

**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**  
10 pages highlighting last year's events  
2009

**WINTER WONDERLAND**  
Marines take on Mount Mizuho | Coming next week  
FEATURE

**SPECIAL MEAL**  
North and Southside mess halls invite service members, civilians to Martin Luther King, Jr. meal Jan. 17  
CUISINE

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 1, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



# 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

SGT. JOSH COX

## JANUARY

**Jan. 12**

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 held a field training exercise at Penny Lake to prepare for future deployments

**Jan. 13**

The Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic hosted a Healthcare Consumer Council meeting for the community

**Jan. 16**

IronWorks indoor pool gym closed for renovations due to the Congressionally-enacted Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

**Jan. 23**

Lt. Col. Chris Pappas III assumed command of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 during a change-of-command ceremony

**Jan. 28**

Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders visited the station as part of their Pacific tour to provide entertainment to U.S. military personnel overseas

**Jan. 30**

Exercise Total Shield 2009 kicked off testing the station's ability to simultaneously support operations and defend itself against simulated attacks

**VMFA(AW)-242 gets new commander**

**Jan. 23**

Lt. Col. Chris Pappas III assumed command of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 during a change-of-

command ceremony here. At right, Lt. Col. Douglas S. Mayer passes on the VMFA(AW)-242 colors to Pappas during the ceremony.



CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

**Exercise Total Shield 2009 kicks off**

**Jan. 30**

Exercise Total Shield 2009 kicked off to test the station's ability to simultaneously support operations and defend itself from simulated terrorist attacks.

At right, a Marine posts security along the sea wall during a simulated expected enemy offense.



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

**Vikings Cheerleaders visit station service members**

**Jan. 28**

Fourteen of the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders visited the station as part of their Pacific tour sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the official Department of Defense

agency for providing entertainment to U.S. military personnel overseas. At left, eight of the Vikings Cheerleaders pose with a Combat Logistics Company 36 Marine during a meet and greet.



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# FEBRUARY

**Feb. 5**

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron launched first ever station defense during exercise

**Feb. 6**

Exercise Total Shield ended here after training with JGSDF

**Feb. 13**

Changes made to kindergarten entrance age

**Feb. 17**

Exercise Cobra Gold 2009 comes to an end

**Feb. 18**

ServMart holds grand opening

**Feb. 20**

Station pays tribute to fallen Marine Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen

**Feb. 25**

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Combat Logistics Company 36 compete in Far East Competition

## Total Force, Active Shield come to end

**Feb. 6** Exercise Total Shield 2009 ended Feb. 6 after bilateral training with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force here. Two main goals of Total Shield, which was a combination of

exercises Total Force and Active Shield, were to test standard operating procedures and continue to build relations with the JGSDF. Total Force was an exercise created to test the station's

security strengths and weaknesses while Active Shield was an opportunity for bilateral training with the JGSDF. The exercises were combined to better test the station's capabilities.

## DoDEA announces kindergarten changes

**Feb. 13** ARLINGTON, Va. — DoDEA made an important change to its entrance age eligibility requirement that affected the Kindergarten Program for the 2009-2010 School Year.

The entrance eligibility birth date was adjusted from Oct. 31 to Sept. 1. That means a child must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 to enroll in kindergarten.

The change aligns DoDEA with national trends as well as the age requirement in many military-impacted states.

This change also affects students in DoDEA's Pre-Kindergarten, Sure Start, and first grade programs. A child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1 to attend Pre-Kindergarten or Sure Start and 6 years old by Sept. 1 to attend first grade. This decision is the result of careful consideration and coordination between parents, educators and school administrators as well as extensive coordination with the Military Services.

## Station pays tribute to fallen Marine

**Feb. 20** Station members gathered together at the chapel here in memory of Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen.

As a son, a brother, a friend and a Marine, Hansen was many things to many people, so when the tragic news of his death spread, family and friends felt everything from shock to denial.

A memorial ceremony was held at the chapel here.

Hansen, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was killed in action Feb. 14 in Afghanistan.

At right, a Marine says a prayer while placing his hand on Hansen's display during the memorial service.



LCPL CHRIS KUTLESA



SGT. JOSH COX

## Iwakuni Marines compete in Far East Competition

**Feb. 25** Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Combat Logistics Company 36 competed in the annual Far East Division Championship at Camp Hansen rifle and pistol range, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The Far East Division Championship is one of four division championships throughout the Marine Corps each year as part of the Competition-in-Arms Program to enhance the combat marksmanship proficiency of the Marine Corps.

