



THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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AVID students get to play with big guns



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

William Saunders, 12, seventh-grade Matthew C. Perry Advancement Via Individual Determination student pretends to fire a cleared MK19 attached to a humvee during the static display event near the IronWorks Gym here June 3. Saunders is assisted and supervised by Lance Cpl. Victor Contreras, a Marine Wing Support Squadron-171 armorer. Read the full story on page 4.

MWSS-171 slated to run exercise Thunder Horse June 21-25

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 service members are scheduled to conduct exercise Thunder Horse at Penny Lake field here June 21-25.

The exercise, which will focus on convoy training, is being conducted in preparation for exercise Haramura slated for July 16-23 in Haramura, Japan.

"What we are going to be doing is largely moving toward that kind of crawl, walk, run mentality,"

said Capt. Jason Britain, MWSS-171 Motor Transport Operations Company commander and exercise officer-in-charge. "The main objective is familiarization. It really is familiarization of basic field skills and convoy skills."

Thunder Horse will mainly involve MWSS-171 Motor Transport Operations Company and some Airfield Operations Company personnel.

The participating service members will be faced with numerous

SEE EXERCISE ON PAGE 3

Cheerleaders bring slice of Texas to Iwakuni



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

The Houston Texans cheerleaders perform a cheer and dance routine for the troops here at the Club Iwakuni ballroom June 5. Read the full story on pages 6 and 7.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Why the Bible?'

LT. D. ANTHONY BAKER
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

In a most direct manner, I will explain why the Bible is superior to any other holy book, piece of religious literature, and why it is sincere and legitimate in its claims. Starting with what is historically and archaeologically known and proven about the Bible, we know there are 66 individual books that make up the entire Bible. Those 66 books are written by 40 different authors over the course of 1,500 years. It is important to note these various authors of the books of the Bible were not only separated by 100s of years but also geographic space.

What makes the point so important to understand is these

individuals were independent of one another yet spoke about the exact same thing.

The consistency of the message and the lack of contradiction between the individual authors lends credibility to the ideas they were saying was accurate.

The prophetic aspect, or the way the Bible has been able to predict the future, is a characteristic not found in any other piece of literature. When you take the book of Daniel from the Bible and look at its predictions about a young warrior who would conquer and subdue the world but be taken out of power in his twenties, have his kingdom divided into four amongst his commanders, then combined into two later on, and eventually combined into one, it is unmistakably clear the individual who fulfilled that prophecy, without any discrepancy, is Alexander the Great.

When you compare the proph-

ecy of Daniel with the life and work of Alexander the Great you immediately recognize the existential aspect of the Bible. There are a number of prophecies in the Bible, especially concerning the life, death and ministry of Jesus Christ that the Bible clearly predicted centuries before the events occurred.

If time after time the Bible is able to predict with 100 percent accuracy events that have already occurred, it is more than reasonable to assume the prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled will come to pass and that what the Bible says about other subjects is true as well.

When you have that kind of accuracy in the Bible, when you have the reliability of the Bible — over 5,000 ancient documents of the Bible have been discovered — and when you have that type of consistency, I think you have pretty compelling proof that the Bible is what it says it is.

One Marine's thank you to Iwakuni

SUBMITTED BY
CAPT. JAY WOODS

I bowed humbly to receive their gift, enamored by the kindness of my friends at the Iwakuni Police Department, but also in that moment swarmed the events of the past three years here.

Adventurous and excited to start a new chapter, I had elected to put overseas on our wish list prior to coming to Japan.

Traveling is something we always wanted to do. In May 2007, I came here with my wife.

We wasted no time in learning the culture and experiencing new things. We climbed Mount Fuji that summer, and vowed to never do it again. I climbed it again the next summer with my Marines.

As a military police officer here, I was quickly given opportunities to work with the Japanese police, the local customs office, Chigoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau and the Japanese Self-Defense Force, something young lieutenants aren't normally privy to.

I learned a lot, but mainly was the fact

that many people throughout this world are the same, no matter what language they speak.

Business is business, and the Japanese are legendary for being relentless when conducting such. I found they want what is best for their company, for their particular goals and to please their boss — no different from us. No matter how shrewd they may have been in a particular situation or how tense the meeting was, there was always a high level of hospitality.

I am from a small town in central Alabama, where sweet tea, barbecue and football reign supreme.

In my particular rural town, the deer outnumbered the people.

In what is considered the heart of the South, my home is known for its hospitality.

"Come on in, sit awhile, let me get you something to eat," is a typical mantra one can hear when entering my grandmother's home.

So much of that way of thinking is exactly the same here.

We were once invited literally off the street into someone's home for dinner just because

we were foreigners who showed an interest in the culture of these wonderful people.

Everyone we encountered seemed to give us the benefit of the doubt, which, as you know, isn't the case everywhere you go these days.

