

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## Preparing for typhoon season: what people should know

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Batten down the hatches, run to the basement, typhoon season officially began two weeks early!

OK, maybe it's not time to panic, but there is some important information people need to be aware of to prepare properly for a typhoon.

Fortunately, even though typhoons can spin up quickly, the typhoons that hit the Iwakuni area are generated far enough away to allow prediction and preparation time, said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas A. Reyes, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron meteorological and oceanographic forecaster.

"A typhoon is an area of low pressure turning counterclockwise and it's large," said Reyes. "It's about the size of a state."

"The most dangerous part of a typhoon is the storm surge; it's when water actually hits against land because you have wind that's constantly pushing the water and that creates the large waves," Reyes said.

When tropical storm season began early May 18 due to increased storm activity, the station went into Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness IV and will remain in that condition until Nov. 30 unless a storm is tracked, Reyes said.

TCCOR is a system of increasing levels that the station utilizes to prepare for, during and after a typhoon.

TCCOR II is when the storm is within 24 hours and is really the last time people should make arrangements to come on base for the duration of the storm, Reyes said.

Alcohol purchase is also suspended during TCCOR II, he added.

For full information about what to do during each of the TCCOR's, everyone should consult the Destructive Weather Bill at their office, Reyes said.

However, there are some important things to remember prior to, during and after a typhoon that might

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## Vanguards, Guardians take Far East Tournament championship



The Faith Academy High School girls' soccer team gets pumped up before their championship match against Daegu High School during the Class A Far East Soccer Tournament at the Penny Lake athletic fields May 21. Faith went on to topple the Warriors 4-0. Photo by Pfc. Ashley M. Howard

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## Welcoming waters house trouble for thrill seekers

PFC. ASHLEY M. HOWARD  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With summer right around the corner, more service members are making their way to scenic destinations in pursuit of an escape from the relentless heat and inevitable work week. However, when the impulse to explore outweighs a person's level-headedness, the situation can become dangerous.

The station safety center offers tips to help service members and their families keep safe over the summer season.

"The two most common factors in water fatalities are high waters from a typhoon or other rainfall and being unfamiliar with the area," said Rick A. Perry, the station safety officer.

Marines go to these waterfalls and assume that it's safe to jump into the water because it's deep enough, Perry continued.

The amount of water affects the height and ferocity of the water located in certain areas.

"The water in certain areas can raise 30 maybe 40 feet after a typhoon," said Ron D. Shulock, station tactical safety specialist. "It's impossible to see what's under the water."

Perry and Shulock take yearly trips to locations such as Three Falls and Yasaka Dam, both known for their lethal waters, to ensure there is no trash or debris at the bottom of the falls.

"There have been times when we visit a place, come back and find trash that wasn't there three weeks ago," Shulock said.

Not only is the debris a factor in the hazards of the water, currents also manifest below in areas likely to house swimmers.

"Currents form under the water and can pin a person under rocks and other obstacles hidden in the water," Shulock said. "The currents have also been known to carry a person upstream into even more dangerous

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# CORPS SAFETY

## Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2008

**THIS WEEK'S SAFETY TOPIC: Mower safety**

**SUBMITTED BY  
THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE**

*It was 12-year-old Eddy's turn to mow. He was in a hurry so he could join his younger brothers and sisters outside playing in the yard. As he was mowing, he ran over a toy left in tall grass. The mower threw the toy and it flew across the yard, hitting his sister in the eye. She lost sight in that eye.*

This example illustrates how easily injuries can happen with lawnmowers. Mower-related injuries are an everyday occurrence. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 57,000 operators and bystanders require medical treatment each year for mower-related injuries.

Lawn mowers enable homeowners and groundskeepers to keep neat,

appealing grass simply by mowing. Many youngsters earn extra money by mowing lawns. However, a lawn mower can be extremely dangerous if it is not handled properly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that each year lawn mowers injure over 110,000 people seriously enough to require treatment in hospital emergency rooms.

### Safe practices

1. Prepare lawn for mowing. Every time before you mow check your lawn for items such as sticks, rocks, toys, sports equipment, dog bones, wire and equipment parts. Make sure miscellaneous items are not hidden in tall grass. Also look for and remember immovable objects, such as pipes or partially buried rocks. Running into a fixed object can shatter the blade and

throw jagged chunks of metal out the discharge chute or under the housing.

2. Handle fuel with care. Always use care when filling the tank with gasoline. Wipe up spills. Never fill the tank on a mower that has been operating and is hot. Vapors from the gasoline can be ignited by a hot muffler.

3. Wear appropriate clothes. Close-fitting clothes are less likely to get caught on controls or moving parts. Long pants and sturdy leather shoes protect you from flying sticks, stones or other items not caught by the rear guard. Shoes also should provide good traction. A canvas or open-toed shoe cannot protect your foot if it slips into the blade. When mowing for long periods of time or if noise is objectionable, wear hearing protection such as earplugs.

SEE **MOWER** ON PAGE 3

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Welcome aboard! We are so glad you are here!

**Lt. j.g. Bob Mills**  
STATION CHAPLAIN

When you travel, what are the things that make your trip pleasant and fun? I always look at the scenery when I am traveling, to see the beauty of nature and to find some pleasure in the journey. On my long flight from JFK to Iwakuni, I was able to look down in the arctic twilight and see huge, white sheets of ice and rivers of black water snaking over the landscape. I had never seen the area near the North Pole before, so this was a new part of the world for me to see, and I took it all in and enjoyed it – even from 33,000 feet and 550 knots.

