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VOICE

PAPER

OKINAWA JULY / AUGUST Bulletin

THE REVIEW OF A PLACE FISHERMAN'S POKE BOWL

The Island News Brief
15TH MEU ACV Operations
U.S. Navy Sailors
Participate in A Candle Lighting



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Issue 5 >> July 24, 2024

VOICE P A P E R

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広告お問い合わせ voice.paper.okinawa@gmail.com



The Dive into Commitment



Maj. Robert S. Bourgeau joins Sgt. 1st Class Corey O. Tomasich and fellow divers from the 10th Support Group as they prepare to enter the waters off Okinawa for Tomasich's underwater reenlistment ceremony. The morning sun illuminates the scene, highlighting the unity and solemnity of the occasion as the group gets ready to dive, symbolizing dedication and renewal in the depths below.



(U.S. Army photos by Sgt. 1st Class

Amidst the serene backdrop of Okinawa's coastal waters, Maj. Robert S. Bourgeau and Sgt. 1st Class Corey O. Tomasich, accompanied by Capt. Erik McDowell and Capt. Timothy Robinson, prepare to descend for a significant underwater reenlistment. This image captures a moment of camaraderie and solemn preparation as these members of the 10th Support Group gear up, reflecting their deep commitment to service. The ceremony underlines the harmonious blend of professional military duties with the personal pursuits of its members, all set against the expansive blue of the Pacific.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Emily Weiss

Republic of Korea Marines visit MCAS Futenma

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Eric Austin, the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, discusses the capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey with Republic of Korea Marine Corps Major General Ju II-suk, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, during a tour at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, July 2. The ROK Marines visited MCAS Futenma to gain a better understanding of aviation support elements and to strengthen their relationship with 1st MAW.

Kadena walks for Unity

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 18th Wing participate in a Unity Walk held at Kadena Air Base, June 21. The Unity Walk was attended by Kadena leadership at all levels, showing their support in bringing the community together and resolving racial divides and inequalities in our nation and Air Force.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Edward Yankus

CO. Niedziocha holds formation to recognize Marines



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pvt. Skilah Sanche:

U.S. Marines with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit listen to remarks during a formation at Camp Hansen, June 28. During the formation, Niedziocha recognized Marines and Sailors for their exceptional performance and hard work ethic. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premiere crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

Kadena firefighters train on search and rescue operations

A U.S. Air Force 18th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter waits for the signal to spray water onto an oil fire training model at Kadena Air Base, June 26. The fire department holds this training quarterly to keep fire team members proficient in aircraft incidents.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Edward Yankus)

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JULY AUGUST/ Dulletin





















15th MEU ACVs go ashore in Okinawa during Harpers Ferry port visit

By Capt. Brian Tuthill
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit



assigned
to Battalion
Landing Team
1/5, 15th Marine
Expeditionary
Unit, prepare
to conduct
amphibious
operations in the
well deck of the
amphibious dock
landing ship USS
Harpers Ferry
(LSD 49) at White
Beach Naval
Facility, June 24.

S Marines

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sang Kim

WHITE BEACH – The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted the first overseas ship-to-shore operations with Amphibious Combat Vehicles June 24, at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa.

Elements of the 15th MEU, embarked aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), arrived at White Beach June 18 for a port visit and to conduct sustainment training.

During the training June 24, the Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 15th MEU, embarked the ACVs as they splashed from the well deck of Harpers Ferry. Safety boats assigned to 3rd Expeditionary Operations Training Group then pulled alongside the ACVs to transfer personnel to their boats and back to the pier, simulating a situation that required personnel to execute safety egress procedures.

Following the transfer of all embarked personnel, the ACV Platoon then transited through the nearby boat basin to come ashore at the White Beach area to conduct maintenance.

