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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 34, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Marines keep things rolling as Hornets arrive for SF



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Lance Cpl. Keith Shirley and Lance Cpl. Jesse Kyer, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 aircraft communication and navigation technicians, perform an electrical and fluids check prior to a familiarization flight here Sept. 2. VMFA(AW)-224 maintainers have to check to make sure the jets maintain enough hydraulic fluid for flight control systems to function properly.

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — A few hours passed before the pilots of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 touched ground here in the rugged outback of Australia's Northern Territory all the way from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

Ordnance, aircraft technicians and logistical personnel, forward deployed the week prior, stood by to catch the jets and begin conducting procedures to quickly de-arm them.

VMFA(AW)-224 already knew the plan.

Maintainers were briefed on all the procedures, personnel were kept informed of flight schedules, and cooperating units stood by to provide all the logistical support the pilots needed.

RAAF Base Tindal also provided VMFA(AW)-224 with logistical support for the landing, in addition to aircraft refueling services, meals, working and living accommodations during the exercise.

SEE **FRONTIER** ON PAGE 3

DoD scheduled to resume MyCAA program for spouses

SUBMITTED BY BONNIE LEWIS
 PERSONAL FINANCE MANAGER

The Department of Defense has completed a program review and will be making necessary adjustments to resume the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program in October 2010.

Starting 9 p.m. Oct. 25, Military OneSource career and education counselors will have a much more active role in supporting military spouses. In addition to understanding resources available via DOD's financial aid support, they will provide support and assistance to identify and gain access to other federal, state and local programs. All military spouses of active duty service members will be eligible for career counseling and support.

New financial assistance guidelines

With a focus on the original intent of the program, the Defense Department's financial assistance program will:

- Be available to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, and O1-O2.

SEE **SPOUSES** ON PAGE 3

JMSDF to host 37th annual Iwakuni base festival

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
 IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Japan Maritime Self Defense Force will host its annual open house for station members and locals at the JMSDF apron area here Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The JMSDF Iwakuni Festival will celebrate the 37th anniversary of the force's command on the station and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

The festival events will include an opening ceremony with overhead flybys, performances by the JMSDF band, the opening of the JMSDF ship "Simokita," taiko drum performances, static

displays, a flight simulator, a flight experience of a US-1A which requires pre-registration, and several other ground events.

During the overhead demonstrations, JMSDF pilots will show specific capabilities of each individual aircraft.

A JMSDF drill team, composed of cadets in flight training, will also be performing following the opening ceremony.

Food vendors will also be available at the event site.

The event's main purpose is to provide station members and locals with knowledge of JMSDF units and activities and strengthen exchange and support

SEE **FESTIVAL** ON PAGE 3



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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

'Lessons in life'

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI
MAG-12 DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

It's school time. Children and parents are active and on track again.

Children learn a lot of lessons in the classroom, from mathematics to English, from science to history, from music-arts to cultural studies, etc.

Parents, too, learn daily lessons such as how to prepare their children for school, what clothing they wear, what food they eat, helping them with their homework, encouraging them to study, supervising when it's bedtime, waking them up the next day, encouraging good manners and personal hygiene, etc.

But for everyone else there are so many more lessons to learn daily.

There are lessons learned at home, workplace, play, church, mall and in the streets.

We have to remember not to miss the opportunity to learn about ourselves.

There are many things in our lives we have to examine, and from those we get lessons to improve ourselves for the better because the biggest room in this world is the room for improvement.

I pick up lists of lessons in life as food for thought. The following is from "Lessons in Life" by Regina Brett.

1) Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

2) When in doubt, just take the next small step.

3) Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

4) Pay off your credit cards every month.

5) You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

7) Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.

8) When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

9) Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.

10) Don't compare your life to

others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

11) Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry. God never blinks.

12) Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.

13) No one is in charge of your happiness except you.

14) Always choose life.

15) Forgive everyone for everything.

16) Time heals almost everything. Give time time.

17) Believe in miracles.

18) God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

19) Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.

20) Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.

21) All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.

22) The best is yet to come.

23) Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.

24) If you don't ask, you don't get.

25) Yield.

Does your will of advance medical directive reflect you wishes

SUBMITTED BY
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The most recent celebrity to die an untimely death and have a "questionable" will or estate plan is Gary Coleman who is known for his famous catchphrase "What'choo talkin' 'bout, Willis?"

We should be reminded again to update our wills and our estate plans.

Coleman seemed to have an out-of-date will.

His will was drafted by hand in 2007, leaving everything to his wife, whom he divorced less than a year later.

Wills and advance medical directives do not have expiration dates, so they can still be valid a great many years after they are executed.

