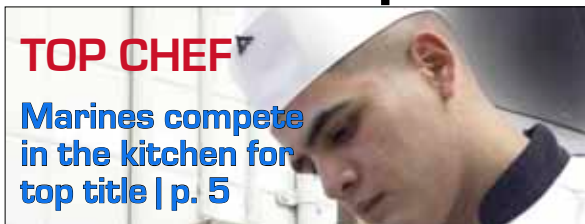




LAVA VIPER
171 Marines build airstrip | p. 4



TOP CHEF
Marines compete in the kitchen for top title | p. 5



I GOT YOU BABE
Little letters from lovers across the station | p. 12

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 6, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



TICKET to RIDE

Marines discover Thailand by way of elephant

PHOTO STORY | p. 6,7

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

An elephant decides to get a little snack at the end of the jungle journey as the Marine passengers try to avoid being hit by any large branches during the Single Marine Program trip to Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park in Thailand, Jan. 24. Read the full story on pages 6-7.

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

What: Friendship Exchange between M.C. Perry Elementary and Kawashimo Elementary

When: Feb. 27, 9 a.m.

Where: IronWorks Gym

Who: Students and their families

Why: Cultural Exchange

FREE OF CHARGE!

COME ENJOY GAMES, HOTDOGS, FUNNEL CAKES, AND MORE!

Haitians receive thousands of pounds of supplies each day

CPL. BOBBY CURTIS
22ND MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

LEOGANE, Haiti — Since Jan. 18, Marines and sailors from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit have been working hard in the multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief effort in earthquake-devastated Haiti, called Operation Unified Response.

The 22nd MEU set up a major supply distribution point in the town of Leogane, Haiti, Jan. 19,

to help in the mission. Since then, the landing zone named "LZ Mon-goose" is the primary area of operations for the 22nd MEU, receiving thousands of pounds of relief supplies a day.

In order to bring relief to rural areas surrounding Leogane yet to receive aid, the Marines and sailors of the 22nd MEU are creating new landing zones.

The morning of Jan. 24, Marines and sailors of Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd MEU, waited anxiously

SEE HAITI ON PAGE 3



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 Anonymous letters and comments will not be published.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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'28.5167 Latitude by 33.95 Longitude'

LT. NORBERT KARAVA
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

It is not a coincidence that during the last several years we find an ever-increasing emphasis placed on numerous ethical trainings in various formats and perspectives: "Professional Ethics," "Character Counts," "Ethical Advise ment" to mention but a few.

It seems that there has been a growing realization that an amoral focus on either performance or production is self-destructive in at least two dimensions:

(1) It dehumanizes the hapless carbon-based life forms that are performing and/or producing, and (2) ultimately undermines and compromises both performance and production, (amoral, carbon-based life forms are just so unreliable) so that even cynics and moral relativists, in the interest of maintaining performance and production, must at least pretend to care about morality.

Not to worry! We have PowerPoint!

We witness a gradual evolution from (1) an unspoken sense of "fair play" at the local level to (2) increasing levels of formalized and articulated ethos, to (3) "rules of conduct" to finally (4) "ethical standards."

The problem, old as man, concerns the ultimate authority at the heart of morality, if there is such a thing: If it is a violation of ethical standards to help oneself to the paper clips and stationery at the office, does this have something to do with a moral precept akin to "thou shalt not steal," appealing to a transcendent authority, or is it simply a violation of our mutually agreed-upon rules of conduct and behavior?

I opine that the multi-tasking, bleary-eyed, carbon-based, cubicle-dwelling life form inevitably will ask himself such questions, one way or another: "Why is my conscience obliged by the mere collective opinion of the ethics committee?" Or "Am I really an evil man because I have violated the latest draft of ethical standards?"

And, looking at the BMWs in

the parking lot, he will be hard pressed to worry much about paper clips or even, gods of corporate leadership forbid, the sacred stationery.

Try as we might to leave the transcendent authority out of the moral precept upon which we build our ethical standards, call it the quirkiness of the human mind or dare we say "weakness," we quickly succumb to the temptation of rewriting our morality in the ethical standards that we individually or collectively draft in answer to the pressing and practical needs of the hour, for ourselves and our institutions.

To this purpose, we employ both humor and even our language against our moral frankness. In our own back yard, are we not tempted to take the moral precept "thou shalt not steal" and blunt its unsettling edginess with the quasi-humorous "gear adrift, gear a gift" or the euphemistically technical sounding "tactical acquisition?"

Mt. Sinai arises not only at certain geographical coordinates of our planet's surface but from out of the depths of the human heart, entertaining a presence that knows neither latitude nor longitude.

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 of projected publication date for review by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

Walking the red carpet to higher education

MATTHEW C. PERRY
STAFF

The bright flash of hundreds of camera bulbs, a darkened theater full of proud admirers, and the satisfied smiles of award winners at all ages...

No, it's not the Oscars. Instead it's the M.C. Perry Elementary semester one Honor Roll assembly at Sakura Theater recognizing some of MCAS Iwakuni's best and brightest students.

In many ways, this tops the academy awards, especially when one sees the result of

such hard work and dedication by our future generations.

The honor roll assembly recognizes those Samurai students, grades 3rd through 6th, who have excelled scholastically for the first 90 days of the school year.

Award Recipients must receive all "A"s and "B"s to receive honor roll, while those that achieve straight "A"s earn the illustrious Principal's Honor Roll.

New to the scholastic festivities this year, is the inclusion of recognition for Most Improved Performance by students at

each grade level.

Student-of-the-Month recipients, those students that best exemplify the core virtues of successful citizens, for grades kindergarten through 6th also shared in the honors at Sakura Theater.

Yet, while the first semester has officially ended, all students have the opportunity to achieve a place on the Sakura stage for the second semester by working hard in and out of the classroom.

