

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

\$35 million funding hike to enhance program

New structure, services to enhance program for Marines, family members

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Headquarters Marine Corps personnel informed station residents about the new Marine Corps Family Team Building program during a town hall meeting at the station chapel here Feb. 7.

Through a major increase in funding and personnel, the new program will better serve Marines and their families throughout the Corps, according to the representatives.

Changes will include full-time program directors at every installation, a standardized structure and an enhanced communication system.

"This is the 80 percent answer," said Maj. Krause, HQMC Marine and Family Services deputy, about the solution which was devised from feedback submitted by Marines and their family members. "We expect the program to continue to evolve as it is initiated and be fully operational throughout the Corps in 18 to 24 months."

The \$40 million in annual funding for the program's overhaul and maintenance is a major increase from the \$5 million it received in past years and will allow the hiring

of more full-time employees. Eighty-four civilians will be brought on to help direct the program, easing the stress currently placed on volunteer support.

"We have to select the right individuals for the job," said Sgt. Major Kevin Wilson, HQMC personnel family readiness sergeant major, adding program officials plan to call on wounded warriors, reservists and retirees to meet staffing needs.

In the program's reorganized structure, officers and staff noncommissioned officers will support the program as family readiness officers. Like a "B" billet, such as recruiting or drill instructor duty, the assignment will be recognized as vital to the Corps' mission and promote the Marines' career advancement.

"It's a full-time job," Wilson said.

Another issue addressed was the program's standardization at each installation. The new system will allow transitioning service members to get the same service they did at their previous assignment, according to Wilson.

"Marines were getting one service on the East Coast; then they'd go to the West Coast, and they wouldn't get that service," Wilson said. "We're going to eliminate those differences."

Based on research of the communication-styles pre-

ferred by each of the Corps' three generations – baby boomers, X and Y – a new communication system and electronic data network will allow Marines and their families to take advantage of an abundance of programs not widely used in the past, Wilson said.

In addition to providing enhanced support for Marine families, the program is tailored for younger, single Marines, according to Wilson.

"This isn't about you or me," Wilson harped to the older members in the audience. "It's about them."

The program is moving at unbelievable speed for Corps' standards, according to the officials. Survey results were received in May 2007, funding was granted in August, and employees are currently being hired. Program officials are counting on Marines and their families to evaluate the program throughout its development, Wilson said.

"This time they're asking for your opinion and actually listening," he said.

Marines and family members can provide feedback and suggestions for the program by e-mailing MCFTB headquarters at mcftb@usmc.mil. More information may be obtained at the MCFTB Web site, <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/mcftb/>.

JSGs shoot, cuff, spray way through successful training, qualifications

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military policemen here are responsible for keeping the air station secure against any potential threat. Although this may seem like a broad and sometimes daunting task, they are not alone. For decades Japanese security guards have worked side by side with the MPs, performing jobs ranging from directing traffic to standing guard at the gates.

The current force of 50 JSGs recently completed several weeks of training and are now qualified to the same standards as their Marine counterparts.

According to Gunnery Sgt. David Besancon, MP training chief, until now JSGs weren't able to carry pepper spray or handcuffs, and their qualification with the Beretta 9mm pistol was tailored to meet Japanese standards.

"(JSGs) are now equipped with the same equipment, gear and certifications as the military police to perform their duties," Besancon said.

"JSGs (who) carry the 9mm Beretta are required to qualify shooting the USMC pistol qualification course," he added.

Qualification wasn't easy for the JSGs. They began their training at the Indoor Small Arms Range, where many had to

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Staff Sgt. Frederick Paley, non-lethal weapons trainer, administers Japanese security guard Pfc. Takando Kajiwara's pepper spray qualification outside the Provost Marshal's Office Feb. 6. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

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Commander's Corner

Quality of life affected by feedback, station members encouraged to participate



COL. MICHAEL A. O'HALLORAN
STATION COMMANDING OFFICER

As always, there is a quite a bit happening aboard the Air Station, and I'd like to share a few thoughts with you. First, thanks to everyone who came to last week's town hall meeting on family readiness initiatives within the Marine Corps. As I wrote earlier, there are many programs being introduced and reenergized. One of these is L.I.N.K.S., an acronym for Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills. LINKS is "Marine Corps 101" for spouses. If you haven't attended a LINKS course, you should. Knowledge is power, and LINKS will dramatically increase your awareness of

how things work and what's available to you aboard a Marine Corps installation. Even if you have been to the course, go again -- things are always changing. Not only will you be able to get the most from your Marine Corps experience, but you'll also be in a position to better help your neighbor.

I had the chance to visit a patient at the Iwakuni Clinical Center last week. Excellent medical care, but still, quite a bit different than an American hospital. While all of us enjoy the cultural experience of living in Japan, not many of us want to gain that experience while dealing with a medical emergency. For example, I discovered that inpatients are expected to bring their own towels and eating utensils. It is important that everyone understands what to expect when they find themselves under Japanese medical care. Toward that end, look for an article in the near future that outlines the circumstances that may send you off base for care, what to expect once there, and the Branch Medical Clinic's role in the entire process.

