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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 31, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Bengals touch down in Iwakuni

CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Bengals of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 blew in as part of the Unit Deployment Program here Aug. 6.

Native to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., the Bengals came directly from the Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC) in Hawaii.

“The Unit Deployment Program is here to support the (1st Marine Air Wing) objectives - basically, contingency operations,” Maj. Jeremy Hall, VMFA(AW)-224 operations officer, said.

The Bengals, commanded by Lt. Col. Joseph E. Maybach, will



CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI

Lance Cpl. David Strawder, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 powerline plane captain, tightens a fastener on the squadron's flag plane during a take-off inspection here Aug. 12. The tactical tiger-striped paint on the squadron's flag plane is unique and recognized across the world to signify 224's presence.

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Corporals Course to be promotion req.

CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Beginning fiscal year 2012, a non-resident Corporals Course will be available to Marines who are unable to attend a resident course.

“Our noncommissioned officers have long been known as the backbone of the Marine Corps,” said Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway in All Marine Message 26/10. “It is our duty to ensure we provide these Marines every educational opportunity, yet there is a gap in the professional military education continuum for our corporals.”

As it stands right now, there is no current prerequisite for corporals to complete corporals course to be promoted to sergeant.

Per Marine Administrative Message 391/07, lance corporals have the requirement of completing the Leading Marines Marine Corps Institute course to be promoted, and sergeants are required to complete a resident Sergeants Course or the non-resident sergeants course

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M.C. Perry students head back to school soon

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA
BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Students at Matthew C. Perry School will head back for the 2010-2011 school year here Aug. 30.

With school sneaking up quickly, many parents and students have questions

about the upcoming school year.

One of the most important things to remember before heading back to school is completing a sports physical.

“No child will be allowed to practice if they do not have a physical on file,” said Morgan Nugent, M.C. Perry High School principal. “Please stop by the school

and pick up the form as soon as possible and go to (Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic) to get this completed.”

Practice for fall sports have already begun, but students must have 10 practices on record to participate in the first game of the season.

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Marines build unit cohesion through training

CPL. KRISTIN E. MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

“This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.”

The rifleman's creed is entrenched into every Marine's mind at boot camp, but the meaning of it doesn't stop there.

To keep that mentality, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation supply, consumer management division completed

weapons familiarization training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Aug. 6.

The purpose of the training was to improve marksmanship with the M16-A4 rifle and Beretta 9mm pistol, as well as boost morale and build unit cohesion.

“What we did was more of a camaraderie thing,” said Gunnery Sgt. Marcus Bell, aviation supply, consumer management division staff noncommissioned officer-in-

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The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A story to live by'

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI
DEPUTY CHAPLAIN MAG-12

Marines have war stories and sailors have sea stories.

When we were kids, we loved listening to stories from our parents and grandparents.

In the Bible, Jesus told stories in the form of a parable.

Some stories make us laugh, and others make us feel sad. The stories I like most are those that inspire and teach us what life is all about.

Let me share a story sent to me by my friend.

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind.

She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her.

She told her boyfriend, "If I could only see the world, I would marry you."

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her.

When the bandages came off,

she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw he was blind.

The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that.

The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: "Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine."

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes.

Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life is a gift.

Today, before you say an unkind word, think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food, think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife, think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life, think of someone who died too early on this earth.

Before you complain about your children, think of someone who desires children but is barren.

Before you argue about your dirty house someone didn't clean or sweep, think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance you drive, think of someone who walks the same distance with his feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job, think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job.

But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another, remember not one of us is without sin.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down, put a smile on your face and think: you're alive and still around.

Do you have a story to tell?

In house: Staying safe while indoors

SUBMITTED BY
STATION SAFETY CENTER

Slips and Falls

- Keep the floor clear. Reduce clutter, and keep telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- Keep floors clean. Wipe up grease, water and other liquids immediately. Don't wax floors.
- To reduce the chance of slipping or tripping, secure area rugs with a piece of foam carpet backing, double-sided tape, or a rubber pad.
- Keep stairs clear of clutter.
- Make sure living areas and especially stairways are well lit.

Extension Cords

- Never run an extension cord under a rug.
 - Do not consider extension cords part of your home's electrical system, use them only for temporary situations.
 - A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire.
 - Replace old and damaged extension cords.
 - Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory.
 - Never overload an extension cord; that could cause a fire.
- Check the rating labels on the cords and the appliance.

Ladders

- The distance from the base of the wall to the base of the ladder should be 1/4 the height of the ladder. Most ladders have a graphic on the side to help you determine if the ladder is set at the proper angle.
- Make sure the ladder's footpads are secure on the ground. Shim them if necessary.
- Test the ladder to be sure it will not shift. If necessary, tie it off to keep it in place.
- Keep all ladders, especially metal ladders, away from electrical lines and pay attention to overhead lines when moving an extended ladder into position.
- Never attempt to stretch while on a ladder. If you can't reach, move the ladder.
- Only use a ladder that is in good condition.

Hand and Power Tools

- Always wear safety glasses when using any power tool.
- Wear safety glasses when using a hammer or drill.
- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for using their tools and materials.
- Dull tools are unsafe and can harm the work. Maintain your tools. Always work with sharp cutting blades.
- Unplug power tools before loading them, changing blades or bits, or making adjustments.
- Never alter or remove the blade guard on a power saw.
- Always wear proper clothing and safety equipment on the work site.