Best of luck and get ready to take your place before the cameras.

HAITI UPDATE: MARINES, SAILORS PROVIDE RELIEF, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Haitians receive thousands of pounds of relief supplies each day

HAITI FROM PAGE 1

on the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Bataan. With gear lined up, ready to go, platoon sergeants and squad leaders checked their Marines, ensuring all were prepared for the ensuing mission.

A few moments later, Lima Company was aboard CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 (Reinforced), on their way to establish a new distribution point for the people of Leogane.

As the helicopters landed in a sugar cane field, Haitians from the area gathered to watch the Marines arrival as they poured out of the rear of each aircraft.

Upon landing, the company of Marines quickly established a command post at a pre-existing missionary complex in preparation for humanitarian assistance operations for earthquake victims in the surrounding area.

As the troops arrived, aid workers from God's Missionary Church, from Penns Creek, Pa., were already hard at work providing basic medical care for the injured.

Marines from the company assisted the aid workers by organizing the crowd of anxiously waiting women and children. Staff Sgt. Clausele Barthold, a French/Creole speaking linguist attached to the company, translated information and directions from the medical-aid workers.

Barthold, a Port-au-Prince, Haiti, native, made it clear that Haitians expressed gratefulness for the Marines' presence in the area. He spent the afternoon answering questions and listening to the locals' concerns and needs.

"Their major concerns right now

are tents and food," he said. "Water is not a major concern in this area; they have wells and told me not to worry much about water."

Barthold expressed his satisfaction with helping his native people during their time of need.

"I am ecstatic, overwhelmed, joyful," he stated.

"But it's a little painful to see all the suffering. You have to cope with the fact that these are your people ... but we're doing a lot and they're grateful."

He reassured the Haitians gratefulness for the assistance from the Marines and sailors.

"I know I can't speak for the whole population, but I know the people here are happy we're here," he continued. "They love the Marines."

Crowds of Haitian children gathered around the Marines, curious of the new visitors to their country. Marines and sailors quickly learned to communicate with the locals and spent the remainder of the day assisting aid workers, spending time getting to know the local populace, handing out rations and interacting with children.

In the afternoon, Capt. James W. Birchfield, company commander, Lima Company, dispatched reconnaissance patrols to survey the area for future operations. Marines and sailors walked down the devastated streets of Leogane marking key points such as water sources and possible distribution points to use in the following days.

While the company set up the compound, missionaries working at the sight informed the Marines of a woman down the road who was paralyzed during the Jan. 12, earthquake.

A small group of hospital corpsman and Marines responded to the injured woman and provided a medical evacuation using a U.S. Navy MH-60S Night Hawk helicopter from Sea Combat Helicopter Squadron 22, which air lifted the patient to a Navy ship for further medical treatment.

As night fell, the company began preparing for the next day's operations.

When the Marines woke the morning of Jan. 25, they quickly finished preparing the area to receive relief supplies for distribution. Birchfield, a Montgomery, Ala., native, explained that the missionary complex is an ideal location to receive and store new shipments of humanitarian aid.

"We don't have that much manpower, so we need a place to keep gear and supplies while keeping the crowd orderly," he said. "It's a lot easier to secure a compound than it is an open field."

Birchfield hopes to make the location a distribution point for people around the area who have yet to receive aid.

"The whole scheme and maneuver is to get a place established, get it secured and up and running, so it will allow us to bring in an increased amount of supplies and get them pushed out," he continued. "We're here to try and help out as many people as we can. Once we get this site open, we will be able to reach out to areas that haven't received any aid so far."

While waiting for supplies to arrive from the USS Bataan, the Marines and sailors of the company collected food from their own rations to hand out to the people. Excitement filled the air as the

Marines and sailors handed out their food to the anxiously awaiting Haitians.

Jan. 26, the company began their first major aid distribution using the new site.

Working with United Nations security forces from the Sri Lankan army, Lima Company Marines received over 1,200 humanitarian rations to distribute amongst earthquake victims in the area.

Using an open sugar cane field approximately 500 meters from the compound, the Marines and Sailors established an organized line, allowing 10 people from the crowd of approximately 400 Haitians to receive rations at one time.

With the meals handed out, the joyful Haitians laughed and celebrated as they thanked the Marines and sailors for their service. Men and women shook the hands of Marines and many shouted "Merci," the French/Creole word for thank you.

Lance Cpl. Randy R. Tilley, a rifleman with the company explained that the humanitarian assistance operations in Haiti are a rewarding time.

"They're just really grateful for us being here," said the Woodbury, Conn., native. "It's been a good experience. It's been good helping somebody in need."

After the distribution, the Marines headed back to the compound to organize supplies and plan for future operations.

The U.S. Marine Corps deployed the 22nd MEU Jan. 16, to assist with the disaster. Since Jan. 18, Marines have conducted around the clock humanitarian assistance operations in several locations throughout Haiti.

Marine Corps History and Heritage



USS Maine entering Havana Harbor, Cuba, on Jan. 25, 1898, where the ship would explode three weeks later.

Feb. 15, 1898: 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship USS Maine was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April, the U.S. and Spain were at war.

ALOHA

DESTINATION: HAWAII



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE CPL. JESSICA DAVIES

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Engineer detachment uses contracted heavy equipment Jan. 2 during the construction of "Cooper's Airstrip" at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, in support of Exercise Lava Viper.

171 Marines build airstrip in support of Lava Viper

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Constructing an entire airstrip usually takes three to six months to accomplish, but 27 Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 deployed to Pohakuloa Training Area on the big island of Hawaii in support of exercise Lava Viper built one almost a week.

MWSS-171's engineer detachment left here Dec. 18 and constructed the airstrip to enable unmanned aerial system operations during Lava Viper 10.1.

