



THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marines, sailors prepare for new runway's opening with FOD walk

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 participated in the first foreign object debris walk on the new heavy-lift runway here May 14.

More than 400 Marines and sailors conducted the FOD walk in preparation for the new runway's official opening, which will take place May 29.

Service members lined up across the flight line, located a kilometer away from the old runway, to pick up everything from pebbles, paper and other FOD to prevent aircraft from being taken down when daily flight operations begin.

MALS-12 did not only help with this FOD walk in particular but participates in every monthly FOD walk conducted by H&HS.

"Basically we help out the

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to contractual issues, the Iwakuni Approach will be available only online after the May 28 issue for an indefinite amount of time. We regret the inconvenience.

Can you hear me now? Station radio network gets overhauled

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The station's radio system was upgraded with a digital trunking system and a command and control system April 3.

While the shift was relatively seamless to users, the upgrade was anything but minor.

"It's like going from a VCR to a Blu-Ray player in two minutes," said Staff Sgt. Curtis Kelling, staff noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of peripheral repair and land mobile radio here.

The new system brings a lot of bells and whistles to the show, most of which won't be mentioned, but the important features are all there.

Most importantly, the new radio system has greatly increased radio communication reliability.

"Whenever we were in Monzen, it was rare a transmission would go through," said Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Brenden, a traffic enforcement section military policeman with the Provost Marshal's Office.

Issues were not relegated to the handsets and those out and about; even the important central communication hubs struggled.

"The old system, 8 out of 10 times we couldn't get the transmission to go through correctly," said Yuraku Funakoshi, Emergency Command Center operator.

Transmission trouble is a thing of the past now the new system has been up and running for everyone for just under two months.

"Anywhere around base it's clear," said Brenden.

Kelling did some testing of his own and had full

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Station says goodbye to loved community member



Sandra Sullivan Alfier 1956 - 2010

Sandra Sullivan Alfier was born in Trenton, N.J., on June 22, 1956. Before officially earning her teaching degrees, she began her career of inspiring and teaching children by leading Girl Scout Troops, coaching softball teams and tutoring students in her free time. Officially, she earned her teaching degrees in 2003 and 2006, specializing in special education. She was an avid participant in the military communities where she was stationed, including Germany and Japan. Never afraid of adventure, she embraced different cultures; she spent a majority of her adult life overseas pursuing her life-long dreams such as scuba diving. Sandra is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Joseph Hayes, and her grandson Billy.

Thrift Store continues as fundamental local resource

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After the relocation and grand re-opening of the Thrift Store on Nov. 20th 2009, the Thrift Store has continued to be a place of charity, savings and volunteer opportunities for service members and civilians aboard the air station.

The Thrift Store is located in building 1117 next to Yujo Hall. It is currently open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

Hours are scheduled to extend from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays beginning June 1.

"Our mission first and foremost is to help the needy Marines, sailors and their families," said Gwen Peterson, Thrift Store manager. "Then we look at ways that we can help the children in the community and private organizations."

Service members are welcome to visit the thrift store any day during the week to buy items as long as they are in uniform.

The thrift store sells books, videos, CDs, furniture, kitchen and household items, sporting goods, suitcases, strollers, clothing, shoes, jewelry, accessories, bikes and souvenirs.

Large items can be arranged to be dropped off or picked up.

Local Japanese residents donate to the Thrift Store, which affords service members and civilians a chance to own a little piece of Japanese culture without having to spend a lot of money.

"We also have a lot of Japanese items that come and go," said Candice O'Halloran, Thrift Store senior advisor.

There is also a military room filled with uniforms and other

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Will you be that friend?'

LT. CMDR. JOHN COMETA
STATION CHAPLAIN

Senate chaplain and former Navy Chief of Chaplains Barry Black once wrote, "In the Navy Chaplain Corps, as elsewhere, an understanding of history plays a critical role in understanding the present. These men and women have served God and their country around the globe, sometimes wearing Marine camouflage, sometimes wash khaki, at other times in service dress blues. Their reminder of God's presence has uplifted those engaged in the turmoil and terrors of combat, comforted those deployed far from home."

Maintaining the morale of our Marines, sailors and their families is vital to the success of our mission.

From time to time, United Service Organizations sponsors morale visits from high profile celebrities.

I also greatly appreciate our Morale, Welfare and Recreation

for their commitment to the well-being of our people who are serving our country.

Their comprehensive network of support and leisure services has enhanced the quality of life for our military community.

However, I believe there is no substitute for the mutual support and nurture we have for each other on a daily basis.

A simple hug, a tender tap on the shoulder, a sincere smile and the positive attitude we show to one another create a healthy atmosphere to live and work away from home.

Chaplains also provide comprehensive pastoral, mental and spiritual care to our community.

On my first deployment in Kuwait, I remember praying with a teary-eyed, high-ranking officer who was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

I asked him, "Sir, would you like to put words to your tears?"

He replied, "Chaplain, I am thinking about my wife and children. How would they take it if they find out I'm dying of cancer? I am about to retire after

this tour."

Before he was medically evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, for further treatment, he came to me and said, "Chaplain, I greatly appreciate your prayers and just being there when I needed someone to turn to. You were a great help when I needed you most."

