

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## New liberty policy in effect

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Recent changes have been made to the Marine Corps Bases Japan/3rd Marine Expeditionary Force liberty guidelines.

According to MCBJ/III MEF Order 1050.6A, all service members assigned to MCBJ or III MEF and serving in Japan will now be issued either a red or gold liberty card.

Staff noncommissioned officers, who have been exempt from the liberty card policy since June 2006, can expect to receive gold cards soon if they have not already, said station Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. Jerry Bailey.

The intent was to clarify the rules for the current liberty campaign so all personnel are on the same page, Bailey added.

Changes to MCBJ/III MEF Order 1050.5A also state that armed forces personnel in grades E1 through E4 must be accompanied by a liberty buddy for off-base liberty. The requirement for a liberty

buddy applies to all liberty periods, including after working hours, over weekends and during special liberty hours.

"When you choose a liberty buddy, it's like choosing a designated driver," said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Riley, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron gunnery sergeant. "You want to have somebody that's responsible that (you) can count on.

It's good to have somebody with a clear head that can take care of a situation if a situation does arise," he added.

In addition, effective Monday the restriction on alcohol consumption for uniformed service members here while off base here was lifted. A midnight to 5 a.m. curfew remains in place for all military personnel.

During curfew hours, service members are limited to U.S. military installations or the off-base residences of status of forces agreement personnel. Service members are authorized to transit

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## Marines encouraged to use Corps' tools to accomplish goals

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

While many Marines may be pursuing an education during their off-duty hours, some may not be aware that the Corps has its very own central learning resource: the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education.

The CCE offers distance training and education programs to Marines, giving them access to Professional Military Education programs, pre-deployment training and other professional training courses through MarineNet.

"We are basically the Marine Corps' means of providing Marines with an education outside of formal schooling," said Capt. James Lester, CCE infrastructure officer. "We provide all the resources they need to get the education and credits to get promoted and be proficient as a Marine."

SEE CCE ON PAGE 3



Koji Shiraki, a station fuels mobile refueler/defueler, assists Maj. Bernard Cernosek, a Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron C-12 pilot, in fueling a C-12 on the flight line April 11. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

## Station fuels sets bar for Iwakuni, installations worldwide

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

What do a squadron's F/A-18 fighter jets, a small camp's generator and a sergeant's Toyota Corolla have in common? All can be found aboard the air station, and none could perform their job without a critical service provided by a group of Japanese contractors, civilians, sailors and Marines here.

Station fuels was recently named by the American Petroleum Institute as the 2004 Navy and Marine Corps winners for the Marine Corps Non-Tactical Activities award.

"This is my first API award, and I'm excited," said Chief Petty Officer Criss Coleman, station fuels leading chief petty officer. "Being in fuels, it's like winning

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*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

## 'An Appointed Time for Everything.'

**CHAPLAIN ALLEN R. KUSS**  
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Change is usually a controversial word. It is challenging whether welcomed or opposed because it means that things will change in form, content or in future course. We hear the word used often in advertising to show that products have been improved and that they have become indispensable. We hear the word in politics, in religious conversation and from our youth. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus was correct when he said, "You can not step in the same river twice."

Usually change is gradual and amidst the many activities of the day it passes unnoticed. We are so busy, so focused on what is happening and preparing for the future that we forget, all the while change is occurring. We don't notice the changes when we look in the mirror; the increasing height of those with whom we live; the development and maturation of those with whom we live. Sometimes, it takes going on leave to visit our families to bring the changes to our attention.

So, why do we have trepidation toward one of the constant elements of life? The reasons change with time and location, personal to each of us. But every change engages us to respond, adapt and engage life in new ways. The child who begins to

talk makes us wonder what they may say. The new information and skill we gained in recent training makes us responsible for more resources and to more people. The new orders we have received or the orders we have begun to execute change our entire future. Change may cause us to question our abilities, may challenge how to incorporate our values to the new situations and ultimately how we will change.

Not as an after thought but as the very foundation of our lives, we are created for the unchanging, the uncreated. We were made for God. As we read in the Hebrew Scriptures, "I, the Lord, do not change." (Malachi 3:6) It is from this truth that we proceed.

The great thing about change is that it includes all of us and excludes nothing. It can be overwhelming or make us laugh. I don't mind not having shoulder length hair as I once had. But at times, change has brought me to see the company of others to figure out what to do next. Family, friends, chaplains counselors, medical professionals are part of the network for everyone adapt to change.

In the military, we are so fortunate because we also have Key Volunteers, Family Team Building, and members of our commands to help us make the very best of all the changes which will come our way.

## Lean Six Sigma Success Stories

**DARRELL E. COLEMAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Global War on Terror has placed severe fiscal constraints on the various military services, so we must too conduct operations differently. The war on terror has all levels of command throughout the Marine Corps looking for ways to cut operating expenses by finding smarter, more efficient ways of delivering service without compromise of effectiveness or safety. Within the Corps we have implemented the proven business practices associated with Lean Six Sigma, and are reducing expenses and improving productivity.

Some skeptics might say, "We're the Marines; we're not a business." I would quickly say "Every time we conduct a troop movement, every time we promote a Marine or sailor, pay someone, provide supplies or move a family, we've conducted a business transaction."

Lean Six Sigma is a combination of two proven business-improvement systems, Lean and Six Sigma. Lean refers to the reduction of waste, or the elimination of unnecessary steps to increase speed and efficiency. Six Sigma is the reduction of process variation to improve performance throughout a system. Together they free

up resources and help ensure quality gear and services are delivered quickly to our Marines and sailors.

Lean Six Sigma is far different from the previous improvement programs we've tried to implement in the past. It gives even the most inexperienced person a set of tools they can utilize. Initial responses to Lean Six Sigma may be resistance, but it only takes one event for people to see right away that this is the right direction. Using LSS principles to redefine processes and improve speed, quality and cost requires the collaboration of both management and air station residents.

