

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Friday, April 4, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Ceremony marks Lancers' transition to cadre status

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A ceremony on the flight line outside Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212's hangar officially marked the Lancers' transition into cadre status Monday.

1st Marine Air Wing and tenant commanders, family members and a group of local media gathered to witness the historic event, which featured the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force band as well as a formation of more than 150 Lancers.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Schmidle Jr., commander of the 1st MAW, explained that although 12 years of service as the only permanently forward-deployed F/A-18 Hornet squadron here was coming to a close, he looked forward to the day when the Lancers would once again stand up as a F-35B joint strike fighter squadron.

"We're going to roll up the flag today and (VMFA-212) is going to go into that cadre status for a while, but the squadron – the spirit and tradition of this organization – will come back," said Schmidle.



(From left) Sgt. Maj. Ricky Stroud and Lt. Col. Robert Boyles, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 senior enlisted advisor and commanding officer, case the Lancer colors during a ceremony marking the squadron's transition into cadre status on the flight line March 31. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

SEE CADRE ON PAGE 3

Foal Eagle provides unique training environment



An explosive ordnance technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 conducts bi-lateral training with Republic of Korea service members during exercise Foal Eagle in March. The exercise gave units and squadrons an opportunity to complete various training evolutions alongside ROK service members. Photo courtesy of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

Facilities outlines construction around MCAS Iwakuni

LT. JOE DUNAWAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Driving around the air station, it's impossible not to notice all of the ongoing construction. Some of it is maintenance work like painting and refurbishing barracks and base beautification.

Some of it is replacing old, dilapidated facilities like MiG Alley and the Family Services Center. There is also a large amount of construction that has begun in direct support of the air station's operational mission.

If you have been around Iwakuni for a little while, you probably know about the Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project (IRRP) that is reclaiming new land and providing a new runway one kilometer east of the existing one.

This will change the existing flight patterns and eliminate some of the obstacles pilots now face,

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GIVING OUR VERY BEST...

Chaplain John Cometa
STATION CHAPLAIN



Abraham Lincoln once said, "I do the very best I know how; the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing my best to the very end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, then a legion of angels swearing I was right will make no difference."

The Scriptures says, "Whatsoever you do, do it wholeheartedly, as to the Lord..." Colossians 3:23. This simply means that whatever we do, we put our whole heart in it and give our very best. I received an email from my previous command with a subject "death of a shipmate." One of our corpsmen, who was deployed with Expeditionary Medical Facility Portsmouth in Kuwait where I served as command

chaplain for six months was ambushed in Afghanistan. As I reflect on his death, I think of my own mortality. My life is like a mist that appears for a while and then vanishes (James 4:14). George Sweeting wrote, "The truth is we do not know when our lives will come to an end. The only preparation for tomorrow is the right use of today."

As United States Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, we continue to uphold the high standards on this command. I once asked myself, if I have to leave this world, I wonder what others will say at my funeral. Without doubt, how I live and do today influences those around me either positively or negatively and will leave my legacy.

A retired Army general once said, "There is no greater vocation or profession than serving in the defense of our nation. Not just any nation, but a nation that is prepared to give dignity to man that God intended - our nation. No greater honor can be given to any man than the privilege of serving the cause of freedom."

May God continue to instill in our hearts our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Whether we like it or not, we are going to die someday. As we are going die someday, why not die for the highest and the best ~ for God and for our country. (Pro Deo et Patria).

Attorney-Client Privilege

Capt. Jason M. Foscolo
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OIC

One of the many excellent benefits we get as service members are the free legal services provided here at the Legal Assistance Office in the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Law Center.

At the Legal Assistance Office, it is our responsibility to aid Air Station personnel with their personal legal issues. As I repeatedly tell every client that enters my office, once my door closes, we enter the realm of the attorney client privilege. Whether your pay grade is E-1 or O-9, Legal Assistance attorneys cannot discuss what we talk about with our clients even if ordered

to do so by superior military authority. We will not even disclose to anyone whether or not you came in to seek legal assistance without your expressed consent.

Attorney-client privilege is a legal doctrine that ensures all communications between a client and his or her attorney are kept confidential. The privilege encourages free and open dialogue between the client and the attorney with the purpose of increasing the attorney's ability to give the best legal advice possible to his or her client.

Military attorneys are real attorneys,

and the rules for their Military Occupational Specialty require that they be admitted to practice by a State Bar. The confidentiality privilege applies to all military attorneys through the ethics rule for his or her state.

Violations of the privilege, or any other type of malpractice for that matter, are treated very seriously by state bar association professional ethics enforcement authorities. Punishments may range from letters of reprimand

"We are the only place you can go to get legal advice for hundreds of miles in any direction. We take that obligation very seriously."

-Capt. Jason M. Foscolo
Legal Assistance Officer-in-Charge

on up to revocation of one's license to practice law.

The only exceptions to the privilege are communications made to an attorney that convey the intent to cause physical harm to somebody. Under that limited circumstance, an attorney is obligated to take reasonable steps to protect the intended target. The attorney is still obligated to reveal only the minimum of privileged information necessary to protect that person from harm.

You are under no obligation to share what we discuss with anyone in your chain of command. While it may

sometimes benefit you to keep your chain of command informed about the issues you are dealing with, no one can compel you to reveal the things you discuss with your attorney. Whether or not to inform your chain of command about your issue is something to discuss with your Legal Assistance attorney. The decision is made entirely by the client.

