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THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 4, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



BANG! BANG! BANG!

PISTOL TRAINING RELOADED

PHOTO STORY | p. 6,7

Marines aim at their targets on line during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21. Jamison Elder, a former recon Marine, designed the pistol training to help service members to be better equipped in today's combat theaters. Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection is better known as WOLF.T.R.A.P.P.

LANCE CPL CHRIS KUTLESA

Iwakuni says goodbye to Soba Shop

CONTRIBUTED BY MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Soba Shop first opened its doors in 1967 and become something of a local landmark.

For many it was the first taste of local cuisine, introducing newcomers to yakisoba, gyoza and other Japanese style dishes.

MCCS understands that this beloved establishment will be missed by many around the air station, but the health and welfare of its staff and patrons must come first, so it was decided that in the interest of public safety the restaurant must finally

SEE **CLOSING** ON PAGE 3

Free Wi-Fi to connect Iwakuni community to information highway

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services facilities are scheduled to provide free wired and wireless Internet at various locations around the station in late Febru-

SEE **WI-FI** ON PAGE 3

Veterinary Treatment Facility one-stop shop for your pet

ARMY CAPT. KIMBERLY YORE MCAS IWAKUNI VETERINARIAN

If you have a pet, chances are you have been to the Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility. The Iwakuni VTF is run by the Iwakuni Branch Veterinary Service, a unit of the U.S. Army Veterinary Command, and in many ways is just like a civilian veterinary clinic. The VTF offers routine vaccinations, sick call, dental cleanings and surgeries, and is even co-located with the MCCS boarding kennel and pet groomer. However, there are a few differences in the services

that you can expect in the VTF. The VTF maintains registration records for all pets living aboard the air station. Through these records, the VTF ensures that pet owners stay compliant with base and government of Japan animal regulations, such as the mandate to keep vaccines up to date. The VTF receptionist calls owners to remind them of when their pets' annual visit is due. If you have a pet, you must register it with the VTF. The VTF can also identify stray pets picked up by animal control. Registering your pet means

SEE **PETS** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Up with God!'

LT. NORBERT KARAVA
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

Of all the standards under which humanity has trod the path of its history, probably none has been more problematic and controversial than religion, which has survived every attempt of eradication by even the most violent and systematic of juggernauts.

The Marxist philosophers with whom I chatted into the wee hours of early morning on the clickity-clack trains of Communist Poland saw the withering of religion into historical irrel-

evancy within 30 years as more certain than the setting of the sun.

The most perfect of all atheist regimes, Albania under Enver Hoxha, in which not a single church, synagogue, mosque or temple was open and baptism was punishable by death, has passed and the faithful have returned to their sacred places with their prayers on their lips.

The Church has survived even the likes of the indomitable Jesse the Body Ventura, who proclaimed that "religion is for the weak-minded."

In the meantime, religion, whether we quibble over the epithet "fundamentalist" or not, has reasserted itself blatantly, to the embarrassment of its critics.

Pray tell, oh secular oracles of man not-in-the-image of God! What is it about man, since emerging from the mists of his own unclear past, inspires him to reach, not only beyond his mere self, but causes him to pine for the uncreated and divine?

The wonders of nature, the glorious risings and settings of the sun, the mountains, the seas, our relationships, friendships, romances, empires, victories, pyramids, trophies, trinkets, republics and all our various other baubles notwithstanding, there it is, the protest of the heart that brings about the most radical of all postures of the spirit, otherwise known as "religion."

"The world is not enough!"

"Blast from the Past"

A live 2-hour radio show featuring the best of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Every Monday 7 - 9 p.m. on power 1575.



AFN: Keeping Iwakuni entertained, informed through Power 1575

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER J. PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

"It's Saturday morning," said Cpl. Emari Traffie, American Forces Network noncommissioned officer in charge here. "You're listening to the Sound Barrier on Power 1575."

AFN is Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan's public interactive powerhouse of music, daily news, and information for service members and their families on base to stay informed and up-to-date.

Live radio shows are hosted by a team of Iwakuni's own Marine disc jockeys.

Listeners can rock out on weekdays to popular music on Morning Powerhouse with Cpl. Rachael K. Moore from 6 to 9 a.m. or tune in to PM Powerplay with Lance Cpl. Bradley Hanson in the afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m.

"It is kind of like the drive

home music with emphasis on the top 40 charts from the United States," said Hanson.

AFN also switches it up day-by-day with older music from different genres such as R&B, 80s and classic oldies.

Listeners are strongly encouraged to call in requests during any live show, said Moore.

Those interested in staying informed about MCAS Iwakuni can tune into the Commander's Corner every other Monday on the Morning Power House.