Aboard MCAS Iwakuni, there have been significant strides made through implementing LSS practices. Some of them are best seen through the eyes of the trained green belts working throughout the air station. Here are just two examples:

In Station Safety, the Occupational Respiratory Protection Program was found to be taking an excessive amount of customers' time away from those requiring annual training and fit testing of their equipment. The manager of the program was tasked with training one person at a time. The green belt team created a process flow chart to visually understand the

entire activity involved. The most glaring finds were the way individuals were trained and the machine which performed the actual fit test. The program manager within the Safety Center was found to be the only qualified person to administer training and the "hands-on" testing to verify the equipment was properly fitted and functioning. After careful review and analysis, it was found there were no legal or regulatory hindrances to training and certifying personnel within the concerned areas. Leaders and supervisors were taught to deliver the same "hands-on" process, only they would be in each concerned work area. It is calculated that under the changed process, time savings alone would be in the realm of 16,850 minutes (or 11.86 days) annually and was of enormous value to the affected work centers.

At the Facilities Welding Shop, the GB team members found there were extra parts ordered for jobs performed by the shop workers. The ordered parts were part of the regular 'anticipated waste' produced from the types of jobs being performed. Once left uncontrolled for a period of time they would rust and even-

SEE LSS ON PAGE 4



**"Morning Air Strike" — A live 3-hour radio show, featuring popular music, local guests, news, sports and recreation information. Monday – Thursday from 6 – 9 a.m. and Friday's from 6 – 8 a.m., except holidays on Power 1575.**

**POLICY FROM PAGE 1**

between U.S. military installations or off-base residences of SOFA personnel via privately owned vehicle, military supported transportation or commercial taxi.

There are no curfew or alcohol restrictions for civilians or family members.

The curfew will be periodically reassessed by senior service leaders.

**FUELS FROM PAGE 1**

the Oscar."

API, an internationally recognized petroleum trade organization, annually identifies activities and personnel that made the most significant contributions to the Department of the Navy fuel operations. Iwakuni's award gives credit to the efforts of a lesser-known but nonetheless important air station organization.

"When we submitted the award, we didn't brag about anything. We simply stated what we do here," said Eric Schmidt, station fuels officer-in-charge. "They based (the results) on what we do – our numbers and how they compare to other Marine Corps air stations."

The hard work that goes into running an operation with the scope of station fuels can't be represented by simple figures, however. One must take into account the range of station assets they support.

According to Petty Officer 1st Class Peregrin Garcia, station fuels leading petty officer, their team is responsible for billing, ordering, storing and distributing the Jet Propellant 5, unleaded gasoline and diesel military units and civilian organizations, such as Marine Corps Community Services, require to complete their mission.

"We handle all the fuels on base," Garcia said. "Anything that needs gas here, we handle it."

One reason for station fuels' success is the strict measures in place assuring every gallon pumped is of optimal quality. At the fuel lab, samples are run through a gambit of tests checking for things such as sediment and water contamination as well as anti-icing inhibitors. The large deliveries are also run through a set of filters when being transported between large receiving and holding tanks.

"We maintain a very high standard," Garcia said.

The dispatchers and mobile refueler/defuelers play an equally important role in getting the product where it needs to be—namely, the flight line.

"We trace our response time, and that's one (reason) we've become popular," Garcia said. "We're responding, on average, in about 10 minutes, when our allowable time is 30 minutes according to station order."

While there are a number of factors contributing to stations fuels' receipt of the award, most important is the teamwork within its diverse group of workers, according to Schmidt.

"We have a good group of guys that work here with our (Master Labor Contract employees), our sailors and our (Marine Wing Support Squadron) 171 Marines," Schmidt said. "We have so many different types of people that work here ... but they all understand the mission."

## News Briefs

### CATV seeks volunteers

The community access television system, which operates channels 18, 22 and 23, is currently searching for anyone interested in volunteering 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

**CCE FROM PAGE 1**

MarineNet courses cover topics including computer software, writing, mathematics, and leadership—skills Marines need in their jobs and in life in general, Lester said.

"Knowledge in itself is a benefit," Lester said. "A smarter, more trained Marine performs better. That helps the unit and it also helps the Marine."

To get started, Marines should visit one of the station's two Learning Resource Centers—on south side in Building 365 and on north side in Building 1400—and talk with the centers' facilitator. Marines can also log onto [www.marinenet.usmc.mil](http://www.marinenet.usmc.mil) to establish an account.

While units can gain valuable pre-deployment training at the LRCs, Lester encourages all Marines to improve their individual skills by taking skill-specific courses such as Marksmanship and Heavy Machineguns.

"Marines from all different backgrounds can get through the electronic course and have a basic understanding of the weapons, how they operate, the major components and how to assemble and disassemble them," Lester said. "That way they're more prepared for hands-on training."

Marine officers can also take advantage of the

CCE's officer PME seminar, which brings the Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College programs, both required training, to the Marine.

"It provides a collaborative learning environment for students that mirrors the resident course environment," Lester said, adding students typically meet for two hours once a week.

Overall, the CCE has come a long way in the past decade and usage is up to record-highs, according to Lester, who hopes the programs continue to help

Marines increase their knowledge and improve their skills in a wide range of endeavors.

"We've capitalized on a lot of the new technology out there," he said. "I think it's made the learning process more efficient and a more engaging experience for the Marine."

The CCE is currently recruiting Marine field-grade officers—active duty, reservists and retirees—who have a passion for teaching to become faculty members of the EWS and CSC programs.

Those interested in the opportunity to pass on their knowledge and experience should contact Jim Hopkins, EWS and CSC Okinawa regional coordinator, via e-mail at [jhopkins@cots.com](mailto:jhopkins@cots.com).

Find out more about the CCE at [www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/).

**"Knowledge in itself is a benefit. A smarter, more trained Marine performs better."**

**Capt. James Lester**  
CCE

## MALS-12 PT: staff NCOs take road less traveled



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 staff noncommissioned officers run along the Oze River during a unit physical training session at Yasaka Dam Friday. According to Sgt. Maj. James Kirkland, the run was a good opportunity to build the Marauders' staff NCO camaraderie. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

# 'Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle'

## M.C. Perry senior on way to becoming Eagle Scout

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry senior and Boy Scout Chris Lupton was busy during spring break.

