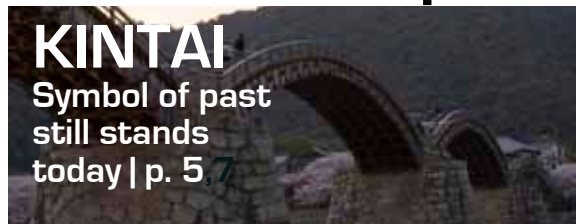


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Symbol of past still stands today | p. 5



KICKS
Samurai Shootout gets dirty | p. 11

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 11, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

New Patriot Express changes effective April 2

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Patriot Express is slated to continue service here with minor changes effective April 2.

The Patriot Express is now scheduled to arrive here Saturdays and depart for Yokota for a layover before continuing on to Seattle Tacoma International Airport.

Space Available travelers or service members traveling without orders aboard the Patriot Express are required to be at the air terminal here no later than 10:05 a.m. Saturdays.

Anyone wishing to board the Patriot Express through Space Available travel can contact the air terminal for more information.

Space Required travelers or service members traveling with funded orders to Seattle will need to be at the air terminal no later than 11:05 a.m. for check-in process.

Space Required travelers who are under permanent change of station orders will also have the option to check in early 3 - 6:30 p.m. Fridays.

Gunnery Sgt. Joaquin Navarro, air transportation division staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge here said, "North American Airlines remains the carrier for the Patriot Express, but the aircraft will change from a Boeing 757 to a Boeing 767. This aircraft is more modern, larger and a lot more fuel efficient than the previous DC-10 and current Boeing 757."

Also, Misawa and Anchorage will no longer be on the same leg as Iwakuni. Instead, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan has been added to the route.

On Fridays, the Patriot Express will leave Seattle to Yokota, then continue to Iwakuni and finally arrive at Kadena.

After staying overnight in Kadena, the Patriot Express will journey back to Seattle, following the same route in reverse on Saturdays.

"I think (adding Okinawa) is one of the key elements," said Lt. Cmdr. Keith Applegate, station logistics officer. "It's a big win for

SEE PATRIOT ON PAGE 3

Station supports Women's History Month, WMA through run



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Station members run in support of Women's History Month here March 12. A 5K run was held to inform military members and civilians about the Women Marines Association and Women's History Month.

Corporals Course: Marines prepare for success

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members and civilians gathered to honor the Corporal's Course graduates of Class 2-10 at the station chapel here March 9. Marines who took the course were taught and tested, mentally and physically, for 21 days.

"This class in particular was extremely diverse in personalities, which I believe definitely

worked in their favor," said Sgt. Colin Crane, the first squad advisor. "The Corps already attracts strong-willed individuals, so when you put together a group of Marines motivated enough to make it to the rank of corporal, you better believe there (are) going to be some strong personalities."

Marines in the course were able to use the

SEE CORPORAL ON PAGE 3

VMFA-115 bids farewell to MCAS Iwakuni after UDP deployment

PFC. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 returned to its home base Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. March 11 after completing a six-month deployment under the Unit Deployment Program here.

The Unit Deployment Program was created by the commandant to provide deployments of units to the Western Pacific for periods of six months at a time.

"UDP is a system of cycling different fighter squadrons from stateside for us to continue to maintain a presence in the (Pacific area of responsibility)," said Capt. Ramon Ballester, VMFA-115 ground safety and Naval Air Training and Operating Standardization officer.

VMFA squadrons are aviation units selected to provide air-to-ground support for troops in combat in the form of surveillance and reconnaissance.

"We are the eye in the sky for the troops on the ground," said Staff Sgt. Enel C. Laborn, VMFA-115 quality assurance representative.

While being deployed to the Western Pacific, VMFA squadrons participate in various training and also act as a response force.

"It's been a very interesting experience," said Ballester.

"We had the opportunity to

SEE SQUADRON 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

'It's Not My Fault'

LT. CMDR. DENIS COX
MARINE AIRCRAFT
GROUP 12 CHAPLAIN

How many times have you been confronted with an accusation and your response was "it wasn't me, it was so and so's fault?" It's the second oldest lie in the book.

Ever since the dawn of time, we see people not taking responsibility for their own actions. It's so natural to want to blame someone else. It's also easier. Maybe we don't want to blame someone else; we just want to give a reason or explanation about why we failed or made a mistake.

I have found myself at the end of this question before: "Chaplain Cox, why wasn't this done? I asked you to get this done last week."

It's natural to want to defend ourselves or explain ourselves or shift the blame to someone else. I could easily say, "I couldn't get so and so to help me," and I wouldn't be wrong. I'd just be

irresponsible.

In Genesis chapter 3, verse 11, we see God confronting Adam with his own disobedience. Adam was responsible for his actions and God was holding him accountable. Instead of taking responsibility for his own actions, Adam did what many of us have been doing for thousands of years; he passed the buck.

His response to God is found in verse 12 when he says, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Comedy Central skit aside, we can see a lame attempt on Adam's part to explain himself or give his defense. I'm sure he was sincere when he said this, too. He was just sincerely wrong.

The military is very good at holding people accountable for their actions, and not just their actions, but those actions of those who serve under them as well. We make sure that people who have been put in charge are held responsible for getting things done.

People in the military under-

stand all too well that some things in our lives may not always be our fault but they are still our responsibility.

Here's my question and the point of this article: How is it that we in the military can understand being responsible for our (and others') actions but that does not translate over to our personal relationships?

When it comes to our personal relationships, we want to act like Adam and point our finger to other people and blame them. We are very responsible at work, but when we come home, all bets are off. We point our finger at members of our family and accuse them of making our lives miserable or being the source of what's wrong.

