

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 8, Vol. 1

Friday, February 29, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Restrictions continue for SOFA status personnel

Senior leaders to reassess policy on Monday

COMPILED BY
MCAS IWAKUNI PAO

After meeting with senior military leaders on Okinawa from all services on Sunday to evaluate the effects and impacts of the "period of reflection," Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, the senior U.S. military commander on Okinawa and commanding general of Marine Corps Bases Japan, decided the restrictions on SOFA-status personnel will remain in place until further notice while service leaders continue to review procedures and orders that govern the discipline and conduct of all U.S. service members serving in Okinawa, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, and Camp Fuji.

The order governing the limited movement of SOFA-status personnel will be reassessed again by senior

service leaders on March 3.

"I need leaders at all echelons in all the services to continue to reinforce what the vast majority do well as forward serving ambassadors of America," said Zilmer.

The limited movement of SOFA-status personnel and policy review during the "period of reflection" are clear indications that the U.S. military and its commanders take very seriously all incidents and allegations involving misconduct by service members, especially those that impact the host nation community.

For the indefinite future, SOFA-status personnel will continue to be limited to their place of duty or employment, worship, education, medical or dental treatment. Other required activities like paying bills or fulfilling nonrefundable

commitments are also permitted. However, all leisure-type activities off bases are restricted (e.g., shopping, eating at restaurants, visiting bars or clubs, social calls in town, etc.).

SOFA-status personnel are authorized to transit between U.S. military installations or their off-base residence via privately owned vehicle, military supported transportation, or commercial taxi.

While movement offbases is limited for SOFA-status personnel, there is no restriction to regularly scheduled activities and facilities aboard any U.S. base or installation.

"I highly encourage our service members, civilians and family members to continue to utilize the plethora of activities and services aboard all camps and installations," said Zilmer.



Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino greets an audience of Marines, sailors, families and friends of Marine Aircraft Group 12 after being appointed as senior enlisted member of the group at the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 hangar here Feb. 22. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

MAG-12 gets new sergeant major

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino took his post as group sergeant major of Marine Aircraft Group 12 as Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham Jr. relinquished the position in a post-and-relief ceremony at the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 hangar here Friday.

Durham is on his way to Okinawa where he will begin serving as the sergeant major of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Feb. 29.

Marines, sailors, families and friends witnessed as the outbound Durham handed over his sword and spoke of his time as the first Marine fixed-wing aircraft group sergeant major to be appointed under a Navy captain.

"Over the past 20 months, I've learned that two words make us one: naval service," Durham said. "It's been an honor to serve under a naval aviator while at the same time getting to know the Marines in the Ready Group."

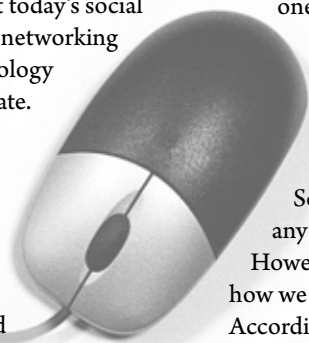
SEE INTERNET ON PAGE 4

SEE MAG ON PAGE 3

The good, the bad and the ugly Social networking via Internet explained

GUNNERY SGT. JOSE R. PALOSCHAVEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is all the hype and talk about today's social networking via the Internet? Social networking via the Internet is a fairly new technology and it is growing at an exponential rate. However, the concept of social networking has been around much longer than the Internet. By nature, people have always been known to be social creatures. This human social networking aspect has been the medium in which we are allowed to work together in groups. Working together in social groups may sometimes be very beneficial. For



example, when we work together in groups, we can create something that may be much greater than the sum of its parts. This "togetherness" is known to be one of the greatest assets of social networking.

In its simplest terms, a social network requires three or more entities communicating and sharing information. Forming a social network can be easily achieved with organizations such as the Girl or Boy Scouts, a church, military unit, a university or any other socially construed relationships.

However, the Internet has significantly impacted how we use social networking and in what numbers. According to the World Internet Usage Statistics News and Population Statistics, there is an estimated

INSIDE IWAKUNI



MECEP Program explained

3



Station responds to mishap exercise

6



Camp Foster simulates raids in housing area

8



**Commanding Officer/
Publisher**
Col. Michael A. O'Halloran

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunnery Sgt.
John A. Cordero

Operations Chief
Sgt. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

Editor
Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Press Chief
Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Combat Correspondents
Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

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

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Warriors should be citizens first



CHAPLAIN NORBERT KARAVA
DEPUTY GROUP
CHAPLAIN MAG-12

Before Rome collapsed under the weight of its imperial overextension, its legions astonished the world. So few in number in relation to so many of their foes, they won seemingly impossible victories, not occasionally, but almost consistently. Nearly always they were superior in their logistics, strategy, organization and martial discipline; but there was something else.