Every appointment I have with a client ends the same way. I always tell the client that if I happen to bump into him or her at the Commissary or the PX, I will ignore the client unless the client initiates contact with me. I do not do this to be rude. I do it to disguise even the mere fact of representation in order to protect the client's

privacy. Iwakuni is a very small place, and I prefer it when the client makes the choice to come on over and talk to the guy everyone knows is the Legal Assistance attorney.

I safeguard your privacy in this way because we at the Legal Assistance Office want you to understand that any information you tell us will be held in the strictest confidence.

We are the only place you can go to get legal advice for hundreds of miles in any direction. We take that obligation very seriously. Maintaining your confidentiality is our highest priority.

"Metal Boot Camp" — An award winning live 1-hour radio theme program that features the 'harder edge' of rock music. It is hosted by fictional characters associated with boot camp. Mondays – Fridays, 1 – 2 p.m. except holidays, on Power 1575.



FACILITIES FROM PAGE 1

allowing for safer operations and reducing the jet noise in town.

A second initiative that is ongoing is implementation of the Alliance Transformation and Realignment Agreement (ATARA) through the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI).

ATARA drives the ongoing redistribution of American forces throughout Hawaii, Guam, and Japan. The net result for Iwakuni will be a doubling of MCAS Iwakuni's population by the planned completion date of 2014.

This growth is a result of new units coming to the air station, primarily Carrier Air Wing 5 (CVW 5), currently stationed at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 (VMGR-152), currently stationed at MCAS Futenma.

The total population of MCAS Iwakuni will grow from approximately 5,400 people to approximately 10,400 people, including active duty, civilians, and family members.

In order to support these new units and all of these new people, the air station is working with the Government of Japan (GoJ) and U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) to plan, design and build a long list of new facilities.

This list includes everything from new hangars and aircraft maintenance buildings, to public works upgrades such as roads and water pipes, and community support areas such as new family housing and school buildings. A lot of work has gone into the planning and prioritizing of these projects, but that work is far from over. It is important to note that negotiations are still ongoing with GoJ and USFJ, and most of the planned facilities still need to be designed.

One of the key areas currently being studied is the future family housing area. Because of the acreage required, it is necessary that this new area be located off of the main base.

The exact location and details of this satellite housing area are still under negotiation.

Regardless of where it ends up, there is a lot of planning and design work that must get done.

The station's leadership wants to solicit community input as the plans are developed for this area. The initial step will be formation of a Stakeholders Group - this group will guide development of the survey questions for the firm who will conduct the survey. The Stakeholders Group will be assembled from volunteers and will be representative of the community.

It will include military, civilian, families, couples without kids, and all age groups and pay grades. Within the next few weeks, be on the lookout for requests for volunteers.

Following questionnaire development, the survey will be conducted to give station personnel a chance to voice opinions. Randomly selected personnel will be asked to participate in the survey. However, anyone interested will have the opportunity to complete the Web site survey. If asked to be a respondent, please take the time to give feedback; your answers will shape the future of MCAS Iwakuni's new 1,100-unit housing community. Randomly selected participants will be notified by regular mail and e-mail.

If you plan to be here for several years, or get an opportunity to come back in the future, you will definitely see a dramatic change to the base as we make progress toward the ultimate goal.

This is truly an exciting time to be a part of this community. Stay tuned to the various sources of information for opportunities to get involved, and have an impact in the future of MCAS Iwakuni.

News Briefs

CATV seeks volunteers

The community access television system, which operates channels 18, 22 and 23, is currently searching for anyone over the age of 18 to volunteer their time to help keep programming running. Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed at 253-5631.

Asian Pacific American Heritage

May is recognized as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Special Emphasis Program is searching for individuals who would like to volunteer with the Asian Pacific American planning committee being formed. Volunteers will be asked to assist in planning events aboard the air station in honor of the month. If interested, call Master Sgt. Derrick Hart at 253-5530.

2008 Post Office Closures

May 5: Closed Friendship Day
May 26: Closed Memorial Day
July 4: Closed Independence Day
Sept. 1: Closed Labor Day
Oct. 13: Closed Columbus Day

CADRE FROM PAGE 1

"What's made 212 such a great squadron, the tradition and commitment you all had to doing things and doing them right, is going to transition," he added.

Lancer Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Robert "Knob" Boyles, who earlier in the ceremony received a Meritorious Service Medal for leading the squadron since May 2007, thanked his Marines for their tireless service enabling VMFA-212 to successfully complete its mission during numerous deployments in the Far East theater.

"Today before you is a squadron that in the last year was deployed to Yecheon (Korea), deployed to two sites in Australia, a (detachment) to Korea, a deployment to Okinawa, a deployment to Korat, Thailand, and a final (transpacific deployment) of 13 aircraft to various locations in the states," Boyles told attendees.

"I tell these Marines on the line today some-

thing they can hang their hat on ... they've never stranded a single aircraft moving all those places —not once," he added. "Every time we went there, they accomplished the mission. That is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Marines standing in formation today."

During most of his speech a chilly rain fell on the flight line, adding a dreary touch to the proceedings. But as Boyles and Sgt. Maj. Ricky Stroud, VMFA-212 senior enlisted advisor, ceremoniously rolled and cased the colors, the drizzle ceased and sun broke through, as if to symbolize a bright future for the squadron and Marines who will always retain the Lancers' esprit de corps.