From Iwakuni and Kintaikyo to Hiroshima, Kyoto, Tokyo and many places in between, we traveled this country, falling in love with it and its people along the way.

We made many Japanese friends, whom we hope to keep in contact with in the years to come. We got to literally see this installation transform with the new runway, air traffic control tower and the myriad of other things currently being planned and executed.

While being a very small part of all of this, we were also blessed with the opportunity to become parents.

On August 6, 2009, Gabriel Matthew Woods came to Iwakuni.

Many have heard the story of my wife Nina's battle that night but may or may not understand the totality of how

that fateful night has shaped our lives.

At 10 a.m., after consulting with Dr. Kubota because of Gabriel's size, Nina was induced.

After 12 hours of labor, Kubota decided to conduct an emergency C-section.

The baby was so big, he just wouldn't fit.

That went well, and I was impressed with how Dr.'s Kubota and Shoji worked together during the surgery. They were humble, professional, caring and extremely efficient.

At 10:28 p.m., out he came, 20.5 inches long, and 9 pounds, 5 ounces — "Godzilla Kun", as some of my master labor contractors would eventually call him. Moreover, he was absolutely perfect, as all little ones are.

The problem came thereafter: Nina's blood wouldn't clot.

In a span of roughly 20 minutes, her blood pressure dropped from normal to 39/14 with a 173 beats per minute heart rate. Kubota told her mother and I that she'd have to have a blood transfusion and possible a hysterectomy to live.

I kissed her forehead as he wheeled her

SEE REFLECTIONS ON PAGE 10

Exercise meant to be refresher course, prepare Marines for battle

EXERCISE FROM PAGE 1

training scenarios, which will familiarize them with the defense of a tactical convoy, casualty assessment under fire, weapons handling, vehicle mounting and other skills.

Professional military education classes will also be conducted during the exercise, in which the

Marines will discuss what to expect during Haramura, the proper handling of their equipment and survivability in combat.

Britain said much of what will be covered during Thunder Horse will serve the Marines as a refresher of what they may already know but will allow them to hit the ground running when it's time to participate in exercise

Haramura.

Many of the senior-ranking MWSS-171 Marines are looking forward to the exercise as a great opportunity to train their junior Marines.

"It's more of a personal thing for me because every life is important," said Master Sgt. Albert A. Asuncion, MWSS-171 Motor Transport Maintenance chief.

"How we train is how we increase our survivability. As senior leaders, our job is to train so they can replace you at one point or another."

Asuncion said he hopes the junior Marines will endeavor to learn as much as possible during the exercise because they can be called upon to serve in battle at a moment's notice.

JUNE PROMOTIONS

MAG-12

Cpl.
Litwak, Joseph J.

Master Sgt.
Hudson, Kabaka K.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Calip, Spencer L.
Martin, Diana M.

Cpl.
Alford, Neal E.
Anderson, Allen B.
Baker, Carl W.
Contreras, Victor R.
Deboer, Adam C.
Degenhardt, Alexander R.
Erwin, Andrew E.
Gurney, David B.
Hayes Jr., James K.
Heron, Joshua M.
Mcintyre, Devon
Niemczyk, Brian A.
Pate, Amber N.
Thom, Virdele C.

Sgt.
Edens, Kyle W.
Zamudio, Aaron J.

Detachment B

Cpl.
Torres III, Paul A.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Armstrong, Wade J.
Dullea, Christopher J.
Reyes, Julio R.
Siegfried, Jacob J.
Valez, Michael J.

Cpl.
Baade, Mitchell L.
Cardinoza, Lemuel M.
Haysloft, Christopher D.
Karr, Kevin S.
Mcgill, Henry W.
Murray, Padraic M.
Recinto, Aimee B.

VMFA(AW)-242

Pfc.
Coates, Kendall R.

Lance Cpl.
GonzalesPerez, Alma Y.
Herrera, Javeah L.
Lagares Jr., Domingo
Mesa, Chandler A.
Sanchez, Westen J.
Sandella, Jeffrey B.

Cpl.
Clayburn, James R.
Davis II, Marc H.
Moore, Kwamaine S.
Muir, Andrew R.

Staff Sgt.
Shannon, Ian S.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Brown, Marcel C.
Cavender, Jonathan E.
Sours, Kyle L.

Cpl.
Davidson, Robert S.
Dufour, Michael J.
Faesser, Runya C.
Graviet, Samuel J.
Kane, Victor D.
Mason, Steven W.
Miller, Richard J.
Newsome, Steven W.
Pongtornwatc, Jason
Proctor, Brandon T.
Salem, Issa A.

Sgt.
Compagna, Dustin R.

Staff Sgt.
Schnur, Bradley A.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Young, Matthew C.

Cpl.
Garlitz Jr., David M.