Friendship Day just culminated a couple of weeks ago.

Once a year we open our gates to our Japanese neighbors as a gesture of friendship.

But true friendship is not just opening our gate but also opening our hearts to people who are discouraged, depressed, scared and distraught.

Albert Schweitzer wrote, "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit."

Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Will you be that friend?

Fatigue: Slowly lulling you to death while driving

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY OFFICE

Fatigue: The experience of feeling sleepy, tired or exhausted. Fatigue decreases the drivers' ability to judge their own level of tiredness. The amount of sleep you get can affect your physical health, emotional well-being, mental abilities and performance.

Symptoms may vary between drivers, but can include the following: Heavy eyelids, tired or sore eyes, poor concentration, yawning, restlessness, drowsiness, slow reaction, boredom, feeling irritable, missing road signs, having difficulty staying in the lane, succumbing to micro sleeps.

It is important to realize that fatigue is not simply a result of the time spent driving, but relates to other factors, including the number of hours since you last slept (hours of wakefulness) and time of day or night.

Tips to beating fatigue: Energize your diet. Eating habits play a powerful role in how well you function

on every level. Small snacks throughout the day can keep your blood sugar levels stable all day. Have breakfast even if you don't feel hungry. Add fiber to your diet. Fiber has a time-releasing effect on carbohydrates, so they enter your bloodstream at a slow and steady pace, giving you energy staying power. Stay hydrated. Water makes up the majority of your blood and other body fluids. Mild dehydration can cause blood to thicken forcing the heart to work harder to carry blood to your cells and organs and resulting in fatigue.

Watch your caffeine intake after noon.

Once you are subject to fatigue, it is important to accept the fact that you are tired and remember sleep is the only true cure

Driving back in the U.S.: As you have adjusted to driving on the left side of the road here in Japan, remember the next time you drive back in the states it will take some time to adjust back to driving on the right side. To avoid traffic accidents, always stay alert to fatigue and be in a good driving attitude. It works wherever you go.

What's posted on social media web sites, is posted everywhere

STAFF SGT. GREG GUTHRIE
STATION OPERATIONAL
SECURITY MANAGER

As you all know, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and other social media outlets were recently authorized for use on government computers.

As a Marine stuck in the office, I think it's great, but as the station operational security manager, it's an interesting situation to say the least. How much information and when should we post are questions we need to ask ourselves.

Do I really want to post exactly what, when, where and how I'm accomplishing a mission?

Does what I'm going to post have the potential to give our enemies information about our capabilities and weaknesses?

I know, you're sitting there reading this and saying this isn't "that big of a deal." According to an article written by Rajeev Saxena for "Trends Updates," the Department of Defense reported 43,785 cyber attacks on different department systems in the first six months of 2009. This was only for the first half of the year, and they expect an increase in attacks for the second half.

Think about it for a second; these are attacks on information and sites that are hardened.

What do you think our enemies are doing with public information we put on the web? Have you ever gone to Google to look someone up? Sure you have.

Our enemies have people doing that all the time to try and get information.

I'm hearing you say, "But the information on my page is secure except to people I allow." Yeah, right. If our enemies can crack and attack hardened sites, I think they can find a way into Facebook without a problem.

On the Marines.mil homepage, it lists our rules of engagement for using social media sites. Everyone should read this directive.

The directive lists what the sites are to be used for, what Marines can and can't do, what's allowable media, and on, and on — hey, there weren't enough pictures on it to keep me interested, OK.

Seriously, it boils down to this: Will what I'm about to post have the potential to hurt the Corps, my unit, my fellow service members or myself?

So, think before you type.



Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 line up for the first FOD walk on the new runway here May 14.

More than 400 Marines, sailors pick up FOD

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squadrons so that they can complete the mission," said Chief Petty Officer Robert Williamson, the airfield operations chief for MALS-12.

"We do our part to help prevent further damage, keep the mission going and show that we are just as involved in it as they are," he added.

The new runway's construction has been in progress since 1997 and is almost ready to be used on a daily basis.

The new runway was designed to reduce noise and enhance safety. The new runway is positioned

so that jets will not have to bank quickly after takeoff to avoid the nearby industrial plant, resulting in fewer safety hazards for service members and less noise for residents.

After almost three hours of walking the newly constructed flight line, Marines and sailors who contributed their time and effort during their Friday afternoon were thanked with a barbeque presented by Marine Corps Community Services.

Anyone who participated in the FOD walk had the opportunity to enjoy a menu of hotdogs, hamburgers, refreshments and beverages at Penny Lake.

Marriage overseas: Not just ceremony

SUBMITTED BY
CAPT. IZAC E. OSSIANDER
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
ATTORNEY

In the U.S., each state issues marriage licenses, sets the minimum age limits and the procedure for marriage.

Overseas, we look to the host nation to provide these procedures.

As the legal assistance attorney for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, I counsel Marines and Sailors about getting married overseas.

There are some unique requirements you must be aware of if you intend to get married while you are stationed in Japan.

Service members looking to get married in Japan must comply with the requirements laid out in Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 1752.1B.

