

NIGHT IN PARADISEStation gets taste of
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Day activities | p. 12**THE IWAKUNI APPROACH**

Issue No. 25, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MWSS-171 concludes weeklong training exercise at Penny LakeLANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines conducted Exercise Thunder Horse at Penny Lake field here June 21-25.

The exercise focused on motor transport operation training and was done in preparation for exercise Haramura scheduled for July 16-23 in Haramura, Japan.

"What we are doing right now is going through a process we call the crawl, walk, run method, and right now we are doing the basics here (in Iwakuni)," said Master Sgt. Eldrich Richardson, MWSS-171 motor transport operations chief. "We're putting them in a class environment (here) and teaching them the things that are expected of them."

The training was important and needed to be done so the MWSS-171 Marines would not fall behind in their training and

SEE **EXERCISE** ON PAGE 3**ABGD hit ground running in Thunder Horse**LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 air base ground defense platoon began immediate action drills for reaction to improvised explosive devices and small arms fire at the north side football field here June 23.

The immediate action drills were conducted as part of Exercise Thunder Horse, which ended June 25. The ABGD platoon is composed of various MWSS-171 units including MWSS-171 Motor Transportation, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear and Headquarters.

"If we ever did get bombed or

attacked on this base, our main mission would be to protect the airfield," said Cpl. Dustin Lindsay, MWSS-171 combat engineer.

The immediate drill training is not only instrumental in preparing the ABGD Marines to respond to incidents on the air station, but it's also important for the Marines who may deploy to Afghanistan in the near future.

"My Marines love (training). It's a lot of cross training where it's not just the same Monday 9-5 job kind of deal like it is (on the air station). They get out of the office and have their own platoon where everybody bonds and has a lot

SEE **ABGD** ON PAGE 3

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

Maj. James S. Whiteker passes the company colors to Maj. Dustin R. Thorn while 1st Sgt. Michael Pritchard, Combat Logistics Company 36 senior enlisted advisor, salutes during the CLC-36 change-of-command ceremony here June 21. Thorn was the former operations officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 35.

CLC-36 receives new COLANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Former 3rd Supply Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, operations officer and supply management unit officer-in-charge, took command of Combat Logistics Company 36 during a change-of-command ceremony here June 21.

Maj. Dustin R. Thorn, relieved Maj. James S. Whiteker, who is headed to Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he will be the training logistics battalion commander for Tactical Training Evaluation Control Group Coyote 41 logistics

lead cell.

Thorn enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1994 and was assigned to Mike Battery, 4th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment.

Thorn was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1998.

In August 2002, he deployed to Iraq as the Marine Corps Logistics Command liaison officer to 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Taqqaddumm, Iraq.

In May 2005, he served as the executive officer for Marine Detachment, Keesler Air Force Base,

SEE **CLC-36** ON PAGE 3**CLC-36 to participate in Exercise Dragon Fire 2010 to improve combat effectiveness**CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Marines of Combat Logistics Company 36 here are scheduled to participate in Exercise Dragon Fire 2010 at the base of Mount Fuji in mid-July.

Exercise Dragon Fire is a 10-day exercise designed to familiarize Marines with weapon systems, convoy operations, military operations in urban terrain, land navigation and patrolling.

Whether in garrison or combat, it is CLC-36's responsibility to ensure III Marine

Expeditionary Force units aboard the air station, and other locations as directed by the 3rd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, are provided with sustained combat logistics through intermediate maintenance and supply support.

While they strive to be experts in their field to attain mission accomplishment, their main focus is always combat effectiveness.

Due to location, the Marines have difficulty performing training needed to achieve this.

"We don't get to do (this training) every day, but we do send out a lot of individual augments to Afghanistan. So we want to make sure that

the majority of the Marines get familiarized and trained with the weapons," said Gunnery Sgt. Kent Sabido, CLC-36 operations chief.

Last year's exercise focused mainly on weapons familiarization. This year, MOUT and convoy operations will be incorporated into the training evolution for the first time.

"If we only focus on everyone just being riflemen then we aren't doing (the Marines) justice," said Sabido. "We try to train them as much as we can by giving them familiarization and different scenarios and different ideas of

SEE **DRAGON** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Freedom ain't free'

LT. CMDR. DENIS N. COX
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

This weekend, we get to celebrate one of America's most famous holidays. The 4th of July is synonymous with liberty and freedom. One look at the date will conjure up images of red, white and blue, parades, fireworks, and Lady Liberty.

Freedom is a state or condition people experience when they have been set free from a

bondage or constraint. I would take that one step farther and say that unless people are willing to live responsibly in that freedom, they are still in bondage. They are subjecting themselves to the same constraints that held them in the first place.