A will distributes your belongings, and an advance medical directive determines who has the authority to end life-prolonging treatment if you are incapacitated.

Coleman's ex-wife made the decision to discontinue his life support pursuant to an advance medical directive on record with the hospital.

It is recommended you review your will at least once a year to ensure that it still accurately reflects your personal circumstances and desires.

One way to remember is to review your will each year on your birthday.

If there have been no major changes during the past year, then the will can be placed back in the fireproof box until next year's review or until there is a significant change in your life.

The same should be done with the advanced medical directive.

A significant change would be marriage, divorce, a change in the number of children you have, your state of legal residence or any of the named individuals in your will such as beneficiaries, guardians or trustees.

Coleman divorced his ex-wife in August 2008.

Divorce terminates the ex-spouse's rights in a will, but divorce does not affect an advance medical directive.

Coleman's ex-wife still had the authority to terminate life-prolonging treatment.

His ex-wife also contends she maintained a common law marriage with Coleman, after the divorce, entitling her to his estate under Utah law.

Did Coleman still want his ex-wife to be the beneficiary of his estate?

Did he still want his ex-wife to make the life or death decision for him?

These are some questions an updated estate plan would have answered.

Changes to your will or advance medical directive should never be made by pen-and-ink corrections to documents themselves.

People who want to revise their estate planning documents should make an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney to get them updated.

A will or advance medical directive can be many years old but still accurate if nothing has changed.

Nothing says a will made ten years ago needs to be re-done simply based on the age of the document.

On the other hand, a will could have been made six months ago, but a major change in your life such as divorce, marriage or the birth of your first child means it is time for a new will regardless of when the last will was made.

To remove any doubt, Coleman should have updated his will and advance medical directive when he divorced his wife.

If you have reviewed your will and would like to make some changes, the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Legal Assistance Office can prepare a new one for you. Call 253-5591 for an appointment or come to our office at Building 608.

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 of projected publication date for review by e-mailing iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, call 253-5551 or stop by Building 1, Room 216.

Hornets on deck in outback

FRONTIER FROM PAGE 1

The mission was to make the arrival of the VMFA(AW)-224 pilots go as smooth as possible with seamless integration into preparation for the next mission.

VMFA(AW)-224 pilots landed at RAAF Base Tindal, Australia for exercise Southern Frontier last week.

Southern Frontier is an annual, bilateral training exercise hosted by the RAAF to afford Marine Aircraft Group 12 Hornet squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive air support.

"The flights went great," said Capt. Jeffrey G. Dean, VMFA(AW)-224 pilot. "Everything went smoothly."

Now that the birds have landed, pilots will have to rely on ground maintainers for the management and coordination of aircraft arrival, turnaround and launches.

"Flying definitely puts hours toward the life of the aircraft," said Dean. "When we move the jets, we have to bring all of our maintenance support. No matter where we are, the jets still require periodic inspections and work."

According to ordnance and aircraft technicians of VMFA(AW)-224, settling in and getting networks set up was tough, but the real work began when birds landed.

"Once the pilots get in, everyone goes to work," said Cpl. James Sawyer, ordnance technician with VMFA(AW)-224.

Ordnance was the first section



A Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 F/A-18 Hornet lands for exercise Southern Frontier here Aug. 31. Southern Frontier is an annual, bi-lateral training exercise hosted by the RAAF that focuses on offensive air support training.

to see the birds and check for hot breaks.

When ordnance was done doing their checks, the other sections within VMFA(AW)-224 must do theirs to ensure the complete maintenance of the aircraft.

Fixed-wing aircraft safety equipment mechanics performed their inspections, which are vital to the safety and well-being of the pilot.

"Our job is to ensure the seat is in perfect condition," said Lance Cpl. Danielle Kaitchuck, a VMFA(AW)-242 fixed-wing aircraft safety mechanic. "We make sure there are no loose wires, foreign object debris, and make sure the SMDC lines aren't burnt or broken. It has to allow the pilot to eject safely from the

aircraft and survive."

When it came time for the aircraft to launch again to conduct familiarization flights of the area, maintainers were called upon to perform safety inspections on the aircraft.

Over the next few days, personnel spent hours turning the jets around to comply with upcoming flight schedules and close-air support missions for exercise Southern Frontier.

VMFA(AW)-224 pilots spent a few days prior to the exercise gaining familiarization of Australia's Northern Territory, including the Delamare Range Facility where the squadron will be conducting close-air support missions.

"A lot of electrical checks have

to be conducted before pilots can drop bombs," said Sawyer. "When we apply a specific type of bomb family to an aircraft, we have to do a check for that specific bomb family."

"That involves doing checks every day," he added.