You may have noticed a large section of unoccupied homes in Monzen Housing. Over the next decade, most MCAS family housing will undergo substantial renovation. That process will start in Monzen. Unfortunately, these renovations are going to make a tight housing situation here even tighter. Some inbound families may have to stay in temporary lodging longer than anyone would desire. I recognize this as a

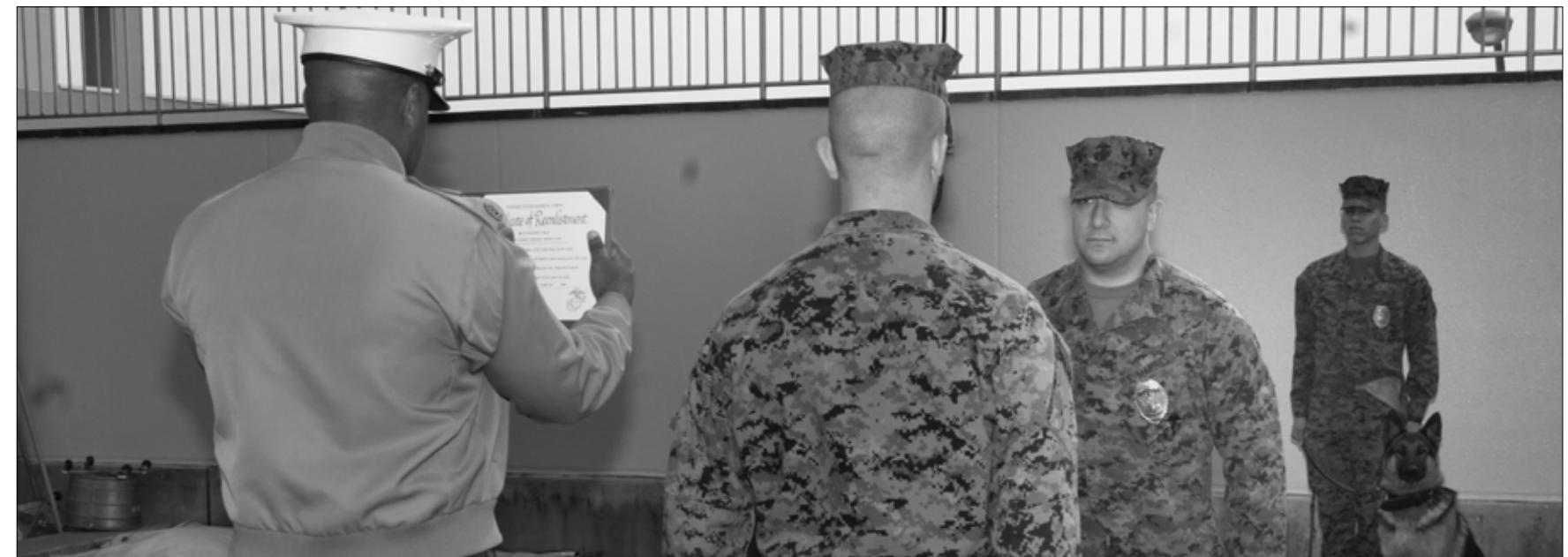
huge quality of life issue, and we are going to do everything possible to minimize delays in getting into permanent housing. Renovated units will be occupied as soon as possible, and some families may have to vacate units that are up for renovation -- you may not live in the same quarters for an entire tour. This is a big project, but I've directed Family Housing to fight for efficiency in keeping every unit occupied that can be occupied. Dialogue is important here: we will do our best to keep you updated. Let us know if your frustration level is rising -- we may have missed something.

One of the main reasons the Commandant has put so much energy into family readiness programs is because he heard what you said about family readiness programs. One of the primary feedback tools used was the Family Readiness Program Survey. The responses to that survey made a difference! I have been guilty in the past of deleting e-mails that request participation in surveys. No more! Currently, the Marine Corps has a Children, Youth, and Teen Program Survey online. I am confident anyone with children has an opinion in this arena. Take the survey at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/surveys/>. We are currently in a golden period in the Marine Corps -- we're being asked our opinion on fundamental quality of life issues, and measures are being taken to effect change. It has not always been like that. Please get involved. Please participate.

To all MCAS Iwakuni personnel and residents:

The air station will be conducting a basewide readiness exercise March 11-13. Weapons and chemical, biological, radiological, neurological and explosive gear will be carried around the clock.

Impact to the civilian population and other units will be minimized. Call Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Training at 253-3417 for more information.



Sgt. Mario Cardenas, military working dog handler and native of Freeport, Texas, stands proudly during his reenlistment ceremony at the Provost Marshal's Office here Feb. 6. The 27-year-old Iraq veteran received a \$28,000 bonus for the re-up. He and his wife, Krystal, plan to use the money to buy property back home and to help fund their daughters' (Krista, 9, and Alexandra, 5) educations. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

New policy means changes for commissary check-cashers

IWAKUNI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The arrival of new cash registers at the commissary here brings a change in the store's check cashing policy.

