

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 1, Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

## Jan. 6

Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 94 returned home after six months of training with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 and Marine Aircraft Group 12.

## Jan. 12

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 conducted a surge day here in order to test combat readiness of the squadron. VMFA(AW)-242 launched 28 sorties using eight F/A-18s in one day while running various combat scenarios.

## Jan. 20

D.L. Hughley performs with fellow comedian Daniel Dugar as part of the "2012 Laugh Campaign" at the Iwakuni Ballroom.

## MWSS-171 sets sights on Lava Viper

**Jan. 13** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 joined other units including Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Combat Logistics Battalion 3 in exercise Lava Viper in Hawaii Jan. 13, 2012. Lava Viper is a biannual exercise, which allows Marines to train and improve proficiency in their respective duties. The weapons used for MWSS-171's training included Mk-19s, Mk2s which are .50 caliber machine guns, M-240 bravos, and also M-249s which are also known as Squad Automatic Weapons, or SAW.

## Commissary discontinues overseas magazine sales

**Jan. 13** The Defense Commissary Agency announced the end of magazine sales in their overseas stores January 2012 in an attempt to cut back the price of overseas shipping.

Before deciding to cease overseas sales altogether, DeCA officials tried options such as deleting slow selling titles and reducing the volume of magazines shipped overseas.

DeCA continues to sell the Stars & Stripes newspaper overseas. Magazines are also still available in military exchanges. By eliminating the cost of shipping the magazines the commissary was able to keep other important products on store shelves.

## Commanders visit Peace Memorial

**Jan. 26** Commanders from 1st Marine Air Wing visited the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan, as part of a professional military education event during a commanders' conference held at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni here Jan. 26. The purpose of the conference and the PME visit was to discuss how 1st MAW commanders can improve troop readiness and understand ramifications their actions can have when carried out and the difficulties which come with their decisions.

## Bats spread wings, fly to Thailand

**Jan. 27** Military personnel of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B, Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 departed for Thailand to support Exercise Cobra Gold 2012.

Exercise Cobra Gold is an annual multinational exercise which allows military personnel to conduct bi-

lateral and unit level training with the Thai Armed Forces, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.

Participating squadrons utilized Thai air-to-surface ranges, airspace and facilities, while exercising the squadron's expeditionary capabilities. Squadrons worked to become proficient in air-to-surface exercises, daytime close air support and air interdiction.



# FEBRUARY



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**Feb. 7**

Marine Attack Squadron 311, also known as the "Tomcats," arrives at MCAS Iwakuni as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

**Feb. 12**

The Iwakuni Road-runners hosted the first Valentine's Day Couple and Lonely Hearts Race.

**Feb. 18**

CLC-36 conducts infantry training in preparation for Forest Light an exercise in Hokkaido.

**Feb. 24**

PMO's K-9 unit conducted training to remain proficient. The military working dogs trained in patrolling, scouting and detection.

**Feb. 29**

MWSS-171 Marines conduct training patrols here to become proficient at urban patrol scenarios.

## Two nations sing during friendship concert

**Feb. 3** American and Japanese students came together at the U.S. - Japan Friendship Concert to strengthen the bonds between the base and the community. The concert brought together children of two cultures by way of a melting pot of song and dance. Plans for the concert begun as early as September, according to Allen Strawbridge, Matthew C. Perry High School music director. Cultural events such as this friendship concert allow the students to see the differences in cultures unified in song.

## New mess hall now open

**Feb. 4** Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps officer, along with representatives from the Nippo corporation, cut a ribbon opening the new south side mess hall here Feb. 1. Approximately 4 million dollars went into reconstruction and refurbishing of the new chow hall. Seating capacity increased from 250 to 330 persons. In addition to extra seating, a larger food preparation area was added. Allowing the chow hall to serve a larger variety of food.