At the head of the legion was a standard with the letters "SPQR," an acronym for the words: Senatus Populus Que Romanus, "the Senate and the People of Rome." During that time only a citizen of Rome could be a member of the legions. The implicit moral connection was that, at heart, a warrior must first be a citizen before he acquires the physical, psychological and mental skills of war craft.

Being a citizen is not only a legal state of affairs, but a moral one as well. A republic

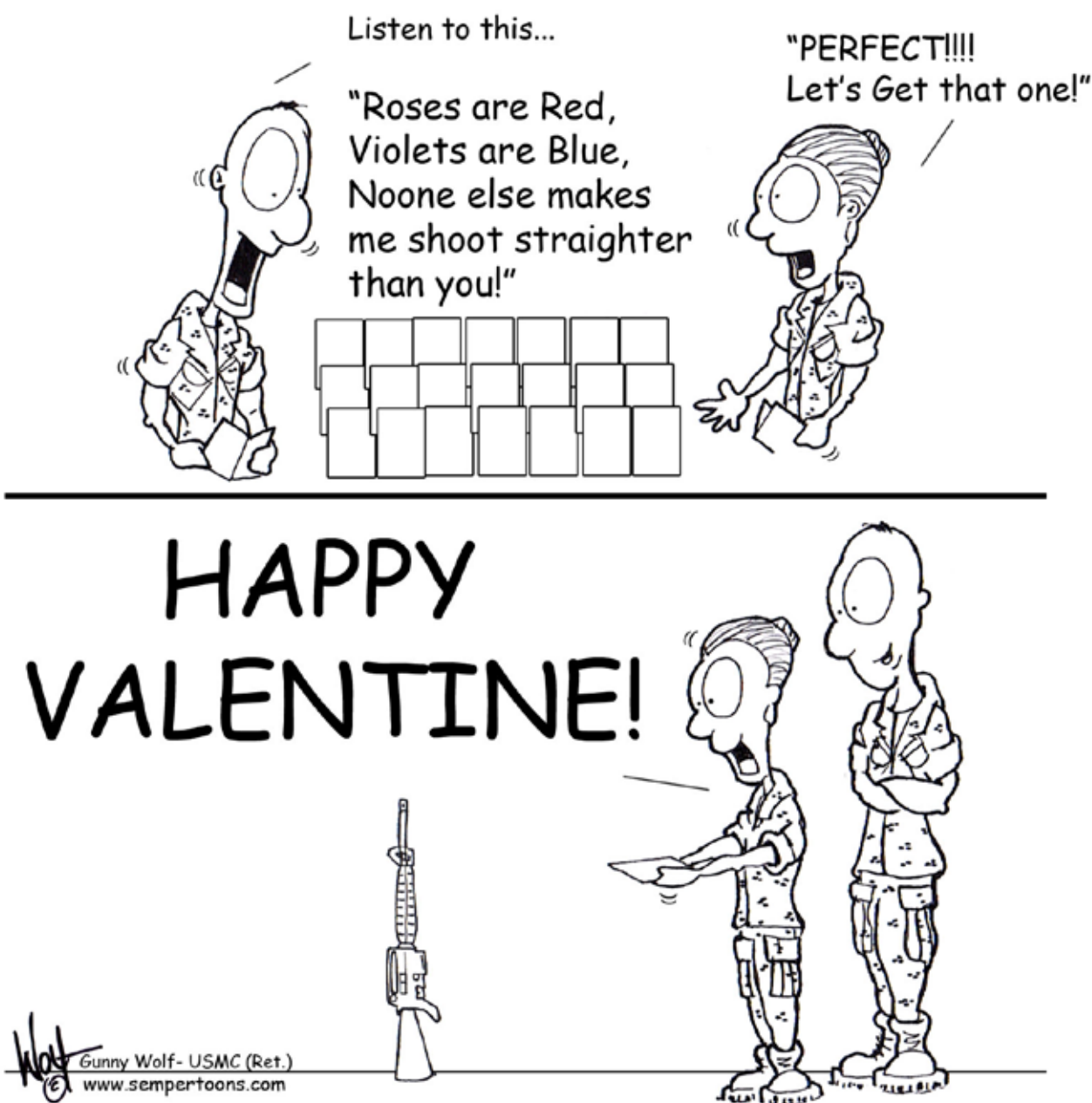
is not a mere abstraction, but a particular communion of persons, under this flag or that, for whose good and welfare the citizen is willing to suffer and die. If armed conflict is necessary to protect the republic, a citizen is willing to make his spouse a widow and his children partial orphans. Devotion to this communion of persons is exercised through the virtue of "patriotism," the love of "patria" or the "fatherland." Hence, warriors are called to exercise the virtues of citizenship in a more excellent manner.