Beginning Thursday, patrons paying by check will automatically have their check converted into an electronic funds transfer similar to a debit card payment.

The process, known as paper check conversion/over the counter (PCC/OTC), uses digital images of the check to send account information to the Federal Reserve Bank. The cashier will then void the check and return it to the customer upon completion of the transaction.

According to Iwakuni store administrator Edward Kleckner, an estimated 25 percent of payments made to the commissary is via check.

"Sometimes people have written checks a day or two prior to a deposit, knowing that by the time the check arrives at the bank the money will be there to cover it," Kleckner said. "This is now a thing of the past."

It's important for patrons to understand the new policy so they may avoid unnecessary aggravation, he added.

For more information regarding PCC/OTC, call 1-800-624-1373 or visit <https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/index.htm>.



1st Lt. Keiichiro Segawa, Japanese security guard training officer, watches his fellow JSGs complete their pistol qualification at the Indoor Small Arms Range Feb. 1. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

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break old shooting habits while adhering to the difficult Marine requirements.

"It's harder than before. Probably 80 percent of the JSGs were able to qualify, but 20 percent needed more training," said 1st Lt. Keiichiro Segawa, JSG training officer. "This time the (shooting distance) was so far and the target moves so fast."

"But we kept challenging the JSGs," he added. "We are working on a gate like the MPs, so our security guards also require the same training."

Once they were qualified with the pistol, it was time for the JSGs to hone their non-lethal capabilities through the use of handcuffs and OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) spray. According to Maj. Giuseppe Stavale, station provost marshal, these skills are instrumental in diffusing hostile situations with the minimum amount of force.

"The last thing I want is my JSGs to have to fight to hold someone in place when we have the tools to help," Stavale said.

The JSGs caught on quickly during the handcuff class, but the ultimate test would be the OC spray. During the qualification, subjects must run a gauntlet of four stations testing different self-defense tactics after being sprayed and nearly blinded by the stinging OC.

If the JSGs were nervous about being sprayed, their stoic faces and determined performance during the course certainly didn't show it.

"It was overwhelming," said Staff Sgt. Frederick Paley, a non-lethal weapons trainer who helped administer the spray and run the JSGs through the course. "These individuals had never been contaminated before ... and having to see through all four stations is a feat in itself."

According to Paley, the brief pain of running the course is well worth being able to carry handcuffs and the spray.

"(The JSGs) are just like any MP out there -- you don't want him to have only one level of force," Paley said. "You hit somebody with a baton and its going to leave some long-lasting harm. You hit someone with OC and after a few hours they're fine."

JSG officer 1st Lt. Yoshikazu Hashimoto said he agrees with Paley and is proud of his now better-equipped JSGs.

"The training was quite difficult to be honest with you," Hashimoto said. "But I think all the JSGs enjoyed it."

"We only carried the baton and pistol, which are the number one and two means of deadly force. Now we have lesser means," Hashimoto said. "Quite simply, it's more flexibility to handle a situation."

News Briefs

Special Commissary Hours

Due to the arrival of new cash registers, the commissary will have one week of altered store hours. Regular store hours will resume Feb. 24.

Store hours:
Sunday - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday - Tuesday - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday - Closed
Thursday - Friday - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Feb. 23 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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.



A mother helps her young daughter enjoy a cup of kaki zousui (a rice, vegetable and oyster soup) during the Miyajima Oyster Festival at Miyajima Island Feb. 9. Photo by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner

Many hurry to catch the local ferry to Miyajima Island. They don't want to waste another moment away from the delicacies awaiting them.

Local residents and visitors alike were heading for the Annual Miyajima Oyster Festival Feb. 9 and 10 at Miyajima Island. The 23-year-old festival presented both the chance to enjoy oyster cuisines and a bit of the local culture.

A peaceful ride on the calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea between mainland Miyajimaguchi City and the historic island of Miyajima revealed the iconic Torii Gate for a crowd of locals and travelers making their way off the vessel and onto the island.

They didn't have far to go before being presented with an unusual lineup of vendors adjacent to the JR Ferry Station.

The Miyajima Oyster festival presented an array of choices for visitors as they perused the different tents

scattered about the area.

The small pieces of seafood were prepared in dishes including okonomiyaki, kaki zousui (a rice, vegetable and oyster soup), dotenabe (oyster miso soup), oyster soy sauce ramen and even just fried by themselves. All these cuisines were only 100 yen a piece. The hamayaki, oyster grilled in its shell, was the only dish to surpass the others in price at 200 yen.

To wash it all down, visitors could choose from American soda, beer, and shochu, a distilled alcoholic beverage.

Other side items available included miso, pickles, vegetables, and manjyu (Japanese cake).

