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SWINGIN

Whose bats were hot, whose were not | p. 11

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 26, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MWSS-171 Marines to build schoolhouse in Bangladesh

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Approximately 40 Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineers will be deploying to Bangladesh in support of the Bangladesh Interoperability Exercise through the Engineering Civic Action Program, July 7.

The exercise will enhance security and stability in the region.

MWSS-171 Marines will be working hand in hand with the Bangladesh Army for 20 days to construct a schoolhouse.

On average, Marines will be working up to 20-hour days to complete the project on time.

"I'm looking forward to see what the troops can do," said Sgt. Adam Smith, combat engineer platoon sergeant. "We've deployed to other countries before to build schools. I want to see if they can keep the same standard in the time crunch that we have."

Even though MWSS-171 Marines have gone on several deployments with the same mission, there is still a lot to be learned.

"More than just increasing their (military occupational specialty) proficiency and their ability to perform their job as Marines, I hope they gain insight into how other cultures operate, how the people there live, what their military is like, and just learn a little bit about the world," said 2nd Lt. Craig Decicco, combat engineer platoon commander.

Smith said working with the foreign military will not only help troops with job competence but will also help build lasting friendships.

SEE **MWSS-171** ON PAGE 3

Strike Zone celebrates 2nd anniversary

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Community members joined together at the Strike Zone here to celebrate the second anniversary of the multi-million dollar bowling center July 4.

The bowling center offers 20 professional lanes, a pro shop, gaming room, billiards room, the Eleventh Frame lounge, a children's play area, locker rooms, Pizza Hut, A&W and slot machines.

"We've now been open two years," said Matthew Niedzwiecki, Strike Zone general manager. "This was a very involved process to open this bowling center. I know that local

(Marine Corps Community Services) along with the command went back and forth with Headquarters MCCS. A lot of effort on a lot of different levels went into building this place."

In the past year, a women's bowling league was added on Wednesday nights and monthly tournaments were added to every last Saturday of the month.

"We want to add additional leagues and also work together with all the (family readiness officers) to get more unit function type events here (in the following year)," said Niedzwiecki.

The bowling center has different themes each night of the week for both the experienced and

SEE **STRIKE** ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran (right) passes the organizational colors to Col. James C. Stewart during the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni change-of-command ceremony here June 30. The exchange of the organizational colors is symbolic of the transfer of command from the outgoing commanding officer to the oncoming commanding officer.

Station receives new CO

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The former Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps director of aviation manpower and support branch took charge as the new Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, commanding officer during a change-of-command ceremony at the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 hangar here June 30.

Col. James C. Stewart relieved Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, who is headed to U.S. Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany, where he will serve as the director of joint development and readiness.

Stewart graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant May 1988.

From 1991 to 1994, Stewart deployed twice to MCAS Iwakuni as part of the Unit Deployment Program with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 (VMAQ-1).

In November 1994, Stewart deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Europe, in support of Operations Deny Flight and Decisive Endeavor.

In June 1998, Stewart served as the Electronic Warfare department head for VMAQ-2 in Cherry Point, N.C.

In 1999, Stewart deployed to Aviano Airbase, Italy, in support of Operation

Allied Force, supporting air strikes in Serbia and Montenegro.

Stewart accrued 87 strike flights in combat operations against defense forces of the Republics of former Yugoslavia.

From 2002 to 2004, Stewart served as the electronic warfare coordinator for the U.S. Headquarters Marine Corps Aviation Department.

From July 2004 to June 2006, Stewart served as the commanding officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron here.

During his first stay in Iwakuni, Stewart deployed to Indonesia, Thailand, and the Republic of Philippines supporting humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief efforts.

In June 2006, Stewart reported to U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany, as the director of contingency and long-range campaign plans.

Stewart's personal decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Air Medal-Air Heroic Medal with gold star and combat "V", Air Medal-Strike Flight with a numeral three, Joint Services Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Priorities, Priorities, Priorities

LT. ANTHONY BAKER
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

Let's get down to the point quickly.

What is important to you and why is it important to you?

Priorities in your life are not what you say they are but rather your actions demonstrate what your priorities actually are.

Take inventory of how you spend your time and your resources.

After doing so, you are quickly able to discern what those priorities are.

I say this because I want to bear to light that we often give such emotional and physical value to items that really have no lasting consequence.

The latter is a somewhat ironic idea because in our minds we know what things should be important and we know how we should be spending our time and

yet our body and mind act in contrast to those beliefs.

What is the saddest thing to me I have seen as a chaplain and pastor is when people come to the realization that their priorities are misaligned but no longer have the opportunity to change them.

Allow me to illustrate.

I get a phone call in at 3 a.m. I pick up the phone and answer.

"Chaplain, we just received a Red Cross message.

We need you to notify a service member that their parent has died."

When I sit down with the individual and pass on the news, it breaks my heart to hear the person begin by saying, "I wish that I would ha..." or "If I would have spent more time..."