## Silver Eagles improve readiness at Cobra Gold



U.S. ARMY PFC. RYAN SCOTT

**Feb. 7 KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand**—Military personnel of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron

12 began their involvement in Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 Feb. 7 by conducting bi-lateral and unit level training with Thai Armed Forces, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company. During the exercise, the squadrons worked with one another to improve

mission readiness by training with allies throughout scenarios such as Thai aircraft versus U.S. aircraft, U.S. and Thai aircraft and pilots working together to take out "enemies" on the ground by dropping ordnance, and to complete semi-annual training for pilots.

## Ishinomaki volunteers prepare to build bridges, cultural ties

**Feb. 16** Volunteers gathered to discuss the plan and priorities of the Ishinomaki volunteer trip scheduled to take place in early March in the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Building conference room here. The volunteer working locations were planned to span across the Ishinomaki area of the Miyagi prefecture, reaching out to support a very large area in its cities and suburban districts.

## CLC-36 departs Iwakuni, heads for Camp Fuji

**Feb. 27** Marines from Combat Logistics Company 36, Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 arrived at Camp Fuji, Japan, by way of a High Speed Vessel for Forest Light, a training exercise teaching advanced cold weather infantry tactics.

CLC-36, CLR-35 and CLR-37 Marines departed Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to teach Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces cold weather infantry tactics. The Marines trained for weeks prior to joining the JGSDF in exercise Forest Light, a semi-annual training exercise in Hokkaido.

# MARCH

**March 4**

Station residents experience Japanese culture during a Japanese American Society event here. Japanese nationals put on performances and taught classes to participants.

**March 8**

After three days, Active Shield 2012 ended. The Auxiliary Security Forces returned to their day jobs and daily operations resumed.

**March 14**

Aircraft Firefighting Marines responded to a mass casualty call during a simulated disaster here. The exercise helped maintain the ARFF Marines' skills and challenged them with putting out a simulated fire.

**March 22**

Iwakuni City police performed a traffic safety demonstration and a question-and-answer session near the Crossroads Mall here. The demonstration also covered how to respond to a traffic stop in Japan.

**March 27**

Station residents aboard station gathered at Club Iwakuni to attend the 2012 Military Women's Symposium.

## MAG-12 celebrates 70 years of Marine aviation expeditionary excellence



CPL. PAUL MESHAK

**March** Marine Aircraft Group 12, commanded by Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, celebrates its 70th year of service this month. With this anniversary, the group can take time to reflect on its storied history. From combat operations in the 1940s Pacific theater, to close-air support in Korea and involvement in Chu Lai, Vietnam, supporting Marine infantry and other allied forces in engagements against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units. MAG-12 has been a major player in air superiority since its inception.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

## Renovations for future generations

**March 6 ISHINOMAKI, Japan**—Almost a year after the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, volunteers from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni worked to clean the interior and exterior of an old restaurant and a gym to help the local community affected by the earthquake and tsunami and in hopes to allow the community to use it as a supply house for water and food.

## Active Shield 2012 all hands on deck

**March 5** Active Shield 2012 was an annual exercise by both the United States Marine Corps and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force here that validated the station's ability to defend itself against any threat.

There were multiple scenarios, to include a hostage situation, incidents on the water, suspicious packages, mass casualties and a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear evacuation. Some scenarios were linked together to replicate how they may occur during a real threat.



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## Marines spring into action, save man's life

**March 20** Two lance corporals saved a man's life, during rush hour traffic on Route 2 in Iwakuni. The Japanese man was lying in the middle of the street with cars honking and driving by. Lance Corporals Justin Biddle and Vincent Vigil got out of their vehicle and brought the responsive, yet incapacitated man to the side of the road and assisted him until Japanese police arrived and took him to the nearest hospital.

## Torii Pines Golf Course says 'farewell'

**March 30** After 53 years of birdies, bogies and memories, Torii Pines Golf Course held its final tournament between Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here March 30. The competition determined who would keep the Torii Pines Championship Cup. MALS-12 took the win by a margin of victory of one point, with a score of MALS-12 - 15 and a half, H&HS - 14 and a half. The course was demolished in order to make way for additional housing, schools and other station buildings.