Child Proof Your Home

- Use safety latches and locks for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries.
- Safety latches and locks on cabinets and drawers can help prevent children from gaining access to medicines and household cleaners, as well as knives and other sharp objects.
- Use safety gates to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children away from dangerous areas.
- Safety gates can help keep children away from stairs or rooms that have hazards in them.
- Look for safety gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty.
- For the top of stairs, gates that screw to the wall are more secure than "pressure gates."
- Use door knob covers and door locks to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.
- Door knob covers and door locks can help keep children away from places with hazards, including swimming pools.
- Use anti-scald devices for faucets and shower to help prevent burns.
- Use window guards and safety netting to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks and landings.

MALS-12 Marines build bonds at ISAR

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charge. "We have two Marines leaving, and every once in awhile we get together and let the Marines do something as a group. They work hard, play hard, and we just want to do fun things with our Marines."

One of the outbound Marines holds a secondary military occupational specialty as a combat marksmanship coach, which is why the shop decided to have their outing at the ISAR as opposed to the typical barbecue or fun physical training activity.

"If we can keep the Marines motivated, they're going to want to show up on time. They're going to want to be at work, and we want to create that friendly environment so the Marines will have fun in the work place," said Bell.

The training, although mainly for the purpose of camaraderie, brought the shop back to the fundamentals of being Marines. It showed them there's more to the Marine Corps than aviation.

With the M16-A4, the Marines practiced hammered and controlled-pairs and failure-to-stop drills with forward movement. The target engagements varied from five to 25 yards. With the Beretta 9mm pistol, they practiced engaging stationary targets from varying distances.

"(This training) shows them the whole Marine Corps concept," said Sgt. Oscar Fuentes, aviation supply specialist and range safety officer for the training. "It's not



Sgt. Oscar Fuentes, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation supply specialist with the consumer management division here, instructs the Marines of his shop on the course of fire during familiarization fire training at the Indoor Small-Arms Range here Aug. 6. Fuentes coordinated the training and acted as the range safety officer.

just working behind the desk, not just in the warehouse or just looking at papers everyday. It's also about marksmanship."

Fuentes said there are two sides of the Marine Corps, aviation and ground. The aviation side isn't always exposed to weapons, so the Marines will benefit a lot from the training.

The training got the Marines out of their daily rut. It gave them the opportunity to improve their marksmanship skills and relationships with other Marines in their shop.

The junior Marines know each other and hang out, so shop events like this give the SNCOs the opportunity to get involved, said Bell.

Bell encourages other shops and units to get out there and do more with their Marines, too.

Bengals roar into land of rising sun ready to train

BENGALS FROM PAGE 1

definitely have their skills tested during their approximately six-month tour here.

"These exercises afford us opportunities that we don't typically have in Beaufort," said Hall.

During the squadron's stay here, the Marines of 224 will continue the operational tempo established in Hawaii and shoot off to Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia, for exercise Southern Frontier.

After a month-long trek in the land down under, 224 will come back to Iwakuni briefly before swooping into the Philippines for Amphibious Landing exercise.

Again, 224 will return to Iwakuni before heading on to Kadena in support of exercise Wolmido Fury.

All these exercises will give the Bengals plenty of training opportunities.

"(The exercises are) primarily building on the everyday training that we do anyway, and then there are some skill sets that we do that are specific to this theater," said Hall.

"Here we're doing everything to kind of hone those skills so that if we're called into a contingency, then we can effectively operate any missions that are given to us," added Hall.

Besides theater-specific training, the Bengals will work bilaterally with other military forces and literally get to blast their way around the Pacific.

"We are going to employ, between RIMPAC and Southern Frontier, on the order of about 160,000 pounds of ordnance," said Hall.

"The ranges that are down there are pretty, pretty awesome ranges. In a nutshell, we can do things down there we can't do anywhere in the states," said Hall.

The ranges in Australia allow supersonic flight over land and the employment of heavy, explosive ordnance.

Because the Bengals will be unleashing bombs like candy on Halloween, 224's

ordnance Marines will be tested.

"For a lot of young guys, this is their first opportunity to drop bombs on a live range because we don't get to do it a lot in the states," Gunnery Sgt. Jason Baxley said.

"We make a lot of money over here for training," he added.

The operational tempo established will keep the ordnance Marines working throughout their tour here.

"Everything is live, so everything's explosive - it's no longer training, no longer talking about it, no longer going out and just one hop and then 4 hours of work, instead it's 12 to 14 hours."

Coming to Iwakuni in support of 1st MAW is no cake-walk for the squadrons, and because the Bengals will be shuffling around like dogs on the prowl, the issues are magnified.

"I would argue that being UDP in some ways it may be more challenging (than going to Iraq or Afghanistan)," said Hall.

Hall said being in the battle creates a lot of repetition for the Marines but trekking around the Pacific forces the Marines to deal with varying aircraft issues, different mission sets and a rapidly changing weather situation that is more extreme than typically faced in Beaufort, and even Iraq and Afghanistan.

Overarching all of these challenges is the logistical aspect.

"Probably the first and largest challenge for us to overcome is just the logistical aspects of moving a contingency-based squadron all over the Pacific theater without the level of priority support you would typically receive in a true contingency," said Hall.

Normally, squadrons have much more dedicated assets necessary to complete missions; however, here the Bengals will have to share with the rest of the Pacific theater.

Considering the one of a kind tactical tiger stripe-design on the squadron's flag plane, they seem ready for the challenge.

Back to school: What's in store

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

The first competition for fall sports will be held Sept. 4 and 5.

The coaches for the upcoming year will be April Kelley (volleyball), Vern Jones (baseball), Mark Lange (soccer and tennis) and Shannon Helvey (cross country).

