

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 16, Vol. 1

Friday, April 25, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

The Untouchables: Part II



“This is where they took out the first piece of shrapnel.” Page 5

Cpl. Tim Jeffers shows Sgt. Joseph Tocci his scars from when an improvised explosive device claimed both of his legs. The Marines reunited on Okinawa last month when medically retired Jeffers, who was severely wounded by the improvised explosive device in May 2006 during his platoon's first tour, welcomed his comrades back from their second Iraq deployment. Photo by Sgt. Ethan Rocke

Calvin takes over as incoming HHS sergeant major

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The former Headquarters and Service company first sergeant of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, posted as the incoming sergeant major of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron in a post and relief ceremony at the main parade field here April 16.

Sgt. Maj. Gerard J. Calvin relieved Master Gunnery Sgt. Ronald J. Seubert, who will remain the station's Provost Marshal's Office staff-noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

As a company first sergeant of 1/3, Calvin, a native of Richmond, Va., completed two combat tours in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Previously, he served with Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe as an intelligence analyst and senior enlisted advisor to Division G2 of the Joint Headquarters Centre Division in Heidelberg, Germany.

There he completed two combat tours with the International Task Force in Afghanistan.

While he served in an administrative capacity much of his career, Calvin was also an anti-tank assaultman with 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in Camp Pendleton, Calif., and a security noncommissioned

SEE CALVIN ON PAGE 3



Sgt. Major Gerard Calvin salutes Lt. Col. Gary Kling, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, during a post and relief ceremony at the main parade field here April 16. During the ceremony, Calvin posted as the H&HS incoming sergeant major. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

MACS-4 Marines integrate CFT into Commander's Cup competition

Cpl. Justin Ellis, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Air Traffic Control Detachment B air traffic control communications technician, low crawls during the detachment's Combat Fitness Test at the northside football field April 18. The CFT was one part of a MACS-4 Det B competition comprising of a Physical Fitness Test, uniform inspection, weapons practical application and drill competition. The winning team was awarded a one-day liberty pass, Commander's Cup trophy and literature on noncommissioned officer leadership. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



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CORPS SAFETY

Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2008

SUBMITTED BY THE SAFETY OFFICE

Every summer, sailors and Marines have more fun on the beaches, at lakes, and in the parks. They take more trips, do more sightseeing and visit more family and friends. They also have more accidents.

These mishaps create a well-recognized negative trend. Since the 1960s, military safety specialists have called the period between Memorial Day weekend and the Labor Day weekend the "Critical Days of Summer." By any measure, it is time of increased risk for sailors and Marines.

During the 2007 Critical Days, 14 sailors and 18 Marines died in personal mobility vehicle mishaps (10 motorcycles fatalities). Four sailors and four Marines died in off-duty/recreational mishaps (three of these personnel drowned).

This year, the Station Safety Center's goal is to give local commands a comprehensive safety campaign focusing on risk management initiatives to prevent the fatalities and injuries associated with the Critical Days.

Why are the Critical Days so dangerous?

Many factors come into play. Traffic risks increase because, schools are out, which translates into more families on the road.

When service members visit home, they often travel longer periods than they should without rest or a break. Recreational safety specialists sometimes call summer "the drowning season," simply because of increased exposure at beaches and lakes, on boats and the increasingly popular personal watercraft.

For each increased risk, there are controls, and our 2008 campaign aims to make those controls clear and easy to apply.

Recommendations to help prevent heat stress

- Know the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses
- Fluid replacement
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothes
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks
- Acclimatization
- Know Flag Conditions

Safety Topic of the week

Heat stress and flag conditions

(Green Flag) Heat Condition I - 80.00F to 84.99F. Heavy exercises for unacclimatized personnel will be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.

(Yellow Flag) Heat Condition II - 85.00F to 87.99F. Strenuous exercise such as marching at standard cadence will be curtailed for unacclimatized troops in their first three weeks per NAVMED P-5010. Avoid outdoor classes in the sun.

(Red Flag) Heat Condition III - 88.00F to 89.9F. All physical training will be curtailed for those troops who have not been thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks per NAVMED P-5010. Those troops who are thoroughly acclimatized may carry out limited activity not to exceed 6 hours per day.

(Black Flag) Heat Condition IV - 90.00F or greater. All nonessential physical activity will be halted for all units.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Patience and the sanitation truck

CHAPLAIN ALLEN R. KUSS
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

From among virtues needed to be a good person, patience has been one that I have found difficult to practice. While waiting behind some vehicles driving on base during the 10:30 a.m. MCAS traffic rush hour, the following story sent to me by e-mail came to mind. Maybe, it can help you when you are tempted by impatience to say or to do something uncharitable.

One day a man hopped into a taxi and they took off for the airport. They were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of them. The taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at them. The taxi driver just smiled and waved at the other guy. He was sincerely friendly to

the other guy!

So the man asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" This is when the taxi driver taught the man, "The Law of the Garbage Truck." The taxi driver explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage. They are filled with frustration, anger, and disappointment, etc. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so ... "love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't."



"Afterburner" – Live 2-hour radio show, featuring today's popular Hot AC/CHR hits, local guests, news, weather, sports and recreational information. Monday thru Friday, 2-4 p.m. except holidays, on Power 1575.

CALVIN FROM PAGE 1

officer with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Security Task Force at the United States Pentagon, where he served under Gen. Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time.

Calvin's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars.

Sgt. Major Gerard Calvin addresses the audience during a post and relief ceremony at the main parade field here April 16. During the ceremony, Calvin, a former Headquarters and Service company first sergeant of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, posted as the station's Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



Keeping it crafty at Artizen



Nori Akai, Marine Corps Community Services visual display assistant, arranges a bouquet of silk flowers during a class at Artizen Crafts April 16. According to Debbie Crone, Artizen Crafts manager, the floral arrangements are ideal for formal functions or simple home décor. For a complete list of classes and services, contact Artizen Crafts at 253-6621. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Corps launches enhanced Marines.mil Web site

LANCE CPL. DAVID ROGERS
MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa (April 18, 2008) — Marines.mil, the Marine Corps' official Web site, received a face lift and functional upgrade recently in an effort to create a more user-friendly interface.