Lupton completed the final steps of becoming eligible for the rank of Eagle Scout, the Scouts' highest rank.

Because of the 18-year-old age limit for the Scouts and Chris's May birthday, he has been working diligently to complete the rank's final requirement, a service project.

Chris and Iwakuni Boy Scout Troop 77 built five bat houses to be placed at various locations aboard the station. Along with coordinating the project with station Facilities, the scouts acquired financial donations from the community, scrap wood from the base landfill and spent several hours in the station's Wood Hobby Shop, all of which Chris oversaw.

"You lead and learn about leadership from those above you throughout scouting," he said, adding he got the project idea from the troop's previous Scout Master and former Facilities officer, Cmdr. George Suther. "(The project) shows what I've learned, and that I'm capable of leading a group of Scouts."

The Scouts have been working on the project intermittently since last fall. The final step included selecting a paint color that will produce the correct temperature inside the houses to attract the mammals.

"During the summer, the bats come out and seek dark, warm, humid areas," Chris said. "This will give them a place to go other than inside the mid-rises."

Along with completing the project, Chris had to prepare a "package," — paperwork outlining the details of what he's accomplished as a Life Scout — for the Boy Scouts of America Far East Council to review.

"It's up to them to approve it," Chris said. "But at least I know I did everything I could."

It's very likely the board will approve the package, according to Chris. If they do, the title Eagle Scout

will be one he holds for the rest of his life.

"It's a significant accomplishment," he said, adding that earning the rank is rare and is looked upon highly by employers. "It's something I've been set on since I was in first grade."

That's when Lupton's career as a scout began, in the woods of Texas. The Scouts' camaraderie as well as the opportunity to learn new skills and expand his horizons were all things that attracted him to scouting and kept him with it.

"You go on some of those camping trips, and you come back with a different perspective on life," he said. "It makes you think, 'What would I do if I were stranded. How would I handle this or that situation?'"

While Chris' dad's Marine Corps' career took his family, which includes father, Master Sgt. John Lupton, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, mother, Gail, M.C. Perry elementary school secretary, and sister, Amy, an M.C. Perry freshman, to several states, it wasn't until Chris got to California that his life as a Scout took off.

"We had a huge troop there of at least 60 scouts," Lupton said. "There were woods, desert and beaches. We would go camping at least once or twice a month."

There Lupton earned several merit badges and picked up the rank of Star Scout, the second rank below Eagle. But when his father got orders to Japan, Chris's scouting surroundings changed considerably.

"We have a much smaller troop here," Chris said. "I was pretty busy at school and scouting kind of took a backseat."

Because of the small troop size and his commitments at school, Chris thought about quitting the Scouts all together. He talked to his parents about it, and together they came up with a different plan.

"We compared it to completing school," said his mother Gail. "You put all this effort and hard work

Chris Lupton and nine Boy Scouts from Iwakuni Troop 77 here completed Chris's service project and final step to becoming an Eagle Scout over Spring Break.



Chris Lupton, a Mathew C. Perry High School senior, assists a fellow Boy Scout while building bat houses as part of Chris's service project and final step to becoming an Eagle Scout, the Scout's highest attainable rank. Photos courtesy of Chris Lupton

into it — you don't want to quit right before you reach your goal."

Chris' parents reminded him that he was only a few merit badges and the final project away from Eagle, which spurred him into action.

"They've always supported me," he said. "They made me realize how beneficial it would be for me to accomplish what I set out to do."

Though completing the final project is a significant accomplishment, Chris said what he's most proud of are the characteristics and values he has acquired as a Scout — such as self-reliance, leadership and community service.

"It's a big part of me," he said. "It has really set the tone for how I'm going to live the rest of my life."

At M.C. Perry, Chris is the vice president of the senior class, journalism design editor, president of the snowboarding club, member of the yearbook club and a captain of the varsity soccer team. He also played varsity baseball and basketball. Upon graduation, he plans to attend Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla., where he'll pursue a bachelor's degree in film.

Everywhere Lean Six Sigma has been implemented, it's been successful. From deep in the work centers of Facilities Maintenance shops to the front desk at the Kintai Inn, even into the Department heads workspaces.

Everyone who is involved in the work processes must be included in the improvements, because they understand the processes. We have to solicit their input on how to make their processes more efficient. That is why the program equips all levels of the workforce to use their experience and knowledge to influence how Lean Six Sigma practices can create improvements.

For more information on process improvement and training drop by bldg 236 or contact the CPI office at 253-4719 or 3525.

# The Untouchables: In the spring of 2006, a tight platoon of motor transportation Marines from Okinawa were torn apart by a tragedy that left one of them horribly wounded. Last month, the Marines reunited here. This is the first chapter in their story.

SGT. ETHAN ROCKE  
MCB CAMP BUTLER

OKUMA, OKINAWA, Japan (April 11, 2008) — It was in February 2006 when Jeffers, then a corporal assigned to 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, as a motor transport operator, left the island for Iraq's Anbar Province.

Jeffers was three months into a seven-month deployment the day he dismantled the lead security vehicle in a convoy, took a few steps off the road during a security sweep and had his life changed forever. His platoon mates watched from the ground that day — the haze of dust and smoke still permeating the battlefield — as a medevac helicopter gulped up their friend, shot back in the direction the convoy came from and disappeared over the horizon.

It was the beginning of a long journey for Tim Jeffers — one that, more than two years later, brought him back here. He came back, he says, for family — the family he was taken from that day in Anbar.

### Before Iraq

Jeffers arrived on Okinawa in August 2005 and was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Motor Transportation Company, 3rd TSB (the battalion has since been redesignated as Combat Logistics Battalion 4).

He joined the Marines in 2002 as a reservist but volunteered for active duty in 2005. He was 18 when service in the Corps attracted his interest.