As warriors, Marines and sailors should acquaint themselves with the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights and know about the political, economic and social realities in which our republic will sink or swim. In the clarity of Seneca and Cicero (who are they?), it's more important than knowing how to shoot straight.

Friendship Day Requirements

Submit unit or private organization consumable or non-consumable reports to the Provost Marshal's Office by March 28. PMO cannot accept any reports after that date. Any unit or private organization intending to sell consumable or non-

consumable items at Friendship Day 2008 must get approval from the Provost Marshal's Office. For more information, contact Customs and Immigration, Building 779. Call 253-5418 or 253-3303. Hours of operation are from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m.



HAPPY VALENTINE!

Wolf
Gunny Wolf - USMC (Ret.)
www.sempertoons.com



(From left) Anna Coronado, Melanieann Douglas and Ashley Rayos watch as Yoshiaki Kimura from Kono Elementary School in Otake City demonstrates his skills with a kendama at the Matthew C. Perry Elementary School playground here Feb 22. Kimura along with 16 other Otake students visited the school to interact with the school's youth. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Thinking about becoming an officer? MECEP one way to go



Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles about Marine Corps enlisted-to-officer commissioning programs. The next article will highlight the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). Photo illustration by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Corps offers several programs in which its enlisted ranks can become commissioned officers. One such way is through the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program, or MECEP.

MECEP is designed to provide outstanding enlisted Marines (active duty or reserve), corporals and above between the ages of 20 and 26 (waiverable) the chance to become Marine Corps officers.

"MECEP is the way to go," said 2nd Lt. Dennis Herold, Marine Aircraft Group 12 supply officer who was commissioned via the program. "You can't beat the opportunity to go to college and get paid for it."

The Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) publishes a Marine Admin Message (MARADMIN) annually in the April

MAG FROM PAGE 1

After the marching of the colors, Durham went on to express his confidence in the new sergeant major to take the reins as the enlisted head of MAG-12.

"Sgt. Maj. Villalino is no stranger to the fixed-wing community," Durham said. "I know him to have the skill set to lead the robust lineup that MAG-12 is known for."

Villalino, who has been serving in the Corps since June 1986 and recently ended his tour with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 where he served as the squadron sergeant major, says he plans to smoothly continue what Durham has worked for.

"It's great to come into a group where the sergeant major is highly respected," Villalino said. "Sgt. Maj. Durham left some big shoes for me to fill, but with the condition of the Marines in the Ready Group, he seems to have made things a lot easier for me."

The symbolic ceremony ended with family and friends of MAG-12 greeting the new head of the Ready Group while bidding farewell to Durham. Villalino was welcomed into the group with a few last words from Durham.

"Get a bigger jacket, put away your surfboard, and enjoy the ride," Durham said to Villalino and a laughing audience. "Welcome to the Corps' best secret. The Ready Group will always be ready on your watch."

time frame soliciting applications for the program. Marine Corps Order (MCO) P1560.15L outlines the format for the submission of MECEP packages. The recruiting command then holds a board to select qualified applicants.

"Finding the information and following it through is the hardest part," said Herold, who was a gunnery sergeant with nine years of service before being selected for MECEP in 2002 after three attempts. "I think that's part of the process."

After submitting a package himself the first go-around, Herold turned to his officer-in-charge and a prior enlisted pilot the second and successful third time. A Marine's staff noncommissioned officer in charge, OIC, unit education officer and the Internet are all good first sources of information, according to Capt. Christopher Smith, MAG-12 logistics officer

SEE MECEP ON PAGE 4

News Briefs

4-Man Scramble tournament

March 1, 12:30 p.m. (tee-off) at Torii Pines golf course. All base personnel invited. Fee is \$10 plus green fee. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for team. For more information, contact 253-3652 or 253-4037.

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.

MECEP FROM PAGE 3

who is also prior enlisted.

The MCRC announces the results of the MECEP board by MARADMIN at the end of the year. Marines who success-

fully complete the program receive a baccalaureate degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Marines' service and academic records are used to evaluate their eligibility for MECEP. The records shall reveal evidence of career and academic self-improvement. The

basic eligibility requirements are being ranked in the top 50 percent of high school class or a general education development (GED) score of at least 75, a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 1,000 or ACT of 45 and an Armed Forces Quotient (AFQT) of 74.

INTERNET FROM PAGE 1

total of 6,606,971,658 Internet users as of 2007. The usage growth has been blazing at a rate of 265 percent from 2000 to 2007. The Internet alone has allowed for the creation of seamless, limitless opportunities for overall communication and collaboration.

