

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 5, Vol. 1

Friday, February 8, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## DTRA visit helps bolster station security

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The air station hosted the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Mobile Training Team last week for five days of anti-terrorism training and assessment.

Subject matter experts in terrorist operations, security, engineering and emergency management engaged 55 military and civilian students from throughout the U.S. Pacific Command in lectures and a hands-on evaluation of Iwakuni's own AT program.

"The training is about anti-terrorism programs and how to establish, maintain and inspect (them)," said Marion Andrews, DTRA chief of support branch. "Its purpose is to provide installations with the capability to conduct assessments of their own anti-terrorism programs."

An important element of last week's training was instruction on Department of Defense-mandated programs for funding high-priority anti-terrorism projects, such as the Core Vulnerability Assessment Management Program and Combating Terrorism Readiness Initiative Fund.

"An anti-terrorism program is designed to protect our personnel and equipment against the terrorist threat," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bryan Radliff, Joint Staff Deputy Directorate for Anti-Terrorism Homeland Defense AT officer. "It's the defensive measures our commands take to protect our people and equipment so we can accomplish our missions."

Radliff, who gave instruction on allocating money for AT programs, stressed the significance of having a system to make such funds available.

"It's important for us to be able to have a process to validate ... that 'this is what we need,'" Radliff said.

"The intent is to have a program that is proactive and puts measures into place to help protect our assets," he added.

According to Andrews, hosting DTRA not only affords base personnel a chance to gain valuable training, but also gives the air station an objective look at the current AT measures in place.

"The installation is going to have a vulnerability assessment conducted by the community in May 2008, and this will help them with that process," Andrews said. "Now the commander has a start for that assessment and it will take them less time to complete it."

Andrews said he felt that while there is always room for improvement, the air station sets an example for other overseas bases to follow.

"Iwakuni has a very robust anti-terrorism program," Andrews said. "A very important part of the program is training for people on the installation. Also, the relationship between the anti-terrorism officer, the (Provost Marshal's Office) and (Naval Criminal Investigative Services)



A Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18 Hornet refuels from a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 C-130 during an aerial refueling mission Jan. 29. The VMGR-452 Yankess are in Thailand supporting Exercise Cope Tiger 2008, an annual, multi-lateral field training exercise. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

## Stateside refueling crew trains Lancers during Cope Tiger 2008

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand (Feb. 8, 2008)** – Propelling through the blue haze in the skies over Thailand, a C-130 carrying 60,000 pounds of fuel awaits the approach of F/A-18 pilots training to stay in the fight.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 is playing an important role in Exercise Cope Tiger 2008: providing fuel for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212's F/A-18s flying extended sorties.

"The pilots are training in flight maneuvers and air combat, but something else that's also a key factor in combat is staying in the air; training for aerial refueling is important to the mission as well," said Maj. Rod A. Funk, VMGR-452 aircraft commander. "Essentially, it allows the pilots to stay in the air twice as long, completing more complex missions. I can't think of a better crew to assist in the training than the one we have right here."

The New York-based squadron, nicknamed the Yankess, came with approximately 60 personnel trained in aerial refueling and cargo transfer. The refueling process calls upon the hands of two pilots, a flight engineer, a navigator, a loadmaster and a flight mechanic.

"An aerial refueling doesn't require a big crew," said Cpl. Anthony J. Kane, a VMGR-452 loadmaster. "Because of our training, we're able to accomplish a variety of missions with limited personnel."

Kane, whose job includes computing aircraft weight and balance status as well as supervising the refueling, said the C-130 is equipped to keep a large number of F/A-18s in the air.

"Before we take off, the (C-130) is already prepared to give fuel," Kane said. "Each of the jets takes about 2,000 pounds of fuel, and we have to be ready to supply at least 18 jets."

"The key is keeping the plane maintained and balanced for these types of missions," he added. "When doing refuel missions, we usually save fuel by limiting the amount of cargo carried, which makes balancing a little more difficult."

On a full tank, the C-130 aircraft can stay in flight for approximately 12 hours.

"It really is remarkable to think of the variety of missions we're capable of as a squadron," Funk said. "The Lancers are also a squadron that I look forward to working with in the future. We could tell that they were experienced in this type of mission and were just as ready for it as we were."

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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 IWKN\_SMBI-wakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil.

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# Steps to protect your privacy

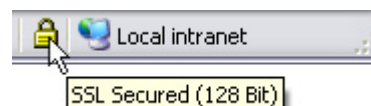
**GUNNERY SGT. JOSE R. PALOSCHAVEZ**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are numerous ways to protect your privacy and keep personal information from falling into the wrong hands. However, there are often more questions than there are answers. Every small step taken will reduce the degree in which your private information is disclosed. Below are some steps you can take to help protect your privacy and personal information:

**Privacy policy** – Always pay special attention when releasing personal information online. Be cautious before submitting your name, e-mail address or other information without reading the company or organization's site privacy policy. All Web sites doing business online generally have a privacy policy. Be careful, since most companies tend to share your personal information with their partners. In many cases, these same companies or organizations often sell your private information to outside sources. Contact the company directly if you do not wish to have your information shared with their partners.

**Select a credible company or organization** – Before conducting any transactions online, ensure that the company or organization is legitimate! Ask basic questions such as "Do I trust them with my private information?" Check with the regional or local Better Business Bureau for any known complaints by visiting [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

**Encryption, encryption, encryption** – To protect your personal information, companies or organizations will often provide you with a "secure" connection. They will use a technology known as secure socket layer (SSL). SSL allows your information to be encrypted from your computer to their server (Web site). How can you tell whether your connection is secure or not? Your web browser will display a padlock icon to indicate that a secure connection is established. However, be cautious; there are a few entities that fail to renew their certificates. Verify that each certificate is valid and not expired. Users can click on the padlock to display additional security information.