"It's geared toward command-interviews to talk about things going on around the air station," Hanson said.

In between songs, AFN also broadcasts an array of valuable information in news and sports, a 96 hour weather forecast, mess hall lunch menus and TV line ups.

AFN also hosts the Birthday Break as part of a monthly giveaway.

On the last Friday of every

month, AFN gives away a cake for the upcoming month, Moore said.

At the end of January, AFN plans to have an MCCS employee throw a dart at a board full of names and whoever it lands on will win a free birthday cake, she said.

On Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m., there is an open slot for guest DJs to come on the show. People can try their hand in radio broadcasting, learn the ropes and share their favorite playlist of music with a listening audience.

Those interested in becoming a guest DJ call 253-5661 and ask for the Radio Department to sign up.

To request a favorite song on the radio, or inquire about guest DJ opportunities call 253-1575 or 0827-79-1575 if calling from a cell phone.

AFN can also be contacted by e-mail at Power1575.Radio@usmc.mil.



"Eat your 80s" — A live 1-hour radio show that features the best 80s music. Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

Wi-Fi installation to begin, improve quality of life

WI-FI FROM PAGE 1

ary.

Locations slated to offer the service include the Crossroads Mall, Crossroads Café, Single Marine Lounge, Strike Zone, IronWorks Gym, Hornets Nest, Youth Center in Building 558, Youth and Teen Center in Building 443, Child Development Center Buildings 636 and 637, Buildings 444, 1188 and 1104, the station library in Building 411, and the Club Iwakuni dining rooms, ballrooms and possibly the outside 2nd deck patio area.

"This (new service) allows every member of the Iwakuni community an additional way to connect with friends, family and services offered over the Internet," said Mark S. Shoebrook, MCCS management information systems officer. "A quick chat session over lunch with a friend or loved one can have an immeasurable effect on an individual's morale and readiness."

The new Internet service being provided is not a replacement or substitute for paid Internet access, just another avenue offered to stay connected and bring some improvement to the station's quality of life, Shoebrook said.

The Wi-Fi service will be an open network which requires no sign-up process and will be accessible by various Wi-Fi enabled devices.

Although there is no limit to the number of people who can use the Internet service, the available bandwidth is not unlimited and areas with high traffic could experience a slow network connection.

"Because this is an open network with limited content filtering, patrons should be mindful of the content they surf and the people around them," said Shoebrook. "Also peer-to-peer, like Limewire file sharing, may monopolize bandwidth and make the experience for others around them less enjoyable."

Shoebrook said he also recommends patrons fully charge the batteries to their Wi-Fi devices if they plan to use the Internet for an extended period of time since not all locations slated to offer the service have easy access to a power outlet.

Some of the station members have already expressed excitement at the possibility of the new service.

"It's something that's definitely been needed," said Adam Wilburn, a frequent patron of the Crossroads Café. "I come to the coffee shop a lot and people always come and ask me 'is there Wi-Fi here', 'is it free', or 'how do I get it' and so offering the service will be much more beneficial because a lot of people are looking for that service."

Wilburn said he also believed offering free Wi-Fi could help community business sales go up because the service will attract more people to the areas where the Internet is offered.

Wilburn said, "Because of the extra patrons looking for Wi-Fi, the vendors and the shops will be making more money and that money will then come back into the community, so it will help out all around."

Soba shop to close its doors



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

The Soba Shop here is scheduled to close after 43 years of business.

CLOSING FROM PAGE 1

shut its doors.

Over the years, the restaurant has fed a multitude of patrons, which has taken its toll on the facility. Four decades of daily wear and tear have created various, unacceptable hazards to patrons and workers.

Many attempts have been made to address the issues, but the process often caused more damage to the structure than it corrected. As one of the oldest buildings on the air station, repairs exceeding the cost of a new facility would be required to make the building structurally sound and health code compliant.

With the expansion of the air station already in progress, a new, stand-alone building is already in the works and is

expected to launch sometime in 2014 with great food. The new facility will be able to accommodate base personnel looking for an alternate dining experience than those currently available.

To keep the Soba Shop legacy alive in Iwakuni, patrons can still choose from a selection of their favorite Soba dishes from the Soba Express, located in the Crossroads Mall.

The new Soba Express will have the convenience of being located with the other franchises, so the whole family can get the food they want. It will also be closer to the bus route for automotive challenged patrons.

Updates and additional information will be posted at www.mccsiwakuni.com/soba as it becomes available.

VTF changes to go into effect Feb. 1

PETS FROM PAGE 1

peace of mind if he gets lost. Be sure to transfer registration of your pet if you give it to someone else.