"I wanted a challenge, and the poster looked cool," Jeffers says with a chuckle.

Jeffers is a smart ass. It is, his friends say, his biting wit for which they know

and love him, and his charismatic personality helped forge the tight bonds that defined the Marines of 2nd Platoon.

"His personality is just awesome," said Cpl. Jason O'Hearn, who befriended Jeffers on Okinawa. "He was the life of the party. He was a ladies man. He was like my little brother."

Fraternal bonds run deep in 2nd Platoon, which goes by the moniker "Scorpions." The Scorpions are fiercely proud of the glory days before Iraq when they reigned as the all-star platoon of Motor T Company. They trained hard and "played" even harder. They exercised together, went to the field together, smoked and drank together and traded tales of life back home. They did all the things Marines do to become units, to become family. They felt, as one member put it, "untouchable."

"We were taught that if there was ever going to be anything or anyone better than us, they better be untouchable," said Sgt. Charles Trask, the tough kid from a broken home in Kansas City, Mo., who goes by the call sign "Spartan" and wears a matching tattoo of a Spartan warrior on his left pectoral.

Trask calls the Marines of 2nd Platoon "my Marines," and he reveres them like a proud father. His fervent pride and loyalty to his Marine family is prevalent in 2nd Platoon.

Many of them came from broken homes or dysfunctional families and found in the platoon a kinship they had never known. That kinship was at the heart of the "unbreakable chain" the platoon formed before they went to war together in 2006.

"Our belief and trust in each other always got us through," said Sgt. Joseph

Tocci, a Boston native and mellow complement to Trask's hard-edged disposition. "Our leaders always instilled in us to be the best, and we always were."

Before they left for Iraq, 2nd Platoon, Tocci says, had the highest physical fitness test average in the company, and the platoon won every unit competition that came along. They were untouchable.

### 'You either find 'em, or you hit 'em'

When the Scorpions went to Iraq in 2006, they were assigned the mission of security platoon and worked out of Al Asad Air Base, the biggest base in Anbar Province, supporting convoys that supplied forward operating bases in the area. The mission was arduous, nerve-racking and never-ending.

The battalion the Scorpions supported lost eight Marines within the first six weeks they were on the ground, and the harsh realities of war quickly set in for them.

"It was definitely a culture shock," Tocci says. "We were like, 'It's no joke over here.'"

With improvised explosive devices and snipers the two biggest threats in Iraq, the Scorpions' mission was to find and protect against those threats during convoy operations.

"You either find 'em or you hit 'em," Tocci said about the stark reality they faced either spotting IEDs or triggering them. "We were the ones right in front looking out. You have to really have that eagle's eye to see them."

The platoon was attacked with IEDs continuously. Trask was hit with an IED himself but suffered only minor injuries and returned to duty.

"It was IED after IED after IED," he said. "I expected the enemy to be right in my face like a football game. It wasn't like that. It was an enemy that was right there in our face that we couldn't see."

The invisible enemy loomed constantly under roadside rocks and rubble. The Marines regarded every object with suspicion and contempt.

### 'You tell them what they need to know'

Marines have an informal doctrine for mourning. A Marine's mourning process is often abbreviated and stored away, to be indulged in some time later when it isn't a battlefield liability. It is a very unnatural act to swallow a heart full of sorrow, but it is a necessary sacrifice Marines make for the sake of the mission.

"You tell them what they need to know," Trask said, describing the process. "You give them the least bit of information to carry on, and when the mission is accomplished, you give them some time to mourn. Then you get them focused again."

The day Jeffers was wounded, Cpl. John Rockwell, Jeffers' next-door neighbor in the barracks on Okinawa, was on a separate convoy. When the Marines reached their destination, a lieutenant pulled everyone together and passed the news.

"She told us one of our own got hit," Rockwell said. "She didn't tell us how bad until later, but they don't tell us somebody

got hit unless something bad happened." Rockwell and Jeffers, who both hail from Orange County in Southern California, forged a strong friendship on Okinawa.

"Me and Jeffers got really close," Rockwell said. "We were a lot alike because we're from the same area."

When Rockwell learned what had happened to Jeffers it hit him hard.

"I can't really explain the feeling," he said. "It's horrible. It's just the worst feeling possible."

O'Hearn, who was attached to an engineer unit, also got an initial vague report. "At first, I thought, 'he's fine,'" he said. "I had to tell myself that. That's like my brother. I had to tell myself that to stay sane."

He found out the next day how bad Jeffers had been hit.

"I broke down," O'Hearn said. "I was bawling. When I heard the extent of his injuries, I didn't think he was going to make it. I thought 'how could anyone live through that?'"

Cpl. Carl Drexler was in the convoy with Jeffers, but he was far back in the snaking procession of vehicles.

The convoy stopped when a vehicle in the rear was hit with an IED. Jeffers, who was the pace vehicle commander, did what he was trained to do. He got out to sweep the area around his vehicle for IEDs or insurgents.

Drexler heard the call come over the radio moments later: "We lost a man."

He initially assumed it wasn't anyone from 2nd Platoon. "We figured maybe it was a contractor or something because they didn't say Marine."

But when the convoy arrived at Al Qaim, Drexler saw someone else in Jeffers' seat.

"As soon as I saw he wasn't there, I knew it was bad," he said. "I'd seen a lot of guys get hit, and they don't get medevac'd. They just go in a different track."

Drexler grabbed a Marine who had been close to the incident and demanded to know what happened. He asked three times before the Marine revealed his horrible secret.

"He told me both his legs got blown off." Drexler figured his friend was dead. He thought he would have bled to death on the chopper ride.

"I just wanted to stop," he said. "I didn't want to go back out there."

The platoon's leaders knew the other Marines would have similar thoughts. They pulled the Marines together.

"When you take that unbreakable chain you've built and then break it, the whole thing can fall apart," Trask said. "Our staff sergeant brought us together and told us 'no matter how much we want to quit, no matter how much we hate this situation, we can't let it tear us apart.'"