There is much to look forward to the next few weeks as the Marines work with the Australians.

"I am definitely looking forward to making use of the airspace and ranges here," said Dean.

"The Northern Territory of Australia is pretty remote. There is a lot of open airspace to fly and train," he added.

Southern Frontier is a chance for the two nations to exercise and enhance training relationships with all participating personnel.

MyCAA gets overhaul to continue JMSDF to host open house

SPOUSES FROM PAGE 1

■ Offer a maximum financial benefit of \$4,000 with a fiscal year cap of \$2,000. Waivers will be available for spouses pursuing licensure or certification up to the total maximum assistance of \$4,000.

■ Require military spouses to finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course.

■ Be limited to associate degrees, certification, and licensures.

These new guidelines reflect a return to the original purpose of the program — to assist spouses of service members in achieving portable careers. These changes also align the program with responsible fiscal planning by the Defense Department to help sustain the program.

More program details will be posted on MilitaryOneSource's

Web site when they become available. Spouses interested in finding out more information are encouraged to check the site often.

Spouses who currently have an active account

Beginning Sept. 1 and running through Oct. 21, spouses with active accounts may request financial assistance for classes with a start date up to, but not beyond, Jan. 15, 2011. All currently approved financial assistance documents will be honored.

Additionally, the review revealed that National Guard and Reserve members must be on active duty for their spouses to receive the MyCAA benefit. Spouses may no longer use the MyCAA benefit when the service member is in an alert or demobilization period.

The new eligibility rule takes effect immediately.

After Oct. 21, anyone who

does not qualify under the new restrictions listed above will no longer have funds available in their account.

Additional information

The program will be closed Oct. 22 – Oct. 25, so that MilitaryOneSource may ensure the infrastructure is in place to implement the new program.

Military spouses are the backbone for military families, displaying strength of character to be admired by this nation. The DOD remains committed to investing in military families and appreciates the sacrifice of those who also serve.

For more information, go to the MilitaryOneSource Web site: <https://www.militaryonesource.com> or call 1-800-342-9647.

You may also contact Bonnie Lewis, station Personal Finance Manager, with questions at 253-6250.

FESTIVAL FROM PAGE 1

within the community.

The festival also gives JMSDF family members a first-hand experience for a better understanding of the self-defense force.

The mini air show will bring local dignitaries, including government officials, prefecture assembly members, Iwakuni's mayor and city council members, and other distinguished military officials.

Admission to the event is free.

During the event, the apron area will be closed off to all vehicle traffic.

The contractor's gate will be open to off-base personnel where they will then be directed to the event site.

For maps, directions or more information on the festival, contact JMSDF Iwakuni at 0827-22-3181 (ext. 6231 or 6232) or visit <http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/iwakuni/kitaisaigae.html>.

ACOE begins master plan to improve security, fire protection on station



Brendan Donnelly and Mi Sun Kim, fire protection engineers, evaluate a fire alarm panel in the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting facility here Sept. 2. Donnelly explained the structure of the panel while Kim gathered the information on a computer attached to an engineer's "connect a desk" device.

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Army Corps of Engineers spent close to \$1 million for an in-house, contracted station survey in support of a multi-billion master plan development and review scheduled to be completed here by 2015.

Engineer teams from C.H. Guernsey & Company, EMC Engineers Inc. and Poole Fire Protection Inc. arrived here Aug. 14. The last team of engineers stayed until Sept. 1, surveying the fiscal security and fire protection technology of 189 buildings on station.

"We're surveying around 190 buildings on base to determine what needs to be done to those buildings to bring them up to an acceptable level code-wise," said Brendan Donnelly, PFP Inc. fire protection engineer. "We're also trying to tie all existing buildings into a new central control point so that all reports can be sent to one location on base."

With the station's expected population increase, the ACOE in conjunction with the station S-6 department is creating a master plan to update the security and fire protection technology of current station facilities to keep them up to par with the systems of newly constructed structures.

When the engineers survey each building, they must first understand the primary use of the building in order to determine the level of security or fire protection necessary for the operations of the building.

Once this information is determined, the engineers figure out the most convenient solution to update the building's technology.

"A lot of the systems we've seen on base are 20 to 30 years old, and the technology has changed so much since then," said Donnelly. "The additional portion of our project is to develop a master plan outlining fire alarm certification requirements for all future construction here at Iwakuni."

When a fire or security alarm goes off on station, Provost Marshall's Office Marines and the station fire department are immediately sent to the scene.

Because the fire alarm and security systems in most of the stations facilities are outdated, distinctions between emergency alarms and system malfunctions are unknown.

