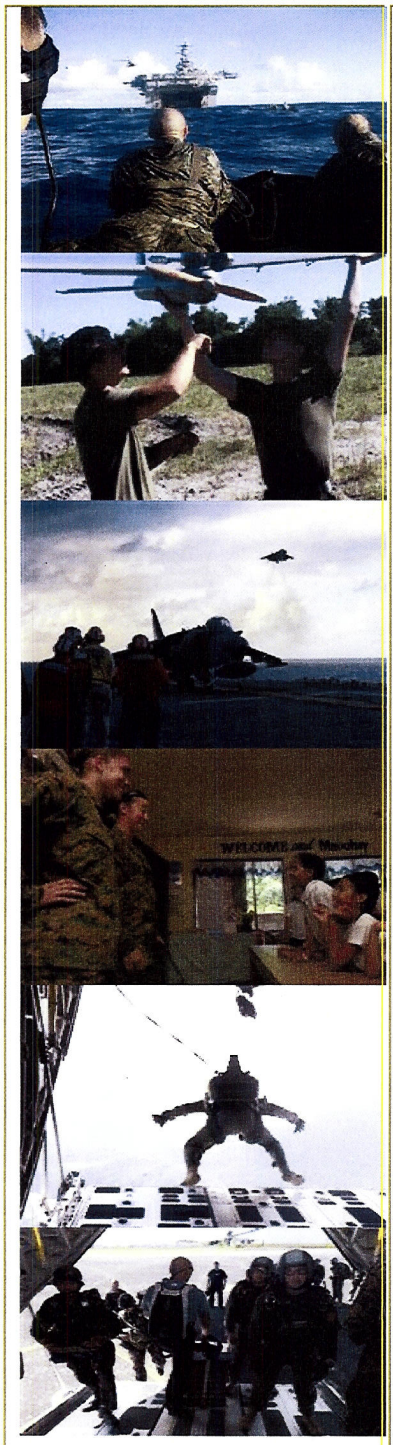
31st MEU NEWS

UNIT 35621
FPO AP 96606-5621

November 10, 2008

Commander's Message



After a successful exercise in the Republic of the Philippines, the ships of the USS Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked headed north to a much cooler clime. The MEU is currently off the coast of the Republic of Korea (ROK) participating in an exercise with the ROK Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The exercise, which runs from 4-8 November, involves a large scale combined amphibious assault that is designed to increase the interoperability of our naval and aviation forces. These landing exercises traditionally garner a good bit of media attention so you may see mention of it in your local news.

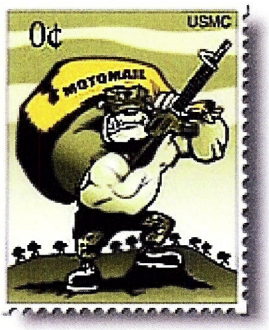
Following the ROK exercise, a portion of Battalion Landing Team 3/1 will remain in the Republic of Korea for follow-on training while the remainder of the MEU will return to the waters off the coast of Okinawa for a naval exercise with the Japanese Self Defense Force. On the 10th of November, the MEU will conduct celebrations on each of the ARG ships and in the ROK in honor of the 233rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps. No matter where Marines find themselves on this date each year, they gladly pause from their daily routine to celebrate the rich history and traditions of our Corps. Although temporarily separated from our spouses and families, you can rest assured that each and every Marine and Sailor of the MEU will carry thoughts of home and family in their heart as Auld Lang Syne is played following the traditional cake cutting.

The majority of the MEU will enjoy a well deserved port call in Hong Kong from 22-25 November and those portions of BLT 3/1 that are still in the Republic of Korea will have some time off in Seoul. We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving by sharing a special meal with our fellow Marines and Sailors both aboard ship and in the field on the 27th of November. Towards the end of the month, Kilo Battery and Kilo Company of BLT 3/1 will deploy to mainland Japan for exercises with our counterparts from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces. The shipboard portion of the fall patrol is scheduled to end the first of December but some elements of the MEU will remain away from Okinawa until the middle of the month.

I encourage you to check out the MEU's website for the latest updates. It' a good source of news and info. Here's the link:
http://www.marines.mil/units/marforpac/iiimef/31stmeu/Pages/default.aspx

You also can contact our Family Readiness Officer, Beth Callahan, at any time for information or referral support.

Semper Fidelis, Col Paul L. Damren



MOTOMAIL

https://www.motomail.us/

Now Available for the 31st MEU!!

Electronically Printed Mail Service for Deployed Marines!

Communicate with your Marine via electronically delivered letters in as little as 24 hours! This is a free service! Set up an account at MotoMail.US. Enter your Marines information and mailing address from the drop-down list. Type your letter using your computer keyboard. No software required! Click send and your letter is on ship and ready to print.

The letter is printed in a sealed format, much like you receive a PIN number through US Mail for your credit or debit card. No one else reads the content of the letter; it's between you and your Marine!

