

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 2 Vol. 6 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Air Rescue Squadron 71 trains to keep air, sea safe | Pg. 5



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Air Rescue Squadron 71 US-1A aircraft proceeds to the simulated search and rescue location here Jan. 8, 2013. The training was the squadron's first flight of the new year. JMSDF launched 10 Iwakuni-based aircraft to conduct training. The ARS-71 US-1A and US-2 are large, short takeoff and landing aircraft designed for search-and-rescue work.

Substance abuse counselors keep Iwakuni clean

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Servicemembers face stress in all sorts of ways. Sometimes alcohol can seem like a temporary fix to daily stress.

The Substance Abuse Center is here to help servicemembers

battle their addictions and problems with alcohol and other types of substance dependency.

"We are here as coaches, that's the biggest thing we try to get across," said Jeffrey Rowland, substance abuse counselor. "We're not going to run your life for you. In the end, you are the one out

there on the field making plays and reaching goals. We are just here off to the sidelines to help coach you and give advice on what you can't always see."

The SAC primarily focuses on alcohol abuse and helping people recover, but they help station residents with other problems as

well.

"While our biggest problem is alcoholism, we deal a lot with prevention, drug abuse, rehabilitation programs, and most important, getting the commands to help," said Kirsten

SEE **SUBSTANCE** ON PAGE 3

Marines offered chance to expand education

LANCE. CPL. B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Tuition assistance offers active duty servicemembers the opportunity to take college classes during their off time.

Marines receive briefs on these opportunities, but many fail to take advantage of them.

"I think school is scary for some people," said

SEE **TUITION** ON PAGE 3

Japanese L.I.N.K.S. employee awarded for volunteer work

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

An employee at Marine Corps Family Team Building here received an award for her volunteer work for Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Dec. 17, 2012.

"Our mission is to conduct relevant family readiness training that will help

the units become more mission ready," said Ben Singleton, Marine Corps Family Team Building director. "We educate on resources, benefits and things that can help them."

Miyuki Gray is a Japanese Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) trainer for MCFTB. As a

SEE **AWARD** ON PAGE 3

HOBBIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Station residents discover new opportunities | P. 5

CULTURAL

More ways to experience Japan | P. 6&7

BALLIN'

Suiting up for MLK Day | P. 11



Commanding Officer/Publisher
Col. James C. Stewart

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Neil A. Ruggiero

Public Affairs Chief
Gunnery Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

Press Chief
Sgt. Charles McKelvey

Operations Chief
Sgt. Justin Pack

Editor
Cpl. Vanessa Jimenez

Combat Correspondents
Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
Lance Cpl. James R. Smith
Lance Cpl. B. A. Stevens

Intern
Ashley Starnes

Webmaster
Yukie Wada

Community/Media Relations
Hiroko Soriki
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

Administration
Hiro Sumida

"This weekly newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof."

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216. Call 253-5551.

The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Forgiveness'

LT. CMDR. DENISE L. WALLINGFORD
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

It's a new year! In 2013, maybe on that list of resolutions should be forgiving those who have wronged us.

Why?
Because harboring grudges inside will erode our character and turn us into people we eventually don't even recognize or like!

Let me say what is not forgiveness, forgetting is not forgiveness.

We cannot choose what to remember and what to forget. Forgetting really has nothing to do with forgiveness.

Trusting again is not forgiveness. We may choose to trust those who have offended us, but we should be wise. Have they earned our trust again? Trust, if broken, must be earned again.

So, what is forgiveness?
To forgive is to give up the right to demand a just penalty. Have you ever given up the right to make someone pay for hurting you? If you have, you've forgiven.

This is the heart of God's forgiveness.

He gives up the right to demand a just penalty for our offending him. He does that for those who believe in his son, trust him and follow him.

The choice is ours.

This is a true story of forgiveness: Corrie Ten Boom was living in Holland with her family during the Nazi occupation. Based on their Christian beliefs, they decided to hide Jews in their home. They had drills and practiced hiding every trace of the Jews in case the Nazi's came.

One day it happened. Gestapo officers and Dutch Nazi officials burst through the door and ran through the house.

"Where have you hidden the Jews?"

The officer struck Corrie across the face. Corrie said nothing.

Soon, Corrie had lost track of how many times he had struck her, yet she had said nothing. She could taste the blood in her mouth, and feel it running down her cheek.

The soldiers never found the Jews, but arrested her entire family.

After 10 days in jail, Corrie's father died. Corrie was separated from her sister, Betsie, and was in a cell alone. After 10 months in prison, both Corrie and Betsie were sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp.

At Ravensbruck, they spent hours in the cold, hard labor with the other 35 thousand women. Betsie could not withstand the harsh conditions, and eventually died.

Three days after her sister's death, Corrie was called out in the morning head count.