When I travel, I also like to listen to people's different languages and accents. It is amazing for instance, how much difference there is in English spoken in Maryland and English spoken just a few hours south in Virginia. It almost sounds like another language altogether. Here in Japan – it is another language altogether. In order to learn the language and customs here, I'll need to learn to listen well.

In some sense we all are on a journey. While your journey is not exactly like mine and mine is not exactly like someone

else's – we are all traveling through life. What can you do to make your journey in Iwakuni more pleasant? Why not try these two things? Watch the scenery. By this I mean keep your eyes open to the beauty all around you. Japan is a beautiful land and either on or off the base, there is much to see and enjoy.

You can also watch people, looking for similar interests, hobbies and activities. Secondly, listen to the people near you. Many times, being in a strange land can make us feel lonely and far from home. We may need to talk, to ask questions, to clear up some confusion. When you see that proverbial "deer in the headlights" look in one of your friends, it is probably a good time to listen up.

The differences between Main Street, USA and Iwakuni are many. The living conditions here are not like home, the food is different, the sights and sounds are different, but there are also similarities. Hard work, the love of family, good friends and the love of beauty are part of both cultures. While you are here, you can choose to look at this tour as a journey. Feel the breeze as you run on the sea wall, enjoy the sunset over the western hills, watch and listen. Appreciate what God has made and enjoy the journey!



**"Departure Time" — A live 2-hour radio show that features "Good Car Music." This show crosses all music genres. The only stipulation is that the music is upbeat. Monday thru Friday, 4-6 p.m., except holidays, on Power 1575.**



**Water pours over the rock formation at Three Falls. Two marines lost their lives due to the currents produced after a typhoon flooded the falls in the summer of '97. Photo by Pfc. Ashley M. Howard**

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situations." Although the situation can become hazardous without warning, there are ways to combat even the scariest of situations.

"If a person should be taken upstream by a current, the best thing they can do is float on their back with their toes pointing in the direction they're moving in order to bounce

off any obstacles," Perry said. "Remaining calm and keeping as much of their body out of the water will keep them afloat and hopefully get them out safely."

The majesty of being in a remote and beautiful location often leads people to act on impulse rather than sound judgment.

"It's all about getting home safe," said Perry. "If it looks like a bad idea, don't do it, and don't let your buddy do it either."

**MOWER** FROM PAGE 2

4. Use safe mowing techniques.

- Make sure other people, especially children, are out of the area. Young children should be supervised in the house while the yard is being mowed. They cannot understand the dangers, and the operator may not hear or see children approach.

- Never point the discharge chute at anyone. You never know when something will be thrown from the mower. Never run the mower over gravel.

- Do not mow wet grass. Wet grass is slippery and the operator can lose footing, slip under the mower, or allow the mower to roll backwards. Wet grass also clogs the discharge chute and can cause the engine to falter. When this happens, always turn off the engine and

wait a few seconds for the blades to stop rotating before correcting it.

- Use care on inclines. Some slopes are too steep to mow safely, so use good judgment. Always push walk-behind mowers across slopes to avoid coming in contact with the mower (e.g., by sliding down the hill onto the mower or allowing the mower to roll backwards on top of operator). Drive riding mowers up and down slopes.

- Never leave a running mower unattended. When you leave the operator's position the mower should be turned off. New models have an operator presence switch that automatically kills the engine when the operator releases the handle.

- 5. Disconnect spark plug to service. Disconnect the spark plug when you work on the mower. This prevents the engine from

accidentally being started. Many people are hurt every year because mowers start unexpectedly when the blade is turned by hand. Keep all parts in working condition. Fluid leaks (gas or oil), blade sharpening and balancing may require professional service.

Safety practices are just common sense, but we often need reminders. Take a few minutes to review these safety suggestions at the beginning of each mowing season.



**TYPHOON** FROM PAGE 1

not be in the weather bill.

Station safety director, Richard A. Perry, recommends preparing an emergency kit containing a flashlight, battery powered radio, canned goods, first aid kit, some money and at least a gallon of water per person per day. That is a minimum kit and should be augmented as necessary by every individual.

In addition to having a kit prepared, prior to a storm, residents should secure any objects outside that could be picked up and thrown by the typhoon's winds.

Even though many people remember to tie their own objects down, it's important to remember neighbors that are deployed or TAD and to help spouses who are home alone with the kids, Perry said.

When securing objects, everyone needs to secure all pieces of the object such as a glass top for a table.

Anything people want to keep from getting wet is best brought into their domicile. Utilizing plastic bags to cover objects is ineffective because the bags will tear off and end up clogging drains in the streets causing flooding, Perry said.

After the storm has passed, residents should still be leery of going outside.

"During storm recovery periods, we don't want people out and about," Perry said. "We may have downed power lines or other situations that require maintenance crews, and we need people to be out of the way."

Even after the "all clear" has been given for the station, there are still dangers in some recreational activities.

People should wait at least five days prior to going to typical watering holes because the rivers are very long, and it takes the mountains awhile to drain, said Perry.

"Even though the water level is going down, there are still harmful objects in the water," Perry said.