Exercise Lava Viper is a pre-deployment exercise for Marines preparing to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were tasked by (1st Marine Air Wing) to plan and execute the construction of the airstrip," said Maj. Andre Williams, the operations officer for MWSS-171.

The 750 by 85 foot airstrip was constructed by Marines and sailors who were conducting airstrip operations for the very first time.

"With the use of \$250,000 worth of civilian contracted heavy equipment ranging from water distribution trucks to front-end loaders, the runway was created in nine working days," said 1st Lt. Milton Rehbein, the MWSS-171 engineering officer.

From conception to execution, the entire operation was finished in less than a month. "This was an unprecedented event," said

Williams. "No one has ever built an unmanned aerial vehicle or UAS airstrip in the area."

Heavy equipment operators, combat en-

gineers, supply, motor transportation, field mess, medical, explosive ordnance disposal and heavy equipment mechanics all played a vital role in getting the mission accomplished.

"No matter what your job was, we were all out there doing something," said Lance Cpl. Devin Lynch, a food service specialist.

The help of the Bradshaw Army Airfield staff also played a critical role in the success of the construction.

They provided administrative and operational support to enable the completion of the project.

Marines and sailors spent every day from dusk to dawn to make sure the mission was accomplished.

The drafting and survey process was a very long and arduous process, and Marines repeatedly rechecked on all of their points to ensure accuracy.

The hard work put in during the Christmas and New Year's holiday paid off on Jan. 24 when the first RQ-7 Shadow, an unmanned aerial vehicle, was successfully launched and recovered utilizing the newly constructed airstrip.

The airstrip will not only be remembered for the hard work of these 27 Marines and sailors during such a condensed timeline, but also for the fact "Cooper's Airstrip" was created in honor of an MWSS-171 engineering officer who was injured during an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, 1st Lt. Timothy Cooper.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE CPL. JESSICA DAVIES

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 lay down gravel for the "Cooper's Airstrip" at the Pohakuloa Training Area in support of Exercise Lava Viper Jan. 4. The runway was created in nine days by 27 Marines and sailors who volunteered their time during their Christmas and New Year's holiday. The airstrip was created in honor of 1st Lt. Timothy Cooper.

gineers, supply, motor transportation, field mess, medical, explosive ordnance disposal and heavy equipment mechanics all played a vital role in getting the mission accomplished.

EOD technicians drove water trucks while combat engineers performed the dust abatement process. All 27 Marines and sailors took

FACE OFF: Chefs go head-to-head for top title

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The spicy, full-flavored scents of Southern-style cooking, Louisiana Creole catering and traditional Mexican cuisine dominated the air during the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4.

Cpl. Dajuan Batiste, Lance Cpl. Rodney Ballom, both Southside Mess Hall food service specialists, and Lance Cpl. Jesus Hernandez, a Northside Mess Hall food service specialist, participated in the competition that put their cooking skills to the test.

"The Chef of the Quarter board is all about pride. It's all about showing off your personal skills," said Master Sgt. John B. Bass III, station food technician. "I honestly can say this is one of the best boards — very tightly contested boards — that I've ever been a part of, even when I was contesting in the boards myself."

On Feb. 3, the first day of the two-day competition, the three Marines attended an oral board where they were tested on Marine Corps and food-service knowledge.

Once they were released at 4:30 p.m., the Marines were allowed to prepare their ingredients and instructed to return to the Southside Mess Hall the next day at 5:30 a.m. to cook their meals. The three Marines were a whirl of colors, maneuvering through the kitchen and cooking against the clock to meet their 11 a.m. deadline.

"It's very hectic when you're having to go from station to station in the galley and make a whole meal, even if it is only for twenty-five people," said Bass. "They all persevered very well. It's been a long time since I've been this proud of every competitor."

While Ballom seasoned his Louisiana Creole meal and Batiste

spiced his Southern-style chicken to taste, Hernandez struggled to find the substitute ingredients he needed for the Mexican recipe he learned from his mother when he was 10 years old.

"If we would have been in like Camp Pendleton, I could have just crossed to Tijuana and buy everything, but here, yes it was hard," said Hernandez.

"I could have done better than this, but I didn't have the right peppers and stuff like that. I just did the best that I could with the ingredients we have here in Japan."

As the three competing Marines added the finishing touches to their meals, the five-minute warning was yelled out.

Each Marine nervously stood behind their setups as the five volunteering judges graded them on taste and presentation. After the judges' decisions were given and points were tallied, Hernandez was declared the winner and Chef of the Quarter.

Hernandez said he tried hard and was very surprised he won.

The competition was close with Hernandez winning the competition with a score of 4.31; setting a record high for Iwakuni chef of the quarter winners. Though he won the competition, the judges had a hard time choosing a winner.

"It was all so good," said Sgt. Becky Kubica, a volunteering Chef of the Quarter judge. "I was pleased with every single piece, every single entrée. It was very close."

Kubica said Hernandez's meal stood out the most in her mind because he was able to pull off the Mexican taste with Japanese ingredients. Hernandez's food was a treat and like a party in her mouth, she added.

Hernandez's next step after winning Chef of the Quarter here is to compete in Camp Kinser, Okinawa, at the Marine Corps Bases Japan Chef of the Quarter board on March 24.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
Lance Cpl. Jesus Hernandez, a Northside food service specialist, poses for a picture in front of the meal he prepared after he was announced as the winner of the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4. Hernandez used recipes he learned from his mother when he was 10-years-old to win the competition.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Jesus Hernandez, a Northside food service specialist, stirs the bean pilaf he plans to use to win the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4. Hernandez said he had to figure out how to modify the recipe he learned from his mother to use the ingredients available to him in Japan.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Jesus Hernandez, a Northside food service specialist, watches as Marines line up to try his food during the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess hall here Feb. 4.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Jesus Hernandez, a Northside food service specialist, spices the rice pilaf recipe he plans to use for the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4. Hernandez said he learned the recipe for his Rice Pilaf from his mother when he was 10-years-old in Mexico.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Rodney Ballom, food service specialist, stirs the linguini pasta he plans to use during the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Cpl. Dajuan Batiste, food service specialist, prepares the Southern style chicken he plans to use for the 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 Chef of the Quarter competition at the Southside Mess Hall here Feb. 4.