"Having been in the squadron for a year and deployed on numerous deployments with the Lancers, it's a bittersweet day," said Stroud.

"My time with the Lancers will be (remembered) by the camaraderie," he added. "I will tell you that we're definitely a family. ... In the Lancer community, you're proud to say you're a Lancer."

"I will tell you that we're definitely a family. ... In the Lancer community, you're proud to say you're a Lancer."

— Sgt. Maj. Ricky Stroud
VMFA-212 sergeant major

VMFA-212 members go out with a run



Sgt. Major Ricky Stroud, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 sergeant major (left), and Lt. Col. Robert Boyles, VMFA-212 commanding officer, lead squadron members in a run following the unit's 212-mile relay race on the station's North side here March 28. The event marked the last time the unit ran together prior to assuming cadre status April 1. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH ONLINE

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

PCS for success

Service members encouraged to plan ahead

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

What are you going to do with all of your stuff? When are you going to leave? What is the base and surrounding area going to be like?

Military moves can be both exciting and stressful. But service members shouldn't feel overwhelmed. By planning ahead and taking your permanent change of station (PCS) one step at a time, one can be on the way to a smooth transition to life in a new locale.

Of all the station's resources, Marine and Family Services (253-6161), located on the first floor of Building 411, is probably as close as it comes to a one-stop spot. The friendly staff there can give patrons just about everything needed to research your new duty station.

One of the most important steps to getting the information needed is to register for the M&FS "PCS for Success" class. The class is offered for both single and accompanied service members, who may attend the class up to six months prior to their rotation tour date.

"The best thing you can do is sign up for and attend PCS for Success," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bryan T. Ledrew, Installation Personnel Administration Center deputy director. "The class has everything you need to know for a successful PCS. Go to that and you're good to go."

Because the summer is the peak season for travel, Ledrew recommends that service members, especially those with families, get a jumpstart on their PCS travel plans.

"You want to start preparing at least 90 days out," Ledrew said, adding that four to five months before is even better.

After service members attend the PCS for Success class, they need to register for an IPAC Orders mass interview class, which is held on the first and third Wednesday of every month. During the interview, service members will begin working out the details of their PCS with assistance from IPAC staff.

"Single (service members) are really easy," Ledrew said about making travel plans and solidifying orders for unaccompanied service members.

"Families of five or six with a pet are a little bit more difficult."

Ledrew said getting seats on the daily flight leaving Hiroshima and restrictions on airline pet travel are two of the challenges of planning a PCS for a larger family. Nevertheless, Ledrew said he's able to get families the travel date they request 95 percent of the time.

"There's fewer options with a larger family," Ledrew said, adding that many families want to leave immediately after school lets out, which isn't always possible. "The best thing to do is plan ahead and be flexible."

"We'll do our best to accommodate you," Ledrew added.

Once service members have their orders, planning their household goods shipment is the next step in a successful PCS.

The Travel Management Office (253-3172), located next to the station bowling center can transport service members' goods to their new duty station before they get there.

Once again, timeliness is the key factor, according to Sgt. Sara Bravo, TMO Passenger Travel noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"Service members should come by as soon as they get their orders," Bravo said, adding that for a household

goods shipment, residents need to bring in seven copies of their orders.

Bravo said there are many travel and goods shipment options depending upon what you have and where you're going. She assured service members that TMO will do its best to find the most convenient option.

After stopping by TMO, accompanied service members living on base should drop by Family Housing (253-5541), located adjacent to the southside messhall. The staff there will coordinate the residents' housing move with their household goods shipment date.

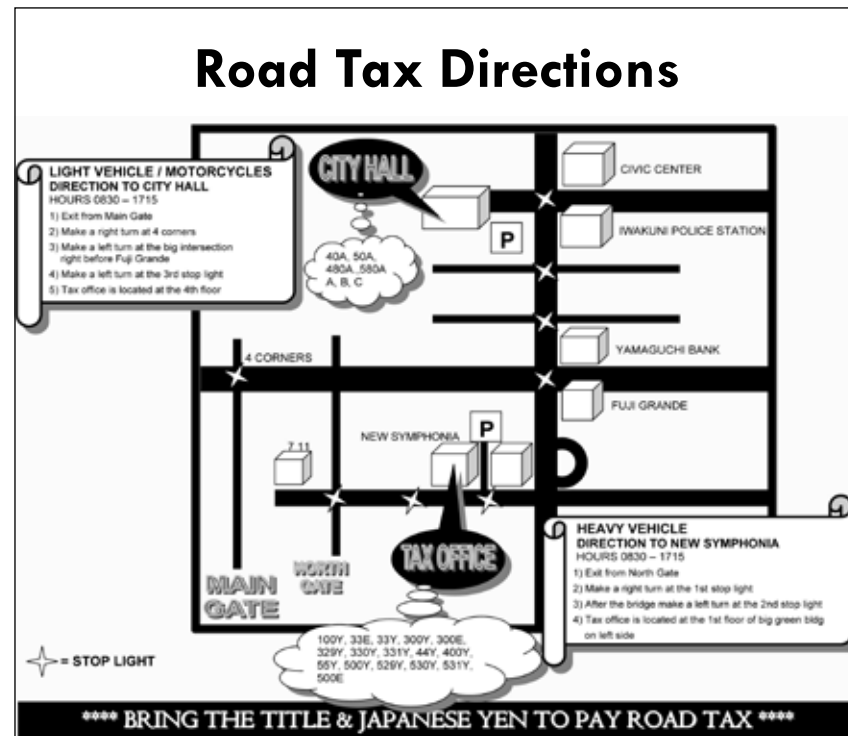
"A lot of people think (TMO and housing) are connected," said Bruce L. Gorst, station Family Housing director. "We work together, but just because you went there, doesn't mean we know what dates you're leaving. Once you go to TMO, please stop by and see us so we can accommodate you."

