

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



The scenic waterfalls of the Futashika Yagai Katsudo Center has been the quick getaway for countless station members who know of its fascination. This week, the Iwakuni Approach set out to find what all the hype is about. For a place that was once the said stomping grounds of a menacing two-headed deer, it sure caught us in its current. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox

SEE TREK ON PAGE 6

Station safety highlights local swimming hazards

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

As temperatures rise, more service members and their families are trekking to various scenic swimming destinations in search of an escape from the summer heat.

The station safety center is currently promoting awareness of these dangers with its water safety campaign.

"Iwakuni used to have a drowning every year and in some cases, multiple drownings," said Rick A. Perry, the station's safety officer. "Our goal is to have zero water fatalities and few water-related injuries."

Water levels rise considerably after a typhoon or heavy rain. The water acts as a camouflage to the rocks and other possible debris at the bottom.

The two most common factors in water fatalities are high waters from a typhoon or other rainfall and unfamiliarity with

the area, said Perry.

Currents also form underneath the water's surface and have the power to carry an unsuspecting swimmer through the water and into rocks.

"If you are ever caught in a current, the best thing to do is stay calm, float on your back with your feet pointed down stream and push off of rocks and other obstacles to try to get to the side," said Sean Kim Han, the station safety specialist.

Being prepared for a bad situation is paramount when swimming in unfamiliar waters.

Swimmers must plan for an emergency, Han said. People must ensure they have a cell phone, or know of a location with a phone, he explained.

Beaches also harbor dangers in even the most beautiful areas. Rip currents, which have claimed the lives of unfamiliar swimmers in the past, are a problem off shore.

"Water is an indiscriminate killer,"

said Sean Curtis, a safety officer from Okinawa. "Know the water conditions before you get in the water, it may be too strong for you to get out of."

Rip currents are invisible to the eye and can come without warning.

People should stay away from objects entering the water because they can cause rip currents, Perry said.

The top five most hazardous area locations according to the safety center are three falls, Yasaka Dam, Kintai Bridge, Oshima Island Bridge and Hamada beach.

"These are not places we don't necessarily want people to go," Perry said. "I just want people to think about what they're doing."

Editor's Note: For new current water safety videos about local swimming locations, visit www.iwakuni.usmc.mil/news/afn/afn.html.

KV strives to support station families

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With more than 26 collective years of Navy and Marine Corps service between she and her husband, Mindy Nelson knows a thing or two about ups and downs of military family life. It wasn't until they arrived in Iwakuni, however, that she discovered a unique organization designed to support military spouses and families during hard times.

During one of her children's soccer games, a member of the Key Volunteer Network invited Nelson to see what the group was all about.

"I've been in a long time ... and I'd heard of the KVN, but I was never directly associated with the program and didn't know much about it," she said. "So she convinced me to come out to one of the meetings."

Never one to merely dabble in the things she believes in, Nelson's commitment to the program has grown and she now finds herself filling the role as the unit KV coordinator for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

The mother of three is constantly seeking new ways to help others by sharing her knowledge and experience.

She first grasped the opportunity when her husband, along with a group of H&HS Marines, deployed to Iraq.

"That's pretty hard on somebody," Nelson said. "Some people - it's their first time with deployments. They have little children, they're overseas, they're not near their families - it's all of this stuff combined."

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CORPS SAFETY

101 Critical Days of Summer

Typhoon awareness

SUBMITTED BY
THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE

Are you ready for the Typhoon season? Here are some general facts that you should know about Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness (TCCOR), typhoon categories, emergency shelters and phone numbers. Any questions should be directed to either your Unit Typhoon Coordinator or the Destructive Weather Bill MCASO 3140.3X.

Tropical Cyclone Condition Of Readiness

- TCCOR IV — The trend indicates a possible threat of a tropical cyclone within 72 hours. Typhoon season is from June 1 to November 30 annually during which MCAS Iwakuni remains at a minimum TCCOR IV for the duration.
- TCCOR III — Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours.
- TCCOR II — Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 24 hours.
- TCCOR I — Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours.
- TCCOR IC — Winds of 34 to 49 knots are occurring on Station.
- TCCOR IE — Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are occurring on Station.
- TCCOR IR — Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are no longer occurring. Emergency crews, Safety, and Facilities' personnel assess Air Station readiness for normal operations. All personnel should remain in shelters until All Clear is set.
- TCCOR Storm Watch — Although destructive winds have subsided or are currently no longer forecast, there is still a possibility of danger due to the proximity of the storm and

unpredictable changes in storm track and/or strength.

- TCCOR All Clear — All tropical cyclone imminent dangers have passed. Return to Condition IV.

Typhoon Categories

- TYPHOON CAT 1 — Wind speeds of 64-82 knots.
- TYPHOON CAT 2 — Wind speeds of 83-95 knots.
- TYPHOON CAT 3 — Wind speeds of 96-113 knots.
- TYPHOON CAT 4 — Wind speeds of 114-135 knots.
- SUPER TYPHOON — Wind speeds greater than 136 knots.

Emergency Shelters & Phone Numbers

The Southside Gymnasium, bldg. 1010, 253-6578 and M.C. Perry Gymnasium, bldg. 555, 253-3447.

Off-Base Residents are accepted at on-station shelters after TCCOR II has been set. A stay for 48 hours should be anticipated. To get the current Typhoon conditions, call 253-8300.

Prepare your typhoon kit

- Flashlight (keep batteries separate)
- Battery powered Radio (keep batteries separate)
- Batteries
- Canned and packaged food with can and bottle opener (2 to 3 days of supply)
- 2 to 3 days of water supply (1 gallon of drinking water per person per day)
- First aid supplies
- Prescription medication (if applicable)
- Baby articles (if applicable)
- Hand Cleaner and wet naps
- Inventory check list (keep your kit updated)
- Don't forget to refresh your supply once used.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

COMMUNICATION

Lt. Gregg Peters
MWSS-171 CHAPLAIN

I had been in college for two years before I decided what degree program to pursue.