While some may think they're seasoned typhoon survivors, it's important for station residents to stay prepared throughout the season.

"Here's the big thing; even if the first few typhoons don't do anything, you have to treat every one like it's the big one," Perry said.

The Destructive Weather Bill is downloadable from the station's weather site under tropical cyclone information located at: [www.iwakuni.usmc.mil/organizations/station/weather](http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil/organizations/station/weather).

## News Briefs

### Toner cartridges

The Recycling Center will now begin to receive toner cartridges due to M. C. Perry no longer recycling them. If you only have a few, they may be placed separately along with your non-combustible trash. If you have several, bring them to the Recycling center during operating hours, Mondays - Fridays 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. All boxes that the cartridges come in are recyclable and must be separated.

### Fitness Month Aerobathon

Test your endurance with this fitness variety! Join Semper Fit in celebrating Fitness Month with an aerobathon to test your endurance! Participants from all fitness levels are invited to attend this two and a half hour event that will push your endurance to the limit! A variety of fitness class styles will be provided in the Ironworks Sports Courts from 0900-1130! Free T-shirts to the first 75 participants!

### UMUC Term V begins June 9

Registration for the University of Maryland University College Term V face-to-face class schedule is out! Registration runs until June 6. Classes will run from June 9 to July 31. Registration for the online classes (<http://www.asia.umuc.edu/>) ends June 6, and the classes start on June 9 - August 17. For more information, call UMUC at 253-3392.

# Pista Sa Nayon allows people to come together, experience Filipino culture

Pfc. Ashley M. Howard  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The night began with cocktails and casual chatter with friends, and ended with the combination of Filipino dance, culture and food.

Children and adults alike participated in the traditional Filipino dance along to more modern hip-hop music during the 13th annual Pista Sa Nayon, "Town Fiesta," which was presented by the Filipino-American Association May 24 at the Eagles Nest.

"To Filipino people, a fiesta is the equivalent to Thanksgiving," said Petty Officer 1st Class Simeon Cadavos, President of the Pil-Am Association. "We hold fiestas like this so that our children can do the same."

During the fiesta children of all ages ran around in bright elaborate costumes and dresses waiting for their chance to get on stage and perform.

"I've never danced in front of people before," said 6-year-old Mateo B. Tolliver, one of the dancers at the fiesta. "I just don't want to mess up," he added.

Mateo's mother also took part in the fiesta by dancing to a more traditional form of Filipino dance.



Children performers walk across stage displaying traditional and modern Filipino dress at the 13th annual Pista Sa Nayon, May 24 at the Eagles Nest. For most of the children, the event is their first time on stage. Photos by Pfc. Ashley M. Howard

"I'm very excited for my son to dance," said Lorraine Tolliver, Mateo's mother and one of the performers. "I get him involved so he can be introduced to and experience Filipino culture," she added.

All of the dancers practiced for five months to be prepared for the night's performances; however, their hard work would inevitably pay off with the night's finale of performances. "The dresses

don't feel good, it's itchy, and my shoes are killing my feet," said 15-year-old Danikka Lagarde, a performer in the show and often a mentor for the younger dancers.

"But when I'm dancing, it feels good and my feet don't hurt any more," she added.

The look of pride never left the faces of the dancers and audience members alike, and the fiesta continued throughout the night.

"I am so proud of my daughter and the fact that she's learning about her Filipino background," said Dina Emich, a member of the Fil-Am Association since 2005.

Emich's daughter Kurtney is only 5 years old and has been dancing since she could walk.

"I'm excited, nervous and happy at the same time," said Kurtney. "I'm very

happy I'm Filipino," she added before going on stage.

After the performances, the dancers were appreciated while the guests filed out of the room with a new appreciation for the Filipino heritage.

"Hopefully, people took something memorable from this occasion," said Cadavos.

"We're trying to revive Pista Sa Nayon to continue much longer than 13 years," he added at the conclusion of the night.

After the night had ended, the smell of lumpia, and other Filipino food filled the air and children spent their last few minutes kicking around balloons and walking around.

It was evident that the 13th annual Pista Sa Nayon was a success and something that must be continued for many years to come.



Dina Emich and Manny Garcia perform a traditional Filipino dance at the 13th annual Pista Sa Nayon May 24 at the Eagles Nest. Emich has been a member of the Filipino-American Association for three years, and Manny has been with the association since the first Pista Sa Nayon 13 years ago.



5-year-old Jazlyn Kroell waits her turn to perform at the 13th annual Pista Sa Nayon May 24 at the Eagles Nest. The event was her first time performing on stage.

# Service members provide needed relief to Thai community

## Humanitarian programs shape training exercise into real-world mission

LANCE CPL. DANIEL R. TODD  
COMBINED JOINT INFORMATION BUREAU

**KORAT, Thailand (May 23, 2008)** — To help improve the standard of living in a small, poverty-stricken community in Korat, Thailand, service members participating in Cobra Gold 2008 and Thai officials organized a charity event May 12.

"After seeing the little kids without clothes, light, electricity or food we decided that this was the best place to do a community relations project," said Master Chief Petty Officer Jay Stuckey, the U.S. Navy senior enlisted member for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii.

The group delivered more than 200 hygiene kits, which included hand sanitizer, soap, antibacterial wipes and other hygiene products. They also handed out toys, including stuffed animals and soccer balls, to the children.