Establish a separate e-mail address for online purchases and one for personal use – Submitting your e-mail address will result in spam. Thus, establishing a separate email address for online purchases will direct unwanted messages to this account. Establish a separate e-mail account for personal use and give this only to people you want to receive e-mails from.

**Establish a separate credit card for online purchases** – To reduce the potential damage of compromising your personal and private information, consider getting a separate credit card account. This credit card account can be used strictly for all online purchases. Make sure you select the right credit card company that will fight to protect you in case you become a victim of credit fraud or identity theft. Another alternate is to get a "disposable" credit card number. For example, American Express allows cardholders to use a "disposable" credit card option. Users are able to log on to a secure Web site and receive a one-time credit card number for online purchases.

**Free anti-virus and firewall protection to Department of Defense (DoD) users** – Did you know that if you are a DoD user and have a DoD PKI certificate you can download free anti-virus software? There is a DoD-wide software license that provides the latest generation of anti-virus/firewall technologies and capabilities, including new protection for wireless or personal digital assistants (PDA). Don't spend your hard-earned dollars for subscription services that are not needed! Requirements: users must be a DoD employee, log in from a DoD networked computer, and have a DoD PKI certificate (CAC Card). User must access the Navy Information Assurance Web site at <https://infosec.navy.mil>. The anti-virus link is located on the left side of the screen.

**Install a router for all high-speed connections (DSL or wireless)** – What is a router? A router is a device that provides an additional layer of protection from the outside world. Routers are hardware devices that have specialized software that inspects all outbound and inbound traffic. If you have your computer directly connected to a modem, you are potentially exposing personal information to the outside world. Attackers are constantly scanning networks for any known vulnerabilities. When they find an opening on the network, they will attack and place malicious software on your computer without your knowledge.

*Editor's note: Paloschavez is a Station S-6 information security technician. For more information on information security, call 253-4247. More information is also available from the station information assurance manager at 253-6411.*

**-Are you a cartoonist?**

**-Would you like to get published in  
The Iwakuni Approach?**

**If so, e-mail your submissions to  
IWKN\_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil. Our staff will review  
all submissions, under the same guidelines as all editorial content,  
for possible inclusion in future editions of the air station's source for  
command information.**

## Promotion selections for February

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Lance Cpl. B.P. Callahan  
Lance Cpl. T.E. Ahern  
Lance Cpl. S.C. Heywood  
Lance Cpl. I.A. Palma  
Lance Cpl. A.L. Buzek  
Lance Cpl. D.W. Moss  
Cpl. J.D. Partin Jr.  
Cpl. J.P. Brook  
Cpl. J.M. Finney  
Sgt. C.W. Massengale  
Staff Sgt. J.A. Bravo  
Master Gunnery Sgt. J.A. Cordero

**MWSS-171**

Lance Cpl. C.M. Cruz Jr.  
Lance Cpl. L.G. Stargell  
Lance Cpl. P.A. Thompson  
Lance Cpl. K.L. Pitylak  
Lance Cpl. F.E. Schuster  
Lance Cpl. J.L. Wigent II  
Lance Cpl. I.R. Swain  
Lance Cpl. N.C. McGrath  
Cpl. D.T. Spavento  
Cpl. K.W. Williams  
Cpl. R.J. Morales  
Cpl. T.D. Young  
Cpl. B. Jimenez  
Sgt. P.K. Maxson  
Sgt. K.D. McAlister  
Sgt. D.J. Schaffer  
Staff Sgt. J.T. Johnson

**MALS-12**

Lance Cpl. S.J. Burchfield

Cpl. F.M. Banda  
Cpl. R.M. Crook  
Cpl. S.R. King  
Sgt. R.M. Walter  
Sgt. G. Rivas  
Staff Sgt. D.E. Bacolod  
Master Sgt. Greene

**VMFA-212**

Lance Cpl. J.S. Taylor  
Lance Cpl. A.A. Thompson  
Cpl. R.N. Ellwood  
Cpl. M.G. Griep

**CLC-36**

Lance Cpl. J.G. Ray

*Editor's note: The service member's rank has been determined by their selection status as of Feb. 1, 2008. If you do not see your unit listed here, please ask your administrative section to submit their selection roster to the Public Affairs Office one week prior to the first issue of The Iwakuni Approach for the selection month.*



**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand (Feb. 8, 2008)** – Adjusting in the cockpit of a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 F/A-18, Maj. Gen. Robert E. Schmidle Jr., commander of the 1st Marine Air Wing, signals to flight line personnel before taking off for the day's training Feb. 1 during Exercise Cope Tiger 2008, an annual, multi-lateral field training exercise conducted near the city of Korat. As head of 1st MAW, Schmidle actively participates in its unit's exercises in settings around the Pacific theater. VMFA-212 is the flagship squadron for Marine Aircraft Group 12, a subordinate command to 1st MAW. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

## News Briefs

**Marine Corps Reading Program**

All personnel interested in a good book, the commandant's recommended list, or even furthering your education, can now find books available for loan, free of charge, at the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron training desk. For more information, contact H&HS S-3 at 253-3315.

**Sophie Furniture Sale**

March 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and March 2, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the M.C. Perry cafeteria. Status of Forces Agreement personnel only. No strollers allowed, no food or drinks, and shoes must be off around rugs. Volunteers are also needed for set up Feb. 29. To sign up or for additional information, call 253-4525.

