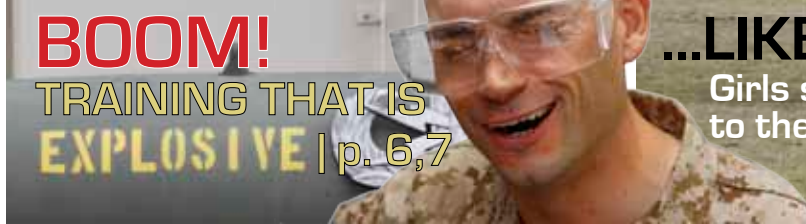




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**...LIKE BECKHAM**  
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to the field | p. 11



# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 14, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## THE HUNT IS ON

### Children take to commissary in search of Easter eggs



PFC. MARCEL BROWN

Lauren Miller, 7, proudly shows the eggs she collected to her mother after the 2010 annual Easter Egg hunt at the commissary here March 26. Miller participated in the second hunt for ages 6-10, where she found several eggs including a shiny-golden prize egg.

PFC. MARCEL BROWN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Defense Commissary Agency held its annual local community Easter egg hunt at the commissary here March 27.

Karen C. Chaney, commissary store director here, said with the help of the station's commissary employees and their industry partners, the 2010 annual Easter egg hunt went as planned.

"I think the event went well," said Chaney. "The children always enjoy running out all their energy on the yard."

The hunt was broken into two age groups. The first hunt began at noon for ages 2-5, and the second hunt began at 2 p.m. for ages 6-10.

The Easter egg hunt took place on the front lawn of the station's commissary. Plastic eggs were hidden in bushes and small trees for age groups 6-10 and more visibly in the grass for ages 2-5.

Not only were the eggs filled with candy, but those who found shiny golden eggs were also awarded prizes with small Easter-related prizes such as pens and small toys.

Larger prizes such as Easter decorated paddles and umbrellas were given to those who found the non-shiny golden eggs, which were scarcely distributed around the lawn.

"Our industry partners and the commissary try to give back to

SEE **EASTER** ON PAGE 3

### Marines experience southern hospitality

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members and their families experienced a taste of southern hospitality during Operation Mudbug here April 2.

For the Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, \$10,000 and 1,500 pounds of crawfish were enough to bring a bit of home to the Far East.

Paul Gruhn and Sean O'Boyle managed to raise more than \$10,000 through various fundraisers and donations to finance the event by going to different sports games, selling T-shirts and

SEE **MUDBUG** ON PAGE 3

### Waist Wars: IronWorks Gym declares war on fat

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The IronWorks Gym Health Promotions office here is scheduled to host its third Waist Wars weight loss competition starting Monday.

Initial weigh-ins are scheduled to run from Monday through April 16 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., with final weigh-ins slated to run May 31 - June 4.

No initial weigh-ins will be held outside of the first week.

According to the rules of the

event, four-person teams must finish both the initial and final weigh-ins to qualify.

The winning team of the competition will be decided by calculating the team's total percentage of weight loss as a whole.

Winners will split a cash prize of \$500, and each person who finishes the eight-week competition will receive a Waist Wars T-shirt.

"(The cash prize) is a little added incentive to lead a healthier lifestyle," said Darci Kruse, IronWorks Gym health promotions assistant director. "A lot of people want to take some weight off; they want to drop a few pounds. Pretty much anyone you talk to will say, 'Yeah I can stand to lose a few pounds.' (The competition) is just a way to get that team motivation going. You don't want to be the person that loses for your

SEE **FAT** ON PAGE 3

### M.C. Perry students place at symposium

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two students from Matthew C. Perry High School placed in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Tsukuba City March 20.

Nicole Perry, a ninth-grader at M.C. Perry, won first place for her formal presentation, "Environmental Products: Green or Mean," and Isabelle Gomez won third place in the poster session for her project, "Sugar: Sweet Treat or Deadly Toxin."

They competed with over 100 eighth to 10th-graders.

SEE **SYMPOSIUM** ON PAGE 3



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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*'We can learn from the flowers in the field'*

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS  
STATION CHAPLAIN

"...Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes. But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of them." Matthew 6:28-29 (CEV)  
Spring is here in Japan. It's the time of year when Japanese mark the flowering of the trees called sakura or cherry blossoms. Here in Iwakuni, Japanese families and tourists will flock to historic Kikko Garden, Kintai Bridge and marvel at the beauty of the flowers around them.  
Two thousand years ago, Jesus said to his followers, "look at the flowers in the field..." In this

context, he wanted to assure his followers that if God clothes the beautiful flowers and the grass of the field, which today are alive and later are gone, he would definitely take care of people's basic needs.

With the advent of mass media most people tend to spend more time in front of their television and movies.

I have nothing against mass media; it gives us information and entertainment. But when was the last time we looked around our surroundings and appreciated God's creation?

King David once exclaimed, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" Psalm 8:1, 3,4.

Let me share with you three of my favorite nature quotes:

George Carver wrote, "I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

"Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the star ... and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers - for no reason. It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are." Osho.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature." Anne Frank.