Today's social networking medium is taking the world by storm. Governments, businesses and organizations are now scrambling and shifting how they design and operate. This shift can be clearly seen taking place by the current design and function of today's social networks. For example, social networking has the following user capabilities: chat, messaging, e-mail video, and voice chat, file sharing, blogging, discussion group and so on. In the past, the Internet was no more than an information repository. However, with the advent of social networking this is no longer the case. Social networking is now the tool of choice for connecting people around the World.

Most social networking sites allow users to post their personal information on their user profile. These personal profiles allow for the exchange or sharing of personal information with other users. According to About.com, people ages of 18-24 represented half of those who visit social networking sites on a daily basis. However, Forester Research has indicated that over 50 percent of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, visit the MySpace Web site each day.

Some social networking sites are actually "good" or are created with "good" intentions. For example, Wikipedia's site

is a socially motivated and not-for-profit free online encyclopedia. According to Wikipedia's site, it's actually funded by donations and seeks to serve society by making a vast store of human knowledge available to everyone (via Internet connection). In addition, Wikipedia has more than 750,000 active contributors, 9 million articles and is written in more than 250 languages.

Other good uses concerning the functions of social networking were evident during the mass murder at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007. University officials and law enforcement communicated with conventional police radios and telephones. However, students were better connected as they began to communicate with each other with e-mails. Some students even posted live information on social networks such as Facebook with simple comments such as, "I'm all right." Communicating via a social network and e-mail was considered to be a perfect use of the Internet.

As mentioned earlier, social networking is the tool of choice when used to communicate and collaborate with others via the Internet. I also mentioned that social networking has some "good" uses. However, the same advocates for social networking are also being cautious. There are some bad aspects of using social networks. Because most users post pictures, music, videos, high-definition movies and other large files, they consume valuable bandwidth and storage space. Downloading and uploading these large files has the potential to cripple the

network. Many service members who have deployed to Iraq or other remote locations have a greater understanding of the term bandwidth. Some service members may have been affected by users who were sending and receiving large files. In many cases, it is not possible, and when it is, the network is severely clogged!

Some companies and organizations have outright banned social networking sites for many reasons. For example, social networking has the potential to decrease employee productivity. In today's highly competitive environment, this is bad business. Also, most social networks are designed to be open (unregulated). These open social networks expose their users to many forms of viruses, spyware, malware, worms and other malicious software. Disclosure of personal information is very likely in a social networking environment. It is extremely common for companies to regularly search MySpace, Classmates.com, YouTube and other social networking sites to extract information about potential hires and competitors.

Social networking can really get "ugly" and fast. Social networks are routinely used and visited by child predators, cyber-stalkers or cyber-bullies. For any parents or guardians, this alone is cause for great concern. Many federal and state laws have been introduced to combat child predators. However, not enough has been done to make social networking safer. As mentioned earlier, more than 50 percent of the current social networking users are teenagers. Other users are as young as 12. Many social networking sites fail to monitor user age verification. In many cases, the social networking sites are open, and they simply do not care about the users' age. According to an article, Social Networking and Age Verification: Many Hard Questions; No Easy Solutions written by Adam Thierer, as much as five percent of the adult offenders lied about their age and tried to pass them as minors. The same article indicated that the majority 83 percent who meet with offenders face-to-face voluntarily went somewhere with them afterward (a hotel, movie, restaurant, etc.) and as many as 41 percent spent at least one night with the offender.

Education and awareness at all levels is critical and often is the key to reducing any damage caused in a social networking environment. Service members have great responsibility when it comes to social networking. Everyone must be extremely cautioned as to what information is posted on any social networking site! Service members, this includes posting any information that the enemy or adversary may use against our citizens, military and our

way of life. Stop and think about operational security (OPSEC) when posting information on any public social networking site. Keep in mind that the goal of OPSEC as a "countermeasure" program is to deny the adversary pieces of the intelligence puzzle. Small unit leaders, talk to your Marines and sailors about their responsibilities in protecting information. Use the hip-pocket method to educate yourself and your subordinates. Keep in mind that the enemy is listening - he wants to know what you know. Keep it to yourself!

As leaders, parents, guardians, grandparents, and teachers entrusted with the care of our children, it is important to educate ourselves and our children about online safety. This includes taking time off our busy schedules to talk about social networking and any medium that has the potential to cause harm to our children. The key is parental involvement. Service members are also entrusted with protecting information.

There are many ways and steps that can be taken to protect children and yourself when it comes to social networking via the Internet. Use sound judgment and common sense when interacting on the Internet. Best of all, use the "Three E's" as described by Adam Theirer: Empowerment, Education and Enforcement. Empowering includes having everyone regardless of age make sound and timely decisions. This includes providing the right tools to defend or ward off those bad people visiting social network sites. Educate individuals at all levels regardless of age about the inherent risks involved when interacting via the Internet. Enforcing encompasses our law enforcement (PMO, NCIS, etc.) to weed out the bad guys or gals.

The Internet is becoming a hub for socializing and interacting far beyond just e-mail. Social networking is the tool of choice because it is designed to operate in a "live" environment. Keep in mind that the Internet and its social networking sites have the potential to be good, bad and ugly. Protect children and yourself from the inherent risks presented via the Internet. Remember to adhere to our station commander's message about being "vigilant." Vigilance may also be applied when protecting valuable and personal information from being openly distributed via the Internet. What is vigilant? According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, vigilant is defined as, "alertly watchful especially to avoid danger."

Editor's note: Paloschavez is a Station S-6 information security technician. For more information on information security, call 253-4247.

Docs get new digs

SGT. MICHAEL T. KNIGHT
MCB CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Feb. 26, 2008)

— The FMTB building, originally built in the 1940s, recently received a renovation. The battle-ready corpsman is trained at Field Medical Training Battalion. That unit now has a state-of-the-art training facility to better prepare corpsmen to aid injured Marines in the thick of the fight.

"This new facility is just the beginning," said Captain Gregory M. Huet, Commanding Officer, Field Medical Training Battalion. "We now have the capability to effectively produce the best trained corpsmen for the Marine Corps."

More than \$4 million was spent renovating the facility. The project, spearheaded by Huet, is peppered with innovation. The modern upgrade was coupled with a modern building contract, said Huet. The contract was flexible enough to allow the contractors to shift funds around to more important issues as they arose. This allowed the unit to obtain the latest and greatest equipment and modifications without going over-budget.

Several 62-inch, flat-screen monitors are scattered throughout the building. Every classroom and main office has at least one monitor. A training room, called the lab, has six combat trauma patient simulators that breathe and bleed, as well as a smoke machine and a very loud sound system.

"This gives the student a feeling of being in a war zone," said Senior Chief Petty Officer David Jones, operations chief with FMTB. The room also has a camera that broadcasts to all the classroom monitors. This means an instructor is able to demonstrate a procedure to several hundred students simultaneously.

"The curriculum itself hasn't changed, but the new technology enhances the way we teach it," Jones said. The FMTB training facility here is one of two facilities



Petty Officer 3rd Class Randall Winters, Field Medical Training Battalion, Training Education Command, stands duty at the newly renovated FMTB facility, which received its first overhaul in 50 years. The upgrade cost more than \$4 million and included state-of-the-art equipment to enhance the curriculum. Photos by Sgt. Michael T. Knight

where corpsmen are trained to enter the Fleet Marine Corps. The other in Camp Lejeune, N.C. FMTB is where the students go through a modified version of Marine Corps recruit training, said Petty Officer 1st Class Charles W. Graves, corpsman instructor, FMTB.

"What (FMTB) does is take the basic sailor and introduce them to the Marine Corps environment," Graves said. "They learn Marine Corps uniform regulations, customs and courtesies. A week at the rifle range

and the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program are recent additions to the curriculum."

The school is comprised of both Navy and Marine instructors. This arrangement allows the students to get firsthand experience from Marines while maintaining their naval identity.

Field corpsmen have been around, in some form, as long as the Marine Corps has, said Huet. To help preserve the history of corpsmen, Huet has reserved the quarterdeck area of the building as the

first known showcase of field corpsmen historical artifacts.

"I want the family members of our students to come on graduation day and leave with an understanding of the pride of Navy field corpsmen," Huet said.

"This facility sends the message that the Marine Corps is serious about supporting corpsmen," Huet said.

There is a rededication ceremony planned for the building in March, and attendance is encouraged.



New combat trauma patient simulators sit in the lab of the Field Medical Training Battalion, Training Education Command. The dummies breathe and bleed, and the lab is equipped with a sound system and smoke machine. These recent additions add realism to training scenarios for the corpsmen in training.



Students of Field Medical Training Battalion, Training Education Command, file into the newly renovated facility. In addition to improvements to the building there have also been some recent additions to the curriculum.

Social Networking Sites: A Parent's Guide

Quick Facts

While social networking sites can increase a person's circle of friends, they also can increase exposure to people with less than friendly intentions.

Here are tips for helping your kids use social networking sites safely:

- Help your kids understand what information should be private.
- Explain that kids should post only information that you – and they – are comfortable with others seeing.
- Use privacy settings to restrict who can access and post on your child's website.
- Remind your kids that once they post information online, they can't take it back.
- Talk to your kids about avoiding sex talk online.
- Tell your kids to trust their gut if they have suspicions. If they ever feel uncomfortable or threatened by anything online, encourage them to tell you.