Gorst added that service members can also set up their final housing inspection, arrange for a temporary furniture

delivery and, if necessary, their move to a temporary living facility during their visit to the housing office.

The last step in the PCS process is for service members to check out through their unit's S-1 shop, which usually only takes a few days.

By planning early and ensuring you follow the necessary steps, you'll be on your way to a successful PCS.



JROTC cadets aim for top spot in Far East Championship



Cadets stand in formation waiting for the first place award in the drill portion of the 2008 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Far East Championship held at IronWorks Gym Tuesday. Check out next week's issue of the Iwakuni Approach for full coverage and a list of winning schools. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



Maj. Jason P. Smith, convoy commander and amphibious assault officer, takes time away from convoy operations to interact and play with some Liberian children during a convoy to deliver humanitarian supplies throughout the city of Monrovia, Liberia for the Western Africa Training Cruise 08. The exercise, held March 17 to April 5, is in concert with the ongoing African Partnership Station deployment with a focus on the delivery of humanitarian assistance supplies to various clinics and schools in Monrovia, Liberia from a sea-based command. Photo by Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis

Marines deliver aid to Liberians

4th LSB distributes laughs, humanitarian supplies throughout Monrovia

"For the young Marine, it's important for them to understand that the Marine Corps is more than just kicking down doors — we can actually help people in other ways."

— Maj. Jason Smith
Convoy commander, 4th Landing Support Battalion

Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis
MARINE FORCES EUROPE

MONROVIA, Liberia (March 27, 2008) — The streets were lined with hundreds of smiling faces and thumbs-up signs.

Happy shouts of "Marines!" were directed toward a humanitarian assistance convoy of two 7-ton trucks and several humvees laden with thousands of dollars worth of hospital and school supplies making their way slowly through the city of Monrovia, Liberia.

Marines from 4th Landing Support Battalion completed the first of two days of convoy operations March 25 delivering humanitarian assistance supplies throughout Monrovia as part of the exercise West African Training Cruise 2008 being held March 17 to April 5.

The exercise is in conjunction with the ongoing African Partnership Station deployment and has a focus on the delivery of humanitarian assistance supplies to various clinics and schools in Monrovia from a sea-based command.

Operating from aboard the High Speed Vessel-2 Swift, the Marines showcased sea basing, and keeping a limited footprint ashore by returning each day to load the next shipment of humanitarian assistance supplies requested by the Liberian government and donated by United States European Command's J4 Humanitarian Assistance Directorate.

"We are working to establish those friendly relationships while at the same time exposing the Marines to a new and different culture," said Maj. Jason Smith, convoy commander and a Marysville, Wash., native. "I wouldn't call (the supplies) luxury items, but these supplies will provide a definite improvement to the quality of life at these facilities."

During the first day of convoy operations the Marines delivered medical supplies to JFK Hospital, Monrovia's main hospital, and Logan Town Clinic, a small clinic on the outskirts of the city.

While in Logan Town they also delivered school supplies for Arthur Askie School.

The supplies consisted of multiple disposable medical supplies, furniture, text books and other school supplies.

The total value of the items to be delivered over the two days is \$58,000.

"Today is a day that the Lord has made, because we have been long awaiting these supplies to come in," said Rev. Elwood Jangaba, director of Agencies for Holistic Evangelism and Development International associated with the Logan Town clinic. "I think they are going to make a great impact to the community when we see the health care delivery system in this community brought to life."

"It's not only a great training exercise, but it's a good opportunity to experience something new working with another country in peace-time environment," said Lance Cpl. Brandon S. Malone, 4th LSB heavy equipment operator and Vienna, Ohio native.

Although the Marines of 4th LSB come

from reserve units across the United States, Smith said the importance of the mission weighed heavily on the preparation training.

"Because of the magnitude of the exercise, the Marines knew that preparation for this mission would be key," Smith said. "All of the Marines have put a lot of time into this outside their own regularly scheduled training. All of the Marines were really excited once they got this opportunity."

The convoy fits into the larger picture of WATC 08, by serving as a component of a sea-basing exercise.

During the first phases, equipment aboard Maritime Prepositioning Ships USNS 2nd Lt. John Bobo and USNS Lance Cpl. Roy M. Wheat was linked up with forces from aboard the USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), assembled at sea and then transferred between the naval platforms using the Improved Navy Lighterage System.

Using the causeways and ferry system that makes up the INLS, the Marines were capable of moving vehicles from ship-to-ship in open seas for the first time.

"The importance of this phase for the Marine Corps is twofold," said Lt. Col. Roy Edmonds, exercise support team officer-in-charge and native of Dallas.

"Not only does it show that we can operate from a sea base, transit through an austere port and execute a humanitarian assistance mission, but it also gives us an opportunity to conduct security cooperation with the Armed Forces of Liberia and establish positive relations through good will."

