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 Community Publication

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Get your kicks

At Okinawa store

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Enjoy a day of fun at Oki Sneaker Con!

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Stearley Heights Elementary School



Ms. Turco
3rd grade

Editor's Note: Here are some stragglers from our Month of the Military Child campaign. Once again, thanks to all our talented students and fantastic educators.

A Military Child By Elliot
Being a military child can sometimes be a happy thing, but sometimes be a sad thing. Let me tell you what it's like to be a military child.
The first thing is you move a little bit that's a good thing because you get to make new friends, try new foods, learn different cultures!!
Some of my friends are Abby, Karleigh, Elliot and Leah.
But sometimes when you move, your parents get deployed, and my dad is going to get deployed and we have to help my mom with five siblings.
When I lived in Ohio, my dad's work had this day where they invited their sons to their work!

Life as a Military Child Elliot
There are good things and bad things about being a military child. Some of the good things are you get new friends, you get to go to all kinds of different places, you get to learn about different cultures, and best of all, you get to explore! But also, with that you have some bad things. Some bad things are that you have to move every time your old friend and the year you go on deployment.
When your mom or dad go on deployment, it can be hard. They might stay away for a week, a month, or maybe even a year. But also, when they come back, you get to play and have fun with them!
Do you move a lot? If so, you know it's like to make and lose friends. Military children can have hard times, but it can also be fun!

The life of a MILITARY CHILD! Branden
Being a military child is awesome, but some things you just want gone with. I like being a military child because I can make new friends and learn about different cultures. Like when I moved to Hawaii, I had to move with I met my best friends I and Leah. They became my best friends. I also like being a military child because I can try out new foods. The best thing is that you move you can visit places on the plane. I can see the day in my life.

Military Child Christian
I think being a military child is good because you can meet your friend at the place you're going to. Another reason is that you can learn about different languages and cultures. One of my favorite things is going on airplanes and travel around the world.
BY Christian

Being a Military Child Monique
I am a military child because my Dad is in the military and I was born in the United States of America.

Military child Aiden Evans
I am a military child because my Dad is in the military and I was born in the United States of America.

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May 14 - 31

ANNIVERSARY

Abby
It was time
 It was July and it was time to move to Japan. I was so excited to move but at the same time I did not want to leave my best friend Sam. She was my BFF (Best Friend Forever) the day my family and I moved was something a for military child couldn't do. I felt so sad for those kids that could not move to a different town, city, state or country. Once we checked out of the hotel that we were staying at it was time to go to the airport. We walked to our gate, then got on the plane.

Wyatt
Being a Military child
 Being a military child is like... sometimes the military pays for your ticket to move. You also have to follow the laws like you got to be in hang out at the youth center. Also you move and lose your friends, the hardest part is making new friends. What's really sad is sometimes you can't bring your pet. What I like about being a military child is I get to learn about new cultures and speak new languages. When you turn ten you get a ID card to go on military bases and shops. Also what's cool is learning your parent/parents do at work.

Afton
MILITARY CHILD
 Moves to a lot of interesting interesting cultures to be found everywhere. Loves to find out what new friends in a lot of different school. Try a lot of different food, like unusual but all are being to live.

Leilah
Moves all over the world.
 Interesting cultures are everywhere. Life is hard moving. Interesting thing can be found every where. Trying new foods surprises you go. Around the world you go. Making plans can be fun. You can explore different places. Children find you to help. Help find you. Interesting things you can find. Learn new things you don't know. Did you have hard times moving?

Karleigh
Life as a Military Child
 Have you ever had a parent military? If so then you are a military child. When you are a military child you have more things to worry about like moving because you'll have to pack all your stuff and you'll have to leave your friends. I don't like moving because it's always so hard to pack.

Madeleine
Military child
 Some people think that military kids are just kids that move around a lot. But there's more to it than that. You have to learn to be independent and you have to learn to be resilient. You have to learn to be a team player and you have to learn to be a leader. You have to learn to be a problem solver and you have to learn to be a survivor. You have to learn to be a warrior and you have to learn to be a winner. You have to learn to be a champion and you have to learn to be a hero. You have to learn to be a legend and you have to learn to be a legend.

MISAWA YOKOSUKA ATSUGI ZAMA YOKOTA FUJI IWAKUNI SASEBO OKINAWA MISAWA YOKOSUKA

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GetEmKicks brings sneaker culture to Okinawa

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA, STRIPES OKINAWA

One step inside the shop, an evolving sneaker scene welcomes customers.