She said a prayer to God for protection fearing she was to be executed.

She reported to the office, and

was handed a card that said "RELEASED" in German.

She was given her clothes and a train ticket for Holland.

She left immediately, eventually learning her release had been a clerical error.

The week after her release, all the women her age at Ravensbruck were executed.

After the war ended, Corrie started traveling around telling her story to other Christians.

In 1947, at a church in Munich, a man walked up to her who looked strangely familiar. As he shook her hand, she realized where she knew him from: He had been one of the cruelest guards at Ravensbruck!

He looked at her with watery eyes.

"Miss Ten Boom, I have become a Christian since the war. I know now in my heart that God has forgiven me, but I must also ask for your forgiveness. Can you forgive me for all the evil I did to you, your sister and the others?" He asked.

It took some time for Corrie to respond. She realized she still needed to release things to God about the war.

Finally she said, "I forgive you brother, with all my heart."

So, how about it? Give up the right you have to make them pay. Forgive them.

Why not drop that ugly and heavy burden of holding grudges against those who have offended and hurt us?

It helps us become people of truly extraordinary character and it sets the soul free!

Marine Corps Family Team Building employee Miyuki Gray performs above expectations



Gary Bernhard, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 family readiness officer, presents Miyuki Gray, Japanese Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills trainer, a certificate of appreciation for her volunteer work at the Marine Corps Family Team Building, Dec. 17, 2012. Gray received the award helping supply an American spouse with a Japanese translator to find a daycare in town. Gray volunteers her time away from work to ensure that Japanese spouses are comfortable adapting to a military lifestyle as well as an American one.

AWARD FROM PAGE 1

Japanese L.I.N.K.S. trainer, Gray conditions others to become L.I.N.K.S. mentors and completes her own daily tasks.

"I communicate with Japanese spouses with each unit and support them with guidance and information," said Gray. "I then contact the Family Readiness Officer in each unit to inform them of the spouses' concerns, issues and problems and provide resources."

Aside from her daily responsibilities, Gray uses her own time volunteering to help Japanese spouses adapt to a new lifestyle.

"It's my responsibility to make sure all Japanese spouses are more comfortable to understand a military lifestyle and fill the gap between Japanese culture and American culture," said Gray. "After being a military spouse for 14 years and having only my husband as a resource to go to, I knew that I could help Japanese spouses more so they won't go through the same thing I did."

Gray also said her past experience and knowledge help her assist other Japanese spouses.

Gray received a certificate of appreciation signed by Lt. Col Bruce Gordon, VMFA(AW)-242 commanding officer, for providing an American spouse with a Japanese translator to help her find a daycare in town.

"Miyuki has provided more opportunities for the Japanese spouses than they had a year ago," said Singleton. "We have many excellent trainers here that contribute so much support, as well as Miyuki."

SUBSTANCE FROM PAGE 1

D. Diller, substance abuse counselor.

One of the first steps to rehabilitation within the armed forces is to bring the problem up with the unit Substance Abuse Control Officer and command.

"This helps give a little

lee-way and lets the command know of the problem because every commander wants all of his troops to be mission capable and wants to help that Marine get back in the fight," said Rowland. "Many times we will sit down with small unit leaders and explain that

the Marine needs help and support, which teaches these 'gunnies,' who many got back from the drill field, that they need to put down the campaign cover and help these Marines get better."

Unit SACOs are able to send servicemembers through different types

of rehabilitation and help speak to commands if any alcohol related incidents occurred.

"One of the biggest things we preach is that it's not always about abstinence. We are not the alcohol police," said Diller. "Everyone has their own goals and their own ways

to reach them. We aren't here to get you in trouble or kicked out, we want you to get better and be able to carry on with your career." The SAC is on the second floor of Building 411 and open to station residents looking for help with alcohol or other substance abuse.

TUITION FROM PAGE 1

Mary Cory, education services officer with Marine Corps Community Services. "I think it's intimidating. You've never stepped foot in a college and maybe you struggled in high school."

Leadership has also taken a notice to just how important it is to get a degree.

"The commandant has named education one of his top five priorities, so he is making sure that Marines have funding to pay for college," said Cory.

Marines are always learning, and this important knowledge gained isn't overlooked by schools.

"Most people don't know that they already have college credits on their Sailor Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART), you may already have 10, 15 or even 30 credits," said Cory.

There are also some surprising statistics that make earning a degree worth the time and effort.

"Someone who doesn't have a degree will make about \$1.4 million in their lifetime but someone with a degree will make around \$2.2 million, so it almost doubles," said Chanel Sharp, personal and professional development director MCCA.

Some servicemembers feel like the military is their career and think college is not necessary.

