

GOTTA MAKE THE BISCUITS

Field cooks rep III MEF in cooking competition | P. 6 and 7

LAST EDITION FOR 2010

The Iwakuni Approach will not print again until Jan. 7, 2011. Ad requests and classifieds will be run on channel 21 and the Web site. See you in 2011.

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 48, Vol. 3 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Keen Sword marks 50 years of sustained U.S.-Japan cooperation

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the US-Japan Cooperation and Security Treaty, a pact that has helped both nations set about providing stability and peace in the region.

The Marines of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 are one of many units that participated in Keen Sword, a training exercise here between Japan and the US. This exercise serves as a demonstration to the continued commitment between the two nations.

Keen sword started Dec. 3 and ended Dec. 10.

The first Keen Sword exercise started in 1986, and since then there have been 10 exercises.

“Exercise Keen Sword is a joint bilateral exercise between the government of Japan and



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Sgt. Isaac G. Jasso, a quality assurance safety observer with VMFA(AW)-242, looks on as pilots of a F-18D Hornet do last minute checks before takeoff during exercise Keen Sword here Dec. 10. The exercise began on Dec. 3 and ended Dec. 10.

the United States,” said Maj. James R. Compton, operations officer for VMFA(AW)-242. “It encompasses the United States

Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, as well as the Japan

SEE **SWORD** ON PAGE 3

MAG-12 turns, burns during Wolmi-Do Fury

LANCE CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Wolmi-Do Fury, a four-day exercise, prepared service members for real-world wartime situations here Dec. 1-4.

The annual exercise included support from Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 224 and 225.

Wolmi-Do Fury is a MAG-12 level exercise, which integrates other flying squadrons deployed to Iwakuni.

While the flying squadrons conducted operations and missions, MAG-12 Headquarters and Operations supervised and

SEE **FURY** ON PAGE 3

Newest ARFF Marines feel heat, run headlong into flames

PFC. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

When water, which people know to be a life giving liquid, becomes a blazing inferno, the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines will have the situation under control in two minutes.

ARFF Marines had a training fire exercise Sunday to train the less experienced members of the crew.

“There will be two teams, each team will have a back up man, there will be two safeties instructing them,” said Lance Cpl. Kennieth T. Blake, an aircraft rescue firefighter. “In a real fire the safeties wouldn’t be there to show them what to do.”

“When we first start off with the exercise, we’re going to pull the hoses and post up right next to the truck,” said Lance Cpl. Michael J. Bach, an aircraft rescue firefighter. “We’re going to have two trucks posted with two teams, and our safety will be in the middle. Our safety for this exercise will be Staff Sgt. Garbutt”



PFC. CHARLIE CLARK

Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Garbutt, the section staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the aircraft rescue firefighting shift on duty Sunday, watched over his Marines as they attacked a fire during a training exercise here. The exercise trained the less experienced Marines in ARFF to build confidence and trust their gear.

SEE **RESCUE** ON PAGE 3



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

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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'EVEREADY'

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI
MAG-12 DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

There was a man driving a car on a dark evening.

On his travel, his headlights got busted along the way.

Good thing he had an Eveready flashlight, which he used for lighting the road to reach home.

Readiness is a catchword in our everyday lives, considering we have only one life to live.

We are not cats, which according to stories have nine lives.

The logo of Eveready batteries is a cat in a number nine.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, is the home of Marine Aircraft Group 12, nicknamed "The Ready Group."

Military wise, a Marine is a part of the group and is expected to always be ready when duty calls. Everybody, including civilians, regardless of who you are,

is expected to be prepared at all times.

We are in the Advent season, and there is an urgent call mentioned in Matthew 24:44 that says: "You also must be ready!"

The call is to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus. The word Advent means "coming."

The preparation is for the coming of the Lord Jesus as the judge, at death and the end of this world.

Advent is also a preparation for the coming of Christmas, the birthday of the Lord's coming into this world as God incarnate.

Brig. Gen. William Beydler, the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, said, "I got three priorities for the air wing: readiness, readiness and readiness. I expect Marines to meet standards, and I expect Marines to adhere to the corps values."

The Marine should always be ready physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually in terms of mission preparedness.

The Marine is always ready to

face the challenges at a moment's notice.

As individuals, we always have to be ready to face the challenges in a changing world.

In the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths, every valley shall be filled up."

Obviously the Baptist didn't have in mind to ask the Marines to do an engineering civic assistance program to repair rough, potholed roads.

What he meant was to straighten our moral lives, correct our bad attitudes and distorted values, thus filling up our lives with goodness.

Am I making any progress in life?

Advent challenges us to be more vigilant. Be prepared. That is the call of duty.

Life is like Advent. We are waiting of the second coming of Jesus. When he comes, we need not be caught off guard.

We have only one life, not nine.