# APRIL

**April 1**  
Col. James C. Stewart, MCAS Iwakuni Commanding Officer, and Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, MCAS Iwakuni Sergeant Major, had the honor of playing the final round of golf at Torii Pines.

**April 8**  
Families aboard station gathered behind Club Iwakuni to participate in an Easter egg hunt. The children searched for more than 7,000 eggs.

**April 15**  
Comics Tom Simmons and Paul Hooper provided laughs for station residents at Club Iwakuni as part of their Japan tour.

**April 18**  
MWSS-171 heavy equipment operators trained on the recently closed golf course. This rare opportunity allowed them to train in removal, lifting and leveling of materials.

**April 20**  
Marines donned rubber sumo suits and challenged one another in the Commander's Cup Sumo Challenge. CLC-36 won the event, which took place at Ironworks Gym.

## New Work out program 'HITT's Iwakuni

**April** The High Intensity Tactical Training program begins spreading through out SemperFit divisions across the Marine Corps. The goal of the program is to enhance operational fitness levels and optimize combat readiness and resiliency for the active duty Marine. A main factor in the effectiveness of the training is reducing the possibility of Marines becoming injured during workouts while following the program.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## SRT pushes candidates to physical, mental limits during indoc brief

**April 10** Potential candidates from the Provost Marshal's Office took part in a Special Reaction Team indoctrination brief on a vacant lot behind the Matthew C. Perry schools April 10. The purpose of the indoctrination brief was to give SRT members a chance to see several candidates who may eventually fill vacant spots when current SRT member change their permanent duty stations.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

## Japanese, American athletes run circles around station during Kintai Marathon

**April 15** 877 athletes competed in the 45th Annual Kintai Marathon here April 15. Marine Corps Community services hosted the event and allowed Japanese residents to come on station and compete alongside station residents.

## Volunteers take out trash during Earth Day cleanup

**April 20** Marines, Sailors and civilians gathered at the seawall north of Penny Lake to volunteer their time and clean up the environment here April 20.

The cleanup celebrates April 22, declared International Mother Earth Day by the United Nations in 1970.

Volunteers came from all over the station to clean the outer regions of the seawall, which collects most of its debris from the ocean's current.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Station residents recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**April 14** Station residents participated in a women's self-defense class in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Dojo at the IronWorks gym here. The purpose of the class was to instruct women on how to properly defend themselves in event of an assault.

## World War II veterans look into past

**April 20** Eleven Japanese Imperial Navy World War II veterans reached out and across the decades during a recent visit to the station here April 20. Veterans toured the Building One trophy cases as well as the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force museum during the trip to the station.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

# MAY

**May 4**  
Lt. Col. Bruce D. Gordon succeeded Lt. Col. Richard E. Petersen as commanding officer of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, also known as the "Bats."

**May 11**  
Station residents showed up in droves at the Marine Corps Exchange for a meet-and-greet with television's "The Big Bang Theory" star, Johnny Galecki and executive producer Steven Molaro, along with "Southland" stars, Regina King, Benjamin McKenzie and Michael Cudlitz.

**May 12**  
Station residents gathered at Yujo Hall to participate in a craft fair, which supported the Wounded Warriors Project. Participants sold items ranging from hair bows to exquisitely crafted pens.

**May 14**  
Students from Matthew C. Perry Elementary School took a field trip to witness a Provost Marshall's Office K-9 unit demonstration. The students watched the dogs in action and then had a question-and-answer session.

## Ready Group increases readiness

**May 4** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 realigned from Marine Wing Support Group 17 in Camp Foster, Okinawa, to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's Marine Aircraft Group 12 in a realignment ceremony, which took place on the parade deck here May 4.