**Scholarships: MOAA**

The Military Officers Association of America is pleased to offer the Base/Post Scholarships again this year. This MOAA program provides grants of \$1,000 each to twenty-five dependent children of military personnel. The application must be submitted prior to March 3. For more information, visit the program's Web site at [www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund](http://www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund).

# Red Air, Blue Air

## Training simulates in-air combat situations

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand (Feb. 8, 2008)** – Cope Tiger pilots are participating in what may be the most dangerous role-playing game invented. In this match the battlefield is the sky, the assault has been arranged and the winners have been decided even before takeoff.

Red Air, Blue Air exercises provide realistic training for aviators in a controlled environment. The addition of Thai and Singaporean pilots simulating both “friendly” and “hostile” roles during the training affords pilots from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 the opportunity to teach and adopt in-air combat tactics.

“This training shows the other countries how we work and how we organize strike missions and follow through with them,” said Capt. Russ L. Henos, a VMFA-212 pilot. “It’s very useful.”

Red Air, Blue Air is divided into two elements: Red Air being the opposing force and Blue Air on the defensive side, according to Henos. Throughout the training, both sides switch roles to effec-

tively train in each area.

“In a typical day of Red Air, Blue Air, we have meetings in the morning where we coordinate exactly what strikes will take place and where,” Henos said. “Usually, the defending side has no idea where the strike will take place and can react naturally to it.”

The defending side, or Blue Air pilots, stay in communication with their command post and respond to in-air strikes from Red Air pilots.

“The job of the Red Air is to complete a pre-strike sweep by first clearing out any aircraft in the sky that would jeopardize their main strike mission,” Henos added.

Red Air pilots have the usual mission of eliminating a ground target and will use a “sweeping” tactic before following through with the ground strike.

“It’s the Blue Air’s job to stop the Red Air before any of that happens,” Henos said.

According to Capt. Paul M. Wright, a VMFA-212 schedules officer, Blue Air pilots start their training here working in groups of 10 against a Red Air group of 25 pilots. As training progresses, so does the mass of opposing forces. Wright said that the 10 Blue Air pilots will eventually face off with up to 40 Red Air pilots at a time.

“We try to simulate a large variety of combat situations to widen the spectrum of our pilots’ capabilities,” Wright said. “Working with the other countries during this exercise gives them a lot of exposure to our tactics.”

The Royal Thai Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force, who both employ the use of F-16 and F-5 fighter jets, utilize a lot of the same tactics as their American counterparts, according to Henos.

“I’m really impressed by the knowledge of the Thai and Singaporean pilots in-air tactics,” Henos said. “When working this type of exercise, it’s important to let those with seniority share their experiences with the newer ones. The pilots from the other countries have been doing this for a long time and are very cooperative with the mission-planning process.”

Henos said that in Red Air, Blue Air training, newer pilots tend to stay on the defensive side as senior pilots participate in many of the offensive attacks.

During this exercise, each country has participated on either side of the action over the course of the five training days dedicated to Red Air, Blue Air combat training.