Chefs cooked the Okonomiyaki in the same manner as seen in restaurants throughout Japan. However, the soup is simmered in large caldrons while stirred and served by several festival workers. The difficulty wasn't finding good food to eat but finding a place in their stomachs to put it.



(Above) A festival worker fries a pile of juicy oysters to be used in a variety of culinary choices during the Miyajima Oyster Festival at Miyajima Island Feb. 9. Photo by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner
(Right) A couple of women working at the festival prepare and serve kaki zousui (a rice, vegetable and oyster soup) for festival guests. Photo by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner



Crack of shell lures many to Miyajima Island

CPL. ANDREW C. MILNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Roughly 47,000 people went from tent to tent until they had eaten their fill.

While high on the list, food wasn't the only attraction of the weekend festival. On the nearby stage a snake-like figure appeared as traditional song-and-dance routines began.

With food in hand, watchers took in the various scenes from the local stories. One watcher was Sgt. Lithideth Phansiri, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 logs and records noncommissioned officer-in-charge. He said it was something he was not used to but still called "an interesting experience."

The native of Kansas City went on to say festivals like this one are an important part of being stationed overseas.

"If you just stay on base, do your tour here and PCS (permanent change of station) back to the states, how can you say, 'I've been to Japan and experienced the culture?' Just staying on an American installation is a big difference from actually going out and seeing Japan and the culture itself," Phansiri said.

Last original Iwo Jima flag-raiser dies at 82

SENTRY STAFF
MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

REDDING, Calif. (Feb 9, 2008) - Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the original U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima during World War II, has died at age 82.

Jacobs died Jan. 29 of natural causes at a Redding hospital, his daughter, Nancy Jacobs, told The Associated Press.

Jacobs had spent his later years working to prove that he was the radio operator photographed looking up at an American flag as it was being raised by other Marines on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, on the island about 745 miles south of Tokyo.

Newspaper accounts from the time show he was on the mountain during the initial raising of a smaller American flag, though he had returned to his unit by the time the more famous AP photograph was taken of a second flag-

raising later the same day.

The radioman's face isn't fully visible in the first photograph taken of the first flag-raising by Lou Lowery, a photographer for Leatherneck Magazine, leading some veterans to question Jacobs' claim. However, other negatives from the same roll of film show the radioman is Jacobs, said retired Col. Walt Ford, editor of Leatherneck.

"It's clearly a front-on face shot of Ray Jacobs," Ford said.

Annette Amerman, a historian with the Marine Corps History Division, said in an e-mailed statement "there are many that believe" Jacobs was the radioman. "However, there are no official records produced at the time that can prove or refute Mr. Jacobs' location."

Jacobs was honorably discharged in 1946. He was called up during the Korean War in 1951 before retiring as a sergeant, his daughter said.

Jacobs retired in 1992 from KTVU-TV in Oakland, where he worked 34 years as a reporter, director and anchor.



A small flag carried by the E Company (mixed), 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division is planted atop Mount Suribachi at 10:20 a.m. Feb. 23, 1945 (left photo). The 54-by-28 inch American flag was from their transport ship, the USS Missoula. This is the first flag raising on the top of Mt. Suribachi. The more famous "Rosenthal" flag-raising photo was taken when a second, larger flag was raised several hours later that day. Shown in a second photo (right), taken several minutes after the first -- (A) Cpl. Charles Lindberg - wounded in action (B) Sgt. Howard Snyder (C) PhM2c John Bradley - WIA (D) Pvt. Phil Ward (E) Sgt. Ernest Thomas - killed in action March 3, 1945 (F) Sgt. Henry Hansen - KIA March 1, 1945 - died in John Bradley's arms. (G) Pfc. Raymond Jacobs - F Company 2nd Battalion 28th Marines (H) (out of frame rt.) 1st Lt. Harold Shrier - E Company CO, XO 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division - KIA later on the day these photos were taken. Photo by Staff Sgt. Lou Lowery

Thai aviation training takes Iwakuni Marines for wild ride

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors from Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12), Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 (VMFA-212) and individual augments from units

(Left and Below) "Lancer 01" the colors fighter jet for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 prepares to take off for the day's training with units from the Republic of Singapore Air Force and the Royal Thai Air Force at the Korat RTAF flight line in Thailand. The training was part of Exercise Cope Tiger 2008, an annual, multi-lateral field training exercise. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

aboard the air station are settling back into the routine of life in Iwakuni after spending two weeks in Thailand for Exercise Cope Tiger 2008.

The multilateral large-force Thai exercise increased interoperability between U.S. forces, the Republic of Singapore Air

Force and the Royal Thai Air Force and exposed U.S. service members to the rich culture within a transitioning country.

Pilots from Marine and Air Force aviation units teamed up with their foreign counterparts during regular offensive and defensive air-combat tactics training.

Meanwhile, ground support teams opted to obtain as much field training as possible by perfecting their trade on the flight line. Air Force maintenance crews employed Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) for tactical radar monitoring and jamming purposes while the Marine Corps utilized a command post coordination effort that focused on challenging the aviators with each training day.