Headquarters Marine Corps Division of Public Affairs officials included such upgrades as increased security, streaming video, flash presentations and RSS, a method of syndicating Web feeds from other Web sites.

"You're going to get a completely new look and feel that enhances navigation," said Tim Delobe, manager of Web development for HQMC Division of Public Affairs. "We didn't paint over rust. We built a new car."

The previous version of Marines.mil, developed in 1996, was operating on an obsolete application, according to Delobe. The site crashed, corrupting its content approximately a year and a half ago. Web masters managed to recover 90 percent of the corrupted data, but the site lost many of its features such as flash presentations and photo display on the front page.

"When something broke, it was near impossible to fix," Delobe said. "And things that were fixed in one place would break something in another place."

Marines.mil now operates on new hardware and up-to-date software. The site now has the capability to host all the public Web sites of units around the Marine Corps. Currently, units' public Web sites are located on various public servers not connected to Marines.mil.

In future phases, all Marine Corps public Web sites will migrate onto Marines.mil with additional security benefits. The migration will collapse multiple Web site entry points into one - Marines.mil, according to officials at HQMC Division of Public Affairs.

Officials at HQMC are considering having the unit Web sites abide by uniformity policies in visual design and programming code once they migrate to Marines.mil.

"At the end of the day, what's important is not the technology, it's the content and how quickly it can be pushed out," Delobe said.

News Briefs

**Editor's Note:
The Iwakuni Approach**

The Iwakuni Approach will not publish a May 2 edition due to Golden Week and Friendship day. The newspaper will resume a normal publishing schedule May 9.

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.

M.C. Perry Girl's Soccer Schedule

Today and Tomorrow: ZHS at Iwakuni.
May 2-3: YHS at Iwakuni.
May 19-21: Small School Far East Tournament at Iwakuni.

Month of the Military Child



Three-year-old Misty I. Patsel eagerly awaits the balloon bunny rabbit made for her during the Month of the Military Child Celebration at the Mac Dome April 14. "It's very important that kids can get together and share in the fun times," said her mother, Yoko Patsel. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Station recognizes military youths

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

To recognize the more than 1.7 million American children who have at least one parent serving in the military, the month of April is designated as the Month of the Military Child.

This year, the station's Marine and Family Services departments and the Youth and Teen Center hosted a number of activities to recognize station youths for the sacrifices they make as a result of being a part of a military family.

Activities included a monthlong Sesame Street television program on channel 18 designed to help families cope with military deployments, a Parent Lunch Day at the elementary school and a 2.5-kilometer "Fun Run" on the station's seawall.

"While a child's parents are in the military, it's seems like the whole family is in the military because that child is affected as well," said Shermona M. Hart, Marine and Family Counseling Services victim advocate. "This month we wanted to celebrate that child, and let them know that we appreciate them."

Other programs included the Child Neglect and Unattended Child Campaign in which Marine and Family Services' staff distributed child supervision guidelines, a Blue Ribbon Campaign, designed to remind people to stand up against child abuse and neglect, and the Youth and Teen Center's Dating Violence and Healthy Relationships class.

"We received a lot of input from the children about

last year's activities," Hart said, adding that the Healthy Relationships class was very popular this year because of recommendations to divide the class into different age groups. "I was really impressed with how many parents and children came out to support the programs this year."

Also contributing to a solid turnout at the events was the weeklong spring break for Matthew C. Perry Students in the middle of the month. During the break, many children participated in two of the month's more popular events, the Jr. Golf Camp at Torii Pines and the Youth and Teen Center "Celebration" at the Mac Dome.

During the celebration, food, drinks and candy were served and bicycles, iPod Shuffles and hundreds of "goodie bags" were given away.

"It was a great way to recognize the children's sacrifices and applaud their courage," said LeShawn Williams, Youth and Teen Center manager.

The Month of the Military Child concludes with a Talents for Christ "Friday Night Live" talent show at the station chapel from 7 to 9 p.m. today.

"Both adults and children are welcome to attend and participate," Hart said.

Though the end of April marks the end of the Month of the Military Child, several of the station's services offer programs which can benefit all ages of children and their parents

throughout the year.

Marine and Family Services offers a New Parent Support Program, Single Parent Support Group, Daddy's Baby Boot Camp and Mom's Basic Training among others. The Youth and Teen Center also hosts a number of activities for children ages 10 to 18. The station chapel holds several educational programs, such as Awana and Mothers of Preschool Children.

For a complete listing of the programs available, visit the Marine and Family Services Counseling Center on the second floor of Building 411 or call 253-4526.



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, signs the Month of the Military Child Proclamation April 12. The signing reaffirmed the station's commitment to creating a nurturing and healthy environment for its families. Photo by Kim Abbott

The Untouchables Part II

A year had passed when Tim Jeffers finally caught up with his old platoon. He had spent the time rehabilitating and rebuilding his life. His friends were training to go back to Iraq.

SGT. ETHAN ROCKE
MCB CAMP BUTLER

OKUMA, OKINAWA, Japan (April 18, 2008) — "I just remember screaming and swearing a lot."

That's how Tim Jeffers recalls May 18, 2006 — the day an improvised explosive device claimed both his legs, one eye, nearly half his skull and his right ring finger.

Everything is dark for about a month after that — the frozen time when his world was eclipsed by coma — before he woke up at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

"I just remember waking up with my dad's ugly face looking over me," Jeffers says in his usual jocular tone.

Bethesda was the third or fourth stop on his trip from that roadside in Anbar.

There was the first stop at the field hospital at Al Asad, where a superior from his company tells him, he "got a little mouthy."