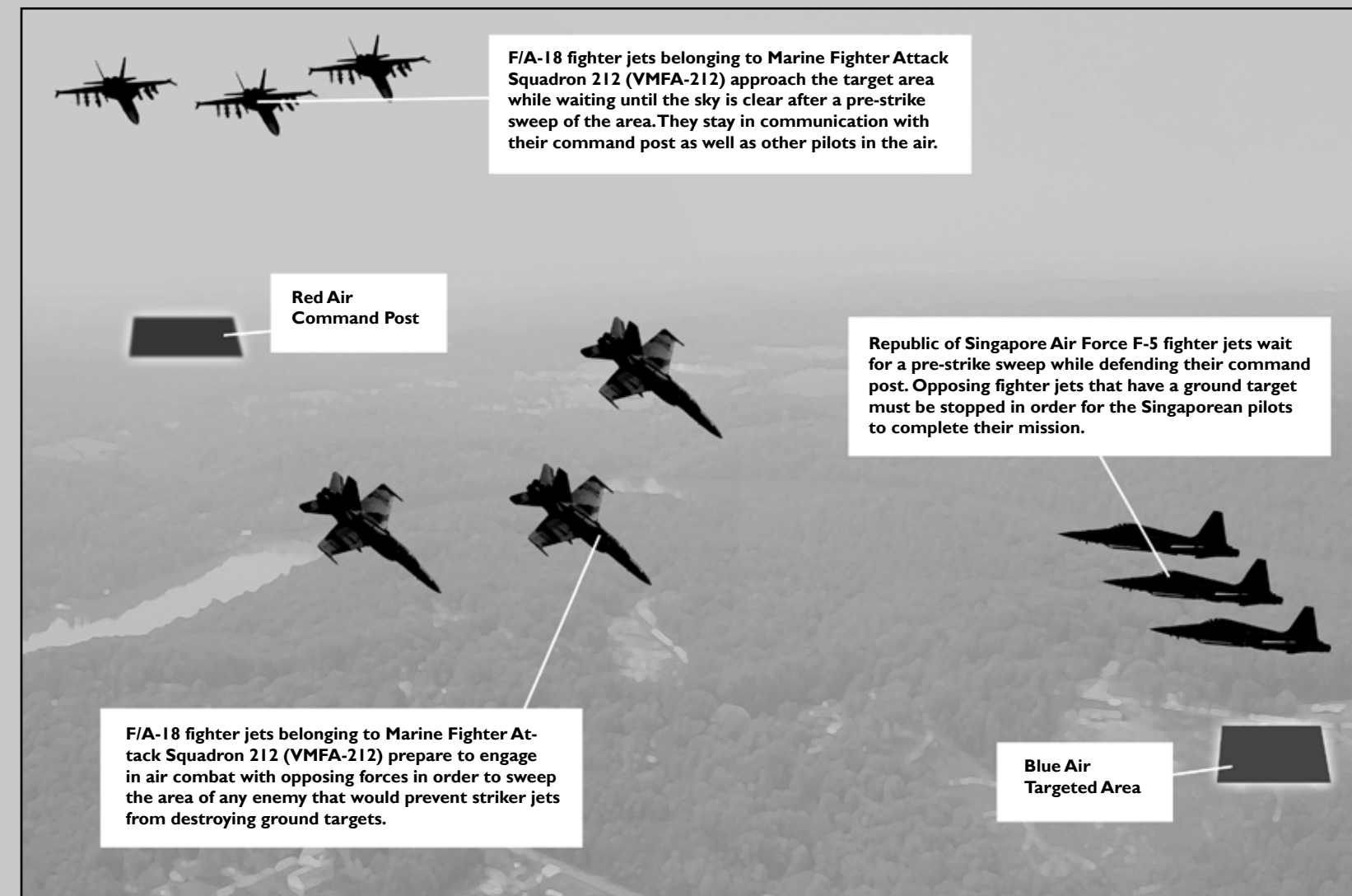


Photo illustration by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Seaman Recruit Beaven Kreshmer, Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 yeoman, watches a Marifu Hoikuen student “pin a button on a snowman” Jan. 31. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

## Station residents teach English, share American culture with local elementary school students

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Screams of joy and smiles greet the group of Americans as they enter the classroom. Many of the young students eagerly jump up and down, and some tug on the guests’ pant legs. The visitors, slightly shocked by such an enthusiastic welcome, can’t help but return wide smiles of their own.

This affectionate greeting began a visit to Marifu Hoikuen, a local elementary school, by a group of station residents who taught the students English Jan. 31.

The 12 service members and civilians from Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 read, sang and danced with the students during the get-together, which was part of a monthly community outreach program organized by MAG-12 personnel.

Once the students calmed down, the guests began their lesson plan. Julie Margolis, a Marine spouse who has participated in the program since she arrived on station a year-and-a-half ago, used a simple melody to teach the students common greetings in English.

“Hi. How are you? I’m fine,” sang the volunteers as they waved to the students, who repeated the greetings. “That’s probably my favorite part,” Margolis said. “Sometimes when I see them out in town, they’ll come up to me and sing that song.”

During another part of the lesson, a volunteer read a colorful picture book to the students, who looked up interestedly from their seated positions on the floor.

“They absorb everything,” Margolis said. “They’re a joy to teach.”

Another activity involved the volunteers putting on hats, scarves and gloves as the students learned to say

what the items were in English.

“Hat! Scarf! Gloves!” the students shouted in unison, growing louder with each repetition.

Later, the students split into groups for a round of pin-the-button-on-the-snowman. The classroom broke out in laughter and cheers as the service members guided the students to the snowman.

“It breaks the norm to do stuff like this,” said Pfc. Zachary Kerns, event participant and MAG-12 S-4 logistics clerk. “This is a really great chance to interact with the kids and help out the community at the same time.”

Toward the end of the event, the students and volunteers mimicked the sounds and movements of jungle animals as they “did the tiger ... the elephant ... the monkey,” to the lyrics and beat of an interactive

children’s song.

“The kids are great,” Margolis said. “They have no fear.”

After saying their farewells to the students, the volunteers discussed next month’s visit with the teachers.

“This was a big success,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Carr, MAG-12 religious program specialist who helped get volunteer support for the event. “These kids are probably going to go home to their parents tonight really excited and say, ‘Hey, the Americans came to my school today.’ It feels great to be able to represent the United States in a positive way.”

Station residents interested in volunteering for the outreach program should contact the MAG-12 chaplains’ office at 253-5212.



Neda Reynolds, Marine spouse, and Pfc. Zachary Kerns, Marine Aircraft Group 12 S-4 logistics clerk, read to a group of students at a Marifu Hoikuen elementary school during their visit Jan. 31.

# Cheerleaders visit station, share smiles, spirit with service members, residents

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

According to manager Kelly Treester, the ladies were eager to visit the different Pacific bases and meet with troops and their families.

"We want to come out here. The girls fight for these spots," Treester said. "We want to bring a piece of America to these guys overseas ... and let them know they're not forgotten back home."

The cheerleaders spent most of the morning and afternoon interacting with service members at different work sections. The aircraft rescue fire fighters were all smiles as the ladies shook hands, signed autographs and posed for pictures.

"We're not used to having pretty girls around here, and they were very sociable," said Cpl. Raymond Bane, station aircraft rescue firefighter. "It was a nice break from work."

For many, the highlight of the stop at ARFF was when the cheerleaders donned the heavy, flame-

resistant "bunker gear" the Marines wear when fighting fires.

"They definitely looked a lot better in it than we do," Bane said with a laugh.

The visit concluded with a free evening performance at the Sakura Theater. Audience members hooted and clapped as the ladies put on a two-hour show featuring singing, dancing and audience participation. Although they had little time to relax before heading to Okinawa early the next day, one cheerleader said the hectic schedule was a small price to pay to see the happy faces of those leaving the show.

"It's been amazing ... interacting with the troops in general - just getting to spend time with them and hear their stories and get to know what (they) do," said Bronco cheerleader Lindsay Dudley. "We're really thankful and truly blessed to have you guys serving our country and fighting for us."



Sgt. Jeffrey Velasquez, station aircraft rescue firefighter, poses with Denver Broncos cheerleader Emily Harper during a meet and greet at the ARFF barn Jan. 28.