"The Marines did an awesome job while we were out there," said Sgt. Maj. Ricky Stroud, VMFA-212

SEE RIDE ON PAGE 6



Wild ride in Thailand



Marines examine the remains of former province royalty at an archaeological grave site near Korat City. The kings of yesteryear were discovered in the late 1970s and have since been an attraction for travelers and locals alike. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



An intricate Buddhist temple extends gracefully into the skies of Korat City. The view could be seen from windows of the Sima Thani hotel, where most of the participating Marines were billeted during Exercise Cope Tiger 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

sergeant major. "With the exercise being so short, it required a 100 percent day-to-day effort from all hands, and that's exactly what we saw."

Since Cope Tiger began in 1994, it has gained popularity not only for the quality training it provides but also the cultural experience it offers.

During their stay, most service members experienced a kiss of local antics from a kingdom in mourning and a nation struggling for democracy.

The country recently lost its own Princess Galyani



A replica of the Buddha under a naga hood sculpture that was erected circa A.D. 1181 in the Phimai Ruins in Korat City (where the movie *Mortal Kombat* was filmed) is one of the many sites visited by Marines during their stay in Thailand for Exercise Cope Tiger 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



A tree is decorated with prayer charms of local families believed by the locals to bring the people good luck and bless the spirits of the deceased. The sight was one met by many cameras during a tour of local attractions for Marines Jan. 26. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 (VMFA-212) Marines acknowledge the squadron's newest corporals and lance corporals during a promotion ceremony after one of the last training days of Exercise Cope Tiger 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Vadhana Jan. 2, less than two weeks after Thailand held its first democratic elections in decades in December 2007, vice transitioning back into martial law as it was in early 2006. Though the country was enduring the loss of its beloved royalty, the locals seemed to welcome the troops' presence.

"Many Marines have asked why it is Thai people seem to love them so much," said Sukanya "Lek" Dechdas, a Single Marine Program Thailand representative and native of Korat City. "The case may be that the Marine is just a good fellow, but most Thai people will say that it's

because we know what a Marine's presence represents and what it will bring to our country: peace, stability and maybe a small growth in economy."

Throughout the exercise, Dechdas was tasked with showing Marines the courtesies of the local city including visits to ruins sites, temples and silk factories. By her coordination efforts, many also had a chance to ride elephants through rural trails and experience the night life of Korat city on the same day.

"This exercise can give you many unforgettable experiences," said Sgt. Doug Connely, Marine Aviation Logistics

Squadron 12 non-destructive inspection technician. "Experiencing a little bit of the culture everywhere you go is something that should be important to every Marine."



Pilots from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 (VMFA-212) fly in formation after receiving fuel from a C-130 aircraft during an aerial refueling mission Jan. 29. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Thai natives light candles and incense while reciting traditional prayers depending on their needs as they believe it will bring their families good luck. Some Marines participated in the local traditions during their stay in Korat City for Exercise Cope Tiger 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Marines with Embedded Trainer Team 6-3 call for air support to load a mock casualty during a casualty evacuation training scenario in Hawthorne, Nev., Feb. 4. ETT 6-3 is preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan through a pre-deployment training package dubbed Mountain Viper. Photo by Lance Cpl. Uriel De Luna-Felix

CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
MCMWTC

HAWTHORNE ARMY DEPOT, Nev. (Feb. 4, 2008) — U.S. Marines and sailors serving with the 3rd Marine Division are undergoing an unorthodox training evolution in the mountainous terrain of northern Nevada.

Okinawa, Japan-based Marines are roughing through freezing temperatures, gusty winds, snow and mountainous terrain that elevates past 6,000 feet in order to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

"This is the best training we had in pre-deployment training packages to date," said Lt. Col. Michael Cuccio, officer-in-charge of Embedded Trainer Team 2-6.

Once in Afghanistan, Cuccio's group of Marines and sailors as well as other embedded training teams with 3rd



Marines and sailors with Embedded Trainer Team 6-3 load a mock casualty into a Stokes litter during a casualty evacuation training lane in Hawthorne, Nev., Feb. 4. ETT 6-3 is preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan through a pre-deployment training package dubbed Mountain Viper. Photo by Lance Cpl. Uriel De Luna-Felix



U.S. Marines with Embedded Trainer Team 2-6 trek down the foothills of a mountain in the snowfall during a dismounted mountain mobility course in Hawthorne, Nev., Feb. 4. Marine Corps embedded training teams out of Okinawa, Japan, teams are preparing for operations they could be faced with in their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Ultimately, the teams are training to take role as military advisors to units with the Afghan National Army when they deploy. Photo by Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes

Okinawa Marines, sailors trek through snow, mountains in preparation for Afghanistan

Marine Division will be embedded with Afghan National Army units and serve as military advisors to them. Until then, they must sharpen their military skills in the most similar terrain, which lies in Hawthorne, Nev. The training is dubbed Mountain Viper and takes place in the grounds that surround Hawthorne Army Depot.

