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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 41, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Vikings go air-to-air combat training

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Japanese jets attack Marines in F/A-18s. They swerve in the air dodging and diving. It looks like they are counteracting an attack, but in actuality their attacking is just acting.

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 participated in a weeklong exercise with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force in Misawa, Japan, starting Oct. 18.

VMFA(AW)-225 recently executed orders to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in support of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program.

During its six-month deployment, the squadron is scheduled to participate in various exercises throughout Asia.

The exercise in Misawa was geared toward building relations between VMFA(AW)-225 and the JASDF.

“We are trying to improve the communication barrier,” said Capt. Lamar J. Harris, the public affairs officer and pilot of

SEE **MISAWA** ON PAGE 3

Marine Corps welcomes new commandant



CPL. BOBBY J. YARBROUGH

WASHINGTON — Gen. James Amos receives the Marine Corps colors from Gen. James T. Conway during a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22. Conway relinquished command of the Marine Corps to Amos, who became the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program announced for FY11 Marines

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines planning to end their Marine Corps career in the near future may have a chance to get back to civilian life sooner than they thought.

On Oct. 14, the Marine Corps released Marine Administrative Message 5777/10 which lays out guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2011 Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program.

The VEERP is a cost savings initiative designed to decrease manpower by letting Marines move their end of active service date forward up to 90 days.

While other early-out programs like the Early Release for Further Education Program require Marines to provide proof they have been accepted into an accredited college, vocational or technical school, the VEERP allows Marines to be released from active service without proof of admissions.

“This program allows basically anyone to apply for the early out,”

SEE **RELEASE** ON PAGE 3

School in session for Educator’s Day

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station teachers and professional educators gathered to participate in the 2nd annual Matthew C. Perry Elementary School and High School Educator’s Day here

Oct. 22. Educator’s Day is an annual event conducted within the educational complexes throughout the Japan district.

The purpose of the training day

SEE **EDUCATORS** ON PAGE 2

Typhoon Megi cuts PHIBLEX short

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Exercise PHIBLEX 11, which was scheduled to run until Sunday, was cut short due to the forecast of the category five super typhoon Megi headed for the Philippines Oct. 18.

“This is a very large annual event that we have come to rely upon in efforts to improve our relationship, our understanding and our interoperability,” said Brig. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, III Marine Expeditionary

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A State of Mind'

LT. D. ANTHONY BAKER
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

I knew this old grouchy man who lived in my neighborhood. He was a World War II veteran and had been an infantryman while he served in the military. He had the normal aches and pains of someone his age and experience, but he was also very impatient, bad-tempered and ornery.

This guy loved to complain and would have no problem telling whoever would listen.

After Sunday dinner one day, he stretched out on the sofa for a nap.

As he began to snore on the couch, one of his grandson's took some Limburger cheese from the refrigerator, crumbled a pinch, went over to the sofa and carefully sprinkled the Limburger cheese on grandpa's mustache under his nose.

It didn't take long for the Limburger cheese to work its magic.

Grandpa awoke with a start, sniffed a bit, made a face, arose

from the couch and announced, "Something stinks in here!" He walked into the kitchen, sniffing all the way, "Something stinks in here!" He walked into the living room, "Something stinks in here!" He opened the door and walked onto the front porch, sniffed and announced to the world, "The whole world stinks!"

We all know people who do nothing but gripe and complain. "This stinks," "I hate this place," "My job sucks," or "I can't stand my neighbors," are common phrases out of their mouth.

In Iwakuni, some folks are unhappy with the air station and their current living situation and have no problem expressing their dissatisfaction.

They make comments on the playground to other parents.

They walk around the exchange and the Crossroads with scowls on their face, disinviting anyone to say hello.

They roll their eyes when the word "Iwakuni" is mentioned.

They try and get early orders out of Iwakuni and tell everyone they are trying to do so.

They use the Interactive Customer Evaluation system to anonymously give a piece of their

mind.

But like the old grouchy man, the problem is not with the place; the problem is with the person.

You may get early orders out of Iwakuni, you might endure your tour here and wave your middle finger in the plane window as you fly away on the Patriot Express, but don't assume leaving Iwakuni changes anything except your mailing address.

Wherever you go, your problems will go with you when the problem is you.

An attitude change can be just as easy as changing the channel on your TV.