Isabelle Donato gives a shy smile as the Denver Broncos cheerleaders autograph her poster at the Sakura Theater Jan. 28.



Donning heavy, flame-resistant "bunker gear," Denver Broncos cheerleaders pose with station aircraft rescue firefighting Marines during a meet and greet at the ARFF barn Jan. 28. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



Lance Cpl. Lee Konrady, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron traffic management specialist, dons a wig with the help of two Denver Broncos cheerleaders during a free performance at the Sakura Theater Jan. 28.



Denver Broncos cheerleaders put on a free show for station residents at the Sakura Theater Jan. 28. Prior to their performance, they autographed photos for their fans.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Riverine unit patrols Euphrates

1st Lt. Lawton King  
1ST MARINE DIVISION

**HADITHA DAM, Iraq (Feb. 1, 2008)** — You can never step in the same river twice.

The Euphrates River once sluiced through a verdant paradise inhabited by Adam and Eve. Now it flows through an arid desert inhabited by fisherman, and in some cases, insurgents.

"There's still bad guys out there doing bad things," said Cmdr. Glen Leverette, commanding officer of Riverine Squadron 2. "I'm calling the river a seam that the insurgents were exploiting."

The sailors assigned to the squadron, or Riverines, patrol the Euphrates and its islands to deter insurgent activity and to recover buried caches.

"[In the past], they would seek haven on the river ... or move across it," said Leverette, a Naval Academy graduate from Jacksonville, Fla.

But the Riverines, following in the steps of their predecessors, established a waterborne presence that identifies suspicious movement and interrupts insurgent lines of communication.

"I think it lets (the insurgents) know, 'hey, we're here, and we're going to be here,'" said Chief Petty Officer John Schools, a 36-year-old boat captain from Houlton, Maine. "And if we find you, it's going to be a bad day."

The Riverines also serve as a quick react force to neighboring land units in the event reinforcements are needed.

"We're a maneuver element very much like a Marine Corps infantry unit," said Lt. Jeff Werby, the 31-year-old com-



Riverines assigned to Riverine Detachment 3, Riverine Squadron 2, splash through Lake Qadisiyah during a daily patrol. The Riverines, who operate in support of Regimental Combat Team 5, scour the interior waterways for insurgents and fishing violators. Photos by 1st Lt. Lawton King

manding officer of Riverine Detachment 3 and a native of Virginia Beach. "We've worked with everybody."

Riverine Squadron 2 is the latest incarnation of an American naval tradition that dates back to the Civil War when the Confederate River Defense Fleet and its Union counterpart played integral roles in battles that helped shape the outcome of the war.

Naval Forces again ventured

upstream with distinction in the Vietnam War that resulted in the universal acclaim of the swift boats and their versatile crews.

Erected in May 2006 in Little Creek, Va., RIVRON 2 underwent a gauntlet of training evolutions to prepare them for the amphibious operations executed by riverine forces in Iraq.

Officers and enlisted alike completed the School of Infantry course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as well as the machine-gunner's course.

"I think the Marine training was the best we could have had," said Leverette. "It gives us instant credibility."

Now, after months of training packages, their riverborne flotilla runs daily patrols throughout the reaches of the Euphrates in support of Regimental Combat Team 5.

On a recent expedition through Lake Qadisiyah, a man-made reservoir created by the damming of the Euphrates several kilometers above Haditha, Riverine Detachment 3 inserted several of its Riverines to reconnoiter a small fishing camp that appeared to have materialized out of the barren rock.

"We came out here about

four months ago and it was a lot greener," said Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Smith, a 36-year-old intelligence specialist from Oak Park, Mich.

The Riverines peppered the fishermen with questions regarding recent happenings in the local area and joked about soccer.

"They're hard-working people trying to make ends meet," Werby said.

When the Riverines requested identification, the fisherman quickly produced official cards and could not conceal their satisfaction.

"They all seem proud of their badges," Werby said.

No sooner had they inspected the area than the Riverines boarded their patrol boats and resumed their patrol on the lake, which they refer to as Lake Qesadilla in jest.

Not long after their timely departure, something in the water seduced the Riverines' attention: a fishing boat propelled not by an outboard motor, but by manual paddles.

The Riverines, who are responsible for enforcing certain fishing regulations legislated by the Iraqi government, quickly noticed the anomaly and pulled alongside the vessel to investi-

gate.

The two occupants, it was discovered, previously forfeited the use of their motor after they violated a fishing ban.

The Riverines offered the fisherman some bottled water and then sped away towards a horizon that eventually yielded the Haditha Dam, a massive structure seemingly borrowed from the set of a James Bond film.

Landing on the "North Shore," the crew members returned to their command post and initiated a debrief to review the information gathered during the operation and to critique the unit's performance.

More apparent than their penchant for self-criticism, though, was the camaraderie that permeates the detachment and manifests itself in the ubiquitous smiles.

"We have a real good relationship with each other," said Schools. "It's a pretty good gig."

Werby, who formerly supervised a detention facility in Northern Iraq, agreed.

"These guys really care a lot about what we're doing."

Outside the river's waters continued to meander towards Haditha, and Riverines prepared for yet another mission.

## Community Briefs

### "Big Voice" warning for NBC or other attack

When the station loudspeaker sounds off, the message needs to be clearly passed on to as many personnel as possible within a timely manner. For more information, call 253-3315.

### Auditions for "King and I"

Feb. 9, 9 a.m., at Sakura Theater. Open to Status of Forces Agreement personnel ages 8 and up. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing 16 bars a cappella of a song of their choice, cold-read from the script, and dance. Please wear clothing in which you can move around. For more information, call 253-6745 or 253-2166.