Early Feb. 4, Embedded Training Teams 2-6 and 6-3 spent the morning learning cold-weather survival while conducting military operations. Instructors from Mountain Warfare Training Center based out of Bridgeport, Calif., were the subject matter experts.

"We teach them the material that will assist them to survive in Afghanistan," said Sgt. Bradley Kramer, mountain warfare instructor and a Saline, Mich., native. "This is the closest terrain and environment to Afghanistan, and this is the most simulated training the Marines receive when they go through Mountain Viper."

A Navy search and rescue team from Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., came via UH-1 (Huey), a helicopter the Marine Corps is used to seeing, to a small camp in the valley of a snow-covered mountain where the Marines bivouacked.

Cmdr. Doug Russell, NAS Fallon executive officer, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Karl Rokasz, leading chief for NAS' search and rescue teams, gave a class on rescue procedures using a helicopter as means of evacuating a casualty. Both embedded training teams were given the opportunity to evacuate a mock-casualty out of a canyon. The search and rescue helicopter hoisted the mock-casualty using two of their most used methods — a Stokes litter, a long platform that holds and stabilizes a casualty and a "horse collar" that wraps around the back and under the arms of a casualty.

Learning how to safely and quickly get injured or wounded Marines out of harm's way by using a helicopter to evacuate them is something Marines and corpsmen are used to doing, said Sgt. Jon Welch, a mountain warfare instructor.

"Evacuating a hurt Marine from a canyon that's covered in snow during a windy day is something they're not used to but must feel comfortable doing," said Welch, a Moab, Utah, native. "This training is just adding another tool to their toolbox."

With winds gusting in their faces and snowfall accumulating inches in only a few hours, the Marines and sailors also topped foothills and mountains, training for what they'll "surely" be doing when deployed to Afghanistan, said Kramer.

"The teams have to be prepared to face elements and climb steep, snow-covered mountains in Afghanistan," said Kramer. "Sometimes patrolling on foot is their only means of travel, and they have to get comfortable with it."

Losing footing and shortness of

breath was a small problem to some Marines and sailors trekking up the mountains. But all were aware that hypothermia was an unpopular but common setback they faced when fighting through these elements.

Nonetheless, the teams traveled up, around and down some of Hawthorne's rocky mountains with full packs, rifles, flak jackets and communication gear.

Capt. Lance Seiffert, the lane officer-in-charge for the dismounted mountain mobility phase, said the overall purpose of training to hike through the mountains was to enable the teams to see how suited they are for long movements.

"This is definitely strenuous training but brings a lot of value to our teams," said Cpl. Mario Gonzales, a generator mechanic with ETT 2-6 and an Irving, Texas, native. "Tough training like this also brings the unit together and helps build camaraderie. When we're in country, all we'll have is each other. This forces us to work well with each other now so we'll be comfortable with each other over there."

Aside from physical training, the mountain warfare instructors gave classes on survival diets, survival fires, patrolling considerations and other survival techniques they could possibly use when in Afghanistan.

"Everything we learned here is essential to our survival in Afghanistan," said Cuccio, a Mahopac, N.Y., native. "It all was very tedious training, and it culminates our training package before we deploy to Afghanistan."

With just weeks left before their deployment, these tropical island-based Marines and sailors anticipate no such weather but frigid temperatures and desolate, mountainous terrain. Some Marines said they can't allow themselves to worry or suffer from these elements. Their mission is to operate in these elements in order to help the ANA become a self-sufficient force.

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.

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.

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, elementary school and library. For more voting assistance information, visit www.fvap.gov.

Black History Luncheon

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

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.

Spouse Tuition Aid Program (STAP)

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is offering tuition aid to spouses who are accompanying active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel overseas. The program grants up to 50 percent tuition cost not to exceed \$350 per term for undergraduate students or \$400 per term for graduate students. Enrollment may be full- or part-time. Please call NMCRS at 253-5311 for the required forms to apply for STAP and to make an appointment prior to March 14. Aid is granted on a term-by-term basis.

UMUC Tentative Schedule for Term 4, 2007 - 2008

Registration Dates: March 17 to 28, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Term Dates: March 31 to May 24
For more information, contact your local UMUC field representative at 253-3392. This schedule

is subject to change without notice.

Mon. - Thu. 11:40 a.m.-12:55 p.m. MATH 009* - Introductory Algebra - Zoa, Nick
MATH 012* - Intermediate Algebra - Zoa, Nick
Mon. - Thu. 4:40 p.m. - 5:55 p.m. ACCT 220 - Principles of Accounting I - Lewis, Bonnie
Mon. + Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. GEOL 100 - Physical Geology - Zoa, Nick
GVPT 170 - American Government - Funk, Robert
JAPN 111 - Elementary Japanese I - Edwards, Hiromi
Tue. + Thu. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CCJS 105 - Intro to Criminology - Smart-Gittings, Stephanie
PSYC 100 - Intro to Psychology - Russell, Mark
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. GEOL 110 - Physical Geology Laboratory - Zoa, Nick
Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. PSYC 301 - Biological Basis of Behavior - Russell, Mark

Students who want to take a math course must first take a placement exam to determine the correct level course based on their skill level before registering.