Boy Scout Troop 248 from Aiea, Hawaii, provided the hygiene kits that were collected during an Eagle Scout project.

Service members participating in Cobra Gold donated the money.

The people cheered loudly while welcoming the service members with flowers and hand-made necklaces, a gesture that the service members said brightened their rainy day.

A few service members said the pouring rain was unpleasant, but as soon as they saw how happy the people were, it took their mind off of everything else.

They all agreed making the people smile and bringing a little joy to them was worth bearing the rain storm and getting a little dirty.

The service members also said the resilient nature of the locals left an impression on them.

"It was a very humbling experience to see how happy the people can be with so little," said Master



Thai children receive needed supplies during a community relations project service members conducted in Korat, Thailand May 12. Service members delivered hygiene kits and toys as well as contributed money to the poverty stricken community in Korat as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2008. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Todd

Sgt. Henry Sutton, postal chief with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Forces Pacific.

For Petty Officer 2nd Class Christian Montano, an aviation electronics technician with Fleet Readiness

Center Northwest, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington, the experience was an eye opening one.

He said he never thought that a small plastic bag containing a few hygiene products could make such a big impact on people.

"Coming here and having this opportunity to bring joy to these people really made me realize how much I should appreciate the little things in life," Montano said. "I think everyone should jump at an opportunity like this if they ever have the chance. It is just an overwhelming experience."

**"It was a very humbling experience to see how happy the people can be with so little. It really made me appreciate what I have a lot more and showed me how blessed I truly am."**

**Master Sgt. Henry Sutton**  
Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Forces Pacific

"It really made me appreciate what I have a lot more and showed me how blessed I truly am."

opportunity like this if they ever have the chance. It is just an overwhelming experience."



A Blue Glassy Tiger butterfly shows off its spotted wings at Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium. Blue Glassy Tigers come from India and fall into the Nymphalidae butterfly family, which contains over 5,000 species. They are very popular in Okinawa according to Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



Butterflies enjoy a few water dishes at Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium. The Butterfly garden in the insectarium has at least 10 varieties of butterflies. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



A Spotted Shield Bug mouths down on a tasty apple for sustenance at Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium, Monday. The insectarium is just one of the many places to visit at the park. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



The insectarium at Hiroshima City Forest Park has a variety of educational displays mixed in with the insect display cases. Even though most of the information is written in Japanese, the visual illustrations are very intuitive. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

# Explore Hiroshima City Forest Park: A natural playground ... with insects

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A short distance from Hiroshima Central, tucked away in the mountains, is the Hiroshima City Forest Park.

For a meager ¥440 for parking, the park offers a variety of forests to explore, such as the wild bird, hiking, insect, nut and mushroom forests.

For an additional ¥500 for adults or ¥150 for children, the park maintains an insectarium that can be explored.

The insectarium has a wide variety of colorful and unique beetles and butterflies as well as a smattering of other interesting insects.

Particularly notable species include the vibrant rainbow stag beetle, spotted shield bug, Japanese diving beetle and the Macleay's Spector.

Within the insectarium is a butterfly garden filled with colorful flora and a wide array of butterflies to frolic amongst.

Displays throughout the insectarium feature life cycle information about various insects.

Despite most of the displays being written only in Japanese, the graphical nature of the displays makes them very intuitive.

After spending time in the insectarium, right outside is a picnic area to have a nice lunch in preparation for the

next adventure.

If insects aren't appealing, there is always the bird observation hut located near the mushroom forest.

But keep in mind, there are plenty of trails that snake through the various forests and one can easily make a day out of simply navigating the trails.

If it's simply too hot to do much outdoor exploration, the splash river located just north of the main entrance is a safe playground for children and a nice place for adults to cool off on a hot summer day.

To cap off the day, a panoramic view of Hiroshima and the Seto Inland Sea is available by riding the monorail up to the mountain castle observation tower.

The monorail ride is ¥200 for adults and ¥100 for children.

The monorail only accommodates seven riders so ensure that sufficient time will be available in case there is a line.

The park is open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. but closed on Wednesdays.

The trip by car takes approximately one hour from the station, so go early to avoid traffic and allow enough time for exploration.

For more information about the Hiroshima City Forest Park, the insectarium and other spots, swing by the Information Tours & Travel office or call them at 253-4377.



(Above) A Rainbow Stag Beetle rests comfortably in its simulated natural environment in Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium. This species of stag beetle is said to be the most beautiful in the world. (Left) The butterfly garden at Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium is filled with a variety of foliage for the butterflies' consumption. The garden is home to over ten varieties of butterflies. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



A giant wood nymph enjoys a moment of rest on a flower at Hiroshima City Forest Park's insectarium. Wood nymphs are said to have a vibrantly colored golden cocoon. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



The insectarium at Hiroshima City Forest Park is nestled in the mountain area just outside city proper. The insectarium is just one of the many places to visit at the park. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

# AROUND THE CORPS

## BLT 1/6 tightens grip on Garmsir

CPL. RANDALL A. CLINTON

24th MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Since men first wielded weapons against one another, all fighting forces have shared one universal weakness; the need for resupply.