During the convoy, the Marines were aided by a variety of international and inter-agency organization such as the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the Liberian National Police, the Armed Forces of Liberia and numerous state department members who arranged security and traffic management, as well as other coordination during the convoy ashore.

"This event could not have occurred without the planning efforts of many different agencies," Edmonds said. "Truly, this has been an international team effort."

After the completion of the second day of convoys, the Marines will conduct a wash down of the vehicles to prepare for agricultural inspections and then transfer the vehicles back to the Maritime Prepositioning Ships, again using the INLS.

Overall, the Marines said the convoy provided a unique opportunity in a time when the Corps is fighting a war with one hand, and lending out the other to help those in need.

"For the young Marine, it's important for them to understand that the Marine Corps is more than just kicking down doors — we can actually help people in other ways," Smith said.

"Because of the current mission in Iraq, for so many of these young Marines, that's the only part they know, so this is an opportunity for them to see a different part of the Marine Corps and make a difference in this part of the world."

Japanese Culture Festival brings tradition to life

Cpl. Josh Cox
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With a lash of his sword, a brave samurai decorated in costume defeated serpents twice his size to save a Japanese princess in distress. Meanwhile, adults and children alike participated in tranquil Japanese tea ceremonies prepared by skilled practitioners of the craft.

The 2008 Japanese Culture Festival provided these marvels and more to the air station community at Matthew C. Perry Schools Sunday.

The festival, which is an annual celebration organized by the Japanese American Society, presented live performances, demonstrations, hands-on activities and static displays for the whole family during the afternoon event.

"The goal of the festival reflects the goals of our society—to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the citizens of the United States located here at MCAS Iwakuni and the Japanese citizens of the local community," said JAS President Ann Alisa Duerden. "The festival allows us to give something back to the local community that is truly an enjoyable experience, whether one is an attendee, a performer or volunteer. And for those who may be uncomfortable venturing offbase, this festival presents an easy way to see a bit of Japan's cultural history and traditions."

Chiyoko Suizu, who has been involved with the JAS for approximately 20 years, said the festival was an innovative way for the Japanese people to share their cultural traditions to service members and their families here.

"Japanese people want to show and teach Americans Japanese culture," she said.

Suizu said the festival was also instrumental in pulling together

people who are interested in joining JAS and people who are already involved in the society.

The festival showcased koto musicians, Japanese dance, sword martial arts and Fire Snake theater.

Suizu said the Fire Snake theater, or Kagura, was her favorite portion of the festival.

Kagura performances re-enact Japanese tales and legends of samurai overcoming massive dragon-like serpents.

Children shrieked when the serpents nearly jumped into the audience, while adults steadied their cameras hoping to capture a few pictures to remember and share the experience.

Other highlights of the festival included Japanese painting, doll art and Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

"I enjoyed the festival," Suizu added. "I had a nice time."

At the conclusion of the festival, attendees left with an enhanced understanding of the Japanese culture, door prizes and Ikebana flower arrangements.

"Overall, I feel this year's festival was a great success," Duerden said.

"We had over 300 attendees in addition to volunteers and performers, and it is my hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and left with greater interest in Japanese culture and traditions.

I also know how much it means to our Japanese friends to witness how Americans truly take interest in our host country."



A samurai defeats a serpent during a Kagura performance at the 2008 Japanese Culture Festival here Sunday. The Fire Snake Theater performance was a highlight of the festival. Photos by Cpl. Josh Cox



Festival participants enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony during the 2008 Japanese Culture Festival here Sunday. More than 300 people attended the festival.



(Above) Authentic Japanese dolls, or Kimekomi Ningyoo, crafted by expert doll-makers were on display during the 2008 Japanese Culture Festival. (Left) After defeating several huge serpents, a samurai hero dances with a princess he saved during a Kagura performance.

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines, Japan Ground Self Defense Force fight side-by-side in simulated combat

LANCE CPL. DAVID ROGERS
MCB CAMP BUTLER

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan (Mar. 21, 2008) — Marines from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and soldiers with the 6th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, Japan Ground Self Defense Force conducted squad- and platoon-sized combat training March 7-8 at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan.

The CAB Marines worked with Japanese soldiers to improve interoperability between the forces during the bilateral exercise Forest Light II Feb. 29 to March 13.

Forest Light is a semi-annual exercise between the U.S. and Japan.

Forest Light I takes place in the fall and Forest Light II takes place in the winter and focuses on cold weather training.

During the squad training March 7, the Marines and soldiers staged games of capture the flag.

They formed 12 integrated squads with Japanese soldiers and Marines.

The squads matched up against one another in a race toward flags in the center of the simulated battlefield.

The Marines and soldiers picked each other off with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems, or MILES gear, which consists of laser systems attached to weapons and receptors worn to detect impacts.

"The Japanese squad leader and I



Japan Ground Self Defense Force soldiers fight alongside Marines of Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in simulated combat using laser detection gear March 7 at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, Hokkaido, Japan. The Marines and soldiers conducted squad- and platoon-sized combat training March 7-8. Photos by Lance Cpl. David Rogers

coordinated how his squad was going to come up and attack while one of my fire teams laid down fire for them," said Cpl. Jason Samford, a platoon sergeant with Combat Engineer Company, CAB, describing how the Japanese and Americans worked together during the capture-the-flag training.

