

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Total Force to test station readiness

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In order to test and strengthen the air station's defenses, Iwakuni service members will be conducting Operation Total Force Tuesday through Thursday.

The exercise simulates a terrorist attack here while many personnel are forward deployed supporting a local contingency. With limited manpower and resources, service members will be tasked with defending the base while continuing to support the deployed forces.

"With this, the air station will be able to validate what we require to run the air station, i.e. to validate a [training order] that's logical," said Maj. Mike K. Jeron, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron training officer-in-charge. "Secondary for the station, it will also validate our force protection procedures - how we defend the base and how we operate, if war should ever come, to support the operational units."

During Total Force, residents can expect an increased use of the "Big Voice" loudspeaker system between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., temporary television and radio interruptions throughout the day and possible temporary closures of facilities such as the commissary, post offices or Seven-Day stores. With so much training being squeezed into a three-day period, Jeron said measures are being taken to lessen the burden on those not participating.

"We're minimizing the impact as best we can by scheduling some scenarios that would impact (non-participants) to non-peak hours," Jeron said. "Everything we're doing is for the better of the base. It's not meant to inconvenience anyone."

Drills testing operational readiness and section/division interoperability will require exercise participants to carry full mission-oriented protective posture gear as well as a weapon during daily activities.

Defending the base while simultaneously performing

their normal jobs is a good training experience for Marines and sailors given the current environment in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Jeron said.

Total Force coincides with Exercise Foal Eagle in Korea, which many service members will be deployed in support of. Fleet assistance program (FAP) personnel will also be sent back to their home units, further challenging some understaffed offices and organizations.

"It was decided as part of the exercise that we would do this during Foal Eagle," Jeron said. "In a real world event, the operating units would go forward to fight the war, and we would be left back here to support them."

"It's another level of realism because the station depends heavily on the FAP system," he added. "Worst case scenario, our FAPs do go away because of an operational war."

Noncombatant evacuation operations will also be conducted in which 50 volunteers will be processed and flown to Yokota Air Base for the exercise.

ANNUAL EKIDEN FINISHES STRONG

Station leaders endure 200-meter sprint to victory



In this year's Ekiden race the commanding officers ran the last of the of the 17 legs for each team. Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, Station commanding officer, sprinted the last stretch to the finish line, trying to catch Cmdr. Tsuyoshi Nishiura, commanding officer of Squadron 91. Photo by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner

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Period of Reflection ends, curfew implemented

III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BUTLER, Okinawa, Japan (March 3, 2008) — Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, the Okinawa Area Coordinator and senior U.S. military commander on Okinawa, met with senior military and civilian leaders from all the services March 3 to evaluate the effects and impacts of the "Period of Reflection."

During the past two weeks, leaders from each of the military services have reviewed the procedures and orders that govern the discipline and conduct of all U.S. service members serving in Okinawa. The review is ongoing and U.S. military and Japanese officials will continue to discuss ways to work together toward the common goal of reducing off-base misconduct by status of forces agreement-status members

To capitalize on these efforts and to allow for further discussions between all parties, Zilmer has decided the "Period of Reflection" has concluded and that a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will be implemented immediately for all service members. There are no limitations, restrictions or curfew for civilians or family members.

Effective immediately, during curfew hours service members are limited to U.S. military installations or the off-base residences of SOFA-status personnel. During curfew hours, service members are authorized to transit between U.S. military installations or off-base residences of SOFA-status personnel via privately owned vehicle,

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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.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Character first

CHAPLAIN J.Q. COMETA
STATION CHAPLAIN

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike."

What is a good character? Tom Hill, who developed the Character First Program, said, "Good character is the inward motivation to do what is right, according to the highest standards of behavior, in every situation."

We live in a fast-paced world. When we reflect or meditate, it is like calling a full time out in a basketball game. It is the time when we can refocus, strategize, rest and regain strength. Now that the Period of Reflection is over, let us press on towards the mark of our high calling as defenders and good ambassadors of America. Let us continue to strive hard to match our military strength with our moral supremacy.

In the book of Jonah, God mandated Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach against the wickedness of the city but instead he

boarded a ship and went in the opposite direction.

God sent a violent storm, and the ship's crew threw him overboard. A great fish swallowed Jonah. For three days and three nights he languished inside the fish's belly.

Sometimes God drastically puts us in seclusion in order that our attention and affection would center on Him alone. I can imagine if I were Jonah, three days and three nights inside the fish's belly: no TV, no emails, no Crossroads, no Ironworks gym, no phone calls ...

Had Jonah obeyed God right away, he would not have experienced being inside the fish for God to reveal his rebellious character.

Jonah repented and learned the hard way though God gave him a second chance to go to Nineveh after three days of reflection inside the fish. May God help us to become men and women of good character.

David once prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." - Psalm 139:23-24

CURFEW FROM PAGE 1
military-supported transportation or commercial taxi.

In addition, service members are restricted from consuming alcohol off-base, except within the confines of the off-base residences of SOFA-status personnel. There are no alcohol restrictions for civilians or family members.

The curfew and alcohol

restrictions will be periodically reassessed by senior service leaders.

There are no restrictions to alcohol consumption aboard any U.S. base or installation.

"As we begin to venture outside our gates, I remind all of you that we are guests in Japan and must represent our nation with the utmost pride, professionalism and respect for our hosts." Zilmer said.