## MACS-4 dually recognized with prestigious awards

**May 14** Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment Bravo received the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Edward S. Fris Award for Marine Air Command and Control Squadron of the Year to recognize their contributions and success as an air control squadron.

## Naval dentist assess, assist Tinian's dental needs

**May 15** TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — Navy dentist and corpsmen from 11th Dental Company, Third Dental Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, provided the people of Tinian with free dental care as part of the dental training evolution during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, May 15. Dentists received a donation consisting of dental supplies desperately needed for the people of Tinian from Ordod Dental Clinic on the island of Guam.

## MAG-12 hornets swarm to be the first on Tinian

**May 23** TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — The first F/A-18D Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 12, landed on the island of Tinian's West Field during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The F/A-18Ds were the first to have ever landed on the island.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Station celebrates Friendship Day 2012

**May 5**  
More than 285,000 people celebrated Friendship Day 2012 here, May 5.

Since 1973, and even before then under other names, Friendship Day has been one of the greatest opportunities for Japanese near and far to come aboard the air station.

This special day of aerobatic stunts has strengthened cultural ties between Marines in Japan and their hosts throughout the years.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

## Tinian WWII airfield becomes Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 site

**May 14** TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived at Tinian in support of Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The purpose of Exercise Geiger Fury is to execute and assess combined expeditionary operations in the Pacific.

## M.C. Perry wins double championships in 2012 Far East Tournament

**May 25** The Samurai boys and girls soccer teams both suited up and walked away with the 2012 Division II Far East Championship Soccer Tournament wins May 25 in Osan, Korea and Penny Lake Field.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.



# JUNE

**June 2**

Station residents and local Japanese took part in testing their strength during the 2012 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition at the IronWorks sports courts.

**June 11**

Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson relinquished his responsibilities as Marine Aircraft Group 12 sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. David M. Reaves, former sergeant major for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, during a relief and appointment ceremony that took place on the parade deck.

**June 16**

Station residents participated in the first Zen for Men Hatha style yoga class inside the IronWorks Gym aerobics room. The goal of the class was to introduce this type of exercise to men apprehensive to the idea of yoga class.

**June 26**

Marines and sailors from MCAS Iwakuni visited Kuroiso Hoikuen, a kindergarten in Iwakuni as part of a community relations effort to share cultures and positively interact with the local community.

## Marines locate two missing men and coordinate rescue

**June 6** APRA HARBOR, Guam — Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 of Marine Aircraft Group 36, Marine Aircraft Group 12, and Marine Wing Communications

Squadron 18 banded together to successfully conduct a search and rescue mission. The Marines searched for two men, Juay Akhem, 32, and Bryan Mull, 24, who had been missing for almost three days.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Corpsmen reflect on history of serving

**June 15** Navy Corpsmen and guests gathered in celebration of their 114th birthday here at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. The corpsmen displayed many traditions in their ball, including the bell to represent high ranking officers entering or exiting the deck, a cake-cutting ceremony, and a recitation of the Corpsman Pledge.

## 3rd MLG Commanding General visits Marines, Sailors

**June 15** 3rd Marine Logistics Group elements aboard station received a visit from their commanding general here as part of Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw and Sgt. Maj. Lawrence P. Fineran's farewell tour. Crenshaw and Fineran met with Marines on duty at the Aircraft Traffic Control Tower, then continued their visit with Combat Logistics Company 36 and the sailors with 3rd Dental Battalion 11th Dental Company.

## Changes of command

**H&HS**

**June 11**

Maj. Frederick L. Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, took the place of Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, outgoing H&HS commanding officer, during the H&HS change-of-command ceremony, which took place inside the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here.

**MWSS-171**

**June 11**

Lt. Col. Howard C. Eyth III, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 commanding officer, assumed command from Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, outgoing MWSS 171 commanding officer during the MWSS-171 change-of-command ceremony here.