Source: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/socialnetworking.html>



Simulated casualties are removed from the scene of an assumed downed aircraft by station aircraft rescue firefighters as part of a mishap exercise. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Marines acting as casualties wait for the assistance of aircraft rescue firefighters after a mock jet came down into them as part of a mass casualty drill held on the flight line here Tuesday. Training officials said the training is preparing them for a possible contingency on Iwakuni's upcoming Friendship Day. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Collaborative efforts secure Friendship Day mishap exercise

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station responders readied themselves for a possible Friendship Day aircraft mishap by participating in a mass casualty drill at the flight line here Tuesday morning.

The Iwakuni Fire Department, aircraft rescue firefighters (ARFF), Provost Marshal's Office personnel, medical personnel and auxiliary security

forces (ASF) personnel were all elements that combined for the simulated scenario.

For roughly an hour, the groups worked in ensemble to secure the area while evacuating and treating casualties after a mock jet came down into a crowd of Friendship Day participants, typical of a mass casualty drill. Gunnery Sgt. Bryan Tanner, a training coordinator for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue firefighting section, said the event is an opportunity to see the effectiveness of every

response section collaborating after a mishap.

"There's always a possibility that something terrible could happen," Tanner said. "No one can plan when it might happen, so it's important to plan on responding to it."

Following the hurried evacuation of the jet pilot and casualties, ARFF and medical personnel evaluated each other in response and resuscitation procedures while ASF personnel posted security around the hazardous areas.



(Far left) Aircraft rescue firefighters tread through a simulated jet crash scene, preparing to extinguish hazardous flames in the area as part of a mass casualty drill. (Left) Aircraft rescue firefighters lower a pilot from his mock downed aircraft. Photos by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



(Left) Aircraft rescue firefighters remove a pilot from the site of his mock downed aircraft. (Above) Auxiliary Security Forces personnel march in a column of files while preparing to respond to a simulated hostile crowd near the site of an assumed downed aircraft. Photos by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Lance Cpl. Adam Warden, a military policeman attached to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172's Incident Response Platoon, greets a role-player acting as a villager during mock patrolling and local populace handling training. Photo by Lance Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett

MWSS 172's Incident Response Platoon simulates raid in Camp Foster housing

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT
MCB CAMP BUTLER

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan (Feb. 22, 2008) — About 20 Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172's Incident Response Platoon conducted mock patrols and local populace handling in an unpopulated section of Chatan Housing here Feb. 13.

During the training, instructors utilized Marines role playing as Iraqis to add a sense of realism.

"Realism is definitely the key for this type of training," said Sgt. Paul Reed Jr., the IRP platoon sergeant. "Getting put into a situation where they have to react just like they would in country is what makes this training important."

The two squads of Marines received briefs about 15 minutes before the start of each training situation, after which they would head into "the village" — the section of base housing set aside for the training.

They then patrolled the neighborhood and tried to accomplish different missions while role players, dressed in imitation traditional Middle Eastern garb, interacted with the Marines, basing their actions on



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172's Incident Response Platoon prepare to enter and clear a house during mock patrolling and local populace handling at an unpopulated section of Chatan Housing. Photo by Lance Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett

predetermined behaviors, such as acting as friendly locals or hostile insurgents.

"We practiced basic skills that we've been taught, such as how to deal with sniper tactics, interaction with the local populace and proper escalation of force," said Cpl. Justin Converse, an observer controller with the IRP.

During one scenario, the Marines

encountered a friendly villager after talking with a local leader. Although the villager had good intentions, he came too close to the Marines' weapons while communicating, compromising their security and forcing them to escalate their use of force. They began by politely telling him to back up and then increased their intensity until they had to push him

back.

Reed said the Marines showed continual improvement as they progressed through the exercises and handled the different scenarios.

The Incident Response Platoon members used the skills they learned while attending courses run by the 4th Marine Regimental Schools on Camp Schwab in November.

"They taught us a lot, and now we're trying to take all that training and come up with our own training and present it to our Marines to better train them. This is so that when we get into theater they'll know what to do when they get put into different scenarios," he said.

"We're observing them to see what their discrepancies are so we know what to work on and fix before we get into country."

"By the last scenario they showed that they've definitely improved. They were working better as a team and were applying all the fundamentals that we've been trying to teach these guys," he said. "It is very important they go through this type of training because if they don't go through it now, how are they going to be expected to perform to this level when they get into theater?"

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.

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.

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.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) will not meet starting March 6 through May at Yujo Hall, Station Chapel every 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 253-2885.

Military Saves Week

The Military Saves Week runs from until March 1. For more information, contact the Financial Fitness Counselor's office at 253-6250.

2008 Post Office Holiday Closures

5 May (Mon) Closed Friendship Day
26 May (Mon) Closed Memorial Day
4 Jul (Fri) Closed Independence Day
1 Sep (Mon) Closed Labor Day
13 Oct (Mon) Closed Columbus Day
Nov. - Dec. posted in October 2008

Volunteer victim advocate training

February 25-29, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Building 411, Room 217. This training is for all status of forces agreement-status adults. Become a Volunteer Victim Advocate! Volunteers are trained men and women who provide immediate assistance to victims of spouse abuse and sexual assault. Contact Marine Corps Community Services, Marine & Family Services Division, Victim Advocate at

253-4526 to sign up.

Japanese cooking class (Japanese American Society)

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 JAS Iwakuni at 253-4744.

Policies on animal giveaways

Everyone who uses our veterinary clinic has to inform us of any animal given away as so we can keep our records updated and any animal picked up will go back to its rightful owner. For more information, contact MCCS Veterinary Clinic at 253-3588.

Want to fly cheap?

Representatives from the air terminal will teach residents how to effectively fly Space Available directly from Iwakuni. The brief is March 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Yujo Hall, behind the Marine Memorial Chapel. Call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754 to reserve a seat. Childcare will be arranged upon seat reservation.

ADVENTURE

Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Oue Eiji

The Saturday concert begins at 3 p.m. at Shinfonia Iwakuni. Seats prices vary. S-seats are 5,500 yen, A-seats are 4,500 yen, B-seats are 3,000 yen and Student B-seats are 1,000 yen. Joseph-Maurice Ravel and Alborada del Gracioso. For more information, contact Shinfonia Iwakuni by calling 0827-29-1600.

Miyajima Exploration

Every Friday from August 10, 2007 - March 30, 2008 (excluding December 28 and January 4). 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. from in front of Miyajima Pier. Free of charge. Advanced reservation is necessary but you can also book your reservation on the day of your visit. and Zen Buddhism and Tea Ceremony Experience, together with the date that you would like to attend, your name, address and contact details (telephone number, email, fax), and send by either email (info@miyajima.or.jp). For more information, contact the Miyajima Tourist Association by calling (0829) 44-2011.

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

The Jason Project

EMILY HIMES
MATTHEW C. PERRY
ELEMENTARY

Have you ever thought about reaching the stars? Well, kids at M.C. Perry Elementary have gotten close using The Jason Project. Jason is a program designed by National Geographic coupling technology and inquiry skills. This year students are studying space with special attention to the planet Mars. After researching, by reading articles and watching videos,

students perform experiments to gain better understanding of space. One such experiment had students throwing play dough balls at paper covered in cocoa powder and flour. Students were able to see the impact of meteors on Mars. Student Jailen Trinidad said, "This was a good experience because I actually got to see what meteors did." Jason is a great way for kids to study places on Earth and in space and practice inquiry skills by forcing them to ask more questions. Maybe the question will lead some kids to be the future scientists of America.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 5
Early release

March 10 - 14
Terra Nova

March 15
PTO Spaghetti Fund Raiser - cafeteria 5-7 p.m.

March 18
General PTO meeting - library

March 18
Parent Child Book Club

March 24 - 28
Spring Book Fair

The Mission of our school community is to empower students to achieve excellence in scholarship, character, and citizenship as independent, lifelong learners.

Goal One: All students will improve in balanced literacy across the curriculum.

Goal Two: All students will improve inquiry skills across the curriculum.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1999 Mitsubishi Diamante (Sedan)

Asking for \$2,800, JCI till February 2010. Nice silver, must sell, automatic, almost new tires. For more information, call 090-7506-6743 (cell).

1987 Nissan Homy Van

Asking for \$1,400 OBO, JCI till May 2009. Low road taxes, 8 passenger, power windows, mirrors, sunroof, locks. New fuel pumps and tires, diesel engine, automatic. Runs great. Family leaving early need to sell. For more information, call 253-3993 (work) or 253-2920 (home).

1994 Mazda Eunos

Asking for \$1,800 OBO, JCI till April 2009. 2-door, automatic, CD player, power windows, doors, sunroof. A/C works great, car runs great. For more information,

call 253-3993 (work) or 253-2920 (home).

1993 Mitsubishi Galant

Asking for \$600 OBO, JCI till July 2008. Power locks, windows, CD player, fog lamps, A.C, heat. For more information, call 253-5995 (work) or 253-2316 (home).

OTHER ITEMS

Subs and amp

Two 10"-subs and one 750-watt amp for sale. Asking for \$150. For more information, call 090-9800-5925 (cell) or 253-33096 (work) after 4 p.m.

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 iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

Got news?

If so, e-mail your story ideas to iwakuni.pao@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 March 3, 2008

Beef w/Bacon Soup, Shrimp Gumbo Soup, Caribbean Flounder, Country Style, Steak, Steamed Rice, Macaroni and Cheese, Hush Puppies, Broccoli Combo, Wax Beans, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Brownies, Marble Cake, Butter Cream, Frosting, Banana Cream Pudding, Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

TUESDAY March 4, 2008

Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup, Lasagna, Roast Pork, Au Gratin Potatoes, Toasted Garlic Bread, Whole Kernel Corn, Mixed Vegetables, Cream Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Cherry Pie, Boston Cream Pie, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY March 5, 2008

French Onion Soup, Cream of Broccoli Soup, Baked Tuna Noodles, Breaded Pork Chop, Mushroom Gravy, Garlic Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Mix Vegetables, Hot Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Dutch Apple Pie, Devils Food Cake w/ Butter cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: BBQ

THURSDAY March 6, 2008

Manhattan Clam Chowder, Split Pea Soup, Chicken Parmesan, Italian Sausage, Buttered Pasta, Oven Browned Potatoes, Eggplant Parmesan, Cauliflower Gumbo, Alfredo Sauce, Marinara Sauce, Garlic Bread, Sugar Cookies, German Chocolate Cake, Banana Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

FRIDAY March 7, 2008

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Southern Style Fried Catfish, Chicken Cacciatore, Steamed Rice, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Southern Style Greens, French Fried Cauliflower, Cream Gravy, Jalapeno Corn Bread, Coconut Raisin Drop Cookies, Florida, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs

Sakura Theater

Friday, Feb. 29, 2008

7 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Premiere
10 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)

Saturday, March 1, 2008

1 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)
4 p.m. The Kite Runner (PG-13)
7 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)
10 p.m. Alien Vs. Predator (R)

Sunday, March 2, 2008

1p.m. The Water Horse (PG)

4 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)
7 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)

Monday, March 3, 2008

7 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

7 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

7 p.m. Charley Wilson's War (R)
Last Showing

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.



Runners take off from the starting line during the 2008 Gokukan 5K Fun Run on the seawall here Feb. 22. Participants Jae Kwon, Jason Kut and Taylor Nobumi posted the best times in their respective categories during the 3.1-mile event. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



Japanese, Americans take part in annual seawall race

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

If the purpose of the 2008 Gokukan 5K Fun Run was to reveal the event's best runner, most of the participants would probably agree it was successful.

Jason Kut, long established as one of station's elite runners, heated up the cold 3.1-mile seawall course as he cruised to the finish line in 16:41 to claim the race title here Feb. 22.

After dashing out front alongside several other of the event's top runners, Kut began pulling away from the pack at about three-quarters of a mile out. Only one racer, Akihiro Ueneka, was able to keep Kut in his sight the rest of the way.

"It was a great day to run," Kut said. "I felt good."

Although Ueneka, who was one of eight Japanese participants in the 35-person field, stayed relatively close behind, he never threatened Kut's lead, crossing the line at 17:22.

"I'm a little disappointed," Ueneka said, adding he usually runs the distance in 17

minutes or better. "I need to train harder," he added laughingly.

The event featured men's and women's categories and individual and team divisions. A four-person team of Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron S-6 participated to build unit camaraderie, according to team member Richard Comiskey.

"We weren't that concerned about placing," Comiskey said. "We just wanted to come out here, run hard, and have a good time."

Whether it was for the chance to compete, get in some physical training or to just have fun, the 2008 Gokukan Fun Run, while brief, afforded all participants the opportunity they were looking for.

"These events are great for the community," Kut said, adding he was impressed with the event's field and especially the Japanese participation.

"Usually there's always the same crew of eight to 10 (American) guys at these events," Kut said. "Right off the bat, I noticed (the Japanese) runners. It was good to see."

Jason Kut crosses the finish line at 16:41 during the 2008 Gokukan 5K Fun Run on the seawall here Feb. 22. Kut said it was a great day to run and that he was glad Japanese and American station residents came out to support the event. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

The air station will be conducting a basewide readiness exercise

March 11-13.

Weapons and nuclear, biological and chemical 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.

As part of the exercise, H&HS is looking for volunteers to take part in a noncombatant evacuation operation to Yokota Air Base. Only personnel with a valid military ID card may participate, and children must be at least four years old and 40 pounds. Transportation and lodging costs will be covered for all participants. For more information about the NEO, call Maj. Mike Jeron at 253-5143 or Capt. Michael McCoy at 253-5133.