He probably spent some time at the largest American hospital in Iraq at Balad Air Base before he left the country four days after he was hit, but Jeffers can't be sure.

He was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany — the standard go-between for wounded service members from Iraq to the U.S. — where Cpl. Chris Jeffers, a motor transport operator stationed on Camp Kinser at the time, was sent to be with his brother and take him home.

Chris was dispatched there, Tim says, by order of then Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee.

"General Hagee asked if there was anything he could do," Tim said. "And my dad said, 'Send Chris to be with him.'" After Tim awoke at Bethesda, he was there for about two weeks before he moved to the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif., one of the country's premiere providers of the polytrauma care required by people like Tim who have suffered multiple traumatic injuries.

He spent eight months in Palo Alto undergoing full-time rehabilitation.

Every Monday through Friday, his days were packed. He underwent speech therapy and worked with a neurop-

ychologist to reacquire some of the cognitive skills he lost from his traumatic brain injury.

He worked with occupational therapists to overcome the moderate paralysis he suffered in his right arm.

He went through blind rehabilitation to adjust to the loss of depth perception that comes with having only one eye.

And then there was the physical therapy and prosthetics training, which Tim did twice daily.

"I was the one in the worst condition at Palo Alto," Tim said. "It was kind of depressing to see other patients coming in the door and then having to watch them go right back out a few weeks later. It sucked because I was there forever."

But forever at Palo Alto came to end, and Tim was transferred to the Marines' Wounded Warrior Battalion West at Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego, one of the top prosthetics training facilities in southern California.

Tim was happy to be with a Marine

“I wanted to cry when I first saw him. I'd never seen anybody who'd been wounded like that before.”

Cpl. Jason O'Heam
Motor Transportation Co., Combat Logistics Bn. 4

unit again. There were formations and field days and cammies — not that he necessarily missed those things. It was the Marines he missed, the people.

Tim was exempted from most of the regimentation and formalities at Balboa, which were aimed primarily at the Marines who would return to duty.

"It's not the same as the fleet because the primary mission is rehab," Tim said, describing life at Balboa. "But a lot of Marines there aren't getting out; they're going back to the fleet. The environment is intended to set everyone up for success."

Tim was on his way to a medical retirement, and he assumed a quiet, comfortable role in his new unit.

"If you're a (noncommissioned of-



Marines of 2nd Platoon, Motor Transportation Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, make their way back from the beach to their cabin at Okuma Recreation Facility March 29. The Marines reunited on Okinawa last month when medically retired Cpl. Tim Jeffers, who was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device in May 2006 during the platoon's first tour, welcomed them back from their second Iraq deployment. Photo by Sgt. Ethan Rocke

ficer), you act like an NCO out there. I was just Cpl. Jeffers, the funny crippled corporal," he quipped.

While Tim was adjusting to life with his new unit at Balboa and preparing to leave active duty, his old unit was starting another deployment training cycle and preparing to leave for Iraq.

One Year Later

It was Iraq that fractured 2nd Platoon's family, and it was Iraq that brought them back together.

Okinawa units deploying to Iraq have to travel to California or Arizona for desert training. That's how Combat Logistics Battalion 4 came to be in the Mojave Desert almost one year from the day Jeffers was wounded.

The unit deployed to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine Palms, about a three-hour drive

described as his "smoke break buddy" in Iraq.

"It was kind of hard to see him in that condition," Drexler said. "It kind of took me back to the day it happened for a second. The last time I saw him, we were just smoking like it's cool before a convoy."

Drexler stood frozen as the other Marines flocked to Tim, exchanging handshakes and hugs. It was a moment before Drexler could see the friend he remembered.

"Once I saw he was the same old Jeffers, I was just glad he was still the great person I remembered," Drexler said.

All the Marines had shared the same human hope in those anxious moments — that the way things were might still be within reach. As if anyone remains unchanged by a year's passing. As if anyone is unchanged by the brutal lessons of combat.

"We were all remembering what he was like and thinking, 'I hope he's the same person,'" said Cpl. Jason O'Heam. "I wanted to cry when I first saw him. I'd never seen anybody who'd been wounded like that before."

But on the other side of the Marines' anxiety and nervousness was a glowing Tim. The man who had been through hell and back had emerged with all the virtues and warmth of character that made his friends love him. Tim was still Tim.

"He's still a wisecracker, the same joker as before," O'Heam said. "He's still the same old Tim — my brother — just a little bit smaller."

Without saying anything, Tim taught his friends a lesson that day — about looking forward, about being thankful for friends, for family, for life.

And Tim felt, at the same time, the healing power of getting back some of that which was lost.

The friends and memories, the handshakes and hugs, the smiles and laughter — those things had emerged unscathed from that violent flash in Anbar.

Those things were still untouchable.

This story's conclusion will be published May 9.

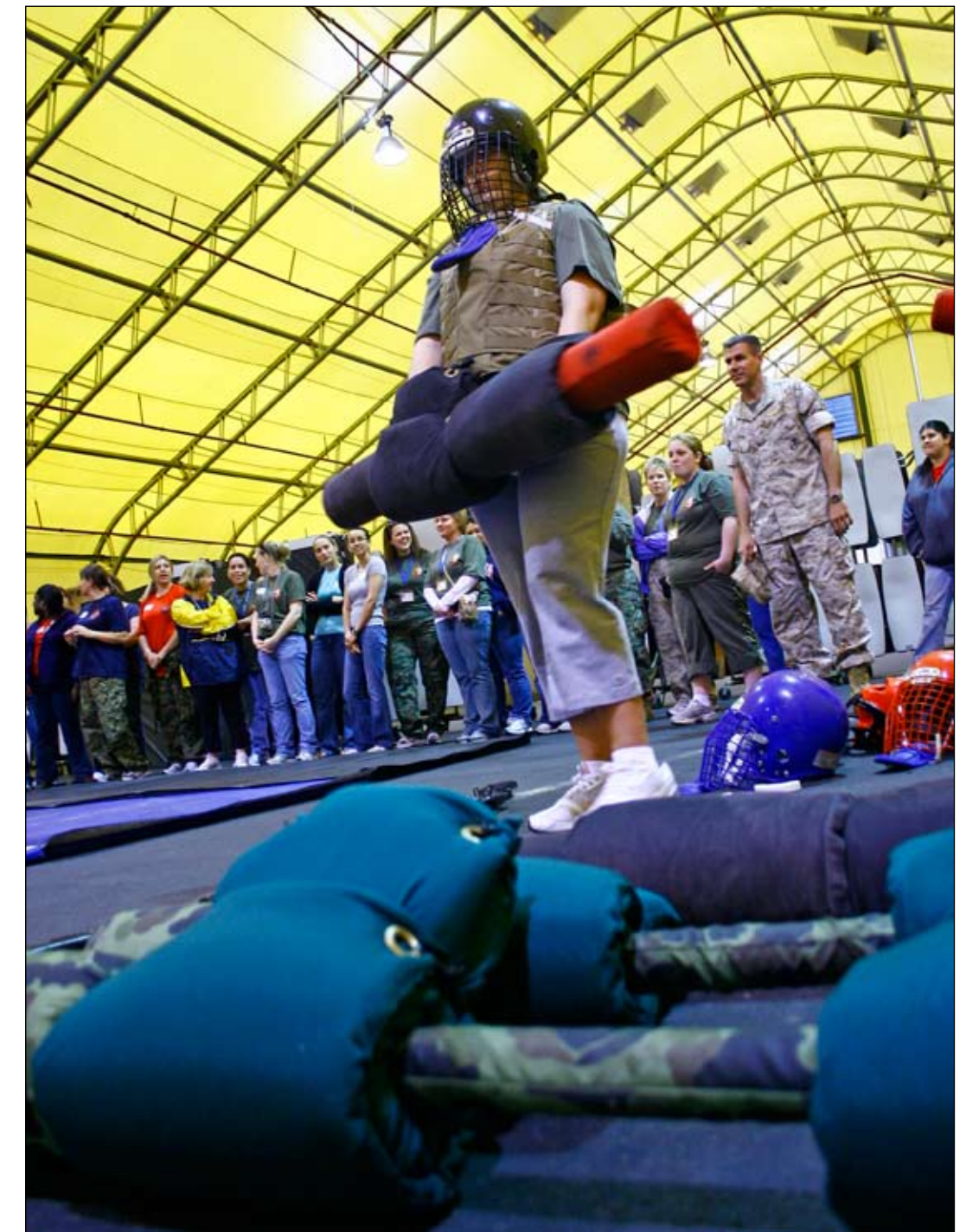
H&HS Spouse's Day 2008



A military working dog sits patiently, waiting to perform everything he has been trained to do, while Marine spouses at the MacDome listen to Sgt. Mario Cardenas, military working dog handler, April 17. Spouses were given the chance to don protective gear and feel what it's like to be attacked by a military working dog. Photos by Cpl. Lendus B. Casey



Master Sgt. Sal Cardella, American Forces Network detachment chief and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, spars against Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Buentello, Headquarters and Headquarters operations chief, while demonstrating the techniques Marines learn while training in MCMAP to Marine spouses April 17. Spouses were also able to go head-to-head with Cardella during the demonstration.



Lisa Buentello, spouse of Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Buentello, stands donned in protective gear and holding a pugil stick before going head-to-head against Master Sgt. Sal Cardella, American Forces Network detachment chief and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, during Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Spouse Day April 17.

CPL. LENDUS B. CASEY
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron provided spouses of active duty Marines and sailors the opportunity to receive a hands-on experience with the daily activities that take place here during H&HS Spouse Day 2008 on April 17.

The spouses started off the day with a demonstration by Gunnery Sgt. Dan Ryley, H&HS squadron gunnery sergeant, who showed them a brief example of what Marines go through during incentive training in boot camp. After that they received a brief from Lt. Col. Gary A. Kling, H&HS commanding officer, who made them honorary Marines for the day.

During Spouses Day, the Spouses received hands-on training with military working dogs, the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, aircraft rescue and fire fighting, air traffic control, explosive ordnance disposal, the mess hall, Indoor Small Arms Range, and finally the F/A-18D simulator.

"It was a great (event) and I'm glad they put it together," said Brenda Albarracin, spouse of Staff Sgt. Daniel Albarracin. "I would encourage others to do it next time."

Christine Nordberg, spouse of Gunnery Sgt. Chad Nordberg, and Traudeel Tanner, spouse of Gunnery Sgt. Bryan Tanner, don on crash crew's fire protective suits during Spouse Day here April 17.