Deployment Support Child Care (DSCC)

31st MEU Command Element families qualify for up to 10 free hours of respite hourly care per week at a Child Development Center. To register for DSCC please contact the Resource & Referral office to schedule an appointment. *645-4117*

November is Family Read Aloud Month

Come out and celebrate with MCCS Libraries.

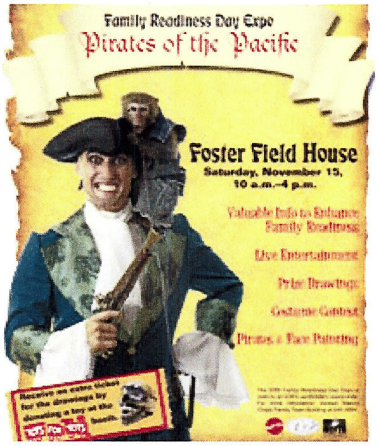
This year's theme for Family Read Aloud Month is "Once Upon a Time...." MCCS Libraries celebrate Family Read Aloud Month during November, and participating is as easy as counting to five.

1. Register at any participating library beginning November 1 to receive your family's reading coloring log.
2. Read aloud any books of your choice as a family.
3. In the reading log keep track of every 30 minutes read together.
4. Return your finished log after completing eight hours of reading (log should be turned in no later than November 30).
5. The first 50 families to complete an eight hour log will win a pizza.

For more information contact your local library at:

Camp Courtney 622-9280, Camp Foster 645-7178 , Camp Kinser 637-1039

On Base October Events



FAMILY READINESS DAY EXPO

Foster Field House
Saturday, November 15
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

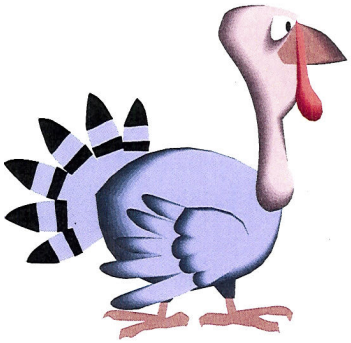
Learn valuable info to enhance family readiness. Come dressed as a pirate to enter the costume contest open to all ages. The Expo is open to all SOFA cardholders island-wide. For more information contact Marine Corps Family Team Building at 645-3689.

WHITE BEACH FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 8th Noon – Midnight
Sunday, November 9th Noon – 11:00 PM
Live Entertainment, Game Booths, Food Booths, Space Bounce, Banana Boat Rides, Super Slide, Kids Obstacle Course,

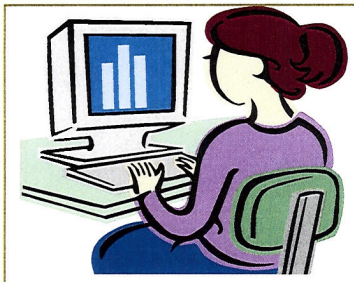
AND MUCH MORE!

For Security Reasons
No Backpacks, No Coolers, No Pets, No Outside Alcoholic Beverages



OKINAWAN DANCE NIGHT

GLOBE & ANCHOR
Thursday, November 28th 6:30pm-8:30pm
Beautiful costumes, intricate steps, dynamic music - traditional Okinawan dance is an experience to behold. Enjoy these evening performances and learn about the history of the dances.
Registration is required. For more information, please call Foster PSC at 645-2104.



TUTOR.COM

MCCS Libraries offers Free Live Online Homework Help. Marines and their families can now get help with school work thanks to a new contract with Tutor.com. Students of any age, from kindergarten to high school senior, as well as adult students, may use the service to connect to an expert tutor for help in math, science, social studies and English.

The Tutor.com network of over 2,200 professional tutors has delivered more than 3.5 million one-to-one tutoring sessions. Each tutor has earned a degree and has completed extensive background checks. Online homework help is available at installation MCCS libraries or 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting www.usmc-mccs.org/library/tutor/. All that is needed is a computer with Internet access. Authorized MCCS patrons who want to use the site from home must contact their installation library for password and login information.

Holiday Meals to Go

Nov 19 – Jan 4

Let MCCS chefs take care of the feast this season! Packages should be booked at least 5 days in advance and paid in full at least 24 hours prior to pick-up. All arrangements must be made with the club where package will be picked up. For more information, contact the participating club nearest you.

Participating Clubs:

Kinser Surfside-Camp Kinser 637-3137
Globe & Anchor-Camp Foster 645-3666
Tengan Castle-Camp Courtney 622-9413

Full Packages:

- 15 lb. Honey Cured Spiral Cut Ham
- 24-26 lb. Fresh Whole Roasted Turkey
- Ham & Turkey Combinations
- (includes double quantities of package items)

Package Items:
2 qt. Turkey Gravy or Fruit Sauce for Ham, 2 qt. Mashed Potatoes,
2 qt. Traditional Seasoned Bread Stuffing, 2 qt. Candied Yams, 2 qt. Sweet Peas
8 oz. Cranberry Sauce, & Choice of Pumpkin, Pecan or Apple Pie

Getaway Giveaway

Win a stay for two at YYY Clue iE Resort. Visit Tours+ on Camp Hansen or Camp Foster today to enter.