"(This project) will reduce the amount of fire truck sirens on base because, as it currently stands when an alarm signal comes in they don't know if it's a true alarm or a trouble condition on a panel," said Michael Nightingale, ACOE fire protection engineer. "So when any kind of maintenance issue comes through, the alarm system goes off and the trucks roll."

With the set-up of the new technology, the system will recognize whether an alarm is going off due to a true emergency or a maintenance failure, which will overall reduce the workload for the station's response forces.

Not only does the new

technology distinguish what kind of alarm is triggered, but it is more convenient for the station's fire alarm and security system monitors.

"The manpower required to monitor these systems won't have to increase with the increase of actual people occupying the base," said Donnelly.

Once the completion of the central control point facility is completed, all security and fire alarm systems can be monitored and operated from one location, requiring the same amount of manpower the station's system currently uses.

"I think this project will provide a better quality service for both the civilians and military on base," said Nightingale. "The maintenance workload will be better managed through computer interface, so that (the monitor's) time is better served."

Since MCAS Iwakuni is in

Japan, the engineers had to survey the facilities as both a military and overseas installation.

"Fire protection requirements for the military are a lot stricter than a private industry. Federal criteria actually goes into a lot more detail than you see in a private industry, said Donnelly. "Being overseas, they use different manufacturers here and the systems are laid out under a different standard, so this has been a real learning experience for all of us to see how what we do is done in other countries," he added.

Although dealing with a different beast than what the engineers are usually used to tackling in the U.S., many of them said the support received from the station and the Marines who participated in the project helped cut the anticipated two-month project into just three weeks.

"It's kind of neat coming out to see what you guys do, to see the mission of the base, to see how it all intertwines, and to try to find the best solution for you guys so you can carry out your mission," said Nightingale.

The C.H. Guernsey & Company and EMC Engineers Inc. team of engineers are scheduled to return to Iwakuni later this year for the next evolution of the master plan development and review.



Mi Sun Kim, Poole Fire Protection Inc. fire protection engineer, gathers information on a computer attached to a connect-a-desk device while surveying the new Aircraft Rescue Firefighting facility Sept. 2. Donnelly and the rest of the PFP engineers stayed on station one week longer than the rest of the engineers who visited Iwakuni to survey 189 buildings for a master plan development and review project slated to be complete by 2015.

Fighting Bengals cannibalize to mobilize

CPL. SALVADOR MORENO
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 replaced a drag brace on one of the squadrons F/A-18D Hornets here Aug. 30.

With the mission of attacking and destroying surface targets, conducting multi-sensor imagery reconnaissance, providing supporting arms coordination and intercepting and destroying enemy aircraft under all-weather conditions, VMFA(AW)-224 personnel work round the clock to keep their Fighting Bengals mission ready.

Oftentimes people may take for granted the type of work and maintenance that goes into keeping the birds in the air to put the bombs on the ground.

The fact of the matter is that maintenance is necessary to keep the jets maintained continuously and ensure pilots remain safe in the jets.

"(The air framers) were doing a 364 day and found the drag brace was bad," said Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Sanford, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of airframes.

The quick-fix solution to the problem was to get a drag brace from supply; however, once installed they found it was also bad and wouldn't lock.

The next step was to borrow a drag brace from a jet that wasn't being used.

"It's called canning; we cannibalize the airplane," said Sanford. "This airplane is not going with us to Australia, so we get parts off it for the other airplanes to make sure we get 10 airplanes over there."

The drag brace is an important part of the aircraft for landing. It allows the landing gear to fold up into a storage space, which is considerably shorter than the in-use length of the landing gear.

"Without (the drag brace), the landing gear would crush and it would literally fall on its face," said Lance Cpl. Ryan Quillin, air framer with VMFA (AW)-224.

The actual mechanics of the drag brace are difficult to explain, but the main purpose is to act as a shock absorber upon impact of landing.

"The drag brace is a hydraulically actuated telescoping assembly that manually locks the nose gear," said Quillin.

It took a crew of about five Marines to replace the drag brace on one of the Fighting Bengals here.

"Normally two to three guys can get it done in one shift," said Quillin. "It's not difficult at all; it's one of the easier jobs."

With VMFA (AW)-224 deployed to Australia, they needed the job done fast and correctly, so the extra help was used to train, maintain and ensure perfection to prevent any type of mishap.

With the new air brace installed, the Fighting Bengals are at the 10 planes needed to roar down under and bring the boom to the outback.



Cpl. Andrew Conner, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 air framer, lifts the drag brace into place just before another Marine places the required parts to install it during a 364-day inspection here Aug. 30. It took a crew of about five Marines to replace the drag brace on one of the fighting Bengals here.