"Even if you stay in the Marine Corps for 30 years, you're only 48, which is too young for most people to just stop working," said Cory. "It's worth it, you need to protect yourself for your future. Last year the Navy and Marine



LANCE CPL. B. A. STEVENS

Tuition Assistance forms are available at Building 411 and require the signature of an E-7 or above. Once the paper has been signed and turned in students are given a certificate to turn in to their college.

Corps cut back on people and many people didn't protect themselves against that. Now, they find themselves unemployed, if they had a degree they would be more likely to have a job."

College classes are available face to face and online. While online courses may be convenient, they aren't always right for everyone.

"I think that if Marines have it scheduled on their calendar then they go, but sometimes if it's on their off time and they have other options there are too many temptations other than focusing on college," said Cory.

Marines unsure of whether or not to take college classes should speak with their leaders to ensure they are able to dedicate the proper time and effort to do well in college courses.

January Promotions

VMFA(AW)-242 MALS-12

Lance Cpl.

Delange, Adam R.
Friedman, David G.
Muniz, Sara
Page, John T.
Schladitz, Ryan J.
Startzel, Alexander C.

Cpl.

Coleman, Michael A.
Fowler, Benjamin B.

Sgt.

Muchmore, Samuel D.

Master Sgt.

Henderson, Jon D.
Nelson, Martin R.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.

Weiler, Nicholas E.

Master Sgt.

McCurdy, Damion A.

MACS-4 Det B

Cpl.

Smith, Kevin T.

Lance Cpl.

Chacaaavila, Gerardo S.
Contreras, Nancy M.
Salinas Jr., Juan A.

Cpl.

Austin, Giovanni J.
Badker, Jordan R.
Baird, Krystal R.
Blount, Johnathan D.
Chavez, Miguel A.
Engwall, Heather M.
Fontana, Christopher A.
Glekiah, Kargo
McKoy, Seth J.
Rybicki, Nathan H.

Sgt.

Etienne, Frantz E.
White, Garrick J.

Staff Sgt.

Denning, Zachary W.
Masters, Christopher A.

Gunnery Sgt.

Lewis, Dwight A.

Master Sgt.

Dimauro, Scott R.
Swift, Brian R.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.

Campbell, Ashley R.
Canchola, Jacob A.
Holtzmaster, James D.
Thuesen, Jake C.

Cpl.

Dennis, Seth A.
Macisaac, Cameron S.
Mandujano, Roger
Martinez, Miguel A.
McLellan, Luke L.
Mendoza, Martha E.
Myrick, Joshua A.
Ponciano, Jesus
RestoSalgado, Bernarde
Sanabriafranco, Gersson
Taylor, Jordan R.

Sgt.

Granlund II, Erik B.

Gunnery Sgt.

Pearson II, Chawa D.
Torres, Frankie E.

CLC-36

Cpl.

Gutschmidt, Michael S.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.

Ott, Juliana I.
Talley, Daniel J.
Wojtasiak, Frank K.

Cpl.

Cowin, Bryan J.
Dang, Daniel N.
George, Kovsky T.
Myrick, Joshua A.

Sgt.

Granlund II, Erik B.

Staff Sgt.

Limon, Richard J.

Gunnery Sgt.

Gaddy, Raymond J.

Master Sgt.

Archambault, Michael

JMSDF makes a splash



A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Air Rescue Squadron 71 US-1A aircraft taxis on the water after conducting a water landing and simulated search and rescue here Jan. 8, 2013. The training was the squadron's first flight of the new year. JMSDF launched 10 Iwakuni-based aircraft to conduct training.

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

JMSDF Air Rescue Squadron 71 conducts first flight of new year

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Air Rescue Squadron 71 conducted flight training January 8, 2013.

"We conducted the first flight training in the new year today," said JMSDF Cmdr. Shinji Nakahara, ARS-71 Chief Officer. "But, US-1A and US-2 were not the only aircraft that flew, all aircraft assigned to JMSDF Iwakuni Base conducted flight training."

JMSDF launched 10 Iwakuni-based aircraft to conduct training. The ARS-71 US-1A and US-2 aircraft conducted a search-and-rescue training scenario to save a simulated casualty floating in the water.

Aircraft circled above the site to simulate the searching portion of the training. Aircraft then demonstrated a water-landing. Once aircraft landed, divers jumped into the water to rescue the casualty.

"Both US-1A and US-2 performed high-speed water taxiing as the final portion of the training," said Nakahara. "We taxied on the water, and finished the training with an

amphibious landing." The US-1A and US-2 are large, short takeoff and landing aircraft designed for search-and-rescue work.

"The aircraft is capable of carrying approximately three tons (6,000 pounds) of supplies or 30 passengers or 11 flat beds," said Nakahara. "Additionally, medical personnel are able to conduct surgical operations inside the aircraft when necessary."