Sgt.
Giuliani, Robert T

Navy chief retires after 27 years of service

From left to right: Chief Adrian Figueroa, leading chief petty officer of urgent care; military care and family practice at the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic, Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, Chief Denizil C. Bauer, H&HS equipment operator, and Lt. Cmdr. Keith Applegate, station logistics officer, render a hand salute to the American flag during Bauer's retirement ceremony at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Tuesday. Bauer was given a shadowbox and an American flag before requesting Ardesse's permission to go ashore for the last time. Bauer and his family plan to move to Arkansas when they return to the states.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

MWSS-171 shows AVID students how Marines get down



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Cpl. Robert D. Martinez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 field radio operator, explains to a group of Matthew C. Perry Advancement Via Individual Determination students the functions of a field radio near the IronWorks Gym here June 3. The students were also given the opportunity to use the field radios to communicate with Marines on the other side of the static display lot.

M.C. Perry AVID students get hands-on learning

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 hosted the third annual static display for Matthew C. Perry's Advancement Via Individual Determination students here June 3.

The static display was staffed by Marines from sections of MWSS-171 and broken into 10 stations with a visual display containing components and equipment used in their military occupational specialty.

"I feel it's a great opportunity for the dependants on this base to come out to see how we do our jobs and see how we support them," said Lance Cpl. Joshua King, MWSS-171 basic water support technician.

Not only did the AVID students get the opportunity to see how many of the MWSS-171 aviation ground support components operate, but they were given the chance to operate most of the equipment.

"It's interesting, seeing the

weapons and the equipment they use. I can see more of what they actually do," said John Cadavos, 13, seventh grade M.C. Perry AVID student.

The students rotated in groups of two and three among the 10 stations.

"This is an opportunity for us to showcase our talents and our abilities as a Marine Wing Support Squadron," said 2nd Lt. Tug Turner, MWSS-171 assistant supply officer.

Students were given the opportunity to don full Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear and operate radios, explosive ordnance disposal robots, tractor, rubber-tired, articulated steering, multi-purpose vehicles and a cleared MK19 gun attached to a humvee.

"I feel it's going fantastic, the students out here are asking the best possible questions for the Marines. The Marines are even having a great time," said Turner.

The static display was a fun experience for the AVID students, but Turner said the experience was also important

for the students who are interested in mechanical or Marine Corps careers.

"It's important for them to know what their parents are doing and the reason why they're here," said King.

The AVID students weren't the only ones having fun during the static display. Many of the Marines seemed excited to work with the children and get the students familiar with the equipment they work with.

"Any Marine loves talking about what they're job is," said Turner. "They may not be the best at it, they may not be the worst, but they still know what they're talking about."

This year was Turner's first time being in charge of the static display event, and he said he was impressed by the amount of help and cooperation the Marines displayed.

"The amount of help I received from my fellow officers and staff NCOICs was outstanding. They really stepped up, took charge and helped make this event as successful as it is today."



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Lance Cpl. Daniel K. Hall, chemical biological radiological and nuclear defense specialist, assists a Matthew C. Perry Advancement Via Individual Determination student in putting on a Mission-Oriented Protective Posture suit near the IronWorks Gym here June 3. Hall has been with MWSS-171 for four months.

IronWorks Gym now certifies divers



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors offers a basic open water course at the Shark Bait Dive Center April through October. The Shark Bait Dive Center provides gear rental including wet suits, masks, fins, snorkel, weight belts, scuba tanks, dive computers and various other types of scuba diving equipment to certified divers to use.

Scuba diving class opens new worlds for station members

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, with, Marines and sailors can pursue an interest in scuba diving lessons and certification on the basic and advanced levels at the Shark Bait Dive Center here.

To take the course at the basic level, the cost is \$260, which includes all equipment and course curriculum.

The specialty courses, which include Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver, Wreck Diving, Night Diving and Deep Diving, can be taken for \$200 for speciality at the Shark Bait Dive Center April through Oct.

The first step in becoming a certified diver is to take the Basic Open Water Scuba Course, which upon completion will grant certification for divers to dive up to 60 feet.

The basic course consists of 3 to 4 days of classroom instruction, confined water training and open water dives on Saturdays and Sundays.

Participants must pass a skill assessment, which includes a 300-meter swim and treading water for 10 minutes.

Once enrolled in the course, participants will learn the importance of diving safety.

"You need to be trained by a qualified, certified instructor," said Stephanie Brown, aquatics director. "Diving is safe, but you

have to make sure you learn the proper techniques and what to do."

Divers will learn how to handle and maintain equipment. "Most importantly, PADI teaches divers how to maintain their equipment because a lot of it is really expensive," said Katie Wall, PADI certified diver.

The basic course teaches divers how to use weight belts to equalize their weight in the water.

The instructor will also teach divers how to clear their masks by inhaling through the mouth and exhaling through the nose to rid the mask of water that may have seeped in.

Not knowing how to properly clear the mask can make scuba diving a less enjoyable experience.

"Let's say you're down scuba diving and your mask gets knocked off," said Brown. "You have to know how to put it back on and clear it of water."