MLCs recognized for many years of service



Nineteen Master Labor Contractors officially retired in a ceremony at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Dec. 6. Many of the retirees served the station for 10 years or more. 30 years of service: Mr. Kazuo Muranaka, Mr. Tomio Shtamori, Ms. Ikuo Takeuchi, Ms. Taeko Yoshioka. 29 years of service: Mr. Hisao Nishimoto, Mr. Toru Ichioka, Mr. Shojiro Yoshioka, Mr. Makoto Yamagata. 28 years of service: Mr. Hiroaki Nishimura, Ms. Kikue Ojufuji, Mr. Toshihiro Yamamoto. 25 years of service: Mr. Hideo Tameshige. 22 years of service: Mr. Takamitsu Kurata. 19 years of service: Ms. Mina Iwaki, Ms. Miyoko Uemura. 16 years of service: Mr. Masaru Hamano, Ms. Keiko Nishio. 13 years of service: Mr. Michio Tanaka. 9 years of service: Ms. Mitsuyo Matsuoka.

Holy days worship and services

Catholic:

Dec. 24 5 p.m.: Catholic children's mass
Dec. 25, 12 a.m.: Catholic Christmas midnight mass
Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.: Catholic Christmas day mass
Dec. 26, 8:30 a.m.: Catholic mass / Feast of the Holy Family
Jan. 1, 8:30 a.m.: Catholic motherhood of Mary mass
5:30 p.m.: Catholic vigil mass /

The epiphany of the Lord
Jan. 2, 8:30 a.m.: Catholic mass /
The epiphany of the Lord

Protestant:

Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.: Festival of carols and lessons
Dec. 25, 10 a.m.: SDA Christmas service
Dec. 31, 9 p.m.: Praise / prayer service

MAG-12, squadrons take to air, land during Wolmi-Do Fury 2010

FURY FROM PAGE 1

oversaw everything.

"Downstairs in our war room, we kind of act as the quarterback," said Maj. Robert J. George, MAG-12 operations officer. "We run the show, we call the plays, and we track the squadrons and where they go."

Wolmi-Do Fury, a large-force exercise, included close-air support training, urban CAS training, search-and-rescue drills as well as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear training including vehicle decontamination.

Conducting both air and ground operations prepared the squadrons for combat missions that may come their way.

"A lot of the exercises we do focus on real-world operations that we would be required to do in a wartime situation," said George. "We plan for those things

ahead of time and then every so often we train for those events to stay prepared."

During Top Gun training, pilots were trained using advanced air-to-air combat courses.

Pilots made contact with search and rescue assets and navigated to safety while evading enemy components during the search and rescue exercise.

On the ground side, Marines conducted day-to-day operations in Mission Oriented Protective Posture protective gear and went through a decontamination course. With CBRN and decontamination training, the Marines became more confident in using their MOPP gear.

"The purpose of the exercise is to train the MAG-12's command and control system, and for the squadrons to become proficient in these particular missions," said Capt. Paul Holst, VMFA(AW)-224 pilot.

While business was performed as usual, and the training carried out is often done on a regular basis, Wolmi-Do Fury was on another level.

"We're flying a lot more sorties. The first day this kicked off we flew 24 sorties, when we normally only fly 14, so there's a lot more jets being put up," said Capt. David Dusworth, VMFA(AW)-225 training officer.

In order to keep those jets in the air and receive the proper training, maintenance Marines performed above and beyond.

"Our maintenance Marines have done an outstanding job," said Dusworth. "We were asked to put up eight jets and we actually put up 10 jets. We met all of our sortie requirements for MAG-12 and then today we put up four more jets than were required from our squadron just to make sure the mission got complete. The jets worked great the entire time."

Not only did they perform during the four-day exercise, but prepared for two weeks prior to the exercise to make sure they were ready to accomplish the mission.

Along with getting the proper annual training, Marines also received integrated training with multiple units.

"(The integration) was a huge learning point for the exercise because we used a lot more integration with MAG-12 and the other squadrons instead of just the individual entities here," said Dusworth. "We're able to show that we can work together and accomplish the mission. We can take from it what we need to learn and improve on for next time."

The exercise provided MAG-12 the opportunity to hone its operational capabilities and coordinate with multiple squadrons to further their warfighting capabilities as.

U.S.-Japanese pilots enhance bilateral cooperation during exercise Keen Sword

SWORD FROM PAGE 1

Maritime Self Defense Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force."

Keen Sword is designed to enhance the interoperability of the U.S.-Japan team.

"It offers us a unique opportunity to both work with our host nation support here, the Japanese government, as well as with our Navy and Air Force counterparts," said Compton.

More than 10,000 U.S. service members part in Keen Sword, along with the George Washington battle group, Compton said.

The overall goal of Keen Sword is to integrate operations of the different services and governments that participated, added Compton.

Service members from bases as far north as Chitose and as far south as Kadena also participated in Keen Sword.