# MARCH

**March 6**

Elementary students dressed up as their favorite storybook characters

**March 9**

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand** — U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and Republic of Singapore Air Force aviation units began Exercise Cope Tiger 2009

**March 10**

Marines and sailors here participated in the 300 Challenge, part of the Commander's Cup Challenge at the IronWorks Gym

**March 20**

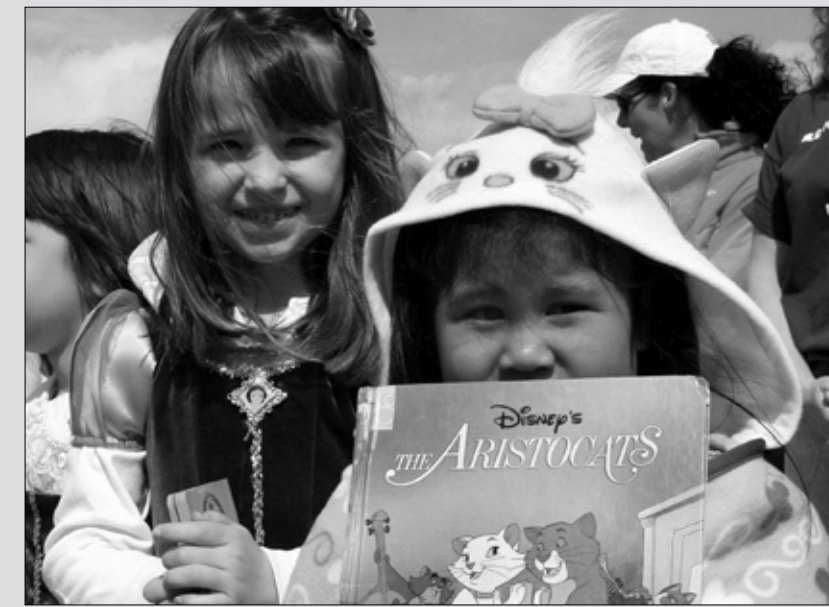
Marines competed in the 300 Challenge, part of the Commander's Cup Challenge at the IronWorks Gym

**March 20**

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand** — Exercise Cope Tiger 2009 came to an end.

**March 21**

U.S. Navy C-2 Greyhound Squadron left station after supporting Exercise Foal Eagle 2009



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

## Storybook character parade floods station

**March 6** Children from the Matthew C. Perry Elementary school dressed up as their favorite storybook characters here March 6.

Approximately 500 kindergarten through sixth grade students participated in the event that circled the crossroads before returning back to M. C. Perry.

## Marines, sailors, Japanese compete, forge running bonds of brotherhood

**March 10** The sun had just risen and groups of runners were already stretching in preparation for a fierce and friendly competition. The crisp ocean air swept across the crowd, leaving many participants' arms crossed and faces flushed. An announcement over the loud speaker called runners to the starting line. At the quick bang from a pistol, the runners leaped into action.

Marines and sailors here participated in the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force's 2009 Ekiden, or relay race, near the port here March 10.

JMSDF invited local U.S. service members to the event that has become an annual day of fun and exercise along with the opportunity to build relationships within units and the community.

Forty JMSDF teams and three U.S. teams participated in the event. Each team participating in the race was made up of a diverse range of runners, men and



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

women, young and old.

Above, Lance Cpl. Brandon S. Swecker with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 passes off the sash to Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Buckley, a military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## Aviation units kick off Cope Tiger

**March 9** **KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand** — U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and Republic of Singapore Air Force aviation units began Exercise Cope Tiger 2009.

Cope Tiger is an annual multi-lateral joint and combined field training exercise conducted to improve U.S., Thai and Singapore readiness and interoperability with an overall participation of approximately 2,300 service members.

Iwakuni-based pilots and maintenance personnel of Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All-Weather) 224, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 supported the exercise.

Cope Tiger includes dissimilar basic fighting maneuver training, close air support training, tactical airdrop training and large force employment training.

Above, two VMFA(AW)-224 F/A-18D Hornets take to the skies during exercise Cope Tiger 2009.

## Cope Tiger ends

**March 20** **KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand** — U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and Republic of Singapore Air Force personnel officially brought exercise Cope Tiger 2009 to an end here.

This was the 15th year Cope Tiger has brought U.S., Thai, and Singaporean forces together to strengthen their relationship through participation in various training scenarios.

Supporting the exercise, were Iwakuni-based pilots and maintenance personnel of Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.

## Greyhounds fly out as Foal Eagle 2009 ends

**March 21** A visiting U.S. Navy C-2 Greyhound squadron left the station after supporting Exercise Foal Eagle 2009.

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30, Detachment 4 (VRC-30, Det 4) is based out of North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego, Calif. and was attached to USS John C. Stennis Carrier strike group during its six-month deployment to the Pacific.

The squadron arrived here March 11 as the carrier group began engaging in Exercise Foal Eagle 2009.

Foal Eagle is an exercise conducted annually between the United States and Republic of Korea forces.

# APRIL

**April 1**  
The indoor pool at the IronWorks Gym reopened

**April 1**  
M.C. Perry took gold in Far East JROTC Competition

**April 3**  
Foil Eagle 2009 came to a close

**April 4**  
First Patriot Express flight landed

**April 11**  
Station members competed in Strongman Competition for Commanders Cup

**April 18**  
Youth baseball season began

**April 19**  
43rd Annual Kintai Marathon brought more than 1,000 runners

## M.C. Perry takes top honors in annual JROTC competition

**April 1** Matthew C. Perry High School took top honors in this year's Far East Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Competition, here.

A total of 12 schools from military installations across the Pacific region came to Iwakuni to participate in the three-day competition.

The M.C. Perry JROTC cadets impressed the Marine judges by showing professionalism, physical fitness, leadership traits and proficiency in marksmanship and drill.

The cadets received gold medallions in all three event areas and swept away their competition.

At right, M.C. Perry's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps performs close order drill during the competition.



CPL. DANIEL NEGRETE

## Exercise Foal Eagle 2009 comes to close

**April 3** Marine Aircraft Group 12 participated in Exercise Foal Eagle 2009 from March 30 to April 3.

Foal Eagle is an annual field exercise which combines joint U.S. and Republic of Korea

forces in simulated air-to-air and air-to-ground combat scenarios.

The exercise tested the ROK's ability to defend itself against invading forces and incorporates all branches of the U.S. military and ROK forces.

## First Patriot Express lands

**April 4** The return of the Patriot Express provides flights from and to Seattle, Tokyo, Iwakuni and Misawa.

At right, Cpl. Melissa Cerasuolo with the Air Terminal Division



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

welcomes passengers unloading from the newly returned Patriot Express.

## Participants weigh in to test strength during Commander's Cup Strongman Competition

**April 11** Community members from around the station participated in the Strongman Competition at Penny Lake here.

Marines and sailors competed in the event to earn bonus points for the Commander's Cup.

The competition consisted of five events, including the farmer's walk, tire flip, log press, crucifix and the Hum-vee pull.

The competition started off at 7 a.m. with weigh-ins. Weight classes were broken down into five groups,

two for females and three for males.

At left, Vickie Feyedelem, a contestant in the 131-pound or more weight class, pulls a 2-ton truck in the final event of the competition. Feyedelem won 3rd place in her weight class.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

## 43rd Annual Kintai Marathon brings more than 1,000 runners

**April 19** The air smelled of sunscreen and Bengay as community members and Japanese nationals of all ages prepared for the 43rd Annual Kintai Marathon at the IronWorks Gym here.

The event consisted of a 13-mile half-marathon, a 26-mile marathon and a five-kilometer walk.

More than 1,000 contestants, young and old, attended the marathon in everything from Marine

Corps green-on-green to florescent-colored running suits.

Runners ran the race individually and in teams, some with their children in strollers.

The marathon brought together community members from around the station and from around Japan to do what they all love to do ... run.

At left, marathon runners kick off the event at the sound of a gun shot.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

# MAY

**May 1**  
A new policy came into effect potentially cutting enlisted personnel tours in the Pacific Theater from 24-month tours to 18-month tours

**May 1**  
Station command issued warnings against using Hydroxycut due to health concerns

**May 5**  
36th annual Friendship Day attracted more than 275,000 visitors to the station

**May 22**  
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 finished Exercise Thunder Horse 2009 which took place at the sports fields of Penny Lake

**May 22**  
Twenty-six teams made up of Marines and sailors competed in the Amazing Race which tested each competitor's mental and physical abilities

**May 26**  
South African-bred rock band Seether held a concert on the parade field across from Building 1

## Tour changes get 1st-termers deployed

**May 1** A new policy which requires all first term unaccompanied, enlisted Marines who arrive here after May to potentially serve 18-month tours vice 24-month tours came into effect.

The policy applies to all III Marine Expeditionary Force and addresses the commandant's intent of getting every Marine to the fight.

Under the new policy, Headquarters Marine Corps will identify Marines who are eligible for 18-month conversion once the Marine has been on station for 12 months without deploying.

Despite the policy's intent to get Marines to the fight, tour conversions are still an option available to all Marines here.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

## Friendship Day welcomes more than 275,000

**May 5** It was a day of food, fun and flights as more than 275,000 visitors swarmed the air station for the 36th Annual Friendship Day.

The highlights of the event included aerial demonstrations

by the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force's Blue Impulse, Marine Aircraft Group 12, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, and a man with a jetpack flying through the air.

Other attractions included static Japanese and American

military aircraft displays, a car show and a motorcycle rally which included more than 2,000 bikes.

Above, visitors tour the Japanese and American aircraft on display at the apron line during Friendship Day 2009.

## Field exercise Thunder Horse 2009 ends

**May 22** Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 held a five-day training evolution at the athletic fields near Penny Lake as a build-up exercise, giving the Marines refresher training on convoy operations and other common field procedures for the squadron's future deployments.

"Everybody has to start from the basics," said Gunnery Sgt. Matthew F. Byers, MWSS-171 maintenance platoon chief. "We have to use what we have right now. If we continue to wait and wait and wait, we'll probably never get any training done."

The exercise concentrated on teaching junior Marines how to apply their jobs in a field environment. Exercise Thunder Horse also trained Marines on how to identify improvised explosive devices, and how to properly execute security patrols and reaction drills.

## Seether rocks station with South African grunge

**May 26** South African-bred, L.A. based hard rock band Seether made its way to Iwakuni during a one-week United Service Organizations tour of Japan.

The band performed an awe-inspiring hour and a half show at the parade deck here that evening to show appreciation for the armed services.

At right, lead singer Shaun Wegemoed and lead guitarist Troy McLawhorn rock out to their favorite song "Out of My Way."



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

# JUNE

**June 10**

Eighteen Matthew C. Perry High School seniors received their diplomas during a graduation ceremony at the Sakura Theater

**June 11**

Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson was appointed as squadron sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

**June 15**

**ELIESON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** — Exercise Northern Edge 2009 kicked off involving several units from the station

**June 19**

Col. Stephen G. Nitzschke took command of Marine Aircraft Group 12

**June 23**

**ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIR BASE KUANTAN, Malaysia** — Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 squared off with Mikoyan MiG-29s during exercise Air Warrior

**June 25**

Capt. Richard Pusateri, Marine Forces Pacific chaplain, visited the station while touring U.S. military bases in Japan

**June 26**

**ELIESON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** — Exercise Northern Edge 2009 ended over Alaskan skies



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

## MALS-12 gets new sergeant major

**June 11** Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson was appointed as squadron sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 during a post-and-relief ceremony at the multipurpose activity center dome here.

Patterson succeeded Sgt. Maj. James Kirkland, who became the Recruiting Station Twin Cities sergeant major.

Above, MALS-12 commanding officer Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle passes the sword to Patterson during the ceremony.

## Exercise Northern Edge 2009 kicks into high gear

**June 15 EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** — Exercise Northern Edge 2009 officially kicked off at numerous locations throughout Alaska.

Participants from all branches of the military trained together in order to hone their tactics,



STAFF SGT. ANDREW W. MILLER

techniques and procedures associated with defensive counter-air, close-air support, air interdiction of marine targets and personnel recovery missions.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni supported the evolution at Eielson Air Force Base with various components of personnel

including Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12 headquarters, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, and augmentees of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

## Headquarters Marines compete for chance to fly away on an F/A-18



CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ

**June 16** Wearing combat utility uniforms and flak jackets, athletes assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron competed in a Physical Fitness Test, Combat Fitness Test, a run through an obstacle course and more painful activities.

The grand prize: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ride in the backseat of an F/A-18 fighter jet in an upcoming deployment.

At left, Staff Sgt. Dominique G. Laboy, Super PFT winner and enlisted head of the passenger section at the air terminal here, raises his chin to complete 17 pull-ups while wearing a flak jacket during the Super Physical Fitness Test.

Laboy, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program black belt instructor, attributed his win to mental bearing alone.

## MAG-12 gets new commander

**June 19** Col. Stephen G. Nitzschke took command of Marine Aircraft Group 12 in a change-of-command ceremony in front of the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here.

Nitzschke succeeded Col. Mark R. Wise as the 96th



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

commanding officer of MAG-12.

Above, Nitzschke assures the crowd gathered during the ceremony in front of the VMFA(AW)-242 hangar that the legacy of MAG-12 would not change under his command.

## MARFORPAC chaplain lands in Japan

**June 25** Capt. Richard A. Pusateri, the Marine Forces Pacific chaplain, visited the station here during his tour of U.S. military bases in Japan.

Pusateri visited the station to better understand and meet the needs of service and community members here.

During his visit here, Pusateri met with Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, Lt. Col. Bret Saunders, executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 12, Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedele, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, and with some of the junior Marines and sailors.

# JULY | AUGUST

**July 1**

**ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIR BASE KUANTAN, Malaysia** — Exercise Air Warrior concluded

**July 6**

Combat Logistics Company 36 participated in exercise Dragon Fire 2009 at the base of Mount Fuji.

**July 10**

Marines compete in the Island Hop Challenges to win a seat aboard a C-12 slated to go to WWII sites in the South Pacific

**July 13**

Beaufort-based Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 arrived

**July 25**

**MISAWA AIR Base, Japan** — All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 participated in a week-long bilateral exercise Aviation Training relocation

**Aug. 3**

Marines traveled to legendary WWII sites in the South Pacific

**Aug. 20**

Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson was appointed as sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12

**Aug. 25**

Cmdr. Cesar A. Odvina was appointed as officer-in-charge of the Branch Health Clinic



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER M. BURKE

## CLC-36 fires up exercise Dragon Fire 2009

**July 6** The 15-day exercise ran until July 21 and took place at the base of Japan's 12,388-foot active volcano, Mount Fuji. Sixty-eight Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines and sailors participated in "Table

2" field fire exercises, crew-served weapons training, land navigation, night firing and a final training evolution to the mountain's summit.

The unit typically heads to the training ground with Marine Wing Support

Squadron 171. This year, they went alone.

While there, the unit focused on building small-unit leadership skills while enhancing weapons handling.

At left, Cpl. Robert Giuliani, a CLC-36 Marine, fires tracer rounds from a 240G medium machine gun during the night fire portion of exercise.

## Beaufort-based 'Hawks' swoop into Iwakuni

**July 13** Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533's main body arrived here from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for a six-month tour as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

Lt. Col. James E. Quinn commands the "Hawks," consisting of approximately 200 service members and about 10

F/A-18 aircraft.

During their tour here, Marines of VMFA(AW)-533 have participated in various exercises across the Pacific theater aimed at maintaining and improving combat readiness.

At right, two VMFA(AW)-533 pilots walk away from their jets moments after arriving here July 15.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## Chosen few visit legendary WWII sites in South Pacific

**Aug. 3** After competing in the Island Hop Challenges and winning seats aboard a C-12,

Marines here embarked on an 11-day expedition to various locations across the Pacific commemorating the Marine Corps 67th anniversary of World War II's Guadalcanal campaign. The nine Marines traveled to



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM KRUSE

Saipan, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Guam and Iwo-Jima.