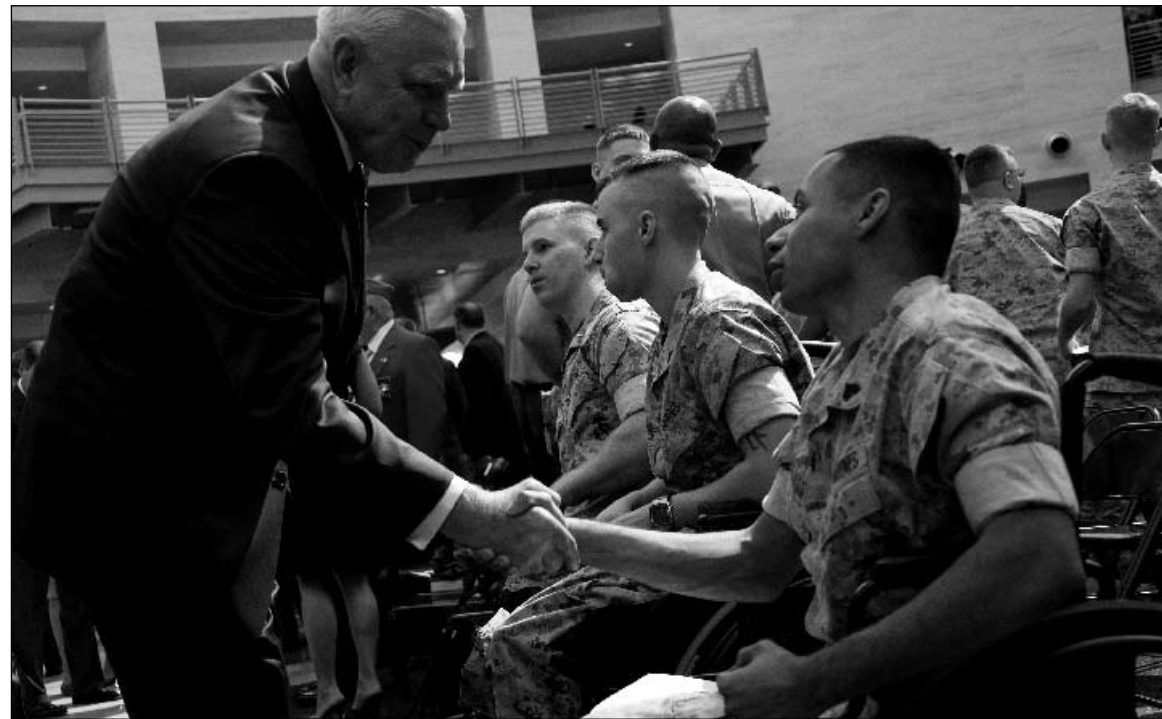


Laura Olmos, spouse of Sgt. Jesus Olmos, and Brenda Albarracin, spouse of Staff Sgt. Daniel Albarracin, examine an M-16 as they wait to receive a brief before shooting at the Indoor Small Arms Range here April 17. Spouses were given the opportunity to shoot both the M-16 and the M-9 pistol during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Spouse Day.

AROUND THE CORPS

Wounded Warrior Regiment turns 1

JOSEPH R. CHENELLY
MCB QUANTICO



Retired Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation president, expresses his appreciation with members of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. The regiment held a ceremony celebrating its one year anniversary April 11. Photo by Staff Sgt. Leo A. Salinas

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. (April 11, 2008) — Heavy smoke, the putrid stench of war and the crackling of a burning vehicle were flooding his senses. But when he realized his injuries were serious, his mind, at least in part, was on what would happen to his family if his injuries were serious in Iraq.

Capt. Ray G. Baronie and many other Marines now tirelessly work to ensure leathernecks don't need to have that worry anymore when in combat.

Baronie, who lost a leg to a 57mm antitank rocket attack in December 2005, is the executive officer of the Wounded Warrior Regiment's East Coast battalion. He was the guest of honor Friday at a ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps marking the first anniversary of the regiment's creation.

He was one of the inaugural patients in the regiment when it stood up in April 2007. Through 46 surgeries and extensive physical therapy, the Corps stood by the captain, brining his fiancée and father to him, providing the logistical, administrative and moral support he and his family needed.

Two battalions, one on each of the United States' coasts, assist and track wounded Marines and sailors across the nation. Marines taking care of Marines is not a new concept, but the regiment is the first entity to which the Corps has given oversight in tracking wounded troops to one command. A single data base and tracking system has been used in the past year to streamline the transition process.

Injured troops are now guided by the regiment's staff as they navigate medical evaluation boards, and they are assisted in the process of traumatic insurance claims.

Plus, the battalions give families information on charitable organizations too. The regiment prides itself on obtaining care for Marines without discrimination to the type of illness, whether it is physical or mental.

When Staff Sgt. Justin Brown deployed to Iraq, he was deeply worried about how his wife and 3-year-old son would be taken care of should he get seriously injured.

His concerns came to fruition when an explosion blasted him with shrapnel and knocked him unconscious for three minutes. When he came to, he couldn't remember what happened but he remembered he had a family back home to take care of.

The shrapnel had cauterized itself, so he didn't seek medical attention until he returned home and realized he had traumatic brain injury.

He became an in-patient at Walter Reed Army

Medical Center in Washington, D.C. — the worries returned.

"How would they be taken care of if this injury was serious?" Brown wondered. "It was stressful, but the Marine Corps stepped up, taking care of us."

Now, Brown and Baronie hope Marines can look to the Wounded Warriors battalions and find peace of mind in knowing that their families will be cared for and the won't be forgotten.

"I'm not worried about deploying again," Brown said. "If something were to happen to me, if I got wounded, I know I would have someone in my corner. All the bases are covered now."

Brown now works for the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East as director of events and public relations.

While healing his wounds at Walter Reed, he saw Marines working with the wounded.

"I met a chief warrant officer who was a liaison for the wounded Marines," Brown said from his office at the National Medical Center at Bethesda, Md. "I told him I wanted to work here. I said I didn't care what I did — I'd push wheelchairs all day if that is what was needed — I just wanted to work with these Marines."

The chief warrant officer called career monitors and had orders cut "faster than I have ever seen," Brown said.

Brown started with the battalion as a platoon sergeant, working with the wounded to make sure they were getting the help they needed and were able to get where they needed. But in his role now, he works with charitable organizations and donors, as well as the recovering leathernecks.

"I love getting to see the Marines out of their shell — not in the hospital, where they are confined," Brown said. "I get to see them out being regular Marines again, which is an important part of the therapy."

But his job has frustrations, too. He handles many offers from companies wanting to host wounded Marines for events.

"It is great that so many people want to help the Marines, but I have seen too many companies trying to exploit the Marines. A lot will invite Marines over, but they will have the press there and it turns into an event for the company rather than the Marines."

He also has to deal with people who get angry when he cannot send Marines to an event. Physical therapy

and other doctor appointments can be time consuming and tiring for the Marines, but Brown said those outside the walls of Bethesda and Walter Reed can lose sight of the fact that the Marines' top priority is getting better not going to a free concert.