A decision to be content no matter the state or circumstance (Philippians 4:11) starts with the mind, goes through the heart, and is played out in your action and attitude.

You will find once you make a decision to think and speak more positively, not only will you feel better, but you will make a positive impact on those around you.

Some people bring happiness wherever they go and some people bring happiness whenever they go. Which one are you?

Teachers take extra educational step

EDUCATORS FROM PAGE 1

was to sit down with and help teachers and professional educators learn important skills to take with them into the classroom, work space or everyday lifestyle.

The theme of the day was "One Degree More," with the idea that if teachers can take that extra step to ensure the quality education of children, the efforts put forth by those teachers will make a difference.

"At 211 degrees, water is hot," said Jackie Allen, professional educator and quest speaker. "At 212 degrees, it boils. With boiling water comes steam, and steam can power a locomotive."

Teachers were divided into classrooms and participated in a variety of activities inspiring learning, collaboration and new ideas.

Business was conducted much like a regular school day with 45-minute sessions and an array of topics to discuss, including technology, art and poetry.

Professional educators also taught classes about numerous services that are unique to the air station and how teachers, as well

as students, can take advantage of those services.

Classes on how to deal with learning disabilities such as attention-deficit hyperactive disorder, autism and dyslexia were also available.

Professional educators went over how to identify those disabilities and help children with special needs progress.

"These are areas we need to take care of," said Clayton Fujie, Japan district superintendent.

"These are our kids, and sometimes we need to take that extra step. It's very important."

During the day, educators were also given the opportunity to take a field trip to visit local Japanese schools.

"It's great because (teachers) get to see what they do and how they do things," said Fujie. "In our school systems, we have to take care of those needs also."

Each trip escorted approximately 15 participants to Hamagiri Elementary School and Nagai High School to share ideas and experience the way education is practiced in Japan.

"We are trying to build a positive relationship with our local schools

in hopes to build a partnership with them so our students can have a chance to experience the cultural aspect of Japan off base and see how their students learn as well," said Morgan Nugent, M.C. Perry High School principal. Networking became a critical skill teachers and professional educators practiced throughout the day.

By networking, teachers were not only able to share ideas with other cultures, but also among themselves in their own working environment to discuss which techniques work and which techniques do not.

"It's a modern world where networking is critical in all facets of our lives," said Nugent. "We have got to be able to have the chance to share our ideas with each other in order to grow. If we just sit back in our own little room and don't communicate with each other, don't share what we are doing, what's working with one child, especially at the high school level where they move from one classroom to the next, we are hindering children's education."

According to Nugent,

teachers and educators are often overlooked, and even though they may not be flying an F/A-18 Hornet or loading munitions, teachers and educators serve a critical role in accomplishing the mission.

"(Teachers) step in, go ahead and serve a role that makes a difference for those individuals who are stepping into the plane, holding a rifle in Afghanistan," said Nugent. "(Teachers) provide (service members) and their children with the quality education they expect. (Service members) do not have to worry about their children not receiving an adequate education. They do not have to worry about their children's safety. They know that their children are surrounded by caring teachers who sacrifice their time, and sometimes even their own self-interest, in order to ensure the children's needs are met and that we put kids first."

After the day's events, the M.C. Perry school staff was ready to return to the classroom with new and fresh ideas to ensure the quality education of their students.



MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Maj. Timothy Cooper, pilot with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, boards an F/A-18 Hornet in preparation for an air-to-air exercise with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force during a bilateral exercise here Oct. 19. The weeklong exercise was an opportunity for Japanese and U.S. forces to improve operational effectiveness and continue to break down communication barriers.

Vikings take to sky with JASDF in bilateral training

MISAWA FROM PAGE 1

VMFA(AW)-225. "If anything was to happen, we would be working together, so it is important to know that we can communicate on a tactical level."

Improving communication barriers between the Japanese and U.S. forces is not only important for tactical procedures but also to reduce the difference caused by the language barrier.

"One of our biggest barriers in the air is the language barrier," said Capt. Mick Pavis, assistant operations officer for VMFA(AW)-225. "The fact that they aviate to their second language is extremely impressive but is something that can always be worked on. With someone who is not a native English speaker, you kind of have to tailor the way you talk, slow down, be

more deliberate to make that communication more effective."