Established in July 1976, ARS-71 operates with amphibious flying boats. Their mission is to conduct search and rescue of missing aircraft, vessels and personnel in water.

They also supply disaster relief and are capable of patient transport for medical emergencies from remote islands.

According to the JMSDF, their search and rescue aircraft dispatched 27 times in 2012.

US-1A and US-2 remain prepared and ready both on JMSDF Iwakuni Air Base and Atsugi Air Base seven days a week and 24 hours a day. This is so people located on remote islands and on ships have confidence that JMSDF search and rescue teams are ready to assist them.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Air Rescue Squadron 71 crewmembers inflate a search and rescue raft aboard a US-2 aircraft here as part of training Jan. 8, 2013. The training included the squadron's first flight of the year and a search and rescue simulation.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Air Rescue Squadron-71 US-1A aircraft prepares for a water landing before a simulated search and rescue here Jan. 8, 2013. The US-1A and US-2 are large, short takeoff and landing aircraft designed for search-and-rescue work.

Start New Year with new hobbies

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

January is not only the first month of the new year, but also National Hobby Month. What better way to start off the new year than with a brand new hobby?

The Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Library is hosting a New Year New Hobby program for the month of January. Sarah Fisher, a former member of the library, was the one who initially thought of the idea. The program offers four classes, one a week, on a certain activity.

"The idea for New Year New Hobby was to have something fun to get people into the library and introduce new hobbies," said Stacey Kobe-Bellika, supervisory librarian. "Our mission in the library is to inspire personal growth and enhance the lives of all our patrons."

Kobe-Bellika also said that the program mainly targets teens and adults, but they host many other events at the library for kids.

The classes station residents can participate in include: playing card games, calligraphy, scrapbooking and making origami charms. Residents who have little to no experience in these topics are highly encouraged to join.

"I'm going to probably make a fool out of myself trying to do some calligraphy," said Elle Watson, station resident and participant in the calligraphy class. "I've heard it's all about stroke order in order to make the letters correctly, but I've never written Kanji."

Watson was one of 10 participants in the calligraphy night held at the library in Building 411, Jan. 10, 2013.

Nami Yamamoto, Youth Cultural Program coordinator, was the instructor with 13 years of experience in calligraphy.

Yamamoto instructed the class on supplies needed to perform calligraphy, how to properly hold brushes and execute proper brush strokes.

"It was very formal and based on tradition, just like a lot of the stuff I noticed in Japan," said Watson. "I wasn't very good at it, but it was a really new experience, interesting for sure and I would do it again."

Granted, students won't become experts after a two-hour class, but it gives them the opportunity to try something different.

The next available class is origami charm making, held Jan. 24 at 6:00 p.m. There is no restriction as to who can participate.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

A student participating in the New Year New Hobby program practices writing the Kanji "Wa," which stands for harmony, at calligraphy night at the library in Building 411, Jan. 10, 2013. The class consisted of proper brush holding technique, how to execute strokes, and the history behind calligraphy.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Nami Yamamoto, Youth Cultural Program coordinator, helps a student practice her calligraphy writing techniques at New Year New Hobby's calligraphy night held at the library in Building 411, Jan. 10, 2013. Other classes taught students about playing card games, scrapbooking and making Origami figures. The program's goal is to help introduce people to something new.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Students participating in the New Year New Hobby program learn proper techniques on how to hold a brush at calligraphy night at the library in Building 411, Jan. 10, 2013. Other classes were taught included playing card games, scrapbooking and making Origami figures. This is the second year the library hosted the program.

Cultural Adaptation opens doors to new experiences

UPCOMING CULTURAL TOURS

- Jan. 25 ■ Hiroshima Peace Park & Castle
- Feb. 8 ■ Lotus Root Digging
- Feb. 22 ■ Hina Doll Festival
- March 8 ■ Yanai Nishigura & Goldfish Lantern Making
- April 26 ■ Yamaguchi Flower Land & Moss Ball Making

UPCOMING CLASSES

- Jan. 8-11 ■ Survival Japanese Class
11:40 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Building 411 Room 123
- Feb. 14 ■ Origami Class
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Building 411 Room 123
- March 19-22 ■ Survival Japanese Class
- April 26 ■ Cooking Class
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Iwakuni Fukushi Kaikan

For more details, visit Building 411 Room 101 or call 253-6165/6161.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Sgt. Maj. Steven Brown, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni sergeant major, stands on the finished replica of a Kintai Bridge arch at Sekido Storage Warehouse, Dec. 7, 2012. Patrons learned about the architecture of the bridge and applied the knowledge toward working together and completing the replica.

Station residents visit Shirohebi Shrine, Kintai Bridge

LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents gathered together to take part in a Cultural Adaptation trip, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, which provides station residents with opportunities to experience the culture and history of Japan.