Another important thing to remember before heading back to school is making sure all vaccinations are up to date.

The vaccines often required for school entrance include diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, chickenpox, measles, mumps and rubella.

"Parents should check with their corpsman to see if their children need any vaccinations before going back to school," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Cooper, Headquarter and Headquarters Squadron corpsman. "Then just head over to immunizations and get them taken care of."

For any further questions related to the start of the new school year, parents can contact the M.C. Perry office at 253-5449 or visit www.perry-hs.pac.dodea.edu.

PME requirement to be added for corporals; making sergeant just became more challenging

CORPORALS FROM PAGE 1

MCI.

"It's an excellent opportunity for Marines who are deployed for long periods of time or offices that are short staffed," said Cpl. Anne Laha, limited duty noncommissioned officer for Installation Personnel Administration Center. "Corporals Course gives you knowledge you may otherwise not seek out. It is an excellent tool for noncommissioned leadership."

Training and Education command is creating the distance education edition of the Corporals Course. Once it is active, composite score bonus points will be awarded for completion of either the command-sponsored or non-resident course, however not for both.

"Even though this is a great tool, it can't replace the actual classroom and hands-on time you get at a resident course with the different leadership styles instructors bring," said Sgt. Carlos Pena, outbound noncommissioned officer-in-charge at IPAC.

Although this new course is slated to be an equivalent to the already proven Corporals Course, commanders must seek every opportunity to conduct the command-sponsored resident Corporals Course.

"I think it will be harder for the non-resident course takers to learn things such as drill, but overall the general knowledge will be on par with what's taught," said Laha.

For information on the non-resident Corporals Course, refer to ALMAR 026/10. Lesson plans, student handouts and guidance to conduct a resident course are located on the TECOM Web site.

Youth and Teen Center offers more than just fun, games

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For many people, when they think of a Youth and Teen Center they think of a video games, computers and maybe some board games, right? Well, the Youth and Teen Center does provide all of those things, but the days of just providing a recreational facility are gone away.

Because the Youth and Teen Center is affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club of America, the program has five corps programs they are required to uphold.

The first corps program, character and leadership development, provides the youth with Youth of the Year, Torch Club and Keystone Club.

The Youth of the Year program celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments.

The Torch Club is for boys and girls ages 10-12 and is geared to youth accomplishing activities in four corps areas which include service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation.

"It's really fun to learn things from the Torch Club," said Emily

Pelletier, a member of the Youth and Teen Center. "We worked to raise money to go on trips, like car washes and working at Friendship Day."

The Keystone Club is a small-group leadership and service club for youth ages 13-18. Through engaging character and leadership development opportunities, the program fosters positive peer interaction, encourages good citizenship and prepares the youth to have a voice.

The second corps program, education and career development, offers classes including Power Hour, Career Launch, Ultimate Journey, Money Matters, Job Ready and CLUBService.

"We really want to make sure these kids are prepared for what comes after high school," said Eugene Clark, supervisor for Youth and Teen Center.

Health and Life Skills, taught by Midge White, Mathew C. Perry High School adolescent substance abuse counselor, teaches right decision making in all types of situations.

The Youth and Teen Center's arts program offers a fine arts exhibit, digital arts suite and ImageMakers, a national

photography program.

The last of the corps programs is the sports, fitness and recreation portion which focuses on keeping the youth fit and physically active.

But the Iwakuni Youth and Teen Center doesn't stop at what is required of them; they also provide several different clubs, including the tech club; game club and photo club, youth sports, like basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball and volleyball; and Youth for Unity,

which gives the youth a chance to interact and get along with different local cultures.

"We took 32 of the kids to the Youth for Unity trip to Yokota, and 15 of them had never been away from their parents before," said Clark. "It was a real confidence builder, and it gives us a chance to become part of that family connection."

During the summer months, the center also offered reading and math programs, as well as beginners Spanish and French.

Clark encourages station members to volunteer at the center if they have any talents or skills they want to share with the youth.

"I really like meeting all of the kids and interacting with them," said Tami Moreno, a volunteer at the center. "It's a great

environment to be in."

Youth and teens can come to the center as they please. For ages 10-12 hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 12-6 p.m. on Saturdays and 12-5 p.m. on Sundays. For ages 13-18 hours are from 12-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 12-8 p.m. on Saturdays and 12-5 p.m. on Sundays.

For membership registration forms and parental permission forms, visit mccsiwakuni.com.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

Marina Goodsell, a member of the Youth and Teen Center, sits at one of the computers to write an essay at the Youth and Teen Center here Aug. 12. For membership registration forms and parental permission forms visit mccsiwakuni.com.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Seamen Ryan Seiz and Curtis Worrell, aviation electricians mates with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, use Mil-C-85570, a special chemical cleanser primarily used to clean naval aircraft, to swab the MH-60S Knighthawk they are responsible for maintaining. HSC-25's primary missions are vertical replenishment and search and rescue. Additionally they provide vital logistical support during special operations.

HSC-25 provides support, departs Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Navy's first and only forward-deployed Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, based at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, has resided in Iwakuni during the past few months to take part in training and maintenance of its aircraft as the squadron before heading out to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 7.

"We have been training to keep our qualifications up so that we can be ready for search and rescue when we go on a boat," said Seaman Curtis Worrell, aviation electricians-mate with HSC-25. "We just keep flying everyday, make sure pilots get their hours and keep everyone up to date."

Since late April, HSC-25's approximately 40 personnel, have been occupying their time with flying, qualifying with weapons, training, maintaining the aircraft, and conducting tedious inspections to keep its service members at peak readiness to carry out its mission.