Above, Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardes, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, helps fold an American flag over the ruins of a World War II tank in Saipan Aug. 4

## MALS-12 welcomes new top Marauder

**Aug. 20** Sgt. Maj. Drew C.

Benson was appointed as sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 during a relief-and-appointment ceremony on the parade deck in front of Building 1 here.

Benson succeeded Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson.

Patterson remained aboard the station as the MALS-12 aviation supply chief.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Above, Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle (left), MALS-12 commanding officer, passes the sword to Benson during the ceremony.

## Anchors away, new commander takes charge of BHC

**Aug. 28** Cmdr. Cesar A. Odvina was appointed as officer-in-charge of the Branch Health Clinic during a change-of-charge ceremony at the station chapel here.

Odvina succeeded Cmdr. William M. Wike, who was transferred to Marine Corps

Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Prior to assignment here, Odvina had assumed duties as the Defense Health Program Requirement officer as part of Chief of Naval Operations staff, Washington, D.C.

At the ceremony, Odvina

reminded the clinic staff of the challenges ahead and the importance of remaining vigilant and ready for those challenges.

At left, Odvina exits and salutes after assuming the position of officer-in-charge of the BHC during the ceremony.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

# SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 9**

32 townhouse units were made available for use after undergoing months of renovations

**Sept. 11**

Service members and civilians gathered in front of Building 1 to participate in the station's 4th annual Freedom Walk

**Sept. 12**

The 2009 Youth Soccer season kicked into action with an opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym here

**Sept. 17**

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Silver Eagles, arrived here

**Sept. 20**

The 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon was held here

**Sept. 22**

The deputy commandant for aviation and commanding general of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, along with 26 other distinguished guests, toured facilities here

**Sept. 27**

Marines and sailors from several units conducted a vertical replenishment of basic supplies to the station here



CPL KRISTIN E. MORENO

## Station reflects on 9/11

**Sept. 11** Service members and civilians gathered here in front of Building 1 to participate in the station's 4th Annual Freedom Walk. It has been eight years since Americans gathered around their televisions as the morning's terrorist attacks unfolded. The walk and chapel service meant many things to many different people. For those who remember the date like it was yesterday and for those who were too young to recall, the stories, pictures and memorials can only help keep alive the memories of those who were lost.



LANCIE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

## 26 teams get youth soccer season rolling

**Sep. 12** The 2009 Youth Soccer season kicked into action with an opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym here. A total of 26 teams gathered at the IronWorks gym to begin the nine-week season.

Following the ceremony, 13 teams battled out their first games.

## Silver Eagles arrive as Vikings sail away

**Sept. 17** Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Silver Eagles, arrived here from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for a six-month tour as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

VMFA-115 replaced Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Vikings, which returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Sept. 20.



LANCIE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## Station receives new, upgraded supplies

**Sept. 27** Marines and sailors from several units aboard the station, Helicopter Support Combat Squadron 25, and the USNS Alan Shepard (TAKE-3) conducted a vertical replenishment of basic supplies to the station here.

Many of the materials aboard the station have a shelf life and as they get

older need rework, so many of them were taken back to the manufacturers to be replaced or updated.

Personnel from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, including airfield operations and station ordinance, provided assistance in loading and receiving gear.

HSC-25, a unit deployed out of Guam, provided

helicopters and assisted personnel from USNS Alan Shepard in netting and rigging of the cargo.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 also joined to train for future operations.

Lt. Cmdr. Keith Applegate, the logistics officer here, said there was a lot of planning that went into the operation but that safety was most important.



LANCIE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

## 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon

**Sept. 20** The 22nd Annual Japanese and American Goodwill Sprint Triathlon was held here.

Approximately 284 Japanese and 65 American athletes gathered at the marina to kick off what would end up being an all-morning event.

The competitors were divided into categories determined by age, gender and by team or individual efforts.

Miki Takuya was the men's overall winner with a time of 2 hours, 8 minutes and 37 seconds, and the women's overall winner was Kishida Yuko.



LANCIE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Comfort and Care**  
Volunteers are needed for Operation Comfort and Care Jan. 11-17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Rebecca Streat at 253-3754 or [streatnr@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:streatnr@usmc-mccs.org).

**IT&T Service for Snow Days**

As long as the expressway is open, the Marine Corps Community Service Shuttle Bus service remains the same as normal. If the Expressway is closed, the service will be canceled and 100 percent will be refunded. Customers also need to bring in their luggage three days prior to flight day instead of two for luggage delivery service to the airport. For more information, call 253-4377.

**Upcoming American Red Cross Courses**

The following American

Red Cross Courses will be available in the month of January; the Family First Aid Course will be held Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon for \$20 or free for new parents, the Community First Aid Course will be held Jan. 18 1-6 p.m. for \$40, and the Adult, Child and Infant CPR/AED Course will be held Jan. 30 1-6 p.m. for \$40. For more information, call 253-4525.

**Pediatric Dental Specialist**

The dental clinic is pleased to announce a new patient service and improved capability to be available in 2010. Once a quarter or as the need dictates, a pediatric dental specialist for toddlers and children will be visiting from Okinawa. The first visit is scheduled for Jan. 25-29. Dental exams and treatment will be provided; however,

appointments will be limited. Call the dental clinic today for an appointment or for additional information at 253-3331.