Tours+ and YYY Club are teaming up to giveaway an overnight stay for two at YYY Club iE Resort, including breakfast and dinner. Enter now through December at the Camp Hansen or Foster Tours+ to enter the drawing. A drawing will be held at the end of each month. No purchase necessary. For complete rules and details, see below.

1. Entrants need not be present to win. Winners will be announced on AFN's Wave 89.1 FM November 5, December 3, and January 7.
2. All entry forms must be completed entirely. Incomplete entry forms will be disqualified.
3. Entrants must be a valid **SOFA ID cardholder**.
4. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age to participate and win.
5. Only one entry per person per month, and one winner per family within 90 days.
6. This contest is not open to staff or family members of the event sponsors/partner (YYY Club iE Resort), event vendors, MCCS Marketing, MCCS Tours+, MCCS Legal Counsel, MCCS chiefs, or CSCs.
7. Winner is requested to be present for a photo shoot. Date and time will be determined.
8. Winner's photograph may be published in *The Source* inside the *Okinawa Marine*.

Toys For Tots Volunteers Needed

We need many volunteers for the warehouse to separate and dispense toys to the agencies that have requested them. The kick off event starts at the main exchange on Camp Foster 8 Nov. 2008 at 0900 (arrival NLT 0845). There will also be a similar kick off event at the main exchange on Kadena AFB on 8 Nov. 2008 at 1300 (arrival NLT 1245).

Mondays and Thursdays will be warehouse days at Bldg 5709, where volunteers can help sort collected toys by age and gender. Uniformed box watches will be established as 2-man, 2 hour shifts throughout the week. There's no limit on how many shifts you may have and these watches will continue throughout the duration of the program (ending date 081224).

This is an amazing cause that helps a great many families every year, military and civilian alike. Encourage your fellow Marines to volunteer; they'll have a great time.

If you have any questions please contact : SSgt Felipe Sanchez, felipe.d.sanchez@usmc.mil; SSgt Marcus Barahona, marcus.barahona@usmc.mil. We'll be happy to help you.

Military One Source & Military Homefront

Military OneSource and Military Homefront are brought to you in partnership with Marine and Family Services. There is no cost associated with using these services and best of all they are available anytime of the day.

Military One Source and Military Homefront offer advice, support, practical solutions, and online resources. Whether you're preparing for a new baby or preparing for a move, getting organized or getting out of debt--no matter who you are--Military One Source and Military Homefront can help. No question is too small, no issue is too big. The service is pre-paid and confidential.

- 24-hour service, 7 days a week
- Personal support
- Referrals to military and community resources
- Online articles, newsletters, and workshops
- Pre-paid booklets and audio recordings
- Confidential consultation.

Visit - Military One Source or Military Homefront

CONUS: 800-433-6868
OCONUS Universal Free phone: 800-237-42374
OCONUS Collect: 484-530-5908
TTY/TDD: 800-346-9188
En Espanol, llame al: 888-732-9020

In Okinawa:
On-Base: 99-001-800-869-02788 or
99-001-800-237-42374
Off-Base: Call collect 99-0051
Then provide operator: 484-530-5908

Marine Corps Family Team Building Family Readiness Training Schedule October 2008

L.I.N.K.S.

LINKS for Spouses
November 19th
8:30am-2:30pm
Camp Foster

LINKS for Kids
Ages 8-12
December 6th
8am- Noon
Globe and Anchor

JSO Class
Post Office, Legal, NFCU, PSC, AAFES
November 6th 9am-12:30pm

US Consulate, Housing Office
November 18th 1:30pm-4:30pm

Tricare, Hospital, Dental, Counseling
November 20th 9am-12:30pm

Participants must be registered to attend.
For more information contact Marine Corps Family Team Building at **645-3204**

ONLINE RESOURCES

www.marines.mil/units/marforpac/iiimef/31stmeu/Pages/default.aspx
This is the official 31st MEU website! Save this link to your "Favorites" on your computer. The website is updated frequently to keep you informed on what your Marine or Sailor is doing at work.

www.mccsokinawa.com
This site offers a ton of information about what is being offered on all Marine Corps bases on the island. The site has links and information for over 80 MCCS programs offered on Okinawa.

www.kadenaservices.com
Provides information about activities and services the Air Force offers to all military members and their families here on Okinawa. It also contains links to Army MWR events on Torii Station and Okuma's online reservation page. Click on PETS to get links to the Vet Clinics and Karing Kennels.

www.japanupdate.com
Provides updates on what's going on Okinawa.

www.okinawahai.com
This website is designed by military spouses for military spouses on Okinawa.

www.mcbbutler.usmc.mil
Provides valuable information on policies and procedures that apply directly to all residents stationed on Marine Corps bases Japan.

www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu
This site can answer any question you might have pertaining to the on-base school system on Okinawa

www.aafes.com
This site is your resource for all AAFES movie theater schedules