"They set up these classes so that it prepares for emergencies and difficult situations," said Wall.

Students also learn how to equalize the pressure in the ears when diving deep into the water.

"If divers don't equalize the pressure in their ears, they risk rupturing the eardrum," said Brown.

"One important thing to remember is to never dive alone," said Wall. "You should always go with a buddy."

Learning how to communicate with fellow divers is also an important safety aspect.

"Obviously, you can't talk under water so they teach you different hand signals and gestures for certain things," said Brown.

One thing divers must be aware of is the wildlife that may be either harmful or harmed by interaction or disturbance.

"It's about safety for you and for the animals," said Wall. "You learn space."

"You get to see a lot of wildlife," she added. "You get a chance to learn their behavior, what they like to eat, what they don't like, and how they interact with other organisms and with you in the water."

Once the Basic Open Water Course is completed, divers are given the opportunity to pursue the Advanced Open Water course.

The course involves more open water training and will certify basic divers to dive up to a depth of 100 feet.

In the Rescue Diver Course, divers learn self rescue techniques, recognizing and managing stress in the water, emergency equipment and rescuing other divers.

Wreck Diving is of a special interest to some divers, which consists of techniques for diving and exploring shipwrecks.

The Wreck Diving Course will teach divers how to avoid common hazards, how to research and learn the background of

wrecks, equipment used, and techniques upon entering a wreck.

In the Night Diving Course, divers learn how to plan during a night dive, organize, procedures and techniques.

Some techniques of night diving include controlling buoyancy at night, navigation and nocturnal aquatic life.

The Deep Diving Course offers a curriculum in deep range dives into depths of approximately 130 feet.

There are plenty of local beaches near Iwakuni that certified divers can explore, including Riazaki, Kataozoe, Oshima and Nodahama Beach.

"It is really pretty in Oshima, and the water is really clear," said Brown. "It is also deeper, so we take our advanced divers there."

"Scuba diving is easy to learn, but it takes a lot of confidence," said Wall. "The most important tool you take down there is your brain. Just remember to trust your equipment, trust your training and your knowledge."

The Shark Bait Dive Center provides gear rental including wet suits, masks, fins, snorkel, weight belts, buoyancy compensator devices, scuba tanks, dive computers, etc.

In order to rent the gear, divers need to bring certification.

For more information, visit the Shark Bait Dive Center or call 253-6058.

Houston Texans Cheerleaders bring it on at Club Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors gathered to see the Houston Texans Cheerleaders perform an enthusiastic cheer routine at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here June 5.

"The performance was upbeat and encouraging," said Lance Cpl. Rosbel Alvarado, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground support equipment maintenance. "I had a lot of fun."

Prior to the Club Iwakuni performance, the cheerleaders held a cheer and dance class at the IronWorks Gym where children of all ages were given the opportunity to practice cheer routines. "I think it lifted up the morale greatly," said Alvarado. "Everyone seemed very involved. We should have more events like these."

The cheerleaders arrived in Okinawa, Japan, June 2 where they held the tour's first performance at Camp Hansen.

After their performance at Hansen, the cheerleaders have been traveling base to base, visiting troops stationed in Okinawa.

With countless hours of traveling and little rest time between performances, the cheerleaders often have to overcome fatigue and jet-lag while maintaining enthusiastic and energetic personas during their performances.

"Because of the jet-lag it's difficult to keep up energy, but we all encourage each other and try to keep the morale going," said Lindsay Slott, Houston Texans cheerleader.

"They're amazing. This is my second tour with them," said Sandy Charboneau, tour manager. "Having this opportunity to come out here with the girls, they've done a great job, especially being on such a tight schedule."

The crowd showed a large amount of appreciation to the cheerleaders after the performance, but the Houston Texans cheerleaders expressed a larger appreciation for being able to give back to the troops stationed overseas.

"The military audience appreciates us much more than the civilian audience," said Slott. "They don't have many experiences like

this, so they definitely appreciate it more. They're very thankful."

"We appreciate how welcoming everyone is," said Charboneau. "It feels like we're here to say thank you, and when we hear it from them it really makes you feel like a good person."

Charboneau said the cheerleaders travel a lot through Armed Forces Entertainment, bringing some Texas spirit to the troops stationed overseas.

The cheerleaders have recently been to Honduras, Iraq and Japan and are scheduled to visit Singapore and Diego Garcia.

"We love visiting people who are missing a little bit of home and bringing a little piece of Texas to them," said Charboneau.

Although the cheerleaders were only able to stay for a short period of time, Slott said she enjoyed her time here and knows they will be back again.

"I want to thank everyone who brought us out here," said Venessa Martinez, Houston Texans cheerleader.