In addition to communications, the exercise was also aimed at providing logistical training.

"For a lot of our younger guys, this is the first time that they have had any experience ever working with a different country's service," said Pavis.

Each training day, the two forces conducted operation briefings in which each party expressed the tactical maneuvers they wanted to execute.

Both squadrons focused on basic air-to-air engagements, which consisted of basic fighting maneuvers.

The squadrons also practiced aerial interceptions, primarily using radars for objects beyond aerial range.

For training purposes, each

squadron would switch roles as the adversary and afterward would critique each other's performance.

"It has been pretty even between us," said Pavis. "I think one of the great things about military aviation is that everyone learns something every flight. It doesn't matter if you have 200 hours in your aircraft or 2,000; every flight you are going to learn something new and you are going to see something, that maybe you haven't seen before or a better way to do something, and that's the point of why we do this training, to become better than the day we were before."

In September, VMFA(AW)-225 participated in exercises in Guam, and is scheduled to train with the U. S. Air Force in the following months.

Bengals leap back to Iwakuni to avoid super typhoon

TYPHOON FROM PAGE 1

Force deputy commanding general and III Marine Expeditionary Brigade commanding general. "While we are here for the official opening of the exercise today, this exercise has been a year in preparation and more than a month of actual execution."

Brilakis gave a speech during the PHIBLEX 11 opening ceremony just two days before the exercise was canceled.

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 was scheduled to conduct bilateral close-air support and air-to-air training with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Aircraft Group 36 and the Philippine Air Force throughout the exercise. Once the status of the typhoon was confirmed, VMFA(AW)-224, along with the MEU and several other units that participated in the exercise, called an end to the exercise and headed for safe ground.

"The forecast winds were going to be category one, which is around 80 something knots upwards to 160 knots of wind," said Maj. Jeremy Hall, VMFA(AW)-224 operations officer. "It was really force preservation for the aircraft more than anything," he said about

ending the exercise.

Super typhoon Megi, the 10th and strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2010, hit Isabela province on Monday and was heading west-southwest on the main island of Luzon with winds up to 117 mph.

"The ramps where the aircraft were parked were not designed to house our aircraft," said Hall. "There were no tie down points embedded in the pavement to use chain. So without that, basically the only way to keep the airplanes secure were by chocks, and the chocks will not hold up to those kinds of winds."

With approximately 88 flights scheduled daily throughout the exercise, 24 were completed by the close of the exercise.

"The other concern was if we left our jets in place, there was a very good chance that we would lose power to the base and the ability to provide support services to launch airplanes."

It was clear the decision to evacuate was more than necessary after Megi took its toll on the Philippines, causing its predicted damage and more.

VMFA(AW)-224 is currently back on station and is scheduled to participate in a three-part exercise in November.

Early release guidelines out

RELEASE FROM PAGE 1

said Gunnery Sgt. David Spiker, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron career planner here.

Because the Marine Corps reached its recruiting goal earlier than planned, it needs a minimum of 1,000 Marines to take advantage of the VEERP.

Currently, there are 30,000 Marines eligible.

Eligibility requirements include an EAS between Oct. 2 and Sept. 30, 2011, Transitional Assistance Management Program and Transition Assistance Program completion, not stabilized for deployment, not on terminal leave, medically qualified and eligible for an honorable or general (under honorable conditions) discharge.

Marines scheduled for transfer to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve or retired list, indebted to the government through pay or leave, participating in the National Call to Service Program, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury will be ineligible for the program.

Individual requests must be submitted to the battalion or squadron commanding officer, which makes completing the process go fairly quick.

"Marines should put in their requests about 30 days ahead of time to expedite the process," said Spiker. "That way there is plenty of time for the administrative process to go through."

Depending on the commander's discretion, Marines may take terminal leave in addition to their early release.

The MARADMIN also specifies that Marines utilizing the program are still considered as having completed their obligated period of active duty, still eligible for separation benefits if applicable, and any enlistment bonuses they received will not be recouped.

Spiker also added Marines should remember even though their EAS has been moved up they may still be obligated to serve if they are recalled during their inactive reserve time.

For more information about the VEERP program, see MARADMIN 577/10 on Marines.mil or contact a career planner.

Marines observe 2010 Hispanic Heritage Month

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Heritage, diversity, integrity and honor: The renewed hope of America" is the theme of 2010's Hispanic Heritage Month.