Here's another twist: one can be free on the outside (released from slavery and/or servitude) and yet still be in bondage on the inside (to addictions and men-

tal disabilities). On the other hand; one can be free on the inside and yet still be in bondage on the outside. There is a difference.

To be free on the outside, all one has to do is live in a state that allows for freedom (i.e., live in a democracy or republic), but to be free on the inside, something has to happen within that person in order for the condition of freedom to occur.

Many times, people cannot set themselves free. Either medication or other intervention must take place.

I would like to suggest a relationship

with Jesus Christ; that relationship could bring freedom on the inside that everyone is looking for.

A relationship with Jesus can release even the strongest bondage from someone.

On July 4, we celebrate freedom from tyranny brought on by Great Britain. We've been set free on the outside and we celebrate as a nation that day it occurred. When can you celebrate the day you were set free on the inside?

As for me and my house, we celebrate that day every time we go to worship at church.

Swimming safety tips

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY OFFICE

Understanding the risks of being around water and following some basic safety rules greatly reduces your chance of injury or drowning. Follow these tips to keep safe in the water.

SWIMMING:

- Avoid unsupervised areas. Swim in areas with lifeguards. Remember, the local Japanese beaches are manned with lifeguards only during the official swimming season.
- Never dive into the unknown. Get local knowledge on environment and terrain and always check the water depth, and check for rocks and other hazardous objects that may be underwater.
- Severe neck injuries may result from diving into shallow waters.
- Never swim after rain or

typhoon conditions. The local rivers and seas swell from flash floods and strong currents during and after heavy rain or typhoon conditions.

- Never swim alone. Always use the buddy system.
- Avoid alcohol consumption. Stay sober in the water.
- Don't fight the current.

Trying to reach the shore by swimming against the current will get you nowhere...swim in a line parallel to the shore, and head for the shore once you're out of the current.

- Water Safety is everyone's responsibility.
- Use a reach or throw floatation rescue technique first, last resort is a water entry rescue. You could become a victim.
- Always be prepared for an emergency. Emergency action plans should be part of every recreational activity.
- Fun stops when a mishap

occurs.

RIVER SURVIVAL SWIMMING POSITION:

- On your back.
- Feet pointing downstream.
- Your feet up with your toes just at the surface.
- Propel yourself towards the nearest bank with your arms when you are in rapids.
- Change to side swimming when out of the rapids to get to the side.
- Abandon the survival swimming position if you are heading for a strainer (an obstacle like a branch or log).

Swim as fast as you can sideways away from it.

If you cannot manage to avoid the strainer, change to feet pointing downstream at the last moment and climb as far up the strainer as you can. Hold on, making sure you keep at least your head out of the water.

got news?

Do you have an idea for a story or need coverage for an event? We are here for you. Contact the Public

Affairs office two weeks in advance by e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.



"Blast from the Past"

A live 2-hour radio show featuring the best of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Every Monday 7 - 9 p.m. on power 157.5.

Thunder Horse prepares MWSS-171 for battle



Lance Cpl. Keenen Chapple-Brown, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 logistics vehicle systems operator, and Pvt. Zachary Leininger, an MWSS-171 motor vehicle operator, work together to hook up two vehicles together during a professional military education class, which was taught during Exercise Thunder Horse at Penny Lake field here June 23. Exercise Thunder Horse was conducted to train MWSS-171 Marines in motor transport operations and prepare them for the upcoming exercise Haramura slated for July 16-23 in Haramura, Japan.

EXERCISE FROM PAGE 1

become unprepared for battle, Richardson said.

MWSS-171 Motor Transport Operations Company and Airfield Operations Company Marines were the two companies involved in the exercise.

Richardson said he hoped the training conducted during exercise Thunder Horse sparked the junior Marines' curiosity, leading them to take the initiative and find out more about their jobs by asking questions and researching their responsibilities.

The participating service members first arrived on scene at Penny Lake Field on June 21 and secured the area before setting up their camp and establishing security.

Once camp was set up, the Marines received training, which familiarized them with the proper methods in mounting weapons to their vehicles, how to run a tactical convoy, how to assess casualties under fire and learn various other skills.

The Marines also received training in the fine points involved in operating their vehicles during numerous professional military education classes which were held throughout the exercise.

Sgt. Robinson Marmolejos, an MWSS-171 logistics vehicle systems operator, said he believed

CLC-36 to participate in 10-day ground combat exercise

DRAGON FROM PAGE 1

what actually happens in Afghanistan."

Sabido said they fill several IA billets for Afghanistan each year, and he wants his Marines to have the opportunity to prepare and become confident in their skills.

During the exercise, CLC-36 will also work to improve small-unit leadership and company camaraderie.