A recent trip consisted of a visit to the White Snake Museum, Shirohebi Shrine and Sekido Storage, where participants worked together in building a replica of a Kintai Bridge arch Dec. 7, 2012.

During the course of the trip, patrons learned about the history of white snakes in Iwakuni and had the opportunity to hold a snake. The tour progressed to the Shirohebi Shrine, which was recently built. The shrine didn't open for another week; patrons were given a sneak peak before the grand opening. It is now open to the public to visit for 100 yen.

From there, the group journeyed to Sekido Storage Warehouse, where they learned about the architecture of the Kintai Bridge and built a 1 to 125th-scale replica of one arch.

"It was great to understand the bridge and how it was built," said Mike Whiteside, station resident. "I learned to appreciate more of the hard work people did back when they built this bridge."

After completing the model, patrons had the opportunity to stand on the center of the bridge.

"Our goal is for people to understand our culture and get to know about Japan," said Akie Sumomogi, MCCS cultural adaptation specialist. "The program is like a first step for people to experience different things."

For those wanting to venture out and learn more about Japanese culture and history, this program can help.

"I think [they] did a really good job of setting up these kinds of opportunities for people," said Whiteside. "I would recommend anyone in my family, when they visit, to come out to these and participate."

Any station resident is able to participate in these kinds of trips and prices vary from trip to trip.

Trips vary in location and content, anywhere from Miyajima Island's Itsukushima shrine, to their upcoming trip to Hiroshima Castle Jan. 25.

Factors that play into choosing where to go include how traditional the area is, popularity of the attraction and the distance from the air station, said Sumomogi.

The Cultural Adaptation program offers other classes, including beginner's Japanese and local cuisine cooking classes. It also supplies information on local events.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Station residents work together to build a replica of a Kintai Bridge arch at Sekido Storage Warehouse, Dec. 7, 2012. On the tour, patrons viewed some of the techniques of handmade woodworking and learned about the architecture of Kintai Bridge from workers who helped to restore the original bridge.

CULTURAL NUMBERS

- 40** The average number of people who attend cultural adaptation trips.
- 30** The normal class size for the Survival Japanese class.
- 20** The regular occupancy for cultural adaptation educational classes.
- 3** Cultural adaptation offers cultural trips, survival Japanese classes, and educational classes.
- 1** Signup for events and classes starts one month prior to the event's start date.

"Our goal is for people to understand our culture and get to know about Japan. The program is like a first step for people to experience different things.

Akie Sumomogi, Marine Corps Community Services cultural adaptation specialist



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Patrons on a Cultural Adaptation trip take a look inside the Shirohebi Shrine at the White Snake Museum, Dec. 7, 2012. Station residents had the opportunity to view the inside of the shrine before it officially opened Dec. 16, 2012.



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

A station resident holds one of the snakes on display at the White Snake Museum as part of the Cultural Adaptation trip, Dec. 7, 2012. Patrons were able to learn about the history of the snakes and had the opportunity to hold one. The trip also included a tour of the Shirohebi Shrine, which is now open to the public.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



LANCE CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

A rifleman with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, suppresses targets in a fortified position during a live-fire exercise here, Jan. 4. The Marines and sailors of BLT 1/5 conducted this training to hone their combat skills in a jungle environment. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

31st MEU Marines conduct live-fire assault course

LANCE CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD
31ST MARINE
EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa, Japan — Maneuvering under the thunderous echoes emanating from mortar rounds hitting a fortified position ahead, the Marines bring the precision of an organized assault to the chaos of the battlefield.

Marines and sailors with Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a live-fire and maneuver exercise in a collection of hills and valleys here, Jan. 4, 2013.

One squad at a time, the Marines set out from their campsite to push their way through thick foliage and deep mud on the way to the target.

"These Marines are switching from warfighting in the desert to fighting in a dense, wet, and humid jungle," said Staff Sgt. Rick J. Meyers, a Platoon Sergeant with BLT 1/5, 31st MEU. "Being out here for a couple of days and doing non-stop training within this environment helps the Marines become more adept in

the jungle."

The objective of the exercise was to assault a simulated enemy fortification, complete with concertina wire barriers and sand bag bunkers. This would be a daunting task for a lone rifle squad, but the Marines in the assault were supported by the combined arms effects of a 60mm mortar team and a 240B machine gun team.

"You can never get enough really good training like this," said Pfc. Deron D. Evans, a rifleman with Company A, BLT 1/5, 31st MEU. "We hardly ever get to break out every piece of the puzzle during training, but here we get to use every asset needed to take a fortified enemy position."

A bombardment of mortars kept the enemy in their bunkers as the rifle squads' engineers set explosive charges on the concertina wire barriers. Upon detonation, the wire separated, leaving a clear path to the enemy bunkers. With support from the machine gun team, the Marine rifle squads made short work of the entrenched enemy.