The order establishes what needs to be done before marriage

and it begins the process for immigration.

Service members are required to have written command permission regardless if they are marrying a U.S. citizen or a non-U.S. citizen.

MCBJO 1752.1B has a checklist covering the steps that need to be followed, including attending a premarital seminar, securing the commanding officer's authorization to marry, and obtaining an affidavit of competency to marry.

The marriage process does not end with the ceremony.

MCBJO 1752.1B requires service members to prepare for the future — entry of non-U.S. citizens into the U.S.

The first step to begin the immigration process is to obtain a visa.

The service member should file an I-130 petition just after marriage.

An I-130 petition is a request from a U.S. citizen for a non-

Thrift Store contributes to community

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items available to active military service members for free.

"The military section has expanded greatly," said Peterson. "In the past few months, it has doubled in size."

Since the expansion, the Thrift Store has been able to accept more donations, store more items and donate more items to different organizations such as the American Red Cross, Single Marine Program and the Provost Marshal's Office.

"We also pick out the best stuffed animals and give them to the fire department so that whenever they make stops, they can hand them out to children," said O'Halloran. "The

Thrift Store has also helped the community by giving money and goods."

The Thrift Store provides volunteer opportunities to service members to devote time to help sort items, clothes and keep the store clean.

"We need volunteers anytime," said Peterson.

Volunteers who work 20 hours in the current month get their purchases half price in the following month, are eligible to vote during business meetings to determine how proceeds are distributed, and can receive free lunch from the store.

Volunteers can work with flexible hours during the day or night. For more information, call 253-4711.

Radio upgrade prepares station for future

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and clear reception from the Iwakuni Shinkansen station.

The increased reception allows personnel operating out in town for emergency purposes the ability to communicate effectively with Iwakuni.

In turn this will improve disaster response by increasing clear communication for coordinating resources.

If repeaters, towers that essentially boost radio reception, are installed, communication could be extended throughout all of Japan, including Okinawa, said Kelling.

So the communication is great and most users would probably be satisfied with that, but there's more.

The old system was akin to an overloaded mule with a bro-

ken leg while the new system is more like a prize winning race horse carrying an infant.

"We were running (the old system) at about almost 90 percent of its capabilities, so we were bogging that system down; we were pretty much running that system into overdrive. It was hurting it," said Kelling.

"The new system, with everything online right now, we're only running at 20 to 25 percent, so we have a lot more space to add on more users and radios with the same amount of channels we were using on the old system," he added.

With the new system, radios can be purchased, programmed and dropped to the user with ease. Even more promising is scheduled inclusion of over-the-air programming.

OTAP is exactly what it sounds like.

Once implemented, the land mobile radio section will be able to re-program radios via wireless transmission, eliminating the need for the radios to be physically picked up and attached to a console.

Transitioning to the new system was quite an undertaking and required some juggling.

Despite the overhaul, ten of the quantars, or channels, from the old system are used on the new system.

These ten components really are the backbone of the system and functionally are necessary whether the system is analog or digital.

As a result, during the upgrade, technicians had to balance how many and when these quantars were removed from the old system and implemented onto the new system, while still supporting station radio communications, especially first-responder communications.

In the end, the upgrade has made station-wide communications significantly better with more features and options and has provided the station with the equipment and infrastructure to expand as needed.

Tan, gray, green, brown, black ... oh my

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Marine Corps strives to remain a constant force in readiness and to stand prepared to meet any and all mission requirements.

To uphold those standards, Combat Logistics Company 36 here has made it a personal goal to train and advance each Marine in the company to a green belt or higher in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Marine Corps Martial Arts Program was initiated in 2001 by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, at the time, Gen. James L. Jones.

Ever since, the curriculum has developed and expanded to fit the needs of today's combat warriors.

"The purpose of MCMAP is to give tools to someone who has never gotten into a fight so they're able to defend themselves and protect themselves if a situation was ever to get to that point," said Sgt. Hermilo Del Angel, a MCMAP 1st degree black belt instructor and disbursing clerk with Combat Logistics Regiment 37 out of Okinawa, Japan.

The MCMAP curriculum consists of the fundamentals of fighting, bayonet and baton training, upper and lower body strikes, chokes and holds, throws, unarmed restraints and joint manipulations, armed manipulations, knife techniques, weapons of opportunity, ground fighting, retaining and disarming firearms, and also how to counter each physical discipline.

Each year, a board composed of several subject matter experts, selected for their unique knowledge in the field of martial arts, discusses course development and revision, supplementary training

materials and other aspects as required.

"(MCMAP) gives you a couple of tools to be able to engage an opponent at different positions. It gives you options. Whether someone tries to come over and take your rifle, it gives you several different options to retain your weapon, or if someone pulls a pistol, you'll know how to take away that weapon from him, disarm him, disengage him, then use the continuum of force to deescalate the situation," said Del Angel.

Given the nature of today's combat zones, martial arts and hand-to-hand combat training is an important part of mission accomplishment.

"In today's world, we aren't fighting a normal war. We are fighting a three-block war. At one point we will be fighting in combat with weapons, the next fight could be stopping a local riot and at other times we might be doing a humanitarian mission. In all three of these situations MCMAP can be applicable," said Sgt. Curtis Krueger, a MCMAP brown-belt instructor and data chief for CLC-36.

