

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 21, Vol. 1

Friday, June 6, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

'We're all in this together': Aussies, Americans share deployment difficulties

Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — The absence of loved ones is a hardship many military families are familiar with. A little empathy can go a long way in these situations, especially from those who have walked in the same shoes or, more appropriately, boots.

A group of service members participating in Pitch Black 2008, a three-week multi-national air-to-air training exercise, spent an afternoon with locals who are experiencing separation from their deployed parents and spouses.

The event was one of many regular meetings held by Tindal's Defense Community Organization, which looks after the well-being of service members and their families through various resource and referral programs. The Marines and sailors, most of whom had deployed in support of the Long War, were invited to play with the children, enjoy a barbecue lunch and share their experiences.

"For the guys that are going around talking to the spouses of the people that are deployed, (it's) giving them their perspective of what it's like on our end when we're deployed," said Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Hickman, Marine Aircraft Group 12 religious program specialist who helped organize the event. "It kind of gives them a sympathetic ear to listen."

While the adults had the opportunity to talk, the children spent the afternoon doing what they do best: being kids. Whether playing soccer or bouncing on an array of gymnastic equipment, the youngsters seemed to enjoy the outdoor fun with their new American friends.

"I was kicking the ball around and doing tricks on the mats," said 7-year-old Keegan Loadsman. "My favorite was doing the tricks; it was a good time."

Sgt. Edward Ruffin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 food service specialist, said playing with the excited kids

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Ninth-graders Kris Kuhn, Jacob Suenkel and Sgt. Joshua J. Wigan, a calibration technician with Marine Calibrations Complex I, work on a particularly challenging problem during the soccer shootout on Algebra Day at Penny Lake Field May 30. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Algebra Day: Fun, challenging review for M.C. Perry students

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Math class was a little different than usual when Matthew C. Perry High School students went to the Penny Lake fields for "Algebra Day" May 30.

Algebra Day consisted of mathematical events geared toward challenging the students to solve equations quickly to earn points.

"Algebra Day is the big review, end of the year project," said Jacob Brookover, a math teacher at M.C. Perry and Algebra Day coordinator. "The final exam is next week."

This was the school's third annual Algebra Day, and even though the weather wasn't the best, this year's event was the best yet, said Brookover.

The day kicked off with the "Circle of Death." The six student teams were given the same algebra problem at the same time. Their goal was to correctly complete the problem as quickly as possible and run the solution to be checked, in order to earn more points.

Other events included a balloon toss, soccer shootout, blob race, relay race and a memory, matching game called function finder.

"To be honest, kids don't always like math so it's fun to get them out of the class," said Brookover.

Overall the students seemed to enjoy the event because it allowed them to have fun and learn at the same time.

"Algebra Day was really fun," seventh-grader Raegan Holland said. "There were all different activities while still doing algebra."

SEE ALGEBRA ON PAGE 4

Military working dogs get new 'leash' on life through adoption

Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

From drug patrols, bomb searches and occasional attacks, military working dogs do more than their share protecting military personnel.

But, just like any other job, retirement comes slowly but surely. For military working dogs, retirement doesn't include a beachfront cottage or an expensive New York loft apartment. Instead, the dogs receive a pair of warm feet to rest their head on and a ball that will be obnoxiously thrown every which way until caught.

The Military Working Dog Adoption Program has been committed in finding military working dogs a home after service since its official start April 8.

"The program is a little more extensive than a pound, but it's thought about the same way," said Sgt. Mario Cardenas, Kennel Master and Chief Trainer for the Provost Marshal's Office canine unit.

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Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Buckley, military dog handler for the Provost Marshal's Office canine unit, sits with his 9-year-old German shepherd military working dog, Rony.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



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**Commanding Officer/
Publisher**
Col. Michael A. O'Halloran

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunnery Sgt.
John A. Cordero

Managing Editor
Sgt. Josh Cox

Editor
Cpl. Lendus B. Casey

Combat Correspondents
Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs
Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler
Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli
Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CORPS SAFETY

Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2008

THIS WEEK'S SAFETY TOPIC: Local nature awareness

SUBMITTED BY
THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE

The Black widow spider



In order to prevent spider bites, be sure to wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt when handling stored cardboard boxes, firewood, lumber and rocks. Be sure to inspect these clothing items for spiders before putting them on. Shake out clothing and shoes before getting dressed.

Poisonous snakes in the Iwakuni area

There are only two poisonous snakes in the Iwakuni area which will be active during the summer months. They are the Mamushi and the Yamakagashi. Luckily for us, both of them are very inoffensive creatures who would much rather run and hide than bite you. Even better than this is the fact that even if they do bite you, they have what are called "rear facing fangs" so it is unlikely that they would be able to inject venom into an adult. We are just too big for them to get their fangs into.

The biggest thing to be concerned about with both of these snakes is that while they would most likely not be able to inject any venom into an adult human being, they would certainly be able to do so if they were to bite a small child. Therefore it is important to keep an eye on your children and make sure they are safe.

If you do happen to see one of these

animals on base, the most important thing is to leave it alone! Do not try to capture or bother them. Just give them a wide berth and immediately call the Provost Marshal's Office, who will dispatch an animal control officer with specialized training to come and collect the creature.

In the unfortunate event that you are bitten, the most important thing to do is remain calm and either come in to the clinic or call for an ambulance. The venom of both these snakes is very slow acting, so you are not in any immediate danger after you are bitten, and anti-venom for both of these snakes is available.

In conclusion, I would just like to state again that these are very inoffensive creatures.

The only recorded instances were someone has been bitten by one of them

SEE NATURE ON PAGE 3

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Success begins at home

Lt. John Q. Cometa
STATION CHAPLAIN

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." - Proverbs 22:6

The late Fleet Admiral Nimitz once said that a given individual is not predestined to succeed simply because he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He believes that determination and industry are the determining factors. He also attributed his success to his family, particularly to his wife who always stood by him when even his career was at stake. His seven children, who are all well-bred, gave Fleet Admiral Nimitz the first sign of success. He loves to say, "Success, like charity, begins at home."

The Marine Corps offers a variety of programs and a wide range of support services to our military families. However, despite all these resources available to us, parents have a crucial role in instilling in children our family values. The Scriptures say, "A man reaps what he sows... Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will

reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 5:7, 9) If we sow love at home, we will reap love. If we sow hatred and bitterness at home or even at our work place, guess what we are going to reap. Personal growth is a process. Like farming, the right climate is essential for growth. We can bring out the best in our kids starting at a very young age by providing the right atmosphere at home and setting an example.