M.C. Perry High School



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, presents a certificate to Jake Suenkel, a ninth-grade student at Matthew C. Perry High School, during a ceremony in the school gymnasium Feb. 8. The ceremony recognized students for outstanding grades and community service during the second quarter of the school year. Photo courtesy of Kris Kuhn

Commander's Excellence

7th Grade: Shannon Gilbert, Raegan Holland, Zackery Lewis, Anne Naseer, Danielle Shoebrook
8th Grade: Nicollette Alston, Robert Turner Anderson, Jessica Campos, Benjamin Cooper, Angel Fraden, Nicholas Krenek, Patricia Mojica,

Yeishka Montalvo, Patrishia Santos
9th Grade: Nora Abbas, Christina Andersen, Kelli Clar, Julie Cordero, Kara Maniscalco, Arianna Mocaraki, Jacob Suenkel
10th Grade: Martin Smallwood
11th Grade: Justin Clement, Yuma Edwards

12th Grade: Kristy Ortega, TylerPace-Marple, Heather Wise
Outstanding Community Service
Scot Seitz, Nicholas Henderson, Marcus Henderson, Marcus Allen, Kyle Thompson, Jeffery Briskie, Heather Wise, Hannah Nash

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1992 Nissan Cefiro

4 door. Asking for \$1,700, JCI till September 2008. With a Skyline RB20 turbo motor. Also with a blow off valve, intercooler, cold air intake, Blitz Boost controller, aftermarket in-dash JVC CD player, aftermarket exhaust, 18-inch wheels, stock wheels also included, blue LED interior lighting, snow tire chains and lots of cleaning gear! For more information, call 253-3467 (work) or 253-7517 (home).

OTHER ITEMS

House for Sale in Lemoore, CA

Transferring to NAS Lemoore? Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car attached garage home for sale by OWNER in the greatly desired College Park subdivision. 1,423 SqFt home on a 7,000 SqFt lot. Built in 2005. Asking

for \$250,000. For more information, call 559-924-5069 (Ca.).

JOBS

Extras Needed

Iwakuni Civic theater needs extras for the upcoming production of The King and I. We also have one minor male role still available. Interested call Jennifer @ 253-6745 or 2166.

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.

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY, Feb. 18, 2008

Cream of Mushroom Soup, Creole Soup Sauerbraten, Hot and Spicy Chicken, Fried Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes, Fried Zucchini, Calico Corn Hot Dinner Rolls, Congo Bars, Marble Cake Double Layer, Butter Cream Frosting Blueberry Crunch, Specialty Bar: Pasta

TUESDAY Feb. 19, 2008

Cream of Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup Southern Fried Chicken, BBQ Beef Cube Steamed Rice, Buttered Pasta, Black Eye Peas, Creole Squash, Corn Bread, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Spice Cake Double Layer, Butter cream Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, Specialty Bar: Taco

WEDNESDAY Feb. 20, 2008

Cream of Broccoli Soup, Vegetable Soup Tempura Fish, Pepper Steak, Steamed Rice Oven Glo Potatoes, Glazed Carrots Club Spinach, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls Peanut Butter Cookies, Devil's Food Cake Butter Cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: BBQ

THURSDAY

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup Creole Macaroni, Fried Shrimp, Fettuccini W/ Alfredo Sauce, Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tempura Vegetables, Peas and Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Sugar Cookies, Strawberry Shortcake Whipped Topping, Vanilla Cream Pie Specialty Bar: Deli

FRIDAY

Clam Chowder Soup, Minestrone Soup Braised Beef and Noodles, Baked Fish Mashed Potatoes, Fried Cabbage, Mix Vegetables, Chicken Gravy, Dinner rolls Banana Bread, Dutch Apple Pie, Shortbread Cookies Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs and Polish Sausage

Sakura Theater

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008

7 p.m. I am Legend (PG13)

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008

7 p.m. The Water Horse (PG) (Premiere)

10 p.m. Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) (Premiere)

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008

1 p.m. National Treasure (PG)

4 p.m. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) (Premiere)

7 p.m. Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

10 p.m. The Water Horse (PG)

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008

1 p.m. P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

4 p.m. The Water Horse (PG)

7 p.m. Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

Monday, Feb. 18, 2008

4 p.m. The Golden Compass (PG-13)

7 p.m. P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

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.

Knicks nip Pacers, 10-8

Lindquist's last-minute score seals win



Knicks' and Pacers' players prepare to rebound the ball during an ages 7 to 9 youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym Tuesday. The Pacers scored a last-minute basket to beat the Knicks 10-8. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The play might have been a little sloppy but it certainly looked like fun as the Pacers edged the Knicks 10-8 during an ages 7 to 9 youth basketball game at IronWorks Gym Tuesday.