"For our short time being here, I hope everyone enjoyed our stay," she added.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

From right to left: Ariana Garcia, Amanda Golden, Jessica Hailey, Venessa Martinez, Stacy Hester and Lindsay Slott, Houston Texans cheerleaders, all strike a pose during their dance performance at the Club Iwakuni ballroom June 5. The cheerleaders have visited troops overseas in Honduras, Iraq and Japan, and they're scheduled to visit troops in Singapore and Diego Garcia within the next year.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Lance Cpl. Rosbel Alvarado, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ground support equipment maintenance, receives autographs from the Houston Texans cheerleaders after their dance performance at the Club Iwakuni ballroom June 5. In just three days in Japan, the cheerleaders visited Camp Foster, Camp Courtney, Camp Kadena and Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Corps Air station Iwakuni, Japan.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Pom Poms lay on the Club Iwakuni ballroom dance floor after a dance performance by the Houston Texans cheerleaders June 5. The cheerleaders' performance included a country theme dance routine, a hip hop routine and a cheer and dance routine.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

The Houston Texans cheerleaders perform a Texan style dance routine during their dance performance at the club Iwakuni ballroom June 5. For this routine, the cheerleaders wore cowboy hats and performed country style dances to an up tempo country beat.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Venessa Martinez, Houston Texans Cheerleader, practices a dance routine during a dance class for children of all ages at the IronWorks Gym here June 5. The dance class took place from 5 to 6 p.m. and the dance performance took place at the Club Iwakuni ballroom, which began at 7 p.m.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines mentor Helmand Provincial Police Forces

GUNNERY SGT. WILLIAM PRICE
1ST MARINE DIVISION

LASHKAR GAH, Helmand province, Afghanistan —

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." Marines in Helmand province's British Forward Operating Base Lashkar Gah, have come to understand this ancient Chinese proverb all too well.

The Marine Provincial Police Mentor Team has been tasked to work with NATO and the International Security Assistant Force, and to partner with the Afghan Police headquarters staff to enhance their policing procedures, communications, logistical and operational capabilities.

"Our job isn't to tell them how to do their job, but to actually partner with their staff, help them identify problems, and develop solutions," according to Col. John Klink, P-PMT, officer-in-charge. The P-PMT team, partnered with the British soldiers of the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment's Police Development Advisory Training Team, is responsible for training police forces at the Helmand Police Training Center, here, along with its 13 districts throughout Helmand province's 23,000 square miles.

"The team's main focus is mentoring members of the provincial police headquarters, and aiding in developing key programs such as crime stoppers, training and education, and community outreach, where the villagers can voice their concerns to their respective police forces," said Master Sgt. Scott Nichols, P-PMT senior enlisted advisor, and a Sanford, Maine, police officer.

The P-PMT team — comprised of 13 Marines, a Navy Corpsman, and two interpreters — brings a wide variety of military skills and specialties to the table.

Like Nichols, there are two other police officers on the team, plus experts in the field of communications, intelligence, heavy equipment operations, logistics and infantry.

Beyond assisting with the mentoring of the police force located in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province's capital, the P-PMT is responsible for medically screening Afghan National Police and initially processing them into the system. They escort recruits to Camp Leatherneck's training area, Joint Security Academy Shorabak, and upon their graduation, they are escorted to their respective police districts. Spearheading the ground and



BRITISH ARMY SGT. KARL WHITELAW

LASHKAR GAH, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Col. John Klink, Provincial Police Mentor Team, officer-in-charge, congratulates one of the top graduates at a recent Afghan National Police Academy graduation ceremony at the Helmand Police Training Center. The P-PMT team, partnered with the British soldiers of the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment's Police Development Advisory Training Team, is responsible for training police forces at the Helmand Police Training Center, here, along with its 13 districts throughout Helmand province's 23,000 square miles.

air movement of his Marines and the ANP is Staff Sgt. Justin Rettenberger, the P-PMT operations chief.

"Our forward operating base facilitates a strong presence in the community, and allows us to move our teams from the FOB to our areas of operations to assist and train the members of the PHQ (Police Headquarters) and the HPTC," said Rettenberger, a Dubuque, Iowa, native. With just over two months on the ground, the Marines of the P-PMT have faced some difficulties.

According to a recent Afghanistan Helmand Provincial Government report, the literacy rate in Helmand province is five percent. "Many of the procedures we are teaching, such as Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and Explosive Ordnance Disposal, require their policemen to read and write," said Nichols. "Literacy programs are being developed, but it's not an overnight process."

The P-PMT is somewhat of a pioneer program, as they did not have the opportunity to conduct a turnover, or relief in place. "The initial set-up has been quite a challenge," added Nichols, "but our British counterparts and civilian contractors have been a huge help to getting us off the

ground and running."

The Marines of the P-PMT have been working hand-in-hand with the Afghan National Police teams, and their outlook on the future of the ANP is bright.

"We are seeing this country develop as a secure sovereign

nation, and seeing its provincial police forces being able to stand up on their own feet is inspiring," Rettenberger added. "The ANP and the Afghan people have truly embraced us. They know we are here to stay, and we will see the mission through to the end."



