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THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 12, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

TRAINING

Former Marine brings pistol program to today's service members

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from across the station participated in a two-week-long pistol training titled Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection that began March 12 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here.

"The training is like combat pistol, so you're doing pivoting movements," said Sgt. Becky N. Kubica, an organics noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Combat Logistics Company 36 here. "You're drawing from the holster. It's like John Wayne kind of stuff. I am having a blast. We are shooting so much that I have sores all over my hand and I am all bandaged up."



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Jamison Elder, the founder and creator of Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection, better known as WOLF T.R.A.P.P., explains to a Marine the proper technique of drawing a pistol at the Indoor Small Arms Range here March 12.

SEE **PISTOL** ON PAGE 3



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 receives an original piece of art by Satoshi Watanabe, a Japanese painter, here March 15. The work of art is a night scene of a 242 F/A-18 Hornet flying in front of a full moon with a stream of bats flying around the aircraft.

VMFA(AW)-242 receives squadron painting

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 was presented with an original painting by Satoshi Watanabe, a Japanese painter and military aircraft fanatic, here March 15.

The painting is art consisting of an F/A-18 Hornet and the squadron logo incorporated into one imaginary scene, said Watanabe.

The work of art is a night scene of a 242 F/A-18 Hornet flying in

front of a full moon with a stream of bats flying around the aircraft.

"As a squadron, we fly a great deal at night," said Lt. Col. Chris Pappas III, commanding officer of VMFA(AW)-242. "As our mission is all-weather fighter attack, having that aircraft with the moon at night time is very symbolic of what we do."

Painted on the tail wing of the aircraft is the squadron's bat call sign in commemoration of the squadron's historical background.

SEE **PAINTING** ON PAGE 3

EOD has blast on Target Island

PFC. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A loud thud shakes the reinforced cement bunker located at the base of the mountain-

like island. Seconds later large amounts of dirt and sand shower down in front of the bunker. The sand shower ends as quickly as it begins. As the Marines walk out of the bunker toward the sound of the explosion, they are overwhelmed with the smell of heated dirt and gas residue filling the air around them.

This may seem like an intense

SEE **EOD** ON PAGE 3

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 arrives

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 arrived here as part of the Unit Deployment Program March 14.

VMFA(AW)-121 is based at Ma-

rine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 11 and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

VMFA(AW)-121, also known as the Green Knights, replaced VMFA-115, who returned to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

SEE **ARRIVAL** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'March Madness'

Lt. CMDR. DENIS COX
MARINE AIRCRAFT
GROUP 12 CHAPLAIN

Have you filled out your bracket? Are you in the office pool? How are you doing so far? By the time this issue of The Approach comes out, we will already know who is on their way to the elite eight. What a great tradition in American sports. People come together from all over in order to root on their favorite team. There is not only a great sense of support and encouragement that fans can have towards their team but also a little bit of good natured ribbing fans can have towards their team's opponent. Let the competition begin!

While everyone seems to be following the college basketball world, something is quietly taking place behind the scene almost. Little do we know that this weekend begins one of the most holy times for the Christian

faith.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, a man began walking through the streets of Jerusalem on his way to the temple mount. This little walk began its own March Madness, so to say. There were those who were on his team and were rooting for him as he began his walk. There were also those who were not on his team and were rooting against him.

This man was not just fighting for a victory for his team but for everyone's team. This man was not just fighting for victory that lasts until next year's championship game relegates this year's team to the record books. This man's victory would last forever.

I'm talking about Jesus, of course. Jesus created a March Madness that is still causing folks to either root for him or against him.

This Easter is no different than many Easters in the past. Many will root for him and what he did on the cross and what he did by raising from the dead; they will even sing praise for it. There are

also many who will root against him and even ignore his accomplishments. What they fail to remember or even recognize is that Jesus won. The tomb is empty and the reward of his victory is free for those who wear his colors, stand up when he scores and defend his record in front of others.

It doesn't matter whether you spend this next week in front of the TV rooting for you favorite team to win the National Championship or not; March Madness is going to take place either way. The same is true with Easter: it doesn't matter whether we stand up and cheer for the victory that comes from the cross or not. Easter took place and Jesus' victory has gone down in the record books as a final score.

I don't know about you, but I want to be on the winning side in this March Madness. My favorite college team may or may not let me down; it doesn't matter. What does matter is that I'm on the winning side of what happened during Easter.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

ARFF Marine serves for fallen uncle's dream

Pfc. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines here are dedicated to performing some of the more rigorous duties on the air station. From operating, servicing, inspecting and testing aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles to committing themselves to being the response force at all times for any accident with all aircraft here.

Each air station needs an ARFF crew to respond to aircraft accidents that may occur, and out of the whole III Marine Expeditionary Force, there are only three women ARFF Marines.

The duties and responsibilities of one of these Marines is shared to honor Women's History month.

With two of the three women Marines currently on deployment, Cpl. Lorraine A. Virgilio, ARFF crew chief, carries on her day-to-day responsibilities as the only woman Marine currently providing ARFF support to the air station.

Virgilio, native of Queens, N.Y., enlisted into the Marine Corps in December 2007. She joined to serve for her fallen uncle, a New York firefighter, who lost his life at the World Trade Center during the attacks of Sept. 11 2001.

"My uncle was killed in 9-11; he was a firefighter," said Virgilio. "I couldn't go infantry, so I chose the next best thing, which was

crash fire rescue."

Infantry was the original job Virgilio wanted, but since the occupation is not available to women, her two older brothers, who are both Marine Corps infantry Marines, recommended the ARFF field.

With a shop total of about 30 Marines, the station's ARFF crew is home to the only three women ARFF Marines in III MEF.

Lance Cpl. Cyndi C. Henn and Lance Cpl. Olivia N. Childers, ARFF ride crew members and two of the three ARFF women Marines here, are currently deployed to South Korea in support of exercise Foal Eagle.

Although Virgilio is the only ARFF woman Marine currently on the air station, the Marines in her unit expect the same performance from her as any other ARFF Marine.

"We're just as hard on her as we are on any of the other Marines," said Cpl. Andre Park, ARFF crew member here.

Not only does Virgilio have to deal with the daily responsibilities of an ARFF Marine, but as a corporal, she has to lead and be an example to the Marines in her unit.

Park said Virgilio does her job just as well as the rest of the Marines in the shop and her exceptional performance as a Marine is the only thing that matters to the other ARFF Marines.

"It's like a family," said Virgilio.

"They treat me the same way they treat everyone else."

Along with the many responsibilities of working for ARFF and leading her Marines as a crew chief, Virgilio said that she enjoys many of the things that she gets to do as an ARFF Marine.

"We get to do live fires, drive fire trucks, and work with multi-million dollar aircraft, so it's pretty fun," said Virgilio.

The dedication and commitment Virgilio shows in her everyday duties may lead one to believe that she will turn ARFF into a career, but Virgilio already has alternative plans for her future.

"I'm getting out after my four years, and I'm going to go to law school to finish my degree," said Virgilio.

Although Virgilio plans on getting out of the Marine Corps after her four-year contract, the skills she's gained in ARFF will not be a waste.

Virgilio said if she ever decides to be a part of the Fire Department of New York, the training she's experienced through ARFF will give her an advantage in the FDNY or any fire department.

Being one of three ARFF females in the whole III MEF, Virgilio's Marines said she is an exceptional Marine. The fact that she's a woman makes no difference to the ARFF Marines; she's just an ARFF Marine like the rest of them.



Sgt. Becky N. Kubica, an organics noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Combat Logistics Company 36 here, asks one of the instructors for advice during the Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection training held at the Indoor Small Arms Range here, March 12.

Recon Marine brings high-speed training to station

PISTOL FROM PAGE 1

Jamison Elder, the founder and creator of Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection, better known as WOLF T.R.A.P.P., explained that the class is the kind of training administered the Marine Special Operations Command, but on the first day of the training, the Marines and sailors were taught the basic fundamentals of the pistols.

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

"The nature of today's battle is there are no frontlines, so the enemy could be anywhere," said Elder. "In '03, you had just as many

cooks, bakers and candlestick makers fighting during convoy (operations) and other places as you did the infantry, so anyone who goes downrange these days needs these skills," Elder explained.

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

Two months ago, the ISAR hosted the same two-week-long training exercise with former Marines.

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

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

EOD trains during one-week Tactical Post Blast Analysis course

EOD FROM PAGE 1

experience to some, but for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines this is just another day of training that prepares them for many of the situations they may face while performing their everyday duties.

The first scenario simulated an IED exploding near an embassy in Columbia. The second scenario simulated an IED exploding on a dirt road underneath a contractor vehicle driving in Iraq.

The last scenario simulated an IED attack at the air station here.

Sgt. Aaron W. Budd, EOD technician, said the training exercises help the Marines understand the materials a terrorist may use in a real-life situation. By knowing what terrorists use, the attacks can be prevented in the future.

Crater exploitation was the first exercise in the Tactical Post Blast Course. For this portion, EOD and PMO Marines were taken to Target Island, a small demolition island off the coast of the air station, and placed in simulated scenarios dealing with improvised explosive devices.

Michael Newell, A-T Solutions Incorporated weapons of mass destruction and IED instructor, was the instructor in charge of the Tactical Post Blast Analysis course.

The EOD and PMO Marines, were broken into three teams. Each team had to inspect an area of the island where a simulated IED blast had occurred, determine the type of explosion caused and the materials used to make the explosive device.

"This is just more schooling

for us," said Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron EOD base team staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "Training doesn't end after we graduate from school in this (military occupational specialty)."

The first scenario simulated an IED exploding near an embassy in Columbia. The second scenario simulated an IED exploding on a dirt road underneath a contractor vehicle driving in Iraq.

The last scenario simulated an IED attack at the air station here.

"I think they did a great job; they found a lot of good evidence," said Newell.

Assisting Newell in the exercise was Elijah J. Irvin, A-T Solutions Inc. IED production specialist, who has been working with A-T solutions since the beginning of 2010.

Irvin said the training the EOD Marines are undergoing comes very much into play when the Marines have to deal with real-life situations in combat.

"We get a lot of letters back from people who have taken this course saying that they learned a lot and enjoyed the training," said Irvin.

Although the first block of instruction was completed out of the week-long course, the Marines seemed very excited and motivated to learn more about the different aspects of their complex job, and although the training is a week-long process, the EOD Marines will blow right through it.

Japanese painter, military aircraft fanatic presents VMFA(AW)-242 with squadron painting

PAINTING FROM PAGE 1

"We take a lot of pride in the squadron history, and to have it captured in a medium like painting is fantastic," said Pappas.

VMFA(AW)-242 was originally established as Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron 242 in 1943 and has established a combat history since 1944 flying the TBF-1 and TBM-1 Avenger. In 1945, after World War II, the squadron was deactivated and reactivated as Marine Attack Squadron 242 in 1960. In 1964, the squadron was redesignated as Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242, flying the

A-6 Intruder, which gave them the capability to carry out reconnaissance missions in all weather conditions.

It wasn't until 1991 that VMA(AW) was redesignated as Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 when the squadron began flying the F/A-18 Night Attack Hornet, but the bat logo has lasted through the decades.

The painting is a very good likeness of the aircraft," said Pappas. "For him to take that and translate that into a piece of artwork is very motivating."

Watanabe has painted many military

aircraft and donated the original works of art to the units each painting represents.

In 2008, Watanabe donated a painting to the U.S. Navy Attack Fighter Squadron 192, stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore, located in Kings County, Calif. The painting incorporated their call sign by illustrating the symbol of a golden dragon standing over a F/A-18C Hornet NF300.

That same year, Watanabe donated two original paintings to the U.S. Navy's Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, popularly known as the Blue Angels.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 moves in, VMFA-115 rotates out

ARRIVAL FROM PAGE 1

The Green Knights arrived on station with more than 200 Marines and sailors as well as approximately 10 F/A-18D Hornets.

The F/A-18D Hornet is a two seat aircraft as opposed to the single-seat F/A-18A VMFA-115 flew while deployed.

While deployed here the Green Knights are slated to participate in various exercises scheduled around the Pacific region, including Foal Eagle in Korea.

"We will be taking part in exercises to set us up for combat to always be ready to go," said Gun-

nery Sgt. Geronimo A. Deleon, aviation life support systems division chief.

The Green Knights came to be in 1941 as Marine Fighting Squadron 121 (VMF-121). They flew as VMF-121 from 1941 until 1969; then the Green Knights were newly designated VMFA(AW)-121 to reflect the squadron's all weather capabilities.

"We have been in conflicts from World War II ... to conflicts in Iraq," said Sgt. Maj. Brian Taylor, VMFA(AW)-121 Sergeant Major.

"We are the first F/A-18D night attack squadron ever in existence in the Marine Corps."

The Green Knights were deployed here from September 2009 to March 2009.

"I've been here (MCAS Iwakuni) a few times and always enjoyed Iwakuni," said Deleon. "It's a beautiful place and the people are wonderful."

Most of the Marines and sailors of VMFA(AW)-121 expressed enthusiasm about being able to be in Japan for the next six months.

"What makes 121 unique is we were the first squadron in the Marine Corps to receive our special weapons delivery," said Taylor.

The Marines of VMFA(AW)-121

may have just landed here, but they are already getting geared up for their first exercise to Korea to participate in the annual exercise Foal Eagle and utilize their special weapons delivery.

"This is a great opportunity to work with other foreign nations to show those individuals we are ambassadors of the U.S.," said Taylor. "I think this opportunity comes at a great time when our country is at war in certain areas and at peace."

The U.S. is here to make sure if we are called, we are ready to fight, he added.

GOOD KARMA FOR MARINES

For some, karma is religious, and for others it means reaping what you sow. Karma works as such: a poor old woman is trying to cross the street, you help her, she's across the street and you feel great knowing something good will be coming your way. Whether you are a karma believer or not, one thing is for sure: it feels great to give back, which is why the Iwakuni Approach has put together a helpful page of good-karma volunteer opportunities happening around the station. Find out from Dr. Ralph Mora, station psychologist, why it feels so good to give back.



VOLUNTEER HERE!!!

SEMPER FIT

Everything that has anything to do with physical fitness is organized and executed by the people over at Semper Fit. With so much going on, Semper Fit can always use some volunteers. If interested call 253-5880.

SMP

The Single Marine Program is always looking for volunteers to help with community events. To find out about future volunteer opportunities and community events, contact the Single Marine Program at 253-3585

CHAPLAIN

Every month the Chaplain's Office organizes numerous community relations events, such as visits local schools and orphanages. To participate in future comrels, contact the chaplain's office at 253-5212.

VOLUNTEER MEDAL



To be eligible, an individual's service must (1) be to the civilian community, to include the military family community; (2) be significant in nature and produce tangible results; (3) reflect favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense; and (4) be of a sustained and direct nature. While there is no specific time threshold to qualify for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM), approval authorities shall ensure the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by this medal. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities

DOCTOR SAYS

DR. ROBERT MORA

Sometimes I recommend to people that they contribute some of their time, effort or energy to something like an orphanage, school or after school center. The impact is that you begin to understand that you are not empty and you have more than you ever thought they did and that they also are being filled up by giving. It's an almost paradoxical kind of thing that happens to people; at a time when we feel like we don't have anything inside us and then we find somebody that needs something and we are able to give to them, we recognize that the act of giving replenishes us.

FERTILITY FESTIVAL



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Festival goers pray in front of the Tagata Shinto fertility shrine during the Hounen Matsuri, or abundant year festival, March 15. During the festival, people from all over Japan visit the shrine to pray for a blessed conception or to give thanks for a child who was born healthy.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Local dancers put on a traditional dance performance in front of the Tagata Shinto fertility shrine in Komaki, Japan during the Hounen Matsuri, or abundant year festival, March 15. Several musical performances take place in front of the shrine as part of the festival, which celebrates fertility and the renewal of life.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Festival participants talk and laugh in conversation as they await the start of the procession to the Tagata Shinto fertility shrine in Komaki, Japan March 15. The procession is the main focus of the Hounen Matsuri, or abundant year festival, which celebrates fertility and the renewal of life.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Festival participants make their way to the Tagata Shinto shrine with a wooden statue of Takeinadene-no-mikoto, a local deity, during the Hounen Matsuri, or abundant year festival, in Komaki, Japan March 15.

Small village gets real big at ancient celebration

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Just north of Nagoya, Japan, there is a small dreary village named Komaki.

Within one of its quiet streets, amid homes and small local businesses, is the 1,500-year-old Tagata Shinto fertility shrine.

Once a year on March 15, the small town bursts to life with the sounds of people laughing, singing and chanting, making their way to the shrine during the ancient Hounen Matsuri, or abundant year festival.

People from all over the world come to the small village to enjoy the harvest festival, which celebrates fertility and the renewal of life.

This year, the Information, Tours and Travel office here offered a trip to the festival site and gave station members the opportunity to join the crowd of people celebrating at the shrine.

"It's a special festival that (many) American people haven't seen before, so we thought it would be a great opportunity for base people to see this special traditional Japanese festival," said Takayuki Takeda, an ITT tour guide here. "This was an opportunity for (the station

members) to see something different and something fun."

Takeda said while there are many festivals in Japan, which pray for fertility and a good harvest, the Hounen Matsuri is unique in how it's celebrated.

According to the Tagata Shinto shrine official history, a powerful feudal lord lived in Komaki during the Yamato period between the 3rd and 5th century.

The lord had a daughter named Tamahime, who was betrothed to a young prince and warrior named Takeinadane.

The legend says Takeinadane was called to fight in a distant battle where he was killed, leaving Tamahime behind.

Locals say the Tagata shrine stands on the site where Tamahime once lived.

She is enshrined there as Tamahime-no-mikoto and worshiped as the principal deity.

During the festival, to celebrate the two lover's reunion and ask for a bountiful harvest, festival goers observe a procession, which carries a large cedar-carved phallus to the site of the Tagata shrine where the powerful Tamahime-no-mikoto awaits her lover.

The procession starts a mile away from the Tagata at a

Kumano shrine, which is dedicated to the home of the Shinto gods.

A priest, acting as herald, purifies the path of the procession by scattering salt on either side of the road to ward off evil spirits. Following the parade, musicians playing ancient court music are followed by women clothed in traditional Japanese dress who are in turn followed by men displaying banners high in the air.

Bearers carrying a small wooden statue of Takeinadene-no-mikoto follow towards the end of the procession.

The arrival at the shrine of the cedar-carved phallus signals the end of the parade.

Although the phallic theme is present throughout the festival, many of the local people understand the worship is not of the phallus but of what it represents as a symbol of renewal and regeneration.

People from all over Japan come to the festival with prayers of thanks for a successful birth and prayers asking for a blessed conception.

"I brought my daughter-in-law here this year so she could pray for a birth," said Hiromi Kiyomizu, a visitor from a city

north of the festival site. "She married my son last year, and I thought bringing her here would be a great experience for her, and it might help."

People from all over Japan could be seen bowing their heads in supplication alongside Kiyomizu's daughter-in-law offering their prayers to Tamahime-no-mikoto.

Other people could be seen raising their young children in the air toward the shrine in thanks for their children's birth.

For those who stood on the side of the procession experiencing the festival for the first time, it remained a memorable experience.

"It was a strange experience, but definitely something worth seeing," said Michael Hogan, an ITT festival spectator. "I had a great time, and I look forward to coming back next year."

Editor's note: References used for this article include the Web sites <http://farstrider.net/Japan/Festivals/HounenMatsuri/> and http://www.yamasa.org/japan/english/destinations/aichi/tagata_jinja.html.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Mark Lehner, shooting guard for the Clippers, passes the ball over opponents during a youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here March 6. The Clippers routed the Heat 16-8 after four periods on the court.

WELCOME TO THE JAM

Basketball is back! Youth sports kicks off 2010 season

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2010 Youth Basketball season commenced with a total of 32 teams ready for action and three cheer squads ready to cheer them on at the opening ceremony at the IronWorks Gym here March 6.

The basketball season's purpose is not to win or lose but rather to go out and have a good time and teach the concepts and fundamentals of basketball to the younger children.

The basketball season is open to station residents as well as Japanese nationals between the ages of 3-12.

For the 10- to 12-year-old age division, it is more than just fun and games. It's about the

friendly competition as well.

The ages of the young athletes may be relatively close, but often times the skill levels and experience differs quite a bit.

In the youth sports league here, the age divisions are 3- to 4-years-old, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15.

Due to gym renovations, the basketball season was pushed back a few weeks, which condensed the season into a smaller time frame.

"We have so many games a week, we are only able to fit one practice in," said Jeffrey Jones, coach for the 10- to 12-year-old Clippers.

Teams are not letting the fast-paced season get to them early. They are moving with the pace and progressing the best they can.

Common goals for the season amongst the

teams are not to win every game or be the best but rather to learn, improve their skills and become good sports.

The youth basketball season is more than just basketball. It is cheerleading as well.

This year, youth basketball has put together three cheer squads. The age groups for the cheer squads are 3- to 4-years-old, 5-6, and 7 and up.

The youth basketball program has continued to grow and develop from last season. It has gone from 21 teams to 32 in a matter of one year and looks forward to great success for both the young athletes and the program.

For additional information on updates or standings, call the Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports division at 253-5777.

2010 Youth Basketball Standings as of March 16	Team	Games Played	Wins	Losses	Win %	
	Clippers	6	4	2	83%	Playoffs are scheduled to begin April 3. For more information, call the IronWorks Gym at 253-6578.
	Pistons	6	2	4	73%	
	Jazz	6	4	2	70%	
	Magic	7	5	2	60%	
	76ers	5	2	4	60%	
	Knicks	5	4	1	50%	
	Heat	6	0	6	0.0%	



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Cheerleaders encourage the youth basketball players by singing and chanting at the IronWorks Gym here March 6. A total of three cheer squads are on the courts this season boosting players, parents, and other spectators.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Clippers shooting guard, Mark Lehner, drives up the court in route to a 16-8 victory over the Heat at the IronWorks Gym here March 6. The Clippers improved their overall record to 4-2 while the Heat is still searching for its first win.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A player from the Clippers looks for an open teammate to pass and set up a shot during a youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here March 6. A total of 32 teams are ready for action with three cheer squads ready to cheer them on this season.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

HELPING HAND

Marines pay Afghans back for battle damage



LANCE CPL. DWIGHT A. HENDERSON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - An Afghan points out damage done to his compound in a village near Lakari bazaar, in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 8. Marines with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, patrolled to different villages surrounding the Lakari bazaar to pay and assess battle damage claims.



LANCE CPL. DWIGHT A. HENDERSON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Capt. Scott A. Cuomo, the commanding officer of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, interacts with local children during a patrol through a village near Lakari bazaar, in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 8. Marines with Fox Company patrolled to different villages surrounding the Lakari bazaar to pay and assess battle damage claims.



LANCE CPL. DWIGHT A. HENDERSON

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Robin J. Reyes, a civil affairs Marine currently attached to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, speaks to an Afghan about damage done to his compound in a village near Lakari bazaar, in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 8. Marines with Fox Company patrolled to different villages surrounding the Lakari bazaar to pay and assess battle damage claims.

LANCE CPL. DWIGHT A. HENDERSON
REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM 7

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, patrolled to different villages surrounding the Lakari bazaar, March 8, to pay and assess battle damage claims.

Just a few months ago the villages surrounding Lakari bazaar, Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, were the location of countless firefights.

As the fighting intensified, locals would flee from their homes, or be forced out by insurgents, who would then take possession of the compound and fire at Marine patrols from inside. The Marines would then close with the enemy and search the compound which could sometimes cause damage to it.

The fighting has now died down and families have returned to their compounds, some come home to find their doors kicked in, or windows broken prompting them to go to the Marines for help.

"If you don't give them battle damage claims you better give them something tangible," said Capt. Scott A. Cuomo, the commanding officer of Fox Co., 2/2. "It's full-spectrum counterinsurgency. The family is caught in the middle of it."

The patrol started with a small village that had already gone through the process of filling out claims cards, having pictures taken of the damage, and had the ownership of their compounds verified. Then they waited for a patrol to show up at their door to pay them the money for the damage.

"We actually go there so the local nationals don't have to come all the way over here," said Staff Sgt. Robin J. Reyes, a civil affairs Marine currently attached to Fox Company, 2/2. "Also so they see our presence."

The Marines paid them the money for the repair and apologized for the time it took to get the money to them. This gave them a chance to sit down with the locals.

"I think one of the objectives of civil affairs

is the winning of hearts and minds," said Reyes. "Through (battle damage claims) we develop sources, we develop informants, we develop positive relationships, and we project information."

The Marines then moved onto another village next to the bazaar, only this time, the compounds had not yet been seen.

The owners of four compounds were ready to show the Marines the damage that was done to their homes. Marines lived in their compounds, as part of an observation post, when they first moved into the area.

The Marines followed the owners through the compounds as he showed them where the damage was. They took pictures of the damage so that Reyes could assess it later to give them a fair price.

"We kind of defeat the (information operations) campaign, of the enemy, by doing these kinds of things," said Reyes.

While it is sometimes hard to tell if the damage actually come from Marines, they are generally more than happy to assist the locals.

"We would just rather take the blame," said Reyes. "A lot of people are only going to go to the group who provides. Whoever is doing the best for their needs is probably where they're going to go."

Reyes added that people will sometimes try to take advantage of the Marine's hospitality, but it's rare.

"It's the nature of the beast," said Reyes. "Some people will say a tank came around and killed 300 of my chickens."

Cuomo added that while handling battle damage claims is not what the average infantrymen joins to do, the Marines realize the importance of doing them.

Through this system, the Marines of Fox Company have gained a stronger relationship with the locals.

"They were almost killed, and to come back and interact with these people is just amazing," said Cuomo. "When I look at what these guys do on a daily basis, I'm in awe. I'm in absolute awe."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christian Holy Week Schedule - Roman Catholic

- Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday
- Sunday, 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

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.

Protestant Easter Service

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.

Japanese Language Course

The Yamaguchi International Exchange Association is sponsoring a Japanese language course being held at six locations in Yamaguchi Prefecture beginning April 13. Enrollment is on a first come first serve basis at the Public Affairs Office in building one. For more information, contact Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

Women's Bowling League

The Strike Zone is looking to form a women's bowling league. It will take

place Thursday nights 7-10 p.m. The teams will consist of three members. For more information call 253-3495.

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.

Iwakuni Teens

Join 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. For more information, call the chapel at 253-3371 or 080-4177-2060.

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 the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

To submit a 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, Bldg. 1, Rm. 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
11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
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
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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, March 26, 2010
7 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)
Premiere

Saturday, March 27, 2010
1 p.m. Tooth Fairy (PG)
Premiere
4 p.m. Alice in Wonderland (PG)
7 p.m. Daybreakers (R)
10 p.m. Legion (R)

Sunday, March 28, 2010
1 p.m. Tooth Fairy (PG)
4 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)
7 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)

Monday, March 29, 2010
7 p.m. The Lovely Bones (PG-13)
Last Showing

Tuesday, March 30, 2010
7 p.m. Daybreakers (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, March 31, 2010
7 p.m. When In Rome (PG-13)

Thursday, April 1, 2010
7 p.m. Edge of Darkness

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 \$2,000. Call 253.3827 or 080-4073-3746 for more information.

1992 Toyota Lite Ace
White. 4 cyl. 5 seat. 3 seater. 10 disc cd changer/player. Asking \$1,800. Call 253.2953 or 080-3439-0984 for more information.

1993 Honda Street Van

Blue. Yellow A Plate Model. Maintained regularly. New brakes. Winterized . JCI thru April 2011. Asking \$1,000. Call 253.2291 or 253-6242 for more information.

2001 Honda CBR 929
Low miles 20,500 kilometers. Two Brothers aftermarket exhaust. Scotts steering damper. new battery. Runs excellent. Asking \$4800. Call 253-2119 or 090-6017-6822 for more information.

2001 Honda CBR 929
Asking \$3,800 obo. JCI good until June 2011. Call 080-3059-0626 or 253-5511.

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 to appreciate! I can e-mail pictures. If interested, e-mail Jessica.a.lang@usmc.mil or call 080-3705-2974.

SoftBank 731SC 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

Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, Swedish meat balls, roast turkey, buttered noodles, mashed potatoes, Louisiana style smothered squash, green beans and corn, chicken gravy, macaroni salad, German style tomato salad, coconut raisin cookies, double layer almond cake, chocolate cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, jaeger schnitzel, grilled pork chops with sauteed peppers, mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, asparagus, scalloped cream corn, tomato gravy, brown gravy, three bean salad, cucumber and onion salad, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, veal parmesan, spaghetti with meat sauce, pizza, mashed potatoes, club spinach, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, spring salad, deviled potato salad, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie, coconut cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, ginger pot roast, Creole shrimp, steamed rice, oven glo potatoes, broccoli parmesan, peas and carrots, cheese biscuits, brown gravy, potato salad, spinach salad, double layer devil's food cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, oatmeal raisin cookie.
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

Friday

Beef barley soup, Spanish soup, rock cornish hen with syrup glaze, chili con carne, grilled cheese, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, beets with orange and lemon sauce, green bean combo, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, mixed fruit, Italian style pasta salad, apple/cherry turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars, chocolate pudding.
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

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.*

Traffic restriction in effect March 29-April 11

Traffic Restriction at Kintai Area for the cherry blossom season

The parking restriction at Yokoyama area applies from March 29 - April 11.

Legend	
	No Parking
	Pedestrian Precinct
	No Vehicle
	No Vehicle (except Yokoyama residents and taxis)

The parking restriction at Iwakuni area applies only on Saturdays and Sundays.

MAP COURTESY OF IWAKUNI CITY

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.

THE WINNERS



Marine Aircraft Group 12 team players pose for a victory photo after winning first place in the Commander's Cup Three-Point Basketball Shootout. MAG-12 won the competition with a total of 37 points.

MAG-12 wins Commanders Cup 3-point Shootout

Pfc. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 took the first-place trophy at the Commander's Cup three-point Basketball Shootout competition at the IronWorks Gym here March 19.

With a total of 37 points, MAG-12 dominated over the other units in the competition, taking home the championship.

Winning the second-place trophy was Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron with a total of 29 points.

The competition was a combination of many of the units stationed here from H&HS to medical.

"The competition was pretty good. More people showed up than I thought would show up," said Pfc. William A. Chatman Jr.,

MAG-12 three-point shooter. Each unit had a total of two two-man teams to represent the unit. Each team had two two-minute rounds to score as many points as possible before time ran out.

The rules were as follows: One player would shoot from the three-point line while the other teammate caught rebounds and passed the ball back to the shooter until a basket was made.

Once the shooter made a basket the players would alternate positions back and forth until their time ran out.

The team with the most overall points after everyone played two rounds was the winner of the competition.

"I think we were confident, and once the challenges started getting closer, we knew that we had to step it up, so we stepped it

up," said Lance Cpl. Nathan M. Hamman, MAG-12 three-point shooter.

Even the MAG-12 Headquarters commanding officer Maj. Wayne Magrisi did his part in competing on one of the two MAG-12 teams in the competition.

Hamman said everyone from MAG-12 who competed in the shootout played basketball prior to their Marine Corps careers,

so the team was highly confident going into the competition.

Chatman and Hamman said they were chosen to represent the MAG-12 team based on their performance during basketball physical training sessions and recreational basketball games the unit participated in before going into the competition.

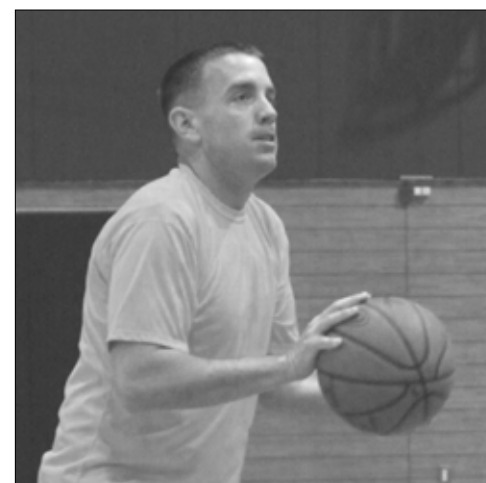
"When we came out here, we had more guys than we needed,

so we shot around for a while to see who would be the best two guys for the competition, and they chose us," said Hamman.

Hamman said the game of basketball is fun for a lot of people, so the three-point shootout was a good way to connect with alot of the Marines stationed here.

"Getting here last month, these competitions helped a lot," said Chatman. "I don't know a lot of people, and I get to know people through competition and sports, so it's just another networking(tool)."

MAG-12 came into the competition with its A-game and succeeded in taking the competition by storm. With constant practice, MAG-12 came in the competition ready to win, and as far as the Commanders Cup goes, there will be many



1st Lt. James Mastrom, takes his first shot for the Marine Aircraft Group 12 team during the Commander's Cup Three-Point Basketball Shootout. Mastrom's team contributed to the MAG-12 team winning the championship.



Maj. Wayne Magrisi accepts the first-place trophy for Marine Aircraft Group 12 after winning the Commander's Cup Three-Point Basketball Shootout. Magrisi was a shooter on one of the MAG-12 teams winning the championship



Staff Sgt. Jason H. Scott awaits for the buzzer to begin his second round in the Commander's Cup Three-Point Basketball Shootout. Scott represented Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron in the competition.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Mindy Nelson with daughters Aspen (left), 2, and Sierra, 5, mentally prepare for the youth 2.5K race during the 2010 Run on the Green at Torii Pines golf course here March 13. With relative ease, the Nelson sisters managed to capture first and second place in the female division of the 6 years old and under age group.

Station residents chase leprechaun for gold

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Despite the gloomy, overcast day, more than 50 station residents came out for the 2010 Run on the Green sponsored by Marine Corps Community Service at Torii Pines golf course here March 13.

Nearing 8:30 a.m., a sparse showing cast doubt on if the event would happen or not, but as the rain slowed, more competitors arrived to carry on the yearly tradition.

"We love this; this is one of our favorite events of Iwakuni," said Mindy Nelson, race competitor.

The Nelson's have been attending the race for four years now, and a little rain shower didn't keep them away this year.

To challenge the station's youth, MCCS marked out a 2.5K course for them to run.

The adults ran the same course, but twice to make their 5K race.

As in years past, a leprechaun was on-hand to brighten up the festivities with some classic dance moves.

Although the race was all in

good fun, there is nothing wrong with a little friendly competition.

Teran Robinson sported the fastest 5K run time at 18 minutes and 22 seconds.

"I guess it's a sense of freedom because it's unlike any other sport," said Robinson. "Running is self-driven more than anything else."

Robinson's eventual goal is an ultra-marathon of 112 miles.

Sonia Walters edged out most males and also took first in the female 5K division with a time of 21 minutes and 51 seconds.

Hunter Byers took top honors in the 2.5K with a time of 11 minutes and 13 seconds.

For the female 2.5K, Maria Calderon took first with a time of 14 minutes and 44 seconds.

"It's nice that everybody came out here to participate even on a gloomy day like this," said Adrian Figueroa, second place finisher in his age group. "You can tell the personnel here in Iwakuni love to run and stay in shape."

Figueroa said he was pleased with his performance considering the ages of his competitors.



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Teran Robinson runs side-by-side with the leprechaun's golf cart just before crossing the finish line during the 2010 Run on the Green at Torii Pines golf course here March 13. Robinson took first place for the 17-29 year-old age group and the best 5K finish-time overall with a time of 18 minutes and 22 seconds.

TOP Performances

Males

6 years old and under:
Jeremiah Figueroa
Camron Olivas

7-8 years old:
Alex Calderon

9-10 years old:
Jacob Keasler
Wesley Nelson
Connor Strauss

11-12 years old:
Hunter Byers

17-29 years old:
Teran Robinson
Trevor Conger
Richard Valdez

30-39 years old:
Jason Hulette
Adrian Figueroa
John Bradley

40-49 years old:
Ben Keasler
Adam Wilburn
Hilario Gamboa

50 years and older:
Cesar Odvina

Females

6 years old and under:
Aspen Nelson
Sierra Nelson

7-8 years old:
Marlie Keasler

9-10 years old:
Gabriela Calderon
Sarah Bradley

11-12 years old:
Maria Calderon
Ally Strauss

13-14 years old:
Jamie Bradley

30-39 years old:
Sonia Walters
Yolanda Olivas
Sayaka Takabayashi

40-49 years old:
Tania Keasler
Mary Gaddis
Lou Genzer