"Any field operation usually brings all levels of leadership, all the way down to privates, closer together and able to get to know each other a little bit more because we're around each other more often," said Sgt. Curtis L. Krueger, CLC-36 data chief.

Exercise Thunder Horse was a good way to train the Marines and turn them from drivers into operators.

"Anyone can drive one of these things, but to actually know how to operate (the vehicles) you need training," said Marmolejos.

Some of the training and periods of instruction the Marines participated in during the exercise showed the MWSS-171 Marines what vehicles worked best depending on the situation and mission at hand.

Many of the participating junior Marines felt the training they received during exercise Thunder Horse was extremely important.

"It was a good (opportunity) to learn a lot regardless of your rank," said Lance Cpl. Cody Lewis, an MWSS-171 motor vehicle operator.

"This is the type of training that we're going to need to know (in case we go to war). This is capability testing. We need to see how fast we can set up camp, how well we can operate inside a camp and how well we can tear down, push forth and move out."

Although the training can seem like a hassle right now, who knows, later in the future if confronted in a war zone Marines can look back on this training, Lewis said.

CLC-36 command change

CLC-36 FROM PAGE 1

Biloxi, Miss.

In July 2009, Thorn deployed as an individual augment to Multi-National Forces - Iraq, Camp Victory, Iraq.

"I really look forward to serving this company with as much as possible every day," said Thorn. "I can't wait to start working with everyone, especially in Fuji."

Thorn's personal decorations and awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

ABGD platoon improves skill set, ready to defend

ABGD FROM PAGE 1

of fun training like infantry Marines." Lindsay also said the training is a good method to get the Marines out of their sections to train and build camaraderie at the same time.

"It's a good experience to get out of the office and actually be a Marine, which is what all of us really want to do," said Lance Cpl. Erik G. Vanvoorhis, MWSS-171 CBRN defense specialist.

The ABGD platoon began its training June 21 at the Penny Lake field where Marines started their weeklong training at 3 a.m.

As a start, the MWSS-171 ABGD Marines practiced immediate action drills for covering flank fire, covering sectors of fire and tactically pursuing and surrounding the enemy for capture.

"Basically, if you can contain the enemy, it's the best because that's how we get our information, so that's what I'm trying to teach these Marines," said Lindsay.

Along with standing immediate action drills, the Marines practiced immediate action drills when patrolling in tactical vehicles.

ABGD Marines practiced staggering Humvees in order to enclose roads and cover sectors of fire when reacting to enemy fire during convoys or patrols.

"This also helps these Marines who will be leaving this unit and deploying pretty soon, especially with Afghanistan and Iraq going on. They're going to need at least something to take to their next unit with them," said Sgt. Javier Melendez, MWSS-171 Motor T. operator.

After several run-throughs of the different immediate action drills, the ABGD Marines headed back to Penny Lake to complete the remainder of their training for the day.

"Overall, it went pretty good. This is my first time with this platoon, but the proper training from myself and my NCOs are making this platoon up to par," said Melendez.

Lindsay said the remaining days of Thunder Horse will piggy-back off of the day before until the platoon completes all of the training he expects them to learn in preparation for Exercise Haramura, which will take place in July.

Iwakuni veterinarians



LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN

Army Sgt. April Johnson, animal care noncommissioned officer here, and Mary Gaddis, class participant, administer first aid to simulated injured pets during the first American Red cross dog and cat first aid course here March 30. The petcare courses are one of many activities the veterinarian clinic provides to pet owners stationed here.

Soldiers provide quality healthcare to air station's pets

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With a staff of only five service members, the U.S. Army soldiers here cover a broad number of responsibilities on the air station.

Briefly and rarely, Marines may see a soldier pass by them while walking to the Crossroads or see soldiers conducting physical training activities outdoors, but many Marines and sailors here have no idea the contribution these soldiers make to the air station.

Being the only branch in the military providing veterinarian services, two soldiers stationed here carry out the animal care duties for the entire air station with a staff of one enlisted person and one commissioned officer.

"One day I'm in Thailand inspecting water sources, and the next day I'm in the clinic vaccinating kittens and puppies," said Army Capt. Kimberly Yore, chief of Iwakuni veterinary services.

Since Yore is the only Army commissioned officer on the air station, she is the officer-in-charge of both the veterinary and food inspection soldiers here.

Three of the four enlisted soldiers work in the food inspection office leaving just one to the veterinary clinic.

Army Sgt. April Johnson, animal care non-commissioned officer, said it would be nice if there was another enlisted person here.

The Army is the only military branch to offer veterinary care as a military occupational specialty, making the demand on the Army for veterinarians in the military very high.

With the recent change in the length of Army Veterinarian Corps training, enlisted personnel have 11 weeks to learn all the basics of being a veterinarian specialist, but in the past the course only ran for nine weeks.