The VTF can also help you find a new pet or a new home for your existing pet in the event that you have to leave him behind when you deploy or PCS. While there is no animal shelter on base, the VTF keeps a list of people seeking pets and can help link up pets with new owners.

Unlike a civilian veterinarian, services are sometimes not available because of other mission requirements. There is only one veterinarian at the VTF who also serves as the officer-in-charge of the Iwakuni Branch Veterinary Service. Supporting three installations (Iwakuni, Kure and Sasebo) and sustaining a mission that provides veterinary care to pets and military working dogs, animal control, public health and food safety, it is no wonder that the veterinarian is not always in. The Army veterinarians in Japan also provide veterinary services for exercises such as Cobra Gold in Thailand, adding to things between which the veterinarian's time is divided.

Since the veterinarian is often TAD, it is advisable to know the locations and hours of off-

base veterinarians in the event you need to use their services. The VTF can provide you with information about off-base veterinary clinics that speak English.

If you are a regular customer, you may notice some changes to the VTF starting Feb. 1. The changes are part of a veterinary command initiative to assume fiscal responsibility of its over 180 clinics around the world from the local installations. Historically, each VTF has been associated with other installation operations such as the bowling alley, club, etc.

The VTF hires civilian personnel to aid in meeting its goal of providing the highest quality, accessible veterinary care at the lowest possible price. Your fees at the VTF pay for the civilian employees as well as the drugs, supplies and some equipment used to care for your pet.

Once the transition of all VTFs to a consolidated fund is complete, the VTFs will have greater flexibility to expand their services. However, since there has never been a consolidated veterinary operating fund before, some of the fees will be raised across the command in order to raise working capital. One of the changes is the addition of an exam fee. In the past, appointments with the veterinarian were free. Now a \$25 exam fee will be charged

for visits with the veterinarian and a \$10 fee will be assessed for visits with the veterinary technician.

In addition, the VTF is now offering wellness packages. The comprehensive care provided in the wellness packages, when done at least once or twice a year is the most important preventative measure that you can provide for your pet. Vaccinations are just one component of the wellness package. The screening provided by the wellness exam in combination with the diagnostic testing creates an opportunity for detecting and preventing medical problems at an early stage. The packages were created with the unique needs of the mobile, military pet population in mind and are designed to streamline your clinic experience. Additionally, the wellness packages are discounted, so you will pay about what you paid in 2009 for your pet's annual veterinary visit.

Remember, animals age at a much faster rate than humans, so a once yearly exam is similar to a human getting a physical every 5-7 years. Be sure to register your pets so that the Iwakuni VTF can remind you to bring your pet in for his annual visit. The clinic is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. - noon and 1-5 p.m.

TATTED UP? THINK BEFORE YOU INK



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Tattoos are one thing almost all Marines have in common. If they don't have one of their own, they definitely know someone who has several. In today's American society, it is very common to have a tattoo.

Tattoos have been used throughout time as a way to express social, cultural and individual identities, but according to the amplification of the Marine Corps tattoo policy, the growing trend of excessive tattoos limits world-wide assignability of Marines and detracts from the Marine Corps' distinguished appearance.

Because of this, MARADMIN 029/10 provides clarity, additional guidance and a single source document for the official Marine Corps tattoo policy.

This MARADMIN provides the consolidated and updated policy and takes precedence over all previous MARADMINS.

The policy's overall intent is to ensure Marines can be assigned whenever and wherever they are needed and to maintain the professional demeanor and the high standards expected from the Marine Corps.

Commanders of Marines who do not meet the guidance contained in the policy will be responsible for taking action in grandfathering those Marines.

PROHIBITED TATTOOS

Tattoos/brands that are sexist, racist, eccentric or offensive in nature.

Tattoos/brands that express an association with conduct or substances prohibited by the Marine Corps drug policy.

Tattoos/brands that depict vulgar or anti-American content, bring possible discredit to the Corps, or associate the Marine with any extremist group or organization.

Head or neck tattoos.

Sleeve tattoos.

Half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoos that are visible outside of standard PT gear.

Tattoos on the hands, fingers and wrists.

Tattoos in the mouth.

Enlisted: Band tattoos larger than one quarter of respective body part's exposed surface while wearing the PT uniform.

Officers: Band tattoos with width more than two inches.

LADIES

Foot and leg tattoos

Tattoos/brands will not be visible or apparent on the feet or legs when wearing the Service A, Blue Dress A/B, Blue-White A/B, or the evening dress uniforms.

Exception: Formal inspections as prescribed by commanders or Inspector General teams.

OFFICERS

Officers are limited to no more than four tattoos visible in standard PT uniform.

Band tattoos exceeding a maximum width of two inches are prohibited.

Enlisted Marines with previously grandfathered sleeve tattoos are not eligible for a Marine Corps commissioning or warrant officer program.