"This was fairly standard training for us, but I'm proud it also represented the first overseas ship-to-shore employment of ACVs," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Nick Freeman, commanding officer of BLT 1/5, 15th MEU. "We'll continue to train at other locations in the months ahead, using a deliberate approach capturing

useful data and lessons learned, and ultimately sharpening our understanding of how to best employ the ACV in its intended environment—embarked with our forward-deployed ARG/MEUs."

In the days prior to the ACV amphibious operations, commanders from III Marine Expeditionary Force, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Task Force 76, and Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade of the Japanese Self-Defense Force and other commands visited 15th MEU aboard Harpers Ferry on June 20. This visit included a tour of the amphibious combat vehicles staged aboard Harpers Ferry, the ship's well deck, the ACV simulator, and a demonstration of an unmanned hydrographic sensor. Some of the VIPs also returned to observe the ACV egress training.

Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company, BLT 1/5, are scheduled to host Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1/4, their counterpart unit assigned to the 31st MEU, at White Beach for a subject matter expert exchange about embarked expeditionary ACV operations. The hands-on exchange will include topics such as well deck operations, vehicle handling, maintenance, embarked troops and amphibious operations.

The 15th MEU's Recomnaissance Company is also scheduled to pair with other U.S. military units in the area in the coming days to conduct integrated maritime

interdiction operations. The teams will plan, rehearse and execute a simulated visit, board, search and seizure mission using small boats to climb aboard Harpers Ferry and clear key objective areas together to improve their ability to conduct these types of specialized missions.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Peyton Kahle)

U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Combat Vehicles attached to Alpha Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conduct an amphibious landing after waterborne operations at White Beach Naval Facility.

"Although this was a routinely-scheduled port visit, both Harpers Ferry and the 15th MEU took advantage of the time to conduct sustainment training to enhance their readiness and cross-train with other Navy and Marine Corps units to strengthen our force," said U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Chris Stone, commander, Task Force 76 and Expeditionary Strike Group 7. "It was incredible to see the ACVs in operation, as they truly are a force multiplier in this area of operations."

The 15th MEU is under the command and control of Commander, Task Force 76, which the U.S. 7th Fleet employs to cooperate with allies and partners to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific.

As the U.S. 7th Fleet's primary Navy advisor on amphibious matters in the 7th Fleet area of operations, CTF 76 is responsible for conducting expeditionary warfare operations to support a full range of theater contingencies, ranging from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations to full combat operations.

U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Combat Vehicles attached to Alpha Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to conduct a troop transfer during a vehicle egress dri in at White Beach Naval Facility, June 24.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Peyton Kahle)















Camp Kinser Host Nation Summer Program

Story by Cpl. Joanna Stauss & Photo by Cpl. Jesse Davis Marine Corps Installations Pacific

CAMP KINSER – Kinser Elementary School held the annual Host Nation Summer Program on Camp Kinser from June 11 to 28. This program is a series of morning classes that facilitates a cultural exchange between elementary school students from both the U.S. and local Okinawa communities, held with the support of Camp Kinser and Marine Corps Installations Pacific's G-7, Government and External Affairs Branch.

"The culture exchange is one part of the program that is unique," said Ayano Shimojo, a Kinser Elementary School teacher. "It lets us get together and have fun and build the mutual relationship between our nations."

Most DoDEA summer school programs are held Monday through Friday, but Shimojo received permission to host the classes Tuesday through Saturday to allow local students to attend on Saturdays.

Only KES students attended on week days to learn Hiragana and Katakana, participate in gym stations and learn about Japanese culture.

"I participated in my first culture exchange when I was in sixth grade. That experience left me with a positive feeling and wanting to do something better for the community," said Shimojo. "I believe this is my opportunity to keep it going so that the next generation also gets to experience this."

Upon arrival for Saturday's session, children from Kinser Elementary and the Akata Town Children's Club were sorted into teams led by volunteers from the Kinser Single Marine Program, Kaiho High School, and the Lion's Club.

They started with an icebreaker called shoe toss. Participants and volunteers each removed one shoe and threw it to the other side of the school gym when instructed. After all the shoes were thrown, they needed to grab someone else's shoe and return it to its owner. The goal was to introduce yourself to the other person in their native language.

"This is the first time some of the local students are getting to use English in conversation with native English speakers," said Akiko Hentona, a teacher from Kaiho High School. "They've spent about six years studying English in the classroom. This is a very precious experience for them to use it, especially for the small children."

The next activity was working together as a team to complete eight stations to collect key words needed to complete the secret final station.

"My favorite part was the

chopstick drop and the paper airplanes," said Eito Yamuchi, a student from Jonan Elementary School. "I thought it was interesting that we could communicate with each other even though we didn't speak the same language."

After completing the final station, the teams each had a piñata to break while waiting for the other teams to finish. The children took turns being blindfolded and trying to hit the piñata with a hockey stick. Once the last piñata was broken the children gathered together to take a group photo before being released to their parents.

"Every year after the event happens we attend several meetings to build the program and make it more successful for the next year," said Shimojo. "If we keep doing great things together as a community it helps us grow the program and reach more people."

The same events were repeated each week to reach a new group of students. Most of the volunteers continued to assist every week.

"I measured the success of the event based on the kids' faces," said Shimojo, "At the beginning they look so nervous but after all the events, they look so happy, and they started playing with each other and talking to each other. It's a great feeling as a teacher."



VERSES FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN

Al Maa'idah (The Bountiful Meal) With The Name of The One True *G-D, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

"O People of the Book (Torah/Gospel)! Now has come unto you, making (things), clear, OUR Messenger (Mohammed), after the break in (the series of) **OUR Messengers, lest you should say: "There came unto us, no bringer of Glad tidings and no Warner (about our evils);"

But now has come unto you a bringer of Glad Tidings and a Warner (from evils). And G-D has Power over everything.

Remember Moses said to his people:

"O my people! Call in rememberance the favor of G-D unto you, when HE produced prophets from among you."

"Made you kings and gave you what HE had not given to any other among the (various) peoples."

"O my people! Enter the holy land which G-D has assigned unto you, and turn not back dishonoroubly, for then will you be overthrow, to your own ruin.

They replied: "O Moses in this land are a people of exceeding strength: Never shall we enter it until they leave it: If (once) they leave, then shall we enter."

*G-D instead of God. God when spelt backwards is *dog*. This is not a proper spelling for a word, that is used for The All-Mighty Creator of the Heavens and Earth.

** WE, Ourselves, US as revealed in the Qur'an is a reference to the Angels who have been assigned by The Creator to control everything in HIS creation.



Listen to Imam *Yahya Abdullah*



U.S. Navy volunteers commemorate Battle of Okinawa at Peace Memorial Park candle lighting

Story & Photos by Candice Barber Commander, Fleet Activities, Okinawa

ITOMAN, Okinawa — On the eve of Okinawa Memorial Day, more than 60 U.S. Navy Sailors and family members joined local volunteers to display nearly 7,000 candles for a nighttime vigil at Okinawa's Peace Memorial Park. Recognized as the deadliest battle of the Pacific War, the 1945 Battle of Okinawa claimed more than 200,000 lives in just 82 days. This year's day of remembrance marks the 79th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa.

The non-profit organization, Bankoku Shinryo-No-Kai, hosts the annual candle lighting event during which volunteers transform Mabuni Hill, the site of the battle's end and the location of memorial walls inscribed with the names of those who died. Volunteer coordinator Naoki Matsukawa explains, "Every year, June 22, we do this candle lighting. The purpose of the candles is to commemorate those who died in the war, regardless of their nationality. Secondly, we would like to convey the importance of peace to the younger generation by lighting candles. And lastly, our most important objective is to send a message to the world that peace is important."

Service members from Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa (CFAO), U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, White Beach Fire and Emergency Services, Expedition-



U.S. Navy Sailors participate in a candle lighting event on the eve of Okinawa Memorial Day, a prefectural holiday commemorating those who died during the 1945 Battle of Okinawa.



Lt. Cmdr.
Simone Mims,
Expeditionary
Strike Group
Seven, sets up
candles at Peace
Memorial Park in
Itoman, Okinawa,

ary Strike Group 7, and other commands across Okinawa were welcomed for this initiative, now in its thirteenth year. A highlight of the event was when American Sailors and Japanese students worked together to light the meters-long candle display spelling out "peace" (平和, pronounced hei-wa).

Master-at-Arms Senior Chief Petty Officer Jonathon Walter, senior enlisted leader for CFAO, remarked on his participation in the candle lighting. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to pay my respects to those honored here. Walking through the park is an incredibly humbling and somber reminder of the sacrifices of war. I'll never forget what we experienced here today. It put so much into perspective. As a Navy, it's more important than ever to strengthen our relationships with the local community and foster unity and mutual respect wherever we serve."

After setting out thousands of candles in the quintessential Okinawan heat and humidity, Navy volunteers explored the Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, thanks to ticket donations sponsored by the CFAO Chief Petty Officer Association. Museum visitors learned about the Battle of Okinawa through striking visual displays and poignant survivor testimonials, leaving with a deeper appreciation for the peaceful heart of Okinawans.

Spotlights brighten the night sky over Okinawa's Peace Memorial Park during a moonrise over Itoman, June 22







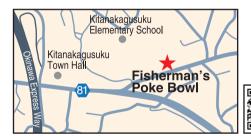




REVIEW THE * * * OF A PLACE * * *



The fresh tuna with avocado poke and slightly spicy sauce is addictive.

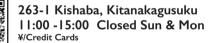












Fisherman's Poke Bowl



For dinner from Tue to Fri, try to catch this food truck near Araha Beach!



The owner is a

Yellow fin Tune

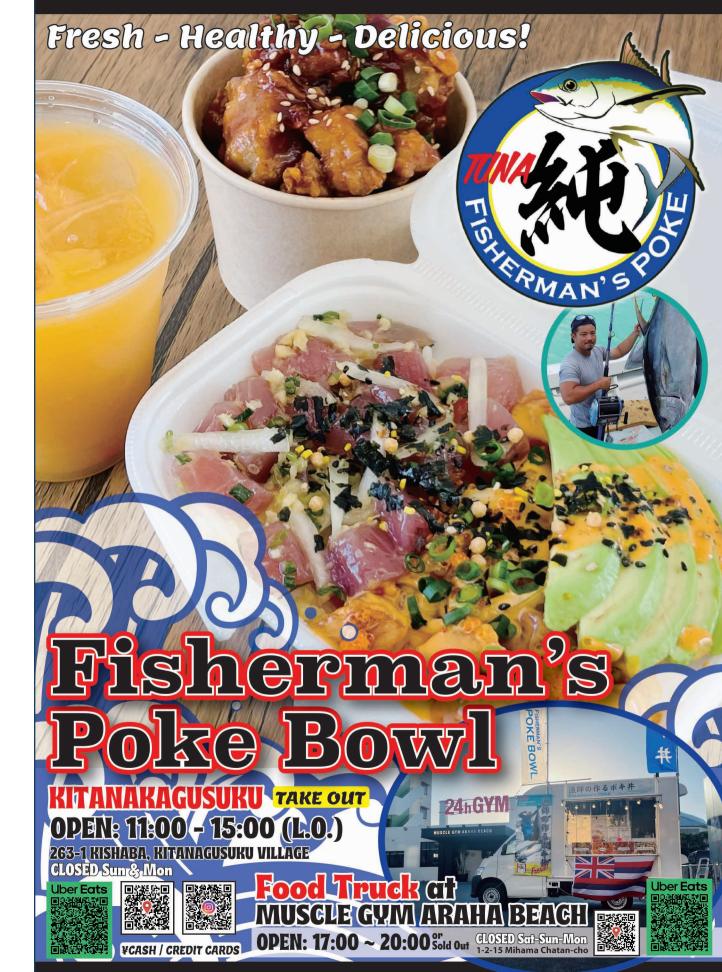
fisherman, so he always provides fresh tuna.