## March & April Promotions

### H&HS

**Lance Cpl.**  
Giac V. Truong - FAP  
Jeremy D. Forehand - FAP  
Trequan M. Brown  
Caleb K. Carver - FAP  
Christopher R. Clark  
Kyle M. Cunningham  
Henry A. Harris III  
Manuel L. Lopez  
John A. Manke III  
Melvin D. Marteabreu  
Tho B. Nguyen  
Cory D. Rhodarmer  
Robert M. Williams Dominique  
L. Butts  
Shaun S. Garza  
Hue P. Kim  
Cesar Tierrablanca

**Cpl.**  
Lorraine A. Virgilio - FAP  
Jonathon M. Skordos  
Courtney R. Beaucar  
Paul C. Eginton  
Isaiah L. Peart  
Jimmy A. Vasquez

**Sgt.**  
Carlos Pena Jr.  
Christopher W. Buecker

**Gunnery Sgt.**  
Hugh A. McClenney

### VMFA(AW-242)

**Lance Cpl.**  
Lance Cpl.  
Malcolm M. Allen  
Joshua D. Silverwood

**Cpl.**  
Daniel P. Birnstihl  
Corey T. Botelho  
Benjamin E. Renaud

**Sgt.**  
Jason E. Beltran  
Brandon C. Michael E.  
Sobecki McDowell

### MALS-12

**Pfc.**  
Vandriel D. Winningham

**Lance Cpl.**  
Lucas A. Bankson  
Donovan C. Beirne  
Tyler F. Ciccione  
Charles J. Doffie  
Thomas N. Haymaker Jr.  
Joshua M. Luci  
Rachel R. Muncy  
Kristian E. Palmer Jr.  
Brian C. Petit  
Jason A. Schar  
Megan E. Talbot  
Justin L. Walker  
Alan D. Pomykala

**Cpl.**  
Dustin C. Ashley  
Sean R. Briggs  
Jason Carmona  
Abraham M. Castro  
Benjamin L. Rondeau  
Kirk B. Anderson  
Raymond L. Chin  
Brian T. Desouza  
Maurice J. Lewis  
Jonathan D. McLellan  
Marcie L. McWaters  
Jorge Oleafonseca  
Damian D. Renjifo  
Timothy P. Seo  
Geoffrey C. Webb  
Matthew J. Whittington

**Sgt.**  
Jerad B. Marks  
Jordan M. Pezzullo

Adam L. Flathers

### CLC-36

**Lance Cpl.**  
Brian A. Barrows  
Ronald M. Foster  
Dorian B. Hall  
Robert M. Smith IV  
Manuel D. Cadre  
Drevonn M. Fluellen  
Elijahjaun D. Nelson

### MWSS-171

**Pfc.**  
Neil P. Pijanka

**Lance Cpl.**  
Alexander M. Adams  
Matthew S. Blount  
Christopher W. Burton  
Jesse R. Csida  
Adam A. Gonzalez  
Christopher L. Headad  
Nathaniel M. Hinz  
Colin J. Insko  
Eric D. Taylor Jr.  
Ryan D. Williams  
Nicholas R. Garcia  
Eric C. Hinkle  
Robert M. Holbrook III  
James S. Luvone  
Joseph R. Ortiz II

**Cpl.**  
Paul A. Armentrout  
Tommy R. Bryan III  
Ryan E. Burlison  
Gannon J. Dorion  
Teagun J. Erickson  
Kevin L. Govendo  
Daniel N. Scott  
Alphonse J. Didomenico II  
Kenneth C. Kohler  
Nicole M. Lash  
Paul F. Meshak Jr.  
Anthony J. Rotert

**Sgt.**  
Paul I. Mead

### MAG-12

**Lance Cpl.**  
Lorenzo L. Woods  
Derrius R. Beverly  
Desiree G. Burris  
Brian F. Hill  
Eboni A. Waiters

**Cpl.**  
Lorenzo L. Woods  
Brian A. Scott

**Master Sgt.**  
Paul Brown - FAP  
Brandon S. Stripling



**1st PLACE WINNER**  
**Nicole Perry**

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

## Environmental project wins at Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

**SYMPOSIUM** FROM PAGE 1

Perry won the competition with her formal presentation, which consisted of a written experiment, a PowerPoint slide show and an oral presentation to a panel of judges.

"(My experiment) was on environmental products, like green products and whether they were as toxic or not as toxic to brine shrimp as conventional products are," said Perry.

For a little over a month, Perry was dedicated to her experiment and making sure her final project was perfect.

"I was just curious because some green products cost more money," said Perry. "So I was wondering if they were better for marine life."

She said the best part of the trip was being able to meet students her age who were interested in the same kinds of topics as her.

The symposium may seem like it was a lot of hard work but the students made sure they had time to play a little as well.

"We got to travel up to Tokyo and

went on three trips," said Perry. "I got to go to the aquarium, which was really cool."

Although she did take first place, Perry said the hardest part of the competition was letting her nerves get the best of her.

"Presenting was hard because you get really nervous," she said. "Anybody who wanted to come and watch could sit in the room, and the judges were really intimidating."

But whether the judges made her palms sweat or not, her good data and preparation came through on top.

"She will be traveling to Bethesda, Md., at the end of April to present her research at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium," said Suzette Lopez, an M.C. Perry High School teacher who worked with Perry for the symposium.

Even after competing in Maryland, Perry still doesn't plan on stopping there.

"After nationals I plan on doing another experiment on something similar," she said.

## Easter bunny visits Iwakuni commissary

**EASTER** FROM PAGE 1

the community and all our patrons who shop at the commissary," said Chaney. "We also like to give back to our little warriors and make sure they know that they're special too."

At the end of the hunt, there were raffles for the young competitors to win Easter gift baskets and PEZ dispensers.

Children were given the opportunity to compete in a jelly bean contest.

The contest consisted of children guessing how many jelly beans were in a jar on the prize table. The child with the most accurate estimate would win a prize basket and PEZ dispenser.

Children weren't the only ones getting some of the commissary's donated goods. Complimentary hot dogs, chips and drinks were offered to everyone who attended the event.

"We have these events to benefit our armed-service community," said Cynthia S. Blair, commissary store deputy here. "We like to help our community and let them know how much we appre-

ciate them."

Although the commissary staff played a huge role in preparing the event, both Blair and Chaney said the biggest amount of help came from their industry partners.

"Everything that we need to run this event successfully comes from our industry partners," said Blair. "We could not have done this without them."

The commissary's industry partners provided all items from plastic Easter eggs to complimentary food.

Blair said the laughter and excitement the children displayed confirmed a successful event to her and the commissary staff.

The Easter egg hunt was just one of many events the staff has planned for this year.

The commissary will also be hosting events for the major holidays including Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"DeCA is all about taking care of our armed services and taking care of our community," said Blair. "This event gives us a way to say thank you for shopping at the Iwakuni commissary."

## Waist Wars competition to commence

**FAT** FROM PAGE 1

team by not losing your share of the weight."

The rules of the competition only require the competitors to come in for the initial and final weigh-ins.

All team members do not need to be present for the weigh-ins as long as they have the names of their teammates.

Once weigh-ins are done, competitors are left to themselves to lose the weight.

"We just want to encourage people to come out and give it a shot," said Kruse. "The teamwork is a good incentive. Working out with somebody else gets you motivated. If you set a workout schedule with someone else, it's much more difficult to skip that."

Sgt. Enrique Watson, Cpl. David Garcia, Lance Cpl. Rolly Harsh, and Pfc. Giovanni Martinez made up the four-man team, which won

the last Waist Wars competition. "I signed up and weighed in," said Cpl. David Garcia. "I think I lost about 14 pounds."

Garcia said to lose the weight he and his team went on three-mile flack jacket runs, spent a lot of time in the pool and sauna, and had to change their diets by cutting the fatty foods and increasing their water intake.

"(Being on a team) was one of those factors that motivated me into losing that weight," said Garcia. "That was pretty much it."

Garcia's team competed against 16 other teams during the last competition before they were able to split the cash prize.

"The 'cash money' was another motivator," said Garcia.

For more information about the Waist Wars weight loss competition, call the IronWorks Gym Health Promotions office at 253-3696 or 253-6883.

## \$10,000 donated toward crawfish broil

**MUDBUG** FROM PAGE 1

collaborating with different companies.

The idea to host a crawfish broil was devised by Lance Cpl. Elliot Gruhn, refrigeration technician with MALS-12, his father Paul Gruhn, professional mechanical engineer, and O'Boyle, owner of Emerald Metals Co. and former member of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Like most good ideas, this one started in a bar," said O'Boyle. "A couple of months ago, we were trying to think of a way we could say thanks to all the things the Marines do for us."

The biggest challenge in coordinating the event was trying to figure out how to get 1,500 pounds of crawfish all the way to Japan.

"Initially, they wanted to fly in live crawfish and all this other stuff, so it was really difficult to do," said 1st Lt. Oscar A. Martinez, MALS-12 ground support equipment division officer here.

Martinez worked with Jeffery Flemming, MALS-12 family readiness officer, to coordinate a plan of action with MCCS to provide the main event.

"In the end we couldn't get that crawfish flown here for legal reasons, so Marine Corps Community Services said they would put everything together," said Martinez.

After months of planning and coordination with MCCS and MALS-12, the idea hatched into a planned event to include a flag football game between service members, free food and a crawfish eating contest.

"MCCS did a brilliant job with all the tents and providing all the resources needed to put this together," said O'Boyle.

Noncommissioned officers played flag football against staff noncommissioned officers and

won 20-0. During the day, free food and drinks were made readily available to all attendees until the crawfish were ready to be served.

Once prepared, dozens of pounds of crawfish were poured into long trays for an all-you-can-eat buffet of mudbugs.

Eventually, the event launched into a full-fledged eating contest between contestants who dared to fill their stomachs with as many mudbugs as they could devour.

After 10 minutes of rapid twisting, chewing and swallowing, Lance Cpl. William Phillips, ground support equipment structure mechanic with MALS-12, and Elliott Gruhn tied after each consumed 233 crawfish.

The contestants were given an additional five minutes to settle the score. In the end, Elliott Gruhn demolished an additional 83 mudbugs and defeated Phillips.

"I'm from Texas, and we eat crawfish all the time," said Elliott Gruhn. "I love it."

O'Boyle, Paul and Elliot Gruhn each received a challenge coin and plaque from Maj. Gen. Raymond C. Fox, commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

"It's very heart warming to see that Americans will think about the Marines all the way in Japan," said Fox. "That's the great thing about the Marine Corps. We take all these Marines from the West Coast, East Coast, and Midwest and integrate them together. They get to experience different foods and this is one of those opportunities."

Paul Gruhn and O'Boyle plan to do more fundraising to hold similar events in the future for service members of all branches to show their appreciation of the protection service members provide for the U.S. and other host nations.



PFC. MARCEL BROWN

From left to right, Staff Sgt. Cornell McCray, Master Sgt. Don R. Miller and Staff Sgt. Evans P. Janvier, all former drill instructors, pose for a photo in the Building 1 courtyard here March 23. Both Janvier and Miller are former Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island drill instructors. McCray is a former MCRD San Diego drill instructor.

## Turning off kill switch: DIs transition back to fleet

PFC. MARCEL BROWN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

One of the most stressful duties in the Marine Corps is being a drill instructor. From the moment recruits graduate boot camp, some new Marines idolize their drill instructors, and even fewer take the path to becoming a drill instructor later down the road.

"It's something I've always wanted to do ever since I left boot camp," said Staff Sgt. Cornell L. McCray, Combat Logistics Company 36 supply administration chief and former drill instructor. "Just the challenge to be the best is what I wanted to do, and to do drill instructor duty is the best or number one thing you could do as a Marine."

Several former drill instructors here had to face the challenges of transitioning from making Marines back to leading Marines.

Drill instructor duty is described by some as the most demanding thing they've ever experienced in their lives. With few hours of sleep, countless hours of work and barely any time to eat, many drill instructors experience a very challenging time in their lives.

"It's demanding. If it's not in your heart, it's not going to work for you," said Staff Sgt. Evans P. Janvier, assistant mess hall manager and former drill instructor. "I was up at 3 a.m. every morning for my first two cycles and I wouldn't get home until 10:30 p.m."

Although a very demanding

job, four former drill instructors here said the experience was well worth it.

"We see these people come in, and they leave changed; they leave different; they leave a Marine," said Master Sgt. Don R. Miller, Installation Personnel Administration Center staff non-commissioned officer in charge and former drill instructor. "It's rewarding because of the product we're putting out."

After three years of non-stop yelling, constant moving and

**"It's demanding. If it's not in your heart, it's not going to work for you."**

*Staff Sgt. Evans P. Janvier  
Assistant mess hall manager  
and former drill instructor*

attempting to instill discipline into recruits, drill instructors must face another challenge when transitioning back to the fleet Marine Corps.

"In Parris Island, you're in such a structured environment," said Gunnery Sgt. Louis T. Starnes, legal services chief here and former drill instructor. "Coming back to the fleet was quite a shock in the beginning because you don't have as much control as you think you do."

Starnes said the adjustment from being in such a structured, routine lifestyle back to a less routine lifestyle was the biggest challenge he faced when returning to the fleet, but some drill instructors are challenged

with the transition from making Marines back to leading Marines. "I was blasting everyone left and right," said Janvier. "Someone had to pull me to the side to tell me I can't do that here. It took me about five to six months to adjust back to the fleet lifestyle."

"My first three or four months back, I was chewing out Marines for crazy things," said Miller. "It's tough but it's just like everything else in life; you adapt to your surroundings."

When first arriving to the drill field, new drill instructors are referred to as green-belt drill instructors.

They have the responsibility of being with the recruits a majority of the time and constantly striving to instill discipline into the recruits, which makes their job the most demanding of drill instructor duty.

Toward the end of a drill instructor duty, most drill instructors become senior drill instructors.

Leaving as a senior drill instructor makes the transition to the fleet less difficult for some because a senior drill instructor plays a different role than a

green-belt drill instructor.

"As a senior-drill instructor, you're more of a teacher or guidance counselor to the recruits," said McCray. "Just being in that mode for a while and then coming back to the fleet; it was an easy transition for me."

After returning to the fleet, former drill instructors also have to deal with the challenge of eliminating the intimidation factor their junior Marines may have knowing they've just gotten off of the drill field.

"I think when Marines know you've been to the drill field they automatically stand a little straighter, and they try to walk the line (of respect) a little bit tighter," said Starnes.

After being around their junior Marines for some time, McCray and Starnes said their junior Marines began to realize they were just Marines doing their job like everybody else in the Marine Corps.

"I told these guys when I got here that the drill instructor cover is off; it's hanging on the wall and that's where it's going to stay," said McCray.

Although an arduous duty, the former drill instructors here said being on the drill field gave them pride and confidence. The evolution of becoming a drill instructor has changed their lives in many ways.

"I think it helped me mature as a man, a Marine and a leader," said Janvier. "I plan on making a difference in the Marine Corps and training our young leaders to be future leaders."



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Scott Hutton and Lance Cpl. Thomas Boyd, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation structural mechanics, work at finding the right screws to use on an avionics part at the MALS-12 airframes warehouse here March 30. MALS-12 airframe mechanics are responsible for the operation of the aircraft here by maintaining and replacing parts on the aircraft when necessary.

## MALS-12 Marauders: Overcome challenges, committed to support MAG's mission

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Whether through their first in-brief or conversations with officers or noncommissioned officers, every service member aboard the station has at one time heard that supporting flight operations is the most important mission sailors and Marines have here.

Boasting more than 600 Marines and more than 30 sailors, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 is one of the larger squadrons here, whose service members work together to overcome challenges and are committed to support the operational mission.

The MALS-12 Marauders assert that commitment every day as they work to fulfill their stated mission, which is to provide aviation logistics expertise, planning and material to Marine Aircraft Group 12 and its subordinate tactical aircraft squadrons in order to support operational contingencies, theater security cooperation plans, and training exercises in the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

One of the many challenges MALS-12 faces in accomplishing its mission is making the augmented service members they receive from MALS-11, -13, -14 and -31 feel like they are part of the squadron.

"Unity of effort and unity of thought is vital to the success of the unit," said Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle, MALS-12 commanding officer. "When Marines and sailors come in here, particularly these (unit deployed program) groups, the message that we want to convey is that they are now Marauders and we want them to take pride in being Marauders."

The MALS-12 command offers various opportunities for

the service members to enjoy their time in Iwakuni through community relations projects in town, squadron functions and family readiness events, which promote unit cohesion and unite the Marauders' efforts.

If the Marines and sailors enjoy themselves through the

and departments that work together to provide the services they are required to give the station's aviation units.

Sgt. Maj. Drew Benson, MALS-12 sergeant major, said all the squadron's service members work together, day to day, exchanging ideas and communicating with

challenges that I don't think any other MALS or people external to the unit can fully appreciate," said Gackle. "That's what really makes us different. Given all the challenges, we perform our aviation logistic support responsibility. I think we're second to none in terms of providing services. It is what we do best at MALS-12."

With 33 Marines and sailors on their roster providing mission essential airframe expertise, the MALS-12 airframes department is just one of the many MALS-12 sections that knows the difficulties that come with being remotely located and what it takes to accomplish their mission. MALS-12 airframe mechanics are responsible for the operation of the aircraft here by maintaining and replacing parts when necessary.

Sgt. Richard Cover, a MALS-12 airframes non-destructive inspection technician, said sometimes the aviation mechanics have to wait awhile before the necessary avionics parts arrive on station.

"As soon as the parts come in, it doesn't matter if it's one o'clock or two o'clock in the morning, we'll come in at one o'clock or two o'clock in the morning," said Cover. "We're always on call. They need that part back to get that airplane flying. We'll work shifts until that piece is done."

With MALS-12 being one of the larger squadrons aboard the station and subordinate to MAG-12 and its aviation units, it becomes apparent what they believe being a Marauder means by watching them work around the clock.

"What it means to be a Marauder is basically to work at accomplishing the mission to get the planes in the air," said Cover. "We keep the planes in the air so they can put the bombs on the ground."



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Lance Cpl. Charles Duffie, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation tire mechanic, works on fixing an aircraft tire at the MALS-12 airframes warehouse here March 30. MALS-12 has more than 600 Marines and 30 sailors under its command who all work at providing aviation logistics expertise, planning and material to Marine Aircraft Group 12 and its subordinate tactical aircraft squadrons.

opportunities the squadron offers, their attitude will improve and their attitude will directly affect the squadron's mission readiness, flight line readiness and aviation logistics effectiveness, Gackle said.

The MALS-12 command really tries to drive the message home, that attitude is more important than aptitude, and the attitude in which a service member approaches being here and being a Marauder is going to dictate not only their success or failure, but that of the mission too, Gackle added.

MALS-12, like other squadrons, is made up of various sections

each other to accomplish the mission.

"Basically, it's teamwork. I would say in one word, teamwork," said Benson. "We demand a lot, and knowing our Marines and sailors, we get the job done. We set the bar very high, and they've responded."

Aside from meeting their command's standards, one of the challenges which the Marauders face, with their squadron being the only permanently forward-deployed MALS in the Marine Corps, is their squadron's remote location.

"(Being remotely located) presents a whole host of

# TICKING TIME BOMB



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney, staff noncommissioned officer in charge with station Explosive Ordnance Disposal, talks to the simulated hostage Staff Sgt. Robert Pippin, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marine, to calm him down while Sgt. Ryan Wilhite sets up some of the equipment used to render the hostage safe during an exercise held at the EOD building here April 2.

## IEDs prove to be no match for station EOD

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines began conducting a two-week block of instruction in advanced category A type devices at the EOD building here April 2. The EOD Marines here were faced with a difficult situation: a simulated hostage was put into an explosive device by a telephone repair man.

The telephone repair man asked for assistance from the potential victim.

Once the victim assisted by pushing a button, the repair man explained that victim was now a hostage and if the button was released the package will explode.

"It was a hostage device with a victim-operated switch where the hostage was being controlled with an explosive device," said Mike Mathieu, Anti-Terrorism Solutions senior project analyst and instructor. "Their job (EOD Marines) was to come in and remove the hostage from the device."

The Marines began training with a professional military education brief on stress control techniques and how to approach the situation and handle it the best possible way. "EOD technicians could find themselves needing to conduct manual procedures to render safe an IED that could not be dealt with by remote means," said Mathieu. The exercise emphasized

controlling the stress of the hostages, exercising render safe procedures and questioning techniques.

Learning stress control and questioning techniques is critical for EOD Marines to ensure hostage safety and to minimize property damage.

"You want to be able to work as a team," said Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney, staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the station EOD team. "You want to ensure this person is calm and that they are not freaking out."

The Marines participating in the exercise were given a scenario and played the part of a regular Joe going about daily business.

"It went very well," said Mathieu.

"I was very impressed with the Marines in this class."

The Marines were encouraged to role-play and be as realistic as possible to challenge the EOD Marines to perform their jobs in as realistic a scenario as possible.

"I think it went really well. For one, it actually gave me a lot more confidence in my own abilities to diagnose stuff," said McClenney. "It broadens that knowledge and makes us more capable of defeating the enemy in Afghanistan and Iraq."

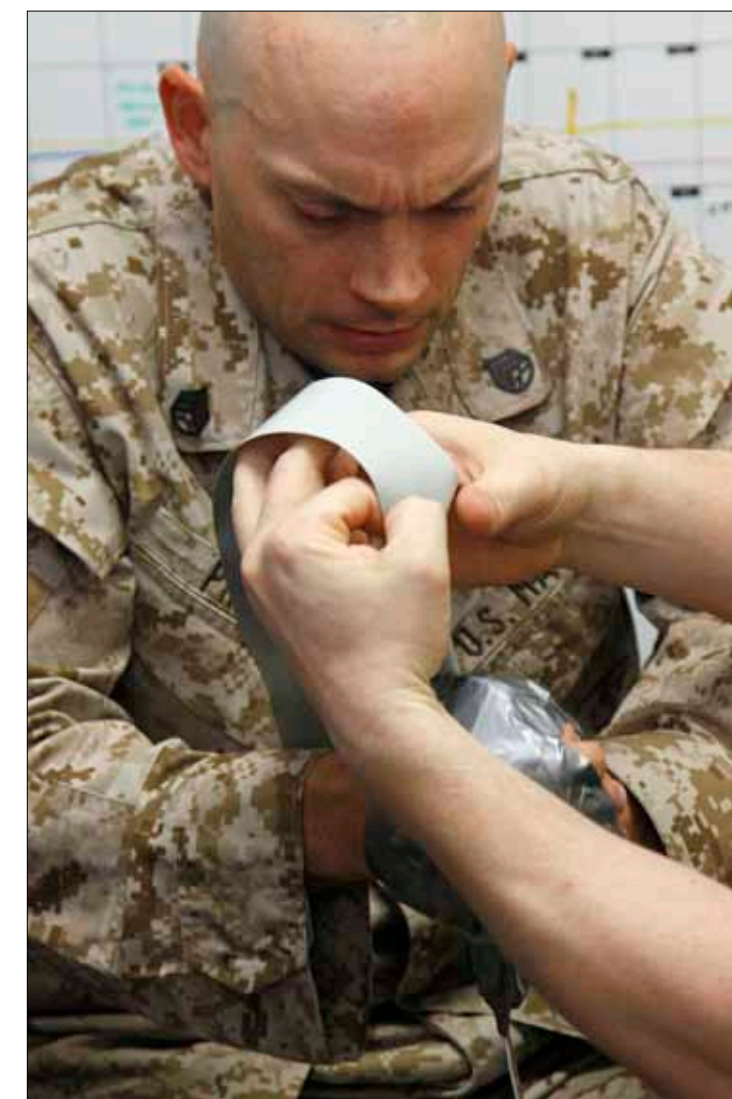
EOD Marines conduct these training courses regularly, giving them the opportunity to make and learn from their mistakes here.

In a non-training scenario, there are no second chances.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marine (left) and Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney (right), staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the station EOD, analyze an image they took of the hostage's hands with an X-ray machine at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal building here April 2. EOD Marines are conducting a two-week block of instruction in advanced category A type devices with simulated situations involving hostages.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Staff Sgt. Robert Pippin, exercise hostage, has his hands taped to the simulated victim-operated switch to ensure his safety as well as all property during an exercise held at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal building here April 2. EOD Marines are conducting a two-week block of instruction in advanced category A type devices.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney, staff noncommissioned officer in charge with station Explosive Ordnance Disposal, talks to the simulated hostage, Staff Sgt. Robert Pippin, to calm him down during an exercise at the EOD building here April 2. During the exercise, EOD Marines were faced with a difficult situation of rendering safe the hostage from an improvised explosive device.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Gunnery Sgt. Hugh McClenney, staff noncommissioned officer in charge with station Explosive Ordnance Disposal, performs one of the many steps in deactivating the simulated victim-operated switch during an exercise held at the EOD building here April 2.

## CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



LANCE CPL. TOMMY BELLEGARDE

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — Cpl. Stephen Driggers (left), a squad leader and Cpl. David Wood, the fire direction center chief, both with 1st Section, 81s Mortars Platoon, attached to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, ready a mortar round after receiving enemy small-arms fire at India Company's operating base in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 21. The mortarmen prepared their guns during a brief firefight that lasted several minutes. The 3/6 Marines and soldiers from the Afghan National Army are in Marjah to support Operation Moshtarak, a push to rid the area of Taliban presence and intimidation.

## Mortarmen bring 81s to the fight

LANCE CPL. TOMMY BELLEGARDE  
REGIMENTAL  
COMBAT TEAM 7

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — The Marines and soldiers were going about their daily business, setting up their new company operating base in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 21. There wasn't much going on at the time.

Without warning, the dull afternoon was interrupted by gunshots. Insurgents in the area were attacking the troops with small-arms fire.

While Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and soldiers from the Afghan National Army shot back, mortarmen from 1st Section, 81mm Mortars Platoon, attached to India Co., dashed to their platoons to prepare their mortars for fire.

"We got on the (mortar) guns and direct-laid on the enemy's muzzle flashes," said Sgt. Dennis Leanes, the first section leader for the platoon.

Direct-laying, meaning to point the mortar tube directly at the target, is acceptable when the mark is in sight, Leanes added.

The firefight was brief, only lasting several minutes before the insurgents stopped shooting. The Marines didn't get to launch any mortars, but they were ready to if necessary.

"(The mortarmen) were ready to drop some rounds and cause havoc on those guys," said Leanes, from Ishpeming, Mich. "As soon as (the insurgents) saw the guns pointed at 'em, they retreated because they knew what was gonna come down on 'em!"

The potential destructibility and altitude of a mortar round when launched from an 81 mm tube has in part caused it to be used sparingly during Operation Moshtarak. Before being allowed to shoot one, the mortarmen must obtain clearance through the battalion.

These Marines shoot larger mortars from 81 mm tubes as opposed to the 60 mm tubes many of their fellow mortarmen shoot from. The two groups of mortarmen are used in different ways.

Mortarmen that fire 81s are usually tasked out to weapons companies while 60s get attached to platoons within the line companies. Eighty-ones aren't as mobile and remain stationary for longer periods of time.

To date, the 81s mortarmen's most significant role during the Marjah offensive occurred days before the coalition's Feb. 13 push into the city.

"The biggest mission that we've had out here was a smoke-screening," said Cpl. Barry J. Herb, a squad leader. "That was right before d-day."

During the ruse, the mortarmen fired 24

rounds of red phosphorous over the course of several hours, while the light-armed reconnaissance unit with them fired off mine-clearing line charges.

Since that time, the mortarmen have been moving around from place to place, ready for their next big mission.

"I had one week where I went on patrols with India (Company), other than that, we've been digging in," said Lance Cpl. Peter Martin, from Tucson, Ariz.

Unlike the coalition, the Taliban has used indirect fire often during Operation Moshtarak, especially during its first weeks. The insurgents have not been able to provide accurate or effective fire, something the Marines attribute to hasty tactics.

"The insurgents aren't very accurate at all. They use a kind of hit-and-move guerilla warfare concept," said Herb, from Coral Springs, Fl. "They move in-and-out and don't have enough time to adjust their fire and be accurate."

So far, the mortarmen feel that their deployment has been bearable, something they credit to their training back in the United States.

"The deployment hasn't been that bad," said Martin. "I think that the field operations back at (Camp) Lejeune were worse. After those, I was prepared for misery."

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Kennel Closure

The kennel will be temporarily closed for painting. Expect it to be available no later than April 10. For additional information, call K.C. Rich at 253-5284.

### Infertility Seminar

Dr. Atsushi Tanaka will be speaking about fertility options at the Branch Health Clinic Lobby April 29 at 5 p.m. All base personnel are invited. For additional information, call Lt. Gentry at 253-3485.

### 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 iwakunisolarship@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 who saves the most money will win an hour long massage. If you have any questions, call 253-6250.

### Hornet's Nest Renova-

### tions

The Hornet's Nest is currently undergoing renovations scheduled to be completed June 2010. The gym area will be closed until June 1. The Cyber Café, located in Building 1345 next to the Wood Hobby Shop, will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the renovations. Single Marine Program trips will continue. For more information, contact Jay Stovall at 253-3585.

### Japanese language course

The Yamaguchi International Exchange Association is sponsoring a Japanese language course being held at six locations in Yamaguchi Prefecture beginning Tuesday. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Public Affairs Office in Building 1. For more information, contact PAO 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.

### 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, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the station 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 Store, 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. The promotion is open to anyone with a birthday. Just visit [www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com/birthdaycake), fill out the form and let Power 1575 and MCCR take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

### Road Tax

Pay your road taxes at the Provost Marshal's Office April 21, 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your title and payment in the form of yen. Heavy vehicles must pay at the New Symphonia Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Light vehicles/motorcycles pay at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. To receive your new decal from PMO, bring your Japanese title, secondary insurance, 2010 road tax receipt, SOFA license and AFID card and your vehicle. Failure to pay road tax can result in impoundment. (See map on page 10).

### Commissary Closure

The Commissary will be closed April 19-20 due to a formal inventory. It will reopen for normal operating hours April 21 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 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](mailto: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, April 9, 2010

7 p.m. From Paris with Love (R)  
10 p.m. The Crazies (R)  
Premiere

### Saturday, April 10, 2010

1 p.m. Alice and Wonderland (PG)  
4 p.m. Toothfairy (PG)  
7 p.m. Extraordinary Measures (PG)

### Sunday, April 11, 2010

1 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning T (PG)  
4 p.m. How to Train Your Dragon (PG)  
7 p.m. The Crazies (R)

### Monday, April 12, 2010

7 p.m. When In Rome (PG-13)  
Last Showing

### Tuesday, April 13, 2010

1 p.m. Extraordinary Measures  
7 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)  
Last Showing

### Wednesday, April 14, 2010

7 p.m. From Paris with Love (R)

### Thursday, April 15, 2010

1 p.m. Tooth Fairy (PG)  
Last Showing  
7 p.m. The Crazies (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura](http://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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

### Honda Civic

Two door hatchback, black, automatic, great condition, great A/C and heat, CD player, manual door locks, automatic windows and mirrors. JCI until April 2011. Asking \$1600. For more information, please call 080-6328-0786 or 080-6327-0786.

### 1994 Toyota Chaser

Four door family car, tan, automatic, great condition, great A/C and heat, automatic door

locks, windows and mirrors. JCI until April 2011. Asking \$1600. For more information, please call 080-6328-0786 or 080-6327-0786.

### Mazda Demio

\$2000. JCI Good until Dec 2010 Please call James at 080-3059-0626.

### 1999 RVR

Silver, 3-door, JCI 2012, everything works great, Great on gas mileage, CD player, Back seat recline & folder down, Seats up to 5, Seat covers, Small car with lots of room, Asking \$2500 OBO: Call 080-3439-0984 or 253-2953.

### 2001 CBR 929

Asking for \$3800 OBO. JCI is good until June 2011. Please call Jimmy at 080-3059-0626.

## Miscellaneous

### Used Items for Sale

Used washer and drier. In great condition. Asking \$150 for both. Blue pull-out couch and love seat. Asking \$50 for both.

Awesome deal for new family that want to economize. For more information, please call 080-3881-8121.

### Light Gray Recliner

In good condition. Asking \$100 OBO. For more information, call Jen at 253-2446.

### Japanese Kerosene Heater

If you live off base you will need a heater like this. Used for only six months and works great. Comes with a child guard, a child lock button and 5 gallon kerosene tank with pump. Asking \$75. For more information, please call 080-6328-0786 (cell) or 253-6822 (work).

### 3 piece Ashley Durapella

Mocha colored 3-piece Ashley Durapella. Includes sofa, loveseat, and large ottoman for \$700 OBO Please call 080-3524-3467.

## 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

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, chalupa, pot roast, steamed rice, parsley butter potatoes, corn on the cob, cauliflower au gratin, mushroom gravy, jalepeno corn bread, macaroni salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, double layer banana cake. Specialty Bar: Pasta

### Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, New Port fried chicken, lasagna, spinach lasagna, mashed potatoes, southern style greens, mixed vegetables, chicken or turkey gravy, garlic bread, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, coconut cream pies. Specialty Bar: Taco

### Wednesday

Chicken and rice soup, egg drop soup, sweet and sour chicken, yakisoba, egg foo yung, Chinese egg rolls, pork fried rice, steamed rice, corn O'Brien, vegetable stir fry, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, chocolate drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, lemon butter cream frosting, blueberry pie. Specialty Bar: Barbeque

### Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken kiev, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, canned cream style corn, french fried cauliflower, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, German style tomato salad, pecan brownies, pineapple upside down cake, chocolate cream pie. Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

### Friday

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, roast turkey, breaded pork chops, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, club spinach, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, turkey gravy, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie. Specialty Bar: Mongolian

## Central Taxiway Tunnel opens



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran and his canine companion take a drive through the Central Taxiway Tunnel located near the new air traffic control tower here April 2. O'Halloran and his dog were the first to drive through the new tunnel.

## IWAKUNI 2010 SUMMER HIRE PROGRAM

The 2010 Summer Hire Program will run from June 21 to Aug. 14 for students at the Matthew C. Perry High School. The program is open to SOFA dependents (age 14 to 18) of DOD military and U.S. civilian personnel assigned to MCAS Iwakuni. The Civilian Human Resources Office will start accepting applications April 26. Students may pick up applications at their schools' counseling center starting on April 19. Applications will also be available at CHRO, located in Building 1, Room 104. For more information, contact the Summer Hire coordinator, Bertha Clay, at 253-6828.



Victoria Pelletier, Matthew C. Perry High School player, chases Celica Levy, a Kinnick High School player, to prevent her from taking the ball down field during the soccer match at M.C. Perry soccer field here April 22.

## M.C. Perry soccer team plays teams from higher division

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The boys and girls soccer teams of Matthew C. Perry High School had brighter games to look forward to as the season changed and the heavy rain subsided.

With the weather on their side, M.C. Perry soccer teams were able bring their best efforts to play against schools from higher divisions than their own.

The Matthew C. Perry High School boys and girls soccer teams played games against Kinnick High School and Kumage High School at the M.C. Perry High School soccer field here April 2-3.

The boys of M.C. Perry High School played two games against Kinnick High School on Friday afternoon.

Even though M.C. Perry's boys soccer team lost the first game 3-2, it came out victorious during the second game when it defeated Kinnick High School 2-0.

Three games between M.C. Perry High School's girls team and Kinnick High School turned out a scoreless tie on Friday and Saturday.

During the last game on Saturday, M.C. Perry suffered a 4-2 loss at the hands of Kumage High School.

Christopher Anderson, girls soccer team coach for M.C. Perry, said the team has done well in showing the girls can handle a game or two against a superior division.

"We are an A school meaning we are the smallest school," said Anderson. "Kumage is an AA school, so to go up and to tie or even lose to these guys 1-0 is an accomplishment."

"My first season, we would lose 12-0 or 8-0 continuously," said Anderson. "These last few years, we've been very competitive."

During the season, the girls team has been able to find ways

in which they can improve in order to step up their game.

"It was a good effort overall, but I think there was some individual effort that we can improve upon," said Kate Cutshall, captain and goal keeper for M.C. Perry girls team. "We could have been tighter on our defense and worked up the ball a little more."

The team wastes no time improving their techniques and getting the most they can out of their practices.

"We're mostly working on passing and trying to get the ball up the field more," said Ari Mocarski, team captain for M.C. Perry girls team. "That's a big thing."

M.C. Perry High School soccer teams have seen nothing but rainy days since the season began, making the weekend's sunny weather a pleasant surprise.

Due to inclement weather, the boys teams have had to cancel and postpone previous games.

"This season has been a little more wet than usual, said Cutshall. "The past couple of seasons here, we haven't had that much rain, and when we did, it didn't really affect us too bad. But this year, there's just been downpour every weekend."

Due to the rain, teams have had to put effort into ensuring their game play would not be affected.

"We were out here cleaning this field yesterday, so it was pretty bad," said Cutshall.

"There was basically water all on one side of the field," said Anderson. "They had to bring all of the water off the field yesterday and let it dry out enough today so that they could play."

Games are slated to take place at M.C. Perry April 23 through 25. For more information about upcoming sports or events, call 253-5448.



Sierra Apple, a Matthew C. Perry High School player, attempts to block Brittany Evans, a Kinnick High School player, from scoring a goal during the girl's soccer match at M.C. Perry High School soccer field here April 22.



Victoria Pelletier, Matthew C. Perry High School player, races against Yvette Jamosmos, a Kinnick High School player, to gain control of the ball during the girl's soccer match at M.C. Perry High School soccer field here April 22.

# FULL COURT PRESS



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

A Knicks player goes for a layup against several Magic players during a youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here March 30. The Knicks won by two points making them the regular season champions.

## Knicks beat Magic in season's final basketball showdown

PFC. MARCEL BROWN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Knicks won first place over the Magic during their final match in the Youth Basketball regular season at the IronWorks Gym here March 30.

The Magic started out with a rough beginning, being down by 8 points in the first half of the game, but they made a strong comeback toward the end of the game and gave the Knicks a run for their money.

"They had about three key players who made a difference and ended up tying the game at one point," said Steve A. Navar, Knicks coach.

During the first period of the game, the Knicks displayed an aggressive offensive strategy. The Knicks constantly looked for openings, set up shots and made baskets.

"The Knicks played pretty hard," said Raymond Sawejko, Magic assistant coach. "They were picking apart our defense in the start, but as we were

watching the game progress, we started to pick up on what they were throwing at us."

By half time, the game was being controlled predominately by the Knicks, but at the start of

the second half, Sawejko decided to change the Magic's gameplan to compensate for the Knicks' strong offense.

"We started watching their team and started picking out their defense. We went from zone defense to man-to-man defense," said Sawejko. "We started concentrating on our shots a little bit more, and the team started playing together."

With .5 seconds left on the

game clock, the Knicks led 24 to 22. The Magic had possession of the ball and called a timeout.

The Magic used the .5 seconds to take a final shot but missed at the buzzer. The Knicks won with

a final score of 24 to 22.

During recent practices, the Knicks have been working more on passing and offensive plays, which instead of letting one man dominate makes each player more proficient offensively.

"One of the biggest problems we had in the past is that it used to be a one-man team," said Navar. "Now the team is working as a whole instead of individually."

Although the regular season

is over, Navar is confident the improvement the Knicks have shown during the regular season will lead them to winning the playoffs.

"We were real confident. The team is really starting to come together as a whole," said Navar. "When our team comes together, we're a hard team to beat and we're going to be hard to beat during the playoffs."

The Knicks may have won the season, but according to Sawejko, taking second place in the season is not going to slow the Magic down from bringing their "A-game" in the playoffs.

"The Knicks and the Magic were tied going into the playoffs," said Sawejko, "This game was the deciding factor for the first place position, but I'm fine with second place. We'll take them in the playoffs."

The Youth Basketball playoffs began Saturday. For additional information on game standings and schedules, call the Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports Division at 253-5777.

**"When our team comes together, we're a hard team to beat and we're going to be hard to beat during the playoffs."**

*Steve A. Navar  
Knicks coach*