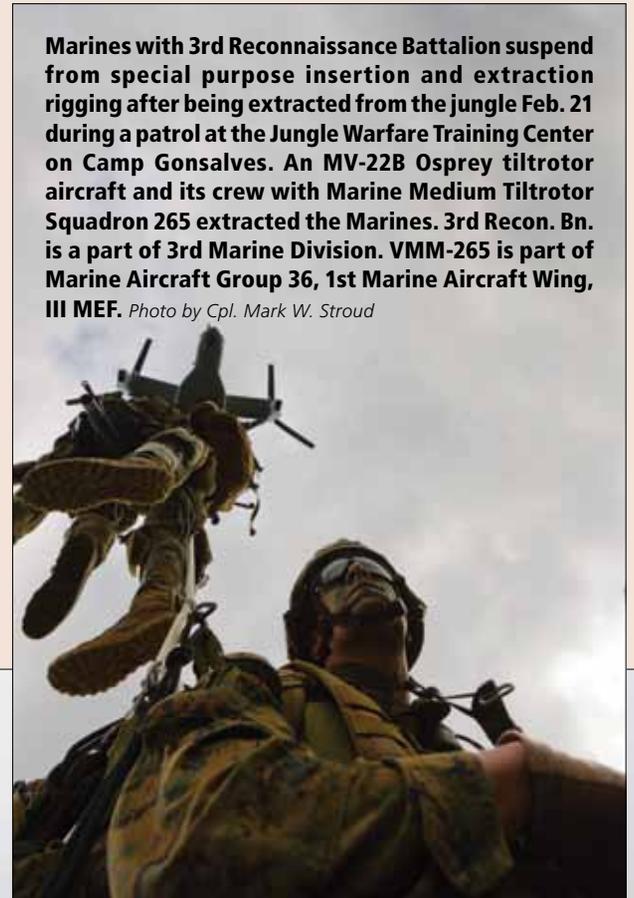


Maj. Rigoberto G. Colon, center, attempts to swim 500-meters in 12 minutes and 30 seconds during a reconnaissance physical assessment test at Camp Hansen Oct. 24. Every Marine in 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion is expected to participate in the RPAT, according to Lt. Col. Eric N. Thompson, the commanding officer of 3rd Recon. Bn., 3rd Marine Division. Colon is the executive officer of the battalion. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Myers