TOURING THAILAND

PART TWO

A view of the Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park in Thailand. The Marines were allowed to hike to the bottom of the waterfall to take pictures and explore the jungle during the Single Marine Program trip to the Khao Yai National Park Jan. 24.

Single Marine Program takes Marines into Thailand's jungles

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Marines participating in exercise Cobra Gold 2010 aboard Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, went on an adventurous Single Marine Program trip to the Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park in Thailand Jan. 24.

The Haew Suwat Waterfalls, located in the Khao Yai National Park, is a series of waterfalls that has become famous after being featured in the movie "The Beach."

Marine's who were fortunate enough to have time off work paid approximately 1,200 Baht for the day-long journey into the jungles of Thailand.

"It was amazing," said Sgt. Karen Rudolph, avionics communication navigation weapon system technician with VMFA-115. "I have seen many waterfalls all over the world and everyone likes to say they all look the same, but this one particularly had a gorillas-in-the-

mist kind of thing."

The SMP has provided the Marines a chance to experience the local history and culture. It typically deploys with units if there are at least 300 people going for over three weeks to a location site.

Although the trip cost the Marines 1,200 Baht, it was well worth the experience.

"They set up the best trips," said Rudolph. "I feel safe; I don't feel like I am getting robbed or spending way too much."

Before the Marines reached the Khao Yai National Park, they stopped off at a local attraction called the Jungle House Hotel, Khao Yai.

At the Jungle House Hotel the Marines were given the opportunity to ride an elephant through the jungle.

The elephants were well trained, and the Marines were allowed to ride three to an elephant with no tour guide as the elephant trekked through a memorized path it goes through on a daily basis.

"The part I liked the best was the water part," said Rudolph. "The elephants were play-

ing in the water and they really enjoyed it. They didn't really seem like they were working. It was great."

After the elephant rides, the Marines were driven to a mountain top to have lunch as they waited out a little rain.

Once the rain cleared, they proceeded to the waterfall where they had to hike on foot down a slippery slope and through the wet jungle before being able to see the much anticipated Haew Suwat Waterfall.

"It was a little tough getting up and down, but that is just part of the natural experience," said Rudolph. "They make it like a user-friendly kind of thing, so it was nice."

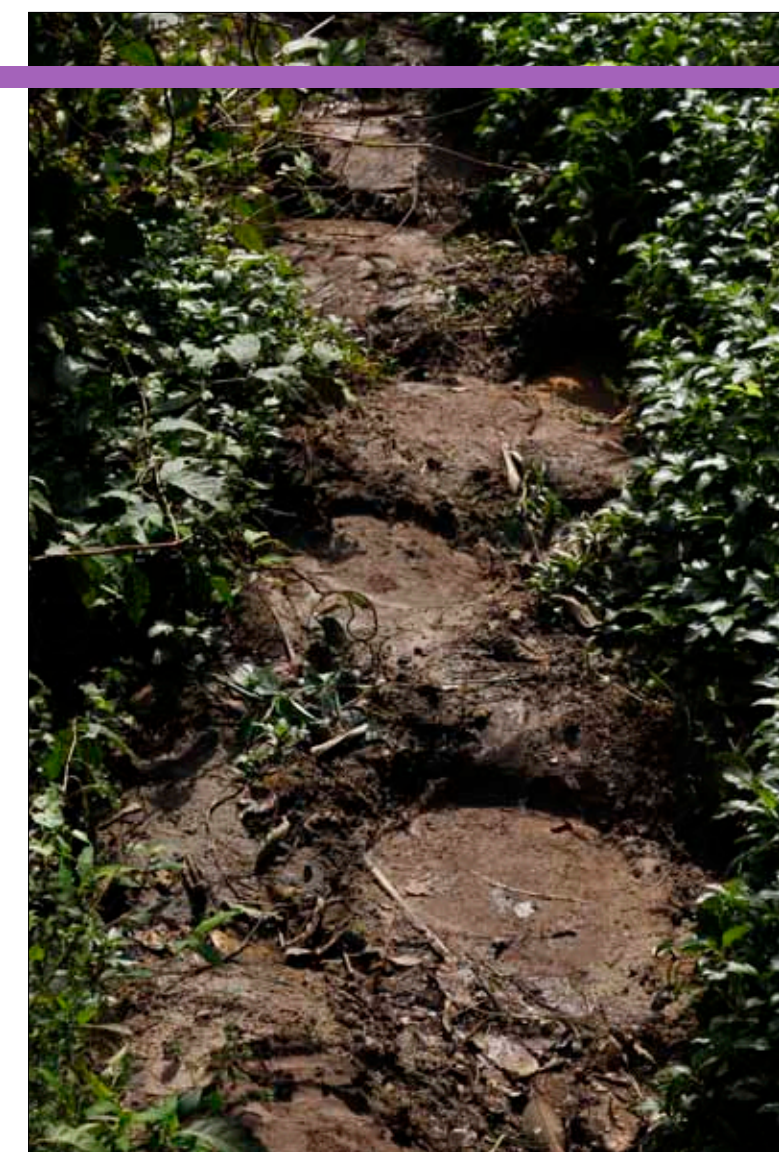
Exhausted and wet, the Marines took pictures and relaxed a little before they hiked back out of the jungle and into the vans to proceed home.

"Joining the Marine Corps, you know you didn't join to stay at home," said Rudolph. "As you go to different countries you realize the differences between the U.S. and where you are; It's great to actually get in the culture."