The interior walls are filled with kicks in various colors and designs. A wide collection of t-shirts is displayed for sale in middle of the room. An array of ballcaps with the logo "Supreme" catches your eye. Sitting in one corner is a Key Master machine, with sneakers inside, playing a funky tune. You look about and take it all in. A BE@RBRICK doll. Dragon Ball figures. A Michael Jordan doll.

It's like a dream come true for sneakerheads.

GetEmKicks is a popular sneaker shop near Kadena

Air Base's Gate 2 that opened in 2016 under the slogan "We are for the Community, By the Community." It is still a new face in this local shopping area where old and new stores coexist. But it's one its owners hope will have a lasting impression on the community.

"A lot of the things you see here are things you can't necessarily see around Okinawa. We have a wide selection of all types of shoes," says co-owner Kris Drone, a former U.S. airman who was still in the Air Force shop when the opened. "We bring back a nostalgia by being able to recreate history, bring it back. We have shoes in here you haven't seen since the 1980s. Some shoes date back to 1970s. Most iconic is the Jordans. We have the original Jordan 11s that he wore in shops. So, there's a piece of history in the facility."

Prior to the store's opening, GetEmKicks was dedicated to online sales by "helping every

single person that we came in contact with get their pairs at the best price possible," according to its website.

Now, the shop has evolved to be a real-life happy place for sneakerheads. GetEmKicks calls itself "SNEAKER DISNEY WORLD." The shop may not be big, but a fun vibe definitely flows there.

"Our shop is probably different from anything you see across the world or even in Japan," said Drone. "We want you to be positive. It's a whole experience walking in."

Drone's words exude his exceptional passion for sneakers, and he wants to make it clear that GetEmKicks is not just for sneakerheads. It's also a place for people who don't know anything about sneakers or street culture.

When asked for an advice for beginners, Drone said, "Everyone has different lifestyles."

"You may be a casual worker. You may be a basketball player. You may be just a person in tune with fashion. Once

I understand what your lifestyle is, I make sure to educate and direct you in the proper shoes that meet your needs," Drone continued. "I study feet enough to understand what a person needs ... make sure whatever shoe they are getting, is gonna work best for them in the long run. I'm not gonna push a shoe on you that isn't your style."

That approach of spreading his love of sneakers without pushing a customer into a sale is probably a big reason GetEmKicks recently opened another store in Naha. The shop in Naha is geared more toward apparel while the one near Kadena is

focused on sneakers. Drone hopes his shops continue growing as cultural hubs in the community.

"This is a nice focal point for people to come and see what it's about," said Drone. "We hope that you come check us out, even if you don't have to buy anything. Just come out and have great time."

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



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GPS Coordinates: N 26.336273, E 127.799595

Hours: 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Closed on Wednesdays)

Tel: 098-959-3032

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Website: https://www.getemkicks.com/

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GPS Coordinates: N 26.214177, E 127.685775

Hours: noon - 8 p.m. (Closed on Wednesdays)

ings nawa



Get your kicks at Oki Sneaker Con

Courtesy photos

BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

Wanna cop some hot kicks? Looking to break into the sneaker scene?

Get ready, Oki Sneaker Con is right around the corner!

Kris Drone, who runs his sneaker shop GetEmKicks in Okinawa and organizes this annual event, believes this year's festival on June 8 will appeal to a diverse audience.

"This year's Sneaker Con brings dance music, art and fashion all to one building," Drone said. "It's a multi-cultural environment where you have a lot of local nationals and Americans coming together, experiencing and sharing the things that they love and that they are passionate about."

Oki Sneaker Con is a "buy-sell-trade" event. Many vendors will set up booths and display various kicks clothing for sale. Sneaker exhibits to showcase classics and new models will be displayed. Art, music and live performances will pump up the mood.

Last year, this event drew a crowd of 1,400 and gave away more than \$40,000 in prizes, "which is unheard of for a sneaker festival," the organizer said. The venue saw many happy smiles of sneakerheads.

This year, Drone is looking to step up his game even more.

"So this year, we are pushing more for everything that's hype. Hype

meaning a lot of Alfa Whites, Yeezy, Sean Wotherspoon, as well as Jordan's," he said. "Everybody's fascinated with Jordan. So, we are going to be able to bring that out. We are going to bring some art as well to give out."