"The course was very hard because you're learning to be a technician in a course of nine weeks, which usually takes two to three years on the civilian side," said Johnson.

The veterinary clinic provides a wide variety of services to air station residents including basic surgeries, dental cleanings, preventative medicine, vaccinations and deworming.

They also provide veterinary services to the Military working dogs and provide information for public health concerns.

Even with the short amount of staff in the veterinary clinic, Johnson and Yore manage to ensure an adequate work flow in the clinic.

Johnson keeps a 24-hour phone line available to advise proper services to pet owners after work hours or to guide pet owners to nearby veterinarian facilities in case of emergencies.

"It really is about helping out the service members," said Yore. "Many of our clients consider their pets to be like family members, and so much of my job is like being a pediatrician. So taking care of people's pets is

sometimes like taking care of people's children."

Not only does the veterinarian team provide petcare services on the air station but the team also assists during deployment exercises including Cobra Gold in Thailand and Balikatan in the southern Philippines.

"Were not just covering a wide array of things here in Japan; we actually help with global missions," said Yore.

Although a vast amount of responsibilities are tasked to the veterinary soldiers, Johnson enjoys working with animals.

"I like the fact that you have to figure things out with animals," said Johnson. "You have to actually use the knowledge that was given to you. You have to look for signs and symptoms of what's wrong with them versus someone being able to tell you."

Yore enjoys the experience and responsibilities that come with being an Army veterinarian.

"A veterinarian career is diverse, but (in) a military veterinarian career, we have our hands in just about anything," said Yore.

Johnson said although the Iwakuni veterinarian clinic only has a staff of two, they are currently considered the number one clinic in the ongoing battle for the top spot between all Japanese district veteran clinics, and by next year the Iwakuni veterinarian clinic plans on taking the number one spot throughout the Pacific Region command. To contact the clinic, call 253-3588.

Ma'ohi Nui shares Polynesian culture with station members

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A loud "Aloha!" was the first thing station members heard as they walked into the IronWorks Gym here Saturday for a luau presented by Ma'ohi Nui, a Polynesian entertainment group.

Ma'ohi Nui stopped in Iwakuni during a six-day tour of the Asian Pacific for service members serving overseas.

Dancers greeted station members with leis as they entered what seemed to be a tropical paradise.

For the first hour, everyone was welcomed to listen to music provided by the singers and musicians and enjoy the feast of traditional Hawaiian foods, including salmon lomi-lomi, chicken char siu and kalua pork.

As the audience started to wrap up their meals, the lights started to dim.

Hawaiian dancers filled the stage with ornate headdresses and costumes. Sounds of drums and chanting filled the entire gym.

As the performance began, children who at first were bouncing off the walls were now sitting quietly around the stage enthralled by the vibrant colors and energetic dancing.

The performance included singing and dancing from many different islands of Polynesia including the different islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa and Tonga.

The dances ranged from slow and romantic to fierce and dramatic.

The crowd got more and more excited as the night progressed, but just when everyone thought it was almost over, the lights went out completely and soon all anyone could see was one ball of fire.

Mervyn Lilo, the lead male dancer, took the stage with a flaming wooden pole in hand. Lilo moved the fire from one end of the pole to the other with his bare hand and commenced in the Samoan fire dance. He twirled the fire from one hand to the other back and forth while the audience stared at the circles of flames he had under such control.

As the fire dance ended, dancers grabbed station members from the audience for what they called Hula 101.

Both men and women came to the stage to try to shake their hips like the experienced Polynesian dancers. None could quite pull it off as well as Ma'ohi Nui, but it definitely made for a good show.

As a group, Ma'ohi Nui says their goal is to learn and share the customs and culture of Polynesia through song and dance.

"It is very rewarding for us to be able to share what we love doing with everyone who is serving our country so that we can be free," said Lilo.

Kea Lili, a musician with the group says that he loves seeing troops get excited and boosting their morale.

"We can jam for one guy or a thousand, it doesn't matter," said Lili. "We just love what we do and celebrating our culture."



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Mervyn Lilo, the lead male dancer for Ma'ohi Nui, reaches up to touch a ball of fire during the Luau held at the IronWorks Gym here Saturday. This was part of the Samoan fire dance Lilo performed.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

The male dancers for Ma'ohi Nui perform a Tongan dance during the Luau held at the IronWorks Gym here Saturday. The performance included singing and dancing from many different islands of Polynesia including the different islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa and Tonga.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

A dancer performs a Tahitian dance during the Luau held at the IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Dances ranged from slow and romantic to fierce and dramatic.

MWSS-171 trains to recognize, identify, avoid IEDs

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A Marine motor transport convoy carrying armaments, medical supplies and other mission essential provisions rumbles through the rugged terrain in some remote location in the mountains of Afghanistan.