DEFINITIONS

Sleeve Tattoo: Very large tattoo or collection of tattoos that covers, or almost covers, a person's entire arm or leg. A half/quarter sleeve tattoo is a very large tattoo or collection of tattoos that covers the entire portion of an arm or leg above or below the elbow or knee.

Band Tattoo: A tattoo which partially or fully encircles the circumference of the body part.

One Tattoo: One or multiple tattoos spaced apart that can still be covered by a circle with a diameter of 5".

The Neck: Any portion above the collarbone in the front area, above the cervical vertebrae in the back area, or otherwise visible due to the open collar of the short sleeve khaki shirt.

Excessive Tattoos: When the combined tattoo coverage on a body part exceeds one-quarter of the respective body part's exposed surface while in the PT uniform.

HAITI UPDATE: MARINES, SAILORS PROVIDE RELIEF, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

One brick at a time: SCMAGTF assists Haitians in cleaning up destruction, rebuilding lives

2ND LT. NICOLE TEAT
SPECIAL CONTINGENCY
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK
FORCE AFRICA

NEPLY, Haiti — Beads of sweat rolled down the Marines' foreheads, acting as a magnet for the fine, white dust that permeated the air as they cleared a pile of cinderblocks that had once formed a large house.

Marines with the Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force, Africa Partnership Station 10, currently operating from the New Missions Compound, spent the morning helping the surrounding community move damaged structures and clean up piles of rubble to improve living conditions for the Haitians after an earthquake devastated their country, Jan. 12.

With the help of local translators, Marines set to work with e-tools, shovels and brooms.

Crowds of Haitians gathered to watch the progress and wave shyly at the Marines who had come to help.

"It feels good to not be sitting around any more," said Lance Cpl. Dustin Rasmussen, an intelligence analyst with the SC-MAGTF.

"It's nice to see the looks on their faces, their appreciation," Rasmussen said.

Marines worked faithfully even as the sun and humidity skyrocketed, the sweat, sunscreen and bug repellent mixing into one as it ran down their faces and soaked their uniforms.

"Yeah, it's a little on the warm side," said Lance Cpl. John Kelly, an operations clerk with the SCMAGTF, as he paused work to pass a gloved hand across his brow. "I'm just happy to be out



NEPLY, Haiti — Petty Officer Third Class David Spanding, corpsman with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, and Lance Cpl. Joey Gillen, 22nd MEU, struggle to clear debris from a collapsed house. Marines with the Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force, Africa Partnership Station 10, spent the morning helping the surrounding community move damaged structures and clean up piles of rubble to improve living conditions for the Haitians after an earthquake devastated their country, Jan. 12.

here helping. I'm sure there's a lot of people who wish they could be helping, and I'm privileged enough to be able to get my hands dirty."

After clearing the demolished structure, the Marines split up, moving on to other relief projects requested by the local citizens. One woman motioned a group to her tiny house, where almost every dish she owned had been

shattered on the floor during the earthquake. Marines carefully removed the shards of glass with shovels and brooms, leaving a very grateful woman and a safe entryway for her children.

Only when they had finished all the tasks the Haitians asked for did the Marines return to the compound to cool off in the shade and continue to drink water.

"I'm really glad we could help,"

said 1st Lt. Samantha Megli, adjutant and administrative officer for the SCMAGTF. "I just wish there was more we could be doing for them."

The SCMAGTF will continue disaster relief operations and delivery of humanitarian supplies with elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and multinational United Nations forces in the upcoming days.



NEPLY, Haiti — Cpl. David Nedimyer, amphibious assault vehicle platoon, Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force, Africa Partnership Station 10, kneels to help a Haitian woman sort through her belongings. Marines with the SCMAGTF spent the morning helping the surrounding community move damaged structures and clean up piles of rubble to improve living conditions for the Haitians.