"And there are times when the Marines just don't want to go," Brown said. "They are going through a lot, and sometimes Marines just aren't feeling well. That can backfire on us. We appreciate everything people do for the wounded warriors, but if these people cannot understand, then they don't deserve to have the Marines."

But the most rewarding aspect of being a part of the Wounded Warriors Battalion, Brown said, is seeing the Marines from when they come in "all beat up" to when they are once again capable of doing everything on their own. Brown said he feels staffing the battalion with combat wounded is important as he can relate to those dealing with so much.

"I am not missing a limb, but I still have faced some of the mental challenges these Marines are," Brown said. "I can relate to them, and I know that makes a difference to them. They can spot a mile away someone trying to relate even though they haven't been where they are."

Brown said many of those he works with now will be some of his best friends forever.

"Marines, no matter what, take care of each other," Brown said. "We send that message to the other services, too. They notice. I've seen firsthand soldiers who work at Walter Reed kind of adopt the way Marines are doing things, and that is nice."

He went on to give credit to the Corps' strong small unit leadership background as a reason he feels the Corps does better than the Army at taking care of its wounded.

"The Navy takes tremendous care of our Marines," Brown said. "They make our lives a lot easier."

As the regiment moves into its second year of caring for and tracking those who have been wounded, Brown and Baronie are confident the Wounded Warrior units will keep making a difference.

"I definitely would not be worried about deploying now," Brown said. "Knowing how great this program is would give me ease of mind, and it would ease my wife's mind. We just need to let every Marine know about this. I think word is getting out, but we need to let everyone know."

Community Briefs

Prayer Breakfast - National Day of Prayer

The Marine Aircraft Group 12 Chaplains Office will be holding a Prayer Breakfast on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at the north side mess hall here. The event costs \$2.10 unless the person attending has a meal card. The breakfast is open to everyone. For more information, contact the MAG-12 Chaplains Office at 253-5212.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat (MER)

The Marine Aircraft Group 12 Chaplains Office will be holding a Marriage Enrichment Retreat May 16 - 18 (from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon). The last day for sign-ups will be May 8. During the MER, couples will learn how to communicate even more effectively and work as a

team to preserve and enhance love, commitment, and friendship. Couples will gain new understanding and insight into themselves, one another, and their relationship. All Marine Corps and Navy active duty, reserve, retired personnel and their family members are eligible to attend (Army, Air Force personnel and civilian DoD/DoDDS employees and family members on a space-available basis). To sign up, please call the MAG-12 chaplain's office at 253-5212.

Personal Growth Retreat (PGR)

The Marine Aircraft Group 12 Chaplains Office will be holding a Personal Growth Retreat, June 11 - 14 (from Wednesday evening to Saturday afternoon). The last day for sign-ups will be June 3. The PGR, will give people time to

think about their life: where they have been and where they are headed. Will allow people a chance to consider the steps to reach their personal and professional goals. Explore self-help and other resources for support. The event will offer quality time for individuals along with some deserved fun. All Marine Corps and Navy active duty, reserve, retired personnel and their family members are eligible to attend (Army, Air Force personnel and civilian DoD/DoDDS employees and family members on a space-available basis). To sign up, please call the MAG-12 chaplain's office at 253-5212.

UMUC Term V class

schedule - face to face class
Registration for the University of Maryland University College Term V face-to-face class schedule will run from May 19 - June 6 and classes will run from June 9 - July 31. Registration for the online classes (<http://www.asia.umuc.edu/>) starts April 21 - June 6 and the classes start on June 9 - August 17. For more information, call University of Maryland University College at 253-3392.

(Tentative schedule)
Monday through Thursday 11:40 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.
MATH 012 Intermediate Algebra / Zoa, Nick
Monday through Thursday 4:40 p.m. - 5:55 p.m.
ASTD 135 Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture / Edwards, Hiromi

Monday and Wednesday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
ASTR 100 Introduction to

Astronomy / Zoa, Nick
JAPN 111 Elementary Japanese I / Edwards, Hiromi

Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
ASTR 110 Astronomy Lab (1) / Zoa, Nick

Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
JAPN 221 Intermediate Japanese I / Edwards, Hiromi
PSYC 315 Motivation / Russell, Mark

Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
July 12 & 13
PSYC 309K Managing Interpersonal Stress and Conflict / Russell, Mark

Volunteer needed - Iwakuni Motor Cycle Club
The Iwakuni Motorcycle Club is looking for volunteers to help with the parking of motorcycles for Friendship Day. For more information, call 253-5325.

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

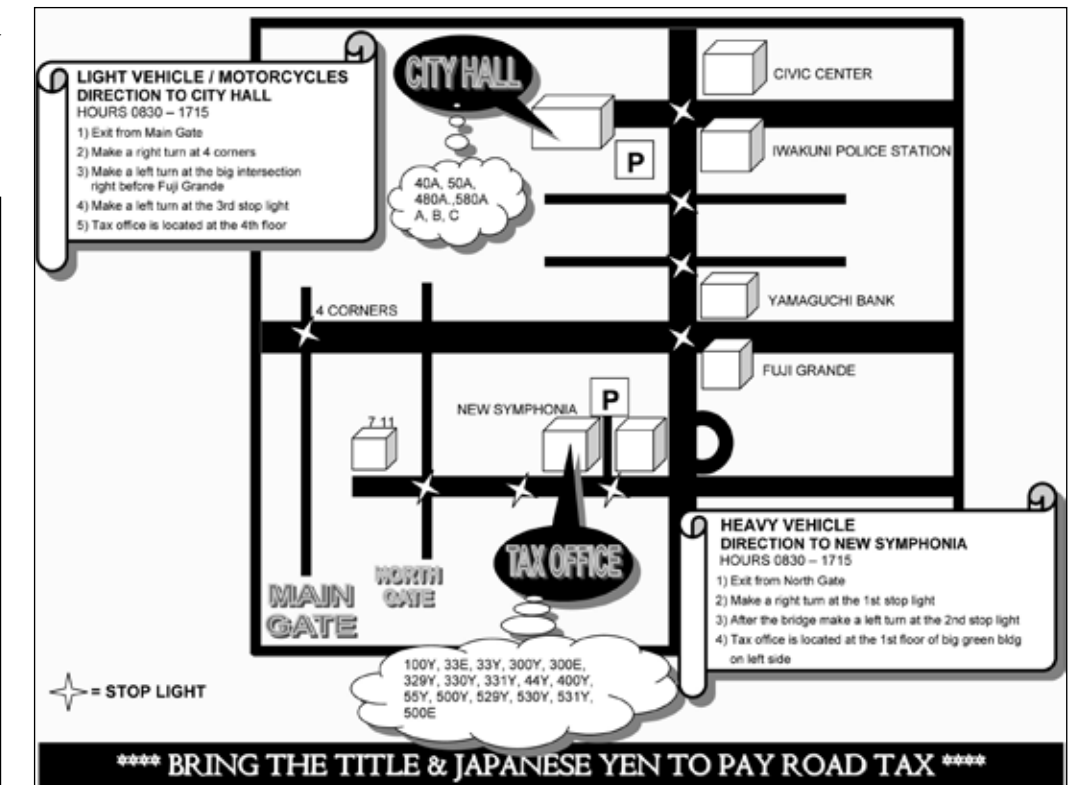
Jewish

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

Question: What makes children smarter and our school stronger at the same time? Answer: A Read-a-Thon!

Last month, the Matthew C. Perry Parent Teacher Organization hosted the Read-a-Thon from the Black Lagoon to raise money for our upcoming author visit with Mike Thaler, author of the wildly popular Black Lagoon series. Students got friends and family to sponsor them for each hour they read during the Read-a-Thon week, and then it was time to get reading! Some classes held all-day read-ins to kick off the fundraiser and all week long, students and staff members checked the graphs around the school to see how reading was going.

How much money had we earned so far? Which grade had read the most? Are boys reading more than girls? Not surprisingly, many students were overheard saying "I'm going to read a lot more tonight!" Was it worth it?

Results say yes! Mrs. Warden's second grade class read an average of 17 hours per student - the best in the school - and earned a sleepover in the library for all their hard work. The top reader in each class will get to eat lunch with Mike Thaler when he visits. As a school, we raised over \$1,000 toward our author visit, and most importantly, our school read over 3,500 hours in just one week. Of course, the reading never stops at M.C. Perry.



THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1992 Mitsubishi Chariot
Great condition both inside and out! Five door hatchback with power windows and driver side power seat. Seats six comfortably. Runs great with cold air conditioning. New A/C compressor, tires, timing belt, and drive belts. Mechanically sound! JCI good until August 2009. Asking \$1,300 or best offer. Please call 253-6984 (work), 253-2689 (home), or e-mail to joe.kohutek@usmc.mil.

1991 Nissan Turano
Five door SUV. 4-wheel drive, well maintained and mechanically sound! JCI good through March 2009. Asking \$1,400 or best offer. Great SUV for the outdoor family! Please call 253-6984 (work), 253-2689 (home), or e-mail to joe.kohutek@usmc.mil

1989 Toyota Crown
Large family four door sedan. Very low miles - 88k km. JCI until September 2008. Very well maintained, power windows and power locks, automatic. New battery, tires less than a year old. Drives ex-

cellent, mechanically in excellent condition. \$750 or best offer. For more information, call 253-6909 (work) or 080-3519-7282 (cell).

1996 Mitsubishi Delica
JCI good until April 2010. Seats seven fold away seats and swivel center seat. Great for families or campers alike. Runs great. Air conditioning blows cold. Asking \$3,200 but willing to negotiate. You won't find a Delica at a Dealership cheaper than this. For more information, call 090-8487-6565 (cell), 253-2923 (home), or 253-3465 (work).

1992 Toyota Corolla
JCI until March 2010. Automatic, air conditioned, power windows, power door locks, nice stereo. Runs and drives great. 173k km. Asking \$1,800. For more information, call 253-2015 (home), 256-2400 (work), or 090-9376-1841 (cell).

1996 Nissan Prairie (mini-van)
Two sliding doors, easy access for kids, can seat seven. Automatic, CD player, power windows, good condition. JCI until May 2009. \$3,200 or best offer. For more information, call 253-2966 (home).

1992 Mitsubishi Pajero
Drives great! Asking for \$3,500. JCI good through September 2009. 4-wheel drive, strong air conditioning, CD player, new tires. For more information, call 253-2152 (home) or 253-5377 (work).

1998 Honda Integra
Black, automatic, 90k kilometers, four cylinder, four door, new tires, excellent air conditioning and heat, JCI until October 2009, new CD player, cassette player, remote door opener, remote engine starter. Asking \$2,400 or best offer. For more information, call 090-9833-3471 (cell).

1992 Mitsubishi Delica
JCI until October 2009. New tires, well maintained, diesel (save gas!). Air conditioning and heat, excellent. 4-wheel drive, CD player. All taxes paid! Just gas and go! Asking for \$1,300 or best offer. For more information, call 090-9833-3471 (cell).

Miscellaneous

Beautiful bedroom furniture
Man's single dresser with matching mirror. Tropical plantation style-white. Would work in a child's room too! Paid \$1,500 for the set in the states. Too much stuff to PCS! Will sell entire set for \$600 or best offer. For more information, call 253-6984 (work), 253-2689 (home), or e-mail at: joe.kohutek@usmc.mil

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 28, 2008

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

TUESDAY April 29, 2008

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

WEDNESDAY April 30, 2008

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

THURSDAY May 1, 2008

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

FRIDAY May 2, 2008

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Southern Style Fried Catfish, Chicken Cacciatore, Steamed Rice, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Southern Style Greens, French Fried Cauliflower, Cream Gravy, Jalapeno Corn Bread, Coconut Raisin Drop Cookies, Florida Lemon Cake with Butter Cream Frosting, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Hot-dogs/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)

- 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

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 !!!

Sakura Theater

Friday, April 25, 2008

7 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
10 p.m. Witless Protection (PG-13)

Saturday, April 26, 2008

1 p.m. Nim's Island (PG)
4 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
7 p.m. Witless Protection (PG-13)
10 p.m. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)

Sunday, April 27, 2008

1 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
4 p.m. Witless Protection (PG-13)
7 p.m. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)

Monday, April 28, 2008

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

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

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

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

7 p.m. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)
Last Showing

Thursday, May 1, 2008

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

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

Runners pound pavement in 42nd Annual Kintai Marathon

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Exactly 1,000 Japanese and Americans laced up their running shoes and hit the station's streets for the 42nd annual Kintai Marathon here Sunday.

Toru Higashi won the men's event with a time of 2:26:53 while Nana Higashi took the women's division, posting 2:50:58.

Along with the 26.2-mile marathon, the event also featured a half-marathon and five-kilometer walk.

More than 900 of the participants were Japanese. Jae Kwon and Jenny Ouellette had the strongest showings among the few station residents who entered.

Kwon posted one of the best times overall in the 13.1-mile half marathon with a time of 1:22:30, which placed him atop the 29-years and younger age category. Kwon's 6:18-per-mile pace was a result of a lot of hard training, he said.

"I've been running seven to eight miles a day about five days a week," Kwon said, adding he was trying to improve on his time in a half-marathon event he ran earlier this year.

"It was a definite improvement. Overall, I'm happy with my time."

In the women's marathon, Ouellette posted a time of 3:40:57, which was good enough for third in the 34-years and younger category.

"I felt pretty good overall," Ouellette said about her performance, adding that she likes to run in two to three marathons a year to challenge herself.

"(The event) was a good opportunity to interact with the local Japanese community," Ouellette added.

Several Marines also entered the event as part of a team competing in the Commander's Cup Challenge, a year-long unit physical training competition hosted by the station's Semper Fit Division.

The Provost Marshal's Office and the Installation Personnel Administration Center both put together four-person teams with each team member running a quarter of the 26.2-mile course.



Japanese and American runners start the 42nd annual Kintai Marathon in front of IronWorks Gym here Sunday. Exactly 1,000 people participated in the event which featured a marathon, half marathon and five-kilometer walk. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

IPAC bettered PMO by nine minutes with a time of 3:37:08.

"We did good," said IPAC team member Terry Klinger. "We ran hard."

Though the event was Klinger's first race, he completed the leg in a team-best time of 47 minutes.

Along with several other American runners, he was also impressed with the athleticism of the Japanese, even in advanced age.

"It was demoralizing because there were guys twice my age passing me," he said. "The Japanese are fast."

Marathon Results

Marathon Men:	Half Marathon Men:
1st Toru Higashi 2:26:53	1st Motoo Hirayama 1:15:33
2nd Yoshihisa Nagashita 2:41:59	2nd Susumu Hatamoto 1:16:02
3rd Masahiro Murakami 2:42:10	3rd Hideki Ishizu 1:17:41
Marathon Women:	Half Marathon Women:
1st Nana Higashi 2:50:58	1st Maiko Kishi 1:29:23
2nd Kunie Uehara 3:21:30	2nd Hiromi Takahashi 1:33:28
3rd Naomi Kawamoto 3:23:50	3rd Tamiko Matshshira 1:34:11



Runners stretch before the 42nd annual Kintai Marathon in front of IronWorks Gym here Sunday. Toru Higashi ran a 5:36 per mile pace to win the 26.2 mile event with a time of 2:26:53.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH SPORTS
For sports coverage, call 253-5551

Youth baseball season begins on station



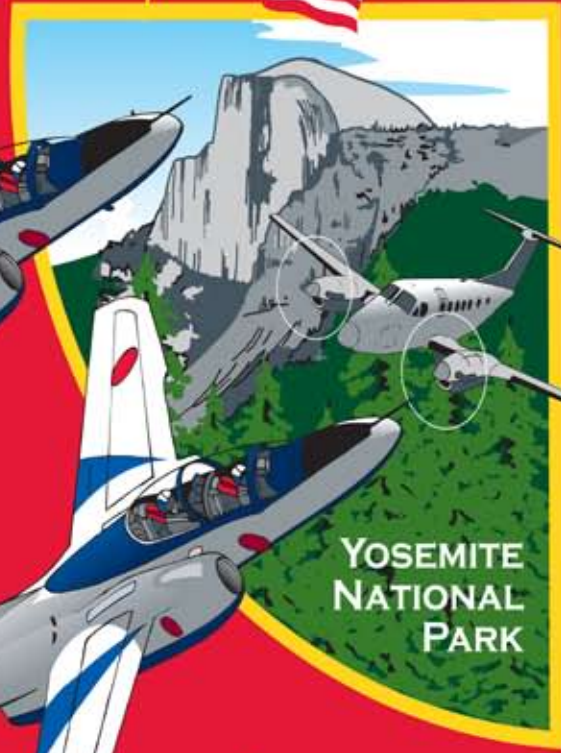
Youth baseball teams wait to be introduced during MCAS Iwakuni's Youth Baseball opening ceremony Saturday at IronWorks Gym. Following the event, players migrated to baseball fields to begin a day of a classic pastime. Photo by Cpl. Josh Cox

IWAKUNI

FRIENDSHIP DAY
MAY 5, 2008



WASHINGTON, D.C.



YOSEMITE
NATIONAL
PARK



SEATTLE
WASHINGTON

ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI



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MCAS岩国フレンドシップデー