Cpl. Andrew Conner, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 air framer, puts a drag brace in place through a small opening where the landing gear is stowed during flight as part of a 364-day inspection here Aug. 30. It took the crew only a few hours to remove the drag brace from one jet and install it onto another.

Local bands rock Torii Pines, ends summer with annual music festival

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 800 locals flooded the Torii Pines golf course here during the 2010 Summer Music Festival hosted by Marine Corps Community Services Saturday.

The festival provided the crowd with live music, food and games.

Larry Mask, MCCA special events and entertainment manager, said these events give local musicians a chance to show off their talent while providing entertainment for the community.

The festival started at 5 p.m. with bands rocking the stage throughout the night until 10 p.m. Six of the seven bands that performed during the festival were composed of local community members.

"We don't have a lot of venues to get our local talent out into," said Mask. "(The festival) is something where we can put (local bands) out in front of a lot of people."

The festival featured the voices and music of Floyd Valaningham, Afro Fire, Dyatonics, Humanity Train, Jalopy and the Rock 'N' Roll Junkeez.

"It was great, we had a lot of fun," said Justin Burke, Dyatonics' lead singer. "We got to come out here and put on a show for a large crowd, and we don't get to do that too often. We usually play in local bars for small crowds. We just want to say thanks to MCCA for letting us play and for all the people who showed up to support us."

A mass of families and single service members lounged around the golf course enjoying the live music and food provided at the festival.

Although the bands played a lot of rock 'n' roll, the festival wasn't limited to just one style of music.

Echo Ann Leming, a summer music festival attendee, said she really enjoyed the diverse music played during the festival.

"There were many bands there, and we were able to listen to many kinds of music," said Leming. "They had reggae songs, country songs and some rock songs."

As the music roared into the night, community members continued to enjoy themselves playing football and soccer games around the golf course.

Children tired themselves out as they scuttled around the children's play land built by MCCA.

"We're just out here having a good time, enjoying the music and spending time with the kids," said William Jagger, a summer music festival attendee. "As always, MCCA likes to put money back into the community, and this is a good way to do it."

Jagger said he thought the Summer Music Festival was a great way to close out the summer.

Community members did exactly that, as they said good-bye to the summer and enjoyed the cool night breeze listening to the hot local talent.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Community members lounge around the Torii Pines Golf Course here during the 2010 Summer Music Festival hosted by Marine Corps Community Services Saturday. The festival ran from 5 to 10 p.m. and provided the crowd with live music, food and games.