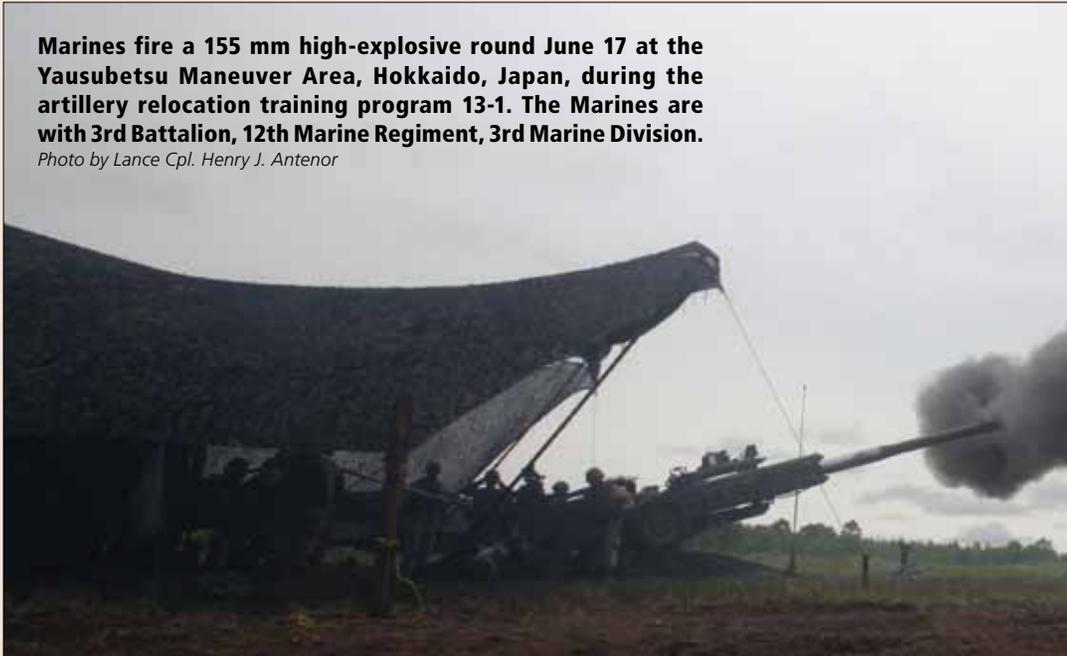
# 3RD MARINE DIVISION



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel A. Henthorne engages and suppresses targets July 22 at Range 10 near Camp Schwab during a combined-arms exercise. Marines with Combat Engineer Company, Combat Assault Battalion, worked with mortarmen with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, to suppress targets with medium and light machine gun fire along with 60 mm mortars, allowing a squad of combat engineers to maneuver to and reduce obstacles. Henthorne is a combat engineer with Combat Engineer Co., CAB, 3rd Marine Division. Marines with 3rd Bn., 6th Marines, are currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, under the UDP. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion suspend from special purpose insertion and extraction rigging after being extracted from the jungle Feb. 21 during a patrol at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves. An MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and its crew with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 extracted the Marines. 3rd Recon. Bn. is a part of 3rd Marine Division. VMM-265 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



Marines fire a 155 mm high-explosive round June 17 at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan, during the artillery relocation training program 13-1. The Marines are with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

A stack of Marines takes cover behind a protective blanket during an explosion Aug. 28 while completing a demolitions training evolution at a demo range in the Central Training Area. The knowledge of the different types of explosives in urban mobility breaching is vital to combat engineers' success in real-world operations. The Marines are combat engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG. Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano



Marines execute engineering tasks March 25 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, during Exercise Guahan Shield. The exercise is designed to facilitate multiservice engagement and provide potential rapid response to theater crises and contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific region. The Marines are part of Combat Logistics Detachment 39, 3rd MLG. Photo by Lance Cpl Jeraco Jenkins

# 3RD MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

1st Lt. Leanne Ferrell fires an M32 semi-automatic grenade launcher May 14 during a live-fire training exercise at the Central Training Area. The weapon is a shoulder-fired, semi-automatic, six-shot grenade launcher capable of firing 40 mm grenades. Ferrell is the executive officer of General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano



Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas Singh, center, supervises recovery training Sept. 12 during 3rd Maintenance Battalion Field Exercise 13-2 in the Central Training Area. During the training, Marines used the AMK36 7-ton wrecker to pull an up-armored high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, which was mired in a ditch. The exercise provided realistic training for the Marines, as they might face these types of situations during real-world operations. Singh is the Vehicle Recovery Section staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the battalion, which is part of Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Chadwick M. Pearson

Petty Officer 2nd Class Nico DaSilva, right, checks the heartbeat of a mock casualty Aug. 1 during a forward resuscitative care course at the Simulated Trauma Advanced Training Center, Camp Foster. The course familiarized corpsman in the areas of collecting, clearing, treating, holding and evacuating casualties in the Navy's forward-deployed echelon, while in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations, according to Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerrison B. Peralta, an instructor with the center and a hospital corpsman with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd MLG. DaSilva is also a corpsman with the battalion.

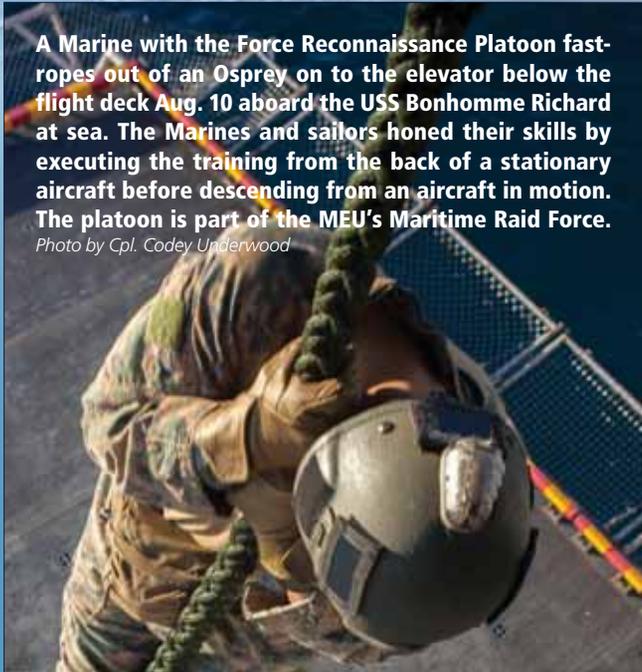
Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano





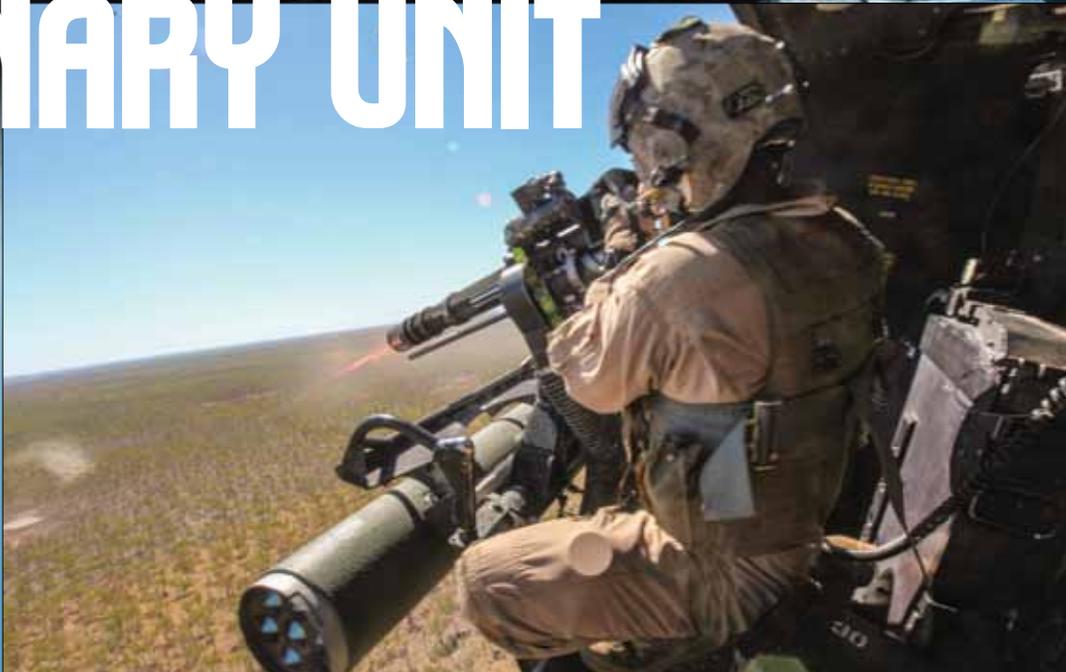
Marines of the Amphibious Reconnaissance Platoon push a combat rubber raiding craft into the ocean July 17 from the well deck ramp of the USS Bonhomme Richard at sea. The platoon used the CRRC to insert multiple reconnaissance teams in support of an amphibious raid during exercise Talisman Saber 2013. The platoon is assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The 31st MEU is the Marine Corps' force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region and the only continuously forward-deployed MEU. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Dietrich*

# 31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



A Marine with the Force Reconnaissance Platoon fast-ropes out of an Osprey on to the elevator below the flight deck Aug. 10 aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard at sea. The Marines and sailors honed their skills by executing the training from the back of a stationary aircraft before descending from an aircraft in motion. The platoon is part of the MEU's Maritime Raid Force. *Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood*

*Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood*



Sgt. Brian D. Richardson fires a 7.62 mm GAU-17/A weapon system at enemy targets from a UH-1Y Venom helicopter Sept. 2 over Bradshaw Field Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, during live-fire training as part of Exercise Koolendong 13. Three Venom helicopters and four MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft were operating from an expeditionary airfield 300 miles inland, supporting the battalion-sized element conducting the exercise. Richardson is a crew chief with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU. *Photo by Sgt. Paul Robbins*



Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters are staged on the flight deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard at sea Aug. 23 during night operations. The Super Stallion is a heavy-lift helicopter designed to transport assault forces, heavy equipment and supplies. The CH-53Es are with VMM-265 (Rein), 31st MEU. *Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood*

*Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood*



Marines charge up a hill Sept. 3 at Bradshaw Field Training Area to emplace crew-served weapons during a combined, live-fire exercise for Exercise Koolendong 13. The 31st MEU moved a battalion-sized force more than 300 miles inland from the Port of Darwin to conduct training. The exercise demonstrated the operational reach of the 31st MEU. Marine Rotational Force – Darwin and soldiers of the 5th Royal Australian Regiment also participated in the exercise. The Marines are with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st MEU. *Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Wright*