Taking responsibility and assuming some level of guilt is somewhat normal, but as I pray and share tears with the indi-

vidual, too often it comes to light that the opportunities were there to maintain the important relationship, but the person's time was spent doing something else.

Here is another illustration.

I go to the hospital to visit a friend, family member or co-worker in the hospital who is terminally ill.

With death looming in the near future, the dying person says, "I wish that I would have spent more time..." or "If I could go back in time, I would..."

The last thoughts of the individual are spent in reflection of what might have been rather than reflecting on the things that were.

Don't let time pass you by before you get your life and priorities in order.

As Jesus declared, "This night your life may be demanded of you and who will have the (material) things that you have prepared for yourself?" (Luke 12:20).

Let you and I both learn from those who have gone before us and not wait until it is too late.

Eliminate common scuba diving mishaps

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY OFFICE

A review of scuba diving mishaps shows a variety of factors contribute to a typical mishap. Recurring causes of deaths and serious injuries are lack of certification, failure to monitor air supply, exceeding safe diving depths, not observing decompression limits and plain old panic.

Assessing risks along with making risk decisions and implementing controls will help eliminate common scuba diving mishaps.

Recommendations:

1. Prior to certification, get a thorough physical. Inform your doctor you intend to take up scuba diving. After becoming certified, an additional medical check-up is recommended if you are a smoker, overweight, had recent surgery or are taking medication.

2. Obtain certification from one of the following organizations: National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), the National Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), National Association of Scuba Diving Schools (NASDS), Scuba Schools International (SSI) or the Young Mens Christian Association. These basic scuba certifications do not qualify you to attempt specialty dives such as caverns or caves, entering wrecks or deep dives that were not covered during fundamental skills training. Night diving is also a specialty event.

3. Always dive with a buddy who is certified and have a dive plan.

4. Check all equipment thoroughly prior to the dive. This

includes O-rings, purge valves, buoyancy compensator, regulator and pressure gauge. Make sure your equipment is properly maintained (manufacturer recommended inspections, tests or maintenance).

5. Spend a few minutes before the dive reviewing hand signals with your partner, the dive plan, conducting a final equipment check and an air-sharing drill.

6. Keep a logbook for planning additional dives. This provides a record of good dive spots, depths, equipment used and conditions.

7. Keep a close watch on your air supply during each dive. This is especially true for a new diver until a history of consumption is determined.

8. Scheduled your deepest dive first. Consult the diving tables for the appropriate schedule. Every dive increases the amount of nitrogen in your body's tissue. Allow time for your body to out-gas nitrogen from your system to prevent decompression sickness. When you make consecutive dives, account for the residual nitrogen still in your body prior to making the next dive.

9. Know the depth of the water where you are diving. Frequently sport divers do not pay close attention to the maximum depths attained. An exact accounting of depth and time is essential to safe diving. Observe the maximum allowable depth for your level of certification.

10. Dependent upon a number of variables (cold, stress, fatigue, etc.) nitrogen under pressure can have a narcotic effect on the body at depths at or in excess of 100 feet salt water. If you or a dive partner display behaviors similar to an intoxicated person, you

should return to a shallow depth. When your mental alertness is restored, the dive should then be aborted. Remember: Nitrogen is the gas that determines decompression schedules.

11. Make dives on a no-decompression schedule. Plan each dive, maximum depth and time limits prior to the dive. Stick to your dive plan. Review your normal and emergency ascent procedures and limits. Come up slowly to reduce the chances of experiencing decompression sickness/illness upon ascent.

12. Gain specific information about local diving areas. Profit from the experience of others. Heed their recommendations and warnings.

13. Study weather reports and long-range forecasts to determine if conditions are acceptable for diving. Monitor weather conditions and sea-state continually while diving. Make sure the surf is manageable. Beware of rough water conditions and strong currents, particularly rip currents near shoreline. When caught in a rip current, relax and ride along with it until it diminishes enough to swim clear. Another technique is to swim diagonally across it until clear. If sea-state conditions cause you to hesitate before entering the water, that is your internal signal to abort the dive. Do not get in the "we must make the dive" mode of thinking. Live to dive another day.

14. Know how to identify the dangerous species of sea life likely to be found in your diving area and how to deal with each. Avoidance is the best policy. To prevent harmful stings and abrasions during the dive from

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 3



LANCER CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 make preparations during exercise Thunder Horse at the Penny Lake fields here June 22. MWSS-171 trains year-round in order to be ready at a moment's notice for any situation.

Bangladesh interoperability exercise

MWSS-171 FROM PAGE 1

"Working hand in hand with the Bangladesh Army, we need to create a good working environment with them and create a strong bond between our countries," said Smith.

Decico reminded Marines they are not just building schools but building relationships.

"Marines from 171 were tasked to go in there and build a schoolhouse for the people, build relationships with their military so that we can build

that relationship between the two countries," he said.

The Marines look forward to Bangladesh, but also know the task will not be easy.

