

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 23, Vol. 1

Friday, June 20, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Ready Group changes hands



Col. Mark R. Wise receives Marine Aircraft Group 12's battle colors from Navy Capt. David B. Emich during MAG-12's change-of-command ceremony here June 13. Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The former executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 12 took command of MAG-12 in a change-of-command ceremony here June 13.

Col. Mark R. Wise will succeed

Navy Capt. David B. Emich, who will be assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group at Naval Station Newport, R.I. Emich made history by becoming the first naval officer to command a MAG nearly two years ago.

During his 22-year career, Wise has served in a number of capacities, including the commanding officer

of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 122, executive officer of VMFA-312 and the operations officer for VMFA-251.

He has also participated in several operations in the Middle East and Mediterranean.

Wise earned a bachelor's

SEE COC ON PAGE 3

Commandant slated to visit MCAS Iwakuni, conduct town hall meeting

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway is scheduled to discuss important issues and receive questions from station residents during a town hall meeting at the Sakura Theater Wednesday at 1:15 p.m.

During the meeting, Conway will likely discuss topics mentioned in his "CMC Bullets," a document released earlier this year highlighting major developments and future concerns for the Corps.

Subjects addressed in CMC Bullets include the significant increase in funding for Marine Corps family programs, the current operational tempo and its effects, and preparing the Corps for future contingencies. Conway also addresses Iraq and Afghanistan, which he says should be referred to as "battles" in "what will be a generational struggle."

All Marines, sailors, civilian employees and family members are welcome to attend.

Because of limited parking, attendees are encouraged to walk or use the base shuttle.

The complete CMC Bullets document can be found at <http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil/cmc.html>.

VFA-97 provides thunder down under

COMPILED BY NAVAL VFA-97 PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND
LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — At the end of May, Naval Fighter Attack Squadron packed everything they had brought to Iwakuni during their six-month stay as part of the Unit Deployment Program and turned their workspaces back over to Marine Aircraft Group 12.

The Warhawks weren't going home yet, though - they were headed south of the equator to Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia, for Pitch Black 2008, a three-week multi-national air-to-air training exercise.

With participation from representatives from Australia,

Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, France, Germany and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the exercise will simulate a war in which each country's flights will have a specific mission in determining the outcome.

"This is a great opportunity for the Warhawks to see how other countries operate and work up to full integration of each individual country's specific specialties in large-force exercises," said VFA-97 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Russell McCormack.

The Warhawks' first week of flying comprised of unit-level familiarization flights around Tindal's working areas, followed by Fighter Integration Training Week.

FIT Week allowed all of the different countries to fly together on a small scale to "work out any kinks" and become

SEE VFA ON PAGE 3



Petty Officer 3rd Class Leo Blay, Naval Fighter Attack Squadron 97 aviation mechanical safety equipment technician, signals to VFA-97 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Russell McCormack during the final check before takeoff on the Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal flight line June 9. Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

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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.

The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Col. Michael A. O'Halloran
STATION COMMANDING OFFICER

With the completion of the school year and three changes of command last week, it is safe to say that summer has arrived at Iwakuni. Congratulations to Col. Wise, Lt. Col. Feyedelem, and Lt. Col. Ardese on assuming command of three superb units. I wish you complete success on your upcoming tours and offer my total support in making that happen.

Likewise, congratulations to the M.C. Perry class of 2008 on your successful navigation through the DoDEA school system. It's not easy being a military kid, but I assure you that your unique experiences of moving around the world, making friends, and instantly adapting has armed you with tools that "regular" kids don't have.

You have earned those tools the hard way! Go out and use them.

As noted elsewhere in this week's paper, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. Conway will visit MCAS Iwakuni on Wednesday, June 25.

It will be a quick stop, but we will use every minute to allow them to discuss what is happening in the Marine Corps, along with allowing you the opportunity to address your concerns.

General Conway will host a Town Hall meeting in the Sakura Theatre at 1:15 p.m. Following that, Mrs. Conway will go to Club Iwakuni to discuss recent initiatives with Marine Corps Family Team Building and other issues concerning the welfare of Marine families.

Mrs. Conway is always interested in speaking with Exceptional Family Members: if you are involved with EFMP, please come. Contact Mark Allen, Marine Corps Family Team Building director, at 253-3754 for more information.

Summer within the Navy and Marine Corps means change. Many have already departed on PCS orders, while their replacements are inbound.

These dynamics often lead to gapped billets, different or reduced supervision, and increased workload among those remaining. Be aware of this. Airplanes, heavy equipment, hazardous materials, electricity, etc., are absolutely unforgiving. If in doubt, STOP, get help, and figure it out.

Speaking of summer moves, we are about to introduce a new service to expedite travel to and from the Hiroshima Airport. Starting in August, MCCS will begin a bus service that makes two daily runs to the airport: one in the morning to catch outbound flights, and an evening bus to receive inbound. Hopefully, this service will be used not only by PCS travelers, but also by those going on temporary duty or leave. Standby for further details, and no, it is not going to cost an arm and a leg.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for your continued good conduct on liberty.

As CO, one of my primary duties is community relations and ambassadorship with our host nation, but one person can only do so much.

The real community relations and ambassadorship come from you. In the thousands of daily interactions you have with our Japanese hosts, you show them what we are all about as Marines, Sailors, and Americans.

Your participation in the community and overall good conduct play a key role in enabling MCAS Iwakuni to move forward, grow, and accomplish our mission.

Thanks for your continued efforts in this regard and please keep it up.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

Lt. j.g. Bob Mills
STATION CHAPLAIN

It seems like the latest buzzword these days is change. Politicians talk about it, accountants worry about it, commanding officers hope for it and we all experience it. During the past few weeks, the MCAS Iwakuni family has experienced many changes, with a large number of PCS moves happening, lots of travel, a high-school graduation and three major changes of command in three days. So, many things are changing that it is hard to keep track of it all.

So what are some good ways to deal with change?

The first key to handling change is to

have a good attitude — that is, decide before change occurs that you will be flexible and figure out how to be happy and content in whatever situation you are given.

A contented spirit makes a more joyful person, which works wonders in your relationships with co-workers, friends, and family members.

Another key is to anticipate change — be aware of what is happening in your unit, in the military, in your country and so on.

I enjoy reading a lot, which helps me know what may happen, and that makes me more ready for future changes.

Possibly the most important key to managing change is to learn how to see change as an opportunity — a chance to

see new places, experience new things, learn new skills and capitalize on the flexibility that change brings to your life. If you can learn to see change as an open door to new adventures, then you are on the right path.

Finally, with all the change in life, it is good to know that there are some things that never change. The sun will come up tomorrow morning and will set in the evening (even if it is obscured by clouds).

The love of our families will sustain us and help us grow, and a merciful Savior will watch over us and be with us. God said in Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I do not change ..." With all the buzz these days about change, it is good to have something in our lives that is rock-solid.

CORPS SAFETY

Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2008

THIS WEEK'S SAFETY TOPIC: Bicycle safety

SUBMITTED BY
THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE

While broken bones heal, a head injury can lead to death or permanent disability.

Each year, nearly 70,000 bicyclists suffer serious head injuries. Many never fully recover. Every bicyclist needs the protection that a good bicycle helmet provides. Of course, a helmet can't keep a bicyclist from falling.

But it can cut the chances of serious brain injury. Researchers say that bicycle helmets can prevent three out of four serious cycling head injuries.

That's a worthwhile investment for any bicyclist, young or old.

And, while bicycle helmets cost money, what they protect is priceless — the bicyclists' life and future.

Head injury rehabilitation is a

very costly and difficult challenge. Compared with such costs, a bicycle helmet is a good bargain. Starting a new safety habit can be hard, both for the individual and for the group.

That was true when we brought in hockey helmets, football helmets, motorcycle helmets and many other protective measures — and it's true now of bicycle helmets.

However, times are changing.

Today, several million people own and wear helmets each time they ride their bicycles.

In addition, children under age nine lack the physical and mental development to interact safely in that environment. Ensure they are properly equipped.

Remember, a bicycle is a vehicle, and bicyclists share a complex traffic environment with other larger forms of transportation.


Bicycling Safety Tips:

- Always wear a helmet
- Obey all traffic controls
- Ride your bicycle near the left-hand edge of the road
- Never carry another person on your bicycle
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping
- Look out for cars at cross street, driveways, and parking places
- Be careful when checking traffic and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder
- Give pedestrians the right-of-way
- Keep your bicycle in good condition
- Always ride carefully

COC FROM PAGE 1

in psychology at the University of Washington and received his commission in 1986. He also attended the Naval War College, where he graduated with distinction, earning a master's in national security and strategic studies.

Wise's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Air Medal with eight strike/flight awards, Air Medal with Combat "V," Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and Air Force Commendation Medal.


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VFA FROM PAGE 1

familiar with the one another's ways of doing business, such as communication difficulties or differences in basic procedures, said Lt. Tommy Kolwicz, VFA-97 quality assurance officer.

The air-to-air and air to ground sorties commenced June 9, with the Warhawks flying mostly "Red Air" missions.

"Red Air" means VFA-97 will mainly be simulating the enemy or opposing force and protecting the area known as "Red Land," Kolwicz said.

"The Warhawks will also get to fly some 'Blue Air' flights, helping the war effort against 'Red Land,'" he added.

According to Kolwicz, VFA-97's maintenance department is also hard at work supporting the Warhawks' robust flight schedule and keeping their jets healthy and combat-ready.

"The maintainers are all working hard during the week and looking forward to having a good time in Australia," Kolwicz said.

While he said liberty has been enjoyable, safety of the F/A-18s and pilots who fly them is top priority for Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Mercer, VFA-97 aviation electronics technician.

"Watching a jet take off kind of puts my stomach in knots," Mercer said. "But I feel important doing it. The squadron has to maintain a certain number of flight hours — just being part of that is important."

Though the Warhawks are looking forward to heading home to Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., at the conclusion of the upcoming Exercise Southern Frontier, Kolwicz said everyone is working hard and dedicated to a successful Pitch Black.

"As the end of our deployment draws near, it is an awesome sight to see our sailors so focused on the mission at hand and going strong all the way to the finish."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Leo Blay, a VFA-97 aviation mechanical safety equipment technician, signals to VFA-97 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Russell McCormack during a preflight-check at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal June 9. Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler



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.

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, and the air station's source for command information.

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.


"Eat your 80s" - A live 1-hour
 radio show that features the best of 80's music. Noon to 1 p.m.
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

New commander takes helm of MWSS-171

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The former assistant public works officer at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler took command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 in a change-of-command ceremony here June 12.

Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedelem succeeded Lt. Col. Bryant E. Landean, who will become the chief of the Logistics Operations Branch at the North American Air Defense Command-United States Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Feyedelem began his commission with 7th Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Service Support Group as a platoon commander and company executive officer.

He then served as the motor transport detachment commander with Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13.

Shortly after transferring to II Marine Division he assumed command of Truck Company in June 2001.

In November 2002, Feyedelem deployed with Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, serving as the commander of troops and then as

the headquarters commandant upon the CJTF's move to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

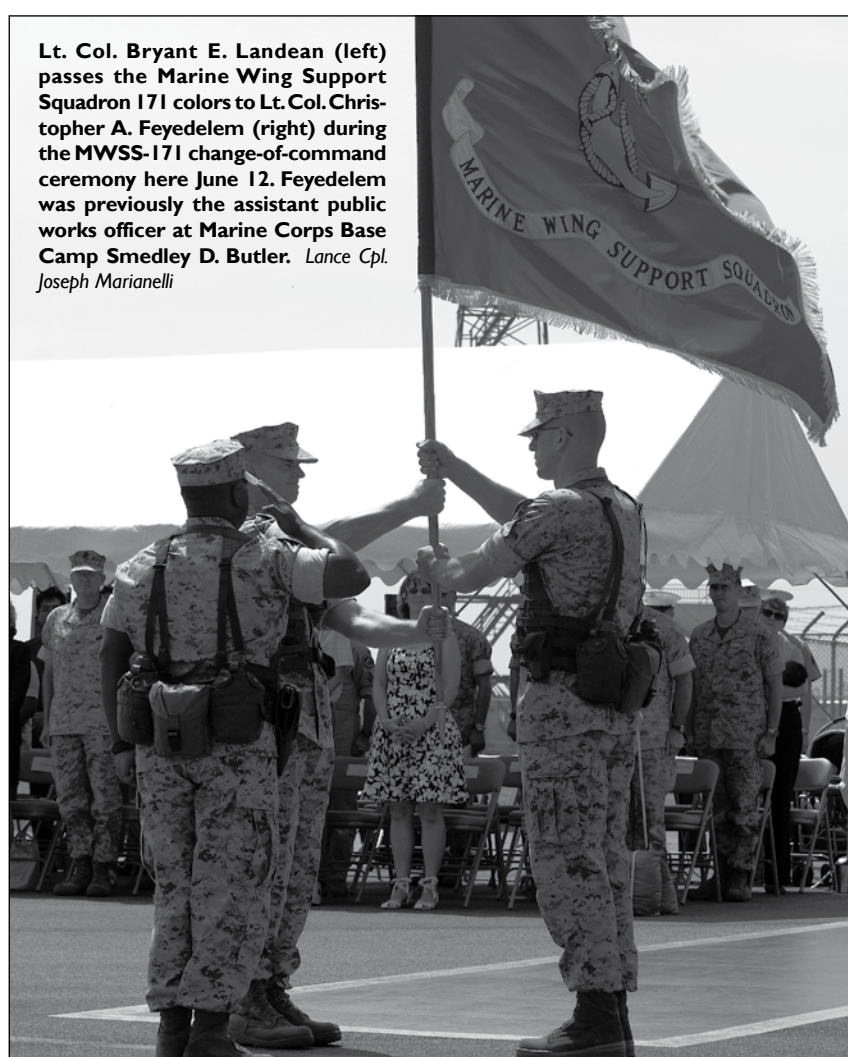
During his tours, he went on two deployments to the Western Pacific and participated in Operation United Shield.

While serving with United States Central Command, he deployed through the central command area of operations in direct support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan earthquake relief efforts and the non-combatant evacuation from Lebanon.

Feyedelem is a distinguished military graduate from Purdue University and holds master's degrees from Averett University and the Naval War College.

His military education includes the motor transport officers course and the command and control systems course. He also attended Joint Professional Military Education II and the College of Naval Command and Staff.

During his 16 years of service, Feyedelem has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.



Lt. Col. Bryant E. Landean (left) passes the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 colors to Lt. Col. Christopher A. Feyedelem (right) during the MWSS-171 change-of-command ceremony here June 12. Feyedelem was previously the assistant public works officer at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

H&HS commanding officer relinquishes command

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A former III MEF deputy G-5 officer took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron during a change-of-command ceremony here June 11.

Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse relieved Lt. Col. Gary A. Kling, who is headed to Washington, D.C., where he will be attending the National War College.

In 1990 Ardesse attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

In January 1993 he received his wings as a naval flight officer from Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

Ardesse then reported to Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, S.C., where he was promoted to captain.

While in Beaufort, Ardesse deployed twice to Aviano Air Base, Italy in support of Operations Deny Flight, Provide Promise and Silver Wake.

In 1997 Ardesse transferred to 2nd Naval Gunfire Liaison Company at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he attended airborne school and Tactical Air Control Party School.

Ardesse reported to NAS Pensacola in 1999 as an instructor at Training Squadron 86.

Later reassigned as the deputy director of aviation, Ardesse won the 2110 Instructor of the year award for the Pensacola Lions Club and the Pensacola Chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

In 2002, Ardesse reported back to Marine

Fighter Attack Squadron 224 in Beaufort where he held billets such as the operations officer, safety officer and maintenance officer.

In March of 2006 Ardesse deployed to the Middle East as an information assurance fire support coordinator and forward air controller with a Joint Special Operations Task Force.

During the deployment Ardesse was wounded in a fire fight and promoted to lieutenant colonel on the same day.

After completing a second tour with the JSOTF, Ardesse reported to the III Marine Expeditionary Force in the summer of 2007.

Ardesse graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelors of Arts in History.

Ardesse's decorations include the Purple Heart, Air Medal with 15 strike flight awards, Navy Commendation Medal with a "V" device, Navy and Marine Corps and Army Achievement Medals, and the Combat Action Ribbon.



The Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron color guard keeps a tight formation during the H&HS change-of-command ceremony in Hangar 1510 June 11. Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Lt. Col. Gary A. Kling passes the H&HS guidon to incoming commanding officer Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse during the H&HS change-of-command ceremony June 11 in Hangar 1510. Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

Small things, great love

Service members help home down under

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, known to many as simply Mother Teresa, once said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." This is no doubt what she had in mind when establishing the Home of Compassion, located in Katherine, Australia, in 1973.

Whether or not they knew it, Marines and sailors participating in Pitch Black 2008, a three-week multi-national air-to-air training exercise, helped continue that simple philosophy by painting a building at the home June 5.

Run by four nuns from the Missionaries of Charity, House of Compassion plays an important role in the Katherine community as a refuge for those who don't have the necessary means to help themselves.

Although most residents are Aboriginal women, the establishment opens its doors for all regardless of race, gender or creed.

"We help anybody," said Sister Alicia, the Sister in charge of the home. "We help them with emergency accommodations ... food, shelter, or in case they need emergency money for anything."

Their selfless cause, however, was hampered by facilities in need of renovation.

"That building was the first building (built)," Sister Alicia said, pointing to a weathered 35-year-old structure made of corrugated steel. "We had a big flood in 1998, and after that we never used that building for anything."

After learning of the nuns' plight, the Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain's

office enlisted the aid of a few good men and women. With brushes and rollers in hand, a group of 20 service members came to give the facility some much-needed tender loving care.

"This is a painting project. It involves cleaning, scraping and putting a new coat of paint on an area that's going to be used for ... persons in need of critical care," said Navy Lt. Norbert Karava, MAG-12 deputy group chaplain.

"They're saving the Sisters a great deal of work," he added. "Because there's so many of us, we can get this done in a lot quicker time than a normal paint contractor could."

Although the workers' skills varied, they tackled the project with enthusiasm. Whether it was washing and prepping the walls and woodwork, holding trays for those on ladders, or grabbing a roller and applying thick coats of paint, everyone found some way to help.

"We meshed pretty well," said Cpl. Richard Rickman, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 ordnanceman. Rickman, who had the most painting experience of the group, lent his expertise and oversaw the project.

"It's not really organized, but everybody's just grabbing a brush and going at it," he said. "It's turning out really well."

Sister Alicia, who treated the Americans to a lunch of Indian and Australian specialties, said she couldn't be more pleased with their work.

"It's a great help because, in Australia, the labor charge is so high," she said. "We really appreciate the help. I suppose (the) Americans are very generous people."

Though Sister Alicia's large buffet and the opportunity to get outside their



(From left) Lance Cpl. Kevin Perrault, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 basic metal worker, and Sgt. Bunna Suy, MWSS-171 motor transportation operator, clean the outside of a building at the Home of Compassion in Katherine, Australia, June 6. Photos by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

normal work areas for a day was an added treat, the service members said the real reward was seeing the fruits of their labors. The building's once drab and water-stained walls now glow soft blue — a more fitting look for a place that offers so much hope for those in need.

"It's a cultural experience," said Lance Cpl. Helena Almaguer, MALS-12

forward-looking infrared technician.

"This is my first time ever being in a nunnery, and I got to talk to the Aboriginals. You really can't get that kind of experience on base.

"Nowadays we're very much a 'me'-centered culture," she added. "To stop and help somebody else — to pick somebody up, build somebody else back up — that speaks volumes."



Lance Cpl. Nate Van Kummer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 data systems specialist, applies paint around the baseboards of a building at the Home of Compassion in Katherine, Australia, June 5.



A Marine applies paint around the baseboards of a building at the Home of Compassion in Katherine, Australia, June 5.



The children and staff of Tsuta Children's Home battle it out against the volunteer members in a game of tug-of-war June 15 during an annual visit. The children and staff beat their Marine and civilian opponents. Photos by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

Marines, volunteers build lasting relationships

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The day started out sunny with pizza, chips, bottle rockets and tug-of-war concluding indoors with musical squares, limbo and music.

This was the series of events during the Marine and volunteer's day visit to Tsuta Children's Home June 15.

Fifteen Marine and civilian volunteers attended a trip to the Tsuta Children's Home June 15 in hopes of giving them a fun-filled day of music and games.

The children's home houses children of all ages, some of which have been brought up among abuse or with parents who could not afford to adequately care for them.

"This is only the second time a trip like this has been organized to Tsuta Children's Home," said Sgt. Tchaikawsky E. Samuels, a consultant for continuous process improvement with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and visit coordinator. "Last time we came, the children were more reserved."

Samuels said the children opened up to the visitors during the second trip.

The visits are set up for plenty of reasons, according to Samuels.

"We go on these types of trips to help underprivileged children ... to better the image of the Marines

stationed in Japan, to experience something new and just have fun," Samuels explained.

Marines and civilians attended the visit, set up for the events and participated in games.

Five teams of children were divided among 10 civilian team leaders. They then took part in each of the competitive outdoor games.

"I really like coming out," said Allison D. Nance, a swim instructor and lifeguard on the station, who volunteered for the visit. "The kids are so nice and welcoming. I had a lot of fun."

When the children went indoors, the games became an individual effort with musical squares and limbo.

The trip not only promotes community relations, but the families and other volunteers get something out of it too.

"I bring my children if I can't find a babysitter," said Samuels. "I did find a babysitter this time, but I brought my child because he gets the experience and has a lot of fun there."

Samuels is serving his last year in Iwakuni and has high hopes that the visits to the Tsuta Children's home continue.

"I hope that the trips do continue," said Samuels.

To volunteer for any upcoming trip or event, contact the Iwakuni Ticketing and Travel office at 253-4377.



Although the weather deterred the crowd from furthering their activities outdoors, games such as musical squares and limbo were played inside of the Tsuta Children's home June 15.



The children of Tsuta Children's Home worked side by side with their American counterparts in order to complete the mission of creating bottle rockets June 15 during the first game of another annual visit.



Military members, translators and volunteers sit with the children of Tsuta Children's Home June 15 during their annual visit. The children say goodbye to their new friends until next year when they are scheduled to return.



We go on these types of trips to help underprivileged children ... to better the image of the Marines stationed in Japan, to experience something new and just have fun."

Sgt. Tchaikawsky E. Samuels
Coordinator of the Tsuta Children's Home Trip

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines, Ind. Nat. Guard fight storm waters, help save town

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26TH MEU

CELNORA, Ind. (June 9, 2008) — Approximately 140 Marines and sailors from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit were called into action here after state and local agencies requested their assistance to fortify a levee in imminent danger of being overrun by the floodwaters which have devastated the area.

The Marines, who were later joined by soldiers from the Indiana National Guard, prisoners incarcerated at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle Ind., townspeople, Mennonites, Amish farmers and local volunteers reinforced nearly a mile of levee in Elnora, Ind.

After receiving the word to mobilize, the Marines rushed out to Elnora via CH-53E Super Stallion and CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters and began filling sandbags and building and reinforcing levees shortly after arriving



Marines and sailors of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit stack sand bags to reinforce the levees June 9 in Elnora, Ind. Local authorities in Elnora requested the 26th MEU to provide support to reinforce the levees from flooding of the White River.



Marines and sailors of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit stack sand bags to reinforce the levees June 9 in Elnora, Ind. Local authorities in Elnora requested the 26th MEU to provide support to reinforce the levees from flooding of the White River. Photos by Cpl. Jason D. Mills

at 3 a.m. and continued their efforts until 5 p.m. when they were called off due to more thunderstorms in the area.

The Marines worked with a feverish determination throughout the night and into the morning, most of the time with smiles on their faces, because they had the knowledge they were doing something of real good for those they are sworn to serve.

"It's good to know that we can go out there and help these people, and I think it's going to be a real rewarding experience, just being able to help and know that we're doing something good for this town," said Lance Cpl. Alex Nelson, Evansville, Ind., native and Marine with the 26th MEU.

Receiving word of the incident

After receiving the word to move the original 88, most not knowing what they were headed into, Leathernecks grabbed what gear they could and headed out to an even more uncertain community.

Before the moon had a chance to disappear under the tree line, the Marines were in the air, off to what was sure to be a long and difficult task.

Upon landing at a local fire department near Elnora, the Marines headed off to Bedford, Ind., where they made their base of operations. There they decided to split up into two teams; one would go to the Town Hall to fill sandbags and the other headed to Elnora to begin reinforcing the levees.

Taking action

After nearly two hours of hard work, word passed to consolidate the two groups, so all of the Marines could fight off the fast-approaching flood waters at the levees. And upon arriving at the scene, it was apparent why.

The rising waters had already crested

in several areas and were threatening to crest in many more. Immediately the arriving Marines began assisting their fellow Marines, National Guard and locals already fighting back the torrent of flood water.

After hours of struggling against Mother Nature, the Marines were finally able to take their first real break since late the night before, when almost 200 additional National Guard soldiers arrived around noon.

Wrapping up

Seeing the Marines, soldiers and locals were without fresh food and lacking water, some of the locals brought out fried chicken and green beans for lunch.

"I think this is the best chow we've had since we've been out here," commented one of the Marines.

Even though the flood waters eventually reached 29.9 feet — the highest that part of Indiana had seen since 1913 — the levees held, protecting the homes of the 736 residents of Elnora.

"Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are among the primary mission capabilities of the 26th MEU," said commanding officer Col. Mark J. Desens. "Though it's not what we came here to do, we are ready to help those affected by this crisis."



Thousands of sand bags wait to be picked up in the early morning hours in Elnora, Ind. At the request of local authorities, Marines and sailors of 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit assisted in reinforcing levees via filling and stacking sand bags for nearly 24 hours June 9.

Community Briefs

Japanese and American friendship concert

Everyone is welcome to attend a Japanese and American friendship concert at the Marine Memorial Chapel here today at 7 p.m. The concert will hold performances by: Hinotsume Sisters, Yosie Uchikawa, Yanai Gakuen, Jiro Mouri and Chaplain John Cometa.

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.

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

June 21, 6p.m., at the Club Iwakuni Grand Ball Room. Tickets 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.

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.

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 Tori Pines Golf Course. Anyone interested in signing up should contact Dave Garber, station protocol officer, by e-mail (dave.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 an email 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 enlistments, 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 more information, call 235-3505.

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 353-3505.

energy to avoid green out and penalties for the station.
MCAS Iwakuni May 2008
Energy Utility Bills
Electric \$ 557,500
Water \$ 216,953
FJ1/Fuel \$ 452,967

2008 Summer Reading Program

Join "Catch the Reading Bug!" this summer at the 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. Families are invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program. Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins June 30. For more information, call the library at 253-3078. All programs are free of charge.

Girl Scout Summer Clubs 2008

Twilight Camp: June 30 - July 3, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Girl Scout Hut.

Going Green Crafts: July 14 - July 18, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Girl Scout Hut.

Base Camp: July 28 - August 1, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Girl Scout Hut. For more information or to sign up, please call 253-2159.

New after hours phone number - American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has a new after hours phone number, DSN: 253-6802.

Message from station Manager

AC season already started, please avoid using washers and dryers Monday through Friday from 9 a.m to 4p.m. and turn off wasted

PTO needs volunteers

M.C. Perry Elementary School, Parents and Teachers Organization (PTO) needs volunteers to help through the summer to plan events and fundraisers for the fall. Please call 253-3327, for more information.

Birth Announcement

We joyfully announce the birth of Kaela Maree Ortega, born on May 29, 2008, at 6:20 a.m., 8-pounds, 4-ounces and 21 inches. Proud parents, Sgt. Julio Ortega and Elizabeth Ortega.

Busch Gardens is giving back to the troops

For those looking to go on leave in the U.S. during the summer season, Busch Gardens and all of its affiliated parks are offering free admission to all active duty military members plus three direct dependent family members (with ID cards) to one of their parks. SeaWorld in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio, Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay, Adventure Island and Water Country USA are all affiliates and will be taking part in the free admissions.

From Provost Marshall's Office

Flight line gate 11 is down until further notice. Please use flight line gate 12. For information, contact PMO at 253-3303.

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 Devine Worship
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship
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)

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 20, 2008

7 p.m. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. 88 Minutes (R)

Saturday, June 21, 2008

1 p.m. Kung Fu Panda (PG)
4 p.m. 88 Minutes (R)
7 p.m. Smart People (R)
Premier

Sunday, June 22, 2008

1 p.m. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13)
4 p.m. Smart People (R)
7 p.m. 88 Minutes (R)

Monday, June 23, 2008

7 p.m. Smart People (R)

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

7 p.m. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal (PG13)
Last Showing

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

7 p.m. Baby Mama
Premier

Thursday, June 26, 2008

2 p.m. Kung Fu Pandas (PG)
7 p.m. The Ruins
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.mccs iwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

1993 Toyota Lucida

8 PAX Family van. Asking \$1,500 OBO, will negotiate, must sell by 25 June. JCI good through Sept. '09. Dependable, clean, automatic, air conditioning, 4 passenger hatchback and non-smoking owners. Diesel engine gets great gas mileage. Call with questions at 253-2015 (home) or 090-9376-1841 (cell).

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 and non-smoking owners. Asking price \$2,700 OBO. Call 253-2015 (home) or 080-6612-9195 (cell).

1994 Mazda Eunos

Asking for \$1,800 OBO, JCI till April 2009. 2-door,

automatic, CD player, power windows, doors, sunroof. A/C works great, car runs great. For more information, call 253-3993 (work) or 253-2920 (home).

1993 Mitsubishi Galant

Asking for \$600 OBO, JCI till July 2008. Power locks, windows, CD player, fog lamps, A.C, heat. For more information, call 253-5995 (work) or 253-2316 (home).

2006 Toyota RAV-4

Excellent condition, 24,000 km. (15,000 miles) power windows/locks, PS/PB, 4WD, AM/FM/CD/MD, stereo. Road tax paid until April 2009. JCI good until Aug. 2009. Asking 14,000. Call 253-5171 (work) or 090-2004-0957.

Honda Civic

\$1,500 OBO, JCI good until Nov. 2009, road tax paid. Runs great, cold A/C. For more information, call 253-2556 (home) or 090-9810-0957 (cell).

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 clinical 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 NPSF, Bldg. 411, e-mail to resumes@jeassociates.com or fax to 253-6626.

Miscellaneous

Items for sale

4 electric heaters - \$20 each. 2 dehumidifiers - \$10 each. Call 253-5171 (work) or 090-2004-0957 (cell).

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 Schedule

MONDAY March 3, 2008

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

TUESDAY March 4, 2008

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

WEDNESDAY March 5, 2008

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

THURSDAY March 6, 2008

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

FRIDAY March 7, 2008

Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Southern Style Fried Catfish, Chicken Cacciatore, Steamed Rice, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Southern Style Greens, French Fried Cauliflower, Cream Gravy, Jalapeno Corn Bread, Coconut Raisin Drop Cookies, Chocolate Cream Pie, Specialty Bar: Hot Dogs

Japanese employees retire after 289 years of combined service



Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, station commanding officer, sits with seven Japanese employees after their retirement ceremony at Club Iwakuni here June 17. A total of 13 Japanese employees retired and were employed in a variety of occupations and serving an accumulative 289 years aboard the station. Pictured are; (left to right) Shinji Koyama, Yoko Okano, Sadako Kawasaki, Col. O'Halloran, Kiyoshi Otani, Kazou Iwashita, Junichi Furukawa and Isao Yamada. Not pictured are Harumi Moriwaki, Eiko Furuya, Teruko Asami, Hiroka Mitsui, Mitsuhiro Matsui and Koji Yamane. Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH ONLINE

WWW.IWAKUNI.USMC.MIL

Superior hitting

New School beats MCCS, 17-3



New School outfielder Michael Pope connects with a pitch during an intramural softball game against Team Kanpai at the main field here Monday. Pope went 3 for 4 with a base hit, a triple and an infield homer. Photos by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With solid, consistent hitting, New School demolished Team Kanpai 17-3 in intramural softball action at the main field here Monday.

New School, comprised primarily of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron service-members, improved to 7-1 while Team Kanpai, comprised primarily of Marine Corps Community Services employees, suffered another loss in their 0-9 season.

New School's most devastating blows came in the top of the third.

Early in the inning, New School's second baseman Jacob Moore cranked an infield home run to right field to make it 7-0.

Two at bats later, outfielder Brian Kendricks blasted the game's second infield home run down the left field foul line; increasing New School's lead to 9-0.

With two outs and New School players on first and third base, first baseman Rachael K.A. Simons ripped a double to the right field gap, bringing in the two base runners, making it 11-0.

Capping off New School's slug-fest in the third, outfielder Michael Pope hammered another infield homer, bringing in Simons and

making it 13-0.

Consistent hitting proved to be the key to the game with New School scoring four runs in the first inning, two in the second, seven in the third and four in the fourth.

"It was hitting today," said New School's pitcher Stephen Brumfield. "We had a variety and everyone contributed."

Despite the score, Brumfield suggested their defense could have been a little stronger.

"Even if we played poor defense, we hit well enough to win anyway," he added.

Team Kanpai appeared as though they might respond with a rally in the bottom of the third, getting several base hits and even loading the bases at one point. Unfortunately for them, they were only able to bat in two runs making the score 13-2.

Even though Team Kanpai has had a rough season, winning isn't more important than having a good time said Team Kanpai's first baseman Roger Dickinson.

"Our motto is all about having fun," Dickinson said.

Team Kanpai has one more opportunity to pull out a win during season play, when they play the ATC Longballz June 23 at 8 p.m. Post-season action is scheduled for June 30 through July 8.



New School first baseman Rachael K.A. Simons connects with a pitch during an intramural softball game against Team Kanpai at the main field here Monday. Simons went 3 for 3 with a walk.

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

MWSS-171 rolls past CLC-36

Lashley, Martinez score twice to seal win, 6-3

LANCE CPL. CHRIS DOBBS
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With a relentless attack on their opponent's goal, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 rolled over Combat Logistics Company 36 6-3 in intramural six-man soccer action at the north side field here Tuesday.

171's forward Keston Lashley came up big for "America's Squadron," with two goals, an assist and several defensive stops as 171 improved to 3-1 and CLC fell to 0-4.

After opening the game with back-to-back goals in the first six minutes, 171 kept at least a two-score cushion between CLC and themselves for the duration of the game.

"The more we play as a team the better we get," said 171 forward Omar Martinez, who scored twice to help 171 take a 3-1 lead into halftime.

Martinez said 171's team is a mix of experienced players and those who have just "played around," or what he calls "street soccer."

"The players that don't have a competitive background are learning from those that do," he said.

Martinez added that his team is especially strong at midfield, something that has given them an edge over their opponents so far.

"We've got good players for that position," he said. "Without a good midfielder, it's difficult to score and it puts more pressure on your defense."

Though CLC has struggled in the first half of the season, they showed flashes of brilliance in Tuesday night's game. During one of the game's highlights, forward George Biernesser skillfully dribbled past a defender before his well-struck shot whistled past MWSS-171 goalie Travis Sykes.

"We need to work on our team strategy," said forward James Hawkins. "If we start passing it around more I think we'll be better off."



Combat Logistics Company 36 forward George Biernesser dribbles the ball down the field during an intramural soccer game against Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 at north side field here Tuesday. Biernesser scored a goal in CLC-36's 6-3 loss to MWSS-171. Photos by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs

"The more we play as a team the better we get."

Omar Martinez
MWSS-171 forward

Though the goals have been few and far between, CLC is excited about the rest of the season, according to forward Antonio Gaitan.

"It feels good to be out here," Gaitan said. "Hopefully we can step up our game."

CLC takes on Postal today at 6 p.m. while 171 will match up against I.Y.A.O.A.S. at 7:30 p.m. All games are played at north side field.

For more information, contact intramural sports at 253-3067.



Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 forward Keston Lashley dribbles past Combat Logistics Company 36 forward James Whitaker during an intramural soccer game at north side field here Tuesday. MWSS-171 won the game 6-3.

Scoring summary

	1	2	F
MWSS-171	3	3	6
CLC-36	1	2	3

1st half

MWSS-171 M. Kozak (assist from K. Lashley) 3rd min 1-0

MWSS-171 Omar Martinez 6th min 2-0

CLC-36 J. Whitaker (assist from T. Sykes) 10th min 2-1

MWSS-171 forward O. Martinez (assist from S. Silva) 20th min 3-1

2nd half

MWSS-171 J. Sorinmade 22nd min 4-1

CLC-36 G. Biernesser 25th min 4-2

MWSS-171 K. Lashley (assist from M. Kozak 32nd) min 5-2

MWSS-171 K. Lashley (assist from M. Haddad) 35th min 6-2

CLC-36 forward Antonio Gaitan 39th min 6-3