The next time we see a problem in our personal lives or in our family or in our marriage, let's not point our fingers at someone else and say, like Adam, "It's so and so's fault." Let's take a good hard look in the mirror and say, "My fault/my bad." You just may find the solution you've been looking for all along instead of

Local Marine retires after 30 years of service, dedication to Corps



Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Wilder renders a salute during his retirement ceremony at the South side flight line here March 12. Some of his awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with four gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars, Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Letter to the Editor

My name is Rosie Sonnier. I am the spouse of Master Sgt. Damon P. Sonnier of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and mom to Mac C. Sonnier. I want to express my gratitude to all those who have assisted in the diagnosis, treatment and care of our son since arriving on station. Mac was diagnosed with mild-moderate Autism in January. We have been directed by Mac's physician, Dr. Michelle Ervin, Okinawa, to return stateside for the best early intervention.

Everyone from the Early Developmental Inter-

vention Services (Linda Lonadier, Lt. Boyd, Johanna Van Winkle), Exceptional Family Member Program (Joy Calvin) and MALS-12 command (Lt. Col. Jonathan Gackle and Sgt. Maj. Drew Benson) have gone out of their way to understand the urgency of early intervention for our son and expedite all paperwork to get orders produced for our return to the states. Having everyone come together for the needs of our 3-year-old son makes me so proud to call the Marine Corps family. I am so grateful to everyone involved in getting us back stateside.

I hope these folks can be recognized for not just doing their jobs but understanding the urgency and helping a little guy who can't say "thank you" yet.

Sincerely,
Rosie M. Sonnier

Patriot Express to make minor changes

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us. Okinawa is great because it helps folks traveling for temporary additional duties to Okinawa and for space available travelers. People can get down to Kadena with the possibility of hops to Hawaii or places further south."

Shuttle bus service will continue to provide transportation to the air terminal for accompanied personnel residing in temporary lodging from all lodges on Saturdays.

The bus will arrive at the Nishiki Lodge at 10 a.m., the Kin-tai Inn at 10:18 a.m., and the Monzen Lodge at 10:36 a.m. in order to arrive at the air terminal at 11 a.m. The shuttle will wait at each location for approximately 15 minutes.

Unaccompanied service members requiring transportation to the air terminal can use the regular shuttle bus or meet the Patriot Express Shuttle at its scheduled locations.

Travelers aboard the Patriot



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

A Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 F/A-18 hornet lands from training in preparation for exercise Cobra Gold 2010 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Kingdom of Thailand Jan. 27. VMFA-115 also participated in Arden Blitz in South Korea, and Ryuoko Air Warrior and Wolmido Fury in Okinawa, Japan, while deployed here under the Unit Deployment Program.

VMFA-115 returns to home base

SQUADRON FROM PAGE 1

redeploy to Okinawa, Thailand and Korea, and some of us have been to the Philippines and Brunei."

During their time here, VMFA-115's Marines participated in various exercises such as Arden Blitz in South Korea; Cobra Gold in Korat, Thailand; and Ryuoko Air Warrior and Wolmido Fury in Okinawa, Japan.

"The exercises were excellent. It gave us the opportunity to train with both American Air Force and the opportunity to work with Thailand," said Ballester. "Specifically, in Cobra Gold we were able to work with the Thai Air Force and fly with their L-39s, their Alpha Jets and their F-16s."

When VMFA units travel, they usually leave in a sequential order of groups referred to as the lead, main body and trail crews.

The lead crew is the first to depart. It consists of the unit's pilots and half of the unit's maintenance Marines.

They're responsible for ensuring the fighter jets arrive at their destination safely.

The main body is the second wave of Marines to leave. This contains a majority of the unit's Marines, and they take a straight flight commercially to their destination.

The trail crew is the remainder of the maintenance Marines who follow the fighter jets, ensuring no one and nothing is left behind. VMFA-115 departed with only a main body and trail crew.

Their fighter jets left with the trail crew. The remainder of the maintenance crew will follow the fighter jets, ensuring that they make it to their home station safely.

Although the unit is leaving, VMFA(AW)-121 will replace VMFA-115 and continue to maintain the responsibilities of a UDP VMFA squadron here.

"Marine aviation isn't going anywhere, and as long as Marine aviation is around, 115 will be around," said Laborn.

Express with a cat or dog can request a space for their pet to travel from here to Seattle with certain requirements.

Pet owners planning to fly aboard the Patriot Express are encouraged to reserve space for their pets early through the Traffic Management Office here due to limited space on the aircraft.

According to information released by TMO, each traveler can request a maximum of two pet spaces, and is required to have a pet health certificate no more than 10 days old and vaccination records no more than a year old.

Pets must travel in a hard cage with enough room for the pet to

stand up and turn around in.

Pet fees are as follow: 70 pounds and under - \$110, 70 to 139 pounds - \$220 and 140 to 150 pounds - \$330.

The cage in which the pet travels is included in the weight limit.

Each traveler aboard the Patriot Express is allowed two pieces of luggage up to 70 pounds each and one carry-on.

Any luggage weighing more than 70 pounds will have an extra fee of \$110. Luggage exceeding 100 pounds will not be permitted onboard the aircraft.

For additional information, contact the air terminal at 253-5509 or TMO at 253-6256.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Marines sing the Marines' Hymn at the Corporals Course graduation of Class 2-10 at the Marine Memorial Chapel here March 9. The course was 21 days long and covered Marine Corps knowledge, drill, physical training, sword manual and uniform inspections.

Corporals graduate 21-day course

CORPORAL FROM PAGE 1

strength Crane was talking about as they completed challenges in Marine Corps knowledge, drill, physical training, sword manual and uniform inspections.

"All of us are competitive in nature, so it's no surprise that we pushed each other," said Cpl. Gonzalez. "It's like they say, steel sharpens steel, and we definitely sharpened each other."

Gonzalez said the Marines were competitive in nature, but a few of the corporals stood out amongst the crowd.

Cpl. Marc Taylor, from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12,

earned the title as the honor graduate for achieving a grade point average of 94.78 percent. He received a non-commissioned officer sword donated by the Navy Federal Credit Union.

Cpl. Wesley Burnett, from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, received the "Gung-Ho" leadership award.

The Gung-Ho leadership award is presented to the Marine who inspires his fellow Marines the most and is generally selected by his peers.

As a collective group, the Marines of Class 2-10 received a class grade point average of 89 percent and a class physical fitness test average of 249.36.

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CLC-36 provides sustained combat logistics, keeps station fully functional

PFC. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Among all the different units aboard the air station here, one stands alone. Being the smallest non-air wing unit here, Combat Logistics Company 36 stays committed each day to providing supply support, engineer ground equipment maintenance and intermediate motor transport to the air wing, ultimately ensuring Marines have the necessary tools to achieve mission accomplishment in garrison or combat.

"We are the smallest non-wing unit at the air station, and we're focused on ground-side support," said Maj. James S. Whiteker, commanding officer of CLC-36. CLC-36 is a vital support element to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171.

CLC-36, parented by Combat Logistics Regiment 35, falls under the 3rd Marine Logistics Group. CLC-36's mission is to provide sustained combat logistics through maintenance, supply and operational services to III Marine Expeditionary Force units here and other geographic locations as directed by the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

"Because of us, the base continues to run the way it does," said 1st Sgt. Michael J. Pritchard, senior enlisted advisor of CLC-36.

Not only does the unit prepare vehicles and equipment in support of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, but many of the postal, Marine Corps Exchange and Travel Management Office Marines are attached to CLC-36. "We work very closely with MWSS-171, and we work very well with them," said Whiteker.

Due to the amount of CLC-36 Marines providing personnel for the Fleet Assistance Program, the unit usually has to operate with about 50 percent of its total personnel.

"We have all the components of a battalion with one-third of the personnel," said Gunnery Sgt. Kent Sabido, operations chief of CLC-36.

Along with the Marines providing assistance to the station, many of the CLC-36 Marines are frequently deploying to various countries for training and providing support for Operation Enduring Freedom. Nine of the unit's Marines are currently in Afghanistan. Since the unit could deploy

at any time under any 3rd MLG command, the unit must go through various types of training and excersizes to keep its Marines prepared to perform under any situation.

Gunnery Sgt. Rafael Miranda, maintenance chief of CLC-36, said the maintenance portion of the unit participates in training at Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to keep maintenance Marines updated on new equipment systems and technology.

"We perform any training to prepare us as warriors ... and ... to prepare the company to be combat ready," said Sabido.

If the unit isn't overseas training, both Miranda and Sabido said they try to make sure their Marines are engaged in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, rifle qualification, swim qualification and various on-base programs to keep the Marines in positive, progressive activities during their tour here.

"Marines enjoy being a part of CLC-36 because they're always doing things," said Pritchard. "They're never just sitting stagnant."

The busy schedule of a CLC-36 Marine doesn't preclude any of them from maintaining all Marine Corp standards. CLC-36 Marines still must attend weekly physical training, which sometimes may be up to five times a week.

"We usually do cross training," said Sgt. Joseph W. Diedrick, fort chief of CLC-36 here. "We PT sometimes five times and sometimes three times a week depending on the downtime we have."

The unit has many responsibilities to juggle on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, but even with the occasional absence of personnel the unit strives to perfect its duties.

"We are the group behind the fighting force," said Miranda.

Overall, CLC-36 has many faces and responsibilities here. Whether a Marine is retrieving mail or patrolling in a Humvee, CLC-36 contributes to the mission accomplishment of other Marine Corp units around the world.

"I think we work well together everywhere we go," said Pritchard. "We're giving the support the air station needs to perform its operations."



Lance Cpl. Juan Antonio Mayorodriguez, a Combat Logistics Company 36 heavy duty equipment mechanic here, pressure-washes a humvee frame before it is sent for repair. The humvee is separated into pieces so workers can replace the body wiring harness.



Lance Cpl. Aaron J. Maun, a Combat Logistics Company 36 welder here, welds together pieces of metal for a humvee. Maun has been working with CLC-36 for a year and a half.

"We have all the components of a battalion with one-third of the personnel."

Gunnery Sgt. Kent Sabido

Combat Logistics Company 36 operations chief

Kintai Bridge: Iwakuni's enduring, iconic symbol

LANCE CPL.
CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Iwakuni's story starts over 410 years ago and centers around its most unique and iconic symbol, the Kintai Bridge.

The Kikkawa family of the Mori Clan was responsible for founding Iwakuni and building the Kintai Bridge.

After the Battle of Sekigahara in the year 1600 which placed the Tokugawa Shogunate in power, Hiroie Kikkawa, the first lord of Iwakuni, was given the lands of Iwakuni to rule over.

Hiroie, looking for a defensive position to operate from, built Iwakuni Castle atop Mount Yokoyama in 1603.

Iwakuni Castle was one of the first of its kind as most castles were built atop small hills.

Although it took approximately five years to build, the castle stood for only seven years.

Hiroie was forced to dismantle the castle after the Tokugawa Shogunate passed a law saying only one castle per

province was allowed.

Today's Iwakuni Castle tower is a reproduction built in 1962.

Hiroie's next step was to construct a government domain at the foot of Mount Yokoyama which housed his high officials and samurai.

Room was limited at the foot of Mount Yokoyama, and as the town grew and prospered, its boarders expanded past the Nishiki River.

The mid- to lower-ranking officials who lived across the river were forced to board ferries to cross the river, which became extremely dangerous at high tide.

Hiroie decided to build a bridge to connect both sides of the river to ease the trip for his officials.

Every bridge he built over the river was washed away because of the Nishiki River's sandy riverbed. It wasn't until Hiroiyoshi Kikkawa, the third lord of Iwakuni, came into power that a proper bridge was built.

One legend says Hiroiyoshi designed the Kintai Bridge while cooking rice cakes. He noticed how the cakes warped upwards as they baked.

In truth, Hiroiyoshi wrestled with the idea for a strong bridge day and night.

He knew the answer laid in building an arched bridge which could span



Iwakuni Castle tower as it sits above Mount Yokoyama in Iwakuni city. The original castle was dismantled in 1615 but was reproduced in 1962.



The Kintai Bridge as seen from the top of Iwakuni Castle in Iwakuni city. Although the bridge has been washed away and rebuilt a number of times, it has remained a part of Iwakuni for more than 337 years.

across the river, but he also knew the river was too wide.

While trying to come up with a solution, Hiroiyoshi fell ill and was forced to bed to rest. A visiting Buddhist monk named Dokuryu treated Hiroiyoshi's illness.

One day while Dokuryu was treating Hiroiyoshi, he showed him a book from his hometown Xihu in Hangzhou, China.

As Hiroiyoshi flipped through the pages, he came across an illustration of an area called Sokoutei, which translated to Kintai or brocade sash.

The illustration showed a series of small islands interconnected by stone arch bridges, which all together resembled a brocade sash.

Excited by what he saw, Hiroiyoshi pounded the table with excitement as he came up with an idea for the bridge he was trying to build.

Hiroiyoshi had a series of five small stone islands built in the middle of Nishiki River and connected them with five wooden arched bridges, which would later be known as the Kintai Bridge.

The bridge was completed on the evening of Oct. 1, 1673, and actual construction of the bridge took approximately three and a half months.

Although the bridge was washed away a few times, its design, which cannot be found anywhere else in the world, proved to be more resilient than any other.

The Kintai Bridge has proved to be of great importance to the local community throughout Iwakuni's history.

Its importance to the community was never more

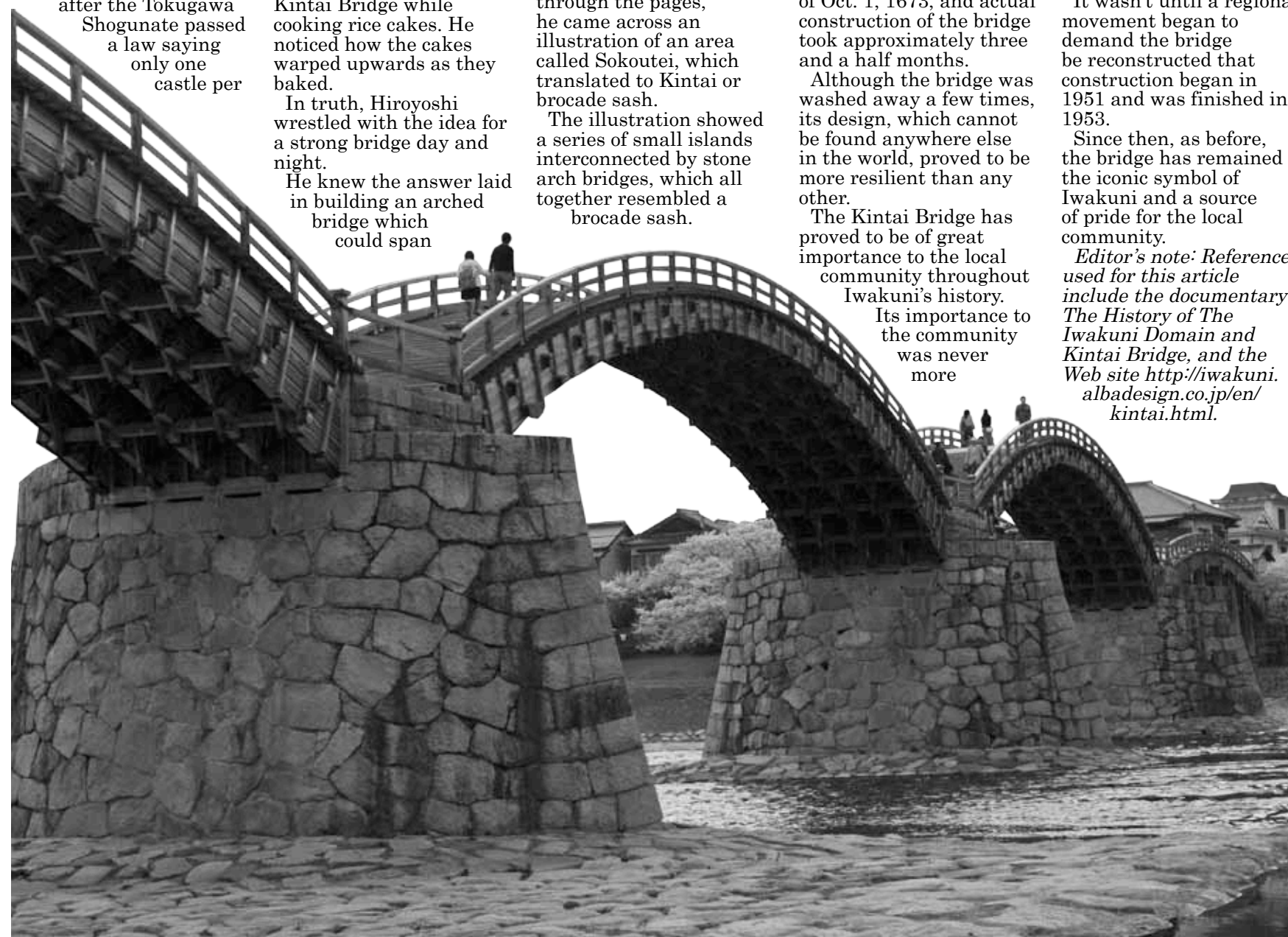
apparent than in Sept. 14, 1950 when Kijia Typhoon struck Iwakuni, endangering the bridge 277 years after its construction.

Local townspeople braved the storm chanting, "save the bridge," as they struggled to save their bridge against the rising currents. Despite their efforts, the bridge was washed away at 9:40 a.m. that day.

It wasn't until a regional movement began to demand the bridge be reconstructed that construction began in 1951 and was finished in 1953.

Since then, as before, the bridge has remained the iconic symbol of Iwakuni and a source of pride for the local community.

Editor's note: References used for this article include the documentary The History of The Iwakuni Domain and Kintai Bridge, and the Web site <http://iwakuni.albadesign.co.jp/en/kintai.html>.



The Kintai Bridge as seen from its base. The form of the bridge was inspired by a village in China which has a series of islands connected by arched stone bridges.

MWSS-171 Field Meet

Marines work hard, play hard

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A total of 375 Marines and sailors with Marine Wing support Squadron 171 got together for camaraderie building at the MWSS-171 2nd Annual Sports Day at the IronWorks Gym here March 12.

The main goal of the 2nd Annual Sports Day isn't to win or beat another team down; it's troop welfare.

"We accomplish the mission on a daily basis and oftentimes we tend to not take time out for ourselves," said Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Gray, MWSS-171 family readiness officer.

The day-long event was such a success last year it was brought back into the picture this year with only a few changes.

"This year we had to change the venue due to a new policy being enforced to protect our fields around the base," said Gray. "We had less than 48 hours to plan an alternate course of action due to inclement weather, so I think we adapted pretty well."

Last year's event was held at the South-side obstacle course along with the Penny Lake sports fields, but due to the weather, MWSS-171 held their entire event in the IronWorks Gym.

The events held at the sports day took up all

three courts simultaneously. The events were a blow-up obstacle course from Marine Corps Community Services, basketball, volleyball, ultimate dodge ball, dizzy izzy relays, push-up/crunch relays, fireman's carry relays, full-court suicide relays and a half-court shootout.

The sports were by no means individual

"We accomplish the mission on a daily basis and oftentimes we tend to not take time out for ourselves."

*Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Gray
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Family Readiness Officer*

events. MWSS-171 was broken up into teams of individual companies within their command, and each company had one team for each event.

The teams were Airfield Operations Company, Engineer Operations Company, Headquarters & Service Company and Motor Transport Operations Company.

Although the companies were different sizes, their competitiveness was equal. Each team chose individual Marines and sailors to compete

in each event as the rest of the Marines and sailors cheered them on.

"It's good to see the Marines out here getting into competition, watching them put out and have a good time," said Sgt. Maj. Blake Smith, MWSS-171 sergeant major.

Sgt. Maj. Smith was involved in the competition just like any of the other Marines and sailors of MWSS-171 as he ducked, dipped and dove during the dodgeball event.

"Rank doesn't really matter," said Sgt. Travis Eno, heavy equipment operator for MWSS-171. "It's about building a unity between 171."

Marines with Engineer Operations Company almost ran away with the competition, winning almost every event.

"Engineers have more people to choose from, so we pretty much blew everyone away," said Eno.

Each competition was worth four points for the winner, three for second, two for third and one for last place.

This event has proven to be such a success it is now scheduled to be an annual event.

"The Marines and sailors like doing things that are not only motivating and traditional, but also fun and entertaining," said Gray.

"There is nothing better than taking a day off of work and indulging in fun activities while building unit cohesion and camaraderie."



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Sgt. Travis Eno, heavy equipment operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, cocks back, sights in and waits to unload on his next victim during the dodge ball portion of the MWSS-171 2nd Annual Sports Day held at IronWorks Gym here March 12. This year's Sports Day was held at the IronWorks Gym due to inclement weather.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Cpl. Aisha Shapirokinghorn, S-1 administration chief with the headquarters company of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, volleys the ball to set up her teammates for a chance to score a point during the MWSS-171 2nd Annual Sports Day held at IronWorks Gym here March 12. Due to the inclement weather, this year's alternate Sports Day location was planned in less than 48 hours.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Cpl. Tommy Bryan III, motor transportation mechanic with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, goes up against a defender to put two on the board for the Motor Transport Operations team during the basketball portion of the MWSS-171 2nd Annual Sports Day held at IronWorks Gym here March 12. Everyone was allowed to wear appropriate rainbow attire; however, teams had to wear a specific colored shirt. The Motor Transport Operations team wore red.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Sgt. Phillip Maxson, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, flies head first down the final slide of the inflatable obstacle course during the MWSS-171 2nd Annual Sports Day held at IronWorks Gym here March 12. The obstacle course was provided by Marine Corps Community Services.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



STAFF SGT. ROMAN YUREK

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – Left, Lt. Col. Christopher Abrams, commanding officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, and Sgt. Maj. Carlos Reina, HMH-463 sergeant major, case the unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony here March 3. The casing of the unit colors signifies the transfer of authority from HMH-463, as it relinquishes responsibility to HMH-363, whose colors were uncased moments later.

‘Pegasus’ transfers authority to ‘Red Lions’

STAFF SGT. ROMAN YUREK
MARINE AIRCRAFT
GROUP 40

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 “Pegasus” transferred control of air support for Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, to HMH-363 “Red Lions” during a transfer of authority ceremony here March 3.

“Pegasus’ primary mission in the MEB-A area of operation was the transportation of troops and cargo throughout the battle space, utilizing the CH-53D “Sea Stallion” helicopter; a mission the Red Lions took over.

The deployment for Pegasus forced the Marines, based in Hawaii’s Kaneohe Bay, to leave the tropical paradise of white sandy beaches, deep blue ocean water and cool sea breeze to support combat operations in the harsh desert environment of southern Afghanistan.

“Pegasus Marines have performed absolutely magnificently,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Abrams, the commanding officer for HMH-463.

“I will start off with obviously recognizing their efforts in meeting every challenge and every expectation that MAG-40 and MEB-A has asked of us.”

During its time in Helmand, Pegasus participated in numerous missions inserting troops and transporting follow-on supplies. The Marines also played a vital role in Operation Moshtarak by inserting some of the initial forces to secure the city of Marjah.

In seven months, Pegasus transported more than 20,000 troops and 1.5 million pounds of



STAFF SGT. ROMAN YUREK

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – Lt. Col. John Dobes, commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, speaks to Marines in attendance as HMH-363 assumed responsibility from HMH-463 during a transfer of authority ceremony here March 3.

cargo throughout Helmand province.

The support Pegasus provided in Afghanistan was preceded by nearly 66 years of history.

Originally serving as a fixed wing bombing squadron in 1944, Pegasus spent close to 20 years flying fixed wing bombing and torpedo aircraft before becoming a helicopter transport squadron in 1958. Almost 10 years later, the squadron was sent to Vietnam where it continued to support Marine Corps combat missions utilizing helicopters.

Following their first tour to Vietnam, Pegasus was relocated to Hawaii and would return to Vietnam twice more. In more recent years,

HMH-463 has provided support in Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

With a very similar history, Pegasus transferred responsibility as the only CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter squadron to the Red Lions.

The Red Lions were activated nearly 10 years after Pegasus and deployed to Vietnam in 1965. In 1972, the unit received the Sea Stallion helicopters that it still flies today.

Using the CH-53D helicopter, the Red Lions flew humanitarian support in the Philippines in 1990, following an earthquake and flood in the country.

Like Pegasus, they participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. This was followed by Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992, and four years later the squadron relocated to Hawaii.

The squadron has since conducted two deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom before heading to Afghanistan.

This transfer of authority also signified the nearly complete rotation of the three CH-3D helicopter squadrons from Hawaii.

It also comes at a time when MAG-40 has begun to wrap up a nearly year-long deployment and turn over command of the aviation combat element to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Forward from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

With the continuing operations in southern Afghanistan and the growing number of forces, the Red Lions will play a vital role in transporting troops and cargo to support MEB-A in securing, holding and rebuilding areas in Helmand province.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christian Holy Week Schedule – Roman Catholic

- March 27, 5:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday
- March 28, 8:30 a.m. – Palm Sunday Mass
- April 1, 6 p.m. – Holy Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper
- April 2, 6 p.m. – Good Friday: Good Friday Service
- April 3, 7 p.m. – Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass
- April 4, 8:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday: Easter Sunday Mass

Jewish Passover Service
March 30 – April 1 (Seder/Service) Time is to be determined. For more information, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Christian Holy Week Schedule – Protestant

- April 2, 7:30 p.m. – Good

Friday: Good Friday Service

- April 4, 5:54 a.m. – Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service, Penny Lake Pavillion. In case of foul weather, service will be held at the Marine Memorial Chapel.
- April 4, 10:30 a.m. – Protestant Easter Service

OSC Offering Academic Scholarships

The MCAS Iwakuni Officers’ and Spouses’ Club is now accepting applications for academic scholarships. Graduating high school seniors and dependent spouses are eligible to apply. Seniors at M.C. Perry may pick up an application package at the high school’s counselor’s office. Dependent spouses may pick up an application package at the Education Office in Building 411. All applications are due by April 15. For more information, e-mail

iwakunischolarship@hotmail.com.

The Biggest Saver Coupon Contest

The contest will run until April 30. Come by Marine and Family Services, Building 411, Room 201 and pick up your coupon packets. Save your receipts, put your name and phone number on the back of your receipts and turn them into the Personal Financial Management Office. The person that saves the most money will win an hour-long massage. If you have any questions, call 253-6250.

Hornet’s Nest Renovations

The Hornet’s Nest is currently undergoing renovations scheduled to be completed June 2010. The gym area is closed until June 1. The Cyber Café will remain open 24 hours

a day, seven days a week during the renovations. Single Marine Program trips will continue. For more information, contact Jay Stovall at 253-3585.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

- Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP(2837)
- Life limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office : 253-3303.
- To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is 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, are interest free and must be

repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Birthday Break

The birthday break is an ongoing promotion held every Friday at 9:15 a.m. on Power 1575 radio. Visit www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake, fill out while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700. • For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office : 253-3303. • To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.

To submit an event, automobile, item or job ad request, please e-mail iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published, or come to the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216.

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

Contact 080-4177-2060 or jletaw@ClubBeyond.org

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

BOOT SCOOTIN’ ROUNDUP

A live 1-hour radio show featuring the best country music. Kick up your boots 9 - 10 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays on Power 1575.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 19, 2010

7 p.m. When in Rome (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Legion (R)
Premiere

Saturday, March 20, 2010

1 p.m. Alice in Wonderland (PG)
Premiere
4 p.m. The Spy Next Door (PG)
8 p.m. Magic Show (Door opens at 7 p.m.)
Show open to all audience

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

1998 Mazda Demio
White. Great condition. JCI thru Aug. 2011. Asking \$2000. If interested, call 253-3827 or 080-4073-3746.

Miscellaneous

Two-tone antique wash stand
Solid wood, in good condition, asking \$50 OBO. If interested, e-mail Jessica.a.lang@

usmc.mil or call 080-3705-2974

Toshiba DLP Projection TV
52 inch, needs new lamp, but good picture! Asking \$200/OBO. Have original manual/paperwork, no stand. If interested, call 253-2458.

Solid wood stand
Maple finish, in good condition, asking \$15. Must see both to appreciate! I can e-mail pictures. If interested, e-mail Jessica.a.lang@usmc.mil or call 080-3705-2974.

SoftBank 7315C Cell phone
Black, used for only 2 weeks, just not needed. Comes with protective phone cover, original box, manual and papers. Comes with charger and case. Asking \$30/OBO. If interested, call 253-2458.

Jobs

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities
Be that friendly person who lets those in need know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply, call 253-5311.

Youth Sports Basketball Season Needs Coaches
Looking for 10 coaches to teach children ages 3 - 10. For more information, contact Naomi Higashi at 253-5777.

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

Red Cross Month Special Events

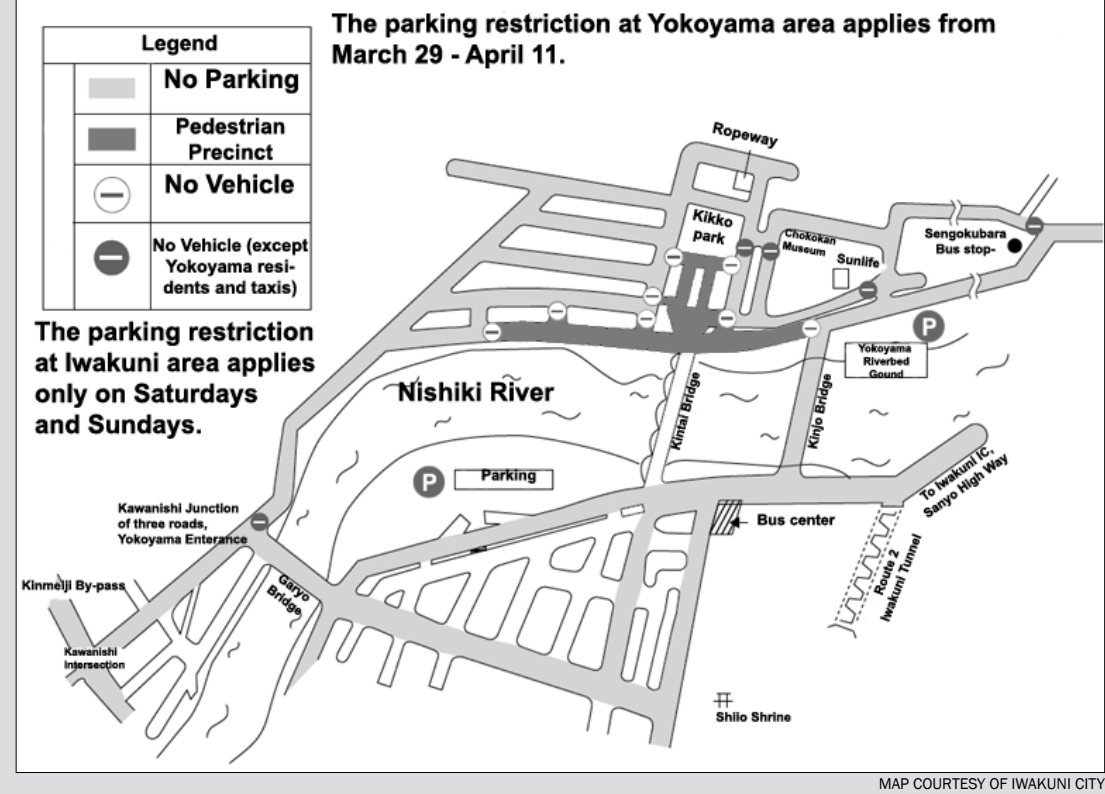
Saturday, March 20
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Protect the Pet Dog and Cat First Aid/CPR Class. \$40 per person or \$55 per couple.

Sunday, March 28
2 to 6 p.m. Save a Life Sunday half price First Aid Class. \$20 Full Certification.

Call the local American Red Cross for details or course registration at 253-4525.

Traffic restriction in effect March 29-April 11

Traffic Restriction at Kintai Area for the cherry blossom season



Guidance: Parking will be restricted in the Kintai Bridge area as per the diagram (above) every Saturday and Sunday from March 27 until April 11, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The dates correspond to the cherry blossom season and are tentative depending on the exact blooming time of the cherry blossoms. Station personnel and residents should be aware that there is a fire ban in the Kikiko Park and Kintai Bridge riverbed areas for environmental protection.



Canadian Academy High School athletes from Kobe, Japan, use speed and agility to their advantage to score a goal against Ernest J. King High School from Sasebo, Japan, during the Samurai Shootout soccer tournament here March 5. Canadian Academy won the boys and girls championship.

PFC. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Ten high school teams competed at the first boys and girls Samurai Shootout soccer tournament here March 5-6.

Placing first and winning the tournament for both boys and girls was Canadian Academy High School from Kobe, Japan.

Placing second for the boys was Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's very own Matthew C. Perry High School, and placing second place for the girls was Robert D. Edgren High School from Misawa, Japan.

"We played this last year, but we just played games. There wasn't a tournament," said Mark Lange, M.C. Perry boy's soccer team coach.

"We decided to make a tournament out of it because when teams come here for just games, they're just games, but when you play a tournament, there's more interest."

Each team played a total of four games during the two-day tournament, and the winner was determined based on an overall accumulation of points throughout the tournament.

Teams were awarded three points for winning, one point for tying and no points for losing a match.

In the case two teams

... tied for points, the winner would be chosen based on the amount of goals the winning team had over the losing team in each game or "goal differentials."

With a maximum of five goals counting toward differentials in each match, the team with the highest amount of goals at the end of the tournament would be declared winner. If teams were still tied based on goal differentials, a coin toss would determine the winner.

"Canadian Academy is good," said Steve Caner, Ernest J. King boy's soccer team coach. "We were in a tournament with them last week. They brought mostly (junior varsity) guys, but if they bring their first pick guys, they're going to be hard to beat."

Canadian Academy and M.C. Perry were tied in total wins by the end of the tournament, but after reviewing the goal differentials, M.C. Perry had a total of 12 points and Canadian Academy had 15, making Canadian Academy the champions of the Samurai Shootout.

The tournament adhered to the National Federation of State High School Association's rules with the following additional rules: Each game was 30 minutes long with a five minute half time; all substitutions were at the discretion of the referee;

if the team in possession made a substitution, their opponent was also allowed to make a substitution but immediately without any time delay; and substitutions were not allowed to be initiated by any team that did not have possession.

Now if the rules weren't challenging enough, the entire Penny Lake field was effected by the excessive amount of rain over the course of the week, to include Saturday morning's early showers.

Throughout the entire day, coaches, players and officials rotated every 15 to 20 minutes using a field squeegee to remove the excess water off of the field.

"The water slowed everything down. It was a disadvantage to some teams, but it allowed us to contain the ball more," said Christopher Anderson, M.C. Perry girl's soccer team coach.

Jennifer Black, left forward from Edgren High School, was the Most Valuable Player for the girls division

Andre Bugawan, forward from M.C. Perry High School, was the MVP for the boys. Even though the weather was against them, the teams gave their all throughout the tournament, and for those who didn't place first, Lange said there will be many more Samurai Shootouts to come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF M.C. PERRY HIGH SCHOOL
Andre Bugawan (left), Matthew C. Perry forward and Most Valuable Player in the boys division, receives a high-five from his teammate, Tylor Apple, during a game at the Samurai Shootout soccer tournament here March 5.



PFC. MARCEL BROWN
Jennifer Black, left forward for Edgren High School in Misawa, Japan, receives the Most Valuable Player plaque for the girls division in the Samurai Shootout soccer tournament here March 6.

Ordnance Golf Tournament success

More than \$900 raised for 88th Aviation Ordnance Birthday celebration

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Service members and civilians competed in the annual Ordnance Golf Tournament at Torii Pines Golf course here March 5.

The three-man team that won first place consisted of Gunnery Sgt. Bryan J. Ruppel, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 power plants production control staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Staff Sgt. Steve A. Navar, MALS-12 Individual Material Readiness List staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Romell Nakanish, a Torii Pines employee.

"I think all the teams were four-man teams except our team," said Ruppel. "It was the first time all three of us had ever played together like that."

The tournament consisted of about 16 teams and was organized into a four-man scramble where each team consisted of about four players.

In order to win, each player on the team started out by hitting a shot. The best drive out of those players marked the spot for the next shots and so on until the ball went into the hole.

Each team kept a score card, and the team with the lowest number of shots won the tournament.

"It's a chance for people to

get out here and show their stuff," said Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Rios, event coordinator and aviation technician with MALS-12 here.

Every year, Ordnance puts together the annual golf tournament to raise money for the aviation ordnance birthday party in celebration of the founding of its occupational field April 25, 1922. This year, more than \$900 was raised.

"It's just a time for all the aviation ordnance Marines and sailors to get together to reflect on the camaraderie and the Marines and sailors that we have lost," said Rios.

Each player paid a \$25 entry fee to raise the money in addition to grass fees and equipment rental if the players did not have any.

Raffle tickets were available for purchase in order to give attendees a chance to win prizes, including golf balls, a brand new Nike Dymo driver and other golf equipment.

Hamburgers, chips and soda were also served before the tournament began.

"Ordnance, in nature, is a tight community," said Rios. "We also had some Japanese nationals out here. It's just a chance for everyone to get out here and have a good time."

For information about grass fees, equipment rentals or upcoming tournaments at the Torii Pines Golf Course, call 253-3402.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Rios prepares to drive the ball down the fairway at the Ordnance Golf Tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 5. The tournament raised more than \$900 for the 88th Aviation Ordnance Birthday to celebrate the founding of the military occupational field April 25, 1922.

Do you know this person?



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, is requesting the community's assistance in identifying the person depicted in this photograph who is wanted for questioning regarding a larceny.

If you know this person, please contact the CID at 253-3139. To remain anonymous, contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 253-3333.