"We are focusing on area defense, what we would call active-air defense, where we'll practice defending a ship or a defended asset over land," Compton said. "We're also working on the attack of maritime targets and air interdiction, striking targets at sea or on land, which is a key training area for us here in response to a number of regional missions that we are assigned."

Other squadrons in the Marine Corps also provided support to VMFA(AW)-242 as they

participated in Keen Sword.

"VMGR-152 [Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152] is providing extensive support for us," said Compton. "Without the ability to aerial refuel, we would not be able to really get as much out of these exercises as we've been able to do. Some of the airspace we're traveling to is farther than we would normally use, so that ability to aerial refuel has made a big difference to us."

The maintenance of the aircraft is just as equally important as the exercise itself.

"It's been a real challenge for us," said Maj. Anthony Baggs, maintenance officer for VMFA(AW)-242. "We've supported the exercise, Keen Sword, at the same time as we've been standing a maintenance inspection from the Wing team."

The inspection, which was robust and aggressive, has not stopped the Marines from contributing their part in Keen Sword added Baggs.

"All the Marines have been engaged out on the flight line," said Baggs. "Troubleshooting the aircraft, doing the configuration changes, loading all the avionics that are required on every flight, all the while standing the inspection, making our overall maintenance department better."

The challenges have helped to increase the Marines effectiveness in their roles, short-term and long-term.

ARFF Marines dance in flames, take on one of nature's ultimate destroyers

RESCUE FROM PAGE 1

The safety for the exercise ensured his Marines were safe and well prepared for the days exercise while guiding them during the exercise.

The exercise is designed to build confidence in the Marines and the equipment they use for basic fire/ground operations, said Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Garbutt, the section staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the aircraft rescue firefighting shift on duty Sunday.

"The exercises are to keep the Marines up to speed on fire training," said Garbutt.

The exercise trained the Marines to approach, stay low, and push the fuel and the fire off the water.

"There's three elements to fire," said Blake. "There's the fuel, the heat and the material. If you can separate one of those from the other two, you can extinguish the fire."

All the Marines know that the fire has a mind of its own and behaves like a wild dog.

"It's for the crew members to get experience with the fire so they know how fire can behave," Lance Cpl. Kyle S. Vander Molen, an aircraft rescue firefighter said. "The more times we do the exer-

cise the better we'll get. Practice makes perfect."

These exercises build the aircraft rescue firefighters' techniques when fighting non-training fires.

"Training fires are for when there's a crash, we train for how we're going to go in and maneuver around the cockpit to put out the fire in the most effective way possible," said Blake.

The aircraft rescue firefighters are always running scenarios through their minds to always be prepared in case the next alarm that sounds isn't another drill.

"We're here 24 hours a day to make sure that doesn't happen,"

said Blake.

Not every training exercise is performed perfectly; mistakes, no matter how small, are always discussed afterward.

The only things that went wrong were just little things that get better with experience, said Garbutt. "The SNOs and NCOs try to inject as much knowledge and as much experience into the younger, less experienced Marines as we possibly can," Garbutt said.

All of the Marines and Japanese nationals who work on the airfield can rest easy every night knowing that no matter when, the aircraft rescue firefighters are always ready to do their job.

You're going to the Super Bowl dude, local Marine wins tickets

COMPILED BY
THE IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Cpl. Ricky Russell, native of Sacramento, Calif., was the winner of the 2010 Marine Corps Community Services Football Bash grand prize – a five day/four night, all expense paid trip for two to Arlington, Texas, to attend Super Bowl XLV, valued at over \$7,500.

Russell, a Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 flight equipment technician, was Unit Deployment Program to MCAS Iwakuni when he entered the Football Bash at Club Iwakuni.

This fall, MCCA clubs and restaurants across the Corps sponsored the MCCA Football Bash in an effort to get Marines into MCCA facilities for a little fun, camaraderie and football. In all, MCCA club and restaurant patrons submitted over 60,000 raffle entries.

"I was at the club practicing for the Marine Corps Ball cake ceremony and I saw the application form so I decided to fill it out," said Russell.

As the winner of the MCAS Iwakuni drawing, he was eligible for a one in 20 chance at the grand prize. His name was drawn during a raffle Dec. 10, at Headquarters Marine Corps, Personal and Family Readiness Division,



Cpl. Ricky Russell, a Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 flight equipment technician, inspects the functionality of a flight helmet here Tuesday. Russell won the Marine Corps Community Services Football Bash grand prize – a trip to Super Bowl XLV.

aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Timmerman, Personal & Family Readiness Division sergeant major, drew the winning ticket.

"I had just woken up when I got the news so I was a little dazed," said Russell. "Once reality set in I was excited."

The grand prize winner receives tickets for two to Super Bowl XLV, airfare, four nights lodging, a Sony waterproof digital camera, and \$500 spending money.

"I'm planning on taking my father with me. I wouldn't want to sell the tickets," said Russell. "Everyone wants to go to the Super Bowl."

December Promotions

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Bruce, Timothy J.
Cantu, Emmanuel L.
Caspary, Ryan C.
Faye, Jason C.
Ford, Troy E.
Hopkins, Michael A.
James, Dustin L.
Marable, Kelly B.
Marlett, Robert W.
McCreery, Joshua T.
Medina, Hugo M.
Nielsen, Andrew R.
Swortchek, Thomas R.
Warner, Lawrence T.
Williams, Daniel G.

Cpl.
Lynch, Devin N.
Ramos, Andrew J.
Wilkinson Jr., Timothy E.
Yi, Danny D.

Sgt.
Fowler, Steven M.

Detachment Bravo

Cpl.
Knickerbocker, Brent J.
Mast, Tyler S.

Sgt.
Beaucar, Johnathon B.

Gunnery Sgt.
Kellmel, Richard J.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Carbo, Melissa A.
Winningham, Vandriel D.

Cpl.
Hatcher, Erica N.

Staff Sgt.
Kassebaum, Daniel J.

Gunnery Sgt.
Hulette, Jason D.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Baker, Daniel S.
Dandrea, Michael J.
Dubois, Katelyn A.
Fortune, Judner
Halter, Paul J.
Perez, Luis C.
Phelps, Amanda A.
Vandeweert, Kurt A.
Vigil, Vincent
Watson, Sean M.

Cpl.
Aguilar, Jorge
Alvarez, Jose A.
Fuentes, Rafael C.
Ladwig, Lance B.
Matos, Nicholas A.
Sauca, Laine T.
Tousignant, Justin P.
Williams, Brandon M.

Sgt.
Vincentz, Curtis B.

Master Sgt.
Starnes, Louis T.

CLC-36
Lance Cpl.
ReyesJimenez, David

Cpl.
Hulett, Aaron T.
Mitchell Jr., Steven S.

Staff Sgt.
Shanfield, Sydney D.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.
Duarte, Eric Y.
Gunter, Kevin M.
Martinez, Rudy L.
Sheppard, Jesse D.
Sylvester, Travis J.
Wojcik, Kristin

Cpl.
Abraham, Joanne
Baldwin, Steven C.
Gottardo, Frank
Host, Brian M.
Mestre, Shadel I.



Lance Cpl. Michelle Thach interacts with the Japanese children at Josho Hoikuen school in Iwakuni, Japan, Tuesday. The children flocked to Thach as she played and joked around with them. Different members from the Installation Personnel Administration Center here visit the school once a month to spend time with the children.

Marines pass on Christmas spirit to Japanese children

PFC. CAYCE NEVERS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Four Marines from the Installation Personnel Administration Center here visited Josho Hoikuen school Tuesday to interact with Japanese children.

The Marines visited Japanese children ages 3 to 5-years-old.

Being the Christmas season, the holiday spirit is all around.

"We got into the Christmas spirit and spread the American culture, bringing it to the Japanese," said Pfc. Michael Hicks, IPAC information management branch legal administrator.

"It was amazing to be able to go out and experience the Japanese culture, how they go to school and what they do on a daily basis," said Hicks.

The Marines sang Christmas carols and listened to the Japanese children play them music.

"I was surprised how talented they were; it was breathtaking," said Lance Cpl. Vincent Wong, IPAC personnel management branch personnel clerk. "It was really fun and entertaining. I never knew kids could play musical instruments like that. I'm amazed at what they learn at such an early age."

As students that young in America, we never learned to play musical instruments at that age, said Hicks.

Not only were the children musically talented but they were well disciplined as well.

"I loved the little kids; I was really surprised at how focused the kids were," said Lance Cpl. Michelle Thach, IPAC outbound

management branch outbound clerk. "They were really well behaved; they have a lot of discipline."

The children received a piece of chocolate from Santa as they each told him what they wanted for Christmas.

The discipline is obvious when you see the kids leave the room with the same piece of chocolate in their hand.

"It's so adorable how much self control they have because they won't eat it until it's their lunch time," said Sgt. Anne Laha, IPAC administrative specialist.

As the children sat and enjoyed the visit from Santa, Pfc. Michael Hicks, and his elves, they made sure it was known that they wanted gifts by raising their hand, waiting to be called on to tell Santa what they wanted.

"They got to experience Santa coming in and giving them the holiday spirit," said Hicks.

"I felt that it was a very good thing, not only



Santa, Pfc. Michael Hicks, and his helping elves, Sgt. Anne Laha, Lance Cpl. Vincent Wong and Lance Cpl. Michelle Thach say goodbye to the Japanese children of Josho Hoikuen school in Iwakuni, Japan. As the children said goodbye, they gave high fives to the Marines.

for myself and the Marines that went, but the students in the classroom as well," he added.

Not every time IPAC decides to go to the school is there a Marine dressed up to show the kids the holiday spirit.

However, the kids are always hilarious and can always make you smile, said Laha.

For the junior Marines who went, this was their first time interacting with Japanese children. The Marines enjoyed it so much they are looking forward to more trips.



Sgt. Richard J. Martin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist and chief cook, slices and dices green peppers and onions in the field expedient kitchen set up at Penny Lake here Dec. 8 in preparation for the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition.

Pfc. Thomas M. Trend, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist, adds water to the biscuit mix in the field expedient kitchen set up at Penny Lake here. The field mess team is representing III Marine Expeditionary Force in the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition. Established in 1971, the award is an annual Marine Corps-wide competition to recognize the achievements for garrison and field mess food service operations. The award is the most prestigious award in military food service.



PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ



Staff Sgt. Ramon Inzunza (center left), Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist, watches as Pfc. Elwood Tsosie, MWSS-171 food service specialist, moves the empty mashed potato pot out of the way so Lance Cpl. Andrew Neilsen and Sgt. Richard J. Martin (right), MWSS-171 food service specialists, can add the finishing touches to the main dishes during the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition at Penny Lake Saturday.

Field cooks *sizzle* their way through competition

PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Before the sun rose the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 field mess crew arrived at their field expedient mess hall set up at Penny Lake here Saturday to begin cooking.

They weren't just training; they were cooking for the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition for best field mess, the most prestigious award in military food service.

Established in 1971, this award is an annual Marine Corps wide competition to recognize the achievements for garrison and field mess food service operations, cosponsored by the commandant of the Marine Corps and the National Restaurant Association.

Inside the tents and at the base of all the camouflage netting there is a field expedient mess hall. This mess hall is equipped with a kitchen and inside Marines are cooking buzzing back and forth busy at work like bees in a hive.

Different ingredients decorate the center table as Marines grab and use what they need.

The Marines bustle back and forth between each other in a kitchen that is almost too small for them to work comfortably.

They work together well. Their movements are fluid, like a well oiled machine — they have done this many times before.

The smell of food wafts out of this small kitchen seeping its way

out through whatever cracks it can.

The smell finds its way into the noses of the evaluators as they make their way toward the galley. It's game day for these Marines because they are cooking for 121 people and representing the III Marine Expeditionary Force in the competition.

Master Sgt. Leonard B. Crooms, MWSS-171, is in charge as mess chief. He is central to the planning, execution and operation of field feeding. As mess chief, Crooms must know all the aspects of field food service operations and use staff, equipment, facilities and supplies in the most efficient way.

"I think we'll win... it's the way we're trained to believe," said Crooms. "There's nothing that can stop us; quality, consistency, attention to detail and pride makes our field mess better than the rest."

Three evaluators came out to judge the competition. Lieutenant Col. Jay A. Rogers, Marine Corps director of food services, Master Gunnery Sgt. Ronald R. Fogarty, II MEF food technician, and Phil Hickey representing the National Restaurant Association.

Competitors are judged on 17 categories. They will be graded on a scale of one to five, one being poor, and can achieve a maximum score of 360 points. Among the categories included in the competition are operations and supervision, sanitation, taste, food quality, command support,

field mess site selection and layout.

The focus of the competition is on proper planning and execution of garrison and expeditionary food service operations to standard.

"It's not as much as them doing their job but showing off how they do their job," said Warrant Officer Edwin C. Bates, 1st Marine Air Wing food service officer.

The evaluators questioned the Marines on all aspects of their craft quizzing them on the 17 categories and taste testing the food.

"I worked with Master Sgt. Crooms before and I recognized those biscuits," said Fogarty. "It's a shame I didn't get to have one."

Sgt Richard J. Martin, MWSS-171 food service specialist and chief cook, kept great composure throughout the evaluation.

"We're already in the top three. So, to me, we've already won," said Martin. "We do a good job, we're here to support this side of the world and we do it well."

As the mess hall guests get up and clear their trays, the field mess staff has yet to eat but they don't seem to mind.

"I don't know when I'm going to eat but I don't care as long as my Marines eat first," said Cpl. Celestino Garza, MWSS-171 food service specialist. The final results will be announced by February, and winners will be invited to attend the national award presentations, hosted by NRA in Chicago, Ill.



Lance Cpl. Richard R. Aubin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 electrician, holds his tray of hot chow at the field expedient mess hall during the W.P.T. Hill Memorial award evaluation Saturday set up at Penny Lake. The mess hall was set up under camouflage netting.



Lance Cpls. Andrew R. Neilsen and Broc S. Boltrott, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialists, clean up after cooking lunch in their field expedient kitchen set up at Penny Lake Dec. 2. The Marines were part of field mess crew competing for the W.P.T. Hill Award.

PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines use focused training to build Afghan National Army

LANCE CPL. JOSHUA HINES
REGIMENTAL COMBAT
TEAM 2

MUSA QAL'EH, Afghanistan

— Afghan National Army soldiers with 3rd Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps undertook a platoon tactics course, taught by the Marine Advisor Team with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, at the Afghan National Army compound in Musa Qal'eh, Dec. 8. During the beginning days of the 10-day course the Afghan soldiers learned first aid, weapons handling and maintenance, as well as small-unit leadership, counter insurgency and patrolling tactics.

Following the classes, the Afghan soldiers began applying what they learned during first-aid rehearsals, patrols, and a live-fire range.

The course allowed the Marines to build a better relationship with the Afghan soldiers, while helping them become more tactically proficient and stronger leaders, said 1st Lt. Adam Young, tactical

advisor for the MAT.

"The training is great for my men. Most are new and aren't very experienced, so the course helps a lot and increases their capabilities," explained Sgt. Jamal Mudeen, platoon sergeant with 2nd Platoon, 3rd Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps.

Small unit leadership is crucial for the ANA because their area is so large. With small-unit leadership, they are more likely to make sound decisions when they interact with the population, said Maj. Christopher Reynolds, advisor team leader.

"Applying these tactics will allow us to better protect the Afghan people and fight the Taliban," said Mudeen.

After successfully completing the platoon tactics course the Afghan soldiers received a certification during a graduation ceremony.

"So far it's been a great success," said Reynolds. "By the end of the course we had a very motivated and disciplined group of soldiers who were proud of themselves and very excited."



MUSA QAL'EH, Afghanistan — Afghan soldiers patrol alongside Marines with 1st Bn., 8th Marines during the practical application section of the platoon tactics course in Musa Qal'eh, Nov. 30. During the course soldiers received classes on small unit leadership and counter insurgency then applied those lessons over several patrols through villages around Musa Qal'eh.



MUSA QAL'EH, Afghanistan — An Afghan soldier walks across a stone wall trough the wahdi during a patrol during the practical application section of the platoon tactics course in Musa Qal'eh, Nov. 30. During the course soldiers were taught proper weapons handling and maintenance.



MUSA QAL'EH, Afghanistan — An Afghan National Army soldier disassembles an M16A2 rifle during the weapon maintenance practical application section of the platoon tactics course at the ANA compound in Musa Qal'eh, Dec. 5. During the course soldiers competed to see who could disassemble and reassemble their weapon fastest. Soldiers learned to maintain many different weapons during the 10-day course.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DeCA Scholarships

DeCA sponsored 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program. Scholarship applications will be available Dec. 7 at the commissary and online at <http://www.commissaries.com> — choose the "News & Info" tab and then the "Scholarship Info" tab. Applications are also available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Applications and an essay, must be turned in to the Commissary by close of business Feb. 22, 2011. For more information call 253-4873.

Weight Loss 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.

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.

6th Annual Angel-Tree Gift Exchange

The Marine Corps Exchange teamed up with MWSS-171's command chaplain to benefit the

children in the Yahata Children's Home at the MCX Atrium 8:30 – 10 a.m. Saturday. The community selects angels from the tree, purchases and returns the gifts. The children will receive their gifts from Santa and have their photographs taken. For more information, call 253-5641.

Iwakuni Torch Club

Torch club members will participate in the Japanese gift exchange on Saturday. Volunteers are welcome. Remaining stuffed animals will be used as part of a pen pal project with Travis Academy in Miwaukee, Wis. More than 500 stuffed animals were collected in a drive to benefit Japanese and American children.

SMP Chess Tournament

The chess tournament will be held at the Marine Lounge 12 – 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Trophies and

T-shirts will be awarded to 1st and 2nd places. Participants will have a chance to win gift cards. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Open to all base personnel ages 18 and older. For more information, call 253-5368.

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

American Red Cross

The ARC is accepting applications with a resume for a free dental assistant program through Jan. 5. Interviews will be held Jan. 7 where 5 – 7 candidates will be selected. Applications available at ARC Bldg 1100 located in the Marine Chapel. For more information call 253-4525.

Christmas Buffet

A Christmas buffet will be held at Club Iwakuni Dec. 25 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Relax and enjoy our Chef's Christmas Feast in a warm, festive

atmosphere on Christmas Day. Seating is limited for reservations call 253-5416.

Christmas Eve Cookies

Free homemade cookies will be available all day at the Iwakuni library. Have a cup of coffee or tea to go along with it.

Thrift Store Hours

The station Thrift Store will be open 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Dec. 17, closed on Dec. 24 and open 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Dec. 31.

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.

Interested in becoming a DJ?

You could rock the club and enjoy all the night time parties that Club Iwakuni has to offer! If you are interested in becoming a DJ, call MCCS Productions at 253-3727 for details.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, December 17, 2010
7 p.m. Social Network (PG-13)
10 p.m. Case 39 (R)
Premier

Saturday, December 18, 2010
1 p.m. Tangled (PG)
4 p.m. Red (PG-13)
7 p.m. Hereafter (PG-13)

Sunday, December 19, 2010
1 p.m. Megamind (PG)
4 p.m. Case 39 (R)
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 (PG-13)

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

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

Monday, December 20, 2010
7 p.m. My Soul to take (R)

Tuesday, December 21, 2010
7 p.m. Case 39 (R)

Wednesday, December 22, 2010
1 p.m. Megamind (PG)
\$1 admission for all
7 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 (PG-13)

Thursday, December 23, 2010
7 p.m. The Tourist (PG-13)
Premier

253-5291

CLASSIFIEDS

Vehicles

1997 Yamaha 400 Cruiser

Motorcycle rides great has 13,250 KM. Comes with one full face helmet, two half helmets, goggles, winter gloves, saddle bags and covers. Asking \$3,000 before JCI is due Jan. 11, 2011. For more information, call 253-7139 or 080-2912-8560.

1997 Honda SMX Wagon

The vehicle is in excellent condition. JCI is good until April 2012. Asking for \$3,000 OBO. For more information, call 253-6342 or 090-6490-4098.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo soup, Carribean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, calico cabbage, brocoli combo, dinner rolls, potato salad, cucumber and onion salad, standard salad bar, peanut butter brownies, double-layer marble cake with butter cream frosting and banana cream pudding.
Specialty Bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Tomato soup, vegetable soup, lasagna, roast pork, au gratin potatoes, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, toasted garlic bread, cream gravy, country style tomato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cherry pie, Boston cream pie and oatmeal raisin cookies.
Specialty Bar: Taco

Wednesday

Cream of broccoli soup, french onion soup, baked tuna and noodles, breaded pork chop creole, garlic roasted potatoes, carrots, mixed vegetables, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, cabbage, apple and celery salad, three bean salad, standard salad bar, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie and devil's food cake with butter cream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Barbecue

Thursday

Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, chicken parmesan, Italian sausage, buttered pasta, oven browned potatoes, eggplant parmesan, cauliflower gumbo, alfredo sauce, marinara, sauce, garlic bread with cheese, macaroni salad, mixed fruit salad, standard salad bar, German chocolate cake, banana cream pie with whipped topping and sugar cookies.
Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

Friday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, southern style fried catfish, savory baked chicken, French fried cauliflower, macaroni and cheese, candid sweet potatoes, southern style greens, jalapeno corn bread, cream gravy, potato salad, country style tomato salad, standard salad bar, coconut raisin drop cookies, chocolate cream pie and double layer Florida lemon cake with butter cream frosting.
Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

1999 Harley Davidson Road King

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

1999 Honda SMX

JCI is good until November 2012. Vehicle has good AC, CD and navigation, new tires and a fresh oil change. Asking for \$3,000 OBO. For more information, call 253-2787 or 080-4177-6381.

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.

MCCS Employment

MCCS is continuously accepting applications for entry-level positions such as sales associates, cashiers, recreation attendants, food service workers, waiters, waitresses and program assistants. For more information, call the employee development office at 253-4841.

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, Commissary and gate holiday hours

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

Holiday Gate Operations

■Contractors' Gate will be closed from 6:30 p.m. Dec. 30- Jan. 4 6:30 a.m.
■North Gate will be closed from 6:30 p.m. Dec. 30- Jan. 4 7:00 a.m.
■All other gates will have the same operational times.
■PMO will open the Contractors' gate and/or North gate upon request.

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.

Sho Stoppaz bounce through Holiday tourney

PFC. VANESSA JIMENEZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Sho Stoppaz stole the show and took home first place against its fierce rival Fil-Am 41-32 in the 2010 Holiday Basketball tournament at IronWorks Gym here Sunday.

This was the third consecutive time Sho Stoppaz have gone up against Fil-Am and taken home the gold.

The Sho Stoppaz took the advantage of Fil-Am's early descent to the loser's bracket after getting knocked down in its first game against GSUPP 30-27.

Fil-Am had to fight its way from the loser's bracket to compete for the championship by playing a total of six games compared to the Sho Stoppaz four games.

Fil-Am had brief breaks in between games but started to play games back-to-back once the Sho Stoppaz beat out the competition for their spot in the championship.

Fil-Am came close to being knocked out in their final game before the championship but was able to tie it up and win in overtime giving it a guaranteed spot in the championship.

Before beginning the final game Fil-Am had a brief break where it came together to talk about strategies.

"We just need to stay calm, keep the intensity up and knock down free throws," said Waner Bazile, Fil-Am point guard. "We just have to use our quickness and agility to our advantage."

Throughout the entire tournament the Sho Stoppaz oozed confidence and made it known to all the teams they beat.