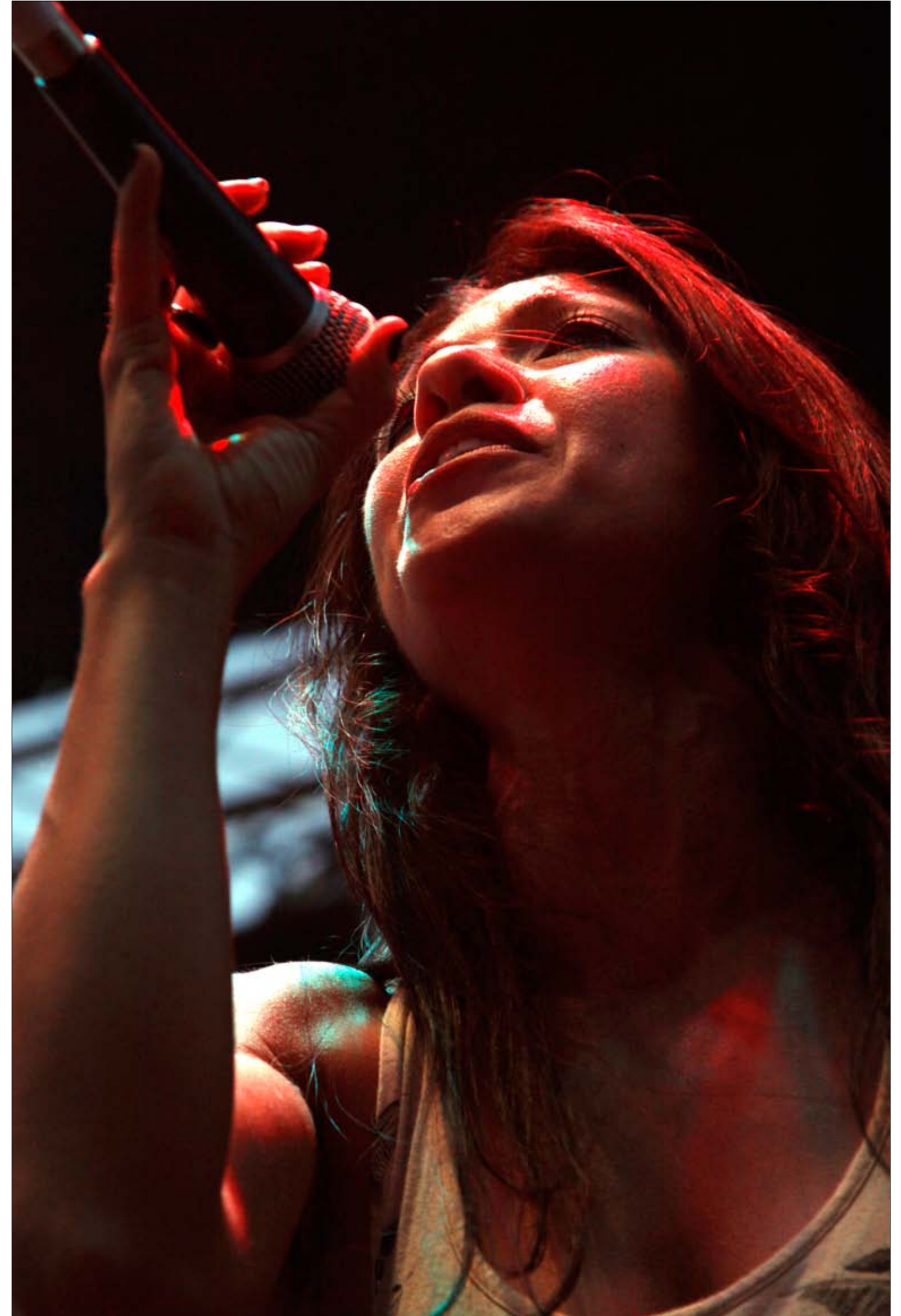
LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Keith Thompson, Dyatonics' guitar player, strums his guitar for the crowd that came out to enjoy the music during the 2010 Summer Music Festival hosted by Marine Corps Community Services at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. Six of the seven bands that performed during the festival were composed of local community members.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Mark Kurtti, a festival attendee, and his 3-year-old daughter, Leila Kurtti, slide down the tiger slide at the children's play land during the 2010 Summer Music Festival hosted by Marine Corps Community Services at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. The festival brought out more than 800 people in attendance to the golf course.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Kelly Kelemen, Rock 'N' Roll Junkeez's lead singer, sings to the crowd that came out to enjoy the music during the 2010 Summer Music Festival hosted by Marine Corps Community Services at the Torii Pines Golf Course here Saturday. The festival provided something for everyone as the musical acts ranged from reggae to country.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Afghan soldiers build warrior skill set, add mortars to repertoire

SGT. MARK FAYLOGA
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

RANGE JUAREZ, Afghanistan — The U.S. Marine and the Afghan soldier may speak different languages, but as 60 mm high-explosive mortar rounds sailed through the air eventually reaching their fiery conclusion a few hundred meters away, the men reacted the same way — with awe and motivation, brothers in a warrior culture.

Marines and Afghan soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Combined Action Company, trained with mortars at Range Juarez, Afghanistan, during a mission rehearsal Aug. 28.

The company is comprised of Marines and sailors from 3/3's Lima and Headquarters Companies, and Afghan soldiers from 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps. The men train and conduct combat operations alongside one another.

The mission rehearsal was a welcomed training opportunity for the company's joint weapons section. Before coming together six weeks ago, the majority of the Afghan soldiers training had been with their rifles, before coming together six weeks ago.

They haven't done much training with crew-served weapons, and the majority of them have never fired high-explosive mortars, said Sgt. Alan W. Smith, weapons section leader.

Smith, from Chattanooga, Tenn., said the Marines have the Afghan soldiers run through firing drills almost daily, but the routine can become monotonous. Firing live rounds is a rare opportunity.

"It's a good experience for them to get a dose of motivation," Smith said.

Afghan soldier Din Mohamad especially appreciated the motivation. The last time Din fired mortars was more than a year ago, and before the training, he'd never gotten the chance to shoot high-explosive rounds.

"I liked firing the HE rounds," Mohamad, from Badakshan province, said. "We've learned a lot. The training is very good and we're thankful to work with the Marines."



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

RANGE JUAREZ, Afghanistan — Din Mohamad, an Afghan National Army soldier, fires a 60 mm high-explosive mortar round here, during a mission rehearsal Aug. 28. The rehearsal with mortarmen from Combined Action Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, was the first time any of the Afghan soldiers had fired high-explosive rounds.