Mim Ford wrote, "What exactly makes up a strong family that possesses good family values? A family that sustains its members — that supports and nourishes the members throughout the span of that family." The core values that benefit marriage and family are commitment, respect, intimacy, forgiveness, thankfulness and service to others.

The principle of sowing and reaping also applies to single Marines. Whether they are anticipating marriage or not, sowing right attitude and internalizing our core values in our day to day existence will definitely reap success.

If I ask your children where they want to spend most of their time, would they say, "home?" As the saying goes, "there is no place like home."



"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 through Friday, 4-6 p.m., except holidays, on Power 1575.

Forging foreign friendships



Sgt. Josh Cox
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Exercise Cobra Gold 2008 was an annual combined, joint training evolution and humanitarian effort held in the Kingdom of Thailand in May. But, from inside the box it was really a lot more.

The exercise was more than field training, sorties and scenarios.

The training and real-world missions were the central reason why we were there, but the exercise was also an opportunity for the U.S. military to build lasting relationships with different nations and cultures.

In today's world, relations with foreign nations are extremely crucial to global infrastructure. The relationships we have with nations like Thailand have huge diplomatic benefits for all parties involved. We aren't politicians

or celebrities -- we are average American citizens, and here I think people associate America's image with us more so than well-known Americans.

During my time in Thailand, I met countless people from around the world. The local culture and the service members representing Thailand, Japan, Indonesia and Singapore embraced Americans participating in the exercise.

They felt honored to meet and converse with any U.S. service member, regardless of service, rank or age.

The language barriers and cultural differences failed to stop the service members from making the best of the exercise.

Moreover, I was invited to several dinners and official functions with our Thai counterparts, and I don't think I have ever been treated so well by a host anywhere in my entire life -- and I'm from the south.

Our Thai comrades were very hospitable and supportive. They taught us the local culture and traditions, and insisted we try to immerse ourselves

SEE FRIENDSHIPS ON PAGE 5



Seven-year-old Keegan Loadsman performs some airborne acrobatics for Australian and American onlookers at the Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal Sergeants Mess June 1. A group of Marines participating in Pitch Black 2008, a three-week multinational air-to-air training exercise, spent the afternoon playing with children, many of whose parents are deployed in support of the Long War, during Tindal's monthly Defense Community Organization meeting. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

DEPLOYMENT FROM PAGE 1

was a reminder of what many must leave behind when going to serve their country, and how giving a little bit of one's time can make a positive impact.

"Being deployed to Iraq before, I can identify with missing your loved ones," Ruffin said.

"Having a support system is important," he added. "There's always somebody (there) to lift you up. You never know what somebody's going through, so if you've (been part of) that support system ... you're able to help wherever it's needed."

According to Deborah Brewer, DCO area manager, the afternoon was a representation of a common theme sure to be seen again and again throughout Pitch Black: two countries working together to achieve a common goal.

Just having a few extra people around to talk with the spouses and play with the kids makes a difference, Brewer said.

"It was nice that the Marines could be here, too, because it strengthens our ties internationally," she added. "It's really great there's that level of community-mindedness, because we're all in this together."

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are where people have tried to pick them up and handle them. All they want is to enjoy some sunshine and maybe eat a tasty frog or two. As long as you leave them in peace they will most certainly extend you the same courtesy.

The Yamakagashi



The Yamakagashi is a thin snake which varies in length from about 2 to 4 feet, with the average being around 2 and a half feet. Its back has black dots, separated by yellowish brown bands which are spotted with red patterns.

It has a thin neck and a triangular shaped head. They tend to inhabit flatlands and low hills around rice patties, lakes and marshes. An added area of concern with the Yamakagashi is the fact that they have specialized glands in their neck which secrete a poisonous substance that can cause blindness if you come into contact with it.

The Mamushi is the smaller of the two snakes. It varies in length from 1 to 2 feet, and its main characteristics are a triangle shaped head with a narrow neck and flared jaw.

Unlike some other poisonous snakes, the Mamushi is not particularly colorful. Generally they are either grayish brown or dark brown black with pairs of blackish brown dots going down both sides. They can be found in damp forested terrain, bamboo thickets

and even dry riverbeds. The Mamushi also tends to be very slow to react to things so it may not move right away if you approach it.

The Mamushi



If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Preventive Medicine Department located in the Branch Health Clinic at 253-5236.

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!

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.

Bike Patrol: Peddles on the open road

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Two go out together; two come back together, no more, no less.

For 12 hours they peddle through the communities making sure everyone's property and loved ones are safe.

For the Marines who are part of the Provost Marshall's Office bike patrol, the extra military occupational specialty skill can be a highly challenging responsibility but a very rewarding one as well.

"One of the main reasons for bike patrol is to promote community oriented policing," said Staff Sgt. Brian G. Kendrick, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of bike patrol.

If people see uniformed personnel on a bike, they are much more inclined to stop them to let them know where a problem is rather than attempt to flag down a patrol car, said Kendrick.

Bike patrol isn't a new thing, but it wasn't being implemented until recently.

"Bike patrol has been here," said Kendrick. "It's just something that wasn't utilized before and it's something that as a department we felt would get the community to feel like a part of the community."

For the Provost Marshall's Office, bike patrol is another way to demonstrate how important the communities' well-being is.

"This is definitely an asset that we can utilize to have the community know that we are basically trying everything we can to ensure that their property and loved ones are kept safe," said Kendrick.

Because the program was started in April, there is not a lot of information on how effective bike patrol has been; however, if the goal is community relations, members of the unit feel the program has already been effective.

"The community is definitely responsive. They're really very friendly when they see us, but since it's a new thing, they're more surprised at seeing us," said

Lance Cpl. Timothy W. Norton, a bike patrol trained military policeman.

"As we do it more and more...they will enjoy it and it will work out on both sides," he added.

Norton really enjoys the opportunity to get off the bike from time to time and talk to parents in the community or shoot a few baskets with children in the neighborhood, he said.

"I love to go through the residence areas and actually get off my bike and talk to people," said Norton.

"Playing around with the kids makes them see that MPs are the good guys and not always mean; that way, whenever the time comes that they need help, they're not afraid to come to us," he added.

In order to do bike patrol, an MP has to go through specific training.

"They all have been certified to do maneuvers on the bicycle so if they do have to take down a suspect or approach a suspect they can do it properly and not injure themselves or the person they're trying to talk to," said Kendrick.

The training was difficult at first, but as with anything, practice makes perfect.

"Some of the procedures require a lot of balancing," said Norton. "The things we do are not hard. It's just you don't do them everyday; that's why it's tough," he added.

After becoming more proficient, the training became a source of enjoyment.

"My favorite part about training was actually learning how to do the basic procedures that we do on the bicycle as far as the stops to learn how to take down people," said Norton.

But just because those aspects of training were the most fun, it is important to remember that safety is always the most important concern.

"It's all about safety because if we do anything that is unwarranted it automatically falls on us as military police, and that's why we do the training so they know what their levels of force are," said Kendrick.



Lance Cpl. Timothy W. Norton and Cody Stevens, bike patrol military police at the Provost Marshall's Office, ride in standard formation along the road that intersects Sakura Theater. In order for military police to do bike patrol, they must always ride in pairs for operational safety.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

"If they do get into a situation where they have to apprehend a suspect while they're on the bicycle, they know the proper procedures to do it," he added.

Safety isn't restricted to people in the community; the safety of the bike patroller is just as important. There must always be two bike patrol Marines in order for a unit to go out on patrol.

"Not being in a car, they don't have the cover that a regular patrol car has," said Kendrick.

Without that protective shell, it's important that patrollers go out in pairs so that they are always able to watch out for each other, said Kendrick.

Besides the higher risk factor involved, bike patrol is essentially physical training for 12 hours.

"You don't have to be a PT stud to do bike patrol, but it helps. You never know whenever you're on bike patrol, it might be really slow or it could be the busiest

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ALGEBRA FROM PAGE 1

Holland's teammates all seemed to really enjoy the event.

"We were competitive, we just wanted to win," said eighth-grader Brianna Cardella.

Other students appreciated the additional challenge created by the time pressure.

"I thought today was a good experience," said ninth-grader Kris Kuhn. "It taught us to do algebra a little faster."

Kuhn's teammate just appreciated the opportunity to be outside and possibly get some much needed review before the final exam.

"It was definitely better than being in the classroom," said ninth-grader Jacob Suenkel. "I learned a lot of new things I didn't ever know."

Marines and sailors were on hand to provide the personnel needed to make the event run smoothly.

They assisted by handing out the problems to each group and their presence probably made the children more competitive.

"The kids like to show off so if anyone comes into the class it's a bonus," said Brookover.

Marines and sailors also attempted to provide assistance when the students were particularly stumped.

"(The Marines and sailors) were really helpful," said Holland. "They didn't give us the answer; they just helped."

In some cases, Marines and sailors tried to provide direct support but were not always successful.

"I feel so old, I can't remember my math and I don't know how to spell parabola," said Sgt. Joshua J. Wigant, a calibration technician with Marine Calibrations Complex 1.

He added, "What is a parabola?" The final event was held at the school without the aid of Marines and sailors.

In the final event, the students had to estimate the descent time of a ball dropped from an extended fire engine ladder using ball drops from shorter distances as reference.

Because the final event was worth so many points, every team had victory in sight.

In the end, there could only be one winner, and team six, composed of M.C. Perry ninth-graders Kris Kuhn, Jacob McClenney, Jacob Suenkel and eighth-grader Nick Vischof, captured victory with a guess of 2.05 seconds. The actual descent time was 2.14 seconds.

Another day at the beach

Marines train to become scout swimmers on Okinawa



Lance Cpl. Scott Pierce conducts an urban insertion from water during the Special Operation Training Group's Scout Swimmers Course on Kin Red May 20. The training helped prepare them for the challenges involved with establishing a safe landing zone for an amphibious raid force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein

LANCE CPL. RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan (May 23, 2008) — Swimming more than 2,000 meters, running three miles, then immediately repeating the process may sound like training for a triathlon to some.

However, for seven Marines who participated in the III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group's Scout Swimmers Course May 7-23,

the intense training regimen was just another day at the beach, specifically the

beaches near Camp Hansen.

The training helped prepare them for the challenges involved in establishing a safe landing zone for an amphibious raid force.

The 13-day course focuses on training the Marines to conduct stealthy insertions into landing zones, conduct reconnaissance and then signal an amphibious raid force for safe entry, said Cpl. Joshua D. Oakes, an amphibious raid instructor with SOTG.

During the course, the Marines trained to identify obstacles in the surf zone such as powerful currents, hidden obstructions or man-made objects in the water, all of which could prove disastrous for an amphibious raid force.

"If the surf zone is impassable or there are obstacles, a raid force coming in on line could lead to broached boats and injured Marines," Oakes said.

In the first week of the course the Marines conducted rigorous training sessions everyday to ensure they could meet the physical demands of being a scout swimmer and pass the course curriculum, according to Oakes.

The second week included tests such as swimming more than 2,000 meters carrying a combat load against

the current in less than an hour.

"This course definitely separates the men from the boys," said Lance Cpl. Manuel Marquez, a participant and warehouse clerk with SOTG. "This is one of the hardest things I've done in the Marine Corps."

Because water can have an adverse effect on equipment, part of the course focused on water proofing items — including maps, weapons and ammunition.

"If you get to the fight and your gear isn't useful, then you're useless," Marquez said. "You become a sitting duck in water basically."

As a final test in the course, the Marines conducted a clandestine insertion at night on Kin Blue, during which they swam approximately 500 meters to shore. Then they moved onto the beach, established a safe landing zone and signaled a mock raid force to invade.

"If we don't move covertly, the element of surprise is blown," said Lance Cpl. James Calhoun, a participant and aviation information systems specialist with SOTG. "That could prove disastrous."

All seven Marines passed the course and were certified as scout swimmers.

FRIENDSHIPS FROM PAGE 3

in wholesome Thai customs and activities. U.S. service members learned native Thai phrases, tried new foods, (some extremely spicy), observed king cobra handling, practiced Muay Thai boxing and have even sang karaoke.

In our combined environment, we depended on each other to accomplish the mission daily. I relied on the Thai to help me find great stories to report on, interpret interviews and find my way around. It's amazing we can work so well with so many differences.

Ranks were also very different in our work environment. Many of our Thai counterparts were commissioned officers, one a general officer. He approached us every day and asked how we were doing.

For me, being personally greeted by a general officer was very special. We were a combined agency, with a unified mindset and work ethos, which built morale and camaraderie.

It seems like the Thai have a huge respect and admiration for us, and it extends far beyond the military. It is very common to see a Thai service member salute all ranks here to show mutual respect, even when in civilian attire.

Thailand is known as the land of smiles, and I think the moniker fits it well. Everyone smiles and greets others with a "wai."

A wai is a Thai salutation when one brings his palms together at the chest or face and slightly bows while giving an appropriate greeting of the day. American service members learned the custom and regularly exchanged 'wais' with the Thai.

The Cobra Gold exercise brought us together. It created a multinational coalition as well as a joint environment for Department of Defense personnel. Many agencies were represented including the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy.

Having the chance to familiarize myself with different military practices is some of the most important training I have received to date. Operating in an unfamiliar area has also prepared me for deployments elsewhere.

The humanitarian assistance organized during the exercise catapulted a training evolution into a vital operation. Marines are born and bred to be the first to fight -- but more importantly, we are shaped to ultimately help people. I think this is true for the entire U.S. military.

That's why I joined the military -- to serve, help people and travel. These humanitarian events help those in need, and build close relationships with the Thai civilian population.

I may sound like Miss South Carolina on the pageant stage when I make this statement but I believe exercises like Cobra Gold are incredibly important for America, the military and the world alike.

DOGS FROM PAGE 1

The Provost Marshal's Office canine unit has had three of its dogs adopted in the past three years.

This program is ongoing at every military installation with military working dogs, through all branches of the service, said Barbara Stradts, disposition coordinator at the Military Working Dog Center, Lackland, Air Force Base, Texas.

Before the program, military working dogs were put down after their time of service had expired or if they were incapable of accomplishing their military duties.

"We were forced to put down Rocky, one of our military working dogs, at the end of 2005," said Cardenas. "He was pronounced over aggressive and had extensive medical problems," he added. "It was the hardest thing I've had to do so far working with canines."

Adoption priority is first extended to law enforcement agencies in order to assist and provide them with a military working dog and, in some cases, provide special support gear for their working dogs that they could not otherwise afford.

However, prior handlers of a specific dog in question have first priority over whether or not they want the dog at its retirement, said Cardenas.

"Rony is like my best friend," said Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Buckley, military working dog handler for PMO's canine unit, about his 9-year-old German shepherd military working dog. "I would want Rony to go to his previous handler before anyone else,"

he added.

When funds are available the Military Working Dog Program will provide support and protective gear to those dogs that are placed in law enforcement agencies, provide "comfort supplies," such as treats, special gear, hygiene kits, etc., to military working dogs and their military handlers who are deployed in foreign countries, and provide the necessary informational support services to those dogs that go to private homes.

"Military working dogs are really well behaved dogs," said Buckley. "They are very obedient, good house dogs and good watch dogs."

Based out of Lackland Air Force Base, the program displays every dog's information on its Web site and waits for the applications for ownership to arrive via e-mail.

The training starts at Lackland and then the dogs are sent operational. Once they have completed their service they can be retired, said Stradts. At Lackland, I do have some of the younger dogs, which have failed to complete training, she adds on her Web site.

The dogs that do not complete training are offered to the public and other organizations interested in further training the dogs.

"If everything is being done the way it's supposed to be done, the program is great," said Cardenas. "A dog having to get put down is just a terrible thing."

With a new "leash" on life, military working dogs are rewarded for their service with a pat on the head and long rides through their new neighborhood with their head out the window.

Got news?

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

““
This course definitely separates the men from the boys.”

Lance Cpl. Manuel Marquez
Course participant

WaterWorks pool opens for summer

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Grab your bathing suit, towel and sun-screen, WaterWorks pool here has opened its gates once again from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. WaterWorks pool is located next to Building 411 and is centered between the Crossroads Food Court and Barracks 330. "I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the pool," said 10-year-old Emily Shoullock, a frequent visitor of the facility. Refreshments can be brought to the pool but not into the fenced pool area. Picnic tables are scattered outside the pool area for guests to dine before or after taking a dip. Patrons young and old come to enjoy the cool pool water and the variety of

music played over the loud speakers. "The kids don't know it, but I come here because I want to, not because they made me bring them," said Leslie K. Ardent, mother of two young boys and a habitual visitor of the pool. Life jackets are provided for younger swimmers, and the facility further accommodates children with a special swimming section in the corner of the pool. Balls and sinking toys are also provided by the pool. Slides on both sides of the pool also offer another point of entry for the water. "The slide is my favorite thing to do at the pool," said Shoullock. "I can't stop laughing the whole way down." After a long week at work, at school or wherever one resides, the WaterWorks outdoor pool offers an ideal retreat.

WaterWorks pool is located next to Building 411 and is centered between the Crossroads food court and Barracks 330. The pool opens at 11 a.m. and remains open until 8 p.m. every day. Photos by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

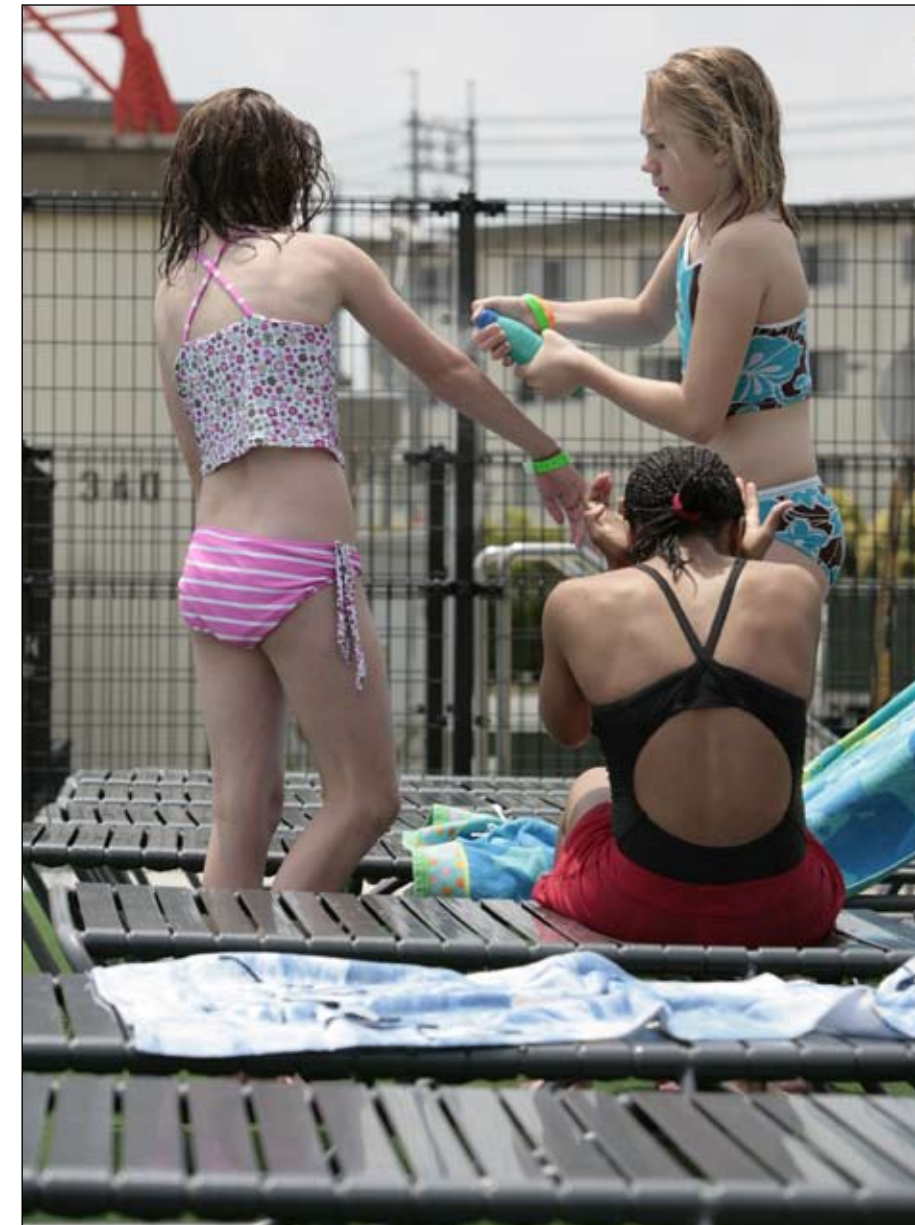


The kids don't know it, but I come here because I want to, not because they made me bring them."

Leslie K. Ardent
mother of two



The pool is split into five parts. One for swimming laps, another for the shallow end, two for the slide areas and the children's area.



(Above) The pool offers various sized life jackets and other recreational equipment for children and teenagers. Life jackets like these can be worn by children too tall for the children's swimming section who cannot swim on their own. (Left) Local girls apply sunscreen before their day at the WaterWorks pool. The clouds offer little protection from harmful rays.



A young girl laughs as water from a hose splashes on her head. Water pours from the hose until it is shut off at 12 p.m.

AROUND THE CORPS

New owners: Marines turn over post to Iraqi Army

CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 5



Lance Cpl. Ronald Wood Jr. (back), 22, a motor transportation operator, with the Provisional Rifle Platoon, RCT-5, and Adnan Nimrawi (front), an Iraqi soldier, stand watch at Combat Outpost Timberwolf, Iraq, May 27. The Marines trained the Iraqi Army soldiers with 7th Iraqi Army Division, 22nd Army Brigade to take over the outpost and to be able to successfully continue operations in the area. Photo by Cpl. Shawn Coolman

COP TIMBERWOLF, Iraq (May 27, 2008) — It's a trend seen more and more frequently around al-Anbar province, Iraq. The Marines are packing up their gear and returning their positions to the Iraqi Security Forces so the latter can continue providing protection and safety to the Iraqi citizens.

The Marines will continue to support the ISF during the period of transition and after the transition is complete.

Combat Outpost Timberwolf, near Baghdad, Iraq, is one of the latest to continue that trend of transitioning from Coalition force control to Iraqi Army control.

COP Timberwolf began the transition process earlier this year when Marines assigned to Headquarters Company, Regimental Combat Team 5 relieved Marines from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, RCT-5 earlier this year so the battalion could focus on other missions.

In preparation for leaving the outpost and over, the Ma-

demilitarizing the area, and the IA has been putting their own safety measures into practice.

"Since the (Iraqi Army) got here, they have been doing a lot of construction," said Sgt. Cullen M. Fair, 22, a tactical data network operator assigned to the Provisional Rifle Platoon, RCT-5 that is leaving COP Timberwolf. "They're making this place their home."

"As soon as the bridge (near Baghdad, Iraq) was built, the Iraqi Army started using it to drop off supplies here," said Fair, who is from Olathe, Kan.

The newly built bridge near Baghdad creates a shorter route for the IA to travel to reach destinations across the Euphrates River.

"The bridge has helped us a lot to get supplies here," said IA Maj. Munir Abdul Aziz Al-Salehy, commanding officer, 7th Iraqi Army Division, 22nd Iraqi Army Brigade, Group Three, Squad Two.

The area surrounding COP Timberwolf has seen improved security thanks to previous units stationed there.

"When we first got to (the area near Baghdad) before the Marines, it was not safe, and we didn't have enough soldiers or equipment to get the area safe," said Al-Salehy. "Now that the Marines have gotten everything under control, it is now our turn to keep this place safe. Thanks to the Marines and God, I can say the area is very safe now."

The Marines here have been training the IA on patrolling procedures, guard duty and security measures so that the Marines can successfully turn the outpost over to the capable IA soldiers.

"We started with mini steps and have gradually taken on more responsibilities here," said Al-Salehy. "We can take over now, and every one of my soldiers will know his duty and job now."



Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly (third from left) escorts Iraqis over the Euphrates River, May 24, 2008, on a floating bridge designed to reduce tortuous travel time to outlying communities by up to eight hours. Army, Navy and Marine Corps forces teamed with Iraq's water resource ministry to complete the bridge. Kelly is the commanding general of the multinational force in Al Anbar Province. Photo by Chief Petty Officer Jeffrey J. Pierce

Now that the Marines have gotten everything under control, it is now our turn to keep this place safe. Thanks to the Marines and God, I can say the area is very safe now."

IA Maj. Munir Abdul Aziz Al-Salehy
Commanding officer, 22nd Iraqi Army Brigade,
Group Three, Squad Two

Community Briefs

Housing Preference Survey

From June 10 to June 20, a survey will be conducted to study family housing preferences. It will be conducted online and the Web address will be publicized via the newspaper and an all-hands e-mail. In order to provide statistically accurate data, a random sample of the community will be selected to participate. However, all members of the community will be invited to log-on and fill out the survey. This survey is part of a study being performed by the station in preparation for the future housing being developed. This is our chance to have an affect on the future quality of life here in Iwakuni, so please watch out for further announcements and take part in this survey! For more

information, call 253-3399.

Free Seminar on Infertility Treatment Options

June 26, 5:00 p.m., at the Branch Health Clinic lobby. Dr. Atsushi Tanaka, M.D. will provide a free seminar on infertility options here in Japan. All interested base personnel are welcome. For more information, call 253-3485.

1st Annual Installation Personnel Administration Center Golf Tournament

June 20, 11 a.m. (shotgun start at noon) at Torii Pines Golf Course. All skill levels, all personnel aboard the station (including authorized guests) are welcome. Entry deadline is June 18.

- Fee: \$20 plus green fees and \$2 mulligans.

- Format: four-man best ball. You can enter as a team or single. Singles will be formed into teams.
- Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd-place teams, closest-to-pin on hole 2, longest drive on hole 12. 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.

17th Annual Black and White Ball - Genesis Lodge #89

June 21, 6 p.m., at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ballroom. Tickets for this formal event must be purchased in advance. During this event, several students from Matthew C. Perry High School will receive college scholarships. For more information or tickets, please call 253-4698 or 080-3474-8842 or e-mail byron.keys@usmc.mil.

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.

Goodwill golf tourney

A Japan-U.S. goodwill golf tournament with the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry is scheduled for July 19 at the Torii Pines Golf Course.

Anyone interested in signing up should contact Dave Garber, station protocol officer, by e-mail (dav.garber@usmc.mil) by June 30. After June 30, people may sign up at the golf course.

The cost, including green fees, is \$25 per person. Participants may pay at the golf course after June 30. Showtime for the event is 8 a.m., and tee-off is at 8:30 a.m. MCCS will provide food following the tournament. Call 253-4213 or send e-mail to dave.garber@usmc.mil for

additional information.

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.

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.

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.

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.

'IPAC SHOOTOUT' 1st Installation Personnel Administration Center Golf

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.

Sakura Theater

Friday, June 6, 2008

6 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)

10 p.m. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal (PG-13)

Saturday, June 7, 2008

12:30 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)

4 p.m. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal (PG-13)

7 p.m. Leatherheads (PG-13)

10 p.m. Ruins (R)

Sunday, June 8, 2008

12:30 p.m. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal (PG-13)

3:30 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)
7 p.m. Ruins (R)

Monday, June 9, 2008

7 p.m. Leatherheads (PG-13)

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

7 p.m. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13)
Last Showing

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

7 p.m. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal (PG-13)

Thursday, June 12, 2008

7 p.m. Speed Racer (PG)

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.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Classifieds

Automobiles

1994 Suzuki Wagon R

Asking \$1,000 and will throw in a free snowboard if purchased before June 14, 2008. Comes with snowboard and ski rack and tire chains for the winter months. Car runs great and gets great gas mileage. Don't let the car's size mislead you however, the small size comes in useful when maneuvering through Japan's narrow roads. Plus, it makes for cheaper road tax and JCI. Road tax is paid, however JCI ends September 2008. If interested please call 253-5724 (work) or 070-5051-9295 (cell).

1992 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado EX Turbo Diesel

5-door SUV seats 8 adults, 25-28 MPG, 4X4, 10-disc CD/tape/stereo, 33" x 10.50" off-road tires and one set of 4-snow tires, power sunroof and windows, electronic suspension and traction-lock transmission, plush interior, roof rack, nicest truck in Iwakuni — Must see! Two-year JCI good until December 2009. \$3,900. Call 253-2331 (home) or 253-3644 (work) and leave a message.

1997 Mitsubishi RVR

JCI good until May 2010! Runs great, 4-wheel drive, A/C and heat, AM/FM stereo/CD, power windows/door locks, keyless entry, 3 door, 4 passenger hatchback car. Non-smoking owners. Road tax paid until April 2008. Call 253-2636 (home). Asking \$2,700 or best offer.

Mess Hall Menu

MONDAY, June 9

Cream of Mushroom Soup, Creole Soup, Sauerbraten, Hot and Spicy Chicken, Fried Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes, Fried Zucchini, Calico Corn, Hot Dinner Rolls, Congo Bars, Double Layer Marble Cake, Butter Cream Frosting, Blueberry Crunch, Specialty Bar: Pasta Bar

TUESDAY, June 10

Cream of Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Southern Fried Chicken, BBQ Beef Cube, Steamed Rice, Buttered Pasta, Black Eye Peas, Creole Squash, Corn Bread, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Double Layer Spice Cake, Butter Cream Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, Specialty Bar: Taco Bar

WEDNESDAY, June 11

Cream of Broccoli Soup, Vegetable Soup, Tempura Fish, Pepper Steak, Steamed Rice, Oven Glo Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Club Spinach, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Devil's Food Cake, Butter Cream Frosting, Specialty Bar: BBQ

THURSDAY, June 12

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Creole Macaroni, Fried Shrimp, Fettuccini with Alfredo Sauce, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tempura, Vegetables, Peas and Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Sugar Cookies, Strawberry Shortcake, Whipped Topping, Vanilla Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Deli Bar

FRIDAY, June 13

Clam Chowder Soup, Minestrone Soup, Braised Beef and Noodles, Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Fried Cabbage, Mix Vegetables, Chicken Gravy, Dinner rolls, Banana Bread, Dutch Apple Pie, Shortbread Cookies, Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs/Polish Sausage

1992 Toyota Estima Enima

JCI until Sept. 2009, seats 8, seats fold up, under 65,000 km, 10 disc CD player, hot and cold box for food or drinks, sun roof, moon roof, diesel, heat, cold AC, power windows & locks, all taxes paid, and automatic. Runs great! Asking \$2,200 or best offer. Call 253-2151 (home) or 080-3876-2327 (cell).

1989 Mitsubishi Pajero

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

1994 Toyota Estima

MUST SELL. We PCS in June! JCI - December 2009. Seats 7, Seats turn around, and fold up for easy storage. Great family car! Make an offer! For more information, call 253-2379 (work).

1993 Toyota Lucida (8 PAX Van)

JCI good through Sept '09. Dependable, clean, automatic, air conditioning, PW/PD, non-smoking owners. Diesel engine gets excellent gas mileage. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Call with questions at 253-2015 (home), 256-2400 (work) or 090-9376-1841 (cell).

1990 Nissan Prairie 2WD

Asking \$1,500 or best offer. JCI good until Feb. 2010. Road tax paid. Automatic transmission / power windows & doors. A/C, heat / radio & CD player. All Interested, please call 253-3227 (work) or 253-2538 (home).

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).

Job Openings

Full-time Home Visitor

J & E Associates, Inc., a government contractor, has an opening for a full-time home visitor with the Iwakuni New Parent Support Program. Position requires a bachelor's degree in nursing, a master's degree in social work or a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Applicants must hold a clinical license as an RN, LCSW or LMFT. Two years work experience in maternal and child health, community services, or abuse and neglect is desirable. Note: degree and license requirements cannot be waived. To apply, drop off your cover letter and resume to NPSP, Building 411, e-mail to resumes@jeassociates.com or fax to 253-6626.

Miscellaneous

Items for sale

New never-opened GNC Mega Whey, 2lb containers, flavors available: Chocolate, Strawberry, and Vanilla sells for \$23 each: will sell for \$8 each. Also available: New never opened GNC Soy Protein 95, 4lb containers, flavors available: Chocolate, Vanilla, and Strawberry sells for \$39 will sell for \$13 each. A great source of pure protein for your workouts or anyone needing extra protein. Please call 253-2221 (home) or 080-3519-7273 (cell) anytime.

White bedroom furniture

Please call 253-6250 (work) or 253-2588 (home).

Items for sale

Leather chair \$80, PSP movies (several) \$50. Call 253-7992 (home) for more information.

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.

BHC Iwakuni Uniform Inspection



Chief Petty Officer E. N. Guingab presented the Robert M. Casey Branch Health Clinic's enlisted staff for inspection to Cmdr. William M. Wike, officer-in-charge of the Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni, on May 9. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Luis Pow Sang

BIKES FROM PAGE 4

day ever," said Norton.

Most bike patrollers get together on their off-time and go for a ride, said Norton.

"We try to do it during the day, not necessarily at night or the morning when it's cool, we do it actually during the day because we think it will help us better. So if we do have a busy day, we'll be able to keep up," said Norton.

More than staying in shape to look good or be healthy, bike patrollers have a responsibility to maintain their physical fitness because there's a great deal more on the line.

"I always go out and PT to make sure I'm in shape to do it because the last thing I want is to be huffing and puffing through a neighborhood and I have to respond to a call and

I don't get there fast enough and someone gets hurt basically because I'm out of shape," said Norton.

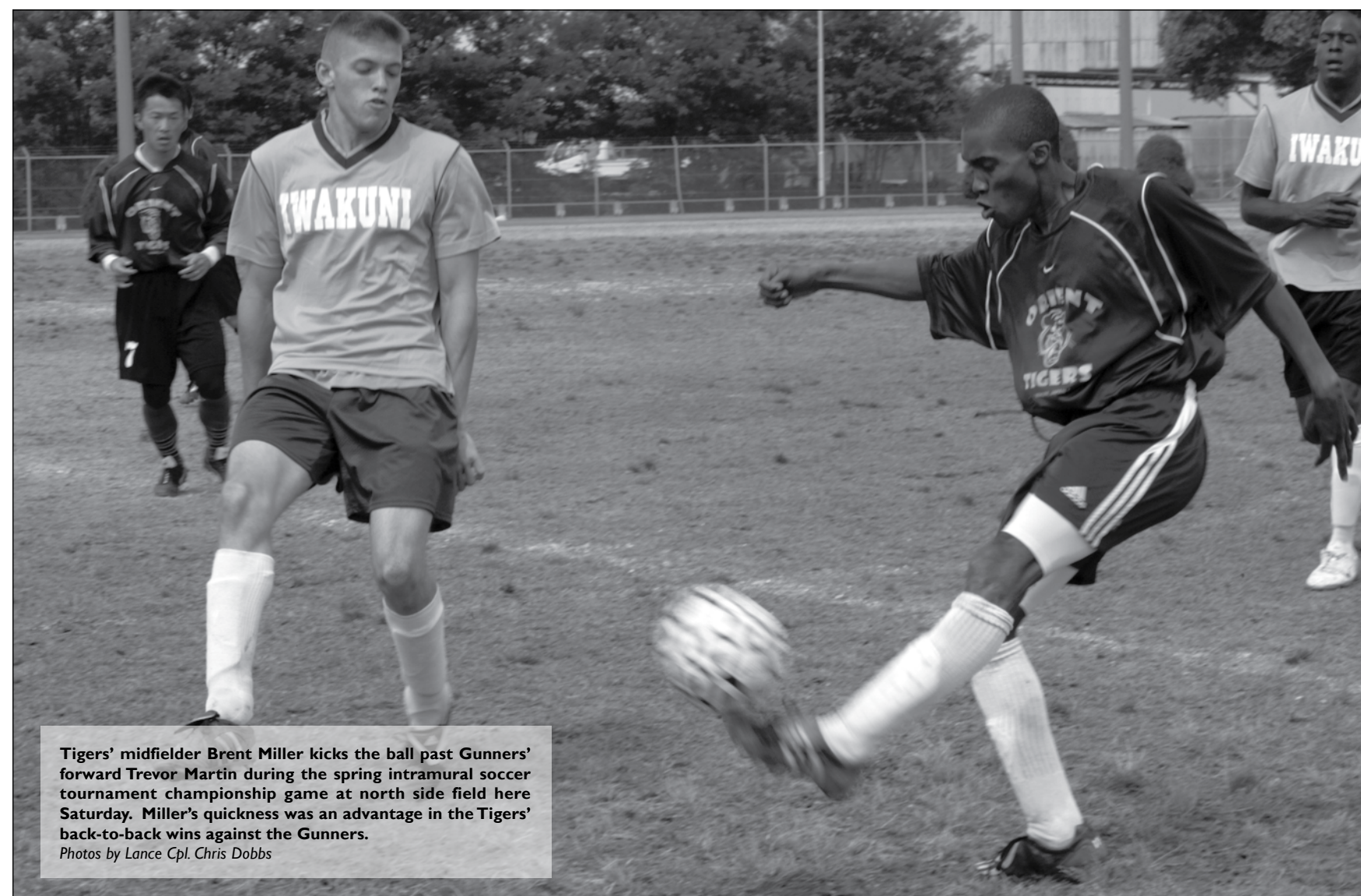
Perhaps more than anything, the implementation of bike patrol has helped MPs who generally work in different sections get to know each other better and solidify their bonds of brotherhood.

"When you do a bike patrol, you've got each others backs," said Norton.

"It's you two out on the road, you count on them and you rely on them, and they count on you and they rely on you."

In the end, trust is critical to the unit's cohesion and effectiveness.

"We really all know that we can count on each other," said Norton.



Tigers' midfielder Brent Miller kicks the ball past Gunners' forward Trevor Martin during the spring intramural soccer tournament championship game at north side field here Saturday. Miller's quickness was an advantage in the Tigers' back-to-back wins against the Gunners. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs



Gunners' forward Jaime Vega is defended by Tigers' forward Mike Gentry as he sends the ball downfield during the spring intramural soccer tournament championship game at north side field here Saturday. Vega scored from long range during the contest, but the Gunners fell to the Tigers 7-4.

Tigers pounce Gunners 7-4

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With precise passing and accurate shooting, the Orient Tigers rolled past the Marine Aviation Logistics Gunners 7-4 in the spring intramural soccer tournament championship game at north side field here Saturday.

Tigers' forward Mike Anderson scored twice, including once on an untouched corner kick, in his team's winning effort.

Midway through the second half, Gunners' forwards Trevor Martin and Jaime Vega tied the game at four with a couple of shots from just inside the shortened field's midfield line. The Tigers, however, closed the game in a fury.

With deft passing and accurate shots, they were able to maneuver the ball around the field and the Gunners' defenders as they did throughout the game. Catching the Gunners off guard, they pulled away for good with three perfectly executed plays resulting in close, chip shot goals.

"We were in the right place at the right time," said Tigers coach Mark Lange. "That's what soccer's all about."

Though the Tigers, who consist mainly of Matthew C. Perry High School teachers and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force members, haven't played together since last year's season, they performed like a well-oiled machine. Lange attributed the team's togetherness to experience and a love of the game.

"The other teams have a lot of young guys, but we have what I like to call 'soccer savvy' ... and we're all passionate about the game."

While the Gunners couldn't match the Tigers

proficiency in the championship game (they handed the Tigers their only loss earlier in the double-elimination tournament, 5-3), their intensity made them competitive until the final whistle.

"We knew we had a chance if we could just play our game and execute," said Gunners coach and midfielder Rafael Dominguez.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, executing was something they failed to do. A number of short shot attempts were sprayed wide while several other potential scoring plays were disrupted by Tigers' halfback Scott Sanders in front of the goal.

"We had plenty of opportunities," Dominguez said. "We could have very easily won if we capitalized."

Regardless of the outcome, Dominguez said he was happy with the way his team played.

"It's not good to come in second, but everyone put their heart into it and gave everything they had. Overall it was a good tournament."

During the trophy presentation after the game, the celebratory Tigers were quick to express their gratitude to the Gunners for a hard-fought game.

"It's always fun to play against players who are competitive and know how to play," Lange said, adding that the team relishes the opportunity to play against opponents like the Gunners, who are equally passionate about the game.

Both the Tigers and Gunners will look to continue their dominance in the six-person team intramural soccer season, which begins Monday. The games are played on shortened fields, slightly larger than a regulation basketball court and with goals approximately the same size as regulation hockey goals. For more information, contact intramural sports at 253-3067.

MAG's six-run final inning propels it to 12-5 win over Wolf PAC

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Capitalizing on a six-run fifth inning, Marine Aircraft Group 12 defeated the Installation Personnel Administration Center "Wolf PAC" 12-5 in intramural softball action at the main field here Tuesday.

With the win, MAG-12 improved to 4-1 for the season while the Wolf PAC fell to 3-2.

MAG's prolific scoring in the game's final inning was propelled by a number of solid hits and an occasional IPAC error, such as one that allowed MAG right fielder Eric Benitez to advance three bases and bring in a run after he topped a pitch just in front of home plate.

"We got good hitting when we had runners in scoring position," said MAG right fielder Cameron Clark. "Our base running skills have continued to improve as well."

IPAC's strongest play came in the third. A couple of crucial defensive stops – including when leftfielder Charles Patterson chased down a short fly ball, sliding feet first for an acrobatic catch in one of the game's highlights – set the tone for their at bat. With a display of hitting that rivaled performances during their earlier three-game win streak, they sprung into contention with a round of hits that brought in four runs.

Unfortunately for the Wolf PAC, one strong inning alone was not enough. Had they gotten on board early in the game, it could have been a different story, according to Patterson.

"We came out flat. We didn't start getting the bats going until (then)," Patterson said.

MAG's win was the product of a combination of key plays that came when they needed them most.

One such play was when MAG third baseman Kenneth Messmer skillfully fielded a groundball which MAG turned into a double play to escape the fourth with just one earned run and a 6-5 lead.

"At that time it was a really important play," Messmer said. "The momentum of the game was changing, and



Marine Aircraft Group 12 shortstop Brandon Mumme takes a swing during an intramural softball game against the Installation Personnel Administration Center at the main field here Tuesday. MAG's six-run fifth inning vaulted them to a 12-5 win as they improved to 4-1 for the season. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

it held our position in the lead."

Key scoring plays came when MAG pitcher Damon Wilson ripped a tailing line drive deep into the far right corner of the field for an in-field homer, putting MAG up 5-0 in the third and when – with two outs – second baseman Jon Heller brought in a run with a sideline grounder that gave MAG a two-run cushion in the fourth.

Plays such as those allowed MAG to top a good IPAC team, according to Clark.

"We're two of the top teams. We got the plays we needed tonight."

IPAC's Patterson said he isn't worried about the game's outcome and expects his team will play best when the stakes are highest.

"It's still the regular season," Patterson said. "We've got plenty of time to get ready for the games that count."

Regular season play is scheduled to conclude June 25 while postseason action is scheduled for June 30 through July 8. All games are played at the main field.



Marine Aircraft Group 12 pitcher Damon Wilson releases a pitch during an intramural softball game against the Installation Personnel Administration Center at the main field here Tuesday. MAG-12 improved to 4-1 with a 12-5 win over the "Wolf PAC."

"It's still the regular season. We've got plenty of time to get ready for the games that count."

- Charles Patterson



Installation Personnel Administration Center left fielder Charles Patterson connects with a pitch during an intramural softball game against Marine Aircraft Group 12 at the main field here Tuesday. The "Wolf PAC" hung tough with MAG until "The Ready Group" broke the game open with a six-run fifth inning that gave MAG a 12-5 win.