Marines must display expertise in the mental, physical and character disciplines of MCMAP before advancing to the next belt.

To prepare the Marines mentally, warrior studies are incorporated into the curriculum. A warrior study tells about individuals who have shown commendable service on the battlefield and analyzes different combat situations.

Marine Corps values and ethics are also talked about during courses to encourage good character, as well as the continuum of force, which instructs Marines to responsibly use the minimum amount of force necessary to deescalate a situation.

Marines' strength is



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO

YECHON AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Lance Cpl. Michael Banks, a Combat Logistics Company 36 welder, executes a counter to the mount on Cpl. Robert Giuliani, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist and training noncommissioned officer with CLC-36, during a test for his green belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program here April 12.

continuously put to the test throughout MCMAP. Ground fighting, pugil-stick fights and bayonet dummies are some of the ways Marines are taught to familiarize them with the techniques.

They oftentimes must run with full gear while carrying logs or ammo cans to improve their physical fitness.

To simulate combat stress, techniques may also be practiced in water or in low-light conditions.

In addition to character, strength and mentality, rank and time in grade, as well as the Marine's senior leader's recommendation, is sometimes required before progressing.

A lance corporal can only advance up to the green belt. You must be a corporal or above to earn a brown belt and a sergeant or above to earn a black belt.

The purpose of the restriction is to ensure all Marines possess maturity, good judgment and good moral character before they are able to learn the more advanced skills, said Del Angel.

After earning a green belt, Marines are eligible to attend the instructor course.

After becoming a black belt, a Marine is eligible to attend the instructor-trainer course.

MCMAP better prepares Marines for combat. If you find yourself in a fight, it is better to know MCMAP techniques than nothing at all.

The Marine Corps has standards for everything. MCMAP is just a way of measuring our warriors' readiness, said Krueger.

For more information about the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, refer to Marine Corps Order 1500.54B or visit the Martial Arts Center of Excellence Web site at <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/mace/>.

For information about taking an upcoming course, contact your unit's training section.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Master Sgts. Richard and Sabrina Bryan salute as colors plays during their 21-year retirement ceremony at the Parade Deck here Monday. The Bryans spent nearly 10 of those 21 years of military service together, hand in hand, as husband and wife. The Bryan's plan to move their family to Douglasville, Ga., to begin the next chapter of their lives.

Master Sgt.'s Bryan retire after 21 years of service, 10 years of marriage

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After 21 years of service, Master Sergeants Richard and Sabrina Bryan both ended their Marine Corps careers during a retirement ceremony at the Parade Deck here Monday.

The Bryans spent nearly 10 of those 21 years of military service together, hand in hand, as husband and wife.

Throughout deployments, military exercises and the normal stresses of the military life, the Bryans have managed to keep their family together and are now ready to move on to the next chapter.

"It's a lot of work, but in the end it's all worth it," said Richard. "I wouldn't change any of it for the world."

Although each joined the Marine Corps with a different plan, one believing it would be a 30-year journey and the other thinking it would be a shorter enlistment, in the end, once they met, their plans became the same.

"It's been great, it's been awesome, but I'm ready to settle down and give my kids a place they can call home," said Sabrina. "We've got teenagers and they want to go to high school and then to college with people they know. They don't need to keep moving and moving."

"I've always loved the Marine Corps, I still do, but this is the best time (to retire) not just for me but for my family," said Richard. "We have kids now, teenagers that want to go to

school and get to graduate with their friends and move on to college with their friends. This wasn't a decision we just decided. We've been planning this at least three years out."

Both Marines enlisted in 1989 and had their own separate careers and experiences until they both arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan in 1998.

Richard, then Staff Sgt. Bryan, was working as the assistant mess hall manager when Sabrina, then Sgt. Owens, arrived on station.

"One day I was working in the mess hall and I just heard this loud voice that came in laughing all cheerful like," said Richard. "I was like, 'Who's that?'"

Richard made his way to where Sabrina was after she sat down at a table.

"I was eating breakfast and he sat at my table and didn't say anything and I'm like 'Who is this person?'" said Sabrina. "So eventually after about five or ten minutes he said, 'You are the one.' and I'm like 'What? What is wrong with you?' I've never seen him before and he's like 'Your going to be my wife.'"

Although Sabrina refused to talk to him after their first encounter, following a few months, they eventually started dating.

"He wouldn't quit," said Sabrina. "He just wouldn't quit."

Richard said he took his example from the saying winners never quit and quitters never win.

"When I first seen her, she

just blew my mind like wow," said Richard. "The laugh, she's very outgoing and friendly, and I'll always remember 'HEEY!' Good morning how you doing!" everyone and anyone. It will always stick with me. Like I said the first time I met her. I told her she was going to be the one and she's still the one."

After two years they married and the Bryans were faced with the stresses of not only being married, but with the stresses of being deployed away from their family at different times throughout their military careers.

Although a tough road at times, they've been able to work through it.