"It's definitely a big mission for us," said Lt. Patrick Murphy, helicopter pilot with HSC-25.

HSC-25's main missions are vertical replenishment and search and rescue. Additionally they provide vital logistical support during special operations, which include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"We're mainly a support role," said Murphy. "We conducted MEDIVAC and SAR in Kuwait and southern Iraq. That freed up other squadrons to be able to push to Afghanistan."

Participating in special operations allowed the squadron to break out and test its readiness against new situations.

"It was a great opportunity for us," said Murphy. "It was a different environment from what we are used to operating in because it was in the desert instead of over the water."

Tasked with supporting the Seventh Fleet units in the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, North Arabian Sea, and Persian Gulf, HSC-25 also provides search and rescue, medical evacuation and vertical replenishment to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"It's one of the unique aspects of our mission," said Murphy. "There is no Coast Guard in the Mariana Islands, so the mission to provide SAR and MEDIVAC

falls on us."

HSC-25, established on April 21, 2005, sports an emblem meant to represent the legacy of HSC-25's predecessor HC-5, which developed a reputation for providing service and support to the Fifth and Seventh Fleets and Northern Marianas Islands.

The Fifth and Seventh Fleet territories are represented by the globe in the logo, and the eagle carrying the trident symbolizes the logistic support HSC-25 provides to those territories.

Above the globe is a black sky, which symbolizes the squadron's night capabilities, and within the sky are five stars.

"The five stars is homage to our last squadron, which was HC-5," said Murphy. "The trident is supposed to represent new missions being presented to us."

HSC-25 flies the MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter, a multi-mission naval helicopter made to carry out two main missions: troop support and vertical replenishment.

"It can sling huge loads between boats," said Murphy. "When you see it happen, it's just really amazing because these aircrafts can move a lot of weight in a very short amount of time."

The MH-60S has an armed configuration, which allows the

squadron to conduct anti-surface warfare in addition to combat search and rescue.

"We've got a lot of really cool gear on it that our guys are excited to play around with," said Murphy. "It's also got a lot of extra power. As a helicopter pilot, you always want extra power."

HSC-25 is manned by aviation structural mechanics, aviation mechist-mates, and aviation electricians-mates who regularly maintain the aircraft to keep it in peak condition.

"The guys have been ripping through inspections," said Murphy. "If anything happens with the aircraft, they get it fixed, and we haven't had any pauses in training."

Seamen who regularly maintained the helicopter used a special aircraft cleaning compound Mil-C-85570, a strong chemical cleanser primarily used to clean naval aircraft.

"We are always in a salt-water environment, and maintaining the aircraft is very important," said Murphy. "Our guys do a bang-up job and we couldn't do anything without them."

With their aircraft maintained and inspection ready, HSC-25 will continue their mission to provide logistics support to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

AUGUST PROMOTIONS

Detachment B

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Kopp, Thomas E.

Sgt.
Snyder Jr., Robert G.

Cpl.
Bishop, Nicholas P.
McCaskill, Barron J.

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Hornsburg, Anthony A.

Lance Cpl.
Borrego, Estrella
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Carmany, Vincent C.
Johnston, Chad A.
Weaver, Britania C.
Wilk, James E.
Brewer, Gary D.

MAG-12

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Meekins, Terrance L.

Lance Cpl.
Sanchez, Anthonie

VMFA(AW)-242

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Funk, Eric R.
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Bishop IV, Basil G.
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Vanderkaaden, Jonathan M.

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Girard, Christopher M.
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McDole, Kassie L.
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Walker, Matthew M.

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Keller, Oliver S.
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Medina, Hugo M.
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MALS-12

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Lance Cpl.
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Bellsosa, Leonel
Ceglarek, Steven L.
Cooper, Shane A.
Creamer, Wesley T.
Forstner, Bryn M.
Gourley, Joshua M.
Leary, John M.
Mayer, Dean A.
Olmsted, Timothy K.
Peacock, Patrick C.
Wahpa, Erick S.

Classic muscle cars take center stage during Iwakuni Wheels car, motorcycle show

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Corps Community Services hosted the inaugural Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show behind the Crossroads Mall here Saturday.

The car show featured classic and modern style cars, motorcycles, food, a kid's land with bounce houses, live music and dancing.

Tony Martinez, MCCS special events coordinator, said the event gave American and Japanese locals the opportunity to have a good time together while building community relations.

"It went very well, and because it went so well, we'll be able to do it again next year," said Martinez. "It'll be bigger and better."

This year's car show drew out locals eager to show off their classic 1935 Ford Roadsters outfitted with state of the art hydraulic systems and owners with custom built 1969 El Caminos.

Motorcycle enthusiasts also came out to admire finely tuned Harley Davidson and Yamaha motorcycles.

Martinez said he thought the turnout was pretty good considering the car show was hosted during the Obon holiday, which prevented more people from coming.

Fifty cars and motorcycles in total were brought out for the Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show.

The Iwakuni Juno dance group also came out moon-walking and snapping their fingers to the beats of Michael Jackson as they provided entertainment for local spectators.

The station American Forces Network was also on hand to provide music and a competition, which offered a new Xbox 360 as a prize.

AFN challenged participants to identify the make and model of the vehicle within the car show, which had a flaming skull on the hood.

After the competitors identified the car, they rode a child's tricycle for a distance of approximately 15 yards, racing for the fastest time.

Codi Moses, a car and motorcycle show spectator, was named the winner of the competition with a time of 16.2 seconds in the tricycle race.