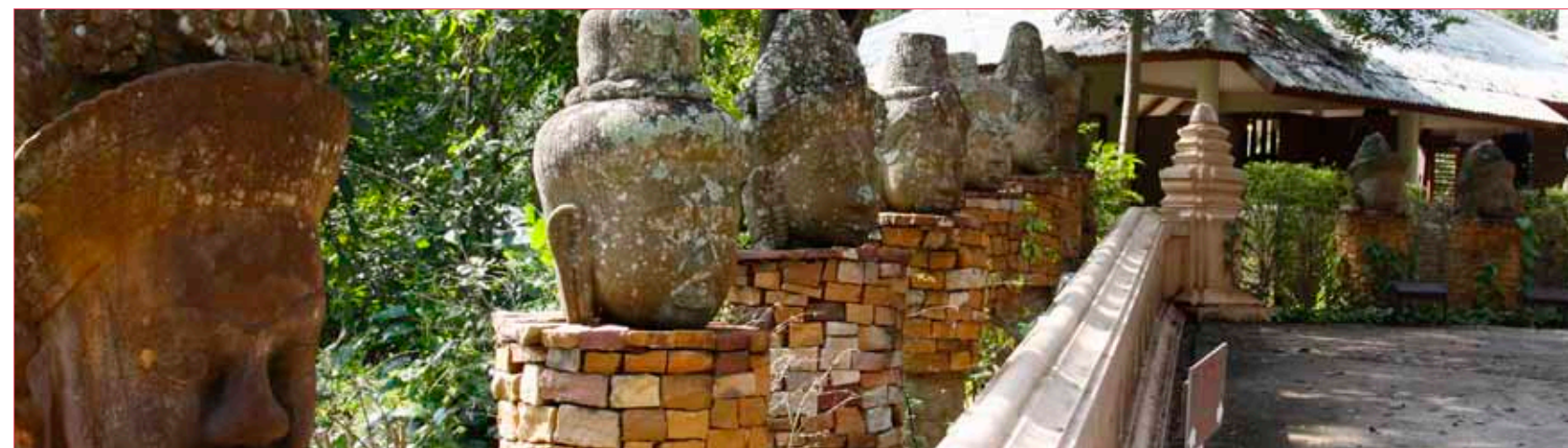
LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A Marine boards an elephant staged at the loading deck during the Single Marine Program trip to Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park, here in Thailand Jan. 24. Three Marines were allowed per elephant to trek through the jungle.



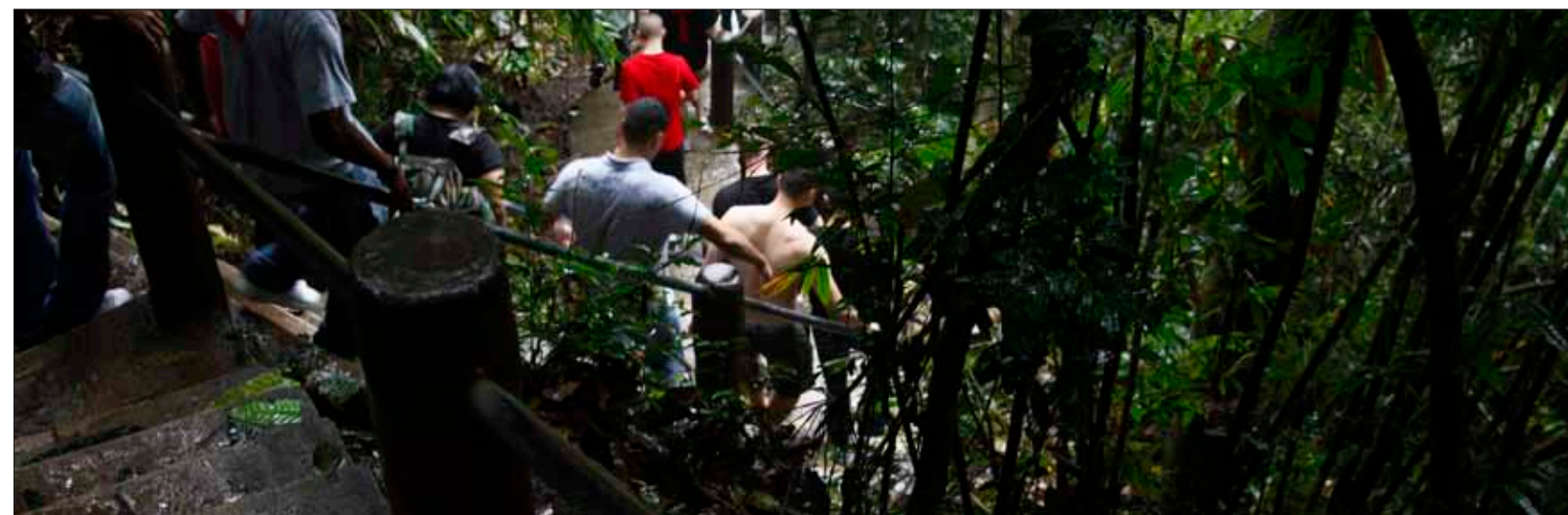
LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

The elephants leave huge tracks in the mud as they trek through the jungle during the Single Marine Program trip to Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park in Thailand Jan. 24.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Upon arrival to the Jungle House Hotel, Khao Yai a line of Buddha heads lined the driveway as decoration during the Single Marine Program trip to Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park, here in Thailand Jan. 24.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Marines hike down a slippery path of stairs to get to the Haew Suwat Waterfalls in the Khao Yai National Park during a Single Marine Program trip in Thailand Jan. 24. Once the Marines reached the bottom of the stairs, it was a rigorous hike over slippery rocks and boulders to reach the bottom of the waterfall.

"They (SMP) set up the best trips."

Sgt. Karen Rudolph
VMFA-115 avionics communication
navigation weapon system technician

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



NAWA, Afghanistan — Staff Sgt. David A. Schaefer, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, touches the dog tags of Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Meinert before saying a silent prayer during a memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Spin Ghar Jan. 20. Meinert, 20, from Fort Atkinson, Wis., served in 3rd Platoon and was killed Jan. 10 while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan's Helmand province.



NAWA, Afghanistan — The dog tags of Lance Cpl. Mark D. Juarez, Trucks Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hang from an upturned M-16 A4 service rifle during a memorial service at Forward Operating Base Geronimo Jan. 19. Juarez, a 23-year-old from San Antonio, was killed Jan. 9 while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Marines honor fallen brothers, civilian journalist

SGT. RYAN TUTHILL
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 7

NAWA, Afghanistan — Hundreds of Marines, sailors and civilians of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, gathered during a memorial service in Nawa to honor two fallen Marines and a civilian journalist.

At Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Jan. 19, Headquarters and Service Company, 1/3, paid tribute to Lance Cpl. Mark D. Juarez, 23, an ammunition technician, and Rupert Hamer, 39, who embedded with 1/3, and was the first British journalist killed in Afghanistan.

Both were killed while the Marines were conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Jan. 9.

At FOB Spin Ghar, Jan. 20, Marines of Bravo Company, 1/3, gathered to mourn the loss of Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Meinert, a 20-year-old from Fort Atkinson, Wis., who served with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Co., as a fire team leader. Meinert was killed, Jan. 10, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Jan. 9.

Also attending the ceremony at FOB Geronimo was Cpl. Eric D. Groves, who flew in before the ceremony and reunited with his fellow Marines of Trucks Platoon for the first time since he was injured in the IED attack, Jan. 9. He is expected to return to full duty.

The Marines were also joined by the Nawa District governor and administrator, Afghan national police officers to pay their respects to those killed fighting for the peace and prosperity of the Afghan people.

At the start of each service, Marines constructed a "battlefield cross" memorial stand for each fallen Marine beneath their portraits. Marines carried forward M-16A4 service rifles and planted them upside down, with the bayonet digging into the earth. The boots were placed in front and a helmet rested on top of the buttstock. The dog tags of the fallen Marines were draped from the rifle's pistol grip.

Marines also set up a memorial display for Hamer, a seasoned combat journalist from London. The display consisted of a dark blue flak jacket and black helmet that were of the type commonly worn by embedded civilians and a reporter's notepad and pen were attached to the flak jacket.

Juarez, who had completed a previous combat tour in Iraq with 1/3, was from San Antonio and was remembered as a person who would constantly sacrifice himself for the betterment of others and someone who tried to make others smile.

"Mark was the 5,225th American to make the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terror," said Capt. Andrew T. Gourgoumis, H&S Company commander. "By doing so, he has joined the hal-

lowed halls of those whom our nation will honor well after all of us leave this life."

Hamer was remembered as a man of quick wit, humor and humility who made friends quickly, despite his relatively short time spent with Marines here. Hamer dedicated 20 years, literally half of his life, to journalism and came to Nawa to tell the story of Marines and the Afghan people and their fight against the Taliban.

As the defense correspondent for the Sunday Mirror newspaper, this was his fifth visit to Afghanistan, and he had seen combat previously in Iraq and Oman.

"He, like our Marines, was a man who made a choice to contribute positively to our society and civilization," said Gourgoumis. "His memory and sacrifice will stay with us. He, too, is now a member of our family."

At FOB Spin Ghar, all Marines of 3rd Platoon were present to memorialize "Slim" Meinert, who was remembered for his passions of music and sailing, his kindness and broad knowledge as a Marine.

He had completed a combat tour of Iraq with Bravo Company last year as a radio operator and, although not formally trained as an infantryman, Meinert was assigned as a team leader in Afghanistan, and his Marines said they were proud to serve under him.

"Not only was he a brother to

me, but he was a fearless leader who led from the front," said Lance Cpl. Jacob B. Hannah, a 20-year-old assaultman who was a close friend of Meinert. "Slim was in a league of his own. I wish I had the opportunity to tell him how much of a difference he made in my life."

Abdul Manaf, the district governor of Nawa, also spoke to Marines during Meinert's memorial service and expressed his shared sense of loss.

"This Marine was serving Afghanistan and working for the good of the people," said Manaf, a former Mujahedeen fighter who battled against the Soviets during their invasion of Afghanistan. "He died for your country and for ours. God bless the Marines who are here in this country. All Marines are working hard to help us. I give you a guarantee that in the future we will keep fighting together."

The ceremonies each concluded with the company first sergeants following the final roll call, followed by three sharp cracks of seven rifles firing as they punctuated the rapt silence.

The haunting echoes of "Taps" played while formations of Marines held crisp salutes, some visibly wrestling with their emotions as the bugle slowly played.

Citing the lyrics of the "Marines' Hymn," Capt. Thomas J. Grace, Bravo Company commander, said, "We know the streets of heaven are truly in good hands."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth & Teens Red & White Dance Party

Slip into your best red and white attire, dancing shoes and get this party started with the Youth and Teen Center. We will have a live DJ, refreshments, prizes and a chance to vote for the best dress attire. The party is today. Ages 10 – 12, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Ages 13 – 18, 9 – 11:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Youth & Teen Center at 253-5549.

Youth & Teens Mardi Gras Dance Party

Join the fun! There is no party like a carnival. There will be music, games, refreshments, beads, masks and trinkets galore! Let's Party! Feb. 20, 6 – 11:30 p.m. Ages 10 – 12, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Ages 13 – 18, 9 – 11:30 p.m. For more information contact,

the Youth & Teen Center at 253-5549.

American Red Cross Courses

Upcoming courses for this month. Today: Dog First Aid 1 – 4 p.m. Cost \$40 per person \$55 per Couple Feb 19: Community First Aid 5 – 9 p.m. Cost \$40 Feb 25: Red Cross Ready for NEO Evacuation, 10 a.m. – noon. Cost free. For more information, please call 253-4525.

Personal Growth CREDO Retreat

The Chapel will be providing a personal growth retreat 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. To sign-up or for further details, please contact the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

The Biggest Saver Coupon Contest

Until April 30, come by Marine and Family Services, Building 411, Room 201 and pick up your coupon packets. Use them along with others available at the commissary to save money off your grocery bill. Save your receipts, put your name and phone number on the back of your receipts and turn them into the Personal Financial Management Office in the Marine and Family Services Building 411, Room 201. The person that saves the most money in coupons during the three-month contest will win an hour-long massage. If you have any questions, please call the Personal Finance Manager, Bonnie Lewis, at 253-6250.

IT&T Service for Snow Days

As long as the expressway is open, the Marine Corps Community Services shuttle bus service remains the same as normal. If the expressway is closed, the service will be cancelled 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.

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 next to the Wood Hobby Shop, 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

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 shop, 6:30 – 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Club Beyond, where friends, fun and faith connect. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or call John at 080-4177-2060.

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.

Birthday Break

The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. Just visit www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and MCCR 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 random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

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

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, February 12, 2010
7 p.m. Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. The Book of Eli (R)
Premiere

4 p.m. Armored (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Book of Eli (R)
Monday, February 15, 2010
4 p.m. Blind Side (PG-13)
Last Showing
7 p.m. Brothers (R)

Saturday, February 13, 2010
1 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks "The Squeakquel" (PG)
4 p.m. Blind Side (PG-13)
7 p.m. Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13)
10 p.m. Brothers (R)

Tuesday, February 16, 2010
7 p.m. Armored (PG-13)
Last Showing

Sunday, February 14, 2010
1 p.m. The Princess and the Frog (G)

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
7 p.m. Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13)

Thursday, February 18, 2010
7 p.m. Avatar (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

Miscellaneous

Baby Items for Sale
 Evenflo Supersaucer Bouncer - \$15
 Safety 1st Bath Center - New \$5 / Used \$3
 First Years Spinning Dry Rack - \$3
 Boy's Clothing - Size 3-12 months
 Snughug Head Support for baby (new) - \$1
 Nursing Cover - \$3
 Nursing Pads - \$3
 Dr. Brown's Bottle and Nipple Replacements (New) - \$3
 Little Tikes Mulching Mower toy - \$5
 For more information or if interested, please call 253-2735 or 080-3172-7210.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
 Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, steak ranchero, sweet and sour pork, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, succotash, carrots, dinner rolls, brown gravy, potato salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, congo bars, marble cake double layer, butter cream frosting, blueberry crunch.
 Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday
 Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, Cajun meatloaf, baked salmon fillet, potatoes au gratin, steamed rice, french fried cauliflower, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, spice cake, butter cream frosting, lemon meringue pie.
 Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday
 Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, turkey pot pie, oven roast, noodles Jefferson, steamed rice, brussels sprouts, broccoli combo, biscuits, brown gravy, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil's food cake, cheese cake.
 Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday
 Cream of chicken soup, minestrone soup, Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, honey glazed rock cornish hen, parsley buttered potatoes, buttered pasta, green beans southern style, vegetable stir fry, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, German tomato salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, strawberry shortcake, whipped topping, vanilla creamed pie.
 Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday
 Tortilla soup, minestrone soup, beef/chicken fajitas, chili con carne, fish tacos, refried beans, beef burritos, mexican corn, salsa, jalapeno corn bread, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie.
 Specialty Bar: Mongolian

Jobs

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, Building 111 or call 253-5252 or 253-3331 to

Speak with HM1 Taft or HMC Cadavos.

Site Representative
 A job opportunity for a site representative has just opened up at Central Texas College. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 24 and the start date is Feb. 1. Start at \$9/hour for 30-40 hours a week. A high school diploma or GED is required, but an Associate's Degree from a regionally accredited institution is preferred. Previous general office administration and customer service experience is also required. Must be able to drive a CTCD or privately-owned vehicle and lift up to 40 lbs. Must be eligible for unescorted access to military installation. Apply at the Central Texas College or for more information, contact Evelyn Kaba at 253-3288.

Pack 77 Cub Scouts is looking for a new Cubmaster
 The position will be open April 1. Scouting experience is recommended. If interested in this position, please email mikekimbert@yahoo.com or call 253-2875.

Choctaw Management Administrative Assistant
 A part-time position is open to a qualified applicant. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent with secretarial, teaching, administrative/business office experience or education. Business training or an associates degree is preferred. Experience in healthcare, knowledge and experience with IBM compatible computers, Word, Excel and/or Access databases is desirable. The ability to type 40 words per minute is required. If interested, submit resume and cover letter to virginia.johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax 226-5596 no later than March 1.

BOOT SCOOTIN' ROUNDUP

A live 2-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9 - 10 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays on Power 157.5.

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!!

Japanese take home first place in Invitational Racquetball

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

By the swing of a wire-strung paddle, a rubber ball was whacked against the front wall of the racquetball court and bounced in front of another player just to be back-handed right back, echoing throughout the fully enclosed rectangular box.

The competitors went at it for a few minutes, applying precision and athletic skill, moving forward, backward and around one another in an effort to keep each other from scoring a point.

After the winning point was scored, they smiled and shook hands, sighing to a friendly match played fair and square.

Local service members and Japanese nationals came together to compete in the Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 6.

The tournament consisted of matches between two players at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of competition so that players had the opportunity to compete against their own skill level.

These types of recreational competitions help to build strong community relations between service members and local civilians by inviting them to come on base and participate.

"What we try to do is get players from out of town to compete," said Andrew Porche, sports coordinator here.

A small number of resources, including television spots and Web site updates on base for service members, were used to get the word out about the tournament and to get locals involved.

The Japanese nationals invited to compete were recruited from out in town, some of whom compete regularly every

year. "We had about four Japanese nationals competing in the racquetball tournament and about every last one of them won first place," said Porche.

Yuuki Nakano, a young racquetball enthusiast from Fukuoka, competed for the fifth time against service members and walked away with first place in the advanced racquetball division.

Nakano used to play all the time but has recently had to drive two hours to practice racquetball because the club in his own town had closed down, he said.

According to Nakano, he was only able to practice two times per week but does it because he loves to play for fun.

He managed to beat out all competition with back-handed strikes, sharp technique and quick reaction to the ball.

Ebisu Tomomi, a first-time competitor on base from Foukuokashi, managed to take away first place in the intermediate racquetball division.

Nakano is a friend of hers, and she was invited by him to come along, test her skills and enjoy the action, said Tomomi.

Like Nakano, she also plays for the enjoyment, she said.

"They play in racquetball tournaments throughout Japan," said Porche. "So they're pretty good."

Through the Intramural Sports program on base, service members have the opportunity to compete in a number of sports competitions as a way to stay active and have fun.

"On base we have basketball, soccer, tennis, football, volleyball and dodgeball," said Porche. "It's pretty competitive and pretty fun."

For more information on intramural sports or upcoming tournaments, contact the IronWorks Gym at 253-3067.



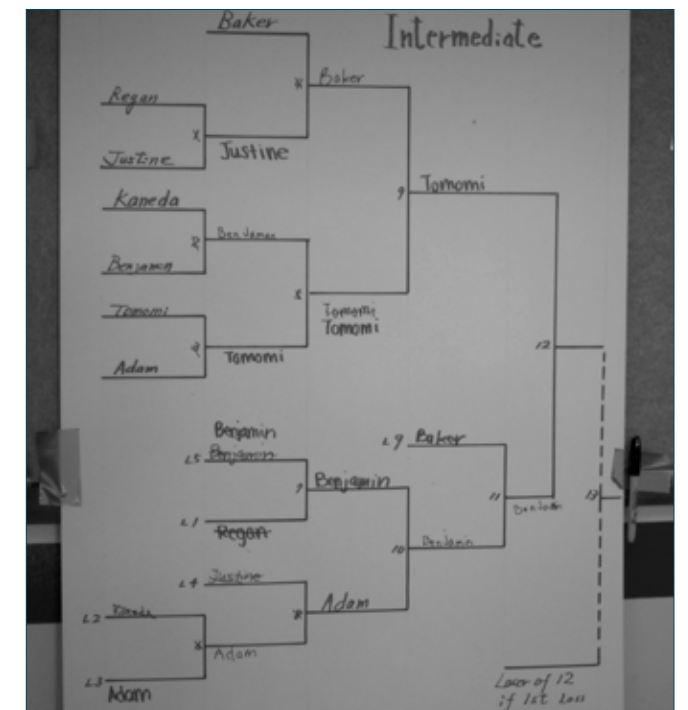
LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Yuuki Nakano, a young racquetball enthusiast from Fukuoka, prepares to take a swing during the Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 6. This was Nakano's fifth time competing in the competition.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Andrew Porche, the sports coordinator, presents Ebisu Tomomi, a first-time competitor, with her first place plaque after the Invitational Racquetball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 6. Tomomi won first in the intermediate racquetball division.



VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGES



Happy Valentine's Day Miyuki! You are a beautiful and amazing woman. Enjoy today and everyday!

Luis, my darling husband & best friend,
"Your Still the One I Love"
Happy Valentine's Day, Te Amo
Your Wife, Gesenia

Happy Valentine's Day MWSS-171 couples! Say it from the heart today and be sweet to your sweetheart.
GySgt. Aaron Gray

"Be mine always. From RO to JV"

Christina-
You are my Wife, the Mother of my Son, and my Best Friend.
I love you forever and ever.

Kody Botts,
This Valentine's Day is extra special because I have you in my life. Hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day, too. I love you.
From, Nikki Genzer

Adam Wilburn,
Happy Valentine's Day.
-Lou Genzer

Rhe'a and Ja'Khai Laboy,
It's little angels like you that make my days wonderful. I hope you all have a beautiful Valentine's Day. I love you.

Karen a.k.a Mom,
You are one special woman. On the firing range, you can out shoot every man in our family. Fortunately you can't out drink us, because after just a couple margaritas you fall asleep on the couch. You are the woman who fought a herd of tourist at Disneyland when they cut in line. You are the woman dumped a bucket of water on my buddy when he wouldn't leave the house. You are the woman who hires a housekeeper but then still insist on cleaning the house. You are crazy and that is why I love you. Thank you for teaching me to take chances, to speak my mind, and to push through all the sludge. I love you mom.

Happy Birthday and Happy Valentine's Day,
Chris
BTW - You work in a cardiology lab and you hate pink, kind of ironic that you were born on a day filled with big pink hearts.

To: Nikki Genzer
Everyday you light up my life and make it special. On this day of love I

want to tell you how much you mean to me. Baby doll you are my world. I love you.
From, your mom.

Junior,
Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you so much for everything you do. I am forever grateful. I love you.

Salvador,
It's unfortunate that we have to spend our first Valentine's Day as husband and wife apart, but just know that I'll be thinking of you and anxiously waiting for your return. Jonathan Carroll once wrote, "You have to walk carefully in the beginning of love; the running across fields into your lover's arms can only come later when you're sure they won't laugh if you trip." I'm not afraid to run because I know you'll catch me if I fall.
I love you,
Kristin
P.S. - Caleb loves and misses you, too!

Brandy,
You are the best mom, wife and friend we could ever want. We love you. Happy Valentine's Day.
Love,
Andy and Steven