From those who want to be stylish like Kanye West, to sneakerheads who aspire to complete their collections with the most coveted kicks, the event is scheduled to showcase the latest and also the legends of the sneaker scene. Plus, other presentations are also expected to be big.

"We are getting a lot of curators from the States as well as here in Japan to be able to do graffiti art, sneaker art, and give that out," Drone said. "I don't want to disclose who, I want to keep it a surprise for the viewers to come."

Drone stressed that one of the purposes of the event is to share the love of sneakers. That includes not just sneaker fans or street fashion fans, but also others. Even if the brand names don't ring a bell to you, the organizer said, this will be a fun event to attend. And there will be locals from on and off the island who hope to communicate through the language of sneakers.

"We are pushing to make this a major festival on Okinawa," he said. "We are recognized globally as a fantastic event that is fun, positive and brings people out to experience what we love."

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



Saturday, June 8

General Admission: Noon - 7 p.m.

VIP Admission: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Venue: Koza Music Town 3rd Floor (GPS Coordinates: N 26.335245, E 127.799462)

Entry Fee:

- \$60 for VIP Access - Includes Tshirt, Lanyard, early access, 3 VIP Exclusive raffle tickets, 5 regular raffle tickets, and video recognition. Secret Gift included.
- \$20 for same day registration (1 raffle ticket included).
- \$10 for children 12 years old or younger (1 raffle ticket included).

* For more info, contact GetEmKicks (GPS Coordinates: N 26.336273, E 127.799595) at 098-959-3032 or GetEmKicks@yahoo.com or check out <https://www.getemkicks.com/>



Henoko Dragon Boat Races

A century-old tradition

A team from Camp Hansen won a heat in men's division but did not make it to the finals. Members of the local and U.S. communities on Okinawa took part in Dragon Boat Races on May 12 in Henoko.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY IKE HIRAYASU, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

HENOKO – Members of the local and U.S. communities on Okinawa took part in Dragon Boat Races May 12 in Henoko, Okinawa.

Dragon Boat Races are festivals held throughout Okinawa during the summer to thank the sea for its blessings, praying for a safe voyage and a good catch. Boat teams compete for speed in a hand-crafted fishing boat.

The Henoko Dragon Boat Race is a century-old traditional event which has included Marines and sailors from Camp Schwab since 1973.

“We are here to compete in Okinawan traditional Dragon



A team from Camp Schwab, led by Col. Jason S.D. Perry prepare to start a race in the men's division competition.



The Yasha Dragons team won a women's division title.

Boat Races”, said Col. Jason S.D. Perry, Camp Schwab commanding officer. “We are a single community in Henoko and the Marines, sailors, and civilian community in Camp Schwab is considered as 11th residential section of Henoko.”

A total of 38 teams participated in this year's race, including 10 American teams and a team consisting of a member of the House of Representative, Masahisa Miyazaki, and a former Ginowan City Mayor, Atsushi Sakima, who also participated

from Ginowan City.

Nago City Mayor, Taketoyo Toguchi, and Robert Koepoke, the Consul General of the United States to Naha, were also attended to watch the races.

“As a member of the community, many teams from Camp

Schwab participate in each year to make the event exciting”, said Futoshi Kohagura, mayor of Henoko. “Camp Schwab is part of Henoko and we welcome Marines every year.”

Samuel Epperson, a retired Sergeant Major of Camp Schwab who lives in Henoko for over 30 years, has been serving as a master of ceremony for Henoko's events to American audience.

“It's a great opportunity for young Marines to participate in local culture and seems to be they are enjoying it” said Epperson. “Sharing culture between Japan and the United States is very important, and it is great to share some of the traditional events here.”