### Setsubun! Valentine's Day!

Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m., at Atago Community Center. Free. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about the traditions and rituals of a fascinating Japanese

holiday called Setsubun. We will also share the American tradition of Valentine's Day. Children and adults will enjoy bean-throwing, mask-making, valentine-making, and desserts. Atago Community Center is close to the base, easy to find, and has plenty of parking. E-mail baduerden@att.net for written directions/map. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact JAS Iwakuni at 253-4744.

### JAS cooking class

Feb. 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., at Atago Community Center. There is a 1,000 yen fee to participate. The menu is smoked salmon pasta, fried cauliflower, and Greek lemon soup. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Japanese American Society Iwakuni at 253-4744.

### 2008 Japanese Culture Festival

March 30, noon to 5 p.m., at M.C. Perry School's library,

cafeteria and staff lounge. Free. So much to see and do. Immerse yourself in the culture of Japan. For more information, contact Japanese American Society Iwakuni at 253-4744.

### Navy Ball auction

Feb. 16, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., at M.C. Perry School cafeteria. Open to all MCAS residents. The Navy Ball committee proudly presents an oriental carpets and rugs auction. This collection includes products from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Kashmir and central Asia. Viewing from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Auction starts at 3 p.m. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Free appetizers and beverages. Door-prizes to be awarded. All proceeds will go to offset the 2008 Navy Ball. For more information, call 253-5252.

### Childbirth education series

Feb. 13, 20 and 27, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., at Building 411, Room 219.

This is a three-part class that covers the nine months of pregnancy, preparing for birth overseas, active labor/delivery and much more. Bring your own pillows for the breathing and relaxation techniques taught at the end of each class. Call 253-6553 to register.

### Golf tournament fund raiser for MALS-12 Aviation Ordnance

Feb. 16, noon till finish, at Torii Pines Golf Course. Two-man, best ball, shotgun start. Food and drinks. Prizes for 1st and 2nd placers. Anyone may attend. \$10 plus green fees. For more information, call 253-6131.

### Voting information

Voting information request cards, for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni use only, have been made to assist voters in retrieving information about their state elections. Request cards and points of contact have been posted at the Main Post Office, North Side Post Office, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron barracks, Combat Logistics Company 36 barracks, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 barracks, high school, el-

ementary school and library. For more voting assistance information, visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

### Carter G. Woodson 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Feb. 9, 3 p.m. at IronWorks Gym. Winners will receive first, second and third-place awards. Come out and celebrate this historic occasion. For more information, call 253-2871 or 253-4275.

### Black History Luncheon

Feb. 21, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the R. G. Robinson and North Side Messhalls, \$3.85. For more information, call 253-6994 or 253-4994.

### Black History Observance

Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Iwakuni Grand Ballroom. For more information, call 253-6994 or 4994.

### Night of Soul

Feb. 16, doors open at 7 p.m. at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. Tickets (\$20 for single person, \$25 for couple) are on sale. For more information or ticket points of sale, call 253-6994 or 253-4994.

## Chapel Services

### Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession  
5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass  
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

### Protestant

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service  
1:00 p.m. Spanish Fellowship  
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

### Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

### Islamic

Friday Noon Prayer

### Jewish

Friday 6:00 p.m. Shabbat

### Teen Programs

For times, call 253-5183: high school meetings, junior high meetings, HS and JR Bible studies, retreats, service projects, mission trips, Special Events Volunteer Training and Mentoring, Parent Support Groups

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-5218.

## M.C. Perry Elementary School

### PROJECT SAFE

Emily Himes, 5th Grade Student

Tonight, at 6 p.m., M.C. Perry will host Project Safe. There will be an Internet safety course for parents. This seminar presented by NCIS will provide valuable information for keeping your children safe. While parents learn to protect their children from cyber predators, the children will travel from class to class learning valuable safety lessons from favorites like McGruff and Daren the Lion. There will also be fingerprinting available. For your convenience, childcare will be provided for children over 3 years old. Please take advantage of this program because keeping our children safe is up to the entire community. For more information, please call the school at 253-3327.

### ROCKIN' READERS

Victoria San Miguel, 5th Grade Student

The Rocking Readers group just finished reading "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh." Parents and students gathered around tables to discuss the book with Mrs. Brookover and Mrs. Dill. Excited discussion filled the air with inquiry questions of "How will Mrs. Frisby save her son from pneumonia and home from the plow?" and "What was your favorite part?" Everyone agreed "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh" is a great read for both children and parents.

Each month a family has a book to take home to read together. They come back the following month for the group discussion. The snack for this month, in honor of the book, was cheese and crackers. Rocking Readers is held in the school library. All are welcome to the club.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 8  
11 a.m. Early release  
6 p.m.-8 p.m. Project Safe

Monday, Feb. 18  
No School - President's Day



Navy Lt. Jeff Werby, commanding officer, Riverine Detachment 3, Riverine Squadron 2, interviews several local fishermen on the Lake Qadisiyah shores. The Riverines run patrols throughout the Euphrates Valley to deter insurgent activity and enforce fishing regulations.



# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

## Classifieds

### AUTOMOBILES

#### 1987 Nissan Homy

Eight-passenger, asking for \$1,500. JCI till May 2009. Runs great, diesel engine, power windows, sunroof, locks, and mirrors. Swivel rear seats and rear air controls. Kenwood CD player, new fuel pump and tires. Selling due to early return of dependents. For more information, call 253-3993 (work) or 253-2920 (home).