"It feels good (to win)," said Moses. "I really wasn't expecting it."

Moses said he also enjoyed the car show and appreciated the opportunity to interact with the Japanese because he doesn't get to go out in town too much due to work.

"The interaction between Americans and Japanese here on base is always good," said Moses. Events like the car and motorcycle show are a good way to bring Marines out of the barracks to interact with the Japanese, he added.

Many of the Japanese who came to the car show felt the same way Moses did.

Keiji Hironaka, owner of a 1971 Nissan Skyline and car show participant, said he enjoyed interacting with the Americans and was glad they enjoyed his car.

"I want to add more improvements to my car for next year's car show," said Hironaka. "They liked it this year, and I want them to enjoy it more next year."

Next year's Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show is being planned for June 2011.



The hood of a custom built 1969 El Camino stands propped open to show off its engine to the public during the Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show held at the Crossroads Mall here Saturday. The car show also featured motorcycles, food, a kid's land with bounce houses, live music and dancing.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



Codi Moses, a car and motorcycle show spectator, races down a 15-yard stretch during a competition hosted by the station's American Forces Network personnel during the Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show at the Crossroads Mall here Saturday. Moses won the competition claiming the prize, which was an Xbox 360.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



Car show spectators admire a 1935 Ford Roadster during the Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show held at the Crossroads Mall here Saturday. A total of 50 cars and motorcycles were brought out for the event.

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

The Iwakuni Juno dance group dances to Michael Jackson beats during the Iwakuni Wheels car and motorcycle show held at the Crossroads Mall here Saturday. Other musical groups put on shows for car and motorcycle show spectators.

Thousands flood streets for river festival

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 250,000 people flooded the narrow streets of Iwakuni for the 43rd annual Nishikigawa River Water Festival near the Kintai Bridge Aug. 7.

During the summer months of July and August, river festivals and fireworks are frequently held in Japan.

The Nishikigawa River Water Festival is one of the most popular firework festivals in the Yamaguchi prefecture.

"I came here last year and it is amazing," said Lance Cpl. Steven Barletti, aircraft recovery specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. "I had so much fun."

The festival was an all day event and included day and night activities.

During the day, the Kintai Bridge area buzzed as crowds of locals and tourists roamed around the Iwakuni Castle and indulged in the local Japanese culture.

"It's awesome to see the Japanese culture," said Pfc. Michael Hicks, legal clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "Everyone gets together and interacts with no confrontation at all."

According to Hicks, the gathering of people and foot-traffic was overwhelming.

"There were a lot of people and not a lot of space," said Hicks. "It was just jammed packed."

At approximately 10 a.m., the festivities began, which included a children's treasure hunt.

The Miss Iwakuni Beauty Pageant was held, during which a large group of young Japanese girls walked onto a stage dressed in Kimono to be judged by the attending crowd.

As the day continued, festivities included a Japanese Taiko drum performance and other forms of visual and musical entertainment.

Booths were set up all along the river bank, cluttered with concession stands selling toys, food and candy.

Highlights included beef on a stick, snow cones, cotton candy and traditional Japanese delicacies.

"The food was just a lot different from the States," said Hicks. "Here in Japan, you have to venture out and try things like octopus and squid."

As the sky got darker, locals and tourists gathered around the historic, five-arched Kintai Bridge for the annual fireworks display.

The night sky burst with approximately 6,000 fireworks, which started at approximately 8 p.m. and ended at 9:30 p.m.

The historical Iwakuni Castle could also be seen illuminated atop of Mount Yoko as the colorful fireworks exploded in the foreground and created colorful reflections over the water flowing beneath the bridge.

The sound of the cracking and explosions could be heard from miles away.

As the explosions of the fireworks ended, attendees streamed off excitedly into the darkness of the night.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

The glow of vendor stands illuminates the area on the banks of the Nishikigawa during the 43rd annual Nishikigawa River Water Festival near the Kintai Bridge Aug. 7. Booths were set up all along the river bank to peddle a variety of wares including toys, Japanese delicacies and candy.



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Fireworks ignite the night sky for observers on the rocky banks of the Nishikigawa during the 43rd annual Nishikigawa River Water Festival near the Kintai Bridge Aug. 7. The Nishikigawa River Water Festival is one of the most popular firework festivals in the Yamaguchi prefecture.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Fallen EOD Marine 'laid down his life for others'

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

A Marine pays his final respects to Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Eastman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) who died July 18 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, during a memorial service at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 25. Eastman, 28, from Moose Pass, AK, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 as a combat engineer. He later moved into EOD in 2006 and deployed to Iraq in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — A crowd of service members, civilians and friends gathered for a memorial service July 25 to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Gunnery Sgt. Christopher L. Eastman, 28, of Moose Pass, Alaska, who died July 18 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province.

Eastman, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was deployed to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Force operations.

Eastman enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1999 as a combat engineer, according to his biography.

In 2006, he lateral moved into EOD and deployed to Iraq in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement, "The death of Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Eastman is a devastating loss for our country. He was a brave and selfless Marine who gave his all while serving our great nation in uniform, and we will be forever grateful for his sacrifice."

"On behalf of all Californians, Maria and I extend our thoughts and prayers to Christopher's family, friends and fellow Marines. He laid down his life for others," said Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Andrews, chaplain for 9th Engineer Support Battalion, to a somber audience during the memorial service.

At the end of the ceremony, the slow playing of Taps began as Marines stood solemnly at attention in honor of their fallen brother.

Marines began to make their way to the front of the room where a memorial display of combat boots and an upturned rifle was placed, with a set of Eastman's dog tags dangling from a helmet.

Marines took turns placing their hand on his helmet, heads bowing, to quietly give their final words to the Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Eastman is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.



Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Eastman, a 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) explosive ordnance disposal technician died July 18 while supporting International Security Assistance Force operations in Helmand Province. Eastman, 28, from Moose Pass, AK, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 as a combat engineer. He later moved into EOD in 2006 and deployed to Iraq in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UMUC Fall Session I Term

Register for fall session I classes with University of Maryland University College located in building 411, Room 110. Registration dates are from now until Monday and the session will run Monday through Oct. 17. For more information, contact your local field representative at 253-3392.

Night at Tokuyama Zoo

Tokuyama Zoo in Shunan City is scheduled to open 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. every Saturday in August. During the summer, animals won't move during the day due to the heat, but they are active in the evening. You will be able to see the animals eating their evening meal and take their photo from special spots. For more information, contact

Tokuyama Zoo at 0831-22-8640 or visit <http://www.city.shunan.lg.jp/hp/dobutsuen/>.

Soap-Box Confessions

Come out and feel the vibe every Tuesday in August at the Botan Tower community room building 589. For more information, call 080-3700-7540 or e-mail hottcoffy@hotmail.com.

Takeo Sato Guitar Recital

Takeo Sato, an award winning guitarist from Germany, is scheduled to play in the exhibition room of Shunan City Cultural Hall at 7 p.m. Aug. 28. Advanced tickets are 2,500 yen or 3,000 yen at the door. Seating is open, tickets do not reserve seats. For more information, contact Shunan City Cultural Hall at 0834-22-8787.

Toraku-Kai exhibit

A free exhibition of Toraku-Kai works is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. today and Saturday, and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday at Iwakuni Civic Hall. For more information, contact Kikko-gama Toraku-Kai, Mr. Shimizu at 0827-43-1665.

Kinshu Special Kabuki Performance

Kantaro Nakamura and Shichinosuke Nakamura are scheduled to do a special Kabuki performance 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Shunan City Cultural Hall. Admission is 6,500 yen for S-seats and 5,500 yen for A-seats. All seats are reserved. Pre-schoolers are not permitted. For more information, contact Shunan City Cultural Hall at 0834-22-8787.

NHK Symphony Orchestra concert

The NHK Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo is scheduled to play 2 - 5 p.m. at Sinfonia Iwakuni Aug. 28. Admissions

are 7,000 yen for S-seats, 6,000 yen for A-seats, 5,000 yen for B-seats and 1,500 yen for students' B-seats. For more information, contact Sinfonia Iwakuni at 0827-29-1600. For more information about the NHK Symphony Orchestra, visit <http://www.nhkso.or.jp/>.

TAO - Japanese Drums

A Japanese drum performance is scheduled for 4:30 - 7 p.m. at Sinfonia Iwakuni Sept. 11. Admission is 6,000 yen for S-seats, 5,500 yen for A-seats and 5,000 yen for B-seats. Seats are reserved. For more information, contact Sinfonia Iwakuni at 0827-29-1600.

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.

Sexual Assault

To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation SARC at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

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 run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Tues. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School
11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

Teen Programs

- High School Meetings (Club - grades 9-12)
- Junior High Meetings (Club JV - grades 7-8)
- HS&JR Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Missions Trip
- Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
- Parent Support Group

Call 080-4177-2060 or e-mail jletaw@ClubBeyond.org

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

Chaplains heal, soothe suffering with tunes

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Lt. Cmdr. Juan Cometa, station chaplain, and Lt. Anthony Baker, chaplain with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, performed a musical concert for patients, families and caretakers at the Nishi Hiroshima

Hospital in Otake July 21.

The concert was a part of a community relations activity, coordinated by Cometa, Baker, and the hospital administrator, who served as an interpreter.

The concert allowed the chaplains to

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 10

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, August 20, 2010

7 p.m. Inception (PG-13)

Saturday, August 21, 2010

1 p.m. Ramona and Beezus (G)
4 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG)
7 p.m. Jonah Hex (PG-13)
Premier

Sunday, August 22, 2010

1 p.m. Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore(G)
Premier
4 p.m. Jonah Hex (PG-13)
7 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

Monday, August 23, 2010

7 p.m. Inception (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

1 p.m. Ramona and Beezus (G)
7 p.m. Killers (PG-13)
Last showing

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

7 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

Thursday, August 26, 2010

1 p.m. Eclipse (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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

Honda CBR 600RR

JCI good until February 2012. Great bike with plenty of power for Japanese roads and highways. Asking \$3,200 OBO. Can provide helmet, jacket, and gloves for extra fee. For more information, contact Fabio at 080-4355-2384.

2000 Nissan March

JCI good until October 2011. Good condition, excellent AC, CD player, power locks and windows. Asking \$1,900. For more information, call 080-3518-1973.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Beef noodle soup, Navy bean soup, beef brogul, mustard-dill baked fish, mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, asparagus, scalloped cream corn, tomato gravy, dinner rolls, three bean salad, cucumber and onion salad, butterscotch brownies, apple pie, spice cake, buttercream frosting. Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream of broccoli soup, knickerbocker soup, veal parmesan, spaghetti with meat sauce, pizza, mashed potatoes, club spinach, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, spring salad, deviled potato salad, peanut butter cookies, sweet potato pies, whipped topping, coconut cake. Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Minestone soup, pepper pot soup, ginger pot roast, creole shrimp, steamed rice, oven glow potatoes, broccoli parmesan, peas and carrots, cheese biscuits, brown gravy, potato salad, spinach salad, double layer devil's food cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, whipped topping, oatmeal raisin cookies. Specialty Bar: Mongolian Barbeque

Thursday

Beef barley soup, tomato soup, rock cornish hen with syrup glaze, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, grilled ham & cheese, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, soccotash, green bean combo, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, mixed fruit salad, Italian style pasta salad, standard salad bar, apple, cherry turnovers, bread pudding, crisp toffee bars, whipped topping, chocolate pudding. Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, herbed chicken, baked ham, potatoes au gratin, hopping john, corn on the cob, asparagus, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, Italian style pasta salad, spring salad, standard salad bar, blueberry crunch, double-layer yellow cake with chocolate frosting, peanut butter cookies, cinnamon sugar doughnuts, struesel coffee cake. Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

Jobs

MOPPETS Volunteer Opportunities

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) are looking for volunteers to work with our MOPPETS ages zero to five. (MOPPETS is the children's program for MOPS). MOPS meet every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. starting September 16. For more information, contact Michele at 253-2031 or e-mail iwakunimoppets@yahoo.com.

Thrift Store Job Openings

Immediate opening for paid positions at the station's Thrift Store. Deliver your resume to Building 1117 or e-mail Gwen Peterson at gwenkaypete@yahoo.com.

MUSIC FROM PAGE 9

share their musical talents as well as their love for gospel music with local Japanese hospital patients.

"It's spiritually rewarding to see patients being ministered to by songs," said Cometa. "Their faces just beam with joy."

Some of the patients watched the one-hour performance from wheel chairs while others were bedridden and placed where they could hear the music.

Many of the patients were long-term quadriplegic patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and myasthenia syndrome.

"Some of the patients are bedridden, but when we ended the songs, they expressed their excitement the best they could," said Baker. "We knew that what we were doing had an impact."

Cometa and Baker took turns performing before an audience of approximately 80 people with personal instruments and equipment provided by the hospital.

"There was a piano there and a little

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.

Ad Submissions

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.

karaoke machine," said Baker. "They just let us go to town."

Cometa performed instrumental piano songs as well as songs with his guitar and four-string ukulele.

"I am more of a pianist, actually," said Cometa. "I play guitar, too, but I am more comfortable and enjoy playing on piano."

Baker also stood up in front of the crowd to perform a few gospel songs on his guitar for the patients.

"It's amazing to find that Japanese nationals know gospel songs like Amazing Grace and How Great Thou Art," said Cometa. "They sang the songs from the heart."

A few members of the audience also requested American songs during the concert, including "Take Me Home, Country Roads," a song originally written and performed by American country singer John Denver.

"I was surprised when they requested Country Roads," said Cometa.

Cometa and Baker received a lot of positive feedback from their audience at the end of the concert.

JD's Grille gives Iwakuni diners new choice



John Iwaniec, Marine Corps Community Services director; Ginna Benke, JD's Grille executive chef; Christopher Braswell, JD's Grille club manager; and Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, cut a ribbon to officially open JD's Grille here for business during a ceremony Monday. JD's Grille is named for Cpl. Jason Dunham, the first Marine to receive a Medal of Honor during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The restaurant menu features many of the same specials as the old grill with a few additions, including steaks and pastas.



Patrick Manu, forward for the Legends, takes the ball up the field during an intramural soccer game against Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 at the Penny Lake soccer field here Aug. 10. Despite MWSS-171 maintaining its lead for almost the entire game, the Legends players were ultimately able to tie the match 4-4.

Legends, MWSS-171 battle fiercely to 4-4 draw

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A fierce intramural soccer game between the Legends and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 resulted in a tie at the Penny Lake soccer field here Aug. 10.

As soon as the ball was in play, each team emerged into action.

There seemed to be too much back and forth between the two teams during the first half as players battled for the ball.

"We gotta stop playing kickball," said Aaron Matura, forward for MWSS-171.

MWSS-171 made an effort to focus on their ball handling skills in order to put one past Legend's tight defense after the ball was kicked out of bounds a few times in an effort to at least keep the ball out of Legend's possession.

At first, it didn't seem to work, and even though it was hard to tell which team was dominantly in possession of the ball, both teams showed no signs of giving up.

"There are a lot of skilled individual players out here," said Edgar Trujillo, Legends forward. "You can tell by the way they handle the ball."

Players from the Legends team seemed to know what they were doing as they maneuvered up the field and around players.

It wasn't long into the first half before the Legends scored the first goal.

Brian Niemczyk, goalie for MWSS-171, came forward to defend, but the opposing player managed to score despite Niemczyk's attempt.

Matura continued to motivate MWSS-171, and soon the team began to redeem itself with swift passes and quick dodges past the Legend's defense.

"Players on MWSS-171 have good ball

handling," said Trujillo. "Both teams seemed to be doing well."

It wasn't long before MWSS-171 put itself ahead of the Legends 2-1 by the end of the first half.

"I felt like they got really lucky," said Ebrima Jallow, Legends midfielder. "But we got back in the game and tied it up."

When the second half began, MWSS-171 was ready to go.

MWSS-171 managed to put one past the Legends keeper to put itself ahead by two goals.

The game got heated when Jallow stepped things up and launched forward to provide an attack as fierce as his defense.

Each time the ball entered the field, Jallow rushed right to it for a header or an attempt to gain possession of the ball.

"I like to throw my body around," said Jallow. "That's what happens when you throw your body around."

Patrick Manu, Legends forward, rushed to the ball and kicked it in the goal, which put the team behind by only one goal.