The convoy maneuvers through the rocky terrain moving at a speed of 40 miles per hour.

Fully armed and vigilant, all Marines in the vehicles keep their eyes on their surroundings, knowing a momentary lapse in judgment or complacency can forfeit all their lives.

At a distance, hidden behind some rubble and overgrown greenery, lies a Taliban insurgent waiting to see if the convoy will fall victim to the improvised explosive device he concealed at the side of the road.

To his disappointment, he looks on as the convoy screeches to a halt 40 meters from where he placed his IED and watches them slowly fall back away from the danger area.

Whether in a convoy or on foot patrol, nearly all service members in today's military are familiar with a similar story like the scenario presented above.

Sometimes the story ended well and sometimes it didn't.

According to Icasualties.org, an organization who receives their numbers based on monthly reports from the Department of Defense, so far this year 300 coalition service members have lost their lives to IEDs in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In an effort to deter the numbers of service members falling victim to roadside bombs and IEDs, military personnel conduct regular training on how to recognize and identify IEDs.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines participated in an IED training course at the north side dump here as part of exercise Thunder Horse June 23.

The IED training course was conducted by Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, an MWSS-171 explosive ordnance disposal assistant team leader.

"If the Marine learns this, whether he's a lance

corporal or a captain, he's going to have this knowledge retained," said Wilhite. "The younger Marines, as they pick up rank and leadership positions, can pass this information on to others."

Wilhite said learning the information covered during the IED course can potentially save the Marines' lives if they ever find themselves in combat.

During the training, the participating Marines learned the components used to create IEDs, how they work and where they might be placed to kill them.

Wilhite said the insurgents are clever in how they create and employ their IEDs.

IEDs have been hidden between the pages of a book and the leaves of a magazine.

While many of the IEDs are made from materials insurgents might have at home, some are made from discarded materials left behind by other service members, which can be set off to explode at a distance by a signal or trigger device.

"Be vigilant and keep your eyeballs moving," said Wilhite. "Look for things that are out of place and recognize the things that are in place. Look for what's out of place because that's typically where your IEDs are."

The IED course the Marines participated in included a motor transport course and a foot patrol during which they had to identify various threats.

If an alarm sounded, the Marines knew they drove in the wrong place or stepped on the wrong spot.

Pfc. Cody Winskey, an MWSS-171 motor transportation operator, took part in the training and had only one thing in mind as he and his team maneuvered through the IED course.

"Don't kill everybody (is what I was thinking)," said Winskey. "I couldn't live with myself if I had to lead two trucks of Marines and got them all killed because I didn't see one little thing."

One of the threats the Marines faced during the IED course was nearly invisible having the thickness of a fishing wire.

Winskey said all Marines should do the training, and if they are ever confronted with the threat, it is equally important for them to realize something as small as a fishing wire can set off an explosion.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 explosive ordnance disposal assistant team leader, explains to MWSS-171 Marines how easily an improvised explosive device can be hidden between the pages of a book during an IED training course conducted at the north side dump here June 23. During the training, the participating Marines learned the components used to create IEDs, how they work and where they might be placed to kill them.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 explosive ordnance disposal assistant team leader, explains the workings of the different types of improvised explosive devices during an IED training course at the north side dump here June 23. The training was done to teach the Marines how to identify hidden IEDs on the road to reduce the number of service members falling victim to them.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines comb through the grass looking for false improvised explosive devices at the north side dump here during an IED training course June 23. According to Icasualties.org, an organization that receives numbers based on monthly reports from the Department of Defense, so far this year 300 coalition service members have lost their lives to IEDs in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines look on as Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 explosive ordnance disposal assistant team leader, explains what to look for when looking for improvised explosive devices during an IED training course conducted at the north side dump here June 23. The IED course included a motor transport course and a foot patrol during which Marines had to successfully identify and avoid IEDs.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sgt. Ryan Wilhite, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 explosive ordnance disposal assistant team leader, explains how an improvised explosive device can be hidden between the pages of a magazine during an IED training course conducted at the north side dump here June 23. Participating Marines were trained to be vigilant and suspicious of anything that might seem out of place as they conducted their patrols.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. DORIAN GARDNER

CAMP DELARAM II, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — First Sgt. Matthew Fortune, Company A first sergeant, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, stands before his Marines and other guests of Cpl. Jeffrey Standfest's memorial ceremony in a moment of prayer June 22. Standfest was killed by an improvised explosive device when searching a building during an operation with the explosive ordnance disposal team.