Pacers' guard Joshua Lindquist scored 8 of his team's 10 points, including a last-minute game-winner. In the last quarter, with the game tied at 8, the teams exchanged possessions frequently. The players dribbled down the court as fast as they could only to be denied a score by a bobbled pass, traveling violation or missed field goal.

Then, with less than a minute to go, Lindquist scooped up a long rebound and took off for the other end of the court. He sprinted to a stop just before the goal, where he confidently sent the ball off the backboard and into the net to give his team a 10-8 lead.

Knicks' forward Hayley Kunde got an open look at the other end, but the

ball rimmed out just before the buzzer sounded.

After the game, a smiling Lindquist thought about his contribution to the Pacers' win.

"I feel good," said Lindquist, 8. "I've never made a winning shot before. I'm glad I could help out my team."

Lindquist and Pacers' coach Steven Larrabee said the key to their success was practice.

"We've been practicing our dribbling and defensive positions a lot, and it's paying off," Larrabee said, adding his inexperienced team's performance has come full-circle since the beginning of the season. "They're all doing great."

Meanwhile, on the other side, the Knicks kept their heads held high.

"I think we did pretty good tonight," said Knicks center Breana Lewis, 9, who scored a team-high four points. "We all worked hard and just kept trying to get the rebounds. If we got a chance to shoot, then we took it."

The next youth basketball games are scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All station residents are welcome.



Pacers' guard Matthew Maniscalco tries to dribbles past Knicks' center Breana Lewis during an ages 7 to 9 youth basketball game at the IronWorks Gym Tuesday. The Pacers scored on several fast breaks plays, allowing them to win the game 10-8.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

Two-Person Scramble Golf Tournament

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Ordnance's tournament is Saturday at noon. The entry fee is \$10 plus green fee. Contact Torii Pines at 253-3402.

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.

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.

Run on the Green

Come out and participate in the 2008 St. Patrick's Day "Run on the Green" at Torii Pines Golf Course at 11 a.m. March 15. The event features 2.5- and 5-kilometer fun runs for the entire family. The 2.5K run for youth and teens begins at 11 a.m. while the 5K run for adults starts at 11:30 a.m. Check-in starts at 10 a.m. Contact the IronWorks Gym at 253-5654/6578 for more information.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Rocky Kleeger (left), MALS-12 aviation structural mechanic (surface warfare), rescues Cpl. Sean Ross, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist, during a lifeguard certification class at the IronWorks Gym pool Tuesday. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Lifeguard trainees prepare to maintain safety at station pools

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A group of station residents are attempting to swim and rescue their way through an American Red Cross lifeguard certification program at the IronWorks Gym.

The six service members and dependents will partake in 31 hours of classroom and practical application training during the program, which began Feb. 2.

The lifeguards-in-training will learn surveillance and rescue techniques and become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before the course concludes Feb. 23.

"The purpose of the course is to teach candidates the knowledge and skills needed to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies," said Master Sgt. Kevin McNeese, an American Red Cross lifeguard instructor and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 avionics chief who is leading the program. "The course content and activities prepare candidates to recognize and respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and prevent drowning and injuries."

Though the current class is only in its early stages, participants have already gained valuable training, according to Lance Cpl. Santiago Diez, Mobile Calibrations Complex 1 cali-

brations technician.

"From what I've learned so far, I feel more confident about my ability to help someone in the water if they need it," Diez said.

Cpl. Sean Ross, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist, is proud to be following his brother's footsteps after learning of the course by chance.

"I was here swimming one day when (McNeese) was on the lifeguard stand, and he told me about the class," said Ross, whose brother was a lifeguard at a YMCA and state beach. "I'm glad I took advantage of the opportunity."

"It's a good course," Ross added. "(Family members) and (service members) should come out here and try to get certified."

Any Marine who has a Marine Corps Combat Water Survival qualification level of one or higher would be a great candidate for the course, which is open to anyone 15 years of age or older, according to McNeese. However, anybody who can complete the pre-skills test, which consists of a 300-yard swim using proper front crawl and breast strokes and an object retrieval exercise for time, would have no trouble finishing the program, McNeese added.

While ability is a requisite, a positive attitude and strong work ethic are the most important ingredients to success in the course and as a lifeguard,

McNeese said.

"Hopefully, no lifeguard will ever have to use the skills that are taught during the course; however, that will not always be the case," said McNeese, who has been a lifeguard for five years. "A potential lifeguard needs to have their priorities in line

and be ready to respond."

Though this is McNeese's last course before he heads stateside in March, another instructor will be taking his place. The Aquatics Office, which may be contacted at 253-4966, will publish future course dates when they become available.



Master Sgt. Kevin McNeese, American Red Cross lifeguard instructor and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 avionics chief, instructs Petty Officer 2nd Class Rocky Kleeger (middle), MALS-12 aviation structural mechanic (surface warfare), and Lance Cpl. Santiago Diez, Mobile Calibrations Complex 1 calibrations technician, during a lifeguard certification class at the IronWorks Gym pool Tuesday.