**MALS-12**

**June 12**

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 said farewell to its outgoing commanding officer and welcomed its new commander in a change-of-command ceremony at the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here June 12. Lt. Col. Charles A. Redden relinquished command to Lt. Col. Michael Gonzalez.

## Commandant visits station to speak with leaders



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

**June 24** Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of The Marine Corps, arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japan to talk to the officers and staff noncommissioned officers

aboard station. The Commandant made his way to every Marine Corps installation to speak to every officer and staff noncommissioned officer in the Marine Corps.

# JULY

**July 13**

Navy Lt. Brandi L. Sakai, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 flight surgeon received the Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award for her hard work and dedication to excellence in the care for her patients and the betterment of the clinic.

**July 19**

Army Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, U.S. Army chief of engineers and Army Corps of Engineers commanding general, visited Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

**July 19**

Marines built MK-82/BLU-111 500-pound bombs in support of Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing MAG-12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive-air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.

## CLC-36 departs for Exercise Dragon Fire II

**July 8** Combat Logistics Company 36 departed for Exercise Dragon Fire II on the morning of July 8.

Sixteen Marines and one corpsman met at the CLC-36 warehouse at 4:00 a.m. to take a convoy of eight tactical vehicles on the approximately 500-mile drive from Iwakuni to Camp Fuji, Japan.

The Marines spent about an hour putting the finishing touches on their gear and ensuring the vehicles were ready for the journey.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEX

## Chief of Engineers visits station, praises accomplished

**July 19** Army Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, U.S. Army chief of engineers and Army Corps of Engineers commanding general, visited soldiers aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

With Bostick was his staff, which included Army Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division Commander.

The purpose of the visit was for Bostick to see current construction project development. Construction is reported to eventually cover more than 70 percent of the station, said Lee Seeba, Iwakuni residents engineer with ACE.

The next year is scheduled to have an increase of construction projects across the station as well.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Marines arrive in "Land Down Under"

**July 13**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia**

— American forces arrived here to kick off Exercise Southern Frontier 2012, and then take part in the multilateral Exercise Pitch Black 2012.

Both exercises are conducted annually to enhance flight operations and maintain proficiency as well as maintain interoperability between allies and partner nations.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

## MV-22 Osprey arrives in Iwakuni

**July 23** Twelve MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft were off-loaded from a civilian cargo ship at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, today. This marks the first deployment of the MV-22 to Japan. The aircraft is stationed aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, as part of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (VMM-265).



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

## Station volunteers assist, host children's home

**July 21** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines and various other units' volunteers hosted the Yahata Gakuen children's home at

the WaterWorks Pool. The children came for a pool party and traditional American barbecue during a day of swimming, games, food and loving volunteers.



# AUGUST

## Aug. 7-9

The Southern California Seahorses, a non-profit organization and member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, took their soccer skills to Penny Lake fields and conducted soccer workshops during the Biola University Women's Japan Tour.

## Aug. 10

Outgoing Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic officer-in-charge Cmdr. Cesar Odvina relinquished command to Navy Capt. Moise Willis during a change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel.

## Aug. 12

Iwakuni residents tested their might during the Far East Powerlifting Championship Competition at the IronWorks gym. Sixteen athletes participated in three events during the competition.

## Aug. 23

Station Marines participated in hazardous-waste practical application training at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting firehouse.

## BHC sailors wish fair winds and following seas to captain, commander

**Aug. 10** Outgoing Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic officer-in-charge Cmdr. Cesar Odvina relinquished command to Navy Capt. Moise Willis during a change of charge ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here. A change of charge ceremony is the official transfer of authority to the new officer-in-charge.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

## Football returns! Samurai scrimmage

**Aug. 19** For the first time since 2004, the Matthew C. Perry High School Samurai football team suited up in pads, jerseys and helmets. American football, a long-missed sport aboard the station finally made its return. With only six days of practice under their belts, the Samurai scrimmaged against the Sotoku High School Fighting Ducks football team from Hiroshima, Japan, after completing a two-day summer camp at the M.C. Perry High School football field here.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

## More than 800 attend Summer Music Festival

**Aug. 25** Approximately 800 station servicemembers, residents and local community members attended the 2012 Summer Music Festival here. Four bands played, and the event featured demonstrations from a Zumba dance instructor, station children's ballet and martial arts classes.