The term Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race, and today more than 35 million American people identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

Each year, the Marine Corps celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 worldwide to highlight the cultural inheritance and long traditions of military service of Hispanic Americans among the different branches of the United States military.

The observation started when President Lyndon Johnson established Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 to highlight the contributions Hispanics make every day to the service and their country.

On Aug. 17, 1988, President Ronald Reagan enacted into law and extended the observation to a monthlong celebration.

Marine Administrative Message 502/10 states that Sept. 16 - Oct. 15 is observed with respect to the anniversary of the independence of seven Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Chile.

According to Master Sgt. Rodney Buentello, training chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron here, it's the mixture and abundance of Hispanic culture from all around the world that comes together to make Hispanic Heritage Month a significant time for celebration.

"It's not just one race of Latinos from Mexico," said Buentello. "It's Cubans, Brazilians and South Americans. To come together as a nation makes the heritage strong as well as the Marine Corps."

The MARADMIN also states: "Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have distinguished themselves in the Marine Corps and they continue to do so today."

The Marine Corps continues to recognize successful Hispanic service members such as Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas, director of Manpower Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Salinas was the first Hispanic woman to become a general officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Aug. 2, 2006.

Two days later, upon assumptions of her command at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., she became the first

woman to ever command a recruit depot.

Salinas has served in the Marine Corps since May 1974.

Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps from June 26, 2003 to April 25, 2007, is originally from the nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Estrada was the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and became the first Marine of Hispanic descent to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Pedro Augusto del Valle, native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, was the first Hispanic Marine to reach the rank of lieutenant general.

After serving in World War I, Haiti and Nicaragua, del Valle went on to serve as commanding general of the 1st Marine Division during World War II.

According to Lance Cpl. Claudio Martinez, combat correspondent with the Public Affairs Office here, not many people know the stories of the Hispanic Marines and war heroes who sacrificed, gave their lives, and served in the military.

"I remember, growing up, my dad always told me stories of Pancho Villa and Moctezuma," said Martinez. "The way I've led my life has had a lot to do with those stories. It's nice to have some time to set apart not only for Hispanics to get to know their own heritage, but also for other people to know our heritage."

The stories Martinez was told as a child ultimately played a role in his decision to defend his country the way his ancestors did during the Mexican revolution.

According to Sgt. Daniel Rodriguez, station weather forecaster, family values play a huge part in the Hispanic culture as well as the Marine Corps.

"The Hispanic culture is influenced a lot by family," said Rodriguez. "In the Marine Corps, it's reassuring to know there is a whole community of Hispanics who are helping each other out. We are able to kind of lean on each other. I think that's a very beneficial asset for us."

According to Buentello, the kinship of the Hispanic culture holds a strong bond that allows for trust and friendship.

"Our roots run deep and we never forget that," said Buentello. "If we're strong together, there's nothing we can't do to help the Marine Corps or America grow that much stronger."

As Hispanic Marines continue to sacrifice and serve their country, they pass their heritage on to future generations in the hope that they too remember where they come from.



STOCK PHOTO

Maj. Gen. Angelina Salinas, director of Manpower Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, was the first Hispanic woman to become a general officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Aug. 2, 2006. Two days later, upon assumption of her command at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., she became the first woman to ever command a recruit depot.



STOCK PHOTO

Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, served in his position from June 26, 2003, to April 25, 2007. Estrada was the first Marine of Hispanic descent to be promoted to that rank. His personal awards include a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with three stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. Estrada is originally from the nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Navy Seabees: Building things big, small at all hours of day, night

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"Be careful where you sit," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Stowe, a builder with facilities. "There are tools everywhere."

Everything from wrenches, screwdrivers, hammers, saws, jackhammers and pipe threaders are scattered throughout the facilities building and workplace.

Navy Seabees were founded following Pearl Harbor in answer to a crucial demand for builders who could fight.

The Seabees in the Facilities Department are responsible for minor and major construction, maintenance and repair.

"We do everything from fixing broken cupboard doors to the construction and renovations of buildings," said Stowe.

The facilities shop consists of only four Seabees altogether, two of which are females.

Because there are so few of them, they each have to sit a week-long duty, answering and responding to all "emergency" calls.