Some foreseen challenges include the language barrier, the time allotted to the project and the difference between the work ethic of the Marines and Bangladesh Army.

"It's going to be great, it's going to be hot, it's going to be raining, but it's going to be awesome," said Smith. "We're going to do absolutely great things out there."

Strike Zone turns two, throws party

STRIKE FROM PAGE 1

inexperienced bowler to enjoy.

The cost is \$2.25 per game plus a \$1.25 shoe rental. Student bowling is held Mondays through Thursdays for only 50 cents per game.

Tuesdays are Penny A Pin bowling starting at 6 p.m. Bowlers pay a penny per pin knocked down. For competitive bowlers, free games are given for women who bowl a score of 210 or higher, 225 or higher for men, and 150 or higher for children.

Starting at 6 p.m. Thursdays is Red Head Pin bowling. If bowlers bowl a strike with a red head pin, they receive a coupon. Two coupons earn bowlers a free game. Coupons can be redeemed during open bowling only.

Friday nights at 7 p.m. is Friendship League bowling. Fourteen teams participate in this event. A limited number of lanes are available for open bowling. Reservations are not accepted during this time.

Cosmic bowling begins immediately after Friendship League bowling at 10 p.m. Fridays and also starting at 7 p.m. Saturdays with black lights and the jukebox playing music.

Sundays are Family Fun Time bowling. Kid-friendly movies are played in an alcohol- and tobacco-free atmosphere. The Eleventh



CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
Eric Dreher, 3 years old, releases a ball down the lane at the 2nd anniversary celebration of the multi-million dollar bowling center here, the Strike Zone, July 4. Community members enjoyed a free game of bowling, food specials and door prizes.

Frame is open but no alcohol is permitted outside the lounge.

"I enjoy family bowling the most," said Virginia Stowe, who utilizes the Strike Zone on a weekly basis. "Even though my son isn't old enough to bowl, he can sit and watch the movies playing on the big screens while we bowl and have a good time."

Lunch time bowling specials are held 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Bowlers will receive one free game of bowling

Prevent potential scuba hazards

SAFETY FROM PAGE 2

contact with sharp rocks, coral or sea urchins, wear gloves and protective clothing. When shore diving, be especially careful of those first steps into the water. During warm sea conditions, lightweight nylon body skins provide excellent protection against jellyfish stings. Pay attention to where you are in relationship to your environment, particularly water/air temperatures.

15. The proper equipment also protects you from hypothermia as body heat is lost much faster when in water. Wearing the correct gear not only protects from abrasions and harmful sea life but shields the body from the potentially fatal results of hypothermia.

16. To prevent a potential entrapment hazard carry a sharp cutting device that is specifically designed to cut lines. Wire leaders on fishing lines are particularly dangerous. Make sure your

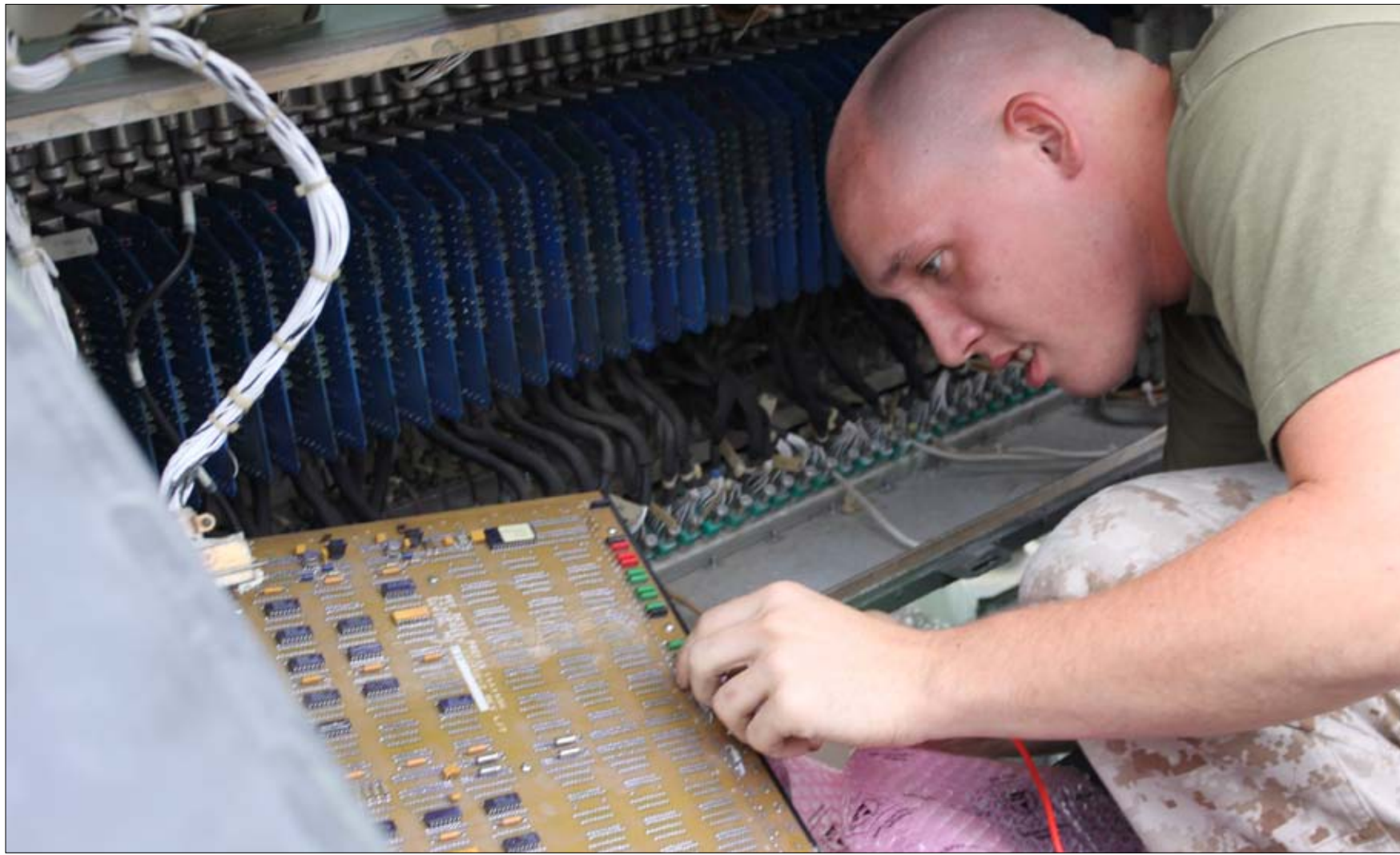
dive partner also carries this type of specialty cutting device. Avoid sharp projections that can puncture hoses or buoyancy vests.

17. Carry signaling devices, even during a daytime dive, just in case you are carried outside of your dive area. Make it easier for fisherman or prospective rescuers to see you. The smallest of sea chop makes it difficult to identify divers on the surface.

18. Always review and follow the basic safety recommendations taught during your certification course; these are lessons learned that can and will save your life during an emergency.

19. Never hold your breath while scuba diving, either on descent or ascent.

20. Many diving fatalities find the diver with their weights still attached (did not "ditch" to attempt an emergency ascent). Often times the victim diver still had breathable air remaining. PANIC KILLS.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Cpl. Zechariah Elliott, an air traffic control radar maintenance specialist, works on a radar antenna at Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B here June 29. MACS-4 Det. B provides Iwakuni with all-weather, non-radar and radar approach, departure and en route air traffic control services to friendly aircraft.

MACS-4 air traffic controllers support station mission



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Lance Cpl. Brent Knickerbocker, an air traffic control radar maintenance specialist, disassembles a piece of radar equipment at Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B here June 29.

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With approximately 60 Marines in their detachment, many station members have never even heard of Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B.

Off in their own little section of the station by the port, MACS-4 Det. B provides Iwakuni with all-weather, non-radar and radar approach, departure and en route air traffic control services to friendly aircraft.

"We're the deployable side of air traffic control," said Master Sgt. Thomas Kopp, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for MACS-4 Det. B. "We're the ones who go out to Afghanistan and set up air traffic control services to provide to our coalition partners and us for war-time services."

MACS-4 Det. B is unique because they do not have a permanent command on station. Their headquarters is located in Okinawa.

"We get some support from (Marine Aircraft Group 12), but we do 95 percent of our work with our squadron down south," said Kopp. "That's why a lot of people don't know about us."

The detachment has five sections that contribute to air traffic control services that keep aircraft in the air.

The operations section covers everything needed to conduct day-to-day operations, training exercises and deployments.

The radar shop makes sure that all spinning and final approach radars are up and running.

"We fix all the electronics so we can land aircraft in bad weather and at long ranges," said Cpl. John Dykhuis, an air traffic control radar maintenance specialist. "We have a very interesting and

unique job. There are only about 150 of us in the Marine Corps."

MACS-4 Det. B also consists of a communications section that keeps all assets ready for use so air traffic controllers have the ability to communicate with aircraft and other agencies, a navigation section that puts out distance signals which allows aircraft to navigate to and from fields, and a utilities shop that keeps up equipment such as generators and air conditioners.

"We're such a small group, and we rely on each other so much," said Dykhuis. "Without our utilities section we don't have power, without power we don't have radar, without communications we can't talk to anyone. So we have to rely on each other for the mission to be accomplished."

Controllers attached to MACS-4 Det. B keep their military occupational specialty current by working with the station in air traffic control positions, while maintainers receive training during support missions, exercises and deployments.

"That's where we get the time to actually train for our mission like we would in a wartime situation in Afghanistan," said Kopp.

Some station members may wonder though, why MACS-4 Det. B is needed when air traffic controllers are already assigned to the station?

Kopp said that they are important to the air station because of the relationship they have with MAG-12.

"If MAG-12 got the call something happened, we would pick up our gear, and we would mobilize with them," said Kopp. "The critical importance of us for the air station is providing that support to MAG-12 so their aircraft can put bombs on target."

Mighty Shrikes bid farewell to MCAS Iwakuni



LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

The squadron F/A-18 or "show plane" taxis toward the flight line after performing a functions check at the Strike Fighter Squadron 94 hangar here June 30. The show plane is used for air shows and flight demonstrations to show the Mighty Shrikes squadron colors.

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Under the Unit Deployment Program, many fighter attack squadrons deploy in and out of the Pacific region for six months at a time.

On the air station, there is always an attack squadron presence to support Pacific region operations.

Typically Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons or their all-weather counterparts are the most common F/A-18 squadrons found on Marine air stations, but for one attack squadron here, the word "Marine" is absent from its description.

Made up of 229 enlisted personnel, 25 officers and 12 planes, Strike Fighter Squadron 94 is currently the only Navy F/A-18 Hornet squadron on the air station.

VFA-94 is scheduled to depart from the air station between the 12th and 15th of July and will be replaced by VMFA-224.

The unit will be departing in a typical squadron departure, which is broken into two bodies: the main body and the lead body.

Unlike a common squadron departure, where the lead leaves first, VFA-94 will be departing in an opposite order making their main body the first to depart.

Master Chief Petty Officer Chad Lundsford, VFA-94 command master chief, said this order of departure is more cost efficient for VFA-94 than the typical departure routine.

After their departure, VFA-94 will return to its home station Naval Air Station, Lemoore, Calif.

"It's a very good squadron, one of the best squadrons I've been in, and the UDP program is a pretty unique opportunity in the Navy," said Lt. Cmdr. Gregg Sanders, VFA-94 safety

and logistics officer.

Most Navy squadrons fall under a Wing or a carrier air group, but VFA-94 falls under a different chain of command.

VFA-94 is currently the only Navy squadron participating in the UDP. For this reason, VFA-94 is attached to Marine Aircraft Group 12 when deployed here.

"We don't go on ships. We actually come here in direct support of Marines, specifically (Marine Aircraft Group) 12," said Lundsford.

When VFA-94 deploys under the UDP, a Marine F/A-18 Hornet squadron is sent on a carrier to replace VFA-94's presence.

Since VFA-94 constantly works in conjunction with Marines, VFA-94 sailors usually have to abide by Marine Corps customs. For Lundsford, this requirement is a benefit.

"I think the pride and professionalism is held to a higher standard on a Marine base than it is on a Navy base, so in my opinion it's a good thing," said Lundsford.

For other VFA-94 sailors, the freedom of not being confined to a ship is what they appreciate about being stationed with Marines.

"It's a little different because you get more liberty than you would on a carrier. So we have the camaraderie at work, and then we get (to enjoy) the weekends and nights off," said Sanders, VFA-94 safety and logistics officer.

During their deployment here, VFA-94 participated in exercises Lava Viper in Hawaii, and Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in South Korea. Lundsford and Sanders both said there are many things they will miss about Iwakuni, but due to the work efficiency the squadron has displayed in the past, they're sure the squadron will adapt to NAS Lemoore with ease.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

A Strike Fighter Squadron 94 pilot enters the VFA-94 "show plane" before taking off for a practice flight. Before any of the planes depart, a full functions check is performed.

Through air land, sea: Iwakuni uses sea, air ports to fullest

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A Grumman E-2 Hawkeye plane was shipped from the air station on a voyage to its new U.S. homeport Naval Air Facility North Island, San Diego, June 28.

The E-2 Hawkeye arrived here from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, May 14 and was used for six weeks before its departure.

The total move was a three-week process, and the plane is scheduled to arrive at NAF North Island by July 19.

The E-2 Hawkeye is an American all-weather airborne early warning aircraft made in the late 1950s used primarily for radar, radio communications and reconnaissance missions.

The aircraft will ultimately be stationed in Norfolk, Va., where it will be used in the Fleet Replacement Squadron to train pilots and aircrew on particular airframes.

The moving process for the E-2 Hawkeye officially began June 13 when Hipp Marine Services Inc. from San Diego began wrapping the plane with shrink-wrap to preserve the plane from moisture, rust and other weather-related issues that may occur during transportation.

After the plane was completely wrapped in shrink-wrap, the plane was relocated to the station harbor for departure.

On June 27, a towed universal glider was used to pull the plane from hangar 281B to the Iwakuni station harbor where it remained overnight until the arrival of Motor Vessel Ocean Atlas.

The plane was lifted by an 80-ton portal crane located at the station harbor, where sailors and Marines encountered the greatest challenge of the entire moving process.

"The biggest challenge is getting the correct slings because the aircraft has special slings that go with it," said Chief Petty Officer Kathryn Remm, station Motor Transportation equipment operator. "We had to have the actual slings flown in from another base."

Since the crane operators were Japanese master labor contractors, Marines and sailors had to overcome the language barrier between the ground operators and crane operators.

A common question many of the augmentments in charge of the move faced was the question of why the plane wasn't being flown back to the U.S.

"There's no safe, effective, quick manner to fly it back to the states, so they elected to send it back by sealfit," said Lt. Cmdr. Keith G. Applegate, Logistics commanding officer here.

The maximum flight time without refueling for an E-2 Hawkeye is six hours and 15 minutes.

For this reason, the only effective way to transport the plane was by ship.

Transporting the plane by ship is an option most air wings don't have, and for this reason, most air stations must resort to conducting aircraft transportation through the use of aircraft carriers only.

Unlike other air stations, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni has a unique ability distinguishing it from other air stations.

"One of the things that makes Iwakuni unique is that we have a big airfield and a big port right next to each other," said Applegate.

Not only is this characteristic unique, but it makes MCAS Iwakuni the only air station in the Marine Corps with both a combined sea port and aerial port of debarkation.

"We've got one mile in between the hangar and the sea port, and (that mile consists of) all roads that we control," said Applegate. "It makes it a really unique strategic capability for this theatre."



LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

An E-2 Hawkeye prepares to finish the final stage of the three-part shipping process to Naval Air Facility North Island, San Diego. The plane is first wrapped in shrink-wrap, provided by Hipp Marine Services Inc. During this process, the plane is completely wrapped and sealed to prevent the plane from rust or damage during its voyage at sea. The complete wrapping process was a three-day evolution.



LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN

Ricky Evans, Hipp Marine Services Inc. employee, uses a blow torch to seal shrink-wrap onto the E-2 Hawkeye to prevent damage to the plane while it is being shipped to San Diego.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

An E-2 Hawkeye is lifted by an 80-ton portal crane onto Motor Vessel Ocean Atlas, a ship designated to carry the aircraft to Naval Air Facility North Island, San Diego, at the station harbor June 27. The total move was a three-week process, and the plane is scheduled to arrive at NAF North Island by July 19.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

An E-2 Hawkeye is prepared to be lifted by an 80-ton portal crane onto Motor Vessel Ocean Atlas, a ship designated to carry the aircraft to Naval Air Facility North Island, San Diego, at the station harbor June 27.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan—Corporal Paul A. Spies, 23, from Corvallis, Ore., a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), glances at a wall adorned with framed photos of fallen brethren at the Regional Command Southwest headquarters building at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 23. Spies is the brainchild of the "Afghan Adopt a Road Initiative," an initiative that, if approved, could help counter the number one threat to coalition forces - Improvised explosive devices. In exchange for Afghan villagers helping to reduce or eliminate IEDs on their roads, they would receive incentives such as medical and dental care, as well as infrastructure support in the form of schools, wells and irrigation. Upon further review, commanders will decide whether or not to launch the AARI program.

Reserve engineer hopes to 'spark some innovation' against IED threat

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Waiting outside a conference room in the Regional Command Southwest headquarters building, Cpl. Paul A. Spies passes the time by glancing at the wall adorned with wood-framed pictures of fallen brethren, many of whom were killed by improvised explosive device blasts. A few moments later, Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, commander of RC (SW), walks into the conference room already full of unit commanders. Spies waits patiently for his name to be called.

Spies is waiting to brief the commanders during a counter-IED conference, and he has 15 minutes to convey the idea he envisioned would help combat the threat that has claimed thousands of lives during counter insurgency operations. At 10:05 a.m., he is called into the room.

A few weeks before deploying to Afghanistan, he was driving past an "Adopt-a-Highway" sign and got an idea he thought could potentially reduce or eliminate the deadliest threat to coalition troops in Afghanistan - IEDs.

So far this month, eight Marines have been killed by IED blasts in Afghanistan. IEDs also cause severe damage to million-dollar armored vehicles designed to protect Marines from IEDs. But Spies' proposal, if implemented, could help reduce the threat.

Inspired by the organization in which volunteers pick up trash along highway roads to keep them litter-free, Spies, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), came up with the "Afghan Adopt a Road Initiative," which is aimed at reducing the number of deadly roadside bombs. The program, if approved, would work like this: for every 30 days Afghan villagers help keep their roads clear of IEDs, they would receive aid-based incentives in return.

In Spies' initiative, two types of incentives would be offered: basic expendable services

and enhanced infrastructural support, according to Spies' proposal. BES, such as medical and dental care, would be offered monthly if no IED incidents occur. In addition, points would be awarded to villagers for every 30-day period that is incident free; the points could then be used to purchase EIS projects such as schools, wells and irrigation.

"As soon [as] an IED incident occurred in that village's area, the BES would immediately be suspended pending an investigation of the event," cited Spies' proposal. "If the next 30 days were incident free, the BES aid would be employed following the 30 day period."