BRITISH ARMY SGT. KARL WHITELAW

LASHKAR GAH, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Col. John Klink, Provincial Police Mentor Team, officer-in-charge, and Gen. Mohammed Abdul Hakim Angar, provincial chief of police, salute during the playing of the Afghan national anthem, during a recent Afghan National Police Academy graduation ceremony at the Helmand Police Training Center. The Marine Provincial Police Mentor Team has been tasked to work with NATO ISAF forces and to partner with the Afghan police headquarters staff to enhance their policing procedures, communications, logistical and operational capabilities.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5 Love Languages of Teens Seminar

Attend a seminar designed for parents of teens at the Yujo Hall on Saturday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Learn to recognize your teen's love language and learn tools for expressing your love to your teen in ways they will understand. Lunch and child care provided. Call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371 to reserve a spot.

Officer PME

As part of the Distance Education Program for officers, enrollment has begun for the Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College for academic year 2011. Enrollment runs until Sept. 15. For more information, contact your regional coordinator, call 1-888-4DL-USMC or visit www.tecom.usmc.mil/cee.

Soap-Box Confessions Presents Spoken Word Poetry

Come vent what you feel or just sit back and relax with the vibe at Spoken Word Poetry in the Botan Tower community room, Building 589 Tuesdays June 15 and 29. Hosted by The Poet CoFFY and Miss Supreme, free and open to all adults. For more information, please call 080-3700-7540 or e-mail hottcoffy@hotmail.com.

Strike Zone Birthday Celebration

First game is free at the Strike Zone birthday celebration 11 a.m. — 8 p.m. July 4. The Strike Zone will have a variety of events throughout the celebration including a clinic given by Professional Bowlers Association bowlers. For more information, call 253-4657.

Combat Camera Web Site

The new Combat Camera Web site can be viewed at <https://intranet.iwakuni.nmci.usmc.mil/CombatCamera/index.html>. The new site displays all pertinent information about Combat Camera to ensure your job can be processed more effectively and provides height and weight verification cards for promotion photos, as well as the funding approval form for commands outside of Station and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

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.

The Family Readiness Survey through 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. 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 Marine Memorial Chapel, room 148.

Luau 2010: Night in Paradise

A luau night open to all base personnel, including Ma'ohi Nui performers and a meal, is scheduled 6:30 — 9 p.m. June 26 at Penny Lake. Meal and seat reservations are free

for 5 and under, \$12.95 for ages 6-12 and \$25 for 13 and up. Free viewing seats available. Tickets available at the staff non-commissioned officer cash cage. For more information, call

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

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

Brief Submissions

To submit a community brief, please send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. You can 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. Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions.

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.

BOOT SCOOTIN' ROUNDUP

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

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, June 11, 2010

7 p.m. Prince of Persia:
The Sands of Time (PG-13)
Premier

Saturday, June 12, 2010

1 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG)
4 p.m. Why Did I Get Married Too? (PG-13)
7 p.m. Sex and the City 2 (R)

Sunday, June 13, 2010

1 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG)
4 p.m. Prince of Persia:
The Sands of Time (PG-13)
7 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)

Monday, June 14, 2010

7 p.m. Sex and the City 2 (R)

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

7 p.m. Hot Tub Time Machine (R)
Last Showing

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

7 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)

Thursday, June 17, 2010

7 p.m. Why Did I Get Married Too? (PG-13)

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

4X4 1993 Isuzu Bighorn

JCI good until 2011. Power windows and locks. Great for camping or skiing. Taxes paid in full. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Call 253-2097 for more information.

2003 Mazda Demio

JCI good until March 2012. Automatic, black power windows and locks, cold A/C, new tires, 42,000 kilometers and very clean. Maintenance done by Mazda in town. Asking \$3,500. Call 253-2355/6278 or 090-1942-9354.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of broccoli soup, french onion soup, baked chicken and rice, Yakiniiku, steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, creamy cucumber rice salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, double layer banana cake, butter, cream frosting. Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, roast fresh ham, shrimp scampi, potatoes au gratin, rice pilaf, glazed carrots, broccoli combo, grilled cheese, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, buttercream frosting, coconut cream pies. Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Chicken and rice soup, New England clam chowder, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, grilled ham & cheese, tempura fried fish, macaroni and cheese, oven glo potatoes, broccoli polonaise, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, chocolate drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake, lemon butter cream frosting, blueberry pie. Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream Of potato soup, apple glazed corn beef, Teriyaki chicken, Rissole potatoes, noodles Jefferson, succotash, fried cabbage, hot mustard sauce, chicken gravy, cornbread, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, yellow cake, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, butter cream frosting. Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, shrimp Creole, beef cordon bleu, herbed broccoli, lemon baked fish, parsley buttered potatoes, steamed rice, carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, ginger molasses cookies, double layer German chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping. Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

Jobs

USNH Yokosuka Openings

Registered nurse, family practice provider and physician assistant positions open at Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni. Family nurse practitioner position open at Branch Health Clinic Sasebo. Performance improvement coordinator, ob nurse and dental assistant positions open at Yokosuka Clinic. For more information, call 243-6835 or 046-816-6835. Interested applicants should register with the Central Contractor Registration at <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>.