And they didn't let it tear them apart, but, as Drexler put it, none of them were the same after that.

"We were all just down for the next few weeks."

While they were down, Jeffers was in a coma.

See *Untouchables: Part Two* next week



Chris Lupton and nine Boy Scouts from Iwakuni Troop 77 here completed Chris's service project and final step to becoming an Eagle Scout over Spring Break.

LSS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

tually were hauled away as scrap. The team members created a process map to define the workflow and spread sheets to record the detailed inventory information such as size, weight, quantity and value. A storage system was implemented and the inventory was identified for use in other jobs assigned to the shop and the items were reutilized. Initial savings totaled just under \$4000 in materials. It was believed there is value in replicating this success throughout the Facilities shops.

It's often the intangible process improvement effects which have had the greatest impact on the service members. The benefits are so much more than what we realize inside our four walls of the CPI office. That is the huge success story.

# Oshima Bike Meeting

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

## It's

a mild Saturday afternoon on Oshima Island, and the scene at a normally quiet Japanese campground more closely resembles Daytona Beach Bike Week. Tattooed motorcyclists cruise their choppers along the palm tree-lined streets, the scent of barbecue wafts through the air, and a local rock band takes the stage playing heavy metal favorites.

You won't find any Oshima residents complaining, however. The event is an annual staple for both American and Japanese bike enthusiasts who want to share their love of riding while at the same time helping the local community.

The island hosted the annual Oshima Bike Meeting at Katazoe Beach Park Saturday and Sunday.

The gathering, which is organized by the Iwakuni Motorcycle Club and attracts riders from across the country, has in the past two years raised more than 400,000 yen for elderly care and traffic safety measures on the island.

"We organize it and put it on because the money goes to charity," said Mike Gingles, Iwakuni Motorcycle Club president. "This year we're hoping to donate half to Oshima Island and half to Iwakuni City. Wherever they use the money, that's up to them."

It shows the Japanese what good ambassadors their American guests can be, he added. Although the event had all the trappings of a typical bike rally with its abundance of leather,



A row of motorcycles sits overlooking the Seto-Inland Sea at Katazoe Beach Park on Oshima Island. The island hosted the annual Oshima Bike Meeting April 12 and 13, drawing American and Japanese riders from on base and across the country. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



An artist from Devil's Luck Custom Art puts the finishing touches on a helmet's artwork during the Oshima Bike Meeting at Katazoe Beach Park April 12. A variety of vendors attended the event, selling everything from curry to custom art.



(Above) A row of custom motorcycles sits overlooking the Seto-Inland Sea at Katazoe Beach Park on Oshima Island. (Right) Local band "Road Rage" rocks out for attendees during the Oshima Bike Meeting April 12.



chains, and custom rides, all were welcome to attend. Even Oshima mayor Tomio Nakamoto was seen strolling the grounds in his suit and tie, meeting with riders and thanking them for their support.

"This is a place where everybody can come to relax and enjoy the summer," Nakamoto said. "I want to thank you for your help encouraging the people on this island ... and we really want you to enjoy being here."

And as the sun set, the grills glowed and the band played on, it appeared all shared Nakamoto's vision.

"When people get together, barbecue and have a good time, they share two different cultures and something they like," Gingles said. "It doesn't matter whether you're American or Japanese, it doesn't matter whether you ride a Harley or a Honda - you're riding something with two wheels ... and you enjoy it."



Motorcycle riders head to their camp site at Katazoe Beach Park during the Oshima Bike Meeting April 12.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Squadron's new KC-130J Hercules aircraft makes refueling more efficient on Okinawa

LANCE CPL. RYAN WICKS  
MCB CAMP BUTLER



An F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 is refueled by Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152's KC-130J Hercules April 7 during VMGR-152's training. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan Wicks

**M**ARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan (April 11, 2008) — To ensure readiness, Marines from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 conducted a fixed wing aerial refuel training mission April 7 off the west coast of Okinawa with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242.

VMGR-152, also known as the Sumos, utilized the newest KC-130J in its inventory during the three hour mission, refueling two F/A-18D Hornets from VMFA(AW)-242.

Normally the mission would have taken a little longer because the older model planes weren't as easy to maneuver.

"The new plane is state of the art," said Maj. Constantinos Koutsoukos, an aircraft commander with VMGR-152. "All we do is give it the information that we have gathered, and it basically takes over. It is a fully automated plane. I could even sit there with my arms crossed the whole mission and have hardly have to do anything."

As advanced as the system is, however, there is still much to be done beforehand by pilots and crew to ensure a successful mission.

Crews must first gather detailed data such as weather conditions, cargo and crew weight, fuel requirements and mission timeline, Koutsoukos said. Then the execution phase begins by preparing the aircraft's internal operating system.

For the April 7 mission, Koutsoukos, pilot 1st Lt. Joseph Lenox and crew chief Master Sgt. Ian Kubicki took all the data they gathered and entered it into the plane's computer. The plane's operating system used that information to adjust in-flight settings according to the variables such as weight and weather.

Besides having a better "brain," the KC-130J also has more brawn, according to Koutsoukos.

"We can go higher and move faster than before, which makes it much easier for the jets to refuel and allows them to get back to the fight faster."

And getting the fighters back in the fight is the "bread and butter" of the squadron, he said.

"The majority of our missions in battle consist of aerial refueling, so we must master that skill," he said.

Lenox also emphasized the importance of efficient refueling missions.

"In Iraq, for example, the jets provide air support for troops on the ground," he said. "If (the jets) had to go back to base every time they ran low on gas, it would waste time, fuel and potentially lives."

With that type of focus, personnel of VMGR-152 con-

ducted the refueling exercise as if it were the real thing. "Everything was run as if we were in Iraq and fighter planes needed refueling support," Koutsoukos said. "The only difference is that we did not wear any (personal

protective gear or armor."

The exercise concluded with two Hornets topped off with fuel and a Sumo crew more confident than ever in their aircraft's ability to save lives on the battlefield.

## 1st MLG supports Iraqi villages



Capt. James H. Brady holds an Iraqi girl's hand during a combined medical engagement in Kabani, Iraq, March 18. 1st Marine Logistics Group conducted the project to increase support in the area by providing first aid and medicine to Iraqi villagers. Brady is the company officer for Kilo Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. Photo by Cpl. Jason W. Fudge

# Community Briefs

### Prayer Breakfast — National Day of Prayer

The MAG-12 Chaplains Office will be holding a Prayer Breakfast on National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 1, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. at the Northside messhall. Everyone is invited. The event costs \$2.00 unless you have a meal card. If you have any questions, please call the MAG-12 Chaplains Office at 253-5212.

### TRICARE — International SOS number

The international SOS number for urgent or emergent medical or dental care for Active Duty while TAD or on vacation is available. Cashless claimless service for all Active Duty traveling/transient. International SOS number (Singapore) International direct dialing + (65) 6338-9277 ("65" is the country code of Singapore. Call

collect or dial direct.) Toll Free from Japan: 005-316-50291 Toll Free from Korea: 007-986-517-342

### Holocaust Remembrance

Days of Remembrance: April 27 - May 4, Holocaust Remembrance Day: May 2 The station will observe the Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 2 from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Station Chapel. For more information, call 253-4186 or e-mail: robert.raines@usmc.mil.

### The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Have you ever wondered why some people are more effective in their jobs or personal lives? Wouldn't you like to become more effective? Attending a three-day 7 Habits workshop will help you change the fundamental

ways you approach your job, relationships, and can even help turn problems into opportunities. Sign via the intranet under CPIO Training or call 253-3508. Check our web link for additional training opportunities. \*Seven Habits Courses are also available in Japanese\*

### Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Special Emphasis Program is looking for individuals who would like to volunteer to be on the Asian Pacific American planning committee being formed. Volunteers will be asked to assist in planning events aboard the Air Station in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage month. If interested, please call 253-5530 or e-mail at derrick.hart@usmc.mil for more information.

### Chili Cook Off

April 26, 2008, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Matthew C. Perry High School parent teacher organization is hosting a multi-function fund raiser in the M. C. Perry Cafeteria. Get your chili recipes out and submit a pot of chili for the contest for the best tasting chili with a \$25 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, but if you donate one or more items to the silent auction or the PTO rummage table, you receive a \$5 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 is the silent auction. Items here will be bid on from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Highest bidder will take home the item once paid for. To reserve your spot, e-mail jamie.henderson@pac.dodea.edu.

### Northside Messhall closures

Today, Northside Messhall will be closed for the dinner meal for a section function. May 5, 2008, Northside Messhall will be closed for Friendship Day. The R.G. Robinson Messhall will operate at normal hours during these times. For more information, call 253-6740.

### Mammograms — Branch Health Clinic

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.

### Red Cross Lay Responder CPR Instructor Course

April 24 and 25. Cost of the course is \$80 and limited seating available. Must have current CPR certification. Call 253-4525 for additional information.

### Talents for Christ "Friday Night Live"

April 25, 7 - 9 p.m. Do you have a talent you enjoy sharing with everyone? Do you dance, sing, juggle, mime, or play an instrument or have something special to share that would glorify God? Well, do we have something for you! The Station Chapel is having a venue where children in the community can showcase their talent. This is your opportunity to be on stage and share the talent God has given you to draw people closer to Him. For more information, contact Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Chaplain at 253-5760.

### Self Defense Class at the gym

April 26, 9 - 10:30 a.m. at IronWorks Gym Dojo Room. Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, and verbal confrontation skills with safety strategies and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully escape resist and survive violent attacks. A good self-defense course provides psychological awareness and verbal skills, not just physical training. Join us at the Iron Works Gym. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services at 253-4526.

### BHC - closure information

The Branch Health Clinic will be closed on the afternoons of April 4, April 23 and April 30. The Urgent Care Clinic will remain open during these times.

## 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

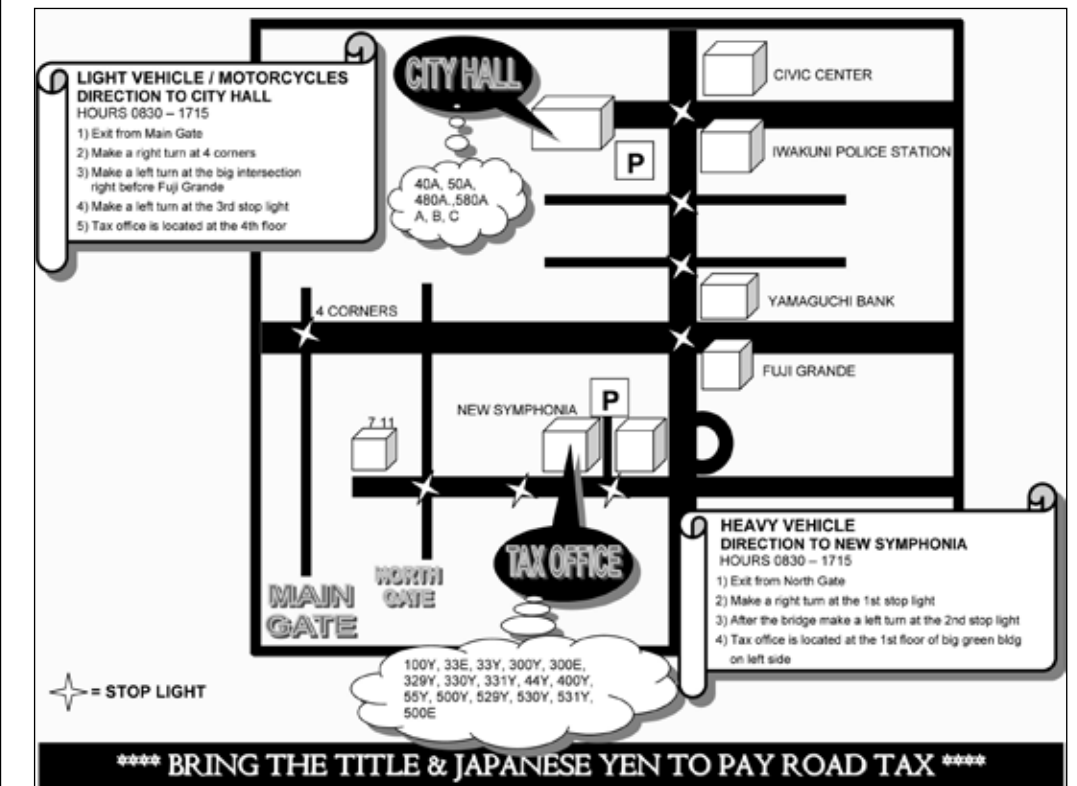
### Jewish

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.



# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

## AUTOMOBILES

**1999 Mitsubishi Grandis**  
Mini-Van Space; Seats 7 comfortably. Will take you just about anywhere! Top condition, Non-smoking, GPS, Multi-CD Changer, JCI until December 2009. Less than 120,000 kilometers (75,000 miles). Asking for \$3,600. For more information, call 253-7121

**1992 Mitsubishi Chariot**  
5 Doors, seats 6. Base driven only - Under 50,000 kilometers. Regular oil changes and tune ups. Runs excellent, cold air conditioner! Kenwood CD player. JCI till May 16, 2008. Asking for \$900. Please contact 253-2379 (home).

**1993 Toyota Windom**

JCI until March 2010, automatic, air condition, power windows, power door locks, power drivers' seat, 10-disk CD changer. Runs and drives great. Asking \$2,500 or best offer. For more information, call 253-4668 (home) or 080-6612-9227 (cell).

**1993 Nissan Presea**  
Asking for \$250 or best offer. Needs JCI. Just don't want it anymore. 12-disk CD changer with remote. Runs OK. Great AC/Heat. Automatic transmission. For more information, call 253-2531 (home).

**1990 Nissan Serena Van**  
Seats 8, reliable family van, new battery, alternator, fan belt and almost new tires. JCI good until November 2008. \$800 or best offer. Diesel engine so good on gas. Call 253-7152 (home).

## Miscellaneous

**Lost Rip Stick**  
Blue and black. "Kyle Hansill" engraved on bottom. Please contact 253-2331 (home).

**Oak dining room table with six chairs**  
Asking for \$200. For more information, call at 253-2331 (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.

## Got news?

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

## Mess Hall Menu

### MONDAY April 21, 2008

Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chicken and Rice Soup, Sauerbraten, Jerk Style Chicken, Steamed Rice, Oven Browned Potatoes, French Fried Okra, Calico Cabbage, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Coconut Raisin Cookies, Double Layer Almond Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

### TUESDAY April 22, 2008

Beef Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Swiss Steak with Gravy, Szechwan Chicken, O'Brian Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, French Fried Cauliflower, Broccoli Parmesan, Brown Gravy, Cheese Biscuit, Butterscotch Brownies, Apple Pie, Spice Cake with Butter Cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

### WEDNESDAY April 23, 2008

Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Sweet and Sour Pork, Yakisoba (Hamburger), Fried Rice, Brussels Sprouts, Simmered Corn, Hot Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Sweet Potato Pie, Whipped Topping, Coconut Cake, Specialty Bar: BBQ

### THURSDAY April 24, 2008

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Broccoli Soup, Fried Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Pasta, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Okra and Tomato Gumbo, Southern Style Green Beans, Chicken Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Devils Food Cake with Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

### FRIDAY April 25, 2008

Beef Barley, Spanish Soup, Lemon Baked Fish, El Rancho Stew, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Cauliflower Combo, Black Eyed Peas, Hot Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy, Fruit Turnovers, Bread Pudding, Crisp Toffee Bars, Chocolate Pudding with Whipped Topping, Specialty Bar: Hotdogs/Polish Sausage

# ROAD TAX Due April 2008

Road Tax must be paid between **April 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008**

### HEAVY VEHICLE:

| PLATE                                       | COST                         |
|---|------------------------------|
| 100Y  | ¥ 32,000                     |
| 33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y      | ¥ 22,000 (4,501cc and over)  |
| 44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E | ¥ 19,000 (4,500cc and below) |
|   | ¥ 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 building.)

### LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE:

| PLATE                | COST    |
|----------------------|---------|
| 50A, 40A, 480A, 589A | ¥ 3,000 |
| YAMA A, B            | ¥ 1,000 |
| IWAKUNI A, B, C      | ¥ 500   |

Light Vehicles and 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 and Registration Section\*\*\*  
**ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!**

- Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to PMO Pass and 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, April 30, 2008, the PMO Pass and 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 and Registration Section at 253-3161

# Sakura Theater

### Friday, April 18, 2008

7 p.m. Nim's Island (PG)  
10 p.m. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)

### Saturday, April 19, 2008

1 p.m. Shine A Light (PG-13)  
4 p.m. Nim's Island (PG)  
7 p.m. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)

### Sunday, April 20, 2008

1 p.m. Nim's Island (PG)  
4 p.m. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)

### Monday, April 21, 2008

7 p.m. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)

### Tuesday, April 22, 2008

7 p.m. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13)

### Wednesday, April 23, 2008

7 p.m. Rambo (R)  
Last Showing

### Thursday, April 24, 2008

7 p.m. Fool's Gold (PG-13)

General admission: Ages 12+ are \$2.50 / Ages 6-11 are \$1 / Children ages 5 and under admitted free  
For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

# Strongman Competition 2008

## Station residents flex muscles, put bodies to the test

Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Using every ounce of strength they could muster to carry, push and pull weights much greater than their own, 2008 Strongman Competition participants couldn't hide their true colors.

Nor should they want to.

In an inspiring display of heart and determination at Penny Lake Field Saturday, 18 station residents showed each other they were as strong as their bodies allowed them to be.

One participant was quite a bit stronger than the rest, however.

Six-foot-3, 230-pound O.J. Weiss out-muscled the rest of the competition with several displays of strength that left spectators in awe.