The following day, Marines and soldiers conducted platoon-sized training, taking turns practicing offensive

and defensive operations. Each platoon of Marines and Japanese soldiers had to conduct a two-kilometer movement to an objective and assault the defensive position set up by one of the other platoons.

After the battle, Marine and Japanese leaders discussed ways to improve their combined operations on the battlefield.

Japanese soldiers asked questions about improving logistical coordination

while Marine leaders discussed ways to improve communication between platoons fighting within the same area of operations.

"The JGSDF doesn't have experience in real warfare," said JGSDF 2nd Lt. Masahito Fukayama, a platoon commander with the 6th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade. "But Marines are successful in a lot of battles, so they have a better understanding of real combat."



Lance Cpl. Timothy Hughes fires an M-249 squad automatic weapon under the concealment of a green smoke grenade during platoon-sized simulated combat. Hughes is a combat engineer with Combat Engineer Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.



2nd Lt. Ademola Fabayo and Japan Ground Self Defense Force 1st Lt. Satoshi Nakashima (center) discuss strategy before platoon-sized simulated combat. Fabayo is a platoon commander with Combat Engineer Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and Nakashima is a platoon commander with the JGSDF's 6th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade.

Community Briefs

Branch Health Clinic Closure information

The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni will be closed on the afternoons of April 4, April 23 and April 30, 2008. This is a change from the normal first and third Wednesday of the month. The Urgent Care Clinic will remain open during these times. If you have any questions please call 253-5571.

Mammograms

The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni will be conducting mammograms through an onsite van from April 21 - 23 2008. To schedule this service, call central appointments at 253-3445 so it can be arranged through your primary care doctor. Once the order is requested by your primary care doctor, appointments will be made through Radiology.

"SPEAK UP" - the Medical Inspector General visit

The IG visit will be at the Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni on Wednesday April 16, 2008. Those wishing to speak with a member of the Navy Medical Inspector Team can call 1-800-637-6175, DSN 295-9019, or e-mail at NavyMEDIGHotline@med.navy.mil. For more information about the "SPEAK UP" campaign, visit the USNH Web site at www.nhyoko.med.navy.mil under "Customer Feedback" (direct link is www.nhyoko.med.navy.mil/SiteInformation/feedback.aspx) or the Joint Commission's Web site at www.jointcommission.org.

Provost Marshals Office - Lost and found

The Provost Marshals Office, Lost & Found Section has a variety of lost items in our possession. Items range from cameras, jewelry, watches, CDs, backpacks, skateboards, and sporting equipment. The Lost & Found Office is located in Building 608 (PMO), Room 104. The phone number is 253-4929.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Volunteer needed

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) is looking for individuals who are enthusiastic, dedicated, honest, caring and flexible. Come share, build and enhance your skills and talents by volunteering with us. You will improve your resume by developing new skills and expanding existing ones. We provide reimbursement for child care and mileage which make it easier for you to volunteer. Volunteering can also lead to future job opportunities within NMCRS. You can make a difference today in your military community with as little as one hour of your time. For more information, call NMCRS at 253-5311 or email Shannon.Lyon-Barker@nmcrcs.org

Spouse Tuition Aid Program (STAP)

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

Red Cross Lay Responder CPR Instructor Course

April 24 and 25. Cost of the course is \$80.00 and limited seating available. Must have current CPR certification. Call 253-4525 for additional information.

Chili Cook Off - M.C. Perry High School Parent Teacher Organization Fund raiser On Saturday, 26 April 2008, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the Matthew C. Perry High School PTO is hosting a multi-function fund raiser in the Perry Cafeteria.

- Get your chili recipes out and submit a pot for the contest for the best tasting chili with a \$25.00 prize for the winning chili. The chili entries will be sold by the bowl for lunch, along with rice, cheese, onions, etc.

- Started spring cleaning? PCSing? Donate items or reserve a table for the Rummage Sale. Each table is \$15.00, but if you donate one or more items to the silent auction or the PTO Rummage Table, you receive a \$5.00 discount on your table. Tables are already being reserved, so secure yours quickly! Set up from 9 a.m., sale opens to the public at 10 a.m.

- The third part of the fund raiser will be the silent auction. Items here will be bid on from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Highest bidder will take home the item once paid for.

For more information, contact M.C. Perry high School at 253-5449 or e-mail Jamie.Henderson@pac.dodea.edu.

PAY YOUR ROAD TAX AT PMO

APRIL 16, 17 & 18, 2008

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Japanese Tax Officials will be here at PMO! To pay road tax, you will need your title & payment in the form of yen.

Bring the following information to receive your new decal:

- ❖ Japanese Title
- ❖ Secondary Insurance
- ❖ JCI Insurance
- ❖ 2008 Road Tax Receipt
- ❖ SOFA License & AFID Card
- ❖ Your vehicle

If you have any questions please contact PMO Pass & Registration at 253-3161.

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN!!
Parking will be located in the Chapel Parking Lot.

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

Students at M.C. Perry Elementary were dazzled by Higashi Jr. High School brass band.

The band gave two performances that thrilled its young audience. The students swayed to the familiar music of songs that ranged from "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" to "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Fifth grader, Kyle Hansill exclaimed, "It was awesome!"

Several M.C. Perry classes performed "My Grandfather's Clock" alongside the band.

At the end of the performance students stood and applauded in appreciation and admiration for such an engaging concert.