The Legends still had a chance to catch up.

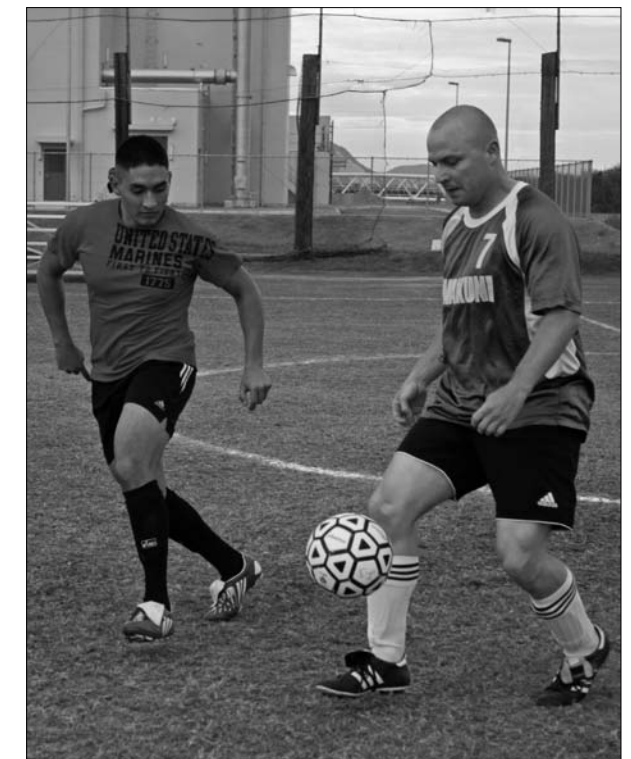
Toward the end of the second half, Jallow took a blow to the face but immediately got back into the game to keep his team motivated.

"I was trying to defend and attack at the same time, but I took a lot of hard falls," said Jallow.

Jallow fell back to help the Legends keep a tight defense.

Nozomu Morita, outside forward for the Legends, rushed down field with the ball as a winger to provide Bobby March, Legends striker, with an assist.

March launched forward, ready to score and tied the game.



Chris Buecker, Legends forward, gains possession of the ball and attempts to get past Antonio Martino, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 forward, during an intramural soccer game at the Penny Lake soccer field here Aug. 10. The Legends and MWSS-171 will get a chance to set the record straight with intramural soccer season play-offs scheduled to begin next week.

"March is the ultimate offensive player of the team," said Jallow. "He plays very well. He was hustling and attacking the ball the whole time."

As the intramural soccer season in Iwakuni came to an end, both teams showed promise to do well in the upcoming play-offs.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Pfc. Dominique Rollison, a motor transportation mechanic with Combat Logistics Company 36, executes an arm manipulation technique against Pfc. Julian Myles, a CLC-36 warehouse clerk, during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program gray belt course at the IronWorks Gym dojo here Aug. 12. Approximately 10 CLC-36 Marines participated in the weeklong martial arts course.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Pfc. Natalie Shovan, a Combat Logistics Company 36 warehouse clerk, executes an arm bar on Pfc. Wesley Harold, a CLC-36 warehouse clerk, during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program gray belt course at the IronWorks Gym dojo here Aug. 12. Marines were instructed on defending themselves using a range of chokes, throws, strikes, bayonet techniques and weapons of opportunity.

Marines get rough, tough during gray belt course

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

According to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program official Web site, today's MCMAP course was developed using the experiences and lessons learned by the country's earliest and latest fighting Marines.

Eager to draw from those lessons, approximately 10 Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines participated in a MCMAP gray belt course at the IronWorks Gym dojo here Aug. 9-13.

Sgt. Sean Regan, CLC-36 training chief, instructed the Marines on the proper execution of gray belt level techniques during the program.

"(MCMAP training is important) for combat reasons," said Regan. "It's pretty much self-defense. Even if you're out in town and someone tries to take advantage of you by showing force, MCMAP is a good way to get the advantage over that situation."

The Marines started the week-long training course reviewing basic tan-belt level techniques preparing them for the higher level gray-belt methods.

After ensuring they were ready to move forward, Regan trained the Marines in various forms of self-defense techniques.

The Marines were instructed on how to defend themselves using a range of chokes, throws, strikes, knife and bayonet techniques, and how to handle weapons of opportunity.

CLC-36 Marines reviewed and executed the same techniques over and over again.

Regan said repetition during training makes it easier for the Marines to learn the techniques by heart.

To ensure they remembered the various movements, Regan constantly questioned the Marines on proper technique execution. Regan said while he was reviewing each movement with the Marines, he also learned and improved on his own techniques.

"When you're teaching (MCMAP), you're teaching yourself over and over again," said Regan. "You're learning as you're teaching. When you're doing this constantly, you're able to remember, okay, this technique is from this belt and this technique is from that belt."

Many of the Marines participating in the grey belt course believe MCMAP is an important part of combat training.

Pfc. Wesley Harold, a CLC-36 warehouse clerk and gray belt course participant, said he believed the Marine Corps should offer more MCMAP training and every Marine should take advantage of the training opportunities the Marine Corps offers.

"Learning the techniques correctly is hard, but once you get it, it's not hard," said Harold.

Pfc. Natalie Shovan, a CLC-36 warehouse clerk and gray belt participant, was the only female Marine participating in the course.

Shovan said although the male Marines were stronger, she didn't really consider it an issue and was able to fight back.

Anyone wanting to learn about MCMAP philosophies and belt requirements can refer to the MCMAP official Web site www.tecom.usmc.mil/mace.