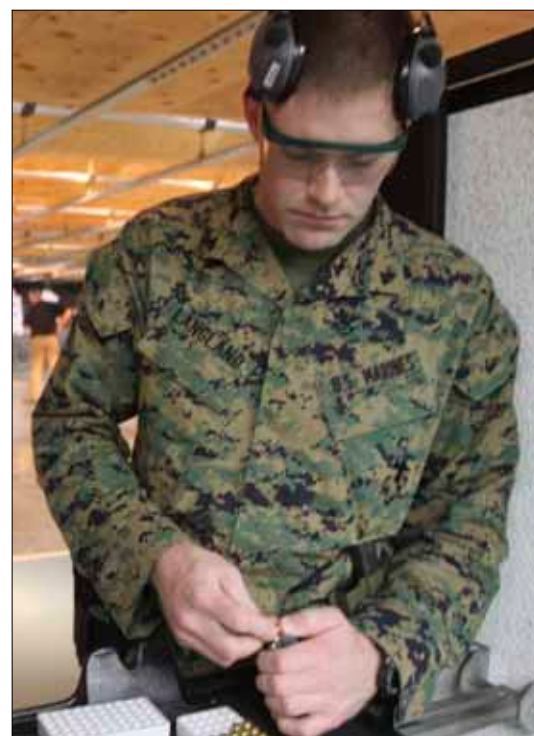


NEPLY, Haiti — Lance Cpl. Garrett Rice, amphibious assault vehicle platoon, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, helps clear a box of trash from a destroyed house in Haiti. Marines with the security cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force, Africa Partnership Station 10, spent the morning helping the surrounding community move damaged structures and clean up piles of rubble to improve living conditions for the Haitians after an earthquake devastated their country Jan. 12.

READY TO FIRE

TWO WEEKS OF HARDCORE TRAINING

FORMER RECON MARINE DEVELOPS HIGH-SPEED PISTOL COURSE



Cpl. Cameron L. Langland loads his pistol during a quick break during Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21.



Marines and sailors shoot pictures of Osama bin Laden during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21. Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection is better known as WOLF T.R.A.P.P.



Marines and sailors stand in line during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21. This past December, ISAR hosted a two week long training exercise with former members of the Israeli Special Forces. There will be more training opportunities at ISAR throughout the year.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For some Marines, there is nothing better than the sound a bullet makes when it exits a firearm and blasts its way down range.

For Lance Cpl. Joseph Bartoletti, it is music to his ears, making his training at the indoor range a massive symphony.

Marines and sailors from across the station participated in a two-week long pistol training titled Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection that began Jan. 11 at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here.

Jamison Elder, the founder and creator of Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection, better known as WOLF T.R.A.P.P., explained that the class is the kind of training synonymous

to the Marine Special Operations Command, but on the first day of the training, the Marines and sailors were taught the basic fundamentals of the pistols.

"I never knew all the stuff you could learn with a pistol," said Bartoletti. "Like how many different safety features, all the ways to shoot it and how to reload with one arm."

For the first week of training, the service members trained with the M9 Pistol, and for the second week, they trained with the M4 Assault Rifle.

"I like shooting the M9 more," said Bartoletti. His reasoning, "it's a lot louder."

As Bartoletti expressed his joy for all things loud, Elder explained the importance and relevance of his WOLF T.R.A.P.P. training.

"The nature of today's battle is there are no frontlines, so the enemy could be anywhere," said Elder.

"In '03, you had just as many cooks, bakers and candlestick makers fighting during convoy ops and other places as you did the infantry, so anyone who goes downrange these days needs these skills," Elder explained.

This is not the first time ISAR has hosted high-speed training opportunities such as WOLF T.R.A.P.P.

Last month, ISAR hosted a two-week long training exercise with former members of the Israeli Special Forces.

Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardes, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, has mentioned there will be future training opportunities throughout the year.

Those interested in participating in future training should contact their chain of command.



The instructor, Jamison Elder, calls out commands during his Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21. Elder, a former recon Marine, designed the pistol training to help service members to be better equipped in today's combat theaters.



A Marine takes a quick nap during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here, Jan 21. Service members spent two weeks on the range constantly firing pistols.



An instructor repositions a Marine's stance during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21.



Lance Cpl. Joseph Bartoletti looks over his right shoulder while doing movement exercises during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Jan 21. Prior to taking WOLF T.R.A.P.P., Bartoletti had not had much experience with pistols. Bartoletti said the course gave him a better understanding of all that can be done with a pistol.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines draw out Taliban in southern Helmand province

LANCE CPL. JAMES CLARK
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 7

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

— Stepping gingerly over rocks and uneven ground, Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and the Afghan National Army soldiers attached to them, patrolled to the north of Observation Post Huskars, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 18, 2010.

The patrol stalked through a small barren crop, just large enough to sustain the inhabitants of a nearby compound, which now lay abandoned. As the column made its way past homes and farms, there was a rising sense that something was amiss; there wasn't a villager in sight.

Passing through a small archway in a mud wall and out across an open plateau, the Marines' suspicions were realized as several flat and hollow cracks rang out. Dust kicked up around ankles and clumps of dirt flew from the walls as bullets impacted all around the patrol. Sprinting to get behind cover in order to return fire, the men of Alpha Co., 1/6, had achieved their objective: they had located the Taliban.