Just days after engaging Taliban forces and gaining valuable positions, the Marines of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, International Security Assistance Force, tightened their grip on insurgents by exploiting this weakness. On the outskirts of the District of Garmsir a platoon of armored humvees rolled into place. To the untrained eye this rugged trail looks like a hundred others, any expanse of desert marked with tire tracks qualifies as a road in these parts, but this one is the insurgent's lifeblood.

"They (villagers) are saying that this area is where insurgents are getting re-supplied from, so we established a vehicle control point here, a route leading into the city," said Cpl. Brian Floyd, vehicle commander, 1st Combined Arms Platoon, Weapons Co., BLT 1/6, 24th MEU, ISAF.

For days, Floyd and his Marines stopped cars overflowing with people, men on motorcycles, cargo trucks, and most often tractors pulling trailers filled with people.

"We set up this entry control point to establish a presence so they (insurgents) think twice about coming in, let them know, 'hey, we are trying to keep a lot of the stuff out of the city that's been getting in,' because they were able to re-supply through here the past week," said the 22-year-old who is on his third deployment.

This is the thinking man's part of war that isn't exciting enough to show in movies, but just as important as the fighting — cutting off the enemy's ability to fight. In two days of checking vehicles there was no grand cache of



**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Travelers walk a camel past one of the Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle's (HMMWV) at a vehicle control point in the Garmsir district. They set up a vehicle control point to deny Taliban fighters a key supply route. Photos by Cpl. Randall A. Clinton

weapons discovered, or arrest of suspected Taliban fighters, but the fact that nothing happened actually meant the Marines were successful.

"Just having a presence, being out here, is a big thing. They're scared; they're scared of big trucks (armored, heavy-machine gun equipped, humvees). They won't

**"Just having a presence, being out here, is a big thing. They're scared; they're scared of big trucks (armored, heavy-machine gun equipped, humvees). They won't come around here."**

- Cpl. Brian Floyd

come around here," explained Floyd. "We haven't found anything really, weapons and stuff. They don't want a direct engagement with us."

The random nature of such checkpoints should make any more Taliban fighters wary of trying to enter the city, said 2nd Lt. Clint Harris, platoon commander, 1st CAP,

Weapons Co., BLT 1/6, 24th MEU, ISAF.

"It just denies the enemy that avenue of approach, that ability to move in and out. For us being out there, we didn't feel like we accomplished anything, but not by not getting into contact, we were accomplishing the mission of safeguarding that flank," said Harris.

For the Marines stopping and checking the vehicles, it was an odd juxtaposition from their heavy-fought battle just days prior.

"It's real weird, because that's like the

most adrenaline rush I've had in my whole life," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Sepanski, turret gunner, 1st CAP, Weapons Co., BLT 1/6, 24th MEU, ISAF, of his first combat action. "At first I was asking, 'what are we checking for? Are we assuming they all are the enemy?' It was weird when you first get there because you try to be nice to them, but at the same time you look at them and think, 'are these people going to try to kill me?'"

Sepanski remembered his command's ethos.

"One of our ethos is, 'the Afghan people are not our enemy, the enemy lives among them,'" he said.

So Sepanski cleared the thought from his mind and began interacting with travelers.

"After I got out and made contact and started talking to the people, they were normal nice people. They were willing to cooperate. If you found something in their pockets and asked to see it they would take it out and show you," said the 27-year-old.

Harris credits his core of veteran Marines with allowing his men to transition from firefight to traffic stops without missing a beat.

"Our platoon is pretty senior. A lot of the Marines were in Ramadi last year and a lot of the new Marines came in and got taught the Ramadi mindset of dealing with the local population," he said.

The checkpoint displayed another asset the Marines of Weapons Company brings to the battle space

"They are usually a forward line of reconnaissance for a battalion. So we would establish either a screen line or a guard line to a flank or in front of a battalion if it is moving. That's where we are looking to make contact, gain intelligence, find a route, or something like today, guarding a flank. That's a doctrinal action for us," Harris explained.

As the checkpoints continued the heavy flow of traffic dwindled until cars were few and far between. The word was getting out; the Marines are here.

"They travel that route; the people who supply the Taliban travel that route. Those people are going to go back and say, 'the Marines are sitting on that road, so you might not want to take that road,'" Sepanski said.

## Community Briefs

### AA sponsorship needs volunteers

Senior friends of Bill W. needed for sponsorship assistance.

Place: Alcoholics Anonymous floor of Yujo Hall, next to the base chapel. Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call 253-4526.

### Boy Scouts Troop 77

After 50 years of air station service, Boy Scouts Troop 77 is still accepting new members. Meetings are Mondays 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Building 1111 (two buildings down from the Marine Memorial Chapel). For more information, call at 253-3505.

### Girl Scout Sock Hop

Join us at the M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym on Saturday, June 7 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. for our Girl Scout Early Bird Registration/Family Sock Hop. We will have refreshments, dancing and lots of fun. This is a free event so dress in your favorite "50's attire" and come on out to have some fun.

For more information, call 253-4738.

### 'IPAC SHOOTOUT' 1st Installation Personnel Administration Center Golf Tournament

The first Installation Personnel Administration Center Golf Tournament will be held at Torii Pines June 20. Show time is 11 a.m., shotgun start at noon. All skill levels

(none, hacker, semi-pro), all active duty, retired and reserve military, Department of Defense personnel and authorized guests welcome. Fee is \$20 plus green fees and \$2 mulligans. FORMAT: 4-man best ball. You can enter as a team or single. Singles will be formed into 4-man teams. PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams, closest-to-pin on hole 2, longest drive on hole 12. Entry deadline is June 18. For more information, call IPAC at 253-5523 or e-mail dustin.t.thompson@usmc.mil. All proceeds go to the IPAC Marine Corps Ball Fund.