Sabrina said everyone from her husband to her youngest son to her mother pulled together as a family and worked together through the various deployments and military exercises their family was faced with.

"Just as hard as you work at your job, you have to work in your home with your marriage and your family," said Sabrina. "If you're not ready to do that, and most people are not ready to do that before twenty-five, don't do it."

During their marriage and career together, the Bryans have made many friends and acquaintances whom they've endeavored to help whenever they might need it.

The Bryans' caring and giving nature is something that quickly became apparent to Phillip and Jaime Mitchell and drew them to the Bryans' when they first arrived on station.

"Our first week here in Iwakuni, they were just some of the first people that were so genuine to us, to welcome us from the bottom of their heart," said Phillip. "That stood out to us a lot. Both of them are just so genuine, and they'll do anything for anyone. They will give you the shirt off their back if you need it. They are phenomenal."

They made a deep impression on the couple as genuinely friendly people and good Marines.

"I think that they have truly showed an example of what the United States Marine Corps stands for, for their values, their integrity, and everything about the mission," said Jaime. "I would say that they are a clear example of the United States Marine Corps. From the females aspect and the males aspect and then also from the husband and wife, the spouses side of it. They are a complete package."

After 21 one years of service, 10 of which they've served together, the Bryans, along with their four children, are ready to move on to new experiences and have chosen Douglasville, Ga., as their new home.

Although looking to new horizons, Richard and Sabrina know something about their time in the Marine Corps will always stay with them.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," said Richard. "I may not wear the uniform, but it's still going to be within me. After 21 years, you don't just walk away from it. It's going to be with you for a long time. That will never change."



Service members push limits at Indoor-Triathlon

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors from around the station gathered at the IronWorks Gym here to compete in the 2010 Commander's Cup Challenge Indoor-Triathlon May 14.

Cpl. Dustin Ashley, Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Follet and 2nd Lt. Mike McElhenny came out representing Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and took first place in the competition while the sailors of Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic came in second.

"It went great," said Barbara Roman, Marine Corps Community Services Fitness Coordinator. "It was fast, easy, successful and competitive. The times were extremely close."

MALS-12 took first place with a time of 27 min. 18 sec., while the BHC claimed second with a time of 28 min. 20 sec and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 won third with a time of 28 min. 21 sec.

"It was competitive," said Roman. "Overall it was a fabulous event."

The competition consisted of three-man teams with each participant competing in one of three events.

The three events of the competition were a 300 meter swim, a five-mile stationary-bike ride set on level 9 and a two-mile treadmill run set on whatever level the participant wanted.

Sgt. Rebecca Kubica, Combat Logistics Company 36 competitor, competed in the five-mile stationary-bike portion of the competition.

"The hardest part was just pushing through it knowing that my thighs were burning," said Kubica. "I got real thirsty. I've never gotten that thirsty on a bike or on an elliptical before."

Kubica said part of what helped her push through the pain and the thirst was the motivation she got from the service members who were there from her squadron supporting her.

"CLC-36, we came out here to represent," said Kubica. "We had, like a quarter of our unit out here. That was good stuff running out here with everybody standing right there. That made me push a whole lot harder."

Many of the participating service members thought one of the best things about the Commander's Cup challenges — like the Indoor-Triathlon — was how it helped build unit cohesion.

"It let's everybody work together," said Ashley. "Officers, staff (non-commissioned officers), NCOs, troops. If you're not part of the Commander's Cup, if you don't actually participate, come out and just show support if anything."

Ashley competed in the running portion of the event and finished with a two-mile run time of 11 min and 18 sec.

"I volunteered," said Ashley. "I did this event last year in the Commander's Cup Indoor-Triathlon. It went really well last year but I think it went better this year. Overall we performed really well."

Each competing unit earned 20 points toward the Commander's Cup Challenge.

First place winners earned an additional 10 points for their unit with second place earning 7 and third earning 5 points.

The overall standings for the Commander's Cup Challenge are Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 in first place with 305 points, MALS-12 in second place with 217 and CLC-36 in third with 257.

The next Commander's Cup event is the Endurance Challenge slated for June 18.

For more information on this or any other upcoming 2010 Commander's Cup challenges, call 253-5051.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

1st Lt. Martin Minnich, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron competitor, pushes himself to the limit during the five-mile stationary-bicycling portion of the 2010 Commander's Cup Challenge Indoor-Triathlon at the IronWorks Gym here May 14. Aside from the five-mile stationary bike, the Indoor-Triathlon included a two-mile treadmill run and a 300 meter swim.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sgt. Curtis Krueger, a Combat Logistics Company 36 competitor, runs the treadmill during the two-mile run portion of the 2010 Commander's Cup Indoor-Triathlon at the IronWorks Gym here May 14. The next Commander's Cup event is the Endurance Challenge slated for June 18.

Commander's Cup: Indoor-Triathlon



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



PFC. MARCEL BROWN

ABOVE: Competition observers watch over Lance Cpl. Kyle Vander Molen, a station operations competitor, 2nd Lt. Katherine Kleese, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron competitor and Sgt. Michael Knight, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 competitor, during the two-mile triathlon portion of the 2010 Commander's Cup Indoor-Triathlon at the IronWorks Gym here May 14. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 took first place with a time of 27 min. 18 sec., while the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic claimed second with a time of 28 min. 20 sec and MWSS-171 won third with a time of 28 min. 21 sec.