This unique cultural experience was provided by the Matthew C. Perry Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and proved that music truly is a universal language.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6-11
Spring Break

April 16
No School

April 21
Early Release

April 24 and 25
Author Visit, Mike Thalor

Report cards should be out by April 15. Please remember to come and register your child for next school year!

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

AUTOMOBILE

1991 Suzuki Wagon-R Turbo

Asking for \$2,500 or best offer, JCI until February 2010. Automatic transmission, 3 Cylinder 66 horse powered turbo charged engine. 3-door seats 4. JVC CD/MP3 player. 40+ miles per gallon. Fun to drive, park it anywhere! For more information, call 253-2490 (work).

1991 Nissan Skyline GTS-T

Asking \$2,500 or best offer. JCI until March 2010. 159,000 kilometers, 5-speed manual transmission. Carbon Fiber/Kevlar Hood. 17" Rims and new tires. New endless S-Sport brake pads. Turbo back 3" exhaust. Apex 1 AVC-R boost controller. Autometer ultra-lite boost gauge. For more information, call 253-2490 (work).

1998 Honda StepWagon

Asking for \$2,000. Great family van that seats up to eight people. New CD player/stereo. Good A/C and heat. JCI good until January 2009. Available mid to late April. For more information, call 253-2285 (home).

1995 Toyota Land Cruiser

Asking for \$2,450. JCI good until April 2010. For more information, call 253-3016.

2003 Yamaha YZF-F1

Mechanically sound and runs great. Only 2,500 miles (4,000 km)! JCI until June 2009. Many after-market parts including fender eliminator, exhaust, and polished chassis. Practically brand new and it never disappoints! Bike new costs \$12,000. Asking for \$5,900 or best offer. Please call 080-3506-4367 (cell) or e-mail at justin.e.allison@usmc.mil

Job

Full-time home visitor needed - New Parent Support Program

New parent support program is seeking a full-time Home Visitor. Candidates must be a licensed Masters Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist or Bachelor Science Nursing/Registered Nurse with two years' post-graduate experience in services to children and families, material/child, OB/GYN or similar. Deliver resume and cover letter to Bldg. 411, Rm. 219 or fax to 253-6626. For more information, call 253-6553.

Miscellaneous

Beautiful couch for sale

Asking for \$200 or best offer. Original purchase \$1,000. Olive green with tapestry-like cushions. Folds out into full-size sofa bed. It is in great shape. Please call 090-9109-8122 (cell) if interested.

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 Menu

MONDAY, April 7

Cream of Broccoli Soup, French Onion Soup, Baked Chicken and Rice, Yakimiku (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 Bar

TUESDAY, April 8

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: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY, April 9

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: BBQ

THURSDAY, April 10

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, Cornbread, Pecan Brownies, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

FRIDAY, April 11

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: Hot dogs/ Polish Sausage

ROAD TAX Due April 2008

Road Tax must be paid between **April 1, 2008 ~ April 30, 2008** in order

HEAVY VEHICLE:

PLATE	COST
100Y	¥ 32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y	(4,500cc & over) ¥ 22,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E	(4,500cc & below) ¥ 19,000
	¥ 7,500

Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building (8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.) (Parking is free in the rear of the building.)

LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE:

PLATE	COST
50A, 40A, 480A, 580A	¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B	¥ 1,000
IWAKUNI A, B, C	¥ 500

Light Vehicles & Motorcycles will pay road tax on the 4th floor of City Hall (8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.) located across from the Police Station. (Parking is Free)

Maps to the New Symphonia Building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO Pass & Registration Section

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!

- Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to PMO Pass & Registration to receive your new base decal:
 - Japanese Title
 - Secondary Insurance
 - 2008 Road tax receipt
 - JCI Insurance
 - The vehicle / motorcycle

- To avoid the long lines of the "last minute rush" at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal in early April!
- On **Wednesday, 30 Apr 2008**, the PMO Pass & Registration Section will only be open for renewing decals, no other business will take place during this time; i.e. driver's license, vehicle transfers, etc.
- Failure to pay road tax can result in the impoundment of your vehicle.**

If you have any questions, please contact Pass & Registration Section at 253-3161.

Sakura Theater

Friday, April 4

7 p.m. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)
Premiere
10 p.m. The Eye (PG-13)
Premiere

Saturday, April 5

1 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)
4 p.m. The Eye (PG-13)
7 p.m. Untraceable (R)
Premiere
10 p.m. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)

Sunday, April 6

1 p.m. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)
4 p.m. Untraceable (R)
7 p.m. The Eye (PG-13)

Monday, April 7

7 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)
Last Showing

Tuesday, April 8

7 p.m. Rambo (R)

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.

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.

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.

IYAOYAS fails to detonate, succumbs to ATC onslaught, 46-19

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"If you ain't ordnance, you ain't ..."
When it comes to building bombs, few can argue with this proud motto.

When it came to basketball, however, at least on Monday evening, the beloved acronym failed to live up to its reputation as Air Traffic Control "Win or Go Home" blew up Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 "IYAOYAS" 46-19 during the spring intramural basketball season at the IronWorks Gym sports courts.

The first half was plagued by sloppy play as fouls and traveling calls flew on both sides of the court, but ATC managed to capitalize by converting free throws. Coming off a disappointing loss to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron a week earlier, Win or Go Home seemed determined to redeem themselves with strong drives to the goal and touch from beyond the arch.