### 2008 Summer Reading Program

Join "Catch the Reading Bug!" this summer at the MCAS Station Library and discover the amazing world of insects. The 2008 Summer Reading Program is open to young people preschool through age 12 with programs, prize drawings, story hours and more. Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins June 30.

For more information, call the library at 253-3078. All programs are free of charge.

### M.C. Perry High School 'Project Graduation' volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help the graduating seniors of Matthew C. Perry High School on June 11, 8 p.m. to sunrise. Casino game operators needed, setup crew on June 11 and tear down crew on June 12. If interested, please call 253-2192 or e-mail paulasmedes@yahoo.com.

### L.I.N.K.S.

Do you want to know about: communicating, Tri-Care, DEERS, investing in your community, PCSing, allowances and entitlements, LES statements, basic housing allowances, children and deployment, rank structure, Marine jargon, types of uniforms, MOS roadmaps, rank progression, optional billets and tuition benefits? Then join us for L.I.N.K.S.!

Free child care and lunch provided. For class schedules or more information, call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 253-3754.

### Chapel: Club Beyond

Club Beyond is a globally recognized, command endorsed and funded, faith-based youth program that desires to reach out to every military student in grades 7 - 12. Club Beyond will have

monthly events along with retreats and service projects. The youth meetings consist of games, skits, music and a faithbased talk. For more information, call 253-5183, e-mail IwakuniCB@gmail.com or visit http://iwakuniteens.blogspot.com.

### Personal Growth Retreat

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.

It 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 call the MAG-12 chaplain's office at 253-5212.

## Chapel Services

### Roman Catholic

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Confession  
5:30 p.m. Mass  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass  
9:45 a.m. Religious Education  
Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass  
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

### Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School  
11:00 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowships  
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service  
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

### Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (small chapel)

### Church of the United Christians Inc.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. Worship Service

### Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth Activities

### Jewish

Friday 6:00 p.m. Shabbat (small chapel)

### 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.

## AIRFIELD GETS NEW SIGN



**Notice:** A significant number of vehicles have been turning from the road that crosses the "Charlie" taxiway leading to and from gate 12, near the air field operating building without permission from air traffic control. In order to prevent runway and ground incursions, road crossing markings and signs have been installed to notify all vehicles approaching the taxiway not to turn onto the taxiway without receiving verbal permission from ATC via radio.

Violators will have their flight line access revoked and possible ticket issuance by PMO. All personnel are reminded that they must proceed directly across the taxiway without delay after looking for oncoming aircraft. Instructions on how to proceed onto the ramp area can be obtained via the airfield operations department. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Cpl. Mathew Hutson, vehicle commander, 1st Combined Arms Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, signals for a vehicle to stop at a checkpoint in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The Marines of Weapons Company set up a vehicle control point to deny Taliban fighters a key supply route.

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

## Automobiles

**1994 Toyota Estima**  
6-passenger minivan. Forest green. Under 100,000km, runs excellent, clean, regular oil, changes / tune ups, and JCI until December 2010. Road tax paid. Available June 19. Asking \$2,800. Please call 253-2379 (home).

**1993 Mitsubishi Delica**  
4 x 4 Van. \$1,500 or best offer. Great van for the family and for the outdoorsman. Very dependable for the past 2 years and still running strong. JCI is due September 2008. Please call 253-3656 (Work) or 253-2337 (Home) to setup a time to test drive.

**1995 Toyota Lucida (family van)**  
JCI'd through TNT until March 2010. Dependable, clean, automatic, air conditioning, new CD player, new battery, PW/PD, remote unlocking/locking, moon roof, non-smoking owners. Originally bought from TNT two years ago. Asking \$2,500 or best offer. Call with questions at 253-2080 (home) or 080-6744-9722 (cell).

**1997 Subaru Domingo "Clown Van"**  
\$1,500 or best offer. JCI good until Dec 2008. Seats 7. Great car for driving in Iwakuni. Call 253-2712 (home) or 080-3155-3283 (cell).

**'95 Rover 620SLi**  
Luxury European car by the makers of Range Rover for a bargain price. Factory loaded with leather, wood trim, sun roof, alarm, power windows and locks, AC, FM/AM radio/cassette/6 disc CD changer. First non-Japanese owner. 136,000 km, 2000 cc, 4 cylinder Honda Accord engine. A/T very reliable, routinely maintained, excellent condition. New JCI good until May 2010. Road taxes paid through April 2009. Recent maintenance includes: new speakers, 4 new tires bought two years ago, new brake pads, spark plugs, air filter, CV boots, 4 newly turned rotors. Asking for \$2,900. For more information, call 253-3610 (work) or 31-8617 (home).

**1989 Mitsubishi Pajero**  
JCI until Nov. 24, 2009 (18 months left), new tires, seats 7, seats fold up, 4-wheel driver, diesel, heat, no AC, power windows and locks, all taxes paid, automatic. Runs great! Asking \$2,000 or best offer. For more information, call 253-2151 (home) or 080-3876-2327 (cell).