Using live ammunition for the mortars, machine guns and rifles, makes the training as realistic



LANCE CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

Sgt. Gary E. Lehman, a squad leader with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, leads his squad through the thick jungle to begin a live-fire exercise here, Jan. 4, 2013.

as possible for the Marines. Each element must be well coordinated during the attack, to avoid the danger of friendly fire.

"Every Marine must know their target and what is beyond it," said Capt. Adam C. Stiles, commanding officer of Co. A., BLT 1/5, 31st MEU.

The training exercise is a part

of the BLT's pre-deployment training package for the 31st MEU's Spring Patrol. The patrol will require the Marines and sailors of BLT 1/5 to execute and teach their capabilities in a foreign environment, while learning new techniques and practices from allies during multi-lateral operations.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Substance Abuse Prevention

If you or anyone you know is struggling with substance abuse or are interested in more information on services provided, please contact the Substance Abuse Counseling Center at, 253-4526 or visit Building 411 Room 219.

MCX Closures

Due to annual inventory, the Marine Corps Exchange, Marine Marts, Furniture Annex and warehouse will experience the following closures. North Side Marine Mart will close Jan. 22, 2013, and will reopen following inventory. The main MCX and main Marine Mart will close Jan. 23. The main Marine Mart will reopen following inventory and the main MCX will reopen Jan. 24. The furniture Annex will close Jan. 23. The warehouse will close at noon Jan. 19 and will remain closed through Jan. 24. The warehouse will resume regular business hours Jan. 25 at 10 a.m.

Lending Locker Program

The Lending Locker Program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command-sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The Lending Locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

Off-limit Establishments

The following establishments in Iwakuni and Hiroshima are

hereby off-limits:

- The multi-tenant building "NOW" Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include, Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
- Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.
- Spice Ecstasy
- 4-4 Nagarekawa, Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan
- Buri Buri Nomi
- 1-18 Horikawa-cho, Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan
- Buri Buri Nomi
- 1-18 Horikawa-cho, Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan
- Joint
- 3-22 Yayoi i-cho Naka-ku Hiroshima City, Japan

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:

- Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
- Life limb or loss-of-vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911.
- From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
- Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For afterhours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement,

send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like to be published. Submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room

216 or you may call 253-5551. Please provide all the requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for all submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday.

MCAS TAX CENTER: FAST & FREE TAX SERVICE

Free Federal Income Tax Service

The MCAS Iwakuni Tax Center will open Monday, Feb. 5, 2013. The Tax Center is located on the first deck in Building 608 at the Station Judge Advocate's office. Hours of operation will be Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays in March from 8:00 a.m. to noon by appointment only.

Tax filers need to bring the following information:

- Proof of a valid social security number or ITIN Numbers for both the tax filer and all dependants claimed on this year's tax return
 - W-2 (wage and tax statement)
 - Form 1099 (interest statements from banks earned on savings or checking accounts)
 - Child care expenses
 - Records reflecting spousal or child support payments
 - Mortgage interest statement
 - Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions
 - Dividends, interest, and capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property
 - Charitable contribution records
- The general deadline for filing your tax year 2012 federal income tax return is April 15. For those stationed outside the continental U.S. the deadline is June 15.

Officer and Spouses' Club to host 10th Annual Asian Antiques, Furniture Auction

The MCAS Iwakuni Officer and Spouses' Club will host its 10th Annual Asian Antiques and Furniture Auction in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Feb. 2, 2013.

Each year, the OSC hosts an auction as a way to raise scholarship money for Matthew C. Perry High School seniors and active duty military spouses. One hundred percent of the money raised goes toward scholarships.

The Auction brings one-of-a-kind items from all over Asia, including decorated porcelain, lamps, hand-tied rugs, clocks, carved jade, silk screens, wall hangings, artwork and unique furniture of all shapes and sizes. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with a preview of the silent auction starting at 1 p.m. The live auction will start at 2 p.m. There will be several door prizes, plus free food while you shop. A \$5 paddle fee will be charged at the door. Cash payments for purchases will also be encouraged with a raffle.

The OSC respectfully requests that no children under age 12 accompany you to the event, since many of the items on auction are breakable. Babies in arms are okay, but please, no strollers.

For more information about the Asian Antiques and Furniture Auction or if you are interested in volunteering to help, please email Jamie Tippit at jamieblake@gmail.com or "Like" The OSC on Facebook at "McasIwakuni Osc".