For the next five hours, Marines and ANA soldiers traded fire with insurgents. The sun had set by the time the patrol withdrew, and



HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment take cover behind a wall after being fired upon by insurgents during a patrol in Helmand province, Jan. 18.

they had uncovered a cache of approximately 1300 lbs of ammonium nitrate, which is a prime ingredient in homemade explosives (HME) and against the law to own, under Afghan law. One suspect was detained, several insurgents were wounded or killed, and there were no ANA or Marine casualties.

“The original goal of the patrol was to do [census operations] and see who was living in the buildings,” explained 1st Lt. Shaun Miller, the executive officer for Alpha Co., 1/6. “We wanted to get the lay of the land and interact with local leaders and elders.”

Although the initial plan was to interact with villagers in the north, each time the Marines of Alpha Co., 1/6, pushed beyond the walls of Observation Post Huskars, they took fire from insurgents.

“Every time we’ve gone out on patrol we’ve gotten into firefights,” explained Miller, who paused for a moment to speak over a radio to a Marine on patrol who had reported seeing a rocket-propelled grenade gunner. “We’ve been here for five days and have launched over 20 patrols and as soon as we go more than one mile outside of the wire, we encounter heavy enemy resistance. It’s like [the Taliban] are drawn to us.”

The increase in patrols and subsequent engagements with insurgents serves to buffer friendly villages to the south of Observation Post Huskars from the Taliban north of the Marines’ position.

“To the north, the majority of the compounds are abandoned and are being used by insurgents,” explained Miller. “However, in the south, villagers have asked for our help, even led us to where improvised explosive devices were planted so that we could destroy them.”

As the light began to fade and the Marines switched to night vision, infrequent tracer rounds and pop shots would clip and skim over the compound where the patrol had taken refuge. Meanwhile, they waited for explosive ordinance disposal Marines to arrive and destroy the homemade explosive ingredients found earlier in the day.

With the events of the day behind them and the HME ingredients destroyed, the patrol set off towards their camp to catch a few hours of rest before going out again the following morning.



LANCE CPL. JAMES CLARK

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment open fire on enemy insurgents taking cover in an abandoned compound, during a firefight in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 18.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Personal Growth CREDO Retreat

The Marine Memorial Chapel will be providing a personal growth retreat from Feb. 25 – 27 for all Marine Corps and Navy active duty, reserve, retired personnel and their families. Army, Air Force and civilian DOD/DoDDS employees and their families are also eligible on a space-available basis. Sign-up by Feb. 23. This retreat is designed to provide an opportunity to evaluate the past; think about the present; consider goals for the future; as well as explore resources. To sign-up or for further details, please contact the Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

H1N1 Vaccine

The vaccine is now available for all beneficiaries during

normal clinic working hours. It will be administered on a first come first serve basis until all quantities are gone. The season influenza vaccine is also available to all beneficiaries at this time.

Koto and Taiko Drum Concert

Experience the sounds of the national instrument of Japan as well as the dynamic style of Japanese Taiko drumming here Sunday at the Marine Memorial Chapel. This concert is a fun-filled event with something for everyone. The event is free to all SOFA status personnel. For more information, call 253-2785.

University of Phoenix

Registration is now open for the on-site MBA

program which will begin Feb 15. Registration dead line is Feb. 8. Classes will be held every Monday night from 6-9 p.m. in Rm. 115 Bldg. 411. All UOPX online classes start every Tuesday. For more information, contact Thomas Keating at 253-3335.

Mammo-Van Visit

The Mammogram van is scheduled to be here during the first week of February. To make an appointment through radiology, patients must first make an appointment with their primary care provider to get a referral for a mammogram. Once the referral consult is put into the system, patients can then check in at radiology, fill out a brief survey, and then schedule their appointment. For more information, please call 253-6354.

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.

Wood Hobby Shop

Temporarily Closed The Wood Hobby Shop, located on North side, will be closed until further notice. For more information, contact K.C. Rich at 253-5284.

Hornet's Nest Renovations

The Hornet's Nest is currently undergoing renovations scheduled 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. The Cyber Café, located in Building 1345 will remain open 24 hours a day seven days a week during the renovations. Single Marine Program trips will continue and can be paid for in the Cyber Café or the Marine Lounge. For more information, contact Jay Stovall at 253-3585.

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 or requirements, call 253-4525 or email 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.

Iwakuni Teens Join us for Club Beyond every Tuesday night. Enjoy games, music, food and fun plus a short Bible lesson. Club Beyond is held in Yujo Hall, between the chapel and thrift store, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or call John at 080-4177-2060.

Birthday Break The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a birthday cake giveaway.