### OTHER ITEMS

#### Antique Filipino mahogany table

Filipino mahogany table for sale. Made in early 1970s or before. Rustic, solid wood. 30" high, 48" diameter. No chairs. Tabletop removes easily for storage. Asking \$150 or best offer. For more information, call 080-1939-7645 (cell).

#### Items For Sale

- \* Network hub - \$10
  - \* 15" computer LCD - \$25
  - \* Bike Rack - \$20
  - \* Women's 16-speed bike - \$75
  - \* Japanese switch box (connect two computers to one monitor) - \$20
  - \* Robin Hood DVD - \$10
- For more information, call 253-5183 (work).

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classifieds link on the station Web site and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via e-mail to IWKN\_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216. Please submit your request at least one week prior to the date when you want to post it.

## Got news?

If so, e-mail your story ideas to IWKN\_SMBIwakuniPAO@nmci.usmc.mil. Your story idea could appear in the next edition of The Iwakuni Approach, the air station's source for command information.

## MCTV Movie Schedule

### Friday, Feb. 8, 2008

- 2 a.m. Wild Hogs (PG13)
- 5 a.m. Last Run, The (R)
- 11 a.m. Nacho Libre (PG)
- 2 p.m. Wild Hogs (PG13)
- 5 p.m. Last Run, The (R)
- 8 p.m. Dynamite Warrior (R)
- 11 p.m. Nacho Libre (PG)

### Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008

- 2 a.m. Alien Autopsy (PG13)
- 5 a.m. Condemned, The (R)
- 11 a.m. Poseidon (PG13)
- 2 p.m. Alien Autopsy (PG13)
- 5 p.m. Condemned, The (R)
- 8 p.m. Reaping, The (R)
- 11 p.m. Poseidon (PG13)

### Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008

- 2 a.m. Garfield - A Tail of Two Kitties (PG)
- 5 a.m. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG13)
- 8 a.m. Fracture (R)
- 11 p.m. Meet the Robinsons (G)
- 2 p.m. Garfield - A Tail of Two Kitties (PG)
- 5 p.m. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG13)
- 11 p.m. Meet the Robinsons (G)

MCTV is available through the base closed-circuit cable system on Channel 20. MCTV is a production of MCCS Marketing's Broadcast Department, which is solely responsible for its content.

The schedule is subject to change without notice. For the most up to date information call 253-6229 or visit www.mccsiwakuni.com.

Questions, concerns, and suggestions for movies should be directed to MCCS Marketing.

## Sakura Theater

### Friday, Feb. 8, 2008

- 7 p.m. The Bucket List (PG13)
- 10 p.m. Cloverfield (PG13)

### Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008

- 1 p.m. The Golden Compass (PG13)
- 4 p.m. I Am Legend (PG13)
- 7 p.m. Cloverfield (PG13)
- 10 p.m. The Mist (R) Stephen King's

### Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008

- 4 p.m. Hitman (R)
- 7 p.m. No Country for Old Men (R)

### Monday, Feb. 11, 2008

- 7 p.m. National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)

### Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008

- 7 p.m. Cloverfield (PG13)

### Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008

- 7 p.m. The Bucket List (PG13)

### Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008

- 7 p.m. I Am Legend (PG13)

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.

### MOVIE RATING SYSTEM GUIDE

**G:** All Ages Permitted. The film contains nothing most parents will consider offensive for their youngest children to see or hear. Nudity, sex scenes, and drug use are absent; violence is minimal; snippets of dialogue may go beyond polite conversation, but do not go beyond common every-day expressions.

**PG:** Parental Guidance Suggested; Some material may not be suitable for children. The film may contain some material parents might not like to expose to their young children. Explicit sex scenes and drug use are absent; nudity if present, is seen only briefly; horror and violence do not exceed moderate levels.

**PG-13:** Parents Strongly Cautioned; Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. The film rated may be inappropriate for pre-teens. Parents should be especially careful about letting their younger children watch. Rough or persistent violence is absent; sexually oriented nudity is generally absent, some drug use may be seen; some profanity may be heard.

**SAKURA THEATER POLICY** - Patrons must be at least 10 years old to view a "PG-13" movie unaccompanied. Patrons under 10 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian throughout the entire movie.

**R:** Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; The film rated contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the film before allowing their children to see it. An R may be assigned due to, among other things, profanity, theme, violence, sensuality, or its portrayal of drug use.

**SAKURA THEATER POLICY** - Patrons must be at least 17 years old to view an "R" movie unaccompanied. Patrons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian throughout the entire movie.



Shuji Yanai (left) prepares to return Charles Bergstol's serve during the championship match of the Invitational Racquetball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Yanai defeated Bergstol in four straight games to claim the tournament title.



Matt Wilhelm (right) hits a shot as Michael Aniton prepares to return during the Invitational Racquetball Tournament at IronWorks Gym here Saturday. Aniton took third place in the event's beginners' bracket. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

## Yanai claims racquetball tourney championship

### Players fight fatigue in daylong event

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Blood, sweat and blisters were some of the by-products of the daylong Invitational Racquetball Tournament in which 18 service members and civilians participated at IronWorks Gym Saturday. Shuji Yanai defeated Charles Bergstol in the championship match of the double-elimination tournament, which featured a beginners' and advanced bracket.

As play pounded on late into the afternoon and the sweaty, bloodied and physically exhausted players took a seat, Bergstol and Yanai emerged as the tournament's best.

An undefeated Bergstol beat Yanai earlier in the event, and therefore needed to win just one match against Yanai to claim the title. But Yanai was determined to push the championship further. With good footwork and precision shots, he thumped Bergstol two games to none to force a second match.