The United States Naval Ship San Jose, home ported out of Guam, docked at the new port facility here Sunday to Wednesday. The visit marked the first time a supply ship ever tied up to MCAS Iwakuni. The purpose of the port visit was to test the ability of a supply ship to onload provisions, parts, and supplies as well as offloading retrogrades to better support the Nimitz Battle Group currently operating in their area of responsibility. "Seventh Fleet, (Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific), and MCAS Iwakuni wanted to test Iwakuni's capability to provide provisions and supplies to the San Jose and our Logistics Team did. The port ops folks did an outstanding job. The master and crew of the San Jose were very impressed with us," said Lt. Cmdr. George C. Estrada, Station logistics officer and Guam native. It took approximately 24 trucks filled with provisions (dry and frozen foods, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables), and drinks to replenish the San Jose. Additionally, supply parts and mail were also loaded. "This will enable the San Jose to replenish the other ships in the U.S. Naval Base Sasebo which is approximately five hours away by land," said Estrada. Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Kauppila

Navy-Marine Corps relief society fund drive, 1-31 March

CAPT. PAUL MILLER
NMCRS CHAIRMAN

On March 1st, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive will kick-off aboard MCAS Iwakuni. If you would like to make a donation to a good cause, please see your unit representative. Contributions can be made via check, cash or 12 month allotments. If you have any questions feel free to contact this year's Fund Drive Chairman, Capt. Miller via e-mail at jonpaul.miller1@usmc.mil.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a non-profit, charitable organization whose purpose is to assist active duty and retired Marines and sailors and their families in time of need. The society's principal activity is the disbursement of interest-free loans and grants while providing visiting nurse services, thrift shops, infant layettes, food lockers, budget counseling, education scholarships and loans and volunteer training programs. The Society and its board members represent the active duty and retired communities of the Navy and Marine Corps.

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.

March Promotions

CLC-36
Lance Cpl. Cornwell K.J.
Lance Cpl. Hildebrandt J.H.
Lance Cpl. Salias M.A.
Cpl. Adcock B.M.
Cpl. Layne B.S.
Sgt. Vierling M.W.

H&HS

Pfc. Miller K.L.
Lance Cpl. Gilmore T.D.
Lance Cpl. Goldman M.A.
Lance Cpl. McTeer Jr. E.
Lance Cpl. Menke D.E.
Lance Cpl. Ngabo J.R.
Lance Cpl. Rector S.A.
Lance Cpl. Tress J.M.
Lance Cpl. Turvey C.M.
Cpl. Curtis C.
Cpl. Jackson J.T.

Cpl. McKee Z.W.
Cpl. McKenzie M.D.
Cpl. Xayvong P.B.
MAG-12
Lance Cpl. Lauth N.S.
Lance Cpl. Lujan M.A.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl. Arellanes W.N.
Lance Cpl. Breaux Jr. J.E.
Lance Cpl. Gonzalezvega R.
Lance Cpl. Harris C.E.
Lance Cpl. Huerta K.N.
Lance Cpl. Morgan D.A.
Lance Cpl. Roman J.M.
Lance Cpl. Thompson M.A.
Cpl. Davis J.H.
Cpl. Harris Jr. D.T.
Cpl. Harvey D.M.
Cpl. Ryan S.P.

Cpl. Villagrancia C.M.
Cpl. Werth J.T.
Sgt. Myers L.D.
Staff Sgt. Rivera S.A.
Gunnery Sgt. Hayes A.M.

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl. Benjamin P.M.
Lance Cpl. Dejean J.R.
Lance Cpl. Heidenreich R.T.
Lance Cpl. Powell M.M.
Lance Cpl. Ropchok J.T.
Lance Cpl. Ruiz D.J.
Lance Cpl. Sadowiczak B.J.
Lance Cpl. Stevens C.A.
Lance Cpl. Wofford S.S.
Lance Cpl. Yelverton III J.T.
Cpl. Francis T.M.
Cpl. Gulak R.I.
Cpl. Hibbitts J.W.

Cpl. Quach L.K.
Cpl. Schaedig D.C.
Cpl. Springer W.T.
Sgt. Hoy K.B.
Sgt. Suy B.

VMFA-212

Cpl. Cook A.L.
Cpl. Murillo E.A.
Cpl. Perez S.M.
Sgt. Goldman A.L.
Sgt. Long D.J.

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

M.C. Perry scholastic fitness evaluated

Educators focus on school's improvement

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Stateside educators visited Matthew C. Perry High School last week to evaluate the school on its past and future plans to improve overall academics.

The AdvancED Team, made up of former schooling directors, concluded its two-day stay by officially accrediting the high school's scholastic development, a necessity for the school's livelihood.

The process included reviewing numerical improvements in the school's testing scores while interviewing parents as well as students to confirm the faculty's involvement, according to Jewel Smith, spokeswoman for the school's Continuing School Improvement committee.

"One important aspect that is looked at when accrediting a school is the day-to-day involvement of the staff, providing feedback to the parents as well," Smith said.



Anxiously waiting, Crystal Alligier checks her ticket number as fellow readers receive prize copies of Theodore Seuss Geisel titles including "The Cat in the Hat," "Horton Hears a Who!" and "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish," during Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration at the station library here March 3. With more than 100 children in attendance, the event noted the imaginative writing style of the household author who would invent books for young readers using the only 250 words first-graders are required to know. Being able to read the wacky rhymes and interpret the bizarre illustrations inspired children to try reading more, according to Belinda Pugh, station librarian. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

The team also sat in several classes, observing teaching methods and their effectiveness on the student body.

Brian Cusack, Matthew C. Perry High School teacher, said the school was accredited partly because of its School Improvement Plan and how well it's been implemented.

"Two of the strong points in our school

improvement plan focus on improving reading comprehension and problem-solving techniques," said Cusack. "We were able to show clear numbers on how it was working. We also gave the team a solid plan on how it would improve in the future."

The AdvancED team prescribed several goals that the school must meet in order to improve. M.C. Perry High School is

expected submit a follow-up report in approximately two years statistically detailing the process of the prescribed objectives.