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

Be a friendly person who lets Marines and sailors in need know they've come to the right place. Client services assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. For more information, call 253-5311.

Advertisement 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. Please keep in mind, the Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Woods family says good-bye to station, hello to new beginnings

REFLECTIONS FROM PAGE 2

away into the surgery room and literally flashed through our time together.

Tears began to fall as she disappeared, and I said, "I love you; I'm right out here."

I could hear the baby crying in the nursery behind me. "This can't be happening," I whispered to myself.

Her mother and I embraced for a moment, and then I snapped to and said, "We need help."

I reached for my phone and called my boss, Major Giuseppe Stavale.

I'm crying, trying to hold myself together as he answers the phone. "Sir, Nina's in a bad way," I said. I laid the whole situation out to him.

Before we got off of the phone, he said, "Jay, it's gonna be alright. I'm gonna get us some help."

I vividly remember those words, and the way he said it, "us," he was just as much a part of the situation as I was — like family.

He then set into motion, the events of the rest of the evening, which I am convinced saved Nina's life.

He woke up everybody. Soon thereafter, we had him, the installation executive officer, chaplains, along with a number of Branch Medical Clinic staff there assisting in every way they could.

Not five minutes after they arrived, an attendant came out of the surgery room and said, "The blood bank is getting low; she needs blood."

Stavale reached for his

phone and orchestrated an effort to find willing donors who matched Nina's blood type.

In a matter of minutes, the ambulance driver, chaplain Robert Mills, military police and Japanese security guards standing duty, random Marines awakened in the middle of the night from the barracks, and Master Sergeants James Chambers and Christopher Wikel from the Provost Marshal's Office were all there to give blood, not to mention the backup group of donors waiting at PMO to be shuttled to the hospital if needed.

The rest of the night was up and down in terms of her health.

Kubota had to apply direct pressure to some of her organs, literally holding her together to keep her from bleeding to death.

We have a very moving photo of donors lining the hallway, in a literal walking blood bank.

It wasn't until months later, after the records were translated, when we found out exactly how much blood she took.

That night we were told 20 units, but it was actually 30 units of bank blood and five units of live blood from the donors for a total of 35 units.

The surgery was finally finished at around 7 a.m. The Iwakuni community had saved her life.

Nina would go on to spend the next two weeks in the hospital with months of recovery time.

I thank God above for everyone that helped that night because they didn't

have to do everything they did.

What is just as impressive to me is the fact that the support didn't go away that day.

Japanese and Americans alike came to visit her in the hospital, bring food, clean our house, laundry and anything else we needed.

People we didn't even know came out to help that night and continued to do so over the ensuing weeks and months.

Again, the community was there for my family, and I am indebted to them forever.

Last Monday, Nina and I sat in the floor, and we both laughed and cheered as Gabe crawled to me from across the room.

He's 8 months old now, and I couldn't help but think how different that moment would have been if Iwakuni hadn't been there for us that night last August.

Maybe it is Japan or being on a small base in a small community but throughout our tour, much less this situation, we have been received with open arms by this entire country.

We love it here and will always consider this place a home.

We permanently changed stations, April 17, and when the wheels went up off of runway 02, it was bittersweet.

We are excited about beginning a new chapter in our lives but will never forget the warmth, love and sense of home we felt here in Iwakuni, Japan.

I thank you all very much. God speed and Semper Fidelis.



William Chatman (right), power forward for the Ready Group, and Deante Patterson, forward for the Diablos, leap into the air in an attempt to gain possession of the basketball for their team during an intramural basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here June 2. The Ready Group lived up to their name as they defeated the Diablos 35-27.

Ready Group steps up, defeats Diablos 35-27

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Ready Group lived up to their name as they defeated the Diablos 35-27 during an intramural basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here June 2.

The Ready Group has played well during the intramural basketball season overall, taking home a few wins and sometimes leaving with room to improve their game.

This time, the Ready Group looked forward to adding another win to their name.

They spent a few moments before the game pumping each other up and motivating each other to get themselves focused on winning.

The Diablos stepped forward with an ambitious six-man team. The Diablos put up a good fight as each player pushed to endure the full length of the game without any change-over.

In the end, the Diablos were too short in number and proved no match for their opponents.

In spite of the turnout, the Diablos were out to compete and have fun.

The referee blew the whistle to signal the start of the game, and without hesitation opposing players from each team jumped into the air to gain possession of the ball.

In the beginning it looked as if the Diablos were giving the Ready Group a run for their money as the players set up plays and passed the ball to score a few baskets.