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

RANGE JUAREZ, Afghanistan — Afghan Army soldier Din Mohamad observes as Lance Cpl. Cletus L. Eicher, a Combined Action Company mortarman, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sets a direction of fire here during a mission rehearsal Aug. 28. The mission rehearsal was a welcomed training opportunity for the company's joint weapons section.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MOPS Volunteer Opportunities

Do you enjoy working with children? Mothers of Preschoolers is looking for volunteers to work with children up to 5 years old every first and third Thursday of every month 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. For more information, please contact Michelle at 253-2031 or e-mail iwakunimoppets@yahoo.com.

Red Cross Upcoming Events

The Red Cross has several events scheduled for September:
Prenatal brief: 9:45 a.m. Sept. 22.
Adult, infant and child first aid and CPR: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sept. 18.
Volunteer orientation: 11 a.m. Sept. 21.
Boys and Girls Club day: 12 p.m. Sept. 25.

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.

Armed for Success

The armed for success Web site is scheduled to host a free, live two-day online virtual event for active duty and transitioning service members, veterans and family members 1 – 10 p.m. Sept. 18 and 19. The event will bring well known experts in military transition and education, and experienced advisors for discussion, questions and answers. The site offers free and easy entry to academic information and career information. For more information or to sign up, visit www.armedforsuccess.com.

54th Iwakuni Civic Culture Festival

Celebrate the 54th Iwakuni Civic Culture Festival at the Iwakuni Civic Hall 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sept. 24 – 26. There will be a Japanese flower arrangement display and a tea ceremony conducted by several Japanese schools in the Iwakuni area. Admission is free, but the tea ceremony is 500 yen per person. For more information, contact the Iwakuni City lifelong learning section at 0827-29-5211.

JMSDF Iwakuni Base Festival

Celebrate the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces' 2010 Iwakuni Base Festival here 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sept. 19. There will be an aircraft static display, open house for an LST Osumi Class ship, flight simulators and ground events. For more information, call 082-722-3181 ext. 6232 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Kinshu Special Kabuki Performance

Kantaro Nakamura and Shichinosuke Nakamura will hold a kinshu special kabuki performance at the Shunan City Cultural Hall at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admissions are 6,500 yen for S-seats, 5,500 yen for A-seats (All seats are reserved.). No admission to preschoolers. For more information, contact Shunan City Cultural Hall at 0834-22-8787.

Japanese Drum (taiko) performance

There will be a Japanese taiko drum performance Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Sinfonia Iwakuni. Admissions are 6,000 yen for S-seats, 5,500 yen for A-seats, 5,000 yen for B-seats. All seats are reserved. For more information, contact Sinfonia Iwakuni at 0827-29-1600.

Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program provides 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 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

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.

"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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, September 10, 2010

7 p.m. Salt (PG-13)
10 p.m. Cyrus (R)
Premier

Saturday, September 11, 2010

1 p.m. Ramona and Beezus (G)
4 p.m. The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG)
7 p.m. Cyrus (R)

Sunday, September 12, 2010

1 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)
4 p.m. Predators (R)
7 p.m. Cyrus (R)

Monday, September 13, 2010

7 p.m. Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)
Last Showing

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

4 p.m. Inception (PG-13)

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

7 p.m. Eat Pray Love (PG-13)

Thursday, September 16, 2010

7 p.m. The Expendables (R)

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

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

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1996 Nissan Skyline

Gray 4-door sedan. Asking \$500. For more information call Tess Burke at 253-6513 (work) or 0803-537-9941 (cell).

1994 Mazda MS-8

Asking \$2,200. JCI good until August 2012. Alternator, timing belt and fan belt recently changed. Brand new front brake system, good A/C, and power windows. For more information e-mail: landen_c_quintanilla@yahoo.com

Jobs

Career Transition Trainer

Inverness Technologies is seeking a part-time career transition trainer. Will perform 1-2 seminars a month training military person-

nel to enter the civilian work force. Some overnight travel is required. Opportunity for military spouses or DOD personnel. Must know U.S. job market and have experience teaching job search technology. Experience in training is strongly desired. Training topics include skill assessment, career decision making, resumé preparation, interviewing, job search, etc. If interested, e-mail your resumé to careers@invernesstechnologies.com.

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.

Miscellaneous

Rainbow Home Daycare

Rainbow Home Daycare has openings for children from ages 2-5. Hours are from 8 a.m.

to noon. First aid and CPR certified. Fourteen years of experience working in child care centers. Degree in early childhood education. Specializes in teaching pre-school age children in a structured environment that prepares them for kindergarten. For more information, call 253-2246.

Free Translator

Stay at home mom looking to help others in spare time. For more information, e-mail nakahashimikiko@msn.com.

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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy chicken, fried rice, oven-glo potatoes, fried zucchini, calico corn, dinner rolls, potato salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, congo bars, double layer marble cake with butter cream frosting, blueberry crunch.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, Southern fried chicken, barbeque beef cubes, steamed rice, buttered pasta, black-eyed peas, Creole squash, cornbread, macaroni salad, deviled potato salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, spice cake with butter cream frosting, lemon meringue pie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, tempura fish, pepper steak, steamed rice, oven-glo potatoes, glazed carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, club spinach, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter cookies, double layer devil's food cake with butter cream frosting, cheesecake.
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

Thursday

Tomato soup, cream of chicken soup, baked ham, macaroni & tomatoes, fried shrimp, fettuccini noodles, Alfredo sauce, grilled-cheese sandwich, tempura vegetables, peas and carrots, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, German tomato salad, standard salad bar, sugar cookies, strawberry shortcake with whipped topping, vanilla cream pie.
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

Clam chowder soup, minestrone soup, braised beef and noodles, baked fish, mashed potatoes, fried cabbage, mix vegetables, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, potato salad, spinach salad, standard salad bar, banana bread, shortbread cookies, Dutch apple pie.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

Semper Style gives crash course on attire, looks



Barbara Roman, IronWorks Gym fitness coordinator, shows a group of military spouses exercises with a resistance band during the Semper Style class at the Yujo Hall here Sept. 2. Roman explained that using the resistance band daily will help the spouses get their bodies in better shape for the upcoming Marine Corps ball.

Marines float down Katherine Gorge kayak style

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — More than 30 Marines paddled down the Katherine Gorge at Nitmiluk National Park near the top end of Australia's Northern Territory Aug. 29.

The 292,800-acre national park features numerous cultural sites and the gorge, which runs more than eight miles between steep sandstone cliffs that tower more than 230 feet high.

The park is owned by the Jawoyn Aboriginal people and managed by the park and local wildlife commission to allow tourists to visit the national park.

An abundance of Aboriginal art can be seen around the area along stones, cliffs and walls.

It had been a long week for the Marines of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 who flew in prior to the exercise to help set up networks and workstations for personnel.

The Marines were anxious to get out and see some of the cultural experiences Australia's Northern Territories had to offer during their first weekend of liberty.

The Single Marine Program coordinated the trip for the squadron in order to increase the quality life for Marines during the deployment.

"We wanted to hit the ground running and get the Marines out of the camp for some constructive recreation," said Jay Stovall, SMP coordinator. "Nitmiluk tours set us up with a nice lunch and kayaks."

According to Jay Stovall and Staff Sgt. Daniel Black, quality assurance specialist, coordinating fun and recreational activities for Marines on deployment helps to motivate them.

"I have seen a Marine go from having a bad (Wester Pacific deployment) experience to having a really great WESTPAC experience after going on one trip," said Black. "It helps them get out and experience what's outside of base."

Marines paddled past rocky, sandstone cliffs and freshwater alligator nesting grounds, which warned tourists to stay away from



NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK, Australia — A freshwater alligator, approximately four feet in length, rests near the bank of the river as Marines kayak down the Katherine Gorge here in Australia's Northern Territory Aug. 29. The national park is home to many freshwater alligators and nesting areas.

them.

"Everybody got some nice outdoor recreation and exercise, some beautiful pictures of the canyons, gorges and alligator nesting grounds," said Stovall.

A few Marines even spotted an alligator, approximately four feet in length, resting nearby.

"The alligator was (approximately) 4 or 5 feet long," said Nate Batten, an SMP kayak trip participant. "It was hard to tell because it blended in with the water pretty well."

The Katherine Gorge is home to many freshwater alligators that can be seen more during the dry season when the river runs at a shallow depth.

"The alligator showed me all of its nasty teeth," said Edward Riexinger, SMP kayak trip participant. "I think we got a little too close."

According to the Marines, the kayaking trip was a perfect way to spend their first weekend in Australia before kicking off Exercise Southern Frontier, a bilateral close-air support exercise meant to enhance training and esprit de corps.

"It was perfect," said Batten. "It was an outback paradise."

After a day of recreational kayaking adventures and cultural experiences, the Marines had many enjoyable WESTPAC memories stored for a lifetime.



NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK, Australia — Marines kayak down the Katherine Gorge here in Australia's Northern Territory Aug. 29. Marines floated past rocky, sandstone cliffs and freshwater alligator nesting grounds.

JMSDF

Iwakuni Base Festival

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sept. 19



<http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/iwakuni>



LST Osumi Class

- Flybys to celebrate the open house
- Static aircraft display
- LST Osumi Class open house
- Flight simulator
- Ground events