Engineer falls victim to IED, leaves heritage of honorable service



SGT. DORIAN GARDNER

CAMP DELARAM II, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — A member of the memorial cross detail places Cpl. Jeffrey Standfest's dog tags around the pistol grip of a M-16 A2 service rifle during a memorial service held to honor Standfest June 22. Deployed to Afghanistan with Company A, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, Standfest was killed by an improvised explosive device while attempting to clear a building of suspected IEDs.

SGT. DORIAN GARDNER
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 2

CAMP DELARAM II, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

— With our nation at war, young men and women have constantly answered the call to bear arms and protect the nation's way of life. With every war come casualties. On June 16, Cpl. Jeffrey Standfest was counted among many of America's fallen warriors.

During a post assessment of an improvised explosive device blast, Standfest, an engineer and military working dog handler, was killed by the blast of a second IED.

Unlike many enlisted Marines, Standfest didn't go to boot camp directly following his graduation from Saint Clair High School in St. Clair, Mich. Recognized as a dominant runner, Standfest enrolled at Oakland University in 2005 and competed as a cross-country runner. Not long after, Standfest made the decision to become a U.S. Marine, inspired by his grandfather, who served in

WWII.

Upon completion of recruit training in 2005, Standfest attended Marine Corps Engineer School at Courthouse Bay aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Graduating as a combat engineer, he received orders to 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. He was soon assigned to Company A.

According to Capt. Brady Petrillo, Company A commander, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, Standfest constantly demonstrated a high level of maturity.

"He was smart, articulate; he had life experiences as well," said Petrillo. "He brought a lot to the table." Because of his constant demonstration of maturity and leadership, Standfest was selected to become one of the unit's few dog handlers, specializing in ordnance detection.

"It was mostly because of his abilities," said Petrillo. "He was one of the top getters in this company."

Company A deployed in April to Helmand Province,

Afghanistan.

Since April, Standfest has been operating alongside fellow engineers as a dog handler, detecting IEDs and assisting the route clearance platoon, clearing routes for future convoys.

During an operation in June, Standfest was attempting to clear a building when a secondary IED was set off, killing him. The memories he left behind have left an impression on the company that will never be forgotten.

Company A held a memorial service to honor Cpl. Standfest and his service in this war. Marines and sailors throughout Camp Delaram II were in attendance, as well as Marines throughout the area of operation, to include Brig. Gen. Joseph Osterman, 1st Marine Division (Forward) commanding general.

"This memorial was a time to help Marines cope with and mourn together over the loss of Jeffrey," said 1st Sgt. Matthew Fortune, Company A first sergeant. "Jeffrey was considered to be a brother to us all, and we all knew him and grew close to him. We will never forget the sacrifice he gave for our country."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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 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.

July American Red Cross Courses

• Babysitter Instructor, July 9 from 5-8 p.m. and July 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Must attend both days. \$75.
• Babysitting for ages 12 and up, July 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$40.
• Dog First Aid and CPR, July 14 from 6-9 p.m. \$40.
• Cat First Aid and CPR, July 15 from 6-9 p.m. \$40.

• Adult, Child and Infant First Aid and CPR, July 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$40.
All classes are held at the ARC Office at the Marine Memorial Chapel. You must come to the office to sign up and pay prior to taking the course.

Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check-out items and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Bldg. 411 Rm. 101. Appointments are from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For further information, call 253-6161.

Summer Reading Program

The station library will hold "Voyage to Book Island" summer reading program through Aug. 4 and will be open to readers ages 5-12 years. Summer reading participants will meet every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the station library and participate in games, art and craft projects and story time. For more information, stop by the library circulation desk, call 253-5156 or email pughbj@usmc-mccs.

Coupon Distribution Program

Stop by Bldg. 411 and pick up free coupons to use at the commissary. Coupons are accepted up to six months past the original expiration date. Coupons are donated by various organizations. The biggest coupons saver contest is ongoing until July 31. For more information, call 253-6161.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

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

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active

duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, room 148.

Brief Submissions

To submit a community brief, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. You may submit your brief or classified ad 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
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

A 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, July 2, 2010

7 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. The Losers (PG-13)

Saturday, July 3, 2010

1 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
4 p.m. Just Wright (PG)
Premier
7 p.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG-13)
10 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R)

Sunday, July 4, 2010

1 p.m. Just Wright (PG)

4 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)

Monday, July 5, 2010

1 p.m. Toy Story 3 (PG)
Premier

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

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

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

7 p.m. The Losers (PG-13)

Thursday, July 8, 2010

1 p.m. The Karate Kid (PG)
7 p.m. The Back-up Plan (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

1997 Toyota Spacio

JCI good until July 2012. 130,775 km. Seats six. Very versatile car. The middle bench seat converts into booster seats and the back bench folds up for great cargo space. Great car for families with preschoolers or early elementary kids because no additional booster seats are needed. Asking \$1800. For more information, call 253-2290 or 080-3494-8748.