**Wood Hobby Shop Temporarily Closed**

The Wood Hobby Shop, located on North side, will be closed until further notice. For more information, call 253-5284.

**UMUC Spring Registration**

Registration for spring sessions is underway. Registration is running until Jan. 18. On site classes start from Jan. 18 to Mar. 14. Distance Education classes start Jan. 25 to April 4.

**UMUC Advisor Visit**

The University of Maryland University College Academic Advisor will be visiting here Jan. 13-15 in Building 411 Room 110. The academic advisor's role is to advise students about how previous college credit may fit into their degree program, how they may use CLEP/DSST credits to fulfill UMUC requirements, and how military training might be usable in their

degree program. For more information, call 253-3392.

**CTC Spring Registration**

Registration for spring sessions is underway. Registration is running until Jan. 17 in Building 411 Room 109. Classes will begin Jan. 18. For more information, call 253-3288.

**Hornet's Nest Renovations**

The Hornet's Nest is currently undergoing renovations slated to be completed June 2010. The recreational areas will be under renovation until March 1. The gym area will be closed March 1-June 1. Single Marine Program trips will continue and can be paid for in the Cyber Café or the Marine Lounge. For more information, call 253-3585.

**Parent University Night**

A Parent University Night will be held Jan. 28 at the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here 6-8 p.m. Parents will rotate through sessions to discuss topics like study and test taking strategies and skills, handwriting skills and bullying. Bring your children to watch a movie as you learn some new ideas to bring new educational ideas to your home.

**Dental Assisting Training Program**

The American Red Cross is offering a Dental Assisting Training Program. To receive your certificate you will receive 40 hours of didactic course and 500 hours of supervised clinical experience and chair side instruction. The program must also be completed within six months of the start day. For more information, call 253-4525 or email [iwakuni@usa.redcross.org](mailto:iwakuni@usa.redcross.org)

**NMCRS Quick Assist Loans**

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is now providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information or to apply, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by their office located in the station chapel, room 148.

**Station Vandalism**

The Criminal Investigations Division is looking for information concerning vandalism as a result of graffiti at various locations aboard the air station. If you have any information, call 253-3333.

**M.C. PERRY HIGH HOMECOMING WEEK // JAN. 13, 1:45 PM., POWDER PUFF FOOTBALL AT THE SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC FIELDS // JAN. 14, 6 PM., BON FIRE/TRAIN RIDE AT PENNY LAKE // JAN. 15, 3 PM., CANDY LAND PARADE STARTS AT THE SCHOOL & LOOPS AROUND THE EXCHANGE, COMMISSARY & CHERRY BLOSSOM TRIANGLE. PARADE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL KANDY RAY AT 253-2096.**

## SAKURA THEATER

**Friday, January 8, 2010**

7 p.m. Avatar (PG-13)  
*Premiere*

**Saturday, January 9, 2010**

1 p.m. The Princess and the Frog (G)  
4 p.m. The Men Who Stare at Goats (R)  
7 p.m. Avatar (PG-13)

**Sunday, January 10, 2010**

1 p.m. Old Dogs (PG)  
4 p.m. Fourth Kind (PG-13)  
7 p.m. The Men Who Stare at Goats (R)

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

**General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$2.50/ Ages 6-11 are \$1/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.**

**Monday, January 11, 2010**

7 p.m. The Box (PG-13)  
*Last Showing*

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

*Closed H&HS Nightly PME*

**Wednesday, January 13, 2009**

7 p.m. Paranormal Activity (R)  
*Last Showing*

**Thursday, January 14, 2009**

7 p.m. Invictus (R)

253-5291

# CLASSIFIEDS

### Automobiles

**1994 Toyota Estima**  
JCI good until May 2011. Full power, seats seven, rear seat captain's chairs, snow chains for ski trips, sunroof, moon roof, parking sensors/radar, excellent condition. Asking \$2,300. For more information, please call 090-9684-1430.

### Miscellaneous

**57" Hitachi Ultravision Rear Projection TV**  
1080i HD TV in great condition. Asking \$500. For more information, please call 253-

2669 (home) or 253-4697 (work).

**Item for sale**  
Franklin Covey Binder with January - April 2010 planner for \$40. For more information, call 253-2128.

**Woodworking tools for sale**  
Craftsman 2-HP Router - \$55  
Craftsman Router Table - \$30  
Craftsman Dovetail Fixture Kit - \$25  
Craftsman 8 piece Router Bit Set - \$40  
Will sell everything for \$120. For more information, call 253-2128.

### Job Announcements

**Rainbow Home Day Care**  
Have openings for full-time, part-time, and hourly children from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays. Have 13 years of experience working with children, First-Aid and CPR certified, and have a degree in early childhood education. For more information, call 253-2246.

**NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities**  
Every day sailors, Marines and their families come to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Be that friendly person who lets them know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

**Career Transition Trainer**  
Inverness Technologies is seeking part time career transition trainer at MCAS Iwakuni. Will perform 1-2 workshops/month helping military members transition into civilian workforce. Some travel required. Must know U.S. job market & have experience in job search techniques. Experience in military and training, career counseling and/or HR desired. Training topics include: skill assessment, resume preparation, interview skills, job searching, etc. Send cover letter & resume: fax: 703-448-3075 or careers@invernesstechnologies.com.

**Dental Assistants**  
The dental clinic is seeking two motivated dental assistants for a great opportunity in dental healthcare services. For more information please stop by the Dental Clinic, Bldg. 111 or call 253-5252 or 253-3331 to speak with HM1 Taft or HMC Cadavos.

## Mess Hall Menu

### Monday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, chalupa, pot roast, steamed rice, parsley butter potatoes, corn on the cob, cauliflower au gratin, mushroom gravy, jalapeno corn bread, macaroni salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, double layer banana cake, butter cream frosting.  
Specialty Bar: Pasta

### Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, New Port fried chicken, lasagna, spinach lasagna, mashed potatoes, southern style greens, mixed vegetables, chicken or turkey gravy, garlic bread, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, buttercream frosting, coconut cream pie.  
Specialty Bar: Taco

### Wednesday

Special Menu: Louisiana gumbo soup, southern fried chicken, barbeque spareribs, southern fried catfish, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, orange glazed sweet potatoes, cream gravy, simmered black-eyed peas, southern style greens with ham hocks, standard salad bar, hot corn bread, assorted breads/ dinner rolls, pound cake, pecan pie, sweet potato pie.  
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

### Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken kiev, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, canned cream style corn, french fried cauliflower, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, pineapple upside down cake, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping.  
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

### Friday

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, roast turkey, breaded pork chops, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, club spinach, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, turkey gravy, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping.  
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

## Emergency phone numbers for the station

### Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Hotline 253-2837

This line should be used to report suspicious persons or vehicles, suspicious activities or to report people taking pictures aboard the air station

### All Emergencies 119 or 911

This line should be utilized for "life, limb or loss of vision threatening" emergencies, nearby building(s) on fire, medical assist, assaults, domestic violence, rape and sexual assaults, traffic accidents, hazardous material spills, dead persons or suspicious packages.

### From a Cellular Telephone (0827) 21-7700

This line should be utilized to report emergencies requiring bilingual capability (Japanese - English) or to report emergencies using a cell phone while aboard the station.

### Provost Marshal's Office - Security Issues 253-3303



**CRIME STOPPERS**  
MCAS IWAKUNI, JAPAN

Don't hesitate, please make the call. You don't have to talk to a person. Leave a detailed message and the Provost Marshal's Office will take care of the rest. The phone number is 253-3333

*Do your part!!*

# OCTOBER | NOVEMBER



- Oct. 8** The Patriot Express modified arrival and departure times for the new fiscal year
- Oct. 18** The 53rd Annual Iwakuni Festival in downtown Iwakuni attracted 97,000 visitors to the area
- Oct. 22** A closing ceremony marked the end of the Philippines Bilateral Exercise and Talon Vision 2010 in the Philippines
- Nov. 6** Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Operations dominated the 2009 Commander's Cup Challenge
- Nov. 6** The Japanese and American Friendship concert filled the station chapel with diverse music
- Nov. 20** The Thrift Store opened its doors to shoppers following a complete restoration project
- Nov. 30** The station unveiled a new F/A-18D Tactical Operational Flight Trainer 37 built by L-3 Communications to provide better training for pilots



## Special Olympics games unite brave athletes, station members

**Oct. 4** "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."  
In the tradition of athletes before them and echoing the same words, approximately 50 intellectually challenged athletes from Hiroshima and Yamaguchi Prefecture competed in the regional Special Olympic Games here. More than 40 station members and 130 support staff volunteered their time to help support the event which is observed by more than 3 million other individuals around the world. The athletes eagerly tried their skills and abilities in cycling, basketball games in the IronWorks Gym, Frisbee and soccer competitions at Penny Lake and bowling at the Strike Zone. To bring the day's event to an end, Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, and his wife, Candice O'Halloran, were on hand at the bowling center for the closing ceremony. O'Halloran and his wife presented participants with medals to commemorate the competitors' efforts during the games.

## American Idol, rising stars hit the stage

**Oct. 14** Within just a couple days of each other, platinum-artist Elliott Yamin and rising band Clarias both came to show their support for troops during a United Service Organizations tour throughout Guam and Japan. Screaming teenage girls rushed the stage as Yamin made his first appearance on the parade deck here Oct. 14. This was Yamin's second USO tour and seventh trip to Japan within the last year and a half. "I'm here for you guys," Yamin said. "The gratitude we get from the men and women of the armed forces is amazing, but we're just as grateful to you guys." The Boston-based band Clarias arrived in Iwakuni Oct. 16 just two days after Yamin's performance. The band of brothers and college friends made their way to Iwakuni after touring several military bases throughout Guam and Japan. Clarias' upbeat and lively music kept the crowd pumped up throughout their two-hour performance.

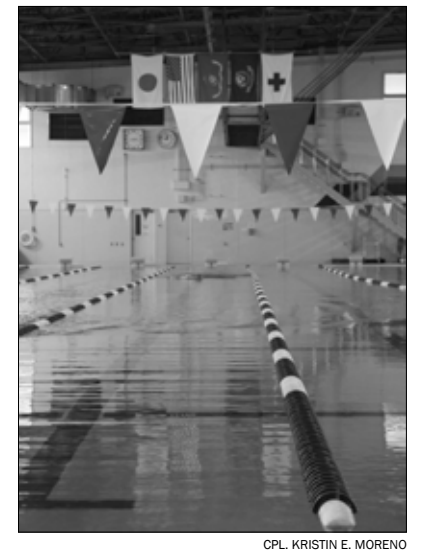


## Marines train, provide relief following typhoon Parma in Philippines

**Oct. 22 CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines** — A closing ceremony marked the end of the Philippines Bilateral Exercise (PHIBLEX) and Talon Vision 2010 at Clark Air Base, Philippines. The exercises began Oct. 13 despite the destruction and chaos caused by typhoon Parma. "I don't think there will ever be an exercise that has a perfectly timed natural disaster at the beginning and one looming at the end. I don't think we have ever seen anything quite like this," said Col. David R. Leppelmeier, commander of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force. Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines supported PHIBLEX and also participated in several humanitarian missions. Although MWSS-171 provided the most Marines, elements from Combat Logistics Company 36, Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 also participated. During the exercise, service members went to various locations affected by the typhoon to provide relief efforts. Over the course of the entire exercise, service members gave out food, clothing, toys and medicine. The Philippine and U.S. armed forces worked closely in order to conduct the bilateral training exercise and humanitarian mission simultaneously.

## Pool reopens after extensive renovations

**Nov. 4** The IronWorks Gym indoor pool reopened after four months of renovations. The original renovation plan was to replace the pool's heat exchangers and more than 200 floor tiles. Those plans were expanded soon after to include Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act compliant drain covers, new pool liners, pool-side benches and heated floor tiles around the entire pool area. The entire project cost \$1,176,720.70 and was funded by Headquarters Marine Corps.



## Marines train in Israeli close-combat

**Nov. 23** Marines trained with former members of the Israeli Special Forces in tactics used in V.I.P. protection Nov. 23-25. Israel's 60-plus-year history in counter terrorism has become a methodology, a methodology that translates in their martial arts, Krav Maga, to the way they protect high profile figures. Over the three-day-course, Marines found themselves running obstacle courses, simulating drive-by shootings, and practicing aggressive attacks. The training was just one of many Israeli close-combat courses conducted this year.



# DECEMBER

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**Dec. 2**

A tree lighting ceremony in Cherry Blossom Triangle kicked off the Christmas holiday season aboard MCAS Iwakuni

**Dec. 9**

The Harlem Ambassadors brought laughs and slam dunks during a special show in IronWorks Gym

**Dec. 12**

Marines and their families hosted a Christmas party for children from the Tsuta Orphanage at Aircraft Rescue Firefighting here

**Dec. 15**

Students of Matthew C. Perry Elementary School and Kawashimo Elementary exchanged Christmas wreaths at Iwakuni City Town Hall

**Dec. 19**

Marines, sailors and their families from MWSS-171 and the Marine Corps Exchange welcomed children from Yahata Children's Home during the annual Angel Tree gift exchange

**Dec. 26**

Crossfire Paintball Range opened at its new location inside Building 168



SGT. JOSH COX

## Bikers support Toys for Tots

**Dec. 6** More than 130 rumbling motorcycles invaded Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's streets during the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally here. The annual event, coordinated by the MCAS Iwakuni Motorcycle Club and Single Marine Program, promotes the Corps' Toys for Tots campaign, which collects new, unwrapped

toys each year and distributes the gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign is conducted. Mike Gingles, who served as a rally coordinator, said the ticket into the rally and ride is one new toy. The event provided live entertainment, food and games for participating riders. A mass "thunder run" ride around the

perimeter of the base united the cruisers, sport bikes and custom motorcycles. "Our mission is to build a better relationship with the community," Gingles said. Gingles said the rally events bring Japanese and American riders together to enjoy motorcycle culture and simultaneously raise funds for those in need.

## III MEF command master chief visits sailors

**Dec. 16** Master Chief Petty Officer Kevin Burg, III Marine Expeditionary Force command master chief, spoke to a group of Navy personnel in the Building 1 auditorium here during his station visit Dec. 16. Burg said his purpose in visiting the sailors was to keep them up-to-date with changes in the Navy and to ensure they are getting the support they require during their tour here.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

## Jingle Bell Jog unites community

**Dec. 21** More than 1,760 community members participated in the annual Jingle Bell Jog 1.5K fun run/walk this year. The event served as a community gathering and kicked off the 2010 Commander's Cup unit competition. Runners were encouraged to dress in their best holiday costumes for the event.

## MWSS-171, MCX welcome orphans

**Dec. 19** At right, Sgt. Mark Prado assembles a puzzle with a Japanese boy during the Yahata Children's Home visit here. Service members and families from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 hosted the charitable event.



SGT. JOSH COX



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

**Dec. 17** Petty Officer 1st Class Bobby Wilson (right) drills a hole into the wall of the Zero Hangar to mount a board for holding pictures during a clean-up and beautification project.

## ARFF, orphans share holiday cheer

**Dec. 12** Marines and their families threw a Christmas party for children from the Tsuta Orphanage at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting building here. Before the children began to play with their gifts, they first were served an American style Christmas meal. In order to pay for the food, the Marines from ARFF held fundraisers throughout the year.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA