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# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 18, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Friendship Day entertains, brings 265,000 on station



CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

An AV-8B Harrier demonstrates its vertical/short takeoff and landing maneuvers in front of thousands during the annual Friendship Day air show here May 5. The AV-8B Harrier hovered in front of the spectators, performing aerial maneuvers which most fixed wing aircraft cannot. Within the first hour of the gates' opening, thousands of spectators flooded the station to try to obtain the best seats on the flight line for the air show. Attractions included 24 static aircraft displays, typical American cuisine, live music and the main attraction, the air show. Read the full story on pages 6 and 7.

## Service members celebrate Earth Day, Environmental Awareness Month

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Annually, April 22 is a day set aside to honor Earth Day.

People from all around the world do their part in making sure the earth is taken care of by participating in things from organic wine tastings to rallies dedicated to the awareness on the deterioration of the environment.

Approximately 30 Marines and sailors from around the station did their part by gathering to clean the seawall along Penny Lake here in celebration of Earth Day and Environmental Awareness Month April 28.

"(The seawall) is one area on the air station that doesn't get much attention due to the difficulty of actually getting on the other side of the seawall and for security reasons, so this is one area we focus on for Earth Day," said Chuck Hill, an environmental protection specialist with the environmental division and facilities department here.

Service members from Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Combat Logistics Company 36, and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron participated in the event.

Service members spent their morning removing trash and debris from around the seawall in order to help maintain a presentable air station and remove nautical hazards along the area.

SEE ENVIRONMENT ON PAGE 3

## Iwakuni Festival brings thrilling cultural experience

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

tion, a traditional Japanese Taiko Drum performance and local food vendors.

The 33rd Kintai Festival took place April 29 during the Japanese holiday, Showa Day, at Kikko Park near the Kintai Bridge area.

The Daimyo Procession was a traditional kimono parade and also a reproduction of the parade of the Iwakuni Castle Lord from the Edo period.

One of the major sight-seeing events in the area, the festival drew more than 40,000 visitors.

The parade did not only consist of Japanese nationals, but also included ten station members who retired their regular attire for the day and took on the roles of samurai warriors and lady maids for the festival.

Main attractions included the Daimyo Procession, photo opportunities with kimono parade performers, a traditional Japanese samurai's gunfire demonstra-

The men were dressed

SEE KINTAI ON PAGE 3



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## Station CO extends personal thanks to community

COL. MICHAEL A. O'HALLORAN  
STATION COMMANDING OFFICER

To service members and residents of MCAS Iwakuni: This past Friendship Day marked the 38th rendition of the air station's annual air show. The attraction, which drew approximately 265,000 people this year, is our opportunity to host our hosts for one day and to reciprocate the hospitality they so generously bestow upon us everyday. I wish we could stage this unique open house more often, but security and logistical complications, not to mention the high-tempo of day-to-day operations, render this option unfeasible. So it is with this thought in mind that we set out once a year to thank our Japanese partners, and to thank them in style.

But thanks are also owed to the countless individuals, organizations, and units on base who planned the day's festivities and translated the blueprint into a magnificent success. Service members from all over the air station piloted the aircraft, arranged the static displays, manned the gates, directed the traffic, and posed for pictures with the children. Set-up, disassembly, and

clean-up did not occur automatically: Marines and Sailors labored long hours before and after the event with no fanfare to prepare the air station for the stampede of aviation aficionados, and later, for the resumption of military operations. Working parties, I realize, are not as glamorous as finessing a fighter jet through a sequence of gravity-defying acrobatics to the cheers of tens of thousands, but they are no less mission critical.

And of course I would be remiss if I did not mention MCCS in particular. Friendship Day is largely an MCCS production, and it reveals them at their finest. The elegantly printed posters, the play-by-play commentary, and the scores of vendors attested to MCCS's professionalism and devotion to the local community. The equation, then, is quite simple: no MCCS, no Friendship Day.

And so, on behalf of the entire air station, I wish to extend my personal thanks to everyone who planned, executed, and attended Friendship Day.

Though your efforts were adequately quantified in the admission figures, sorties, and pizza sales, the smiles etched on thousands of faces, I think, were far more telling.

Thanks again, and Semper Fidelis.



COL. MICHAEL A. O'HALLORAN

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### 'Critical Communication - Part III'

LT. ROBERT E. MILLS  
STATION CHAPLAIN

For the past two weeks in this space we have been talking about communication.

The first week, I talked about the four basic components of communication: Intent, encoding, decoding and understanding. Last week we talked about some of the different types of communication such as verbal, nonverbal (body language), written and so on.

Today I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about some barriers to good communication - some filters that can disrupt the good flow of information from one person to another.

The first of these is inattention. It is incredibly difficult to carry on a good conversation with somebody who is not listening to you!

You can craft your words ever so carefully, scrutinize your tone of voice, monitor your body language, and make sure that you are facing the person, but if he is too busy watching TV, surfing the net on his phone, or just not paying attention, your important message will not get through.

Often, busy married couples find that this filter becomes a problem in their communication. These days, we are very busy people, but in order to communicate well, we really need to be good listeners!

A second communication filter is your emotional condition. If you are feeling sad, grumpy, frustrated, or angry, it is much harder for you to communicate well. You tend to filter what you

are hearing through your own mental or emotional state, and the end result can be missed communication opportunities.

The third filter is your beliefs and expectations.

If you listen with your mind pre-conditioned to hear a certain thing and you actually are told a different thing, you may still respond as if you had heard the first thing, not the thing that was really said.

A tragic example of this occurred over 30 years ago when an airliner was approaching an airport through a strong wind-shear encounter. The co-pilot was flying and when the captain realized what was happening, he said, "Takeoff thrust!" meaning that he wanted the co-pilot to add full power as on takeoff.

The co-pilot thought he heard the captain say, "Take off thrust", meaning that he should reduce power.

Since the approach phase is normally a time to reduce power, he brought the throttles back, and the airplane impacted the ground short of the runway with a great loss of life. Now obviously there is blame to go around here.

The captain's order was ambiguous, but the co-pilot heard what he thought he would hear, not what was actually meant.

You can readily see how important communication is!

Fourthly, there are style differences between people, and these can act as big filters. They can be cultural - as in language differences. The Japanese word "Hai" sounds much like the English word "Hi", but they mean very different things.

Style differences can also be regional, like the vast difference between the Southern "Y'all" and the Yankee plural "You".

In some parts of the U.S., you may even hear "Yous" as in "Yous guys better watch out!"

Here in Japan, a nod does not always mean acquiescence or agreement, but may simply mean that you were heard and understood.

In order for your communication to be accurate and true, you really need to carefully understand place and person and use some tools to validate that your message was indeed heard and understood.

A great way to do this is to use active listening, also called the speaker-listener technique.

This technique actually eliminates all of the filters mentioned above.

This is a communication enhancer that uses paraphrasing to ensure that the message was both heard and understood. For example, you may come home on a Friday afternoon after a long, hard week of work. You walk into your midrise apartment, flop down on the easy chair and say, "Oh my goodness, I am so worn out that I can't even move." Your loving spouse (who knows this technique) says, "It sounds to me like you're really tired, I'll let you rest here for a while and relax."

You sent a message of exhaustion, and that message was clearly received and acknowledged. Get your energy back fast through, because there will be some dishes to do after supper!

Enjoy your communication practice this week. Try active listening - it'll really help you when getting the message across is especially important. Have fun!

## Station members dress Japanese

KINTAI FROM PAGE 1

and ready in less than a half hour. While they ate lunch and got familiarized with their new garb, the females were taken to a separate area where they were transformed from American women into Japanese lady maids.

The transformation took approximately two hours, compared to the 30 minutes it took for the males.

At the end of the make-up, hair and wardrobe change, the female volunteers looked like porcelain dolls with pale white skin, pink cheeks and thick black hair.

"It's pretty snug," said Trang Nguyen, a festival participant. "It took a while to get used to walking in these things too."

After the service members were completely made over, they prepared for the procession.

Like a mosh pit pushing toward the edge of a stage, thousands of community members pushed and edged toward the bridge, trying to get the best view possible as the procession grew closer and closer.

Local Japanese started off the parade with dancing and chanting, moving across the bridge slowly with their ornate costumes and large balloon displays.

Finally as the grand finale, the station members prepared to cross the bridge. Women took small steps, moving slowly as men held on to their swords with one hand and waved to the crowd with the other.

The parade was over, but the festival was not. Station members then greeted the Japanese nationals, shaking hands and taking photos.

After changing and wiping off all the make-up, parade volunteers roamed the festival area to enjoy the local food vendors and experience the Japanese culture.

"It was really a great experience," said Romulus Dieujuste, a festival participant. "Being able to put myself in someone else's shoes for the day showed me a lot about the Japanese culture, and I'm really happy I was able to take part in this. I would definitely recommend that others do the same."

## Volunteers beautify, cleanup seawall to celebrate Environmental Awareness Month

ENVIRONMENT FROM PAGE 1

They not only picked up visible trash but also rummaged through the rocks and rotting wood to make sure the job was done well, concentrating on picking up plastics, old tires and other trash.

"There's a lot of stuff out here," said Hill. "It could be anything from styrofoam to plastic, big jugs, gasoline cans, wood, bamboo, old diapers, refrigerators, you name it, it's out here."

The seawall cleanup has been an annual event since the

mid-1990s, but Hill reminded station members they should do their part during the entire year.

"The air station, for the most part, is pretty clean," said Hill. "We do a lot of work on the air station year round and keep the air station looking really good."

As the beautiful morning came to a close, the environmental division and facilities department invited participating service members to enjoy a barbeque, which was provided to show appreciation for the efforts during the

cleanup. While Marines and sailors enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, refreshments and beverages after a long morning, some shared their feelings about the cleanup.

"This is my second year volunteering for the clean up," said Pvt. Jonathon A. Ragin, an administrative clerk for H&HS.

"I volunteer because I believe that we really should keep the places we live in clean. As long as I know I'm out here doing something for the earth, that's fine with me," he added.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Marines and sailors from Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Combat Logistics Company 36, and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron pick up trash outside the seawall along Penny Lake here in celebration of Earth Day and Environmental Awareness Month April 28. Service members spent their morning removing trash and debris from around the seawall in order to help maintain a presentable air station.

## McNeil Healthcare recalls infants', children's products

SUBMITTED BY  
THE BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC

McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNEIL-PPC, Inc., in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is voluntarily recalling all lots that have not yet expired of certain over-the-counter children's and infants' liquid products manufactured in the U.S. and distributed in the U.S., Canada, Dominican Republic, Dubai, Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, and Kuwait.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare is initiating this voluntary recall because some of these products may not meet required quality standards.

This recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events. However, as a precautionary measure, parents and

caregivers should not administer these products to their children.

Some of the products included in the recall may contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than is specified; others may contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements; and others may contain tiny particles.

While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers who have purchased these recalled products to discontinue use.

The company is conducting a comprehensive quality assessment across its manufacturing operations and has identified corrective actions that will be implemented before new manufacturing is initiated at the plant where the recalled products were made.

Consumers can contact the company at 1-888-222-6036 and also at www.

mneilproductrecall.com.

Parents and caregivers who are not sure about alternative pediatric health treatment options should talk to their doctor or pharmacist and are reminded to never give drug products to infants and children that are not intended for those age groups as this could result in serious harm.

For additional information, including affected NDC numbers, consumers should visit our Web site www.mneilproductrecall.com or call 1-888-222-6036 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST, and Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

Any adverse reactions may also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Program by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, by mail at MedWatch, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787, or on the MedWatch Web site www.fda.gov/medwatch.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Seaman Apprentice Ronald Brewer (left) and Petty Officer 1st Class George Payumo (center) observe harbor operations in order to keep the station safe and ready for any situation. The Harbor Operations Division aboard the air station is a small team made up of Navy personnel who are experts in communication, safety and operational risk management.

## Harbor operations stay ready, prepared

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Harbor Operations Division aboard the air station is a small team made up of Navy personnel who are experts in communication, safety and operational risk management.

The boathouse is made up of boatswain's mates, electricians and engineers, all of whom are vital to harbor operations.

"Boatswain's mates are specialized in line handling, preserving and operating the boats," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Thomas, an electrician with Harbor Operations. "The engine men fix engines and do mechanical work. If one of the boats were to break down, someone would call upon me or one of the other electricians here to fix it."

Even though the boathouse is made up of personnel with specialty rates and specific skills, all personnel undergo training to learn basic knowledge of harbor operations and security.

"Everyone here learns how to drive the boats, handle boom and operate equipment on each boat," said Thomas. "We all work together, know and do a little bit of the same work."

The boathouse has alternating first response teams divided into several sections designated to respond to any intrusion, incident or emergency that may happen day or night, which provides the harbor with constant surveillance and supervision.

The Harbor Operations Division also coordinates with the Provost Marshal's Office when performing security operations in the

harbor.

"We do three patrols a day and one with PMO," said Thomas. "Anything that enters or exits the harbor, we keep watch on and maintain communication with PMO."

All personnel in the Harbor Operations Division conduct required annual facility response training, to include man-overboard drills, oil spill response and anti-terrorism force protection to test their skill and readiness.

"We perform drills constantly," said Seaman

***"We perform drills constantly, we have these situations under control."***

*Jayson Goodwin*

*boatswain's mate with harbor operations division*

Apprentice Jayson Goodwin, boatswain's mate with harbor operations division. "We have these situations under control."

Personnel at the boathouse also work hand in hand with the environmental department, the station fire department, and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force during exercises and operations.

"We know how to take care of oil spills and fuel spills very well," said Goodwin.

"If any spill gets into the harbor whether it's an oil or hydraulic fluid spill, they go into action to contain it and clean it up," said Melanie Bengtson, environmental director here.

The environmental department maintains joint operations and support for the

harbor by providing much of the necessary equipment vital to carrying out an oil spill response.

"We provide some of the oil containment boom they use to clean up the spills," said Bengtson. "It's basically a barrier they can put out in the water to keep the spill from moving out of the harbor."

Harbor operations maintains correspondence with the station fire department and PMO to conduct man overboard drills.

The drills were in preparation for the station's annual Friendship Day as well as to prepare any man for an overboard situation that may occur, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jared Westbrooks, a boatswain's mate with Harbor operations.

Boathouse personnel prepare themselves to be the first responders to any falls into the harbor by rushing to get them out.

When such a situation occurs, personnel designated to watch from the boathouse immediately respond by calling the emergency communication center here for assistance.

The station fire department then responds by sending search and rescue divers to retrieve and assist the casualty with medical attention.

Each occupation, from the boatswain's mates to the electricians and engineers, is significant conservation, maintenance and management of the harbor.

Harbor operations require planned coordination between each crew member, support unit to remain prepared.

## Local sailor recognized for hard work, dedication

CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Petty Officer 1st Class Kemp Dreher, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of station fuels, recently won the Marine Forces Pacific Shore Sailor of the Year award.

Dreher demonstrated the three values every sailor strives for, which are honor, courage and commitment.

These core values helped him beat out over 500 sailors around the Pacific to earn this honor.

In 1972, the Navy started a program to honor and recognize outstanding sailors of the Pacific and Atlantic fleets. It wasn't until 1973 that shore sailors became eligible to receive the same honors.

Any sailor pay grade E-4 to E-6 is now eligible to be named Shore Sailor of the Year.

"I was actually surprised when I won it," said Dreher.

Now Dreher moves on to the next round of competitions, which is the Commander Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year.

Every station, ship and command chooses its Sailor of the Year.

Once selected, sailors compete against other commands until the Navy's four finest sailors are chosen.

"I'll be in competition against three other people around the area and states as well," said Dreher.

He attributes his strong work ethic to his father's teachings.

"He was one of those guys who worked, worked and worked," said Dreher. "Working was his



CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Petty Officer 1st Class Kemp Dreher, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of station fuels, stands in front of the large fuel tanks at station fuels. Dreher has served in the Navy since 1996 and is on his second tour in Japan, where he was just named Marine Forces Pacific Shore Sailor of the Year.

thing."

His father, John Dreher, was a jack-of-all-trades. He was in a band, had his own air conditioning and refrigeration company, taught junior high school history, and coached track and football.

"He taught me if I don't work hard, nobody is just going to hand me anything," said Dreher.

Working hard is just what Dreher has been doing since 1996 when he enlisted in the

Navy upon completion of high school.

In his 14 years of service, he has served two overseas tours in Japan while managing his job, family and school.

He has received an associate's degree in college and is working toward his bachelors.

Dreher is the father of two boys, Steven and Eric, seven and three years old respectively, from his wife of eight years, the former Ms. Akane Tanaka of Sasebo,

Japan.

Winning the Marine Forces Pacific Shore Sailor of the Year award has been a huge accomplishment for Dreher and his family.

It not only shows that all his hard work throughout his service has paid off, but also that his determination to be a good father, husband and sailor has defined him as one of the privileged few sailors to carry this honor.

## MAY PROMOTIONS

### Detachment B

**Staff Sgt.**  
Fisher, Justin M.

### CLC-36

**Cpl.**  
Lawson, Peter A.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Roberson, Kevin M.

### MALS-12

**Sgt.**  
Orozco, Cristian R.

**Cpl.**  
Abney, David T.  
Garcia, Jason A.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Castro, Rigoberto  
Gagnon, Stephen A.  
Ross, David J.  
Tapia, Sergio Z.

### MAG-12

**Sgt.**  
Moreno, Ricky J.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Blanke, Kyle A.  
Brown, Jantael R.  
March, Lasville R.  
Stephen, Aaron

### MWSS-171

**Master Sgt.**  
Hall, Andra O.

**Staff Sgt.**  
Brown, Timothy W.

**Cpl.**  
Nau, Jeffrey D.  
Czelusniak, Mark D.  
Gradford, Tamaar J.  
Henn, Cyndi C.  
Hoffman, Bradley W.  
Parke, Brandon H.  
Sina, Charly  
Valdivia, Rodolfo

**Lance Cpl.**  
Delaney, Gary M.  
Garma, Max A.  
Jordan, Samuel M.  
Saltergreen, Donovan S.  
Vanvoorhis, Erik G.

### H&HS

**Gunnery Sgt.**  
Jackson, Daniel M.

**Staff Sgt.**  
Burke, Matthieu D.  
Tran, Nam H.  
Valdez Jr., Joe R.

**Sgt.**  
Albsmeyer, James R.

**Cpl.**  
Garcia, Jose A.  
Ikemoto, Bryan A.  
Levy, Cody A.  
Morgenstern, Marc A.  
Newsome, Steven W.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Casana, Martha O.  
Gironguerrero, Erik D.  
Lewis Jr., Arthur J.  
Rucker, Dylan J.  
Trussler, Aaron L.

### VMFA(AW)-242

**Sgt.**  
Tran, Vinh N.

**Cpl.**  
Lareau, Christophe B.  
McGuinness, John W.  
Waits, Dustin L.

**Lance Cpl.**  
Acuna III, Leonardo I.  
Reek, Jacob C.  
Strombeck, Johnathan M.

**Pfc.**  
Smith, Timothy J.

# Friendship Day 2010

## 38th annual air show draws 265,000 spectators aboard station

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Just as the sun rose, a mass of Japanese people flooded the air station to secure a seat for the 38th annual Friendship Day air show here May 5.

Any other day, a person would be required to provide proper clearance to board the air station, but for one day, everyone is allowed through the gates to experience a day of aerobatic performances from Japanese and American forces.

"We are just thrilled to have everyone come here," said Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer. "It is such a great opportunity, once a year, to be able to show everyone throughout the nation just what we do here on the base."

This year's air show was the 38th Friendship Day and garnered a crowd of 265,000. Last year, the air show received a record-breaking attendance of 275,000.

Capt. Christian Ortiz, the Friendship Day project officer, said the decrease in numbers could be a result of Friendship Day falling on the last day of the Japanese Golden Week holiday. Nonetheless, this year's number far surpassed that of 2008's, which was 200,000.

"For the third year in a row, we have been blessed with great weather, great flying conditions and just a super turn out by everyone," said O'Halloran.

The thousands of people in attendance had a chance to witness a variety of aeronautic performances ranging from an AV-8B Harrier hovering above the tarmac to a husband and wife skydiving duo in "squirrel suits."

"Seeing the Harrier hover over the crowd was pretty cool," said Lance Cpl. Melvin D. Marteabreu, who was attending Friendship Day for the first time. "I didn't know the Harrier could do that, and I don't think all the Japanese people knew it either. I think we were all amazed. It was definitely something to be in awe over."

In addition to the air show, there were 24 static displays that offered attendees the chance to get up close and personal with the aircraft and the Marines and sailors who fly them.

The air show's fair grounds boasted a variety of different American and Japanese cuisine, along with many opportunities to purchase official Friendship Day gear and admire a lineup of 70 classic cars.

This year's Friendship Day was the last one held at the current airfield before it will make its move to the new airfield next year.

Members of the media ascended up the brand new 218-foot air control tower, getting a chance to get a glimpse of what next year's Friendship Day might look like.

O'Halloran said plans for the 39th annual Friendship Day are already underway.



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

Japan Air Self-Defense Force's Blue Impulse perform aerial maneuvers while releasing smoke trails as they fly in formation as part of their demonstration at the annual Friendship Day air show here May 5. Blue Impulse was the final demonstration at the event, and they impressed the crowd of 265,000 spectators with aerial acrobatics and precision maneuvers.



CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Within the first hour of gates opening, thousands of spectators flooded the station to try to obtain the best seats during Friendship Day here May 5.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Air Force 1st Lt. Samuel Shamburg helps a young boy out of one of the 24 static aircraft displays on the flight line here during the annual Friendship Day air show May 5. Attractions included static aircraft displays, typical American cuisine, live music and the main attraction, the air show. The air show began at 9 a.m. with Melissa Aerobatics performing a Squirrel Suit Jump from 10,000 feet in the air followed by F-18C demonstrations, III MEF band performance, AV-8B Harrier demonstration, and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's Blue Impulse aerial acrobatics and precision maneuver demonstration to end the show.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Marines help young children explore one of the static displays on hand during the annual Friendship Day air show here May 5. Attractions included 24 static aircraft displays, typical American cuisine, live music and the main attraction, the air show.

# CORPS NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

### Marines provide Marjah farmers fertilizer, seeds during crucial harvest season

STAFF SGT. LUIS R. AGOSTINI  
REGIMENTAL COMBAT  
TEAM 7

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — Marines with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, along with members of the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, are helping Marjah farmers cope with one of the toughest harvesting seasons in southern Afghanistan in recent memory through a food zone distribution program.

Right outside the Civil-Military Operations Center at northern Marjah's Camp Hansen, home to 3/6, Marines and members of the Helmand PRT register local Afghan farmers for the distribution program, and supply participating farmers with 50 kilograms each of urea, DAP, radish, beans and sesame seeds.

"We're helping out local nationals transition from dependence on poppy as primary crop to alternative crops," said Maj. James F. Coffman, civil affairs officer for 3/6, who also heads the Marjah Accelerated Agricultural Transition Program in 3/6's area of operations.

With the combination of combat operations and a harsh winter, the farmers are struggling to maintain their crops to sustain a living.

"The harvest this year has been pretty bad. You can see the negative effects the brutal winter had on the crops. All the farmers are saying this is one of the worst harvesting seasons," Coffman said.

"We give these people something else so they are not strung out, without any money and nowhere else to turn. We are trying to give them different options, different crops so where they don't have to turn to the Taliban," said Coffman, 41, from Rome, Ga.

The participating farmers pay 1,000 Afghanis per package of the fertilizer and crop seeds. One 50-kilogram bag of urea alone can go for as much as 1,000 Afghanis in the local market.

"It's important that they sacrifice something. It's more of a symbolic gesture than anything," Coffman said.

Although not as prominent as a cash crop that poppy has been, Coffman is persistently convincing local farmers that the alternative crops being provided will make them more money in the long run.

"You're going to profit more in the long run, because you're not going to have to give your poppy to the Taliban, or other narco-drug lords," Coffman said.

Similar distribution efforts have been organized in several areas throughout Helmand province, with approximately 16,800 packages distributed to Afghan farmers throughout those areas.

A Taliban murder and intimidation campaign has presented challenges to these programs, but only shows signs of desperation.

Coffman told of one story where the Taliban approached a participating farmer to hand over his fertilizer and seeds. The Afghan farmer refused, causing



STAFF SGT. LUIS R. AGOSTINI

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — A Marjah farmer wheels out bags of fertilizer and crop seeds at the Civil-Military Operations Center at Camp Hansen, Marjah, Afghanistan, April 25. The food zone program, led by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, has distributed more than 1,066 packages of fertilizer and seeds to farmers throughout northern Marjah. This program, along with other programs led by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, assists farmers to cope with a harsh harvest season, as well as providing an alternative to harvesting poppy, a major source of cash flow for Taliban forces.

the Taliban to threaten his life if he continued his cooperation with the Marines. The defiant farmer pledged his continued support of the local NATO forces. The situation escalated to weapons drawn all around. It took the village elders to quell the situation.

"The murder and intimidation campaign shows a desperate Taliban. They are clinging on to this hold that they have on the local populace. And the only way they can hold on to this is to be bullies. Slowly but surely, the light bulb is coming on with the local nationals," said Coffman, a graduate of Sanford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Afghan farmers like Mohammad Aneb continue to seek Marine support and assistance, in the

face of mafia-like tactics from the local Taliban.

"It's very dangerous. They do not want us to come here," said Aneb, 30, from Marjah, who is struggling to support his wife and 10 children. "When I come here, I have to make sure my face is covered, and I wear my sunglasses."

The persistent efforts of the Helmand PRT and the local Marine civil affairs group counter Taliban intimidation tactics, and increase farmer turnout and interaction between NATO forces and local Afghan residents.

"We are poor and jobless in the village. I don't have anything for my family. That's why I am happy the Marines are here," Aneb said.

Andre Meyer, the distribution manager at Camp Hansen, has registered and distributed packages of the fertilizer and seeds to 1,066 Marjah farmers, with an ultimate goal of 4,602 farmers reached by the end of the first week of May. Still, Meyer believes the success of the program hinges on the continued security efforts provided by the Marines of 3/6, who cleared the northern portion of Marjah in mid-February during Operation Moshtarak.

"I'm very happy with it. In the long run, it's going to be worthwhile, as long as security is kept up," Meyer said.

Like most counterinsurgency operations throughout southern Afghanistan, the ultimate goal of these programs is the trust and confidence of the Afghans.

"We want them to understand Marines and (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) is here to help, not harm," said Coffman. "If we facilitate them being in a better position, and break the perpetual cycle of poverty they are in with the Taliban and drug lords, it will show that we are the good guys, we are trying to help."

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Soap-Box Confessions presents Spoken Word Poetry

Free and open to all adults, come vent what you feel or just sit back and relax with the vibe. Spoken Word Poetry takes place 7 p.m. Tuesdays May 18, June 1, 15 and 29 in the Botan Tower community room, Building 589. For more information, please call 080-3700-7540 or e-mail hotccoffy@hotmail.com.

### UMUC 2010 Summer Session Registration

Register for Summer Session classes with University of Maryland University College, located in Building 411, room 110. Registration dates are now until May 30 with sessions starting June 7 and running to Aug. 1. For more information, contact your local field representative at 253-3392.

### Law of War Training

There will be a 3.5-hour course for all commanders, officers and SNCO's and a 2-hour course for all sergeants and below. This is training required by MCO 3300.4 and it meets the annual training requirement. The training will be held at the Sakura Theater May 19 and 20. The commanders, officers and SNCO's brief will be held 7:30 – 11 a.m. The sergeants and below brief will be held from 1 – 3 p.m.

### 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 call 080-4177-2060.

### Kintai Lodge #16 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Masons of Kintai Lodge #16 are scheduled to host a 50th anniversary dinner celebration in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom 6 to 10 p.m. May 21. The event will consist of five dinner selections and live music. Prices are \$30 for singles, \$50 for couples and \$15 for children. For more information, call 090-8243-7445 or e-mail kintailodge16@yahoo.com.

### MCAS Iwakuni TCCOR Training

The station will be conducting annual Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness training Monday through Friday. TCCOR conditions will be set and upgraded during this exercise. Information and updates will be available on channels 6, 17 and all American Forces Network channels. For more information, contact the Weather Services Division at 253-3005.

### CREDO Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Couples can learn to communicate even more effectively at the Aki Grand Hotel, Hiroshima May 21-23. Couples cannot have attended a CREDO marriage retreat within the last five years. Capacity is for 14 couples. Sign up from May 5-12. To sign up, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

### Hornet's Nest Renovations

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.

### The Family Readiness Survey will be available May 17 through June 18

The surveys are separated by category of partici-

pants: Commander Team Survey, Family Readiness Officers' Survey, Marine and Family Members' Survey, Marine Corps Community Services Family Readiness Support Personnel Survey, and Volunteer Survey. The surveys are voluntary and kept anonymous. For more information, refer to MARADMIN 258/10 or contact your unit's family readiness officer.

To submit a community brief request, please send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, submit your community brief in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

## 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  
Tues. – Fri. 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults  
Wednesday

### 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)  
Wednesday

### 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.

## MCAS Iwakuni Summer Hire Program

The 2010 Marine Corps Summer Hire Program will run June 21 through Aug. 14 for students attending Matthew C. Perry High School.

The program is open to Status of Forces Agreement dependents, ages 14 to 18, of Department of Defense and U.S. civilian personnel assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

The Civilian Human Resources Office is accepting applications for the 2010 Summer Hire Program. M.C. Perry High School students may pick up applications at their school's counseling center or at the CHRO located in Building 1, room 104.

For more information, call the Summer hire coordinator at 253-6828.

## SAKURA THEATER

### Friday, May 14, 2010

7 p.m. The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)  
Premier  
10 p.m. She's Out of My League (R)  
Premier

### Saturday, May 15, 2010

1 p.m. Alice in Wonderland (PG)  
4 p.m. Remember Me (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Green Zone (R)  
10 p.m. A Nightmare On Elm Street (R)  
Premier

### Sunday, May 16, 2010

1 p.m. Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG)  
4 p.m. The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)  
7 p.m. She's Out of My League (R)

### Monday, May 17, 2010

7 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R)

### Tuesday, May 18, 2010

7 p.m. She's Out of My League (R)

### Wednesday, May 19, 2010

7 p.m. Remember Me (PG-13)

### Thursday, May 20, 2010

7 p.m. Green Zone (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.



STAFF SGT. LUIS R. AGOSTINI

**MARJAH, Afghanistan** — A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, assists a Marjah farmer place a bag of fertilizer onto a wheelbarrow at the Civil-Military Operations Center at Camp Hansen, Marjah, Afghanistan, April 25. The food zone program, led by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, has distributed more than 1,066 packages of fertilizer and seeds to farmers throughout northern Marjah. This program, along with other programs led by the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, assists farmers to cope with a harsh harvest season, as well as providing an alternative to harvesting poppy, a major source of cash flow for Taliban forces.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

**1998 Nissan Cube**  
JCI expired in April. Four door, four seats, AC/Heater. Automatic transmission, rear tinted windows, clean interior, power windows. Available now. \$1,900 OBO. For more information, please call 253-2006.