"I'm not worried at all," said T.J. Ferguson, Sho Stoppaz forward and center. "Fil-Am is going to have to beat us twice if they want to win the championship."

The Sho Stoppaz took advantage of the tired Fil-Am members and took an early 11-0 lead.

Fil-Am felt the heat and stepped up their game but continued to trail behind the Sho Stoppaz 13-20.

Kelly Marable, Fil-Am power forward, made the most shots with three baskets and three free throws.

Sho Stoppaz took advantage of the long ball hitting four three pointers in the first half.

At the end of the first half, the Sho Stoppaz had a solid 22-15 lead over Fil-Am.

The second half of the game, the Sho Stoppaz really turned it on and never let Fil-Am come any closer than 10 points.

Fil-Am scored 17 points in the second half, but it wasn't enough to bring them within sights of first place.

Once again the Sho Stoppaz came in first place and undefeated.

"We knew that we had a veteran team, so we just used our experience," said Darius D. Harpe, Sho Stoppaz coach and guard. "We're still top dog." Individual trophies along with a team trophy were handed out at the awards ceremony.

Steve A. Navar was named MVP of the game and given a special trophy.

"His three point shooting is what kept us in the game," said Harpe.

The Sho Stoppaz look forward to the next tournament for another chance to beat Fil-Am and continue their undefeated winning streak in January.



Courtney Simmons, Sho Stoppaz forward and center, evades Waner Bazile, Fil-Am point guard, in the championship game for the Holiday 2010 basketball tournament at IronWorks Gym here Sunday. This is the third consecutive tournament the Sho Stoppaz have won. The Sho Stoppaz were undefeated throughout the tournament and beat Fil-Am 41-32 in the championship game.



T.J. Ferguson, Sho Stoppaz forward and center, shoots for the basket in game four against IPAC during the Holiday 2010 basketball tournament at IronWorks Gym Sunday. The Sho Stoppaz won the game against IPAC 48-40 and dropped IPAC into the loser's bracket. The Sho Stoppaz were undefeated through the entire tournament.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

In an attempt to free himself, a Marine goes to the mat with his opponent during the All-Marine Wrestling Team tryouts at the IronWorks Gym here Monday. Maj. Joseph D. Hicks, the All-Marine wrestling coach, selected three Marines to continue on at the training camp in Camp Lejeune.

Marines compete for chance at wrestling glory

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K.
TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Tryouts for Marines wanting to become part of the All-Marine Wrestling team were held at the Ironworks Gym here Monday.

The sport of wrestling incorporates varying styles ranging from the more popular and well known collegiate and Greco-Roman to the less known Sambo.

Maj. Joseph D. Hicks, head coach for the All-Marine Wrestling team since 2004, has been involved with the sport since 1980.

"I'm just looking for good wrestlers," said Hicks. "I'm looking for good hardnosed kids that have wrestling experience and are willing to work and learn. I can teach them everything they need to know when they get out to Lejeune."

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., is the headquarters for the wrestling team. The Marines that were chosen by Hicks will continue on from there to start training camp at Lejeune from Feb. 1 to Aug. 1.

"I'm ecstatic," said Steven T. Smiley. Smiley, a standout from Clarkston, Michigan, has been involved in the sport since junior high school. "I got a good workout in."

The tryouts served as a means

for Hicks to gauge each Marine's overall technical proficiency.

"The more technically advanced he is, the better off he will be when he goes to Camp Lejeune," Hicks said. "Just as important is toughness and weight. There are certain weights I need. Right now, I need small guys in the 121-132 pound range."

For some, trying out for the All-Marine Wrestling team was their main reason for becoming a Marine.

"That was my goal when I first came into the Marine Corps," said Joshua C. Hattendorf, a Florida native. "I want to be a wrestling coach for my old high school."

John A. Moore, a fellow Floridian wrestler, took part in the tryouts as well. He and Hattendorf competed against one another before joining the Corps.

Though most had sights on becoming members of the wrestling team, some merely



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Marines lock up in an attempt to gain the upper hand against one another as they compete for a spot on the All-Marine Wrestling Team at the IronWorks Gym here Monday. The two Marines were among 14 others who came out to earn a slot at wrestling camp.

wanted the opportunity to test themselves and compete.

"I don't think I really lived up to my potential when I was younger. This is my way of making up for what I missed out on," said Moore.

Sweat beaded down the heads of some Marines as Hicks had the Marines participate in drills to loosen their bodies by performing rolls and various stretches as they circled Hicks.

"I really enjoy coaching the

Marines," Hicks said.

Hicks has visited Pendleton, 29 Palms, and Okinawa in his search to find new wrestlers.

"If you're serious about wrestling, wrestle," said Hicks. "Find somewhere to wrestle people. Find somebody to wrestle."

Hicks will make one last stop at Marine Corps Base Hawaii before returning to Lejeune to prepare for the upcoming training camp.