LEFT: Cpl. Lorraine Vigilio, a station operations competitor, competes in the 300 meter swim in the IronWorks Gym indoor pool here during the 2010 Commander's Cup Challenge Indoor-Triathlon May 14. The overall standings for the Commander's Cup Challenge are Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 in first place with 305 points, MALS-12 in second place with 217 and CLC-36 in third with 257.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Wrecker teams recover military vehicles from Afghani desert



LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines with a Quick Reaction Force team of Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), recover a vehicle stuck in the sand by pulling a chain connected to it during a recovery mission here April 28. Soft sand can cause vehicles to get stuck while driving through the desert. Wrecker teams help save a great amount of money and resources for the Marine Corps by retrieving damaged or broken-down vehicles and transporting them back to base camp for repair.

LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS
GROUP (FORWARD)

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Driving over Afghanistan's rocky terrain can take a toll on tactical vehicles.

Roads are littered with improvised explosive devices and a tactical vehicle unlucky enough to roll over one is most likely too damaged to continue driving.

Even the soft, talcum-like sand can cause vehicles to get stuck while driving. But what happens when those vehicles can't be driven out of the desert?

Wrecker teams are in charge of going out and recovering these vehicles if an incident occurs that affects a unit's ability to complete a mission.

"As a wrecker operator, I recover downed vehicles or get them unstuck," said Sgt. Israel Chavez, wrecker operator for Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "Depending on the situation and what is needed of us, we go out and support the mission, whether it's a (combat logistics patrol) or a (Quick Reaction Force) mission."

It is extremely important for the Marine Corps to have wrecker operators because it would cost a lot of money and resources to replace the vehicles hit by IED's or broken down in the middle of the Afghanistan desert.

Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, for instance, the Corps' most widely used forward deployed tactical vehicle, cost upwards of \$1 million each.

"It's a tough job learning to operate this wrecker but I love doing it. That's why I requested

to go to school and become an operator," said Chavez, 25, from Los Angeles. "It's a lot of fun; a lot of people don't get to do and see most of the things that I am able to see."

"Not many people can say that they were able to pull out and recover a vehicle that got stuck in the desert," he added.

Chavez has been a wrecker operator since October and arrived in Afghanistan a few weeks ago.

During his first month here he has made more than 20 recoveries, 13 of which were during his last QRF mission that lasted more than 72 hours.

"These past three days have been really busy," said Chavez. "Once we recover a broken down vehicle and bring it back to base safely, we'll take it to the maintenance Marines so they can fix it up."

According to Chavez, on the days they aren't going out on missions, they work on their wrecker trucks, ensuring everything is operating properly.

"During a mission, these (wrecker) vehicles go through a lot of beatings. We have to keep them maintained so they can be in good shape and keep running," said Chavez. "That way, they don't break down often, as we only have a few of these vehicles to operate."

Recovering downed vehicles gives Chavez a sense of accomplishment, knowing he's helping give something back to the Marine Corps. And he's having fun while doing it.

"Every day is a new adventure," said Chavez. "There's always something new that happens every time we go out. That's one of the best parts about being a wrecker operator."



LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Marines with a Quick Reaction Force team from Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), excavate a vehicle stuck in the sand during a QRF mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 28. Wrecker teams go out on missions with combat logistics patrols in order to support and recover vehicles that are broken down or stuck in the sand.



LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — Sgt. Jason J. Spark, 29, from Lander, Wyo., section leader of security platoon with Bravo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), replaces a tire on a mine roller during a recovery mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 28. The unpredictable surface of the Afghanistan desert can be a challenge for tactical vehicle operators. Wrecker teams recover broken down or stuck in the sand vehicles, saving money and resources for the Corps.

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, 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 running June 7 to Aug. 1. For more information, contact your local field representative at 253-3392.

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 Marine Memorial chapel and Thrift Store, 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. today. The event will provide attendees with 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.

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 May 17 – June 18

The surveys are separated by category of participants: 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.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are interest free, designed to assist with short-term living expenses, up to \$300 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.

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, fill out the form and let Power 1575 and Marine Corps Community Services take care of the rest. Every Friday, birthdays from the previous week will

be announced and on the last Friday of every month there will be a random birthday cake giveaway for one birthday in the upcoming month.

Brief Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified 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 brief or classified 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
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

Call 080-4177-2060 or e-mail 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. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Repo Man (R)
Premier

Saturday, May 15, 2010

1 p.m. Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG)
4 p.m. How to Train Your Dragon (PG)
7 p.m. The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)
10 p.m. A Nightmare On Elm Street (R)

Sunday, May 16, 2010

1 p.m. Alice in Wonderland (PG)
4 p.m. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)
7 p.m. Repo Man (R)

Monday, May 17, 2010

7 p.m. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
7 p.m. Green Zone (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

7 p.m. Our Family Wedding (PG-13)
Last Showing

Thursday, May 20, 2010

6 – 8 p.m. Station PME No Movie

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$2.50/ Ages 6-11 are \$1/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1996 Nissan Skyline

Black, 4-door with power windows and locks. New battery, brakes and tires. Has 100,000 kilometers. For more information, please call 253-2233 or 080-3474-8869.