Bryan Johnson's three-point jump shot at the buzzer would seal ATC's 21-9 lead at the half.

Though down by 11, IYAOYAS coach Joseph Gschwind felt his athletes were playing a solid game and "doing everything we need to do."

"We're not that big of a team, so our biggest thing is we need to draw our fouls, get to the line and make our money during the free throws," Gschwind said.

Unfortunately for IYAOYAS, Gschwind's strategy would not come to fruition.

ATC continued their solid offensive play into the second half with passes and assists that showcased a team growing in confidence.

"Something we're trying to work into our whole game is to run the other team tired. That way we can



Air Traffic Control "Win or Go Home" center Jody Anderson goes up for a shot against members of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ordnance "IYAOYAS" during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym sports courts March 31. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

run right by them," said Carl Fuemmeler, Win or Go Home forward.

Whether or not fatigue factored in IYAOYAS's inability to get the ball in the hoop, they struggled to get back in the game.

When one MALS-12 player accidentally scored on ATC's side, they seemed to realize their chances of coming back were slim, and all anyone could do was laugh.

Surprisingly, when both teams cooled off after the errant shot, spectators witnessed the best basketball of the evening.

Players' ball-handling skills improved immensely as crisp bounce passes were delivered between teammates, resulting in easy layups.

"We all loosened up at the end," said Johnson. "(For ATC), we finally came together as a team and started

making good decisions."

Though Fuemmeler still sees room for improvement in ATC's game, he said he feels optimistic about the rest of their season.

"We need to refine our tactics. We need to get better at passing," he said. "But other than that we're getting better."

The intramural season runs until April 25. Games are played Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at IronWorks Gym.

All station residents are welcome to attend.



Players from Air Traffic Control "Win or Go Home" and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ordnance "IYAOYAS" jump for a rebound during an intramural basketball game at IronWorks Gym sports courts March 31.

ATC vs IYAOYAS game scoring summary:

ATC: First half, 21

Second half, 25

Final, 46

MALS-12 ordnance: First half, 9

Second half, 10

Final, 19

Scoring leaders:

ATC: J. Albsmeyer 10, S. Maxim 8, B. Johnson 7



Teammates John Baltazar (left) and Mark Bedbury read a putt on the 18th green at Torii Pines Golf Course during the Marine Corps Community Services alternate shot golf tournament Saturday. Twenty-four Japanese and station residents teed it up in the event. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

Golfers partner up, alternate shots

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two dozen Japanese and station residents partnered up to take on Torii Pines Golf Course during the Marine Corps Community Services Alternate Shot Golf Tournament Saturday.



James Hawley tees off on the 17th hole at Torii Pines Golf Course during the Marine Corps Community Services alternate shot golf tournament Saturday. Twenty-four Japanese and station residents teed it up in the event.

Yohinori Yamamoto and Isamu Nakagawa teamed up to take first in the low-gross division with a score of 76 while John Tolentino and Takeo Fujiwaga's handicap-adjusted round of 70 was the best in the low-net division.

During the competition, the two-person teams played one ball, alternating shots until the ball was holed. Playing the format was a new experience for many of the participants, who faced a variety of difficulties, according to several players.

"It was difficult to get in your own rhythm," said competitor David Ross, "You needed to be mentally prepared for it."

Ross teamed up with Joseph Brown to finish second in the net division with a score of 71.

"(Brown) carried the team," Ross added. "I wasn't doing anything good today – nothing. My chipping and short game were terribly off."

Ross said he felt his team could have made a few more birdies if he could have put his approach shots closer to the hole. The team's best hole came on the par-4 eighth hole. After Ross hit his best tee shot of the day, Brown stuck the 100-yard approach to three feet, which Ross holed for the birdie.

Another challenge faced by some teams was the difference in the players' abilities. Mark Bedbury, a 9-handicap, matched up with John Baltazar, a 28-handicap.

"It was more of a learning experience today," Bedbury said. "I was trying to teach (Baltazar) how to play, give him a few tips."

"We just wanted to come out, play and have a good time," Bedbury added.

One of the more tense moments of the event came during the playoff for second place in the low gross division. Ricky Stroud and Jim Acquisto represented their teams in a closest-to-the-pin competition from 40 yards out on the par-4 ninth hole. The pin was

tucked on the front, left side of the green behind a bunker, leaving little room for error. Stroud went first but his ball came up short and found the trap, opening the door for Acquisto. Acquisto stepped up and made a smooth swing which sent the ball high into the air before it landed softly six feet from the hole to secure the runner-up position.

Following the tournament, the placing teams were awarded golf shop gift certificates.

"I'd do it again," Ross said about playing the format in the future. "Now that I know how it's actually played, I think I'd do better."

As the warmer spring weather continues to roll in, more and more players are hitting the links. While many enjoy a weekend round of non-competitive golf, others may enjoy playing in several tournaments coming up at Torii Pines in the near future, including the Match Play Tournament April 12, the Member/Guest April 26 and the MCCS Best Ball of Two May 10. The Junior Golf Camp will be held April 10 and a Ladies Clinic runs throughout the month as well.

For more information on the events, clinics and camps, contact Torii Pines at 253-3402.



Glenn Valenton reacts after holing a putt on the 16th hole at Torii Pines Golf Course during the alternate shot golf tournament Saturday.