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

Mon. — Thurs. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Lutheran Service
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
10:30 a.m. Children's Church
10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting
1 p.m. Contemporary
5:30 p.m. FLOW (Youth Group)

Monday 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
5 p.m. Working Women Bible Study

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Ladies' Tea
5:45 p.m. AWANA (Bldg. 1104)

2nd Saturday 7:30 a.m. Men's Discipleship

Bahai

Sunday 11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Photo of the week



Two shoppers look up at a sign outside of Tully's Coffee in Hiroshima, Japan, Jan. 12, 2013. If you would like to submit your own photo, you can submit to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or submit them in person at the Public Affairs Office in Building 1 Room 216. Entries will be judged by the Iwakuni Approach Staff and the top selection will run in the next edition of the Iwakuni Approach. For more information call 253-5551.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 18, 2013
7 p.m. Red Dawn (PG-13)
10 p.m. The Man with the Iron Fists (R)

Monday, January 21, 2013
7 p.m. Gangster Squad (R)

Tuesday, January 22, 2013
Theater closed

Saturday, January 19, 2013
4 p.m. Life of Pi (PG)
7 p.m. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

Wednesday, January 23, 2013
Theater closed

Sunday, January 20, 2013
4 p.m. Rise of the Guardians (PG)
7 p.m. Killing them Softly (R)

Thursday, January 24, 2013
7 p.m. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$3/ Ages 6-11 are \$1.50/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures 金閣寺

THE GOLDEN PAVILION : Kinkakuji



LANCE CPL. JAMES R. SMITH

Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) is a Zen temple in northern Kyoto whose top two floors are completely covered in gold. Formally known as Rokuonji, the Golden Pavilion became a Zen temple of the Rinzai section in 1408, after the death of shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. His grandson, Ashikaga Yoshimasa, built Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion) on the other side of the city decades later.

Throughout history, Kinkakuji has burned down numerous times, including twice during the Onin War, a civil war that destroyed the majority of Kyoto. The most recent fire occurred in 1950.

When the structure was rebuilt in 1955, it was designed with each floor representing a different

style of architecture. The first floor is built in Shinden style for palaces during the Heian period. The second floor is designed Buken style, for samurai residences. The top floor is a style of a Chinese Zen Hall.

Although the Golden Pavilion has been rebuilt numerous times, the land surrounding it has remained the same for hundreds of years, including a pond that is said to never dry up and statues that people throw coins at for good luck.

Tourists are able to enjoy this experience and more. There are tea houses where visitors can enjoy matcha tea and sweets. Souvenir shops are available for those looking for a memento to bring home.

Basketball tournament offers station residents new way to spend their holiday

LANCE CPL.
B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Teams are scheduled to compete in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Basketball Tournament Jan. 21, 2013, at the IronWorks Gym sport courts here.

The basketball tournament is an annual event that usually receives a lot of support. "The purpose is to build camaraderie, morale and a sense of teamwork amongst the troops," said Jason Knight, intramural sports coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services.

The event aims to bring out the competitive edge in participants while maintaining good spirits, he said.

"It's an opportunity for everyone to get together and honor Martin Luther King

Jr.," said John Baltazar, assistant athletic director for MCCS.

The tournament puts a new twist on how the holiday is traditionally celebrated. "It is something different because everyone goes to church and does their own celebration, but this is a way to get everyone together," said Baltazar.

The event draws a lot of attention and had more than 60 participants last year. "Every year we have it on Martin Luther King Jr. Day," said Baltazar. "We get a bunch of teams from around the base together and play basketball. We have awards and prizes, but this year it is going to be different because it is also a Commander's Cup event."

Although, coming out to play basketball is enough for most people, there are incentives for winning.

"First and second place teams both get trophies and there is also a most valuable player award, but for the Commander's Cup, first place will also get unit funds awarded to them as well as a separate trophy," said Baltazar.

Although having multiple teams means more competition, too many players on one team can be a bad thing. "We try to encourage teams to keep a minimum of five people but a maximum of about 12 or 13 because if teams have too many players, they're just not going to get a chance to play," said Baltazar.

While some station residents may spend their holiday eating fatty foods, others will spend it enjoying a workout with peers. "We are here to promote a healthy way of living and give people another option on how to spend their holiday," said Baltazar.

Tri'd Japan prepares station residents for Goodwill Triathlon

LANCE CPL.
B. A. STEVENS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents have the opportunity to prepare for the Goodwill triathlon with the aquatics department "I Tri'd Japan" program.

"I Tri'd Japan is a program where participants bike, swim and run the total distance from Kagoshima to Sapporo, which is 1,454 miles, or 2,340 kilometers," said Stephanie Brown, Aquatics Manager for Marine Corps Community Services.

I Tri'd Japan started Jan. 1, 2013, and lasts until September 3, 2013, when The IronWorks Gym hosts the annual Goodwill Triathlon.

"Anyone who has access to the gym is welcome to come and compete," said Brown.

Participants must do at least one event a week during the eight-month challenge.