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

Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, savory baked chicken, oven roast beef, oven brown potatoes, tossed green rice, succotash, green beans and mushrooms, brown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake, banana cream pudding.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Tomato soup, vegetable soup, turkey pot pie, Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, tangy spinach, steamed cauliflower, buttered noodles, brown gravy, dinner rolls, country style tomato salad, Mexican coleslaw, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, oatmeal raisin cookie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, Caribbean chicken breast, beef cordon bleu, O'Brien potatoes, chicken gravy, Creole green beans, savory summer squash, dinner rolls, cabbage, apple and celery, three bean salad, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, devil's food cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, Cantonese ribs, turkey curry, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, Southern style green beans, corn on the cob, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, banana cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

Friday

Chicken noodle soup, chicken noodle soup, baked fish, Yankee pot roast, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, calico corn, simmer white beans, vegetable gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, country style tomato salad, coconut raisin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, chocolate cream pie.
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

Bargain Home Items

Washer and dryer set - \$75 OBO
46-inch silver, analog Sony Trinitron TV - \$75 OBO
TV stand - \$40 OBO
Assorted toys and toy box for toddlers - \$30 OBO
\$200 takes all items listed.
For more information, call 080-3881-8121.

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.

Critical Days of Summer: Indoor, outdoor home safety

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY OFFICE

We should all be thinking of outdoor safety, especially as we approach the summer season. But don't forget that unpleasant incidents could also happen inside the house if we are not careful. Please take time to review these items and keep your home safe.

Slips and Falls

Keep the floor clear. Reduce clutter and keep telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.

Keep floors clean. Wipe up grease, water, and other liquids immediately. Don't wax floors.

To reduce the chance of slipping or tripping, secure area rugs with a piece of foam carpet backing, double-sided tape, or a rubber pad.

Keep stairs clear of clutter.

Make sure living areas and especially stairways are well lit.

Use a sturdy step stool with handrails when trying to reach high places.

Extension Cords

Never run an extension cord under a rug.

Do not consider extension cords part of your home's electrical system, use them only for temporary situations.

A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire.

Replace old and damaged extension cords.

Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory.

Never overload an extension cord; that could cause a fire. Check the rating labels on the cords and the appliance. If necessary, upgrade to a higher-rated cord.

Ladders

The distance from the base of the wall to the base of the ladder should be 1/4 the height of the ladder.

Make sure the ladder's footpads are secure on the ground. Shim them if necessary.

Test the ladder to be sure it will not shift. If necessary, tie it off to keep it in place.

Keep all ladders, especially metal ladders, away from electrical lines and pay attention to overhead lines when moving an extended ladder into position.

Never attempt to stretch while on a ladder. If you can't reach, move the ladder.

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 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.

Hand and Power Tools

Always wear safety glasses when using any power tool, hammer or drill.

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for using their tools.

Dull tools are unsafe and can harm the work. Maintain your tools. Always work with sharp cutting blades.

Unplug power tools before loading them, changing blades or bits, or making adjustments.

Never use any power tool in the rain.

Never alter or remove the blade guard on a power saw.

Always wear proper clothing and safety equipment on the work site.

Keep children and pets away from the work area and power tools, as well as away from harmful materials, adhesives, and solvents.

Keep a clean work site and don't let debris accumulate.

Child proof your home

Use safety latches and locks for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries.

Use safety gates to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children away from dangerous areas. Look for safety gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty. For the top of stairs, gates that screw to the wall are more secure than "pressure gates."

Use door knob covers and door locks to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers, such as swimming pools.

Use anti-scald devices for faucets and shower can help prevent burns.

Use window guards and safety netting to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks, and landings.

Use corner and edge bumpers to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces.

Use outlet covers and outlet plates to help prevent electrocution.

Use Door Stops and Door Holders to help prevent injuries to fingers and hands. Door stops and door holders can prevent small fingers and hands from being pinched or crushed in doors and door hinges.



Goon Squad defenders Nathan Daniels and Hubert Louis use their size and power to force William Chatman, Ready Group shooting guard, to take a shot from the perimeter under pressure during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Monday. The Goon Squad's defense forced the Ready Group behind the 3-point arc all night, and in the end the Ready Group's shooting came up begging leaving them down 48-40 at the buzzer.

Ready Group doesn't prove namesake, Goon Squad prove more ready 48-40

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Goon Squad edged out the Ready Group 48-40 during intense intramural basketball action at IronWorks Gym here Monday.

While both teams came out fast and furious, the Ready Group just didn't make adjustments as well as the Goon Squad.

Despite some sloppy play on both sides, once the Goon Squad shut down the Ready Group's 3-point shooters and began penetrating the Ready Group's zone defense late in the second quarter, the Goon Squad was able to run away with the win.

A few well-timed threes by Goon Squad's small forward Nathan Daniels and aggressive net crashing by point guard Quincy Palou gave the Goon Squad a 6-point lead by the final minute.