**1992 Toyota Estima Emina**  
JCI until September 2009, seats 8, seats fold up, under 70,000 km, 10-disc CD player, hot and cold box for food or drinks, sunroof, moonroof, diesel, heat, cold AC, power windows and locks, all taxes paid, automatic. Runs great! Asking \$2,200 or best offer. For more information, call 253-2151 (home) or 080-3876-2327 (cell).

## Miscellaneous

**Wanted - Used Patio Set**  
Used patio set wanted. Please call 253-3855 (work) or 0827-63-1417 (home).

**Items for sale**  
Leather Limited's Winter Coat - black with matching hood, gloves, and fleece vest; in very good condition; a \$500 value; asking for only \$250 or best offer.  
Coleman's Camp Rest Easy Pad - green with original packaging; still brand new; asking for only \$10 or best offer.  
Nike's Sling Backpack - black with a padded back for extra support; 2 main compartments built on the sides to fit 3 to 4 thick text books; 2 small compartments on the front for your small items; 1 very small compartment for your loose change built on the shoulder strap; and good condition with a little hand cleaning needed, asking for \$12 or best offer.  
All items can be on picture and sent if contact at 253-7544 (home) or by e-mail at manuel.whitmore@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 June 2, 2008

Cream of Broccoli Soup, French Onion Soup, Baked Chicken and Rice, Yakiniiku (Steak and vegetables), Steamed Rice, Lyonnaise Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Chicken Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Chocolate Cream Pie, Whipped Topping, Banana Cake with Butter Cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

### TUESDAY June 3, 2008

Minestrone Soup, Tomato Soup, Pork Ham Roast, Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes au Gratin, Steamed Rice, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Combo, Cheese Biscuits, Brownies, Spice Cake with Butter Cream Frosting, Coconut Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

### WEDNESDAY June 4, 2008

Chicken and Rice Soup, Cream of Broccoli, Chili Mac, Grilled Cheese, Tempura Fried Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Oven Glo Potatoes, Broccoli Polonaise, Peas and Mushrooms, Dinner Rolls, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Florida Lemon Cake, Lemon Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Pie, Specialty Bar: BBQ

### THURSDAY June 5, 2008

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Apple Glazed Corn Beef, Teriyaki Chicken, Rissole Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, Succotash, Fried Cabbage, Hot Mustard Sauce, Chicken Gravy, Cornbread, Pecan Brownies, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

### FRIDAY June 6, 2008

Vegetable Soup, Beef Noodle Soup, Beef Cordon Bleu, Lemon Baked Fish, Parsley Butter Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Steamed Carrots, Herbed Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Ginger Molasses Cookies, German Chocolate Cake, Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Specialty Bar: Hotdog/Polish Sausage

## First of many JROTC ceremonies



Matthew C. Perry's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps performed drill for a Memorial Day ceremony May 22 in the M.C. Perry Auditorium. This is the first ceremony the JROTC has performed; however, it is said to be the first of many. Photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

## Sakura Theater

### Friday, May 30, 2008

7 p.m. 21 (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Stop Loss (R)

### Saturday, May 31, 2008

1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! (G)  
4 p.m. Stop Loss (R)  
7 p.m. Superhero Movie (PG-13)  
10 p.m. 21 (PG-13)

### Sunday, June 1, 2008

1 p.m. Superhero Movie (PG-13)  
4 p.m. 21 (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Stop Loss (R)

### Monday, June 2, 2008

7 p.m. Doomsday (R)  
Last Showing

### Tuesday, June 3, 2008

7 p.m. Never Back Down (PG-13)  
Last Showing

### Wednesday, June 4, 2008

7 p.m. Shutter (PG-13) Last Showing

### Thursday, June 5, 2008

7 p.m. Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns (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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

# Fish Tales Marina, Outdoor Rec has gear needed for fun on water

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Summer is fast approaching and as the days grow warmer and longer, what better way to spend your weekends and holidays than on the water?

The station's Fish Tales Marina and Outdoor Recreation Department has got your water sports needs covered by offering jet skis, sailboats, kayaks and other equipment to keep you moving on the glistening blue.

Along with jet skis, sailboats and kayaks, the Marina, which is open weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., offers an eight-passenger pontoon boat and sail, or windsurfing, boards.

The Marina's two jet skis are the most popular items, according to an Outdoor Recreation assistant.

The two-person skis allow riders to feel a rush of cool ocean breeze as they travel up to 40 miles per hour, gliding on the water and "spraying" on sharp turns.

On a windier day, customers may want to test their balance, strength and control on the windsurfing board.

For a slower, more peaceful ride, take out one of the kayaks and get into a rhythm paddling as the gentle, soothing ocean laps up against the boat's sides.

For those with groups who want to hang out on the water, there's no better choice than the pontoon boat. Its canopy, comfortable seating and spacious deck and storage areas make for a great afternoon on the water enjoying lunch or dropping a few lines. (Alcohol is not permitted.)

Along with brief required instructional and safety courses, the Marina, which is located adjacent to the control tower at the station's port facility, provides all the gear one needs to be safe and comfortable,



Fish Tales Marina opened its doors for this year's water sports season April 26. The facility, which is open weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rents jet skis, sailboats, windsurfing boards, kayaks, canoes and a pontoon boat to all base personnel. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

including lifejackets, wetsuits, and booties. Towels are also provided with an IronWorks Gym dog tag or \$5 dollar deposit.