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
Tues. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

Teen Programs

- High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
- Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
- HS&JR Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Missions Trip
- Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
- Parent Support Group

Call at 080-4177-2060 or jletaw@ClubBeyond.org

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

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 29, 2010

1 p.m. Astro Boy (PG)
Free Admission
7 p.m. The Blind Side (PG-13)
10 p.m. Ninja Assassin (R)
Premiere

Saturday, January 30, 2010

1 p.m. Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (PG)
Free Admission
4 p.m. Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG)
7 p.m. It's Complicated (R)
10 p.m. Everybody's Fine (PG-13)

Sunday, January 31, 2010

1 p.m. Alvin And The Chipmunks
"The Squeakquel" (PG)

4 p.m. The Fourth Kind (PG-13)
7 p.m. Ninja Assassin (R)

Monday, February 1, 2010

7 p.m. The Fourth Kind (PG)
Last Showing

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

7 p.m. Avatar (PG-13)

Wednesday, February 3, 2009

7 p.m. Sherlock Holmes (PG-13)

Thursday, February 4, 2009

7 p.m. Everybody's Fines (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 \$2.50/ Ages 6-11 are \$1/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

2001 Honda CBR 929

Low miles, 20,600 kilometers, Two Brothers aftermarket exhaust, Scotts steering damper, new battery. This bike runs excellent. For a little extra, will throw in all the necessary riding gear. Icon riding gloves, Joe Rocket riding jacket, and riding helmet. Asking \$4,100. Call at 253-2119 or 090-6017-6822.

Miscellaneous

Local Ice Hockey Teams

Two local ice hockey teams are now

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, savory baked chicken, oven roast beef, oven brown potatoes, tossed green rice, succotash, green beans and mushrooms, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake, butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Tomato soup, vegetable soup, turkey pot pie, Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, tangy spinach, steamed cauliflower, buttered noodles, brown gravy, dinner rolls, country style tomato salads, Mexican coleslaw, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, oatmeal raisin cookies.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, Caribbean chicken breast, beef cordon bleu, O'Brien potatoes, chicken gravy, Creole green beans, savory summer squash, dinner rolls, cabbage, apple and celery, three bean salad, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, butter cream frosting, devil's food cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Manhattan clam chowder, spit pea soup, Cantonese ribs, turkey curry, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, southern style green beans, corn on the cob, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, mixed fruit, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, whipped topping, banana cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, baked fish, Yankee pot roast, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, calico corn, simmered white beans vegetable gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, country style tomato salad, coconut raisin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, butter cream frosting, chocolate cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

Dates and times of testing are subject to change.

Jobs

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 or requirements, call 253-4525 or email iwakuni@usa.redcross.org.

Dental Assistants

The dental clinic is seeking two motivated dental assistants for a great opportunity in dental healthcare services. For more information, stop by the Dental Clinic, Bldg. 111 or call 253-5252 or 253-3331.

recruiting players. The Yamaguchi Ice Hockey Club practices every Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Kenko Park Skate Link. For more information visit <http://yamaguchiclub.yahoo.co.jp>. For information on the Hiroshima Collectors visit www.geocities.co.jp/Athlete-Samos/8667 or email morimoto.ry@mazda.co.jp.

Mass Notification System Tests

The Mass Notification System is scheduled to be tested Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. and at various times on Feb. 10 between 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Keep an eye on your TRICARE claims

It has been three weeks since you came by the TRICARE office and received the information on how to file a claim. You sent your claim in the mail and now you are wondering, "Where is my money?"

The answer is at your fingertips, just log-on to www.tricare4u.com and register as a beneficiary. With this account you can check patient eligibility and what amounts, if any, have been applied to your deductible and cost share. You can also conduct a claim search and view the status, amount paid and an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). As a registered user you can also contact customer service for assistance.

If you chose not to register online and would like to know the status of your claim, you can call WPS Claims Customer Service at 1-(608) 301-2310/2311. Please contact your local TRICARE office for any assistance at 253-3072.

got news? Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for an event? We are here for you. Contact the Public Affairs office two weeks in advance by e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216 to let us know in person.

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

IronWorks Gym sports court gets face-lift

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The IronWorks Gym sports court is undergoing renovations which are slated to be finished by Feb. 22.

Renovations include the repair and repainting of damaged areas on the floor boards and the refurbishing of a slope which has developed on the basketball court over time.

"(The renovations) are just a part of facility maintenance," said Alma Dickinson, IronWorks Gym health promotions director. "As the years go by, things get damaged, and we need to reinforce them or replace them as needed so that we can provide the facility for use in the future."

Dickinson said the courts will look a lot sharper when the renovations are done, and community members will have a solid foundation to play their games on.

Scratches, dents and scuffs began to cover the courts after years of use through games and Marine Corps Community Service events.

"(The renovations were) done because it just needed to be done," said Brian Wilson, IronWorks Gym assistant athletic director. "There was so much damage to the floor that it kind of took away from the appearance of what a basketball court should actually look like."