## Red Devils return to Iwakuni



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

**Aug. 21** Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 returned to Iwakuni after participating in exercises Southern Frontier and Pitch Black 2012. The exercises consisted of field training events to include call-for-fire and flight operations. They focused on close-air support, air interdiction, offensive anti-air warfare, and suppression of enemy air defenses. PB12 is intended as a means for participant militaries to practice large-scale offensive counter-air and offensive-air support missions in large, multinational formations. By conducting these activities, SF12 and PB12 helped to enhance readiness, increase interoperability of forces, and strengthen regional partnerships to effectively respond to regional challenges. Elements of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, conducted solo and multilateral training to maintain readiness.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

## Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Reserve Affairs visits MCAS Iwakuni

**Aug. 28** The station received a visit from Juan M. Garcia III, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, at the Sakura theater to inform Marines and sailors on the changes implemented with the new "21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative."

During the brief, Garcia stressed the point of physical fitness. Speaking not only of the physical training involved with staying fit, but also how nutrition and proper diet help.

One of the major changes expected due to the 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative is the implementation of Breathalyzers aboard every Navy and Marine Corps installation.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

# SEPTEMBER

## Sept. 6

A group of Marines and sailors gathered to ask questions and learn from each other about females in the military at the Women's Symposium

## Sept. 11

Station residents gathered at the station chapel to remember the terrorist attacks on New York City, the Pentagon and Flight 93 11 years ago.

## Sept. 21

Marines, sailors, retirees and station residents gathered at the Vietnam Memorial to pay respect to prisoners of war and those still missing in action from wars and conflicts throughout the years.

## Sept. 21

Aircrews conducted MV-22B Osprey functional check flights aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

## Sept. 23

Servicemembers, station residents and Japanese citizens gathered at IronWorks Gym for the 25th Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Modified Triathlon.

## MWSS-171 performs reconstruction of buildings, hearts, community relations

### Sept. 3-6 DHAKA, Bangladesh

While Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 continued to construct the second level of HaziJoynuddin High School in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Civil Affairs Marines were working to enhance and maintain the reputation of the United States and the Marine Corps by interacting with those who live in the area surrounding the school.

The objective of CA Marines, who worked as a part of Civil Military Operations, was to win the hearts and minds of those in areas where the Marine Corps has, or may have, a presence.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK

## Guam Cleanup receives help from Valiant Shield 2012 participants

### Sept. 15

Participants in Exercise Valiant Shield 2012 took a break from their training to assist the local community during the 18th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Guam 2012.

The coastal cleanup was a combined effort from local government agencies, businesses, private and non-profit organizations, federal agencies and the U.S. military, according to a news release from the Guam Coastal Management Program.

## MV-22 conducts first functional check flights in Japan



SGT. DANIEL K. BROWN

### Sept. 21

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 aircrews conducted MV-22B Osprey functional check flights aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japan, marking the first time the Osprey has flown in Japan.

The aircraft first arrived in Japan at the end of July.

Once VMM-265, a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, completed functional check flights and pilot proficiency flights at MCAS Iwakuni, its Ospreys were sent to operate

and be based out of MCAS Futenma.

After arriving, the Ospreys were off-loaded, inspected, and prepared for flight operations.

In recognition of the Government of Japan's concerns about the aircraft's safety, the United States Government refrained from any MV-22B flight operations in Japan until the results of safety investigations were presented to the Government of Japan and the safety of flight operations was confirmed.

This information was presented to the Government of Japan during September.