Certification is required every five years the school is in operation. Matthew C. Perry High School is expected to receive an in-depth evaluation of its educational effectiveness early summer.

News Briefs

Community channels deactivated

Beginning Monday, Ground Electronic Maintenance Division-ran channels 18, 21, 22 and 23 will be deactivated. For more information, contact GEMD at 253-3629.

2008 Japanese Culture Fest

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.

2008 Post Office 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

AVIATION ADVENTURES



Strike Fighter Squadron 97 personnel along with Japanese Air Self-Defense Force 201st and 203rd Tactical Fighter Squadron personnel celebrate their successful completion of two Aviation Training Relocation (ATR) detachments at Chitose Air Base. Photo courtesy of VFA-97

Warhawks train with JASDF

Lt. Tommy Kolwicz
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Strike Fighter Squadron 97 built a special relationship with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force in February with the successful completion of two Aviation Training Relocation (ATR) detachments.

The first ATR brought two Warhawk jets 130 miles South of Iwakuni to Nyutabaru Air Base, where Navy Cmdr. James Preston III, VFA-97 executive officer, and Navy Lt. Brian Sawicki, VFA-97 training officer, took on the JASDF F-4 Phantoms stationed there.

"It was a great opportunity for the U.S. and Japan to integrate and learn from each other," Preston said. "Everyone involved was dedicated to the success of the combined training."

Over the course of four flights the two countries faced off in two-on-two engagements and practiced air-to-air tactics both within and beyond visual range.

"It's really great to be able to go up against a fellow pilot from a different country," said Sawicki excited to face a Phantom. "It gives us the chance to really see how we

do in a new environment."

The last week of February took four Warhawk jets, four pilots and eight maintainers to Chitose Air Base. Located in Hokkaido prefecture near Sapporo City, Chitose boasted temperatures in the single digits and more than four feet of snow in two days.

While operating with the Chitose-based JASDF F-15 Eagles it was not uncommon to be taxiing on two to three inches of hard-packed snow and walking on jets in below-freezing temperatures. Two of the ATR flights were cancelled due to complete white out conditions, bringing the field's visibility dangerously low.

"This was more than just a training opportunity," said Navy Cmdr. Russell McCormack, VFA-97 commanding officer. "It was a way to cement already-strong relationships between the U.S. and the Government of Japan."

Spending time with the Warhawks throughout the ATR, Maj. Gen. Shimpei Fukue, the Chitose 2nd Wing commander, expressed his gratitude for the squadron's presence stating, "We hope this is the first of many future training opportunities between the U.S. and Japan."



Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 experience the trek to Mt. Suribachi during a Feb. 26 professional military education trip to Iwo Jima Island. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cornelius Scott

Units take part in Iwo Jima PME

GUNNERY SGT. CORNELIUS SCOTT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Squadron members from Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 took a privileged trip to Iwo Jima for a true moment of reflection Feb. 26.

Many participants were experiencing their first trip to the island that defined the notorious moments of World War II.

The Marines and sailors were given a brief on the island and its locations a few days prior to allow each person to become familiar with various sectors of the island.

This was no ordinary professional military education trip. It was more of an adventure.

The service members were truly inspired during the hike from the flight line to the top of Mt. Suribachi with numerous views of the shore front and its black sands. With plenty landmarks from corroded B-52 to underground tunnels and machine gun nests, it became evident of the actions that took place more than 63 years ago. After reaching the top of Mt. Suribachi, the participants took the opportunity to individually raise their flags. With cameras at the ready, some captured the panoramic scenery from the mountain's highest top.

Corpsmen evacuation 'fog of war' training simulates



Hospital corpsmen assess and assist simulated wounded victims during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise conducted at the paintball range here Feb. 29. The corpsmen were evaluated by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher P. Utz, Marine Aircraft Group 12 aero-medical safety corpsman, who coordinated the course. Photos by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station corpsmen left the serenity of their respective clinics Feb. 29, some hoping to learn to perform under fire and some in the mood for a little action.

Whatever the motive, the seven life savers took their expertise to the Paintball Range here where they realized the painful need to think fast under stress during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise.

The 15-minute course was the conclusion of a three-day class coordinated by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher P. Utz, Marine Aircraft Group 12 aero-medical safety

corpsman, who recently attained an instructors rating from Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune to administer the course. Utz described the course to be an invaluable tool for upping combat readiness.

"The corpsmen do some refresher training in areas like treating open wounds, amputations and post medical care," Utz said. "Right after the classes are over we head out to the paintball range for some practical application."

The course, similar to a Combat Lifesavers Course also administered by corpsmen, required the participating sailors to cross a danger area and provide first-aid to injured combatants on the other side.

Once basic medical treatment was administered, the

sailors then had the task of escorting the wounded back to a safe area, sometimes via fireman's carry then providing further assistance.

"One factor that makes it harder for them is that there isn't any security posted while they're working - they're open to enemy fire," Utz added.

Utz employed pyrotechnics-savvy station ordnance personnel to release smoke bombs and detonate flash-bang grenades. The ordnance persons also assisted in the course by arming themselves with paintball guns under Utz's instruction to "pick off" both the corpsmen and the wounded if they left the opportunity open.

Seaman Apprentice Nathan D. Harper, Robert M. Casey Medical & Dental Clinic hospital corpsman, said he appreciated learning what he called a higher echelon of medical care.

"This kind of course makes you think on your feet," said Harper. "Working at the clinic isn't as fast-paced so this is our only chance to get realistic training in."

Following the completion of the course, the corpsmen were evaluated on their performance by Utz and the training assistants. Utz congratulated the sailors while noting the areas they needed improvement.

"One of the things we noticed is their speed," said Utz. "They have to be able to move quicker than that, but that's what the training is all about."

