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THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 7, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

COBRA GOLD 2010



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

BAN CHAN KHREM, Thailand

— U.S. Marines, Thai Marines and Republic of Korea Marines all combined for an ultimate show of Marine Corps strength and skill during exercise Cobra Gold 2010, an exercise demonstrating joint and multinational capabilities and improving interoperability between the United States, Thailand and the Republic of Korea at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand, Feb. 6.

The exercise commenced Feb. 1 and is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise in the continuing series of U.S.– Thai military exercises designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand or re-

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

BAN CHAN KHREM, Thailand—U.S. Marines, Korean and Thai service members work side-by-side as they train on the firing range at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand, Feb. 6 as part of Cobra Gold 2010. The exercise commenced Feb. 1 and is a regularly-scheduled joint/combined exercise in the series of U.S.– Thai military exercises.

SEE **COBRA** ON PAGE 3

STATION RUNS NEO EXERCISE

LANCE CPL.
CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Station service members along with civilian and military volunteers conducted a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise here Feb. 10-12.

The annual exercise was conducted to test and train the station personnel's capa-

bilities in responding to an unforeseen NEO contingency in which area civilians and defamily members might be forced to evacuate.

“This is an important exercise,” said 1st Lt. Kim Phillips, station operations special projects officer. “This is one of those things, no kidding, that will affect the community and this is something that in a worse case scenario you do not want to be worry-

ing about if you're forced to evacuate.”

In case of a natural disaster or terrorist attack, the station is made responsible for the safe evacuation of American civilians and family members who live in Base Cluster 4, an area reaching from Shimonoseki to Osaka.

Situations could also arise in which the station is made

SEE **NEO** ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Volunteering community members walk through various stations set up during a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise which took place at the Surface Division warehouse at the harbor facility here Feb. 11. The exercise tested the station's ability to respond to a NEO contingency which required the safe and efficient evacuation of American civilians out of Iwakuni to a safer location.

Station-wide exercise to test ability in simulated attacks

LANCE CPL.
CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Exercise Total Shield 2010 is slated to run here Feb. 22-25 and is designed to test the station's ability to simultaneously continue its support operations while

defending itself against simulated attacks.

The station-wide exercise will involve military personnel here and include the participation of the 46th Regiment Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, 13th Brigade out of JGSDF Camp Kaitaichi in Active Shield, an exercise designed

to train the necessary coordination in support of the force protection of U.S. installations.

Exercise scenarios will involve anti-terrorism force protection and disaster-response training, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear

SEE **SHIELD** ON PAGE 3

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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'The benefit of staying physically and spiritually fit'

LT. CMDR. JOHN COMETA
STATION CHAPLAIN

Total wellness equals battle readiness.

"... train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come..." (I Timothy 4:8.)

Recently, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commander mandated us to execute our 2010 Long Range Training Plan. This is appropriate for our mission accomplishment.

Have you heard the adages: "the more you sweat in peace time, the less you bleed in war" or "we train like we fight and fight like we train?"

Effective training results in operational readiness and mission success. Sometimes, these training and common tasks often become routine and even redundant. Let us always be mindful that these taskings are given to prepare us to accomplish our mission.

In the text quoted above, the apostle Paul wrote his disciple Timothy to train himself to be godly. He also reminded him that physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things because the things of God help us in all ways in the present and future life.

Almost all health promotion programs address aspects of total wellness that include the physical, social, mental and spiritual dimensions of human beings.

Balancing the four aspects of man is always a challenge. Stephen Covey, author of 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective People' said that in order to succeed in life, we have to be physically, socially, mentally and spiritually fit.

Highly effective people know how to balance these four aspects of man.

A great amount of training time is devoted to physical health and conditioning. This is why we have our annual Physical Fitness Test. We have to make sure all our servicemen and servicewomen are physically ready and prepared for short-notice deployment to a combat environment.

However, total fitness also involves emotional and spiritual aspects!

The spiritual well-being of our Marines and sailors is vital to our mission. We all need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation, study of God's word, and fellowship to help sustain us in times of stress, hardship, and tragedy.

To those who don't have religious preference, they too

need to nurture their core values and internalize them.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with its accompanying inscription at Arlington National Cemetery honors those soldiers who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

Their sacrifice proves the truth General George C. Marshall expressed: "The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit and the soldier's soul are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself, his commander, and his country in the end.

It is not enough to fight. It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit that wins the victory. Morale is a state of mind. It is steadfastness, courage and hope. It is confidence, zeal and loyalty. It is elan, esprit de corps and determination. It is staying power, the spirit which endures in the end, and the will to win. With it all things are possible, without it everything else, planning, preparation, and production count for naught."

"The spirit of man is more important than mere physical strength and the spiritual fiber of a nation than its wealth."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th U.S. President
Note: For those interested in Total Wellness Program, please e-mail Chaplain Cometa at juan.cometa@usmc.mil.

Marine Corps History and Heritage



A 37mm gun fires against cave positions in the north face of a volcano in support of Regimental Combat Team 28. These light but extremely accurate weapons did some of their best work in the southern part of the island.

Feb. 19, 1945: 4th and 5th Marine Divisions assault Iwo Jima. Four days later, 1st Lt. Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

TOTAL SHIELD 2010

scheduled from Feb.22 through Feb. 26

SHIELD FROM PAGE 1

training as well as bilateral training between Japanese and U.S. forces designed to improve interoperability.

"The exercise scenarios have been scheduled for areas away from the most populated areas of the base," said Maj. Grant C. Killmer, exercise officer-in-charge.

"However, if anyone is unsure if

a scenario is part of the exercise or a real emergency, they should call 911/119 as they normally would."

Exercise controllers will be present at each scenario to ensure the safety of participating civilian residents and service members involved and will be wearing a white band on their cover and an orange vest.

Most of the station members participating in the exercise will be wearing green camouflage utilities, flack jackets, Kevlar helmet or mission-oriented protective posture gear.

Station members acting as aggressors during the exercise will be donned in desert camouflage utilities or civilian attire.

Although some service members

participating in Total Shield 2010 will be issued rifles and firearms, no live ammunition will be used or issued during the exercise.

Broadcasting messages relating to the exercise will be continually running on the station's radio channel AM 1575 as well as through the Commander's Channel 17.

NEO EXERCISE

Testing the station's ability to conduct an evacuation safely and efficiently

NEO FROM PAGE 1

responsible for the safe lodging or evacuation of Pacific area civilians to a safer location.

In those situations, various station components would work together to set up a NEO processing center where evacuees would be processed and then assigned temporary quarters or moved to the air terminal to fly out to safety.

The exercise tested the station's ability to conduct an evacuation safely and efficiently.

Phillips said there are various procedures and pieces of equipment which base personnel have to use during the NEO and having the exercise is the best way to ensure everyone is familiar with what's expected in case of a real-life scenario.

"We need to ensure that people are prepared in case of a NEO

contingency," said Phillips.

Many of the participating Marines realized the importance of the exercise as they were working their stations in the NEO processing center.

Sherri Manning, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron assistant administrative clerk and legal specialist, issued evacuation priority numbers and compiled the evacuees into categories for evacuation during the exercise.

"I've never done this before. However, doing this and understanding now from just this exercise, I think that I would be able to make the process a lot more expeditious," said Manning. "This exercise is extremely important. If this were a real life scenario and people were needing to get evacuated, ev-

everyone will be up in arms trying to get out. We all need to be prepared to help those people out."

Many of the volunteering dependents found there was a lot more to evacuating than they thought.

Virginia Mills and her two daughters, all station family members who have lived here approximately two years, volunteered for the exercise.

Mills said thanks to her participation in the exercise, she realized she needs a better way to organize her paperwork.

"It's good for my girls (to participate in the NEO, too)," said Mills. "Now they too know what to expect. If something were to happen it would be pretty scary, anyway. To know what it was like and what to expect is important."

COBRA FROM PAGE 1

spond to regional contingencies. Cobra Gold 2010 differs from previous years and is historical due to the Republic of Korea's Marine Corps involvement in the annual exercise.

"This is a huge importance," said Maj. Victor Chin, executive officer for Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Okinawa, Japan. "It is the first time we are working with the Thai's Marine Corps and Republic of Korea's Marine Corps in the same area."

Although the main body of Iwakuni Marines were deployed to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, the rest of the Pacific Marines participating in the exercise were deployed to alternate bases and stations such as Ban Chan Khrem.

Ban Chan Khrem is located a few hours outside Korat and supports some of the ground elements of Cobra Gold 2010.

"It's the only live-fire range for the Thai Marine Corps," said Chin.

It has multiple helicopter landing zones as well as open ranges where Marines of all three nations can practice with a multitude of weapons and explosives.

Ban Chan Khrem is highly important to the mission because it allows all three Marine Corps to live side by side, eat together, work together and, most importantly, overcome any cultural differences and communication barriers.

The training being conducted at Ban Chan Khrem demonstrates U.S., Thai and Republic of Korea's commitment to peace and stability in the Pacific region.

"This is great training," said Chin. "The top three Marine Corps' working together is history in the making."

NEO EVACUATION ITEMS TO ALWAYS HAVE READY

Area civilians and family members are encouraged to always have the following items ready at all times along with their NEO Evacuation Envelope, in case of a natural disaster or attack which requires immediate evacuation.

IN THE ENVELOPE

- Passport
- ID cards (in wallet)
- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Certificates
- Naturalization Certificates
- Alien Registration cards
- DD Form 1337 (Emergency Pay & Allowances)

WITHIN EASY ACCESS TO PUT IN NEO ENVELOPE

- Wills
- Financial records
- LES
- Vehicle registration/titles
- Insurance policies

TO HAVE AVAILABLE TO BRING TO NEO PROCESSING CENTER

- \$100 (Some in Yen, some in

- DD Form 1797
- DoD Form 2585 (Repatriation processing sheet)
- Power(s) of Attorney
- MCAS Iwakuni NEO pamphlet

- \$10 quarter rolls)
- Backpack or bag for easy transportation on foot
- Toiletries
- Baby supplies
- Prescription medication
- Blankets and sleeping gear
- First aid kit
- Flashlight with batteries
- Transistor radio
- Extra clothing
- Cards or games

Having these items ready at all times eases the process during a NEO contingency. For more information, contact your unit family readiness officer.

D.A.R.E.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Gaven Crochet, a fifth grader in Gwen Ziegler's class, reads his essay during the Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduation at the Building 1 auditorium here Jan. 12. He won first place in his class for the essay contest held during D.A.R.E.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Fifth-grade students from Matthew C. Perry Elementary School sit during the Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduation held at the Building 1 auditorium here Jan. 12. During the graduation, each student received a D.A.R.E. certificate, and Daren the Lion presented them each with a D.A.R.E. T-shirt and water bottle.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Students from four fifth-grade classes at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School pose for a group photo after the Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduation held at the Building 1 auditorium here Jan. 12. During the course of the program, students learned to stay away and how to say no to tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana.

NO TO TABACCO, ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA

55 fifth graders from M.C. Perry Elementary graduate from Drug Abuse Resistance Education program

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Mr. Mitchell, I waited my whole life to come to D.A.R.E.," said a young fifth-grade girl on Cpl. Joshua Mitchell's first day as the Matthew C. Perry D.A.R.E. officer.

On Jan. 12, 55 fifth-grade students from M.C. Perry Elementary graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program at the Building 1 auditorium here.

During the course of the program, students learned how to stay away and how to say no to tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana.

"I can say no easily," said Mei Williamson, one of Keri Nugent's students. "You can give them the cold shoulder, say no a lot or use humor. It's easy."

Throughout D.A.R.E., the students had to complete course books, write essays and conduct skits to show how to avoid peer pressure.

"Being paired up, acting and playing parts was my favorite part of D.A.R.E.," said Williamson.

Students, teachers and service members all expressed that they enjoyed taking part in

the D.A.R.E. program.

"I got to become more of a friend than a teacher," said Mitchell. "They already knew half of the stuff I came to teach them, so I was able to come in and have fun. It was a good experience."

Mitchell said that D.A.R.E. is not just im-

"Acting and playing parts was my favorite part of D.A.R.E."

Mei Williamson

Fifth grader from Matthew C. Perry Elementary

portant to the students but also to the people around them who are affected by what they have learned.

"It's important for them to make good decisions and to be a good example for everyone else," he said.

The staff seemed to be very pleased with Mitchell's effort to reach out to the children at M.C. Perry.

"He did a great job getting them engaged," said Gwen Ziegler, a fifth-grade teacher. "He

gave them all the respect they deserved and really helped them grasp all the concepts. They always had fun, and I rarely ever had to step in to help."

During the graduation, each student received a D.A.R.E. certificate, and Daren the Lion presented them each with a D.A.R.E.

T-shirt and water bottle.

Out of the 55 students, four stood out just a little more above the rest. They were the winners of the essay contest. Students wrote an essay on what they learned in D.A.R.E. and why they thought it was important.

Mei Williamson of Keri Nugent's class, Marlon Vesprey of Bonnie Kassabaum's class,

Gaven Crochet of Gwen Ziegler's class, and Delilah Rodriguez, the overall winner for the fifth-grade class, took the stage to read their essays aloud and were each presented with a medal.

"They were all a great group of kids," said Mitchell. "They all really wanted to learn. They're looking into their future for where they can use this. It's about what these kids can pass on to others that's really important."

HAITI UPDATE: MARINES, SAILORS PROVIDE RELIEF, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

24th MEU teams with UN, ADRA to feed Carrefour

SGT. ALEX SAUCEDA
24TH MEU

CARREFOUR, Haiti — Working alongside United Nations Sri Lankan Army soldiers, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines ensured Adventist Development and Relief Agency volunteers safely and efficiently dispensed rations to Haitians beginning Feb. 2.

"This is the first time that we've worked with the Marines and without the Marines things here wouldn't have gone as easily and smoothly," said Kelvin Riveas, area coordinator, ADRA. "The Marines have been able to get the flow, control, and structure that we needed to move along with our operation."

Mortarmen from 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, BLT 1/9, 24th MEU, spent a full day rehearsing security drills and fortifying the site prior to the opening day of distribution. Residing in an area covered in metal refuse and scrap car parts, Marines turned abandoned junk into barricades and serpentine isles outside the distribution site.

"We used what we could find around the area we're living in to build and secure this site. The location where food was going to be handed out had to be well protected and we also had to make an area for people to wait in line for their food," said Lance Cpl. Taylor F. Lohmann, mortarman, 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, BLT 1/9, 24th MEU. "It was important to get this place safe and in order, not only for the Marines and [volunteers], but also for the locals outside waiting for food."

Trained as the MEU's Airborne Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel team, ready to deploy as at moment's notice, 81mm mortar platoon Marines' versatility made them a primary choice to organize Haiti's Distribution Site 16 in Carrefour.

"These Marines have done a [pre-deployment cycle] where they're ready for anything and the first thing we are called in to do is humanitarian assistance," said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Howk, platoon sergeant, 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, BLT 1/9, 24th



SGT. ALEX SAUCEDA

CARREFOUR, Haiti — Haitians erupt in praise as Fritz Bissereth, Haiti director, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, announces the relief his organization continues to provide in Carrefour, Haiti, as a Marine shield team from Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, safely holds a crowd of Haitians in place outside a food distribution site Feb. 3. 24th MEU Marines provided security alongside the Sri Lankan Army with United Nations at an ADRA food distribution site. Marines safely managed Haitian crowds as ADRA volunteers quickly and efficiently dispense relief supplies. 24th MEU is among the most versatile military units in the world and ready to perform a gamut of missions in support of Operation Unified Response.

MEU. "This just shows Marines' versatility to either help provide assistance, vice the normal image of Marines in conventional warfare."

Marines and Sri Lankan soldiers were responsible for maintaining order as ADRA volunteers remained focused on handing out food safely and without incident.

"Carrefour is one of the main districts of Port-au-Prince where people are in great need of food and water, and we are giving rice bags to more than 1,500 people every day for the next 14 days," said Plinio Vergara, area coordinator, ADRA.

ADRA received the rice from the World Food Organization and each 25 kilogram rice bag can feed a family of five for approximately 15 days. Haitians obtained color coded coupons from officials to enter the distribution site and retrieve their bags of rice. Marines ensured locals had the appropriate coupon, filtering those that were counterfeit.

Marines deftly handled a growing crowd outside the site. They kept spectators in staging areas away from oncoming traffic, while ensuring everyone with a ticket safely entered the distribution site.

Some of the people outside the site came to find out how they can get rice, but most of the locals were just curious and watched the Marines because they've never seen people of their color before, said Regina, ADRA volunteer and Port-au-Prince native.

Despite being strangers in a foreign land, Marines and Haitians quickly established a mutual respect.

"At first when they dealt with us, the Haitians viewed us as aggressive and they were timid and [confrontational]," said Lance Cpl. Brandon Whitehead, mortarman, 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, BLT 1/9, 24th MEU. "Once they notice that we are here to help them, they smile and became more welcoming. They see that we're helpers, not just fighters and that is what the Marine Corps is all about."

Since arriving, Weapons Company has been a versatile asset, adapting to ADRA's every need.

"The Marines have been able to accommodate us in any way or form that we've asked and they've definitely been a blessing to our organization," said Riveas. "Being down here in Haiti is a mission and with the help from everyone, we'll accomplish the mission."



SGT. ALEX SAUCEDA

CARREFOUR, Haiti — Cpl. Robert Mobley, radio operator, 81mm mortar platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, surveys the line of Haitians waiting to receive rice packages at a food distribution site in Carrefour, Haiti Feb. 3. 24th MEU Marines provided security alongside the Sri Lankan Army with United Nations at an Adventist Development and Relief Agency food distribution site.

TOURING THAILAND

PART THREE

Marines, sailors give back to local Thai community

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Marines and sailors aboard Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand taking part in exercise Cobra Gold 2010, visited Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women here in Thailand Feb. 10.

The visit to Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women is part of the ongoing relationship with the U.S. and Thai community relations project headed up by the chaplains office.

“We have gone there in the past,” said Lt. Commander Denis Cox, chaplain for Marine Aircraft Group 12. “We choose the places we visit that we have already established relationships with them so there is trust.”

Cobra Gold 2010 is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise in the continuing series of U.S.-Thai military exercises designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand or respond to regional contingencies.

A total of 19 Marines and sailors went to Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women on what was the ninth community relations project of Cobra Gold 2010.

Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women was established in 1966 to provide spiritual rehabilitation, vocational training and non-formal education for disadvantaged women so they are able to reintegrate into society to earn an honest living and to prevent women from being lured into prostitution.

There were about 150 young ladies at Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women between the ages of 8-18.

“They were really excited to see us,” said Lance Cpl. Claudia Guerrero, embarked for MAG-36. “It means a lot to make a difference in their lives for at least one day.”

Making a difference is what Cobra Gold 2010 is all about on and off base.

Col. Robert Brassaw, commanding officer for MAG-36, as well as Korat Royal Thai Air Force commanding officer, Group Captain “Rocket” Chatarasopa, joined in the project.

“For him to go along and participate was important,” said Cox. “It says this is really important for everybody.”

The Marines and sailors were encouraged to interact with the young ladies to demonstrate the ambassadors that every service member eventually becomes while over seas.

“We got to participate in some traditional games,” said Guerrero. “It’s a good feeling to see what the world is like.”

Although the community relation projects that take place only last a few hours at most, the impact of the good will given will last a lifetime and may just be a defining moment in one fortunate person’s life.

“It means a lot to make a difference in their lives for at least one day.”

Lance Cpl. Claudia Guerrero
Embarked for Marine Aircraft Group 36

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – A Marine and a young Thai lady as his partner participate in a race game during a community relations project trip to Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women here in Thailand Feb. 10. Participants in the game ate a cake, drank hot soda, blew baby powder off a plate to find a coin, threaded a needle, and finally blew up a balloon until it popped.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand– Col. Robert Brassaw, commanding officer for MAG-36, and Group Captain “Rocket” Chatarasopa, Korat Royal Thai Air Force commanding officer, sit and enjoy a performance put on by the young ladies of Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women here in Thailand Feb. 10.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand – Lance Cpl. Claudia Guerrero plays a game with one of the young ladies at Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women here in Thailand Feb. 10. The objective of the game was to stomp and pop all other players’ balloons off their feet.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand– Col. Robert Brassaw, commanding officer for MAG-36, serves ice cream to the young ladies of Narisawat welfare Protection and Vocational Training Centre for Women here in Thailand Feb. 10.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A Marine with Weapons Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sprints down the line of heavy machine guns to deliver a map after a firefight with Taliban insurgents Feb. 9 at the "Five Points" intersection, a key junction of roads linking the northern area of the insurgent stronghold of Marjeh with the rest of Helmand province. Marines of Charlie Co. conducted a helicopter-borne assault earlier that morning to seize the area.

Marines fight insurgents, secure key intersection on road to Marjeh

SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 7

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines and sailors of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, battled Taliban insurgents Feb. 9, after conducting a successful helicopter-borne assault to seize a key intersection east of the insurgent stronghold city of Marjeh.

The Marines, some carrying more than their body weight in gear, moved toward the center of an area known as "Five Points," an intersection of major roads in western Helmand province, located between the cities of Marjeh and Nawa. The Marines were joined on the assault by their partnered Afghan National Army soldiers who fought alongside them against the Taliban.

"I felt the assault went well," said Capt. Stephan P. Karabin, commanding officer, Charlie Co., 1/3. "We got in here quickly, under the cover of darkness on the helicopters, moved into position, set everything in place and were able to seize the objective. This area is important because it's the one intersection which links

northern Marjeh...to (eastern Helmand province) and it blocks that supply route.

"Marines did their job well here, and some engaged with the enemy for the first time in this deployment," said Karabin, 30, from West Palm Beach, Fla.

The Five Points intersection and surrounding area is also part of the main route from Marjeh to Lashkar Gah, the Helmand provincial capital, said Karabin.

"These roads are very important to our movement within the area of operations," said Karabin.

Not long after Marines established their defensive positions in the area did they observe Taliban fighters approaching from Marjeh. The Taliban immediately began firing their machine guns at the Marines. Marines and ANA soldiers fired back with heavy machine guns, rockets and small-arms fire, wounding and killing several Taliban fighters, forcing them to flee.

Marines took the brief respite to fortify their fighting positions with sandbags and concrete blocks scrounged from the area around them.

"While we were reinforcing our position on a roof, we came under

fire again," said Sgt. Stephen Y. Roberts, a 23-year-old assault section leader, Weapons Platoon, Charlie Co. "It was three or four of the same fighters we had seen firing at us earlier."

Roberts responded to the enemy machine-gun fire by launching a Javelin shoulder-fired missile into the position the fighters were firing from, immediately silencing the heavy machine gun. Marine AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters

flying the area followed Roberts' fire to strike a volley of heavy machine-gun fire and rockets, putting an end to the engagement.

Charlie Co. Marines were joined at Five Points that evening by squads of Marines from Bravo Co., 1/3, having traveled the nine kilometers from Nawa on foot while sweeping for and clearing improvised explosive devices along the road linking the two locations.



SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — An Afghan National Army soldier fires a rocket-propelled grenade at Taliban insurgents from Marjeh firing on their position Feb. 9 at the "Five Points" intersection.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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! The party starts tomorrow, 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: 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 the station Red Cross at 253-4525.

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.

Free Child Development Screening

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will be holding a free child

development screening for children 4-60 months on March 10 and 11 at MC Perry Elementary School. Child specialists will answer questions and screen 5 major areas of child development. For more information on the free child development screening, call EDIS at 253-4562.

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 MCCS 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.

Soul Night

Join us for Soul night Feb. 25, 6 – 9 p.m. at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom. Seating is limited to 200. RSVP by phone only; payment will be accepted at the door. Soul Night will feature: Guest Chef Alex Sumlin and DJ Buck who will be playing 70's & 80's Motown classics during the event. Call 253-5416 for reservations by Feb. 22. \$12.95 Adults / \$6.50 Children (Ages 5 – 10). For more information go to www.mccsiwakuni.com/club.

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
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 19, 2010
7 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Precious (R)
Premiere

Saturday, February 20, 2010
1 p.m. The Princess and the Frog (G)
4 p.m. It's Complicated (PG-13)
7 p.m. Nine (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. The Book of Eli (R)

Sunday, February 21, 2010
1 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks (G)
4 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13)
7 p.m. Precious (R)

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.

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

2000 Mitsubishi Dion
JCI until July 2011. Only \$3000. For more information, call 253-2875.

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 MOS
Snughug Head Support for baby (NEW) - \$1
Nursing Cover - \$3

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerked style chicken, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, French fried okra, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin cookies, double layer almond cake, Chocolate cream pie, whipped topping.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Beefnoodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak With gravy, Szechwan chicken, O'Brien potatoes, noodles Jefferson, French fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit, three bean salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake, buttercream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet & sour pork, Yakisoba (hamburger), pork fried rice, Brussels sprouts, corn, whole kernel, dinner rolls, spring salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, fried chicken, beef Stoganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, green bean Southern style, chicken gravy, cheese biscuits, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, double layer devil's food cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookie.
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday

Beef barley soup, Spanish soup, lemon baked fish, el rancho stew, steamed rice, potatoes au gratin, cauliflower combo, black eyed peas, dinner rolls, brown gravy, mixed fruit, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, (apple/cherry) turnovers.
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

Nursing Pads - \$3
Dr. Brown's Bottle & Nipple Replacements (NEW) - \$3
Little Tikes Mulching Mower toy - \$5

If interested, please call 253-2735 or 080-3172-7210.

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.

Youth Sports Basketball Season Needs 28 coaches

Looking for 10 coaches to teach children ages 3 - 4, eight coaches to teach children ages 5 - 6 and 10 coaches to teach children ages 7 - 9. Coaches will be needed from Mar. 6 - Apr. 17. Children ages 3 - 9 will practice once a week from 5 or 6 p.m. on either Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Ages 10 - 12 will practice a couple of times a week from 5 or 6 p.m. on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Games will be held once or twice a week from 5:30 or 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays. On weekends, games will start at 9, 10 or 11 am. on Saturdays. For more information, contact Naomi Higashi at 253-5777.

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. 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.

AD request submission deadline changes

M	T	W	T	F
		SUBMIT		DEADLINE
M	T	W	T	F
				PUBLICATION DAY

Effective March 1, the deadline for all classified and community brief submissions will change from Tuesday to **Friday**. All ads submitted for publication before end of business Friday will be printed on the Friday of the following week. Ads will be published on a space-available basis.

Marines thank spouses for support



Maj. Mike Jeron, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron executive officer, and Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Buentello, H&HS squadron gunnery sergeant, helped serve breakfast during a spouse appreciation breakfast at Capodanno Hall Feb. 12. The breakfast was to treat the military spouses on base in gratification of all the hard work and support they provide to service members on a daily basis.

2010 Commander's Cup Challenge

H&HS takes first place, 30 points toward the cup

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The golfer stepped onto the green and positioned himself as he looked over the grassy, textured field.

From behind a yellow line, his teammates cheered him on and gave him encouragement.

They were counting on him to drive the 1.62-ounce ball as far down the line as he could in order to take home first place.

He exhaled, extended his club all the way above his shoulders and behind his head, then in one quick motion, he swung the golf club as hard as he could, whacking the ball a great distance from where it lay stationary just moments before.

Within seconds, the ball disappeared from sight and everyone clapped at a shot well driven.

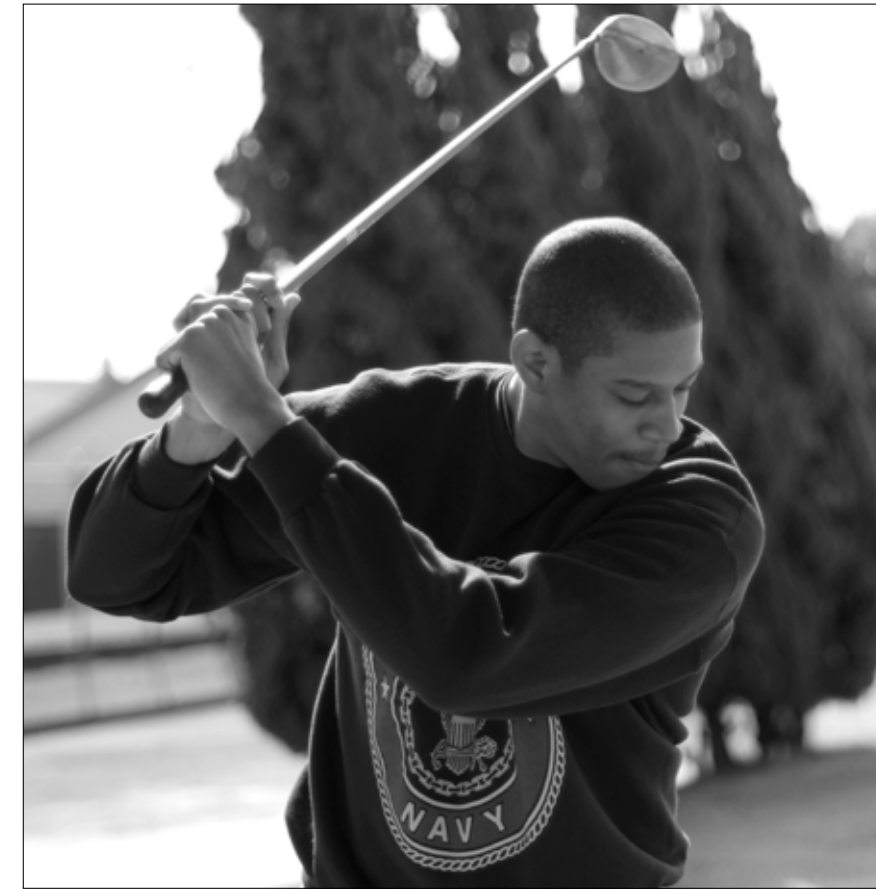
Local Marines and sailors came together to compete in the second monthly event of the annual Commander's Cup Challenge, The Longest Yard, at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Feb. 12.

The Longest Yard gave service members from each unit the chance to put their golf-swing techniques to the test.

Each unit was given the task to form a team of up to five members to compete. However, one service member was allowed to represent his unit individually if he felt that his skills were up to par.

"All five members on the team did not have to show up," said Barbara Roman, fitness coordinator here. "So if they only had two members on the team and they hit the farthest shot out, they're the unit that was going to win," she said.

Each member on each team was given five tries, allowing a total of up to 25 chances to each



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Petty Officer 3rd Class James Hopkins backswoings before driving the ball down the fairway at The Longest Yard, the second Commander's Cup Challenge event, at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Feb. 12. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron won first place followed by Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12.

unit, to hit the ball as far as they could down range, and whoever hit the ball the farthest won the challenge.

"Whoever hits the longest yard out of the whole five members is the one that counts," said Roman.

"So the unit with the longest yard wins," she said.

The first place winner of the Commander's Cup Challenge event, Sgt. Ryan Chilson of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, was awarded \$100

toward the H&HS unit party fund and 30 points toward the Commander's Cup as well as a trophy for a 323-yard drive.

Second place, Lance Cpl. Gregory DiToro of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was awarded \$75 toward the MWSS-171 unit party fund along with a trophy and 27 points toward the cup. DiToro drove a 314-yard ball.

Third place was not far behind. Staff Sgt. Christopher Rio of Marine Aviation Logistics

Squadron 12 drove the ball a total of 313 yards, earning his unit 25 points toward the Commander's Cup.

"Getting together and having everyone compete together is pretty cool," said DiToro. "It was fun," he said. "There were a lot of higher ups competing, and we were all pulling for each other."

Female service members are highly encouraged to participate in any Commander's Cup Challenge event.

Unlike few events throughout the year that require units to have at least one female participant on their team in order to avoid being deducted points, this event did not have such requirements.

"I wanted to get more females involved this year, because they also have their strengths," said Roman.

There will be three events throughout the year that will require a female participant or the unit will be disqualified from the event.

The next Commander's Cup Challenge event, Basketball Shootout, is scheduled to take place at the IronWorks Gym basketball court March 19. It will allow service members to show off their free-throw techniques and another chance at first-place recognition throughout the air station.

Units also have a chance to earn bonus points in between monthly events by participating in weekly Tuesday Tune Up at the Crossroads Mall during lunch hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information, goodies, free cholesterol screenings and body fat assessments are scheduled to be available.

For more information about the Commander's Cup Challenge or Tuesday Tune Up, call Health Promotions at 253-3696.

Longest Yard competition results

Five team members from each unit competed to see which team could drive the longest golf ball.

Unit

Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron - Headquarters
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12
Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron - Operations
Branch Health Clinic
Combat Logistics Company 36

Points Awarded

30 points
27 points
25 points
20 points
20 points
20 points

Schedule of upcoming events

March 19 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.	Basketball Shootout	Four team members compete in a timed 3-point challenge.	IronWorks Gym
April 16 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.	Sumo BASHO	Teams of five will compete in a single-elimination sumo wrestling tournament.	IronWorks Gym
May 14 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.	Biathlon	Teams will compete in marksmanship and running.	IronWorks Gym



EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

The air station will be conducting Exercise Total Shield 2010, a basewide readiness exercise, Feb. 22 - Feb. 25. Weapons and nuclear, biological and chemical gear will be carried around the clock.

****Impact to the civilian population and other units will be minimized. Call Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Training at 253-3417 for more information.**