The Diablos players took a few drives to the basket for some easy lay-ups and passed the ball out a few times to allow a player to score a 2-pointer from inside the arc.

This put the Diablos up by six points during the first 10 minutes of the game.

As the Ready Group began to realize their position, they sped up their momentum.

Shot after shot, the Ready Group racked up points to even out the score and eventually get ahead.

William Chatman, power forward for the Ready Group, kept strategy in mind.

"When I see an opportunity, I'm going to take it," said Chatman. "If the other team backs off, I'm going to take the shot. If I don't have an open shot, I'm going to kick it back out to my open teammate."

After being fouled a few times while driving the ball down the center, Derrius Beverly, power forward for the Ready Group, managed to put points on the board for his team.

"When you try to make plays,

they are going to try to foul you," said Beverly. "I was expecting to get fouled to get a chance to put some points on the board."

The buzzer signaled the end of the first half with the Ready Group on top 16-14.

The Ready Group started the second half strong.

The game continued with a lot of back and forth running up and down the court, leaving the players exhausted.

The Diablos managed to put a few more points on the board, but the endurance of the players seemed to be wearing out.

Chatman provided strong defense down low on the court, which made it hard for the Diablos to cut through.

"My goal in the game is not to score a million points," said Chatman. "My goal is to stop my opponent from scoring points."

The buzzer signaled the end of the game and the Ready Group took home a victory with a final score 35-27.

The Ready Group looked back on the game as a learning experience overall.

"There are definitely things we need to work on," said Chatman. "We just need to get together, start taking wins and run with it."

"We have been up and down,"

said Beverly. "We need to keep building our foundation and make sure it's strong."

The post-season playoffs are slated to begin June 16.

For more information about upcoming intramural sports events and games call the intramural sports center at 253-3067.



Emmanuel Rosario, point guard for the Diablos, takes a foul shot from the free throw line during an intramural basketball game at the IronWorks Gym here June 2.

2010 SUMMER SLAM

Community members pump iron at IronWorks Gym

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Twenty-six competitors showed up to test their strength, fitness and power during the 2010 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition at the IronWorks Gym here June 5.

Abe Roman won the title as the men's overall champion with a successful best attempt weight of 410 pounds and a combined weight of 1,124 pounds.

Roman currently holds the base record for his weight class.

In the women's division, Umeyo Kunihiro took first place in the strength portion of the competition.

Her best bench press was 181 pounds and her combined weight overall was 512 pounds.

The competition allowed the competitors to attempt three bench presses.

The amount of weight was to be determined by the individual competitors according to their own abilities and personal goals.

Before the competition, the competitors were briefed about the rules of the competition.

The lift only counted toward their combined total weight if they were able to fully extend their arms.

One by one, the contestants took their turn as they laid flat on the bench, positioned themselves in ready positions and, with their best effort, aimed to haul the great amount of weight



Adrian Figueroa bench press competitor, attempts to lift 260 pounds during the 2010 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition at the IronWorks Gym here June 5. The amount of weight was left to be determined by the individual competitors according to their own abilities and personal goals. The lift only counted toward their combined total weight if competitors were able to fully extend their arms during the lift.

mounted on the bar.

Marines and spectators who watched the action cheered to motivate the competitors with each attempt.

"There is a lot of technique to it," said Roman. "The idea is to decrease the range of motion by putting your shoulders and chest into position so you can press the most weight."

Lifters were also required to keep their feet flat on the floor and maintain their position throughout the attempted bench press.

"Once you start adding weight

to the bar, a lot of variables come into play," said Shawn Lawson, bench press competitor. "Everything plays into it, including what you do with your neck, your back and your shoulders."

For some, bench pressing is just a way to bulk up. To others, it's a test of strength, focus and endurance in an attempt to reach personal goals.

"It's neat to come and watch young Marines build strength and develop," said Roman.

"Once you get into it, it's hard to get away from," said Shawn Lawson, bench press competitor.

"They call it getting bit by the iron bug."

Lawson won first place in his weight class and set a new personal record with a best attempt of 364 pounds.

"It's about coming out, having a good time, pushing as much weight as you can and beating your own record," said Lawson.

"It's definitely a test of strength," said Roman. "For me, it's a hobby and goes along with the Marine fitness lifestyle of strength, fitness and power."



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Umeyo Kunihiro, bench press competitor, receives the first place trophy, presented by Jeramie Johnson, complex manager with Marine Corps Community Services, after dominating overall in the women's division during the 2010 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition at the IronWorks Gym here June 5. Kunihiro's best bench press was 181 pounds and her combined weight overall was 512 pounds.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Abe Roman, bench press competitor, receives the first place trophy, presented by Jeramie Johnson, complex manager with Marine Corps Community Services, after dominating overall in the men's division during the 2010 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition at the IronWorks Gym here June 5. Roman's best bench press was 410 pounds and his combined weight overall was 1,124 pounds.