The corpsmen were given a certificate upon completion of the course. Harper said he will be able to take away more from it than that.

"It was a real adrenaline rush and it makes me remember why I joined the Navy: to save lives," Harper said. "I know that this training helped me. I (can't help feeling) like I want to do the course over again."

Seaman Apprentice Nathan D. Harper, Robert M. Casey Medical & Dental clinic hospital corpsman, provides medical attention to a simulated combat casualty during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise conducted at the paintball range.



VMFA-212 Lancers Cadre

CAPT. PAUL M. WRIGHT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 will enter a cadre status March 31 in a ceremony here.

The event will mark an end to a chapter in the long and storied history of the Lancers.

That history began in 1942 and spans World War II, the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The squadron will be reactivated as a joint strike fighter squadron once the F-35B becomes operational.

Marine Fighting Squadron 212 was commissioned on March 1, 1942, at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, Territory of Hawaii, as a component of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Marine Aircraft Group 24. After less than two months of training in the Grumman F4F-3 Wildcat, and under the command of Lt. Col. Harold "Indian Joe" Bauer, VMF-212 deployed aboard the USS Hornet, Enterprise, and Pensacola bound for the South Pacific. The squadron was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 21 and temporarily based at Efate and Espiritu Santo before engaging in combat at Guadalcanal.

At the end of a 600-mile over-water ferry flight to Guadalcanal, Bauer found the Marine positions and the USS McFarland under attack from Japanese aircraft. Critically low on fuel and alone after radio confusion caused the rest of the flight to land at Henderson Field, the intrepid Bauer engaged the enemy with such skill that he

single-handedly shot down four Japanese Aichi-99 dive bombers before being forced to land. The Marines on Guadalcanal were amazed by this feat as they had never seen its like before. He would later be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day, Oct. 16, 1942.

The squadron continued to operate successfully as a part of the "Cactus Air Force," a nickname for the aircraft at Henderson Field. The Hell Hounds, as VMF-212 was then known, were instrumental in defending the Marines' foothold on Guadalcanal. They provided protection from enemy aircraft, attacked enemy ships, provided close air support to the Marines during ground assaults and were influential in handing the Japanese their first defeat in the Pacific campaign.

Sadly, the Hell Hounds lost their inspirational leader on Nov. 14, 1942, when he was shot down. Bauer's last flight was with another Medal of Honor recipient, Marine Fighting Squadron 121's Joe Foss, who was unable to rescue him from the ocean before night fell. Shortly thereafter, VMF-212 returned to San Diego on the one year anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The squadron had shot down 94 enemy planes, sank two destroyers and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions at Guadalcanal.

The Hell Hounds transitioned to the F4U-1 Corsair and rejoined the campaign in the Pacific, taking the fight to the Japanese at Midway, Rabaul, the Philippines and Okinawa. By this point, VMF-212 was flying the F4U-4 model Corsair and had changed its name to The Musketeers to celebrate the spirit of camaraderie and esprit de corps. After the peace treaty was signed, the squadron was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 14 and remained in Okinawa until February 1946 before returning home to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. VMF-212

finished the war with 132 and one-half kills, countless tonnage sunk, a Presidential Unit Citation with two Bronze Stars, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign streamer with one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars.

With the advent of hostilities in Korea, VMF-212 was ready for action. The squadron was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 12 and deployed to Kimpoo, South Korea, on Sept. 19, 1950. The Musketeers were then transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 33 and flew 17 combat sorties on their first day in country. The squadron changed its name to the Devil Cats and was transferred to Wonsan in response to Chinese attacks on U.N. troops. Over the next two and a half years, the Devil Cats deployed multiple times to carriers and Korean airfields in continuous support of ground combat advances, including providing CAS for the 1st Marine Division's infamous breakout at the Chosin Reservoir.

During the division's march south to Hungnam, the Devil Cats' Corsairs bombed, rocketed and strafed enemy troops, sometimes within yards of the Marines. Once again, VMF-212 had displayed its excellence and dedication to supporting Marines engaged in close battle. The squadron was redesignated Marine Attack Squadron 212 and began trading in its Corsairs for AD-1 Skyraiders.



On July 15, 1953, little more than 11 years since the squadron's creation, Capt. J.T. Perry flew VMA-212's 21,000th combat sortie. By the time the cease fire went into effect, the Devil Cats had flown 18,257 combat sorties in Korea, totaling 39,893 hours, and were awarded a third Bronze Star for the Presidential Unit Citation, a Presidential Unit Citation (Army), a Navy Unit Commendation, a Korean Service Streamer with one Silver Star and four Bronze Stars, and a Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

On April 3, 1955, the squadron returned home on the USS Wasp to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and joined Marine Aircraft Group 13. The squadron transitioned to its first jets when it received the FJ4-B Fury. Shortly thereafter, VMA-212 participated in Operation Cannonball, flying from Kaneohe Bay to Atsugi, Japan, the first time a single-seat Marine or Navy squadron had conducted a trans-Pacific movement completely by air. In September 1960, the squadron left on a Western Pacific deployment to MCAS Iwakuni for the first time and executed training in the Far East until May 1961 when it returned to Hawaii.

In July 1963, VMA-212 was redesignated Marine Fighting Squadron 212 and transitioned to the F-8B Crusader. At this point, the squadron adopted its current name, the Lancers, and began preparing for a Western Pacific cruise aboard the USS Oriskany. In anticipation of upcoming combat in Vietnam, the Lancers upgraded to the ground attack F-8E. Newly redesignated VMF(All-Weather)-212 completed a successful combat tour aboard the USS Oriskany at Yankee Station, flying 1,588 combat sorties totaling 3,018 hours. The squadron received the commandant's Battle E for excellence, and Squadron Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Charles Ludden was named Marine Aviator of the Year for 1965. Ludden also became the second Marine to command a Navy Air Wing when Cmdr. (later vice admiral) James B. Stockdale was shot down over North Vietnam and taken prisoner.

Upon returning to Kaneohe Bay, the Lancers were awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for 1966 as they continued to train for battle. In 1968, the squadron traded in its F-8 Crusaders for the new F-4J Phantom II and was redesignated VMFA-212. In 1971, the squadron received both the Robert M. Hanson Marine Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year Award and the CNO Safety Award. VMFA-212 continued to train hard through 1972, participating in multiple missile and gun shoot exercises and serving primarily as a training squadron to prepare pilots for deployment into the Vietnam War.

When the call to war came again, the Lancers were ready to answer, arriving in Danang, Vietnam, on April 14 to start combat operations with Marine Aircraft Group 15. Though its combat tour was brief, the squadron flew 863 combat sorties totaling 958 hours and expended over 5,000,000 pounds of ordnance. VMFA-212 was the last Marine squadron to operate out of Danang and maintained its hard-fought reputation for combat excellence during its time in theater. At the conclusion of the Lancer's second combat tour in Vietnam, the squadron had received a Bronze Star for the Navy Unit Commendation, the Vietnam Service Streamer with two Bronze Stars and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer.

The squadron continued its tradition of excellence while training at Kaneohe Bay and was awarded the CNO Safety Award, the Robert M. Hanson Award and a Meritorious Unit Citation in 1986. The Lancers made its last Phantom Western Pacific deployment in 1987 before transitioning to the F/A-18C Hornet in 1988. VMFA-212 had accumulated over 23,000 mishap-free hours in the Phantom.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, VMFA-212 answered the call to war again, deploying to the Middle East and flying combat air patrols in support of Operation Desert Shield. The Lancers flew some of the first air missions of Desert Storm and continued

to support the drive north by flying CAS, deep air strikes, suppression of enemy air defense, fighter escort and armed reconnaissance missions. By the time the cease fire was declared, VMFA-212 had flown 746 combat sorties totaling 1,300 hours and expended 1,796,500 pounds of ordnance on Iraqi targets. The Lancers earned a Bronze Star for the Navy Unit Commendation and the Southwest Asia Service Streamer.

In August 1993, the Lancers said farewell to Kaneohe Bay for another Western Pacific deployment before relocating to MCAS El Toro. At the completion of yet another Western Pacific deployment in 1995, the squadron relocated once again to MCAS Miramar. VMFA-212 relocated one final time to MCAS Iwakuni in August 1996 to become the Marine Corps' only permanently forward-deployed Hornet squadron.

Once again part of MAG-12, the Ready Group, the Lancers trained continuously to be ready for future threats to the security of the United States. From its Japanese home base of Iwakuni, VMFA-212 deployed several times each year throughout the Pacific theater to places such as Okinawa, South Korea, Thailand, Guam, Australia and the Philippines. The squadron earned a CNO Safety Award in 1996 and its second Bronze Star for the Meritorious Unit Citation Streamer.

The Lancers responded rapidly to the terrorist attacks of September 11, flying combat air patrol missions over Guam three days after the attacks as part of Operation Noble Eagle. Shortly thereafter, VMFA-212 was joined by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron(All-Weather) 332 and deployed a composite squadron to Kuwait in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch. The Moonlancers, as this composite squadron was known, displayed excellence in combat, once again filling the shoes of those great aviators gone before. VMFA-212 earned a third Bronze Star for the Navy Unit Commendation Streamer, two Bronze Stars for the Southwest Asia Service Streamer, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Streamer and the Global War on Terrorism Service Streamer for its performance during this period.

The Lancers have maintained operational readiness over the last decade by flying thousands of hours of training sorties in both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. The squadron has participated in multiple missile shoots and expended millions of pounds of ordnance in support of this training. VMFA-212 has deployed multiple times each year and participated in U.S. and multinational exercises on a regular basis, honing its readiness to fight the next battle, whenever and wherever the need may arise.

Today's Lancers continue the tradition of excellence of VMFA-212 that was instilled by Bauer when he trained the first Hell Hounds to meet the Japanese threat in March 1942. The Marines' fighting spirit is just as strong, and their readiness to close with and destroy the enemy is just as keen as those sun-bleached maintainers, ordnance men and pilots who cut their teeth at Henderson Field on Guadalcanal.

As the sun sets on this 66-year chapter in the history of the squadron, the Marines of VMFA-212 proudly call themselves Lancers and look to the future when the squadron will once again prove its dominance of the skies in the Marine Corps' newest fighter-attack airplane, the F-35B.



VMFA-212's historical timeline

1942	1946	1950	1953	1955	1960	1963	1965	1966	1968	1971	1972	1986	1988	1990	1996	2008
MARCH 1, 1942: Marine Fighting Squadron 212, "The Hell Hounds" is commissioned at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, Territory of Hawaii, as a component of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Marine Aircraft Group 24.	FEBRUARY 1946: VMF-212, "The Musketeers" returns to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. after serving in the Pacific. The squadron redeploys with 132 and one-half kills, a Presidential Unit Citation with two Bronze Stars, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign streamer with one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars.	SEPT. 19, 1950: With the advent of hostilities in Korea, VMF-212 is transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 12 and deployed to Kimpoo, South Korea to get ready for action. The squadron also changes its name to the "Devil Cats."	JULY 15, 1953: Capt. J.T. Perry flies VMA-212's 21,000th combat sortie.	APRIL 3, 1955: VMF-212 returns home on the USS Wasp to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and join Marine Aircraft Group 13. The squadron also transitions to its first jets receiving FJ4-B Furies.	SEPTEMBER 1960: The squadron sets out for MCAS Iwakuni for the first time to execute training in the Far East.	JULY 1963: VMA-212 is redesignated Marine Fighting Squadron 212 and transitioned to the F-8B Crusader. The squadron also adopts the current name, the Lancers, and begin preparing for a Western Pacific cruise aboard the USS Oriskany.	1965: Lt. Col. Charles Ludden is named Marine Aviator of the Year for 1965.	1966: Lancers are awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for 1966 as they continue to train for battle.	1968: The squadron trades in its F-8 Crusaders for the new F-4J Phantom II and is redesignated VMFA-212.	1971: The squadron receives both the Robert M. Hanson Marine Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year Award and the CNO Safety Award.	APRIL 14, 1972: The Lancers answer the call to war again, arriving in Danang, Vietnam, to start combat operations with Marine Aircraft Group 15. The squadron flies 863 combat sorties totalling 958 hours and expend over 5,000,000 pounds of ordnance.	1986: The squadron is awarded the CNO Safety Award, the Robert M. Hanson Award and a Meritorious Unit Citation in 1986.	1988: The Lancers transition to the F/A-18C Hornet and accumulate over 23,000 mishap-free hours in the Phantom.	1990: The Lancers deploy to the Middle East and fly combat air patrols in support of Operation Desert Shield.	AUGUST 1996: The Lancers relocate to MCAS Iwakuni and become the only permanently forward-deployed Hornet squadron.	MARCH 31, 2008: VMFA-212 will enter a cadre status.

AROUND THE CORPS



(Above & Below) Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group conducted joint training with an Air Force Pavehawk helicopter and crew in the Central Training Area Feb. 21. The Air Force crew helped the SOTG Marines qualify to oversee helicopter rope suspension techniques training and operations using the aircraft. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan Wicks



Air Force crew helps Marine special operations instructors expand capabilities

LANCE CPL. RYAN WICKS
MCB CAMP BUTLER

CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, Japan (Feb. 29, 2008) — Marine Helicopter Rope Suspension Techniques instructors joined forces with Air Force personnel Feb. 21 to expand the training capabilities of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Two Air Force MH-60 Pavehawk helicopter pilots and a crew chief with the 33rd Rescue Squadron, 18th Operations Group, provided HRST instructors with III MEF's Special Operations Training Group their first opportunity to qualify in fast-roping and rappelling from a Pavehawk helicopter.

The purpose of the training was to qualify the instructors on a Pavehawk helicopter and to hone their skills, so they could properly train Marines interested in HRST certification.

"It wasn't much different training with the MH-60s," said Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Dodd an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection course instructor

with SOTG. "The only change was that the ropes were rigged slightly different."

The training began with instructors preparing their harnesses and dressing appropriately, including gloves and helmets. Then Sgt. Kevin Parish, an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection instructor with SOTG, called in the coordinates to the helicopter.

Once the helicopter arrived, the Marines began preparations by tying, rigging and inspecting their ropes prior to take off.

Once they were up in the air, the Marines fast-roped and rappelled onto an open field. They repeated this process several times.

The Marines finished their training in combat town where they fast-roped onto buildings, simulating the urban warfare environment.

"Fast-roping and rappelling are both very versatile helicopter insertion maneuvers," Parish said. "These techniques are practical for fast insertions, rescue missions and supply operations in urban areas, jungles, ships and amphibious places."

IA takes lead in classroom clean-up



Iraqi Army soldiers work together getting on a roof to fix windows and clear debris from a school in Al Tuzliyah, Iraq, Friday. Iraqi Army soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, partnered with the Marines and sailors of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, renovated the entire school from top to bottom to provide the children with a school they could be proud of. Photo by Cpl. Billy Hall

CPL. BILLY HALL
1ST MARINE DIVISION

AL QA'IM, Iraq (Feb. 29, 2008) — Broken glass, debris and piled-up desks gave the grounds a look of abandonment. The children of Al Tuzliyah call this place maddrasa, or school.

Iraqi Army soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, partnered with the Marines and sailors of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, arrived at the school grounds with an abundance of tools and supplies. The joint effort had one goal: to provide the children with a school they could be proud of.

The school needs a lot of work, but the children deserve it, said an Iraqi Army soldier who wished to be not named.

The school clean-up kicked off with Iraqi Army soldiers and Marines working side by side, clearing broken windows and removing the dirt and debris from each classroom. New windows were unloaded and cut to size. Countless sandbags were filled with dirt scattered about the school. Blackboards were placed at the head of every classroom.

Although the children had the day off, the community saw their Iraqi Army show up in droves to help renovate their local school.

"The object is to allow the (Iraqi Army) and other (Iraqi Security Forces) to have the op-

portunity to redirect their efforts before their people," said Capt. T.J. Owens, the company commander of Company I. "(The Iraqis) need to see (the IA) doing the things they, to this point in (Operation Iraqi Freedom), attributed to American forces."

Iraqi Security Forces are gaining the initiative to take on similar community projects, but they often lack the resources to do so.

"At times this means setting a project up and logistically supporting it in order to allow them the opportunity to conduct it," said Owens. "No matter how it is done, at the end of the day, the ISF should be in the lead as we conduct operations."

As the buzz of power tools and the sound of swept glass came to a calm, the schoolmaster strolled through the classrooms with his hands at the small of his back and a smile across his face that spoke a thousand words.

Company I presented the schoolmaster with boxes of school supplies and soccer balls when the day of renovations was complete.

Since the children were out of school for the day, Company I drove around the village to personally deliver school supplies, toys and soccer balls to the families.

"I do feel that (the IA) is able to do projects like this on their own," said Owens. "We have attempted to involve the ISF in all that we do. This allows them to get a snap shot of what American service members value: our people.