While station residents can have a blast in the sun right here on station, others might be looking to make a splash in waterways off-base. For those whose needs can't be met at the station's harbor, several surfing and fishing trips are scheduled to be held in the near future.

The first of the several Hamada Beach surfing trips is scheduled for today and more are scheduled for June 14 and June 27.

A fishing trip is being offered by Outdoor Rec and is scheduled for June 22. There's also a Nishiki River canoe trip being offered by Semper Fit June 8.

To sign up for any of the trips or for more information, contact Fish Tales Marina at 253-4617 or Outdoor Recreation at 253-3822.



The station's outdoor recreation department offers a variety of canoes and kayaks for river-going fun. The equipment is offered for three-day rentals free of charge to all service members. Fish Tales Marina is located at the station's port facility adjacent from the control tower.

## FISH TALES MARINA PRICING

### Jet Skis

15 minutes \$15  
30 minutes \$30  
60 minutes \$50

### Ocean Kayaks

1 hour \$3  
4 hours \$12

### Sailboats and Sailboards

1 hour \$4  
4 hours \$12

### Pontoon Boat

1 hour \$15

Boating License  
Class \$5

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

# Pacific high schools settle score in Far East championships

Pfc. Ashley M. Howard and  
Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For four days 13 schools battled it out, their blood, sweat and tears falling on the torn up turf. Although the road to the finals would be a long one, four teams set out determined to prove they were the best of the best in the Pacific region.

The 2008 High School Class A Far East Soccer Tournament came to an end May 21 with the last boys' and girls' championship games held at the Penny Lake athletic fields.

The Faith Academy High School Vanguard, who were playing out of Manila, Philippines, kicked off the finals in their match against the Daegu High School Warriors, who came from Taegu, Korea.

"We want this so bad," said sophomore Lauren Cleope, Faith Academy forward and native of Waterloo, Iowa.

Cleope put the Vanguard on the board, scoring the first of her three goals in the game by slicing through Daegu's defense.

Faith Academy's senior midfielder and team captain Terilyn Wassell followed up Cleope's goal with one of her own after receiving the ball following a corner kick from the right side of the Daegu goal, ending the first half.

"Play strong, play with pride," said Daegu coach Jesus Nufable. "We came here willing to fight for this," he added, sending his team back onto the field for the second half.

Daegu's re-energized offense would prove no match against Faith goalie Jasmin Koenke, who fought off numerous goal attempts from the Warriors, allowing nothing past her into the net.

"You won't get anything by her," said Vanguard's head coach Erin Fish.



A group of Faith Academy High School girls' soccer players celebrate after their fourth and final goal during their championship match up against the Daegu High School Warriors during the Class A Far East Soccer Tournament at the Penny Lake athletic fields May 21. The Vanguard clinched the title with a 4-0 win. Photos by Pfc. Ashley M. Howard

Cleope continued her victory pursuit with a bullet shot straight into Daegu's goal, barely passing the fingertips of Warriors' goalie senior Shawnqunisha Simpson. Simpson, who stayed busy the entire game fending off shot after shot, said she wouldn't let her disappointment affect the Warriors' morale.

"I thought I had them covered, but I didn't," Simpson said. "I didn't want (my team) to see me down though, so I kept going. It's important because I know how we play when we're up, and I know how we lose when we're down."

Cleope clinched the win for Faith Academy by sneaking a shot into the left corner of the net with 10 minutes left in the game, leaving the score 4-0.

"(The win is) the best way to end my senior year," Wassell said.

"We've all been praying a lot, and I think God gave us this game," Wassell added. "We were all dying (out) there, but He gave us the strength to finish it."

The boys' championship placed the Nagoya International School Dolphins, playing out of Nagoya, Japan, against the Yongsan International School Guardians, hailing from Seoul, Korea.

Both teams started the game with aggressive determination, allowing the ball to be taken back and forth before Guardian defender and team captain Jonathan Kim scored off a penalty kick.

"The goals felt like they were given to me," Kim said. "But I'll take them," he added after following up his penalty with another penalty kick score.

With less than five

minutes left in the first half, Guardian defense Jonathan Park brought the score to 3-0 with a goal after a throw-in.

"Get it back," yelled Dolphins coach Paul Moody from the sideline. "We've still got 40 minutes."

With the second half of the game coming to a close, anticipation was high and the ball was kicked up and down the field without a sign either team was going to score.

However, with the clock winding down, Yongsan forward Yusuke Kakinuma ended the game with a goal following a corner kick, ending the game 4-0.

"I feel so good," said Kim, fighting back tears. "We played for each other as a team."

And although Yongsan walked away with a first-place trophy, the young men's celebration plans were no different than most of their tournament peers.

"It's time to eat a lot and party," said Guardian defender, senior Reinis Inapps.



Nagoya International School midfielder and Melbourne, Australia, native, Ryan Grey moves the ball in downfield while fighting off Yongsan International School players in his path. Despite Grey's determination, the Nagoya Dolphins lost to the Yongsan Guardians 4-0.



Faith Academy High School midfielder Terilyn Wassell attempts to steal the ball from Daegu High School midfielder Gulee Kwon during the STET Class A Far East Soccer Tournament girls' championship match at the Penny Lake athletic fields May 21.