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Upcoming Dragon Boat Races

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<p>13TH BATEN HA-RI June 9, 1 p.m. At Baten Port in Nanjo City Free to watch, no parking available 098-947-6510 www.tsuhakojichikai.org/</p>	<p>KYAN HA-RI June 9, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 098-997-3665 www.city.itoman.lg.jp/kankou-navi/zokusei-kankou/ibentojoho/</p>
<p>OIJIMA KAJJIN SAI June 6, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 098-948-7190</p>	<p>HENZA HA-RI June 9, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. 098-977-8127 www.henza.jp/</p>
<p>YONAGUNICHO KAJJINSAI HARYUSEN KYOUSOU TAIKAI June 6 www.town.yonaguni.okinawa.jp/donan-bunka/program2/1.html</p>	<p>13TH CHATAN NIRAI HA-RI June 23, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. 098-936-1847 www.facebook.com/chatan.f/</p>
<p>NASHIRO HA-RI June 6, 8:30 - 11 a.m. 090-9788-0613</p>	<p>TOUSOE HA-RI June 23, noon - 5:30 p.m. 098-946-4960</p>
<p>YAEYAMA KAJJINSAI June 6, 9 a.m. 0980-82-5445 www.painusima.com/</p>	<p>HAMAHIGASHIMA HA-RI June 23 & 30 098-977-8450, 098-977-7227</p>
<p>MAEGANEKU HA-RI June 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 098-964-2820</p>	<p>12TH TOMIGUSUKU HA-RI July 28, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. At Toyosaki Marine Park 090-8291-4909 www.tomigusuku-ryusen.jimdo.com/</p>
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Stripes Sports Trivia

SAY MY NAME! Hockey is known as a tough guy's sport. Playing with broken bones, missing teeth and injured organs is all part of the game. To hold the record for the most games played in the NHL, one would surely have to tough out more than a few of such injuries. The current record holder played in 1,767 games and officially retired at age 52. Who is he?

Answer

Gordie Howe

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Umpire's shout
- 5 Carnation color
- 9 Little hooter
- 14 Scandinavian capital
- 15 Math computation
- 16 Poem property
- 17 Fight site
- 18 Essence
- 19 Raptor's roost
- 20 Riot-control substance
- 22 Camping item
- 24 Trial partner
- 25 Breadmaker's need
- 26 Powerball, e.g.
- 29 Playground fixture
- 33 Industrial mechanic
- 37 Gardening tool
- 38 Arrival time, for short
- 39 Oil source
- 41 Naught
- 42 Jonathan Larson musical
- 44 AARP concern
- 46 Come to light
- 48 Sports complex
- 49 Jousting gear
- 51 Part of SSgt
- 55 Wrongdoing
- 58 Soft-shell clam
- 60 Pull strings?
- 61 June 6, 1944
- 63 Sandwich spot
- 64 Blackjack option
- 65 Vegas "lady"
- 66 Reed section member
- 67 Water-logged
- 68 Oxen's harness
- 69 McNally partner

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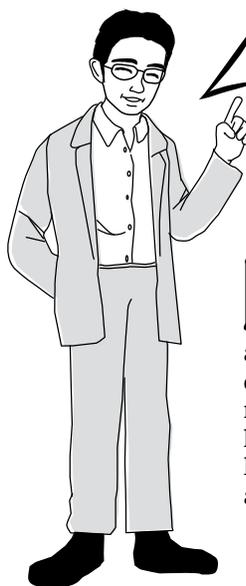
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- 3 Of an arm bone
- 4 Backscratch, politically
- 5 Hemingway nickname
- 6 Tennessee's state flower
- 7 Fishing aid
- 8 Mexican painter Frida
- 9 Sherbet flavor
- 10 Choice word
- 11 Harp's cousin
- 12 Mideast bigwig
- 13 "Riverdale" target viewer
- 21 Weimaraner warning
- 23 Severely simple
- 25 Part of Canis Major
- 27 Ancient Greek ship
- 28 Fork feature
- 30 Fit to be tried
- 31 Similar (to)
- 32 Ridge on skin
- 33 Nothing more than
- 34 Anagram of "mite"
- 35 Pool path
- 36 Next in line?
- 40 None too brainy
- 43 Kind of cards
- 45 Bullfighter
- 47 Moneygrubbing
- 50 ___ enough...
- 52 Simple organism
- 53 Record holder?
- 54 Like some eggs
- 55 No ____, no fuss
- 56 Digging, so to speak
- 57 Male deer
- 58 Give a pink slip to
- 59 Youngster
- 62 Twosome

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

T	H	A	R	S	P	I	T	E	T	O	M	E
H	A	L	E	A	L	O	H	A	O	V	A	L
I	S	L	E	W	A	T	E	R	C	R	E	S
S	H	E	L	F	T	A	M	H	O	R	S	E
G	E	E	S	E	E	L	A	N				
T	R	I	C	Y	C	L	E	A	S	T	I	R
B	O	A	T	E	E	L	Y	E	O	M	A	N
A	W	N	I	N	T	E	G	E	R	P	I	E
R	E	C	E	N	T	C	U	T	R	O	S	E
L	E	A	S	E	T	A	T	T	E	R	E	D
R	U	D	E	R	E	A	C	T				
P	A	P	A	L	M	A	D	P	L	A	I	D
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	A	N	T
E	T	C	H	A	T	T	A	R	I	C	E	D
P	O	K	E	T	E	E	N	Y	M	E	M	O

DID YOU KNOW?



No bulls are sacrificed for bullfights on Okinawa. It's like boxing or wrestling for the beast. There are three weight categories for competitions: open weight (normally more than 970 kg), middle weight (970 kg or less), and light weight (850 kg or less). Title matches for each category are held three times a year.

Kanji of the week



Machi/Cho (Town)

Language Lesson

I'm happy.

Ureshii desu.



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STARS AND STRIPES

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

		1	7					2
					5	1		
5		3						7
9	7	6				3		
				8				7
		3	5					6
5	6			8				
	1							
			1	4	3	2		

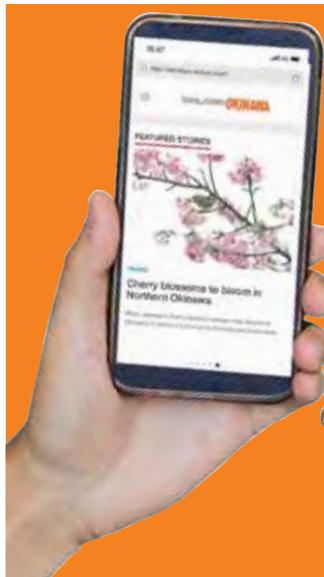
HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

6	4	2	3	1	9	5	7	8
7	1	5	6	2	8	3	9	4
8	3	9	4	5	7	2	6	1
1	9	6	5	7	3	4	8	2
2	8	4	1	9	6	7	3	5
3	5	7	8	4	2	6	1	9
5	7	1	9	6	4	8	2	3
4	6	8	2	3	1	9	5	7
9	2	3	7	8	5	1	4	6

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'No harder duty, no greater honor'



Marines assigned to the Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company recover fallen Marines after an attack on a military vehicle in April 2003 in Nasiriyah, Iraq. Photo by Edward Kniery, U.S. Marine Corps

Marines take care of their own from battlefield to resting place

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: May 15, 2019

MCAMP FOSTER — Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Williams, a 25-year reservist, is the most senior enlisted Marine in his occupational field, mortuary affairs.

In civilian life a plant manager for a chemical company, Williams, of Georgia, is one of 200 in his unit, the Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps.

"People ask me why I do it," he told Stars and Stripes on May 8. "The price of doing war is people die, and if it were me, I would want to know that somebody is taking care of me and taking me back home to my family, so they could grieve and get some closure."

Williams recently travelled to Okinawa, Japan, to take part in a command-and-control exercise, MEFEX 19, with III Marine Expeditionary Force. Williams was there to educate sailors and Marines about the mission of mortuary affairs and brief commanders on their responsibilities and the support available to them, according to a Marine Corps statement Monday.

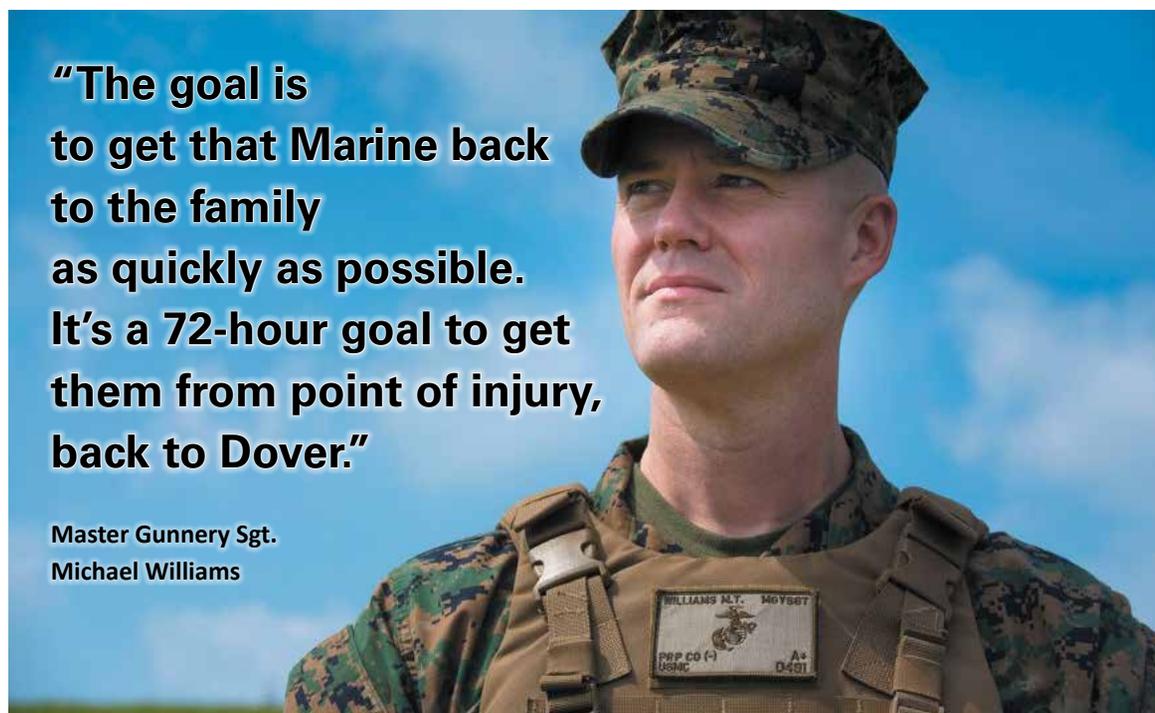
Williams' unit, part of 4th Marine Logistics Group, headquartered in New Orleans, is based in Smyrna, Ga., and Quantico, Va. It was formed in 2003 with the intent of Marines caring for their own fallen.

There is "no harder duty, no greater honor," he said.

Mortuary affairs personnel

"The goal is to get that Marine back to the family as quickly as possible. It's a 72-hour goal to get them from point of injury, back to Dover."

Master Gunnery Sgt.
Michael Williams



throughout the service branches are tasked with recovering, processing and returning home the remains of fallen servicemembers.

While deployed in 2003 and 2005, Williams and his team came in right behind the combat element headed into Kuwait and into action in Iraq.

"I feel like after 16 years of doing this, it picked me," he said of his military specialty.

"For whatever reason, it doesn't really get in my mind."

Strong family support and his faith play a role in helping him cope with the realities of war, which he has seen firsthand, he said.

Williams said finding what the individual fought for helps him, but shock, sadness and

a feeling of personal connection are still emotions that run through him while he's doing his job.

"I don't think it ever gets easy," Williams said. "They've all got a different story and you'll eventually hear their back story of why they joined."

Dover Air Force Base in Delaware hosts the largest mortuary in the Department of Defense and is the only one in the U.S. for servicemembers, according to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations website.

"The goal is to get that Marine back to the family as quickly as possible," Williams said. "It's a 72-hour goal to get them from point of injury, back to Dover."

Prior to the Marine Corps

creating the mortuary unit, many Marines were placed into mortuary affairs from various occupational roles, such as cooks or administration, leaving many without the willingness, training or mindset capable to handle the job, Williams said.

Now only Marine reservists serve in this occupational specialty, he said.

These mortuary affairs Marines work alongside other service branches, in which the Army's Quartermaster Corps has been the lead since before the Civil War, according to the Army's website.

On the battlefield, the process starts with a search and recovery of the fallen Marine, whose remains are taken to a collection point and inspected for any unexploded ordnance or hazards, Williams said.



Items recovered from the body and body markings, head to toe, are logged and entered into a registry system that tracks individual Marine casualties until their remains are returned to their families.

"From the battlefield to home, they are always treated with the upmost respect," said Williams. "When we pick them up, it's feet first, just like they are walking with us."

More intricate mortician practices, such as embalming, are not involved in processing the deceased while in theater, but detailed care is given from the moment the teams recover the remains to how they groom and prepare their uniforms for burial, he said.

Williams said he calls on all the experiences he's gained to remind his co-workers in his civilian occupation of those who fight for freedom and their country.

"We should never forget the sacrifices made by our young men and women, and we always honor them. We honor them by finishing what they set out to accomplish, we remember them by never quitting and having the backbone and the guts to never bend to the yoke of oppression," Williams said. "We honor them and remember them by having the courage to live free."

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