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.

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS is now meeting through May at Yujo Hall every first and third Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, call 253-2885.

MOPS needs help

The newly organized program is still in need of helpers for our MOPPETS children's program. There is a small commitment of only six meetings: two hours twice a month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., the first and third Thursdays through May. If you can be a helper for our teachers, please call 253-2990 or 253-2884.

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. Child-care will be arranged upon seat reservation.

Communication skills workshop

Spouses are invited to Talbot's Dining March 14, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Spouses who attend the workshop will be empowered and motivated to positively contribute to their personal and family life as well as to the overall Marine Corps community. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Child care and lunch will be provided. For registration and

questions please call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754.

Dental Clinic working hours

Mondays and Wednesdays: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 7 a.m. - noon
For after hours dental emergencies, call 253-3331.

St. Patrick's Day Meal

March 17, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at both mess halls. Menu: classic fish and chips, corned beef and cabbage, Irish beef stew, beer-batter fish fillets, Irish potato casserole, Irish heritage cabbage, simmered green beans, spicy corn bread, Irish soda bread, Irish cream bundt cake, chocolate cookies, cherry pie. Special beverages: green grog, Somewhere Over the Rainbow. Everyone aboard MCAS Iwakuni is welcome. Cost for com-

muted rations, family members and civilians is \$3.85. For more information, call 253-6740.

Overseas Cost of Living Allowance Survey

COLA is a supplement designed to equalize purchasing power between active duty members overseas and their CONUS-based counterparts. The Living Pattern Survey is one of the surveys that are used to determine COLA. During March, accompanied service members and their spouses are encouraged to fill out the survey at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/japan/. For more information, please contact the Station Inspector's Office at 253-3428/5314/3033.

Investigation information

The Provost Marshal's Office is looking for information concerning an assault that occurred between Building 360 (Facilities) and Building 365 (JMSDF headquarters) between 2 and 3 a.m. March 1. If you have any information concerning this crime, please contact PMO at 253-3303. To report the crime anonymously, call 253-3333.

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

Terra Nova

Students will be taking the Terra Nova Test during the week of March 10. This is a standardized test given to all third through sixth graders at Matthew C. Perry Elementary. As parents, here are some hints to help ensure your child's success.

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Have a brain power breakfast.
- Be sure your child arrives to school on time. (Students will not be allowed to go to class as to not interrupt their fellow students.)

A Night in Italy

The Parent Teacher Organization is proud to present a spaghetti dinner fund raiser March 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria with spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. Admission is \$9 per adult and \$6 per child. Tickets are on sale now. E-mail gina.friedhoff@pac.dodea.edu for ticket information or to volunteer.

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 - 14
Terra Nova

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

March 18
General PTO meeting in the library at 2:40 p.m.

March 18
Parent Child Book Club

March 24 - 28
Spring Book Fair

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1994 Toyota Windom

Asking for \$2,500, JCI until July 2009. 2.5-L V6, 4-speed auto w/OD, CD player with subwoofer, keyless, newer brakes/rotors/calipers, new starter, newer tires on 17" rims. For more information, call 090-1708-7965 (cell) or e-mail at stormzusc@softbank.ne.jp.

1992 Nissan Cefiro

Asking for \$1,100, JCI until September 2008. 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" 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

Concert ticket for sale – Celine Dion

Two outstanding tickets to Celine Dion's sold out concert at the Osaka Dome, March 11 at 7 p.m. These tickets are in the top price level and were purchased during a pre-sale lottery. Spouse's TAD forces sale. All I'm looking for is face-value: \$285 for the pair. For more information, call 253-2850 (home).

Kawashimo Yochien uniform for sale

My daughter has just finished this school year at Kawashimo Yochien, and I have her winter uniform and hat (great condition) along with the winter smock, yellow hat and summer hat. The next school year starts this April. I am selling all three for \$25. For more information, call 253-2920 (home).

Piano for sale

Beautiful polished ebony Pearl River baby grand piano. The Model GP-142 is a "baby grand" in size only. Less than 5 years young. It has a rich, warm tone typically found in much larger grand pianos. The small Pearl River, with the concepts brought by fine European craftsmen, will satisfy the most demanding pianists. Asking \$8,000 or best offer. You'll not find another one this new anywhere close to this price. For more information, call 253-4719 (work) or 253-2719 (home).

Bedroom chest and dresser wanted

Bedroom chest of drawers and dresser in good condition, either free or for a reasonable price. Pictures and price can be e-mailed to me or I can come by in person to look. Call 253-2920 (home).

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.

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY, March 10, 2008

Cream of broccoli soup, french onion soup, baked chicken and rice, yakiniku (steak and vegetables), steamed rice, lyonnaise green beans, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cream pie, whipped topping, banana cake with butter cream frosting, specialty bar: pasta

TUESDAY, March 11, 2008

Minestrone soup, tomato soup, pork ham roast, shrimp scampi, potatoes au gratin, steamed rice, glazed carrots, broccoli combo, cheese biscuits, brownies, spice cake with butter cream frosting, coconut cream pie, specialty bar: tacos

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2008

Chicken and rice soup, cream of broccoli, chili mac, grilled cheese, tempura fried fish, macaroni and cheese, oven glo potatoes, broccoli polonaise, peas and mushrooms, dinner rolls, chocolate drop cookies, florida lemon cake, lemon butter cream frosting, blueberry pie, specialty bar: barbecue

THURSDAY, March 13, 2008

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, apple-glazed corn beef, teriyaki chicken, rissole potatoes, noodles jefferson, succotash, fried cabbage, hot mustard sauce, chicken gravy, corn bread, pecan brownies, pineapple upside-down cake, chocolate cream pie, specialty bar: deli

FRIDAY, March 14, 2008

Vegetable soup, beef noodle soup, beef cordon bleu, lemon baked fish, parsley butter potatoes, steamed rice, steamed carrots, herbed broccoli, dinner rolls, ginger molasses cookies, german chocolate cake, coconut pecan frosting, pumpkin pie, specialty bar: hotdogs and polish sausage

Sakura Theater

Friday, March 7

7 p.m. First Sunday (PG-13)

Premiere

10 p.m. The Great Debaters (PG-13)

Premiere

Saturday, March 8

1 p.m. The Water Horse (PG)

4 p.m. First Sunday (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Great Debaters (PG-13)

10 p.m. Juno (PG-13)

Premiere

Sunday, March 9

1 p.m. First Sunday (PG-13)

4 p.m. The Great Debaters (PG-13)

7 p.m. Juno (PG-13)

Monday, March 10

7 p.m. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)

Tuesday, March 11

7 p.m. Juno (R)

Free popcorn for females

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.

U.S., JMSDF service members compete in annual Ekiden

CPL. ANDREW C. MILNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ekiden, or long distance relay, is a traditional Japanese winter sporting event dating back to 1917. The first race was between Tokyo and Kyoto to celebrate the move of Japan's capitol city to its current location.

Now Ekidens are held throughout Japan and other countries around the world, and even here aboard the air station. This year the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force invited U.S. service members to join in healthy competition here Feb. 29.

The seven Japanese teams and one U.S. team were each made up of 17 competitors. Service members from units aboard the air station made up the American group.

Each team's final runner was its squadron's respective commanding officer.

Capt. Satoru Shoji, JMSDF Fleet Air Wing 31 chief of staff for Iwakuni, said he was glad for the opportunity to share their tradition.

"This is a very great event. Especially [with] U.S. Marine Corps personnel and JMSDF personnel running together," Shoji said. "This kind of Japanese tradition, the Ekiden relay race, is a big winter sports event. So this is a good opportunity for U.S. personnel to understand Japanese tradition."

As each team member ran their 200-meter stretch of road near station harbor operations, teammates and spectators stood through the cloudy and cold weather conditions. Many cheers of encouragement could be heard along the stretch of roadway leading to the finish line.

Lance Cpl. Shapiro Kinghorn, a U.S. team member, said she was honored to be a part of the event, but expected more out of her leg of the race.

"I thought I was going to get pretty winded, but I didn't," said Kinghorn. "It was pretty easy."

Shapiro Kinghorn said she had her own method of staying competitive.

"I kept the pace and I could still see that female in front of me," she said.

"Keep the target in front of you, some-

"This kind of Japanese tradition, the Ekiden relay race, is a big winter sports event. So this is a good opportunity for U.S. personnel to understand Japanese tradition."



Capt. Yuuichiro Sasami, JMSDF Air Rescue Squadron 71 commanding officer, crosses the finish line at the annual Ekiden race Feb. 29, earning his team the No. 1 title for the intercultural event. Photos by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner

thing you might want to pass, and that will keep you going."

Her method may have helped her, though she said one part of the run still gave her trouble.

"That long stretch though, oh my goodness," she said remembering the last few yards of her leg.

This year was the second time for Americans to participate in the annual event, but it was the first for station commanding officer, Col. Michael O'Halloran, who sprinted for a chance at fifth place.

He missed it by mere inches, but later said it's more about improving the relationship between the two armed

services.

"We interact with the JMSDF on a whole lot of levels," said O'Halloran. "For the most part it's professionally. We provide air traffic control for them, we provide crash fire rescue, fuel, weather service and things like that."

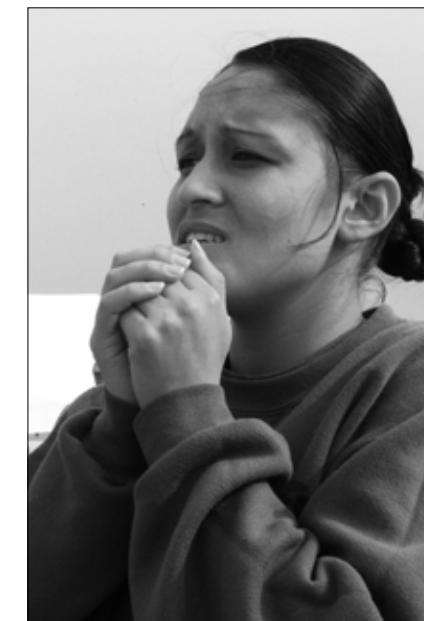
"But part of a professional relationship is also things away from the flight line ... and more social activities," he added. "All of it leads up to stronger bonds between the two of us. So this is a great example of really the JMSDF out reaching to us, asking us to participate and to have fun with them today."

In the end, legs were tired but friendships were strengthened, and O'Halloran said he is glad for the time he spent with the JMSDF.

"We're so lucky to have this organization on this base. They couldn't be better hosts as a host nation. They couldn't be nicer people to interact with professionally, to hangout with socially."



Petty Officer 2nd Class David Gibson quickly passes his teams sash to a fellow U.S. teammate as they try to make up time for their in the 2008 Ekiden relay race.



Lance Cpl. Aisha Shapiro Kinghorn watches with concern as her fellow teammates sprint toward the finish line in the Iwakuni Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force's 2008 Ekiden relay race.

Fast Facts: Ekiden

Ekiden, or long distance relay, is a traditional Japanese winter sporting event dating back to 1917. The first race was between Tokyo and Kyoto to celebrate the move of Japan's capitol city to its current location.

Now Ekidens are held throughout Japan and other countries around the world, and even here aboard the air station.

—Capt. Satoru Shoji
JMSDF Fleet Fleet Air Wing 31 chief of staff

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.