The refurbishing of the floor wasn't done in Autumn when the



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Station facility employees work to refurbish the sports court floor at the IronWorks Gym here Jan. 22. The sports court is scheduled to be ready for use Feb. 22.

court closed to update it with a new ventilation system because the money wasn't there at the time, and now that it is, the floors can be redone, Wilson said.

While the main focus of the renovations are to fix the damages done, the renovations are also

meant to refurbish the courts aesthetically.

Wilson said a new design has been planned out for the floor and will give the court more of a National Basketball Association court look to it. "The floor will be beautiful (once the renovations

are complete)," said Wilson. It will be complete just in time for the youth sports basketball. They'll probably be the first people to play on the new court."

Plans are being made to repaint the walls at a later date as well, said Wilson.

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!!

Commander's Cup Challenge 2010



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

The Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 team poses for a team photograph after winning the paintball tournament at the Crossfire Paintball Range here Jan. 22. The tournament was part of the annual Commander's Cup challenge. MWSS-171 took the gold with 952 points, earning them a trophy and \$100 for their unit party fund, not to mention bragging rights. Front (from left to right): Sgt. Robert Davis, Sgt. Matthew McMahon and Staff Sgt. Earnest Lawson. Back (from left to right): Lt. Anthony Baker, Cpl. Scott McNeal, Lance Cpl. Tyler Mast, Cpl. Robert Martinez and Lt. Col. Christopher Feyedelem.

MWSS-171 paints victory at Crossfire

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER J. PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two teams of six took their stances across from each other, divided by an inflatable, paint-splattered urban war zone.

Suddenly a gun fight erupted. Marines took cover behind air-filled bunkers and sighted in at a high-knee position. One by one, shooters were picked off, waving their weapons in the air to signal retreat.

"Get off the field!" Lance Cpl. Tyler Mast, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, yelled from behind the net. "He's out!"

Five teams of Marines battled for first place in the point-accumulation Crossfire Paintball tournament here Jan. 22 as part of the Commander's Cup annual challenge.

According to Staff Sgt. Ernest E. Lawson, MWSS-171 player, the object of the game is simple.

"You destroy your opponent, grab the flag and take it to the other side," he said.

Teams have three minutes during each round to unleash fury on one another and accumulate as many points as they can.

"It is a real aggressive sport," he said. "You're playing against another human being."

Killing the enemy will score a

team four points. Pulling the flag from a red cone located in the middle of the battlefield before the round is over will score 20 points for the team.

If the player manages to hang the flag on the other side of the field, the team gets 50 points and any opponents left standing earns the team two points each.

"Pulling the flag is equal to eliminating the whole team," said Lawson.

Teams without female players were automatically deducted points. The team with the most accumulated points at the end of the tournament won a first place trophy and \$100 toward their unit party fund even if a different team won the majority of the games.

"You could win every game, but it's the points that really matter," said Lawson.

"It's a big mental game," said Lance Cpl. William Martin, a CLC-36 player. "Communication is key to winning games."

Marines, breathing heavy with adrenaline, proudly flaunted their battle wounds while they reloaded for the next round.

Marine Lance Cpl. Rafael Cruz on the O team managed to walk out of the first round with only a quarter-size welt on his hand.

"A lucky shooter caught me

while my hand was exposed," said Cruz.

Lance Cpl. Garrit Fox, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron player, was caught by surprise when he took a hit to the face in the third round of the first game.

He walked off the field with a mask covered in green paint to show for it.

Other Marines from all teams walked away smiling with paintball-riddled arms swollen like golf balls.

"It stings at first," said Lawson. "Then a couple of days later you get bruised."

MWSS-171 accumulated a total of 952 points which put them in first place.

Combat Logistics Company 36 came in 2nd with 674 points. O placed 3rd with 643 points, H&HS came in 4th place with 614 points, and the Branch Health Clinic placed 5th with 28 points because they were unable to finish the tournament.

"This is the first part of the Commander's Cup event held every year," said Martin. "You get a certain amount of points to be designated to certain units at the end of the year. I love the sportsmanship and sense of companionship."

"This is a good way to get units

together and have a great time," said Darci Kruse, event coordinator. "I think (the event) turned out really well, and we were able to take advantage of the new range being open."

For more information about the Crossfire Paintball range, visit the Web site at <http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/paintball/> or call 254-3822.



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

A player aims in on an opponent during the Commander's Cup paintball tournament at the Crossfire Paintball Range here Jan. 22. Points were earned for shooting an opponent, picking up the flag, hanging up the flag and for team members left standing once the flag was hung. Points were deducted for teams without at least one female player.