**2001 CBR 929**  
Great gas saver. 20,600 kilometers. Two Brothers aftermarket exhaust, Scotts steering damper and new battery. Asking for \$3,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-2119 or 090-6017-6822.

## Mess Hall Menu

**Monday**  
New England clam chowder, pepper pot soup, grilled steak to order, French fried shrimp, rosemary roasted potato wedges, turkey pot pie egg noodles, French style green beans, black eyed peas, sauteed mushrooms with onions, sour cream, cocktail sauce, dinner rolls. Specialty Bar: Pasta

**Tuesday**  
Manhattan clam chowder, chicken and rice soup, sauerbraten, jerked style chicken, steamed rice, oven broiled potatoes, french fried okra, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, coconut raisin cookies, double layer almond cake, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping. Specialty Bar: Taco

**Wednesday**  
Beef noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, Swiss steak with gravy, Szechwan chicken, O'Brien potatoes, noodles jefferson, french fried cauliflower, broccoli parmesan, brown gravy, cheese biscuit, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake with buttercream frosting. Specialty Bar: Taco

**Thursday**  
Tomato noodle soup, chicken and mushroom soup, sweet and sour pork, yakisoba (hamburger), pork fried rice, brussel sprouts, whole kernel corn, dinner rolls, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pie with whipped topping, coconut cake. Specialty Bar: Mongolian

**Friday**  
Minestrone soup, cream of broccoli soup, fried chicken, beef stroganoff, buttered pasta, candied sweet potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, southern style green beans, chicken gravy, cheese biscuits, double layer devil's food cake with coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie with whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookie. Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

**1996 Black Mitsubishi Diamante**  
16-month JCI. One year road tax. Asking \$2,500. For more information, please call 253-2759.

**1998 Silver Nissan Van**  
Seats eight passengers. One year JCI. One year road tax. Asking \$3,500. For more information, please call 253-2759.

## Miscellaneous

**Japanese Dresser**  
Like new. Paid over \$100, asking \$75 firm. Light color wood, four long drawers and four short drawers. Approximately four-foot long, one and a half feet wide and two and a half feet tall. Must see to appreciate. For more information, please call 253-3469 (daytime) or 253-2540 (home).

**Hockey Gear**  
Mostly youth sizes. A variety of everything. Adult pants and socks only. For more information, call 253-2651 or e-mail caguirre37@aol.com.

## Homes

**Temecula, Calif.**  
Three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. 1600 square feet. Will be available in November. \$1,700 a month. Heated pool in a gated

## Beat the heat with heat stress condition awareness

SUBMITTED BY  
STATION SAFETY CENTER

**Heat Stress**  
When the body is unable to cool itself by sweating, several heat-induced illnesses such as heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur and can result in death.

**Factors Leading to Heat Stress**

- High temperature and humidity
- Direct sun or heat
- Limited air movement
- Physical exertion
- Poor physical condition
- Some medicines
- Inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces

**Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion**

- Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting.
- Weakness and moist skin.
- Mood changes such as irritability or confusion.
- Upset stomach or vomiting.

**Symptoms of Heat Stroke**

- Dry, hot skin with no sweating.
- Mental confusion or losing consciousness.
- Seizures or convulsions.

**Preventing Heat Stress**

- Know signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses.
- Monitor yourself and coworkers.
- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Use cooling fans/air-conditioning; rest regularly.
- Drink lots of water; about 1 cup every 15 minutes.
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothes.

- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or heavy meals.

**What to Do for Heat-Related Illness**

- Call medical, 911 or 0827-21-7700 from a cell phone at once.

While waiting for help to arrive:

- Move the worker to a cool, shaded area.
- Loosen or remove heavy clothing.
- Provide cool drinking water.
- Fan and mist the person with water.

**Flag Conditions**  
Know about the flag conditions and the information that they post.

**Green Flag**  
Heat condition I (80 F – 84.99 F)  
Heavy exercises for unacclimatized personnel will be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.

**Yellow Flag**  
Heat condition II (85 F – 87.99 F)  
Strenuous exercise such as marching at standard cadence will be curtailed for unacclimatized troops in their first three weeks per the Manual of Naval Preventive Medicine (NAVMED) P-5010. Avoid outdoor classes in the sun.

**Red Flag**  
Heat condition III (88 F – 89.99 F)  
All PT will be curtailed for those troops who have not been thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks per NAVMED P-5010. Those troops who are thoroughly acclimatized may carry out limited activity not to exceed six hours per day.

**Black Flag**  
Heat condition IV (90 F or higher)  
All nonessential physical activity will be halted for all units.

community. Van pool to Miramar and back. For more information, call 951-553-5843.

**For Sale by Owner in Jacksonville, N.C.**  
Beautiful home with four bedrooms and two and half bathrooms. Great location, near schools and in a quiet cul-de-sac. Asking \$204,900 OBO. For more information, call 910-451-5507 ext. 3264 or email sparulis@ec.rr.com.

## Jobs

**Dental Assistants**  
The Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic is seeking two certified dental assistants for a great opportunity in dental healthcare services. For more information, please stop by the dental clinic in Building 111 or call 253-5252/3331.

**NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities**  
Be that friendly person who lets Marines and sailors know they have come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply, please call 253-5311.

*To submit an advertisement request, please send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, at least one phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, submit your advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.*

# 2010 Youth Baseball season swings into action

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Youth Sports and community members gathered to celebrate and officially begin a new baseball season with an opening ceremony at Penny Lake field here May 8. Approximately 286 youths, ages 3 - 15, who are signed up to participate in this year's baseball season were present at the ceremony.

"The ceremony was put together to recognize the athletes for coming out for the season," said Xavier Romero, Youth Sports coordinator. "What I really enjoy (about the ceremony) is not only do the kids get the opportunity to see each other in the league, but we get the opportunity to recognize those volunteers: our coaches, our team moms, those who keep this league going."

Romero said everyone was able to come together as one and realize the reason for being there was the youths and to make sure everyone who participated had a good time. This year's baseball season is scheduled to run until June 26.

Although sign-ups for the older age groups



Kyle Figueroa, a Dodgers youth baseball player, swings his bat at the ball during one of the first games played after the opening ceremony at Penny Lake here, which officially started this year's youth baseball season May 8.

are closed out, age group 7 - 9 years of still has a few openings. Age groups six and under also have some openings, and anyone interested in signing up can contact youth sports at 253-3239 for more information.

"They can still get a late sign up," said Romero. "They can still come by youth sports, and we'd be happy to put them on a team."

Many of the volunteering coaches believe getting the children involved in this year's baseball season is very beneficial for them. "The kids really enjoy coming here and getting together," said Stephen Lemming, a volunteering coach for age group 5 - 6. "I think its real social for the kids. It's a lot of fun for them."

Aside from the fun involved in playing baseball, Lemming believes there are good

lessons to learn from the sport. "I want the kids to learn) good sportsmanship, just the fundamentals of the game," said Lemming. "I want the kids to learn) the bases, how to run, how to hit, how to field and mainly how to get along with each other. They are starting in that competitive age so (playing baseball is) teaching them how to get along with each other and to take turns and to be good teammates."

While this baseball season might be the first for some of the participating children, for Isabella Lemming, a 6-year-old Mariners player, this will be her third year playing. With three years of experience, Isabella was able to sum up what she felt the game was about. "It's about having fun," said Isabella.



Nina Kushibe, a Mariners youth baseball player, throws a ball during one of the first games played after the opening ceremony at Penny Lake here, which officially started this year's youth baseball season May 8. This year's baseball season is scheduled to run until June 26.



Rockies youth baseball players run out to the field after being introduced to the crowd during the opening ceremony at Penny Lake here, which officially started this year's youth baseball season May 8. Twenty-three teams made up of approximately 286 children, ages 3 - 15, are signed up to participate in this year's baseball season.

**"Eat your 80s"** - A live 1-hour radio show that features the best 80s music. Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

# Intramural Basketball commences



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Rabosky Tanner, a Sho Stoppaz player, goes toward the basket for a shot during the final game of the 2010 Spring Basketball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts here April 24. The Sho Stoppaz took first place in the tournament with 1 Lov taking second place.

## Sho Stoppaz unstoppable in 2010 Spring Basketball Tournament

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Intramural Basketball season commenced with The Sho Stoppaz taking first place during the 2010 Spring Basketball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts here April 24.

The tournament started out with eight competing teams and came down to a match between the Sho Stoppaz and 1 Lov. The Sho Stoppaz came out on top 42 to 39.

The final game started out slow with 1 Lov having the disadvantage, having just played their last game 10 minutes before hand.

Tired and cramping up, 1 Lov players struggled to keep up with the Sho Stoppaz who sought to dominate the game early on.

Refusing to be beaten so easily, 1 Lov players put up good defensive strategy, making things tougher for the Sho Stoppaz.

Despite the difficulties, the Sho Stoppaz were able to keep their hands on the ball, setting up shots and making baskets for most of the first half. Going into halftime, the Sho Stoppaz had created a comfortable 23-16 lead.

"I wanted to push the ball because I knew they were tired," said Darius Harpe, Sho Stoppaz coach. "We kind of kept slowing the ball down instead of pushing the ball down

their throat. We should have kept pushing, and kept pushing and kept pushing, but we didn't push, and we let them get back in the game."

the end of the second half, and the score board reading 42 to 39, the game intensified as 1 Lov struggled to take the lead or at least tie the game.

The buzzer sounded and signalled the end of the final game of the tournament.

Harpe said he thought the final game of the tournament was definitely the hardest one played throughout the day.

"We had a lot of players that were starting to cramp," said Harpe. "I just want to take my hat off to my guys. They stuck in there and kept their composure and found a way to win the game."

Although they lost the game and won second overall in the tournament, Napoleon Nation, 1 Lov's coach, had nothing but good things to say about the tournament and the final game.

"Both teams played hard," said Nation. "We got out there and fought. We were down by sixteen, and we end up losing by three. What more can you ask for as a

coach?"

As for the tournament, it was good and brought out some good players that deserved a big round of applause, said Nation.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

The Sho Stoppaz pose for a picture after placing first at the 2010 Spring Basketball Tournament at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts here April 24. The Sho Stoppaz came ahead of seven other teams.

Early in the second half, the Sho Stoppaz lost the lead as the score kept going back and forth between the two teams.

With a few seconds left on the clock toward