"I just wanted to come out and see what I could do," a relaxed Weiss said after the event, adding that another goal was to earn Commander's Cup Challenge points for Marine Aircraft Group 12. The Challenge is a yearlong unit physical training competition in which units earn points toward a "party fund."

Weiss carried 260 pounds (130 in each arm) more than 430 feet in the farmer's carry event and pumped out 70 reps during the 64-pound log press.

Joshua Shannon and Jeffrey Velasquez competed for the competition's second best performance. The 6-foot-2, 199-pound Shannon



Jeffrey Velasquez pulled a 6,300-pound Humvee a distance of 65 feet in 31 seconds during the Strongman Competition at Penny Lake Saturday. Velasquez claimed first place in the 161-190 pounds weight division. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

finished runner-up to Weiss in the "big boy's" weight class while the 6-foot, 186-pound Velasquez dominated the 161- to 190-pound weight class.

In the 160-pounds and less division, sneaky strong Craig Huntoon eclipsed his opponents in four of the competition's five events. Huntoon's

35-second time in the Humvee pull, in which he appeared to nearly burst into an all-out sprint, decimated the next best time in his class by 21 seconds.

"I think I could have done even better if I prepared," the 5-foot-11, 158-pound Huntoon said. "It was kind of a spur of the moment thing."

Denissa Granger rounded out the event as the only female participant. Despite being opponent-less, Granger seemed

to get the better of the match against herself.

"My competition was literally nonexistent," Granger said laughingly after the event. "They must have been scared of my manly physique. They probably took one look at me and ran."

Whether it was to see what they "could do" or to just have fun, competing in the 2008 Strongman Competition was likely a rewarding experience for the participants.

"I thought it was a great event," Weiss said. "We got a lot of people from the different shops and the different commands around the air station. There was good competition all the way around."

The competition's events included the farmer's walk, in which participants carried weighted barbells (men 260 pounds total, women 140 pounds) for distance, the tire flip (men used a 400-pound 7-ton truck tire and women used a 150-pound 5-ton truck tractor tire) for maximum number of flips in 60 seconds, the log press (men pressed a 64-pound bar, women,

a 34-pound bar) for maximum reps in a minute, the farmer's hold (men: 24-pound bar, women: 16-pound bar), in which a weighted bar was held in front of the body at a 90-degree angle for time, and the Humvee pull (women pulled a John Deere tractor), in which participants pulled the vehicle a distance of 65 feet for time.

Questions about the competition or the Commander's Cup Challenge can be directed to Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni Semper Fit Division at 253-5225.

## Event summary:

- Farmer's walk (feet)
- Tire flip (flips)
- Log press (presses)
- Farmer's hold (seconds)
- Tractor pull (seconds)

|                          | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | Points |
|--------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| <b>Men</b>               |     |    |    |    |    |        |
| <b>190lbs or greater</b> |     |    |    |    |    |        |
| 1st O.J. Weiss           | 436 | 21 | 70 | 53 | 31 | 21     |
| 2nd Joshua Shannon       | 397 | 19 | 56 | 63 | 28 | 18     |
| 3rd Richard Miller       | 233 | 19 | 61 | 76 | 33 | 13     |
| <b>161-190lbs</b>        |     |    |    |    |    |        |
| 1st Jeffrey Velasquez    | 325 | 18 | 58 | 64 | 31 | 24     |
| 2nd Stuart Laukea        | 200 | 10 | 40 | 59 | 39 | 15     |
| 3rd Justin Maile         | 249 | 14 | 54 | 44 | 66 | 14     |
| <b>160lbs or less</b>    |     |    |    |    |    |        |
| 1st Craig Huntoon        | 159 | 13 | 55 | 59 | 35 | 23     |
| 2nd Kyle Hoy             | 125 | 12 | 37 | 49 | 56 | 18     |
| 3rd Dane Menke           | 173 | 8  | 27 | 39 | 78 | 16     |
| <b>Women</b>             |     |    |    |    |    |        |
| 1st Denissa Granger      | 157 | 11 | 24 | 26 | 19 | 25     |



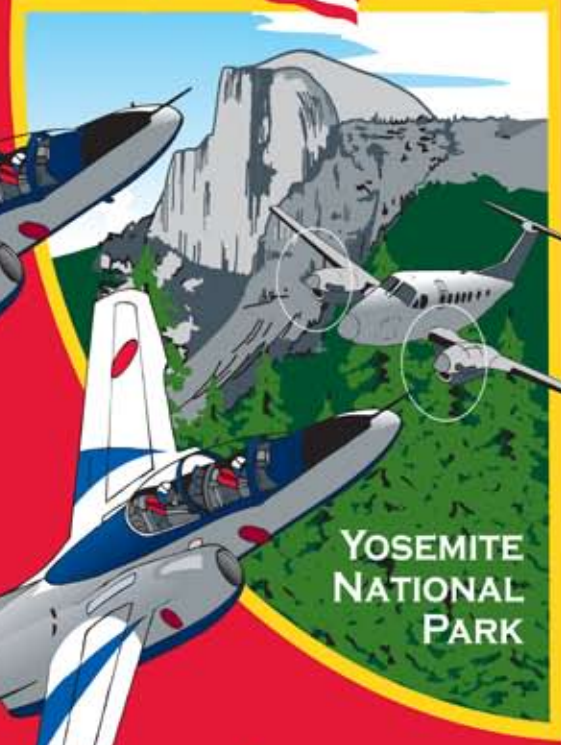
Denissa Granger flipped a 150-pound 5-ton truck tire 11 times in 60 seconds during Strongman Competition at Penny Lake Saturday. Granger was the only female competitor.

# IWAKUNI

FRIENDSHIP DAY  
MAY 5, 2008



WASHINGTON, D.C.



YOSEMITE  
NATIONAL  
PARK



SEATTLE  
WASHINGTON



ST. LOUIS  
MISSOURI



MCAS  
IWAKUNI JAPAN

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