



WELCOME/MEN SO-RE!



Community Engagement between the US Marine Corps and Okinawa

The Marines, Sailors, US civilians, and family members conduct approximately 2,500 community relations activities and programs in Japan annually. The activities range from sports, cultural and education programs to medical internship programs with both U.S. and Japanese members. Our education programs are in high demand from the local communities. English education is not only conducted at local schools, but also to adults to enhance English conversation.

Another significant effort includes medical exchange and cooperation by the US Naval Hospital Okinawa. They routinely participate in combined training and table top exercise for Pandemic Influenza response with the Okinawa Prefecture Government aimed to confirm local procedures and coordination which is crucial for prompt measures. These medical exchanges/programs provide opportunity to the local medical facilities to learn about western medicine practices which is not easily available in Japan.

The most recent program implemented is the internship program. There are two internship programs, one established at G-7 Division and one at the Japanese parliamentary under a diet member. These programs mutually benefit both parties by increasing the knowledge and understanding of the roles and structure of both parties.

The Toys-for Tots program is a Marine-only program implemented world-wide which brings many smiles to the Okinawa children at Christmas. Annually, the Toys-for-Tots Program donates thousands of toys to Okinawa facilities for children.

Below is an outline of other various community relations activities and programs:

Volunteer Activities

- Beautification and clean-up activities at senior homes, hospitals, orphanage and other care-giving facilities
- Beach clean-up activities (annual international beach clean-up day participation, beach clean-up of rivers and beaches of hosting communities)
- Hosting of Japan and US Boy Scout camp jamboree aboard the US installations
- Orphanage visits and hosting children on base at Camps Hansen and Schwab



English Education Activities

- Send volunteers to Okinawa elementary schools and kindergarten to assist English teaching through games and songs
- Weekly English conversational classes for adults at Courtney, Schwab & Fuji
- Volunteers go to Okinawa universities to assist in teaching English
- English Exchange Program with local technical school and Single Marine Program
- Beach Clean-ups integrate local students from English classes with volunteer service members to encourage further study and community involvement
- Summer English immersion program with Uruma City Board of Education



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Sports Exchange activities



- Youth sports exchange program by M CCS
- Friendship Sports Exchange by DODEA (high school & university students)
- Baseball clinic for children, Special Olympics at Camp Hansen and Kadena, Field Day with JSDF, and Friendship Wrestling Tournament by USO
- Women's Professional Soccer Team Clinic
- Brazilian Soccer Club & Tournaments on base

Medical exchange programs

- US Naval Hospital Japanese Physician Intern Program
- Implementation of Okinawa organ donor project
- Disaster/emergency response exchange and joint medical training with Okinawa hospital and Ryukyu University General Hospital
- Medical exchange program with Ryukyu Rehabilitation Institute by Camp Hansen

Internship Programs

- Internship program for university students at G-7 Division
- Parliamentary Internship for junior grade USMC officers

Cultural Exchange/Awareness programs

- Visits to local schools, senior homes, and welfare facilities and introduce/exchange cultural celebrations and traditions (Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
- Cultural seminar on Okinawa history & culture by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Participation at local festivals (traditional dance contest, walking, marathons, tug-of-war, dragon boat race, etc.)
- USO Pottery Festival, Miss USA, Teen USA Cultural Exploration, Halloween Parties
- DODEA participation at Okinawa Science exhibition and Art Contest
- DODEA participation in Okinawa Soroban contest
- Mandatory Okinawa Cultural Awareness Training for every new Marine
- Oshima Island Youth Cultural Exchange Program (Homestay Program)





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Local Level Cooperative Events

- Full day intensive Marine Corps 101 seminar, base tours, visits and briefings to promote understanding of role in Japan for local community, national leaders and civil society
- Participation in Cooperative Working Team meeting chaired by MOFA to discuss measures for prevention of incidents/accidents
- Bilateral Aircraft Mishap Exercise with Okinawa Crisis Management Office and local governmental organizations
- Base tours and visits to promote understanding of USMC role (average of 20 visits per month)
- Assist off-base business with information on how to maximize patronage of service members and their families as well as SOFA members
- Planning and implementation of a hotline for local business owners to prevent incidences/accidents
- Unobtrusive Courtesy Patrols to ensure proper behavior of service members when interacting with local residents off base
- Renewed and new community agreements for use of base as emergency evacuation routes.
- Natural disaster cooperation with local communities and Red Cross
- Disaster response lessons learned information exchanges with local communities, Red Cross, prefectural and national government.



Publication and Distribution

- Quarterly publication of “Okina Wa” (Big Circle) in Japanese
- Japanese language website - www.okinawa.usmc.mil
- Okinawa Marine weekly newspaper highlights in Japanese
- Social media sites in Japanese – [www.facebook.com/ 在日米海兵隊](https://www.facebook.com/在日米海兵隊)
<http://twitter.com/#!/mcbjpao>

III MEF Band

- Annual concerts at Okinawa Convention Center and joint concert with 15th Brigade Band, JGSDF
- Participation in annual Japan Self-Defense Forces Marching Festival in Budokan, Tokyo
- Participation in Kesenuma City Port Festival 2012
- Performs music and concerts at approximately 100 local-hosted events





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Donations

- More than 8 million U.S. dollars in monetary donations to local community
- Monetary donations to Okinawa facilities and charities by American Women Welfare Association and Navy & Marine Wives Club

Toys for Tots

- In 2011 there were a total of 18,471 toys distributed to 8,205 children; including nearly 5660 children from the local community
- As of December 7, 2012 nearly 3000 toys were distributed to 24 different organizations, with still more time to collect and distribute
- Toys for Tots is expected to distribute over 6,000 toys this season throughout the community, and over 2,000 throughout the Pacific region

Open Base Events for Community

- Courtney Fest
- Futenma Flight Line Fair
- Kinser Fest
- Hansen Fest
- White Beach Festival held by the Navy
- Foster Fest
- Schwab Fest
- Halloween Events for local children on Camps Foster, Lester and McTureous
- Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies at Camps Kinser and Hansen.
- Participation in the Uruma Festival held every October
- Family Day Osprey Display