## U.S. ambassador visits MWSS-171 worksites

### Sept. 26 DHAKA, Bangladesh

U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena visited Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 worksites here. MWSS-171 arrived in August and built the second story of HaziJoynuddin High School.

Mozena visited the worksite with Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, MWSS-171 commanding officer, to meet with Marines and see the progress of the project. Throughout his visit the ambassador reiterated time

and again how grateful he was with the work the Marines accomplished and how integral this was for the future of Bangladesh.

Eyth said (the ambassador) was very appreciative of the contribution made to building this symbol of Bangladesh's future. Bengalis are already very entrepreneurial and very resourceful, with an educated population, they can develop this economy to the point where the quality of life for the citizens is remarkably increased.



LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK



# OCTOBER

**Oct. 5**

Marines and sailors with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 gathered at the Ironworks Gym to start the weekend off with a day of events during the squadron's quarterly field meet.

**Oct. 13**

Children of servicemembers, ages six and up, grew closer to their parents as they spent the day going through Young Warrior Day.

**Oct. 17**

Marines with MAG-12 constructed an expeditionary command operations center throughout the week in preparation for future exercises.

**Oct. 19**

After months of competition, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 emerged victorious, winning the Commander's Cup.

**Oct. 27**

Screams of station residents, Iwakuni residents and children from the Yahata Children's home echoed along the walls of MWSS-171's Motor Transportation building during the MWSS-171 Haunted House.

## VMFA(AW)-242 conducts exercise in Philippines

**Oct. 12** Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 Marines prepared and executed simulated bombing runs at an air-to-ground range in Crow Valley, Philippines. The F/A-18Ds piloted by VMFA (AW)-242, known as the "Bats," prepared and received ordnance used in the exercise here. The Marines then made the approximate four-hour trip to the designated range in the Philippines.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Navy celebrates 237 years of pride

**Oct. 12** Two hundred and thirty seven years of U.S. Naval history, service and pride were on display during the Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni

Ballroom here Oct. 12, 2012. Sailors and Marines came together in recognition of the efforts the U.S. Navy has contributed to keeping America safe.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

## Hands-on Hazmat training completed on station

**Oct. 25** After four days of training and classroom work, 24 station firefighters tested their knowledge and skills as smoke billowed near an open cylinder of chemicals here. The practical application, given by instructors from Bucks County Community

College located in Pennsylvania, simulated a hazardous material situation aboard the air station and was part of the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni firefighters' annual training and re-certification requirements for Hazmat Technician Level certification.

## Bengals, Vikings receive support for Exercise Island Fury

**Oct. 19** Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 224 and 225, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marines and sailors worked in unison to support Island Fury 2012, a month-long, multi-service exercise firmly grounded in the successes and lessons learned from Exercise Geiger Fury.



CPL. MARCEL BROWN

# NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

**Nov. 1**

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 returns, once again, 61 years after their original tour of duty in Japan.

**Nov. 8**

The station chapel welcomed seven Buddhist monks aboard station for a tour of the installation, uniting two separate groups through religion.

**Nov. 10-13**

Marines, sailors and guests gathered in the IronWorks gym to celebrate the 237th Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

**Nov. 15**

Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines returned here after completing jungle warfare training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan. Servicemembers learned basic infantry tactics, such as patrolling, ambushes and communication in a jungle environment.

**Dec. 1**

Corpsmen and officers at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic hosted a Christmas celebration for the Akebono Orphanage.

**Dec. 4**

Saving Abel came aboard station to sign autographs and perform a live concert at Club Iwakuni.