"We get some of the most ridiculous calls," said Stowe. "People will call us at like 2:30 in the morning just to tell us that the fan above their stove doesn't work. That is not an emergency. Things like a water heater exploding, floods, having to snake a toilet or an entire sewer line ... those are emergencies."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Emilie A. Bates, one of the two female builders with facilities, doesn't have a problem getting her hands dirty.

"A lot of guys get embarrassed when I'm the one who shows up to snake their toilet," said Bates. "They think that I'm just the person to answer the phone. They don't realize that the person answering the phone is the one on duty taking care of all the trouble calls."

Not only do the Seabees take care of all construction, but they are also responsible for typhoon readiness on the station as well.

"While families are locked up inside their houses, we're the ones out in the winds, making sure that stuff isn't getting too destroyed," said Stowe. "We strap everything down with netting; we use rope to secure as much as possible to prevent further damage. After the typhoon passes, we go around and do building assessments: what's destroyed, what damage had been done, what's it going to cost to fix, how long is it going to take to fix?"

Along with construction and typhoon readiness, the Seabees, along with other facilities personnel also respond to any calls regarding spiders, especially black widows.

"I am the spider guy," said Stowe. "I go and catch spiders when they're called in and then we save them to keep track of how many spiders are found per year."

Without the Seabees and other facilities personnel, with their building, typhoon readiness and spider catching skills, this base could not operate. No one would be there to wake up in the middle of the night to answer those trouble calls and handle the emergency at hand.

For trouble calls, base personnel may call 253-4242 for assistance.



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN



LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

(ABOVE) Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Stowe, a builder with facilities, demonstrates how to use a pipe threader outside the facilities building here Oct. 14. With five different rates of Seabees in the facilities department aboard the air station, they are responsible for minor and major construction, maintenance and repair. (LEFT) Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Stowe, a builder with facilities, shows off one of the many different sizes of pipe threaders outside the facilities building here Oct. 14.



WASHINGTON — The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos salutes during a passage-of-command ceremony at the Marine Barracks here Oct. 22.



WASHINGTON — The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos prepares to accept command from Gen. James T. Conway during a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22.



WASHINGTON — Outgoing Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway salutes during the playing of the national anthem as part of a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22.

Taking the reins: Nation's force in readiness now under Amos



WASHINGTON — The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos, right, and the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway salute during a pass in review as part of a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington here Oct. 22.

SGT. JIMMY D. SHEA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON — Gen. James T. Conway relinquished his position as commandant of the Marine Corps to Gen. James F. Amos during a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22.

Amos said he is ready to lead the "nation's most ready force," just moments after receiving the Marine Corps' official colors, signifying the charge of the Corps is now in his hands.

Each commandant is appointed by the president, serves for four years as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reports directly to the Secretary of the Department of the Navy.

As stated in Title 10, Section 5043 of the United States Code, the commandant is responsible for the overall performance of the Marine Corps, ensuring plans, organization, policy and programs are created and maintained, as well as advise the president and the secretary of defense on matters involving the Marine Corps.

Amos stated the Marines are the most ready when the nation needs them to be.

Recent humanitarian operations in Haiti, Pakistan and combat operations in Afghanistan are prime examples of the Corps' worth to this nation and their readiness as a force, "and that will continue to be my main focus as commandant," said Amos.

Conway said Amos is "absolutely and uniquely qualified to be our commandant."

Amos, a Wendell, Idaho, native, served as the 31st assistant commandant under Conway from 2008 to 2010. A graduate of the University of Idaho and Marine aviator, Amos is no

stranger to leading Marines, having served as commander from the ranks of lieutenant colonel to lieutenant general.

Both generals were all smiles when the command was exchanged on the parade deck of Marine Barracks Washington.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates addressed all in attendance and expressed his gratitude to Conway's service.

"(Conway) frequently declared wherever there's a fight, that's where the Marine Corps belongs," said Gates. "We're saying goodbye to a true warrior. I thank him for his 40 years of service, and leading and mentoring the Marines."

Conway, born in Walnut Ridge, Ark., and graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, became the 34th commandant Nov. 14, 2006. In the midst of a multi-front war, he created many initiatives to support his Marines in the Long War. One example was the "202K Initiative," which was established to increase the Marine Corps' manpower significantly in order to spread the deployment rate out across more Marines.