1997 Subaru Legacy

JCI good until October. Automatic, good tires, twin turbo, custom exhaust, good brakes, four-wheel drive, tinted windows, 120,000 km, USB compatible stereo, power windows, custom turbo blow off valve, very nice vehicle. Asking \$1,100 OBO. For more information, call 235-3838 during the week or email preston.juddly@yahoo.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, stop by the dental clinic in Bldg. 111 or call 253-5252/3331 to speak with HM1 Taft or HMC Hunter.

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

Be that friendly person who lets them know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. To apply, call 253-5311.

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>.

Miscellaneous

Giant XTC Mountain Bike.

Light, tough, fun. Great for street or off-road. Always stored indoors, rarely used. Excellent condition. Was \$900 new. Will sell for \$550 OBO. I will be TDY to Iwakuni July 12-17 and can deliver. Call 080-6748-9904 or 252-3832.

Real Estate

Jacksonville, N.C.

Beautiful four bedroom, two and a half bath room home for sale by owner. 102 E. Carrington Way, Jacksonville, N.C. Great location, near schools in quiet cul-de-sac. Near Marine Corps Air Station New River and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Asking \$204,900. Email sparulis@ec.rr.com for pictures.

To submit a classifieds advertisement request, 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 classifieds advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

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, standard salad bar, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake, butter cream frosting, 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, coleslaw, standard salad bar, 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, butter cream frosting, devil's food cake.

Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, cantonese spare ribs, turkey curry, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, Southern style green beans, corn on the cob, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, mixed fruit salad, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, whipped topping, banana cream pie.

Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

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

Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

U.S. Forces Japan employees celebrate retirement



U.S. Forces Japan employees pose for a group picture with Col. Michael A. O'Halloran during a retirement ceremony at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here June 25. With over 30 years of service: Yoshimitsu Kinoshita, Kenichiro Konosaki and Etsuo Morioka. With over 20 years of service: Hiroto Nishioka, Seiji Yasuhara, Kazumi Yamane, Shigeru Ueno, and Kazue Harakawa. With over 10 years of service: Akira Hoshikawa, Kazuko Kishimoto, Yoshito Marubayashi, Teruyuki Nagabe, Mieko Yanagihara, Renji Yoneshige, and Mihar Shimatani. Not all retirees were present for the ceremony.

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



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Members of both Fil-Am and the Sho Stoppaz fight for the rebound during the championship game of the Intramural Basketball season at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts here June 21. The Sho Stoppaz came out from the losers bracket and won both games that night.

Sho Stoppaz still unstoppable, win intramural championship

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Sho Stoppaz edged Fil-Am 56-48 during the championship game of the Intramural Basketball season at the IronWorks Gym basketball courts here June 21.

The teams faced off against each other in two games that night.

During the first game, Fil-Am lacked both communication and good defense making it easy for the Sho Stoppaz to dominate.

Frustration set in for Fil-Am, but when the second game came around both teams came out with intensity.

"We played extra hard to get out of the losers bracket, and during the second game those guys wanted to show us that they could stay in and fight with us," said Darius Harpe, the Sho Stoppaz coach.

Within the first few minutes of the game, most observers in the stands would have thought that it was going to be a rerun of the prior game as the Sho Stoppaz gained quickly scoring 17 points compared to Fil-Am's five.

By the second half of the first period, Fil-Am stepped up their defense and started driving more shots to the hoop leaving the Sho Stoppaz with only a 7-point lead by the end of the first period.

Both teams went into the second period with the same momentum as the first. The Sho Stoppaz knew that Fil-Am wasn't going down without a fight this time.

During a lapse in the Sho Stoppaz defense, Drevonn Fluellen of Fil-Am drove two shots to the hoop putting them in the lead for the first time all night with a score of 42-41.

After a timeout, the Sho Stoppaz came back focused and ready to win, tying up the game 44-44 with only five minutes remaining.

"We got down a little bit when we let them take that brief lead but then we stepped up the game," said Harpe.

Fil-Am consistently fouled the Sho Stoppaz point guard, Rabosky Tanner, making it easy to rack up points.

After the last free-throw, the Sho Stoppaz ran out the clock, finishing the game 56-48.

Although many attributed the win to Tanner's hard work, he didn't take all the credit.

"It took a team effort," said Tanner. "We all stuck it out till the end and got it done as a team."

"I'm proud of my guys for fighting through that last game," said Harpe. "We got a little tired but we found a way to pull it out, and that's what champions do."



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Drevonn Fluellen, of Fil-Am, puts up a layup during the championship game of the Intramural Basketball season at the IronWorks Gym here June 21. Fluellen put Fil-Am in the lead for the first time during the second half.