In the first half, both teams were rushing up and down the court generating a lot of ball movement, effort and turnovers without putting much on the board.

Perhaps defense was tight on both sides, but neither team held back its three-point chuking.

The Ready Group earned 18 of its 24 first-half points from beyond the arc, while the Goon Squad garnered 12 points of its 24 from trips.

While the Ready Group took a quick initial lead, mainly due to performances from the arc by shooting guards Paul Torres and William Chatman, the Goon Squad evolved its defenses.

"We started weakening our defense, they started tightening theirs up and we let them box us out," said Chatman of the Ready Group's performance in the latter of the first half.

Going into the half, the Goon Squad had managed to tie things up at 24-24.

Again, both teams came out in a flurry and moved quickly. Perhaps too quickly as the frequent turnovers, quick 3-pointers and generally spastic movements under the net on both teams didn't yield many points.

Despite what seemed too fast a tempo, neither team attempted to slow the pace as they raced up and down the court, throwing up shots from the arc after a couple of passes.

To the Ready Group's credit, they did seem to be making an effort to move the ball around the perimeter and get inside the paint, but the Goon Squad met them nearly every time, virtually locking down the area inside the arc.

Although Chatman had identified boxing-out as an area where the Goon Squad was hurting his teammates, the

Ready Group's players were less successful in the second half at pulling down boards.

As a result, Goon Squad players had multiple shot attempts and were able to capitalize with a number of inside buckets.

As well, the 3-point shots were not dropping for the Ready Group as they had been in the first half, and with the Goon Squad controlling the boards, the final 5 minutes swung in the Goon Squad's favor.

"They were killing us with those three-pointers," said Ricardo Torres, Goon Squad shooting guard. "I had my guy start guarding their shooter at half-court to stop that."

The Ready Group was able to trade blows for awhile, but the Goon Squad began moving the ball more to slice through the Ready Group's zone defense.

"Ball movement," said Ricardo Torres. "You gotta get a man inside, especially with that two-three zone."

Once the Goon Squad began penetrating, a few deuces from Palou and Ricardo Torres, coupled with two trips from Daniels and only a 2-point response from the Ready Group gave the Goon Squad a six-point lead with one minute remaining.

Two fouls later and the Goon Squad pushed its lead to eight, establishing the final score, 48-40.



Cody Palfreyman, Ready Group forward, goes vertical inside the arc while the Goon Squad's Ricardo Torres attempts to get a hand in Palfreyman's face during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Monday. The Goon Squad's defense kept the Ready Group shooting from the outside all night and rarely was the team able to get a shot from inside the 3-point arc.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Mikhael Cometa, left-middle position for the Matthew C. Perry High School boys soccer team, attempts to keep Ta'mir Seraphin, team captain and forward position for the EJ King High School boys soccer team, from driving the ball down field during the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Class "A" Far East Soccer Tournament at the M.C. Perry High School Soccer field Sunday.

M.C. Perry kicks off Far East Soccer Tournament with victory

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Matthew C. Perry High School boys soccer team came out on top when they defeated Ernest J. King High School 2-0 during the first game of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Class "A" Far East Soccer Tournament at the M.C. Perry High School soccer field Sunday.

Andre Bugawan, captain and striker for M.C. Perry, managed to score the first goal of the game during the first half after the other team drove the ball out of bounds.

"Tyelor Apple, the other striker on our team, threw the ball through the defense," said Bugawan. "I did a two-touch and shot the ball in."

Sean Barker, fellow team captain and offensive mid-position for M.C. Perry, managed to score the second goal of the game during the second half after being sent for a tumble by a player from the opposing team.

"I got fouled outside a few yards outside the 18 and shot it through the corner," said Barker.

The ball tipped the fingers of Andrew Chavez, goalie for EJ King High School, as it went in.

Matt Villalino, sweeper for M.C. Perry High School, was recognized as most valuable player of the game by his fellow teammates.

"He saved at least two goals," said Barker. "He was right behind the goalie," said

Bugawan. "Usually players are not supposed to be behind the goalie, but he was there. A guy shot it in and he was there to block it."

The tournament was set up into a five-day event.

The first three days consisted of a series of matches called pool play.

It provided the teams with the opportunity to warm up their skills during friendly competition before the single elimination tournament that would put their skills to the real test.

"Pool play ends Tuesday," said Bugawan. "Then we decide who will play what positions for the tournament."

As the tournament progresses, the team will be able to settle players into permanent positions to further enhance their practice techniques and strategies.

"We practice on tactical things depending on how we did on the previous game, what we need to work on and what we need to develop," said Barker. "We work on anything to make us better."

"The main things we need to work on are touches and working together to communicate," said Bugawan.

The first game of the tournament set the tone, providing the team with confidence to carry out the rest of the tournament against six teams, including Edgren High School, Global Vision Christian School, Morrison Christian Academy and Osan High School.

For additional information about upcoming games and events, call 253-5448.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Sean Barker, team captain and offensive middle position for Matthew C. Perry High School, drives the ball down field to score a goal during the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Class "A" Far East Soccer Tournament at the M.C. Perry High School Soccer field Sunday.