"A smarter way of doing business" As a combat engineer, Spies, augmented from 6th Engineer Support Battalion in Springfield, Ore., said he spends most of his days working on various construction projects involving wood framing.

For six weeks, he used his downtime to draft the proposal in his berthing area at Forward Operating Base Dwyer, which culminated in a 15-page document outlining the strategy he hopes commanders will employ.

"My company commander thought it was a pretty novel idea," said Spies, who graduated in September with a degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon.

After completing his proposal, his leaders passed the idea up the chain of command, and it eventually wound up on the desk of Maj. Gen. Mills, who "loved" the idea, said Spies, 23, from Corvallis, Ore. He was then asked to brief commanders during the counter-IED conference, gathered to generate ideas that would hopefully defeat the IED threat.

His battalion commander agreed that it's not necessarily technology that will win this counterinsurgency.

"I am always challenging Marines to come up with a smarter way of doing business," said Lt. Col. Ted Adams, commanding officer

of 9th ESB, in an e-mail interview. "I know the way we'll be more successful in this fight is in our ingenuity. Technology isn't always the answer, smart Marines are."

Adams has seen first-hand that incentive projects can help curb anti-coalition violence. On a recent route-repairing mission in Marjah, dubbed "Route Marcie," not a single small arms fire or IED incident occurred during the 3-week period Marines worked to repair a road in a local village, he said.

"That was no accident," said Adams. "There were over 20 [small arms fire] and nine IED incidents within a two-kilometer distance of [Route] Marcie during the same time frame. In my opinion, the people were getting a reward [the road rebuilt] and they were willing to influence the bad guys to leave us alone so they'd get it."

"Spark some innovation in the Marine Corps"

At 10:20 a.m., Spies emerges from the conference room. His 15 minutes are up. What's the verdict?

"Good," said Spies, who added commanders were generally on board with the idea, but had questions regarding funding for the program.

Although funding is one of the top concerns for launching the initiative, Spies noted it may be eligible for funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program, a tool first used in Iraq to promote social and economic development in war-torn areas.

"The beauty of it is, the program won't cost any money if it doesn't work," said Spies, who's served in the Marine Corps three and a half years. "But if it does work, we save the cost of an MRAP, a few thousand dollars or even a Marine's life."

Even if the initiative doesn't come to fruition, Spies hopes ideas like these will continue to be pushed forward from the ground up.

"If Marines have ideas like these, pass them up their chains of command," Spies said. "Hopefully ideas like these will spark some innovation in the Marine Corps."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible school is being offered at the Marine Memorial Chapel 5:50 -8 p.m. Aug 13. Ages 3-11 may attend. For more information stop by the chapel, call 253-6470 or e-mail natali-godoy@yahoo.com.

Coupon Distribution Program

Stop by Building 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 coupon saver contest is ongoing until July 31. For more information, call 253-6161.

July American Red Cross Courses

• Babysitting for ages 12 and up. Saturday 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 in the Marine Memorial Chapel. You must come to the office to sign up and pay prior to taking the course.

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 Head-

quarters Squadron.

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 Building. 411 room. 101. Appointments are from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more 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.

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 Ma-

rine 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 visit 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 9, 2010

7 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Knight and Day (PG-13)
Premier

Saturday, July 10, 2010

1 p.m. Letters to Juliet (PG)
Premier
4 p.m. Just Wright (PG)
7 p.m. A-Team (PG-13)
10 p.m. The Back-up Plan (PG-13)

Sunday, July 11, 2010

1 p.m. Toy Story 3 (PG)
4 p.m. Knight and Day (PG-13)
7 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13)

At the time of publication, movie times for the rest of the week were not available.

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

Honda NSR250SE

Great for all riders. Super rare fast bike. New tires and chain. JCI will be renewed upon purchase. Asking \$5,000 OBO. For more information, call 080-3524-3462.

Mazda Sport Coup 2002

JCI good until Jan. 2. Asking \$2,500. For more information, call 080-4181-8705.

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 Building 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

Sony Bravia 38" and Entertainment Center
One year old. Asking \$500 OBO. For more information, call 080-4181-8705.

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 an ad request, e-mail iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, one phone number and the information to be published. Alternatively, submit your ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, room 216. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. They will be run the following Friday on a space-available basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

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

Tuesday

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, Southern fried chicken, lasagna, spinach lasagna, mashed potatoes, Southern style greens, mixed vegetables, chicken gravy, garlic bread with cheese, potato salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, brownies, spice cake, coconut cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, chicken kiev, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, green beans nicoise, french fried cauliflower, grown gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, German style tomato salad, standard salad bar, pecan brownies, yellow cake, chocolate cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

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

July, August primary dates

Alaska - August 24 Louisiana - August 28

Arizona - August 24 Michigan - August 3

Colorado - August 10 Missouri - August 3

Connecticut - August 10 Oklahoma - July 27

Florida - August 24 Tennessee - August 5

Georgia - July 20 Washington - August 17

Kansas - August 3 Wyoming - August 17

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 2. This election information is current as of August 2009. Check your state election Web site or www.fvap.gov for updates or additional details.