"Participants need to do 30 miles per week to stay on track and complete the event in time," said Brown. If you want to be one of the first 100 done and receive a T-shirt, you might want to do a little bit more.

Participants track their own progress and use the integrity system. The front desk, pool and aquatics center provides booklets to track weekly progress.

WaterWorks will also provide booklets when it re-opens in the spring. Participants may track their distance in kilometers or miles, but must keep the same measuring method throughout the entire event.

There are no restrictions as far as how to bike, swim or run. Competitors are welcome to do as they please.

"Some people can't run so they can walk. Other people struggle with swimming so they can get in with a kick board or use fins," said Brown. "The idea is for people to just be more active."

Program organizers encourage participants to break away from their comfort zone and what they excel at.

"For me, swimming is my job so it's something I do well, but biking will be difficult," said Brown.

Competitors are encouraged to stick out the eight month challenge and complete the 1,454 mile journey while improving their physical fitness at the same time.

"The idea was that with the New Year a lot of people would try to get in shape and this program is one way to do that," said Brown.

Anyone interested can pick up a booklet at The IronWorks gym and start the challenge.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Jan. 17, 1975, issue of the "Torii Teller," Marines reported on Maj. Gen. Norman W. Gourley assuming command of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, replacing Maj. Gen. Victor A. Armstrong, the construction of a Harrier pad and VMCJ-1 named Outstanding Electronic Warfare Squadron of the year.

1stMAW Gets New CG Today

MajGen. Norman W. Gourley is scheduled to assume command of the 1stMAW here today at 2 p.m. replacing MajGen. Victor A. Armstrong.

The change of command ceremony is planned for the MAG-15 flight line. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Hangar 1510.

General Armstrong, on orders to Headquarters Marine Corps for duty as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Aviation, has served as the wing commander here since last April.

General Gourley arrived here Jan. 16 from his previous assignment as Director of the Plans Division at HQMC, a post which he has held since May 1973.

General Gourley, no stranger to the 1stMAW, has served with elements of the 1stMAW on four previous occasions during his career. In 1946 the General served as a fighter pilot with VMF(N)-533 in Peiping, China. During the Korean Conflict he served as a pilot in com-

bat operations flying the F-7F and F-3D aircraft with VMF(AW)-513. In 1958 General Gourley joined VMF-251, an F-8 squadron, as executive officer.

His most recent tour with the Wing came in 1968 when he served as the commanding officer of MAG-13 and later assistant chief of staff G-4 (logistics) at the 1stMAW Headquarters in Vietnam.

Prior to serving at HQMC General Gourley served as the Deputy Direc-

Another highlight of the General's career came when, as commanding officer of VMFA-323, his squadron participated in the 1965 Dominican Republic Crisis, operating from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

General Gourley joined the Marine Corps as a Naval Aviation Cadet in June 1942, and was commissioned a second lieutenant and designated a Naval aviator in June 1943. He received his second star rank, major general, some 30 years later, in 1973, while at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Among the General's medals and decorations are the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and gold star in lieu of a second award of that medal, four Distinguished Flying Crosses and 12 Air Medals.

Harrier Pad Under Construction

A Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing (V/STOL) Pad, currently under construction here, is scheduled for completion Feb. 1.

The AV-8A Harrier, flown by VMA-513, will use the V/STOL Pad being constructed adjacent to the south taxiway. Working on the project is the Iwakuni Detachment of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40.

The V/STOL Pad consists of a 200 by 204 foot square of steel matting over which is centered 72 square feet of quarter-inch diamond steel plate. The pad is being constructed because the Harrier generates a highly centralized area of heat which causes damage to the runway. Cost of the new pad is approximately \$17,000.

VMCJ-1 Receives Old Crow Award

VMCJ-1 has been named the Marine Corps' Outstanding Electronic Warfare Squadron of the year by the Association of Old Crows.

MajGen. Victor A. Armstrong, 1stMAW CG, presented the award to VMCJ-1's CO, LtCol. William O. Bloomer, Jan. 9.

The Association of Old Crows, an organization of civilian and military people with an interest in electronic warfare, recently established the award. It will be presented annually to a unit in each of the services that makes significant contributions to the field of electronic warfare.

About The Cover

SSgt. John H. Henderson of the Station Photo Lab created this unusual photograph depicting the highlight of a change of command ceremony. This afternoon MajGen. Norman W. Gourley is scheduled to assume command of the 1stMAW.



MAJGEN. GOURLEY

tor for Operations, Headquarters, United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany.



MAJGEN. VICTOR A. ARMSTRONG, 1STMAW CG, RECEIVED THE COMMEMORATIVE BADGE JAN. 8 IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RENDERED TO THE JAPANESE MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE. RADM. MASASUKE MIYAZAWA, COMMANDER, FLEET AIR WING 31 HERE, MADE THE PRESENTATION.