## Station chapel welcomes Buddhist monks

**Nov. 8** The station chapel welcomed seven Buddhist monks aboard station with hopes of bridging an uncommonly traveled bonding point, different religions. "This was a great way to build a good relationship, especially on the religious side," said Lt. Cmdr. Louis Lee, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron command chaplain. The monks went on a tour with the chaplains and religious programmers, viewing the various rooms within the chapel and the different services provided.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

## Historic landing begins Forager Fury 2012

**Nov. 28** TINIAN, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — Forager Fury 2012 officially began as a Boeing 747 made history by being the first 747 to land on the island of Tinian. The aircraft brought 160,000 pounds of equipment and gear which was vital for Marine Aircraft Group 12's execution of the exercise.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

## Chef of the Quarter competition sizzles

**Nov. 30** The Chef of the Quarter competition culminated with a cooking contest between three top competitors inside of the southside mess hall here. The cooking contest is not the only challenge these Marines faced, the event tested every facet of their individual skill and Marine-qualities. The written board gives food service Marines the opportunity to take a test and then the three best out of the entire group went to the next level for a uniform inspection and an oral board. The final portion is the actual cooking competition.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

## Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport opens



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

**Dec. 9** Japanese distinguished guest, U.S. servicemembers and civilians met at the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport for the opening ceremonies. The opening consisted of an indoor formal ceremony of approximately 100 people and an outdoor ribbon cutting

with approximately 1,000 participants. All Nippon Airways is scheduled to run four round-trip flights per day between Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport and Haneda, Tokyo International Airport. With construction complete, the airport can make traveling for servicemembers and families much more convenient.



# 2012 { STORY OF THE YEAR



SGT. CHARLES E. MCKELVEY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs guests, media and Japanese Officials came aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Sept. 27, 2012, to learn about the safety, capabilities and operation of the MV-22B Osprey aircraft. More than 140 Ministry of Foreign Affairs guests, media and Japanese officials came aboard station for the orientation event.

## Distinguished visitors tour MV-22

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 140 Ministry of Foreign Affairs guests, media and Japanese officials arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japan to participate in an MV-22B Osprey orientation event as part of the MV-22B Osprey introduction to Japan Sept. 27, 2012.

Visitors were given the opportunity to see the ins and outs of the MV-22B Osprey, receive a capabilities briefing, view a static display, and participate in an orientation flight.

"The importance of showing this aircraft to our host nation visitors is really to reassure them of the aircraft capabilities and safety features as well as the proficiency of our aircrew that fly them," said Maj. Gen. Christopher S. Owens, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general. "It's also a chance to demonstrate the tremendous capability this aircraft can bring both to the Marine Corps in Japan but to the alliance as well."

The flight demonstration allowed visitors to see the capabilities of the MV-22B during flight operations.

"The MV-22 flies in what we call 'airplane mode' with the nacelles tilted forward in forward flight," said Owens. "The aircraft uses VTOL [vertical take-off and landing] mode to gain a hover and conversion mode to move forward and move into fixed wing mode."

The majority of flight operations conducted by the Osprey will be in fixed-wing mode while the helicopter, VTOL and conversion modes would primarily be used during takeoffs and landings and when the aircraft operates in training areas and landing zones.

Although the aircraft would operate in helicopter and conversion modes as it moves in and out of MCAS Futenma airspace and traffic patterns, all operations would be focused on minimized noise and safe execution.

"We're really anxious to get this aircraft down to Okinawa and integrate with the

rest of III Marine Expeditionary Force," said Owens. "The capability it provides is beyond anything that we've had before and we're anxious to put it into action. We understand there are concerns about the aircraft amongst the local populace and we take that seriously, but we do believe the best thing will be to put the aircraft into action and let them see just how capable and how safe it is."

The Marine Corps will modernize its fleet with MV-22 tiltrotor aircraft and remove CH-46E helicopters from service on a one-to-one basis.

"In addition to replacing them, the capability this aircraft brings is truly revolutionary," said Owens. "It has twice the speed, three times the payload and four times the range of the CH-46E," said Owens. "It's going to open up large portions of the Pacific theater that we simply couldn't reach before."

A second squadron of 12 aircraft is scheduled to arrive at MCAS Futenma during the summer of 2013.