"We have brave young men and women fighting in Afghanistan right now. It's a close fight, which has still to be won," said Conway. "There's a good sense of optimism for our future."

As orders were given on behalf of the president of the United States, commanding Conway to stand detached from his duties as commandant, and ordering Amos to stand duty as the most senior Marine in the Corps, a new chapter began, picking up with current operations but with a new Marine in command of all devil dogs.



WASHINGTON — The United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps performs during a passage-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington Oct. 22.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines, Afghans come together for way forward in Marjah

SGT. DEAN DAVIS,
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 1

COMBAT OUTPOST TURBETT, Afghanistan — Few would argue that in recent months Marjah has become a safer place, and if you ask 1st Lt. Taylor Williams, platoon commander for Weapons Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, he'll tell you there has been tremendous success. However, these Marines aren't done yet.

"When we first came in, we took contact every day for about the first two and-a-half months," said Williams, 24, from Raleigh, N.C. "The conditions were not stable enough for a (citizen-run) security program in the northern part of our area."

That security program, known as the Interim Security Critical Infrastructure program, relies on cooperation from Afghan locals. With their partnership, it works like a neighborhood watch.

"Now it seems like the locals are ready to sustain their own type of police force here," Williams said. "The security situation has changed significantly down here."

Marines of Fox Co., 2/6 held a meeting, known in Afghanistan as a shura, with locals here to discuss the ISCI program.

Marjah's citizens see the progress around them, and the timing for the program seems right, explained Walidad Ghulamzoi, a village elder who attended the shura.

"We have seen the changes here," Ghulamzoi said. "This time last year, the Taliban was running this area. Since the Marines have come in, we can

sleep safely in our homes again." Taliban fighters have become increasingly isolated in the urban sprawl of Marjah. Their areas of influence have become smaller, but their presence lingers. Local Marines and Afghan National Security forces believe ISCI will further marginalize the Taliban's presence.

Now that security has improved, the planning for the expansion of ISCI is underway, explained Valdez.

"This area has come a long way," said Cpl. Richard Valdez, a civil affairs specialist assigned to 2/6. "It's great to see all the changes here. There used to be firefights everyday. It wasn't a good area."

Though security is a pillar for the U.S. and Afghan strategy here, it is making way for the other projects Marines and Afghan police and soldiers have underway.

"I am most proud of the school we created here," said Valdez, 22, from Pico Rivera, Calif. "Having a place to learn and play is a huge deal for these kids. The next generation will lead this country, so it's vital they have basic human rights as well as an education."

The school attendance near the company's outpost rose from roughly 120 to almost 400 just in the last month.

The Marines have also partnered with shopkeepers in the nearby bazaar to help renovate shops and will soon reopen another bazaar previously abandoned because of Taliban intimidation.

"I think what we're doing is obviously working," Valdez said. "I could only hope that a year from now it will be even better."



COMBAT OUTPOST TURBETT, Afghanistan — First Lt. Taylor Williams, platoon commander for Weapons Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, speaks with a village elder about establishing a neighborhood watch under the Interim Security Critical Infrastructure program, in Marjah, Oct. 23. "When we first came in, we took contact every day for about the first two and-a-half months. The conditions were not stable enough for a [citizen-run] security program in the northern part of our area," said Williams, 24. "Now it seems like the locals are ready to sustain their own type of police force here. The security situation has changed significantly down here."



COMBAT OUTPOST TURBETT, Afghanistan — First Lt. Taylor Williams, platoon commander for Weapons Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, speaks with local shopkeepers about renovations to the nearby bazaar in Marjah, Oct. 23. With the improved security, the Marines and locals are working together to return Marjah to normalcy. Only a few months ago, many locals had fled the area due to Taliban intimidation and violence. As the population returns, projects such as renovating the local bazaar and building a new school are underway.



COMBAT OUTPOST TURBETT, Afghanistan — First Lt. Taylor Williams, platoon commander for Weapons Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, speaks with locals about improving the nearby bazaar now that security in the area has improved. "This time last year, the Taliban was running this area. Since the Marines have come in, we can sleep safely in our homes again," said Walidad Ghulamzoi, a village elder who attended the meeting.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Provost Marshal's Office
The PMO Community Relations Office has new hours of operation for fingerprinting, flight-line access, passport reentry stamps, and the lost and found. New PMO Community Relations Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hiroshima Food Festival
Hiroshima Castle and neighboring areas in Hiroshima are scheduled to host a free festival 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The festival will feature free food samples, cooking demonstrations, cultural displays and more. Admission is free, but there is no parking in the area. For more information, call 082-222-1133.

Kuragake Castle Festival
There is an opportunity for six men to participate in the Kuragake Castle Festival Nov. 21 in a remote area of Iwakuni City. The men will be dressed up as samurai warriors. Costumes and transportation will be provided. For more information, call 253-5551 or e-mail hiromi.kawamoto.ja@usmc.mil.

3rd Annual Arts and Crafts Fair
Admission is free. The fair is scheduled 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Nov. 6. Handmade crafts will be sold by American and Japanese vendors. For more information, call 253-2199.

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

Japanese American Society
The Japanese American Society is scheduled to hold its 49th annual Speech Contest at Sinfonia Hall in Iwakuni 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Nov. 6. Students grades 1–12 may compose a speech to showcase their Japanese and English skills for a live audience and compete for prizes. For more information, call 253-4744.

MC Ball Childcare
Childcare during the Marine Corps Ball will be available at the Child Development Center from 4 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. Sign-ups are currently open and will close tomorrow. Due to limited space available, sign-ups will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations for childcare must be paid no later than Nov. 3. The fee for each child is \$25 and dinner will be provided to the child. Late pick-up fee per child is \$1 per minute. For information, call 253-5463.

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, October 29, 2010
7 p.m. Life As We Know It (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Going the Distance (R)
Premier

Monday, November 1, 2010
7 p.m. The Lottery Ticket (PG-13)
Last Showing

Tuesday, November 2, 2010
7 p.m. The Last Exorcism (PG-13)

Saturday, October 30, 2010
1 p.m. Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG)
4 p.m. The Social Network (PG-13)
7 p.m. Going the Distance (R)

Wednesday, November 3, 2010
7 p.m. Life as We Know It (PG-13)

Thursday, November 4, 2010
7 p.m. Going the Distance (R)

Sunday, October 31, 2010
1 p.m. Secretariat (PG)
4 p.m. Life As We Know It (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Last Exorcism (PG-13)
Premier

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

Jobs

Travel Counselor

CWTSatoTravel has a travel counselor position available at the government travel office here. This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservations for military travelers in official duty status using the SABRE CRS. Desirable for the candidates to have travel agency or airline experience, and SABRE CRS experience.

Knowledge of government travel regulation is also preferred. Send all inquiries and resumes to mkenat@cwtsatottravel.com. No phone inquiries.

Miscellaneous

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.

Free Translator

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

Rainbow Home Daycare

Rainbow Home Daycare has openings for children ages 2-5. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon. Personnel are first aid and CPR certified. Has fourteen years of experience working in childcare centers. Has a degree in early childhood education. Also specializes in teaching pre-school age children in a structured environment that prepares them for kindergarten. For more information about openings, call 253-2246.

Ad Submissions

To submit an ad request, e-mail iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, one phone number and the information you wish to be published. Or, submit your ad in person at the Public Affairs Office in Building 1, room 216. 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 broccoli soup, French onion soup, baked chicken and rice, yakiniku, steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, creamy cucumber rice salad, standard salad bar, peanut-butter cookies, chocolate cream pie with whipped topping and double-layer banana cake with butter cream frosting. Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Foods from around world tantalize taste buds



A Club Iwakuni worker serves drinks to club patrons during the 5th annual Iwakuni Fall Harvest Festival hosted at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here Saturday. The festival attracted approximately 500 community members who were able to enjoy a variety of foods and beverages from Mexico, England, Ireland, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Keeping your family safe this Halloween

Halloween on Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni can be a great time for residents of all ages. The Provost Marshal's Office asks that every member of the community consider the following tips and help to make this Halloween safe and enjoyable for all of our young trick-or-treaters.

Pedestrian Safety:

- Parents are highly encouraged to accompany their children in accordance with Marine Corps Bases Japan Youth Supervision Guidelines.
- Plan your children's routes and ensure you have a designated place to meet them in case you and your child become separated.
- Children should use flashlights and stay on sidewalks.
- Children should cross the street at crosswalks and not between parked cars.
- Vehicle operators should drive slowly and watch carefully for children.

Costume Safety:

- Children should never go into homes - stay outside of the residence when asking for treats.
- Children should never talk to strangers or get into a stranger's car.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame-retardant; wear short clothing to prevent tripping.

■ Wear sneakers or comfortable shoes.

■ Use face paint (non-toxic, hypoallergenic) and avoid masks - especially if the eye holes obstruct the child's vision.

■ Children should not wear floppy hats or wigs that slide over the child's eyes. Also, children should not wear oversized, long, baggy, or loose costumes or oversized shoes.

■ Children should avoid toy weapons - if desired, use costume knives and swords that are flexible, not rigid.

■ Stay away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.

■ Children should travel in small groups and be accompanied by parents or an authorized adult chaperone.

■ Children should know their home phone number and their parents' cell phone numbers, in case they are separated from one another.

■ Children should bring treats home before eating them so parents can inspect them.

Military Police bicycle and foot patrols will be assigned to each housing area.

If at any time you or your child needs assistance, please call the military police desk sergeant at 253-3303 or for emergencies dial 911.



Steve Debruy, the Ultimate Warriors quarterback, sprints with ease for a touchdown during the Ultimate Warriors vs. Bloodbath and Beyond 2010 Intramural Flag Football game at Penny Lake field here Oct. 20. The Ultimate Warriors played tough defense, made sustained drives and completed passes, which landed them a 26 - 14 victory over Bloodbath and Beyond.

Ultimate Warriors send Bloodbath and Beyond to bed 26-14

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 football team, the Ultimate Warriors, dominated Bloodbath and Beyond 26 to 14 during a 2010 Intramural Flag Football season game at the Penny Lake field here Oct. 20.

"I think we had better athletes on our side and better experience for the most part," said Rajiv Douglas, Ultimate Warriors cornerback and wide receiver. "Coach put us in positions to make plays, and I think that's what gave us the biggest advantage."

The games were divided into two halves. Each half was a total of 20 minutes, and each team was given two timeouts per half.

Ultimate Warriors took charge offensively from 16 minutes on the clock in the first half; however, the Ultimate Warriors showed complacency in their defensive line.

"Some miscommunications on defense left us wide open for huge plays on the other end, so that's what kind of caught us off guard," said Douglas.

With 4:32 on the clock in the first half, Ultimate Warriors defensive laxness came back to bite them when a Bloodbath and Beyond player was left wide open for an easy touchdown pass, leveling the score 6 - 6.

"Our safety wasn't paying attention. He let the man beat him out on the run and just gave him open field instead of keeping (the player) in front of him," said Raymond Sawejko, Ultimate Warriors coach.

The Ultimate Warriors realized they needed to change up their defensive strategy, and after the adjustment they took back the advantage.

"Our coach put some faster athletes on the

field and clamped down in the middle so that way we forced them to run," said Douglas.

"We knew (their quarterback) didn't have an arm. All he had was his legs, so we forced him to use something that he didn't have."

Ultimate Warriors stuck to their game plan and successfully completed a run, made a touchdown by the end of the first half and brought the score 6 - 13.

The first seven minutes of the second half both teams went back and forth getting possession but not completing scores.

With about 9:00 on the clock, Ultimate Warriors quarterback Steve Debruy finally saw an opening and threw a successful long pass, which gave them a 1st and goal and eventually led to a touchdown, bringing the score 6 - 20.

Bloodbath and Beyond knew they needed to start scoring if they were to have a fighting chance in the game.

Bloodbath and Beyond decided to allow their quarterback Jose Rodriguez to use his speed to gain yards, which ultimately landed them with a touchdown and a successful two-point attempt bringing the score 14 - 20 with 6:05 on the clock.

"They had a fast quarterback, but once we made adjustments we put that to a halt," said Douglas.

The Ultimate Warriors started playing lockdown defense, and with 2:13 on the clock they made another touchdown, bringing the score 14 - 26.

The Ultimate Warriors maintained lockdown defense and prevented Bloodbath and Beyond from scoring the rest of the game, leaving a game score of 14 - 26.

"I think that right now we have all the best players in the league for MALS," said Sawejko.



The Ultimate Warriors, representing Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, line up for an offensive play during a season game against Bloodbath and Beyond at Penny Lake field here Oct. 20.



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