17:00 -20:00 or Sold Out







OKINAWA – The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit sank a moving training target vessel during an expeditionary strike exercise in the Philippine Sea, June 26.

An AH-1Z Viper, attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 262 Reinforced, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, fired a live AGM-179 Joint Air-to-Ground Missile (JAGM), striking a towed moving training vessel during a training mission at sea. A JAGM is a precision-guided munition for use against high value stationary, moving, and relocatable land and maritime targets. The missile can

be used to defend key maritime terrain against a wide-range of targets from armored vehicles to maritime patrol craft during conflict. The success of this expeditionary strike demonstrates the 31st MEU's capability to deliver precision strikes at sea and safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Each live-fire training event that the 31st MEI conducts is in strict compliance with applicable U.S. environmental laws, regulations, and permit requirements to minimize potential harm to the environment. Live fire expeditionary strikes are conducted only after

the area has been surveyed for the presence of people, marine vessels, aircraft, and marine species. These missions are fully compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and a general permit under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act.

As the nation's premier crisis response force, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit provides a credible and sustainable force capable of executing a wide range of operational and humanitarian operations.

Department of Defense Announces Modernization Plan for Tactical Aircraft Based in Japan



By U.S. Department of Defense July 3, 2024 - The Department of Defense (DoD), in close coordination with the Government of Japan, today announced a plan to upgrade U.S. tactical aircraft laydown across multiple military installations in Japan.

The modernization plan, which will be implemented over the next several years, reflects over \$10 billion of capability investments to enhance the U.S.-Japan Alliance, bolster regional deterrence, and strengthen peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The U.S. Air Force will upgrade its presence at Kadena Air Base by deploying 36 F-15EX aircraft to replace 48 F-15C/D aircraft as part of a planned divestment and modernization. The Joint Force will continue to maintain a rotational presence of 4th and 5th generation tactical aircraft at Kadena Air Base throughout this transition.

The U.S. Air Force will also upgrade its presence at Misawa Air Base from 36 F-16 aircraft to 48 F-35A aircraft, leading to greater tactical aircraft capacity and capability.

At Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS)

(U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Ji

lwakuni, the U.S. Marine Corps will modify the number of F-35B aircraft to support the Service's force design modernization implementation. The U.S. Marine Corps will continue to maintain an enduring and rotational aircraft presence at MCAS lwakuni to ensure the necessary capabilities to support the defense of Japan.

The Department's plan to station the Joint Force's most advanced tactical aircraft in Japan demonstrates the ironclad U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan and both countries' shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



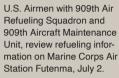
909th AMU refuels KC-135 Stratotanker 200342

A static shot of the U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker with the 909th Air Refueling Squadron during a refueling on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, July 2. Airmen with the 909th ARS and the 909th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 and MCAS Futenma, refueled a KC-135 Stratotanker shortly after its arrival to the air station.



A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker with the 909th Air Refueling Squadron touches down during a reueling on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, July 2.

U.S. Airmen with the 909th Aircraft Maintenance Unit prepare for takeoff on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, July 2.



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Kannon Cissell, a petroleum quality assurance and additization specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, refuels a KC-135 Stratotanker on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. July 2.







(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Thomas Sheng)

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General Urasoe General Hospital

1-56-1 Maeda, Urasoe / 098-878-0231

University of the Ryukyus Hospital 207 Uehara, Nishihara Town / 098-895-3331

Chubu Tokushukai Hospital 801 Higa, Kitanakaausuku / 057-098033

Nakagami Hospital 601 Noborikawa, Okinawa / 098-939-1300

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