"He wore me out," a short-of-breath Bergstol said after the match. "But I've got one more shot." Following a quick break for some fluids and a change of shirt for Yanai, Bergstol was ready to hit the courts for the championship.

"Let's get it done," he said enthusiastically. But the slightly older Bergstol was no match for the physically fit Yanai, who ripped serves tight into both corners of the court and whacked returns past Bergstol's reach.

"He was burning me with his serve," Bergstol said, adding that it was hard to predict whether the ball would land softly in the corner or ricochet violently off the glass wall.

Yanai's errors were few and far between as he easily defeated Bergstol in two games.

"Charlie is a very strong player," said Yanai, who took up racquetball four years ago and now plays four times a week. "I'm very glad to beat such a good player."

"Shuji played a great game," Bergstol said. "Job well done to him."

"I want a rematch," Bergstol added laughingly.

In the beginner's bracket final, Eric Rodriguez matched up against William Currey. Staying hydrated with Gatorade, Red Bull and water, the players used every bit of their concentration and stamina as they fought to the last shot.

"I'm not going to complain about playing for two hours anymore," said Currey, who plays regularly at the courts. "This is disgusting."

The two powerful players split the first two games, but Rodriguez claimed the third for the title. While both power and finesse shots were ingredients in the win, positioning was key, Rodriguez said.

"I anticipated his serve and got in position to take away the angles," Rodriguez said, adding his endurance and patience were also factors.

Not everybody could be winners. But, whether it was because they were too tired to get up or because they were enjoying the action, many competitors stuck around until the last games were played.

"The tournament was awesome," Rodriguez said. "There was good sportsmanship and good competition. I think we should have more stuff like this."

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### Pine Ridge Geihoku & Mizuho Ski Trips

The Single Marine Program will be taking single and unaccompanied service members to Geihoku Saturday and Mizuho Feb. 16. An all-day lift ticket is 5,000 yen at Geihoku and 5,500 yen at Mizuho. Snowboards can be checked out at the Hornet's Nest and IronWorks Gym's gear issue, which also rents skis. The bus departs the Hornet's Nest at 6 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. A \$10 transportation fee is due during signup at the Hornet's Nest. The signup deadline is Thursday for Geihoku and Feb. 14 for Mizuho. Contact the Hornet's Nest at 253-3585 for more information.

### 2008 Gokukan 5K Fun Run

All base personnel may attend this seawall run Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m. Signup will take place behind the IronWorks Gym between 10:45 and 11:25 a.m. Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place in each men's and women's age categories.

### Two-Person Scramble Golf Tournament

The tournament will be Feb. 16 at noon. The entry fee is \$10 plus the course green fee. For more information please contact Torii Pines at 253-3402.

### MCCS Low Gross and Low Net Tournament

The tournament will be Feb. 23 at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 plus the course green fee. For more information please contact Torii Pines at 253-3402.

### Intramural Basketball Coaches' Meeting

There will be a mandatory meeting for all intramural basketball coaches in the IronWorks Gym wellness room March 4 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Intramural/Varsity Sports at 253-3067.

# Pistons hold off Spurs 25-20



Pistons' center Christopher Estrada goes up for a jump shot during a 10- to 12-year-olds youth basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 31. The Pistons got out to an early lead and held off a late offensive spurt by the Spurs to win 25-20.

## Alexander scores 18 in loss

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A 20-6 lead with 6 minutes to go: no problem. One would think the Pistons – who were playing extremely well and had a 14-point fourth-quarter lead – could hold off the Spurs in a 10- to 12-year-old youth basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 31.

But the scrappy Spurs didn't make it easy. And when the Pistons lost two of their star players to fouls, they had to turn to their bench, dig deep and work together.

"They played outstanding," said Pistons' coach Sercy Hollis about his players. "Their defense was spectacular."

Through the first three quarters, the Pistons made the game look simple. Under the helm of guards Josh Cyars and Tysheem Smith, their offense was efficient, delivering the ball to the open player for easy buckets.

"We just worked together as a team," Smith said. "We didn't worry about what the other team was doing. We just worried about ourselves and played our game."

While the Pistons' strategy was effective for most of the game, it wasn't bullet-proof. Late in the game, Spurs' point guard A.J. Alexander, who scored a game-high 18 points, was able to attack the Pistons' weaknesses with his speed and determination.

"A couple of their big players fouled out," Alexander said. "That's when we got pumped up and caught up."

As the Spurs closed the margin, Alexander took the ball to the hoop mercilessly. While earlier in the game he was unable to finish several of his drives, this time he didn't quit attacking until the ball was in the hoop or he got to the line.

"I had to do something to get us back in the game," Alexander said. "I just wish I could have hit more of my free throws."

With the game on the line, both teams went after loose balls with diehard intensity as their fans cheered them on.

Though the Spurs got to within 4, they couldn't close the gap any further.

"They were a pretty tough team," Smith said. "I'm proud of the way we played tonight."

The Pistons lost to the Spurs in their first game of the season after blowing a big lead. Hollis said he was glad his team came out on top this go-around.

"We had a big enough lead this time, and we rode out the storm," Hollis said. "I told them, 'Don't foul and hold the ball.'"

For the Spurs, it's just one game, according to Alexander.

"A loss is a loss. We'll get 'em next time."



Pistons' guard Tysheem Smith dribbles the ball down the court during a 10- to 12-year-olds youth basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 31. The Pistons got out to an early lead and held off a late offensive spurt by the Spurs to win 25-20.



The Spurs use a timeout to discuss how they can get back in the game during a 10- to 12-year-olds youth basketball game at IronWorks Gym here Jan. 31. The Spurs put together a scoring rally in the closing minutes of the game but were unable to catch the Pistons. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs