



SHOWDOWN

MWSS-171, H&HS square off | P. 4



SHOOTING SCIENCE

Marines get recon-style weapons training | p. 6 and 7

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 46, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

HE operators get to play with toys

PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI
APPROACH STAFF

For those who have seen Marines driving forklifts around the station, they may think this seems like an easy job and the Marines must have plenty of down time. But this is not the main responsibility for these Marines; their job actually has little use for forklifts.

They are heavy equipment operators. When deployed,

these Marines are usually the first on the scene, building berms, ditches, roads, vehicle security check points and combat outposts. They build these not with forklifts, but much larger equipment such as bulldozers and graders.

Being stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni the Marines only get to hone their skills about twice a year during different deployment exercises

to Camp Fuji or Korea, but the heavy equipment Marines were finally afforded the opportunity to sharpen their skills during a five-week-long exercise Oct. 18 - Nov. 19 in a remote location here.

At most bases stateside, heavy equipment Marines are provided with a training pit, enabling them to practice their skill in the art of moving dirt

SEE DIG ON PAGE 3

Santa Claus sparks holiday spirit with more than 8,000 lights at tree lighting ceremony

LANCE CPL. MARCEL BROWN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Hundreds of Marines, sailors and family members gathered around Cherry Blossom Triangle to share holiday spirit during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony here Saturday.

"The lighting of the tree symbolizes the beginning of the Christmas season," said John E. Iwaniec, Marine Corps Community Services director

here.

The peak of the event was the official tree lighting when, with a flip of a switch, Santa turned the Cherry Blossom Triangle evergreen into a luminous Christmas tree.

"The Christmas lights are pretty awesome," said Cpl. Adam Batterseamolto. "It's a good chance to come out, get out of your room and come be a part of

SEE TREE ON PAGE 3



CPL. ANDREA M. OLGUIN

A tree is lit for the service members, family and friends to enjoy during the ninth annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Cherry Blossom Triangle here Saturday. The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony symbolizes an official beginning of the holiday season aboard the air station.

Never forgotten



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

An explosive ordnance disposal Marine places his EOD insignia on the fallen Marine display erected in Sgt. Jason T. Smith's honor during a memorial service at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Tuesday. Smith was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan Nov. 19. See full story on page 5.

Youth and teens spice up Thanksgiving meal

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Members of the Youth and Teen Center and their parents were invited to participate in a special Thanksgiving meal at the Youth and Teen Center here Nov. 24.

Thanksgiving is a time to pause, reflect and give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy

as Americans. "To me, Thanksgiving is mostly about having fun and hanging out with family and friends," said Tylor White, 11-year-old Youth and Teen Center member.

The annual Thanksgiving meal provided approximately 30 youth and their families with a meal

SEE THANKSGIVING ON PAGE 3



Commanding Officer/Publisher
Col. James C. Stewart

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. J. Lawton King

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunnery Sgt.
John A. Cordero

Operations Chief
Staff Sgt. Andrew Miller

Press Chief
Staff Sgt. Jimmy H. Bention Jr.

Editor
Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Combat Correspondents
Cpl. Kristin E. Moreno
Cpl. Salvador Moreno
Lance Cpl. Miranda Blackburn
Lance Cpl. Marcel Brown
Lance Cpl. Claudio A. Martinez
Lance Cpl. Jennifer Pirante
Pfc. Charlie Clark
Pfc. Vanessa Jimenez

Webmaster
Yukie Wada

Community/Media Relations
Hiroko Soriki
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

Administration
Hiro Sumida

"This weekly newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof."

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.

PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A time for everything'

LT. CMDR. JOHN Q. COMETA
DEPUTY COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

The recent death of Sgt. Jason Smith made me think about my own mortality.

Sharon Houk wrote, "Why are we even born if we are only to die some 70 or 80 years later? Isn't there more to life than to say, 'Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die?'" Probably not if you believe the earth was created from a big bang, that man evolved from amoebas millions of years ago, or that there is no creator.

Science is even discovering that the universe is getting old. It's dying, just like man, and it's not going to last forever. Something makes us wonder, "Why am I here?"

The Scriptures gave us some perspectives on the issue of life and death.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, time to plant

and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

The author is saying there is an appropriate time for everything. Yes, all our pleasant and unpleasant experiences have a purpose.

The first few verses talk about living and dying. Not one of us asked to be born.

We all just came out of our mother's womb in due time. It is something we do not control.

None of us ask to die; it is something God determines.

Though not every country has four seasons, have you ever wondered why we have winter,

spring, summer and fall?

Can you imagine living in a place with only one season, like summer year round?

God designed the season for us. God wants variety. Imagine if we only have one kind of flower?

Though the world is full of uncertainties, God is still superintending the affairs of man.

God has a timetable.

One of my favorite verses is found in Ecclesiastes 3:11, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." This tells me that God is a God of happy endings.

Christmas is approaching fast. Have you ever wondered why Christmas is one of the celebrated holidays in the world? In Galatians 4:4, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman ..."

Remove Christ from Christmas, what is left? Just mas ... I can't even find this word in the dictionary.

Christ was born to die on the cross to save humanity.

I have resolved knowing life is short, and whether I like it or not, I am going to suffer and die someday.

If I am going to suffer and die someday, why not suffer and die for the highest and the best; for God and for my country.

Leadership - Part 4: What constitutes a good leader?

RALPH B. MORA
STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST
BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC

"Be strict in your discipline; that is to require nothing unreasonable of your officers and men, but see that whatever is required be punctually complied with. Reward and punish every man, according to his merit, without partiality or prejudice; hear his complaints; if well founded, redress them; if otherwise, discourage them in order to prevent frivolous ones. Discourage vice in every shape, and impress upon the mind of every man, from the first to the lowest, the importance of the cause, and what it is they are contending for." — George Washington

When we think back on our own leaders and what they did that was so special, we will find some of the following:

1. The good leader knows how to lead the team, including how to get people to work together as a team.
2. The good leader sets high standards, including for himself. There is an inherent toughness in this though, one that is translated to staff so that there is a buy in by staff into the process. The good leader however tough also retains a sympathetic or compassionate perspective when required.

3. The good leader sees mistakes as opportunities to learn and readily uses such situations as a way to develop new strategies, techniques for problem solving.

4. The good leader knows the job of his subordinate and can readily act as a coach on how to improve the process.

5. The good leader knows his/her own job and does it well.

6. The good leader treats all staff members with respect and dignity.

7. The good leader does not allow themselves or others to be bullied.

8. The good leader is in tune with his staff members. He listens and watches carefully and can tell when something is not going well with one of the staff so that he/she can address it directly. Good leaders display pride in individual staff members and in the team. Along with this is the ability to know when a staff member is disingenuous and having the courage to be tough on the phony.

9. The good leader is positive and provides a positive outlook to staff about the mission. He presents a professional view and inspires others to make the good fight.

10. The good leader espouses humility and gives a greater share of the credit for success to the team than to themselves.

"Approach" Corrections

■The new traffic control device caption should have read, "Drivers are NOT to stop within the painted rectangle when

exiting the air station." ("New traffic regulation device to be painted at front gate," 11.26.2010 edition).

HE operators play in dirt

DIG FROM PAGE 1

and building these deployment necessities.

Along with perfecting their skill trade Marines took this rare opportunity to gain licenses on other equipment, such as a compactor, multi-terrain loader or a bobcat and a grater.

The Marines weren't put on time constraints for the training evolution, but the exercises changed every week.

The first week, the Marines practiced with back-hoes, becoming once again familiarized with the heavy equipment.

"We don't usually have a place to dig so being out here the 1345s lose proficiency," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Damon M. Hines, heavy equipment platoon commander. "The first week out here the Marines were moving slow but have since improved."

The second week was spent digging a hull defilade. A hull defilade is a 9-foot drop in the ground with an entrance and exit ramp a tank may use for protection.

"If the tank gets mortared or comes under fire it will be safer under ground," said Staff Sgt. Alexander C. Snay, heavy equipment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Also during the second week, Marines dug an anti-tank ditch, a ditch formed as a protective measure to prevent enemy tanks and vehicles from advancing into their position.

The third week, the HEO Marines built approximately 400 meters of berms, a long barrier made of dirt approximately 8 feet high and used if there is a need for a forward operating base or combat outpost.



Pfc. Ryan C. Caspary, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operator, operates a grater to level out some ground during a five-week-long exercise Oct. 18 - Nov. 19 at a temporary dig site here. Approximately 15 heavy equipment Marines were able to participate during this rare dig site exercise.

At a new site, berms are what will be built first for protection. An anti-vehicle berm is 3- to 4-feet tall and with an anti-tank ditch to control vehicle access.

The fourth week was spent building military roads and a vehicle check point. Vehicle check points are usually set up in front of a base or a town and enable the military to check everything that comes in and out of the area.

The fifth and final week, the Marines used the multi-terrain loader to clear out rocks from the job site. They built a 90 by 90-foot helicopter landing pad.

The culminating event for the training exercise was the building of a combat outpost, which is a large square berm with vehicle check points at both ends and entrance and

exit points. The combat outpost was built with an area for parking and a road through the forward operating base.

"We're training to do different things that we would normally do if we were deployed to Afghanistan," said Lance Cpl. Bradley R. Robinson, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment operator. "It's exciting to be out here and do what we were trained to do."

Through this training, the heavy equipment operator Marines were able to experience a full evolution of what would be built during a deployment. After the exercise, everything that was built was leveled out. The dig site returned to what it had been before — empty land.

Youth and teen center hosts Thanksgiving meal

THANKSGIVING FROM PAGE 1

ranging from traditional turkey and ham to lasagna and spiced rice.

All of the entrees were provided by the Youth and Teen Center employees and volunteers.

"We're just having a quick little Thanksgiving snack for the kids," said Tami Moreno, a program assistant for the Youth and Teen Center. "It's a whole buffet of different foods, but since we have so many kids, it's just a little bit for everybody to kind of get a taste."

Attendees socialized with their peers while enjoying the array of food.

The meal was prepared to create a family-type atmosphere for the youth, added Moreno.

"This is just to let them know how much we care about them," said Moreno. "It's our way of telling them how much they mean to us, that they're like a family to us."

The youth took this time to spend time with their friends and family, enjoy a good meal and share what they were thankful for this year. "I'm thankful for my family and friends," said Iylonda Hunter, 11-year-old Youth and Teen Center member. "My family puts up a home and shelter for me and they feed me, and my friends support me when I need them the most."

The event also gave some of the Japanese-American children an experience they have never had before.

"A lot of them have never had a Thanksgiving meal before, so this is really cool because it's brand new for them," said Moreno.

The Youth and Teen Center will also be holding a Christmas celebration holiday meal, open to all youth ages 10-18, 1 - 4 p.m. Dec. 23.

Santa makes tree lights twinkle to ring in holidays

TREE FROM PAGE 1

the community."

The moment everyone was waiting for was one that took no more than a few seconds, but the time and effort put into the event far exceeded that.

Over the span of 100 man hours, service members and volunteers set up more than 8,000 Christmas lights, provided more than 3,000 cookies, 400 gallons of hot chocolate and 200 gallons of apple cider.

"It's a camaraderie event for sure; it gives everyone a chance to get out," said Batterseamolto. "Especially if they volunteered, it gives them a chance to help the community even if they don't have a family out here."

The event also featured several performances by the Filipino band XOP and the Matthew C. Perry High School band and choir.

"Where I used to live, they didn't have (events) like these, so I think this is a good thing to have," said 11-year-old Maryna Villalbanda. "I like the music the most," she added.

After an hour and a half of holiday performances, a fire truck pulled on the corner of the Cherry Blossom Triangle and children's faces turned to smiles as Santa Claus made his debut.

Although his nine reindeer-guided

sleigh seemed to be out of commission, Santa still managed to spread some Christmas spirit by giving out holiday hugs and words of encouragement to the children.

"For the kids, a lot of them are away from their families, so this gives them a chance to still be a part of the season, said Batterseamolto. "They may not be around their big families, but it gives a chance to bring everyone together overall, becoming that big family unit."

After greeting his admiring young fans, Santa made his way to the stage and began the countdown for the official lighting of the tree with station Commanding Officer Col. James C. Stewart.

Children assisted in the countdown and in unison shouted "One!" as Santa flipped the switch illuminating the tree and declaring the start of the holiday season. "I hope the families get a sense of community by coming here," said Iwaniec. "It'll give the children a chance to see Santa Claus and to share in the beginning of the Christmas season."

After the lighting of the tree, the night concluded with raffle prize giveaways and musical tunes from XOP.

The Jingle Bell Jog is the next MCCS holiday event scheduled Dec. 20. Interested participants can visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call the MCCS Marketing Office at 253-5284.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Sgt. Maj. Blake Smith, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 sergeant major (left), faces off with Sgt. Maj. Gerard Calvin, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major (right), in a pugil stick match during the inaugural H&HS and MWSS-171 field meet at the Penny Lake fields here Nov. 23.

MWSS-171, H&HS go head-to-head in inaugural field meet

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Service members from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadrons faced off in a field meet at the Penny Lake field here Nov. 23.

The competition was planned by the commanding officers of both squadrons as a way to build stronger bonds between the two units.

"We wanted to develop the camaraderie between (MWSS-171 and H&HS) so we decided to have a competition right before Thanksgiving," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, MWSS-171 commanding officer.

The two squadrons don't get to interact much with each other because they are so different, but the field meet allowed them to spend time together and bring the Thanksgiving holiday in together, he added.

H&HS and MWSS-171 faced each other the day before during a football game won by H&HS.

H&HS took the field hoping to continue their winning streak and MWSS-171 took to the field hoping to redeem themselves from the previous day's loss.

The winner of the competition took home a trophy built by some of the Marines of MWSS-171.

Taylor said both he and the H&HS commanding officer hope to make this an annual event to have the trophy pass between the two squadrons.

The service members competed with each other in casualty relays, combat fitness test relays, tricycle races, 7-ton truck drags, a tug-of-war and more.

After MWSS-171 was declared the winner of the tug-of-war, the senior officers and sergeants major of each squadron were called on to face each other in their own 3 on 3 match.

About five seconds into the match, service members of

each squadron jumped in to help their senior leaders out. Privates pulled the rope alongside sergeants, staff NCOs and officers. The rope tore in half with the strength of both squadrons pulling at both ends.

"The Marines (and sailors) work hard, day in and day out. (During the field meet) they get to come out here, compete and have a good time," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&HS commanding officer. "I think at heart, each and every one of us is a competitor. Otherwise we wouldn't be wearing the uniform. I think the main thing here is to have everyone come out and have a good time and meet some of the folks that they've seen around base."

The Marines and sailors viciously pushed each other to their limits as they competed in pull-up bar competitions, arm wrestling bouts and chimp relays.

During the chimp relays, competitors would grab their ankles and scuttle down a set distance as fast as they could without falling or letting go of their ankles.

The field meet reached its climax during the pugil stick matches.

Marines and sailors from both squadrons fiercely squared off as they rammed and swung their sticks at their opponent's heads.

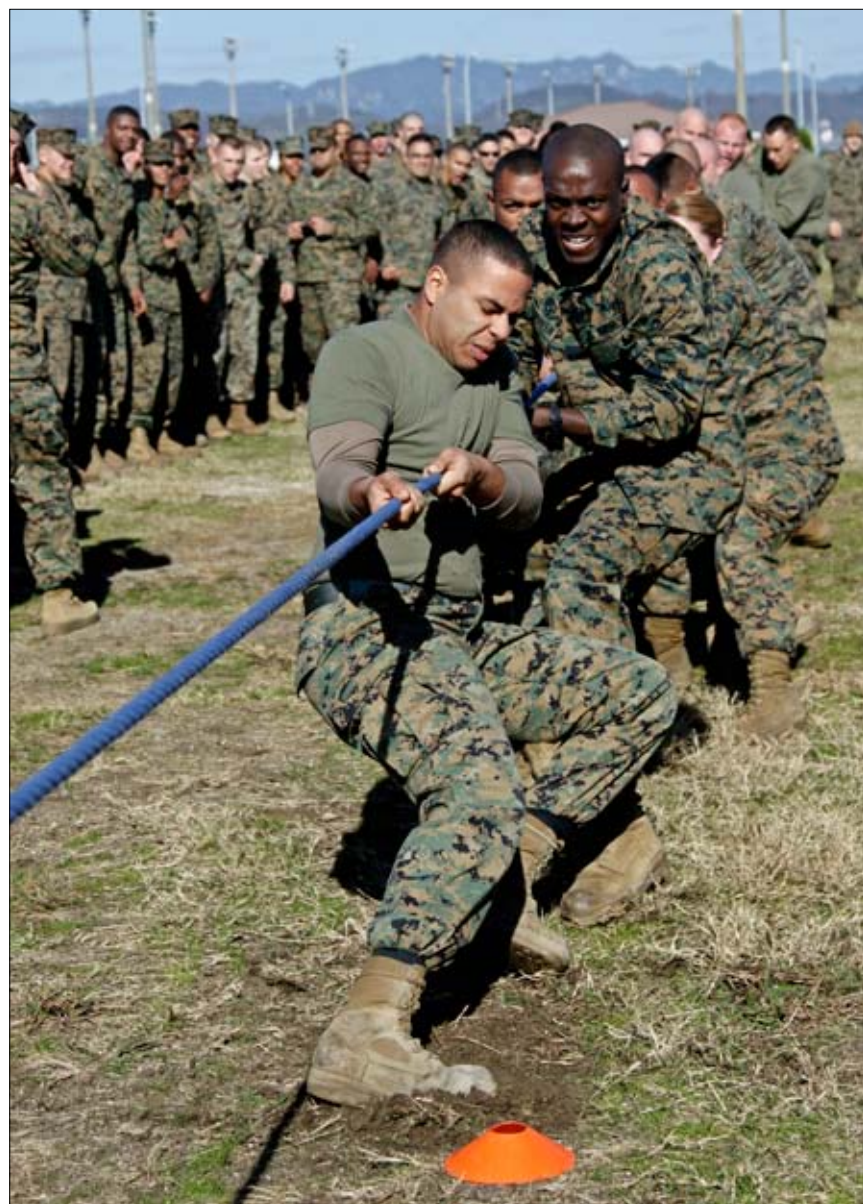
The crowd roared in satisfaction as each service member proved their worth in each match.

MWSS-171 and H&HS won five matches each.

Both squadrons called upon their sergeant majors to face each other and break the tie.

Sgt. Maj. Gerard Calvin, H&HS sergeant major, faced off with Sgt. Maj. Blake Smith, MWSS-171 sergeant major, for the ultimate match to decide the winner.

After the battle was over and the two warriors laid down their



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines struggle to defeat Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marines in a tug-of-war match during the inaugural H&HS and MWSS-171 field meet at the Penny Lake fields here Nov. 23. Although MWSS-171 lost a football game against H&HS the night prior, they came out victorious at the end of the field meet.

weapons, Calvin was declared the winner.

"I think everyone had a great time," said Coletta. "I think the Marines and sailors will be talking about this for a long time. This was a great way to bring in the long weekend after so much hard work over the last few weeks."

Before calling the field meet to a close, the Marines and sailors from both squadrons sat down at a mess tent built by the Marines of MWSS-171 and ate together.

"(The best thing about things like this) is the unit cohesion," said Cpl. Isiah Fagins, a MWSS-171 motor transportation operator. "Many people, when they get to a unit, they just look to that unit. When you have them interact with other units, they start finding common traits (with one another) and make friends that they never thought were possible."

Fagins said it was all about making friends to look out for each other. Some of the service members who participated in the field meet said they felt they were able to find a home away from home.

For Pfc. Amanda Phelps, a military police officer with the station Provost Marshal's Office who arrived here only a week before the field meet,

this was her first Thanksgiving away from her family.

"(Events like these) are very important," said Phelps. "My family is back at home and I miss them a lot, but having days like this, out here overseas, just really brings that sense of a family closer."

Once the two squadrons finished eating and laughing together, they formed their formations to declare the winner of the field meet.

After the events were reviewed, MWSS-171 was declared the winner of this year's inaugural H&HS and MWSS-171 field meet.

Although disappointed by defeat, many of the H&HS service members thought that there's always next year.



LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marines race to defeat Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines in a casualty relay during the inaugural H&HS and MWSS-171 field meet at the Penny Lake fields here Nov. 23. The field meet was planned to promote unit cohesion.

Station members pay tribute, honor to fallen Marine

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A.
MARTINEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Community members gathered at the Marine Memorial Chapel here to honor and remember one of their own during a memorial service Tuesday.

Sgt. Jason T. Smith, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, was killed while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan Nov. 19.

Smith, an Aberdeen, Wash. native, was killed while serving as an individual augmentee in support of forward deployed EOD technicians attached to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st EOD Company, 4th Platoon.

"The memories he leaves behind are a testament forever etched in the histories of this war to the generations of Marines who have yet to bear the title," said Lt. Col. Michael Coletta, H&HS commanding officer. "We here in this place know that the honor that we inherit when we are granted the title Marine comes from heroes like Jason, men who gave the ultimate sacrifice not because they were told to, not because they were drafted into service, but rather because he saw the face of evil and volunteered."

Smith, born on Dec. 22, 1981, reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., on June 4, 2000, after graduating from Doherty High School two days prior.

During his enlistment, he deployed twice to Iraq, once as a career retention specialist in February 2005 and again as a motor transportation operator in March 2007.

While in theater, after reenlisting for a third tour of service in June 2008, Smith made a lateral move into the Explosive Ordnance Disposal field.

"Sgt. Jason Smith was very well liked by his fellow Marines but found a special place in the hearts of the EOD community with which he served," said Coletta. "His personal sacrifice, I'm sure, will be retold often by the brothers he found among them. I'm sure more than a few of them have related personal stories to their family and friends, speaking of the



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

Cpl. Christopher Hanson plays taps during the memorial service of Sgt. Jason T. Smith at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Tuesday. Smith, who was attached to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 4th platoon, was killed in action Nov. 19 while conducting operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

man who brought them a smile, made them laugh or supported them during a difficult time."

Smith received orders to Iwakuni, Japan, shortly after graduating from EOD training Feb. 26, 2010, and volunteered as an individual augmentee to go to Afghanistan in June 2010.

Although his time in Iwakuni was short, the impact he had on people was apparent in the crowd that filled the chapel to remember him.

Marines, sailors, and American and Japanese civilians poured into the chapel for the memorial service to remember the Marine who touched and affected so many lives.

Many of their eyes clouded over with tears and felt their throats knot up as the memory of Smith was recounted throughout the service.

"He was a loving brother, a devoted son and a cherished husband," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Morgan, EOD officer. "He was a courageous and honorable Marine. He was also someone that we've had the great privilege of knowing, one who volunteered to go into harm's way, knowing that his mission would be difficult and dangerous but necessary."

Smith's job as an EOD technician was unique because he ran toward

the danger while everyone else tried to avoid it and put his own life at risk so others could live, he added.

Many Marines who knew Smith struggled to present an accurate description of him during the service.

"Trying to do justice to a Marine like Sgt. Smith is nearly impossible," said Master Sgt. Aaron Salyi, station EOD chief. "One of the first things that comes to my mind is he was the type of Marine any leader wishes they had under their charge. He was one of the best."

The best way to honor Smith is with the smiles that appear on the faces of people who knew him when they gather and remember the best times they spent with him, Salyi said.

Toward the end of the service, the traditional roll call for fallen comrades was called by Sgt. Maj. Gerard Calvin, H&HS sergeant major.

Throughout the recent history of the Marine Corps, the roll call has called out the name of many Marines who have inscribed themselves into the annals of history with their heroic acts and their selfless sacrifice for others.

This time it called out for Sgt. Jason T. Smith. No one was there to answer the call. There was only the sound of the bugler who broke the resounding



SGT. RICARDO GOMEZ

A hand is placed on a Kevlar helmet during the memorial service for Sgt. Jason T. Smith at the Marine Memorial Chapel here Tuesday. Smith made a lateral move into the Explosive Ordnance Technician field and graduated from training Feb. 26, 2010.

silence with the slow melancholic notes of "Taps."

After the last note played, attendees lined up in front of Smith's display to pay their respects.

Many approached it with tears, and others with mournful looks in their eyes.

Smith will always be remembered alongside all the other Marines who now stand guard on Heaven's scenes. He will always be remembered as a loving brother, a devoted son and a cherished husband. He will always be remembered as a Marine.

WOLF T.R.A.P.P.: TAKING TACTICAL WEAPON HANDLING TO WHOLE NEW LEVEL

PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

On command, one hand moves to the M9 holstered on the shooter's hip.

The shooter then brings the weapon up to meet his second hand while automatically sighting in on the front sight tip.

The trigger finger finds its way to its rightful place and slowly adds pressure.

Once the right amount of pressure is applied, there is an explosion and the hammer jolts forward, releasing the round.

After the round leaves the barrel, its journey is short but fast.

The round's sole purpose is to make its way down range and hit the target in one well-aimed shot.

It hits the black and continues its way through the target, taking its final resting place in the dugout.

For some Marines, the sound a round makes exiting a firearm and wailing its way down range is music to their ears.

"I didn't have a lot of experience handling the M9 previous to this," said Nelson P. Chavez, Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection participant. "This course is going to be very beneficial during pistol qualification and if I ever have to use the M9."

Marines and sailors from across the station participated in a two-week pistol course titled Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal

Protection, better known as Wolf T.R.A.P.P., that began Nov. 15 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here.

Jim Elder, the founder and creator of Wolf T.R.A.P.P. explained that the training is the same administered to the Marine Special Operations Command.

"I started the course to fit the demand for this kind of training," said Elder. "Even though we profess to be experts in our field and weapons, we still don't have that knowledge in house and we aren't provided with this kind of training."

The first day of training, the Marines and sailors learned all the pistol fundamentals.

The first week of training, the service members trained with the M9 pistol, going over shooting drills such as failure to stop and strong arm.

"The next drill we are going to execute will be a failure to stop drill," said Paul Moose, former Marine and Wolf T.R.A.P.P. instructor, as he shouts commands during the course. "This drill means that when I call the command you will shoot a pair to the red square and one to the triangle."

The point of the drill is to become comfortable with the weapon, be able to draw from the

holster and achieve smooth presentation, transitions and accurate shots.

The training is similar to having a pistol in combat so the service members practiced pivoting movements and firing with one arm as if they were injured.

"We teach in-depth gun handling skills and combat mindset," Elder said.

The second week service members trained with the M4 rifle using similar techniques and drills, but altering the movements and positions for the weapon.

"Not everyone gets what I recognize is a needed skill set in weapons training," said Elder. "The nature of today's battle is there are no frontlines. So the enemy could be anywhere."



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Cpl. Princess V. Woodside, Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection participant, concentrates on achieving correct sight picture in order to shoot a well aimed shot Nov. 17 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here. Marines and sailors executed several different types of drills. The point of the drills is to become comfortable with the firearm, be able to draw from the holster and achieve smooth presentation, transitions and accurate shots.



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ

(ABOVE) Pfc. Jeffery L. Avery, Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection participant, and the rest of his relay practice pivot drills on the firing line Nov. 17 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here. Pivot drills help shooters rapidly face oncoming enemy contact. The training from this course is similar to having a pistol in combat.

(LEFT) Cpl. Nelson P. Chavez, Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection participant, reloads the clip from his M9 pistol while waiting for his relay's turn on the firing line Nov. 15 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here. Chavez had fired the M9 pistol only once prior to participating in this course.

Jim Elder, former Marine and founder and creator of Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection, evaluates the target of Lance Cpl. Mikal A. Patterson, Wolf T.R.A.P.P. participant, after a firing drill Nov. 17 at the Indoor Small Arms Range here. During the first week Marines and sailors learned pistol fundamentals. Elder put emphasis on the slow squeeze of the trigger during each shot. Jerking the trigger affects where the round will hit the target.



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Lance Cpl. Jamie L. Anderson, Wolf-Tactical Reconnaissance and Personal Protection participant, sights in on the target during one of the many drills executed in the Wolf-T.R.A.P.P. course at the Indoor Small Arms Range here Nov. 15. One of the most important steps in achieving a well aimed shot is to focus on the front sight tip as opposed to looking straight at the target.



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. MARK FAYLOGA

NAWA, Afghanistan — Petty Officer 3rd Class Jadoine Graham, a corpsman with Jump Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provides security while escorting media through the Nawa Bazaar in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 22. Jump Platoon's primary mission is to provide security for the battalion commander and transport him throughout 3/3's battle space, but the platoon performs a variety of tasks from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.

Jacks of all trades: For personal security Marines, no mission is too small

SGT. MARK FAYLOGA
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 1

NAWA, Afghanistan — The jump platoon, though the members of it would never say so themselves, is special.

Unique in size, mission and structure, the platoon is entrusted with the responsibility of providing security for the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment commanding officer while circulating him throughout 3/3's battle space in Helmand Province roughly every eight days.

While this is an honorable task, and certainly jump platoon's most visible function, the platoon continuously works behind the scenes to accomplish many other vital tasks for 3/3 as well.

The jump Marines perform a variety of tasks, from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.

Not only have they logged more than 5,000 miles on the road in Helmand Province while performing their primary duty, they've also assisted with reinforcing defensive positions and taken to odd tasks like planting a vegetable garden.

"It's kind of cliché to say, but no mission is too small or too big," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James P. Law, the jump platoon commander and battalion gunner for 3/3. "We do whatever the battalion needs us to do."

Because the jump platoon is capped to a certain size, everyone pitches in, regardless of rank, and has to be prepared to complete tasks outside of their traditional roles Law said.

The mentality that each man

might be called upon to perform any task is a driving force in jump, and a part of the reason Law is in the platoon. It isn't typical for a battalion gunner to be as much of a part of the battalion's security team as Law, but in a small section tasked various responsibilities, necessity dictates otherwise.

"There's no other way I could get around the battlefield without being with these guys," Law said. "Nawa is too large and we're too few in numbers to have a special group that takes me around. I'm another member of the team."

Being a part of that team affords Law the ability to perform more traditional battalion gunner duties.

Here, he moves from position to position teaching and mentoring Marines. Although he says it's rarely necessary, he'll dig into Marines for the small mistakes.

"I would feel I was not doing my job if I did not go around and get into people for little minor things that I think could save their lives," Law said. "The Marine Corps picked me to be a battalion gunner; they didn't pick me to be a guy that sits in an office and critiques people. I'll go out there and teach a Marine how to change magazines quicker and, when necessary, I will explain to him why his gloves need to be on correctly and why his sleeves need to be rolled down, because if he goes home with horrific burns on his arms, what do I tell his mom? 'I was a weak leader and didn't have morale courage to correct him.'"

When jump travels, they roll rank heavy, typically moving with the battalion commander, the battalion sergeant major and the

battalion gunner at least.

When that many command members come rolling into patrol bases and combat outposts, a general feeling of unease sometimes spreads through the Marines and sailors who live there. Although they have no reason to be on edge, as Law said, "Our corporals and sergeants are some of the best I've ever seen."

Still though, there is a general attitude about jump.

"The jump platoon is kind of an outcast because we're different, not because we're anything special," said Cpl. Parsons, a jump platoon vehicle commander. "We're the same riflemen that are in line companies. Only, because we're a small unit in a large battalion, and we're not 300 strong like the line companies, people look at us different. You see the same kind of attitude toward elite units, only we're not elite."

But in a way the platoon is elite. The majority of the men who make up jump were selected by their company first sergeants to represent their respective company and the battalion as a whole.

For Parsons, the opportunity to be a part of jump was a shot at redemption. Parsons, from Pensacola, Fla., had gotten himself into trouble and after losing two pay grades the Marine was facing administrative separation.

"Lt. Col. Holt and Sgt. Maj. [Andrew] Cece came on board as new commander and sergeant major and decided, graciously, to give me an opportunity to redeem myself," Parsons said. "Since then, I've been reestablishing my identity in the battalion and

trying to piecemeal a career back together. Working as the colonel's personal security assistant is an honor. It's put me in the right place at the right time to try and salvage and rebuild what I've previously destroyed."

Parsons has worked hard at redeeming himself. He's already picked up one of the ranks he lost and is among the most active members of jump platoon.

Parsons, along with most members of the platoon, checked out and completed four to five Marine Corps Institute distance learning programs — all on non-infantry topics: refrigeration, welding, generator repair ...

"We did the MCIs on those topics because we had no understanding of them prior to this deployment and there was a need for it," Parsons said. "Sitting there looking at a broke generator won't fix it."

Cpl. Calvin Vaulner, a jump platoon vehicle commander and the acting platoon sergeant, attributes jump's mentality not just to necessity, but to upbringing.

"We keep busy with work all the time because for most of these guys it's just part of their background," Vaulner said.

So now, with just weeks left to go in the deployment, after thousands of miles have been driven and hundreds have been patrolled, the radio operator can do what the machine gunner can do, and the corpsman can do what the rifleman can do.

"Everyone took their own expertise and expanded it and blended it in with each other," Vaulner said. "Everybody ended up coming out on top, knowing a little bit of everything."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DoDEA Survey

Parents and students may take an online Department of Defense Education Activity customer satisfaction survey for their school until Dec. 15. The student survey is for grades 4-12. Parents or sponsors who have children in more than one DoDEA school should complete the survey for each school. The survey is available at <https://webapps.dodea/CSS1011>.

American Red Cross

Adult, child, infant first aid and CPR course: 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Dec. 4. Baby Sitting Course: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m. Dec. 11. To sign up or for more information, call 253-5715.

Stuffed Animal Collecting

The Boys and Girls Club here is collecting used and new stuffed animals for Iwakuni area and stateside children until Dec. 10. Animals may be dropped off at the Youth and Teen Center. For more information, call 253-5072.

PMO Lost and Found

Please contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you have lost various items around the air station. Examples of items may include wallets, ID cards, cell phones, keys, digital cameras, bicycle helmets, etc. To recover lost items or for more information, call 253-4929 or e-mail jeffrey.anderson@usmc.mil.

Weight loss support group

Meetings are held on Mondays at 5 p.m. outside of Building 657. Service members, family and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 090-9147-0409 or e-mail verasavage@gmail.com.

Looking for Santa

Your local MCX is looking for a volunteer to be Santa for this holiday season. Stop by the MCCS Human Resources office on the 2nd floor of the Crossroads Mall to fill out a volunteer form. For more information, call 253-5715.

Officers and Spouses' Club

Join the Officers and Spouses' Club for an evening of fun, friendship and holiday spirit during the 1st annual Trim the Trees with OSC at 5 p.m. Dec. 3. Unit-themed and beautifully decorated trees will be voted on and auctioned at the end of the night. The winning

unit will have their name on a plaque at the O-Club. All proceeds from voting and auction go toward OSC Scholarships.

Matthew C. Perry 5th Annual Basket Auction

Matthew C. Perry is scheduled to host the 5th annual Basket Auction at the Club Iwakuni Eagle's Nest 6 — 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets in advance are \$5 or \$10 at the door. Open to all Iwakuni ladies. For more information, contact Heather Reed at 253-2199.

Christmas Concert Choir

Recruitment has begun for the choir in the 10th annual Christmas concert. For more information and practice times, call 090-4104-1541

M.C. Perry Elementary

Parents are welcome to attend three 30-minute classes at the M.C. Perry Elementary School cafeteria 5 — 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Subjects include study and test-taking skills and standardized testing, strategies for English language learned, handwriting skills, dealing with disruptive

behaviors, basic math skills, remediation and your child and technology. Subway sandwich lunch is available for \$3. Childcare is available. For more information, call 253-3447.

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally

The rally will be held between the Hornet's Nest and Strike Zone Bowling Center 12 — 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 253-3585.

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
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy Communion Service (Small Chapel)
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.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, December 3, 2010

7 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Due Date (R)
Premier

Saturday, December 4, 2010

1 p.m. You Again (PG)
4 p.m. Megamind (PG)
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13)
Premier

Sunday, December 5, 2010

1 p.m. Megamind (PG)
4 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13)
7 p.m. Due Date (R)

Monday, December 6, 2010

7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 (PG-13)

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

7 p.m. Devil (PG-13)

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

7 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13)

Thursday, December 9, 2010

7 p.m. Due Date (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

Vehicles

1997 Toyota Estima

Seats 8. Has JVC CD, MP3, iPod ready stereo and leather seat covers. Recently changed oil, fan and air conditioner belt. JCI good until October 2011. Asking for \$3,000 OBO. For more information, call 080-5691-4258.

1997 Honda SMX Wagon

This vehicle is available Dec. 15. The vehicle is in excellent condition. JCI is good until April 2012. Asking for \$3,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-6342 or 090-6490-4098.

1999 Harley Davidson Road King

The motorcycle is well maintained. Has a lot of upgrades and extras. Asking for \$13,000. JCI is good until July 2012. For more information, call 253-6342 or 090-6490-4098.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Cream of mushroom soup, Creole soup, sauerbraten, hot and spicy chicken, fried rice, oven-glow 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 and blueberry crunch.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Cream of potato soup, chicken noodle soup, Southern-fried chicken, barbecue 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 and lemon meringue pie.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Cream of broccoli soup, vegetable soup, tempura fish, pepper steak, steamed rice, oven-glow 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 and cheese cake.
Specialty Bar: Barbecue

Thursday

Tomato soup, cream of chicken soup, baked ham, macaroni and 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 and 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 and dutch apple pie.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

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. Send all inquiries and resumes to mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiries.

Administrative Assistant Position Available

Choctaw Archiving Enterprise has a full-time opportunity available for an administrative assistant at the WIC Overseas Program in Iwakuni. For immediate consideration, please e-mail resume and cover letter to

Virginia.johnson.ctr@misawa.af.mil or fax resume to 226-9585.

Miscellaneous

NMCRS Volunteer Opportunities

Client services assistants volunteers greet clients and guide them through the initial intake process. For more information on how to apply, call 253-5311.

Items for sale

1998 Hitachi Japanese refrigerator. White with three compartments. must be bale to pick up and transport. Call 090-7377-0847

Ad 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.

MCCS and Commissary holiday hours / Postal deadlines

Typhoon Motors Gas Station

Dec. 24: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

Marine Corps Exchange

Dec. 24: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Jan. 1: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

North and Southside Marine Mart

Dec. 24: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Dec. 25: 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Dec. 31: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Jan. 1: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Commissary

Dec. 25-26: Closed
Jan. 1: Closed

Crossroads Food Court

■Burger King
Dec. 24: Closed
Dec. 25: 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Jan. 1: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
■Crossroads Cafe
Dec. 24: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

■KFC Express

Dec. 24: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 25: Holiday meal pick-up only
Dec. 31: 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 1: Closed

■Pizza Hut

Dec. 24: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1: 10:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

■Subway

Dec. 24, 31: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Dec. 25: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Jan. 1: 10:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

■Taco Bell

Dec. 24: 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec. 25: 1:30 – 9 p.m.
Dec. 31: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Jan. 1: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

■Gorilla Juice Bar and Soba Express

Dec. 24-26: Closed
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1: Closed

To ensure your packages arrive in time for the holidays, station postal has released the following dates to ensure your packages get from Iwakuni to the U.S. in time.

Space-Available Mail: Nov. 29

First Class and Priority Mail:

Dec. 6

Express Mail: Dec. 13

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.



Ethan Weisenberger, receiver for the MWSS-171 Engineers, runs into Ultimate Warriors defensive traffic just before getting the first down during an intramural flag football game at Penny Lake field here Nov. 22. The Ultimate Warriors thwarted the Engineers' effort to get an offense going for the entire night and totally dominated offensively to take home a win.

Warriors come out to feast, slay Engineers 47-7

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Ultimate Warriors of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron slaughtered the MWSS-171 Engineers 47-7 in an intramural flag football game at the Penny Lake football field here Nov. 22.

"Our defense was finally clicking," said Gwaltney Marshall, Ultimate Warriors running back. "The first half of the season it wasn't where it needed to be, but we stepped it up defensively."

The Warriors stopped almost every pass and running play 171 could pull out of their bag, only allowing them one touchdown to keep the game going.

"We had a lot more turnovers than we ever had before," said Allen B. Anderson, 171 quarterback. "The whole setup wasn't clicking together. It's going to come along if we practice it more, but just going out there and going for it wasn't a good idea."

If the game was being played on a video game console, one would wonder if the person playing had put in cheat codes with the way the Warriors dominated both sides of the field.

It was difficult to keep up with the num-

ber of turnovers and lost yards 171 suffered that cold Tuesday night with the Warriors outstanding defense making as many touchdowns as their offense.

"I feel that our offense is set," Marshall said.

confused for the entirety of the game.

"It's a new defense that was out there, everybody had different positions," Anderson said. "We only have three people here that we started the season with, so we're trying to get people into the right positions and teach them what to do in those positions."

It's true that 171's players seemed out of their comfort zone, which would be a good reason why they weren't on the top of their game, but with the Warriors offense being as powerful and in tune with each other as they were, even if the 171 players knew their positions they would still have had a run for their money.

With three minutes remaining in the game, the score spoke for itself at 40-7. The Warriors were able to squeeze in another touchdown with an extra point to follow before time ran out ending the game 47-7.

"It was the worst game we played all year," Anderson said. "We're a little off tonight, but it's definitely something we can get fixed."

After the game, both teams showed that, although only one could be called the victor, they respected each other as equals with every member shaking hands with the other team's players.



Stephen Debruyne, quarterback for the Ultimate Warriors, receives a snap during the mash up against MWSS-171 Engineers during an intramural flag football game held at Penny Lake field here Nov. 22.

The Warriors hardly found themselves on their side of the field. Gaining 10 to 12 yards per play, they were certainly keeping 171



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Paul Torres, Air Traffic Control crew 2 quarterback, attempts to rush the football past crew 1 defenders during the annual ATC Turkey Bowl at Penny Lake here Nov. 24. Crew 2 defeated crew 1 with a score of 52 - 22. Torres made sure to bring out the best in all of the players on his team by providing good throws and tactical rushes as opportunities arose.

ATC Turkey Bowl builds appetites, camaraderie

LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

American Football is just one of the many traditions of American culture associated with Thanksgiving Day. Food is another.

While many Marines were sleeping in or getting ready for a Thanksgiving feast, other Marines were up at 9 a.m. on turkey day tossing around the old pig skin during a motivated game of flag football.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Air Traffic Control split into two sections and drafted additional personnel to compete against each other in the annual ATC Turkey Bowl at Penny Lake here Nov. 25.

Crew 2 defeated crew 1 with a score of 52 - 22.

"Crew 2 has completely slaughtered crew 1," said Roman Riddle, crew 2 receiver. "At first, we were kind of scared about it because crew 1 always won in the past."

According to Joshua R. Hooten, crew 1 receiver, the Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl is an event ATC looks forward to every year.

"The airfield is closed today, so it's a time when we can actually get out and play," said Hooten.

According to Hooten, crew 1 has held a four-year winning streak.

This year, however, crew 2

wasn't about to let crew 1 walk away with another win under their belt and another year of bragging rights.

Paul Torres, crew 2 quarterback, made sure to bring out the best in all of the players on his team by providing good throws and tactical rushes as opportunities arose.

Almost everyone on his team scored a touchdown, which allowed crew 2 to accumulate a high score and gain distance from crew 1.

"Our quarterback, (Paul) Torres, is awesome," said Riddle. "He plays in the intramural flag football games, so he is an amazing quarterback and an amazing receiver."

It was a fun-filled day, full of trash talk and encouragement from fellow teammates on the sideline.

"(Crew 2) is by far the inferior crew at work so we have to let them win at something," said Hooten jokingly. "We can't be good



LANCE CPL. JENNIFER PIRANTE

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Air Traffic Control compete against each other in the annual ATC Turkey Bowl at Penny Lake here Nov. 24. ATC split two teams into crew 1 and crew 2. Crew 2 defeated crew 1 with a score of 52 - 22.

at everything."

Even though trash talk is a common tradition carried on by ATC during annual Turkey Bowls, at the end of the day, these annual flag football games are all about friendly competition and camaraderie.

"It brings everybody together and lets us relax a little bit," said Riddle. "We're just out here to

have some fun."

When the game was called in favor of crew 2, everyone congratulated the winning team.

"As far as I know, everybody has a place to go and we're all ready to eat," said Torres.

After the game, both crews of ATC were ready to carry out one of the most common Thanksgiving traditions ... the feast.