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.

"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.



A Dragons player prepares to make a base hit during the Dragons versus IYAOYAS game at the main softball field here June 30. The game turned out in the Dragons' favor, and with a 12-6 lead, the Dragons took their fifth win in the 2010 Intramural Softball season.

Dragons remain untouchable in softball season

LANCE CPL. MARCEL C. BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Dragons defeated the IYAOYAS in the Dragons' sixth Intramural Softball season game at the main softball field here June 30. "The game went really well," said Darin Sellers, Dragons first baseman. "The team played really well."

By the close of the game the Dragons dominated IYAOYAS with a score 12-6.

"We came together as a team. We had a lot of people who were missing, and the people who usually don't play stepped up, and they stepped up big," said Edward Black, Dragons first baseman.

At the start of the game, both teams made good plays and managed to keep a constant rhythm of double- and single-base hits.

By the fourth inning, IYAOYAS was ahead of the Dragons with a close score of 4-5, but the Dragons continued to stick to the fundamentals of softball.

"We weren't trying to drive a long ball; we were playing the fundamentals," said Black. "We were playing smart, and base hits are what do it in softball."

The Dragons managed to take the lead by the fifth inning, making 4 runs and putting the score 8-6.

"We were coming out here trying to prove something because this is the team that beat us in the tournament we had before," said Black.

The Dragons ended the game with a shocking 6-run lead.

Black said the team practices almost every other day in order to stay prepared throughout the softball season.

On June 18 Black and other teammates



An IYAOYAS teammate swings and hits a pitch thrown during the 2010 Intramural Softball season Dragons versus IYAOYAS game at the main softball field here June 30. The Dragons focused on making base hits, which led them to taking the victory in the game.

said the team wore flak jackets and gas masks during one of their softball practices.

The unusual but constant practices conducted by CLC-36 will be a huge factor in guiding them to the seasons championship game said Black.

"In the end it's going to be us against (the

chaplain's) team or Sgt. B's team, but right now were on a roll and if anybody wants to knock us off, we don't mind having a target on our backs," said Black.

For more information on upcoming Intramural Softball season games, contact the Intramural Sports Office at 253-3067.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

MWSS-171 poses with their trophies after taking first place in the six-on-six soccer tournament at Penny Lake here Monday. MWSS-171 beat the Legends 4-1 during the final game. Even though MWSS-171 took home first place, the Legends were happy to accept the second place trophy.

MWSS-171 destroys Legends 4-1 in 6-on-6 tourney

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

MWSS-171 beat the Legends 4-1 during the final game of the six-on-six soccer tournament at Penny Lake fields here Monday.

The double-elimination tournament started Saturday on an overcast morning. The teams only made it through a few games before thunder and lightning started, postponing the tournament until Monday morning.

The sun was out and it was perfect weather for a soccer tournament when competitors arrived at the fields to show their stuff.

The Legends won two games before hitting the field for the final game against MWSS-171.

"We won the last two games," said John B. Bass, goal keeper for the Legends. "We beat the high school team in the shootout, but those kids were rough. I wasn't expecting so many shots on me. Our team very well deserved to be here in the final game."

In order to win first place in the tournament, the Legends would have to beat MWSS-171 twice before taking home the trophy.

Ebrima Jallow, an MWSS-171 player, scored the first goal of the game within only a few minutes of the first half.

MWSS-171 kept control of the ball throughout the entire first half of the game, going into the second half with a 3-0 lead.

MWSS-171's confidence built up while frustration set in for the Legends.

"I told you we were going to be the champions from the beginning," said Jallow.

MWSS-171 scored on the Legends again early in the second half, putting the score at 4-0.

The Legends failed to take shots when the opportunity was available but managed to finally get a goal past the keep during the last 10 minutes of the game.

A few attempts were made, but neither team scored during the last few minutes of the tournament.

MWSS-171 took home first place, and the Legends were happy to accept the second place trophy.

"We may not have won but we played our best," said Keon Beckles, team captain for the Legends. "I asked my team to give me 100 percent and that's what they did." When the game ended, each team lined up to shake the hands of the other team to congratulate them on a game well played.

"This tournament meant a lot," said Bass. "I told my team when I first came into this tournament, this is going to be my last tournament before I retire from the sport. The boys played their hearts out for me, and I played my heart out for them."

More important than winning or losing is being able to come out and enjoy some friendly competition, said Bass.

"It gives Marines and sailors aboard the station a chance to blow off some steam and get in some good physical fitness," said Beckles.

For more information on intramural sports, contact the IronWorks Gym at 253-6578.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Ebrima Jallow, a player for MWSS-171, runs the ball down the field during the final game of the six-on-six soccer tournament here Monday. The double-elimination tournament started Saturday but was postponed until Monday due to thunder and lightning.