4th of July going out guide

Station to celebrate as America turns 234

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

When you joined the military, you knew the life-changing implications that were going to take place. What you didn't know was the endless sacrifices and stresses you and your family were going to endure.

But don't forget what exactly those sacrifices stand for.

We fight to answer the call of terrorism. We fight for honor. We fight so that our families and friends can sleep under the blanket of freedom every night. We fight

for those who can't fight for themselves.

Two hundred thirty-four years ago, the United States separated itself from the Kingdom of Great Britain. And come Sunday, more than 9,000 miles away, Americans will be celebrating the independence of our beloved country.

But just because you're in Japan doesn't mean you can't still celebrate.

Erma Bombeck, an American humorist, once said, "You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White

House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy and

the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

Below, the Iwakuni Approach has compiled a list of must-do activities that are going on around the station.

So, forget those summer diets, fire up the grill, forget about the stresses of daily life and enjoy living under the blanket of freedom that you so generously provide. Go ahead, you deserve it.

Painfully American Activities Checklist

- ✓ Sing along with the 1972 musical about congressmen fighting to "hatch the bird of freedom," directed by Peter Hunt, "1776."
- ✓ Cheer on Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson) as he leads the Colonial Militia during the American Revolution in the 2000 film, "The Patriot."
- ✓ Play the first and original American video game, "Pong."
- ✓ Read best-selling author, Dinesh D'Souza's 2004 book about the value and potential of Western culture, "What's So Great About America?"

Strike Zone Birthday Bash



The station's multi-million dollar bowling facility and activity center, "The Strike Zone," turns two Sunday.

The facility will host open bowling from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Open bowlers will receive one free game. Weekend open bowling rates are \$2.25 per game and \$1.25 for shoe rental.

Several activities will take place during the specified hours. From 11 - 2 p.m., open bowling will run as Red-Head pin. If bowlers score a strike in the frame with the red pin, they'll receive a coupon for a free game. A short demo/clinic will be given by local carded



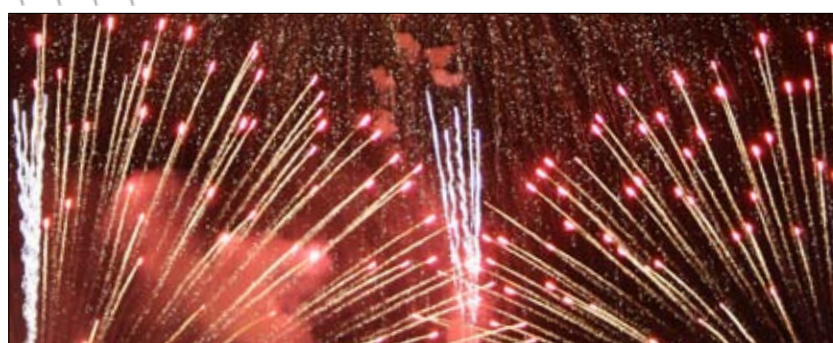
Professional Bowlers Association members from 2 - 3 p.m. From 3 - 7 p.m., it will be cosmic bowling with light and sound effects and music played throughout the night.

Also, the facility will have door prizes and giveaways, including puzzles, popcorn gift tins, T-shirts and towels. The grand prize is a Nintendo Wii. A&W and Pizza Hut will have food specials available for a limited time.



WE WANT YOU TO HAVE A SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AND AWESOME INDEPENDENCE DAY

Watch annual fireworks show on seawall



SGT. JOSH COX

Pyrotechnics fill the sky over the seawall here July 4, 2008.

The station will host its annual firework show Sunday near Penny Lake here from 8:30 - 9 p.m.

The show can be seen from miles away, but the best seats that are still safe are on the seawall here.

During the show, the lights on the seawall are turned off to enhance to show.

Attendees should also be advised that alcohol is not permitted on the seawall at any time.

If heavy rain occurs, the show will be rescheduled for July 5 at 8:30 p.m.

Marine Lounge Pool Tournament



As with every Saturday, Sunday and holiday, the Marine Lounge, located above the Crossroads Mall, will be hosting a pool tournament at 2 p.m. Sunday for a \$5 entry fee.



Saturdays are nine ball tournaments and Sundays are eight ball tournaments. First and second place winners will receive a cash prize. The Marine Lounge is open daily to all single and unaccompanied service members. However, the tournament will be open to all base personnel ages 18 and older.

'Que' it Up



If you have a grill or can find one nearby, why not put some coals on American style? The Commissary here can help. The store boasts having the "greatest meat department in all of Japan," able to support any and all kinds of special orders with enough heads-

up. The deli and produce sections support special orders put in at least 48 hours in advance. For July 4, the produce section can support some special orders today.

Orders aside, store officials said it will be business as usual on Independence Day and the entire holiday weekend.