Thinking that I was a good communicator, I decided to get a degree in Speech and Communications.

Actually, I wasn't a good communicator. I just talked a lot. I equated the ability to talk a lot with good communication.

But speaking is only part of good communication. I didn't realize I wasn't a good communicator until I got married.

At this point I learned two valuable things about communication that I never learned in college.

First, communication is everything. If I can't understand someone or know what they mean, things don't get resolved and problems arise.

Second, communication doesn't always happen easily. I've been surprised many times by how much miscommunication happens even with the people I know well and speak with often.

Like many things, good communication is a skill that can be developed over time.

Some of us are naturally good at half of the communication process. I love to

talk, so saying things wasn't a problem.

I've had to work at the other half of communication, which is listening.

And listening is not the same as hearing.

Listening is the same as understanding; hearing is just the ability to repeat another's words.

Others are great listeners but they need to work at putting their thoughts into words.

If you want things to go more smoothly in the relationships that matter to you, improve your own communication skills.

Get better at both talking and listening, because communication is everything.

"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.

KV helps keep station families informed

KVN FROM PAGE 1

Nelson's solution – compile a host of Iwakuni support systems into a user-friendly package.

With the compilation, the H&HS KVN deployment binder was born.

"First we started with a letter saying, 'Hey, we heard your military member was deployed. We're here for you,'" she said. "Then I thought, 'What's the first thing people want?'"

The answer was child care, and now the binder contains helpful contacts for the Child Development Center and other means of extended care.

But, the deployment book didn't stop there.

She continued to compile information on resources ranging from the new parent support to military spouse scholarships. It took hours of research and legwork, but the effort was a labor of love for a woman who had been in the shoes of those she was trying to assist.

Nelson said instead of calling 113 (Iwakuni's base information line), she was hoping a spouse could look in the binder and find what they needed easily instead

of being bounced from one agency to the next.

The project was a success and has drawn praise from members of the H&HS command.

Executive Officer Maj. Charles Terrasse commended Nelson's initiative and dedication, but said more volunteers are always needed to continue the mission.

"The KVs have been there, been strong and done amazing things," Terrasse said. "But we'd like to have a stronger KV network," he added.

Terrasse said some spouses may be hesitant to volunteer due to their already busy home and work schedules.

In order to relieve some of the pressure, Headquarters Marine Corps is implementing new changes to the program.

One of the most notable changes includes hiring a full time civilian Family Readiness Officer (FRO) to assist in the mission. According to Mark Allen, Marine Corps Family Team Building director, the FRO's role will be to take over more of the time consuming roles that the old KVN previously absorbed.

"The stuff that's a burden to them now – rosters, call trees, newsletters, administrative roles, many of the time consuming things the volunteers have been doing – can now be done by a full-time employee," Allen explained. "The volunteers can then focus on the enjoyable aspects of volunteering."

There will also be changes to the names of the volunteer roles including "Family Readiness Advisors", "Family Readiness Assistants", and "Morale Support Volunteers".

Nelson welcomes these changes, and said that having a full time FRO will only help expand the mission of the KVN, now referred to as the "Unit Family Readiness Program," in supporting families.

With so much positive momentum in the program, Nelson added that now is the perfect time for others to get involved.

"We'll take anyone with a positive attitude who is interested in helping others," Nelson said. "You don't even have to commit right away, just come to a meeting and see what we're all about."



Gunnery Sgt. Ronald S. Morgan, an airframes mechanic with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, attempts a game of "Tacro," a local sport, with children of the CAMAR Orphanage House in Kuantan, Malaysia. Morgan and other members of Marine Aircraft Group 12 visited the orphanage July 4 as one of their community relations projects during Exercise Air Warrior 2008. Photo courtesy of Cpl. Jeffery V. Bowling

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.



MADISON'S DREAM

Young lady tours MCAS Iwakuni with family



Madison W. Butler man-handles the simulated M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon at the indoor small arms range here June 23. The small arms range was only one of many attractions visited during a grand tour of the air station, courtesy of the Children's Dream Fund.

"It's so heavy!" 11-year-old Madison W. Butler says while trying on aircraft rescue firefighting rescue gear here June 23. Madison, a three-time cancer survivor, spent the day visiting different places aboard the station. Photos by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Eleven-year-old Madison W. Butler was given the opportunity to experience the military in ways few children her age get to.

Iwakuni welcomed a young Sarasota, Fla., girl who came to visit her family June 23.

During her stay aboard the station, she was taken around to various locations, enjoying the pistol range, jets on the flight line, a simulator flight, the R.G. Robinson Mess Hall, an Aircraft Rescue Firefighting tour, a harbor boat ride, and the chance to push the button to set off a bomb with explosive ordnance disposal Marines.

"I didn't have a favorite thing," said Madison. "I loved everything equally."

Madison was given the trip courtesy of the Children's Dream Fund because only 18 months into her life she was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"It's a bad feeling watching your child go through something like this," said Sharon Butler, Madison's mother. "With surgery and physical therapy, all I could do is watch."

After surgery, she was released from the hospital. Doctors said she would never walk.

"When we came home from the hospital there were butterfly stitches all down Madison's back," said Sharon. "We placed her on the floor with blankets and her toys, and she would just pull herself over to her toys."

After the tumors were initially removed, 3-year-old Madison was faced with hardships when the tumors resurfaced.

Despite her doctor's predictions, Sharon said Madison was walking within two weeks after her surgery.

Through the years Madison drew strength from different

sources, never letting a smile leave her face.

"Being at church and praying helped a lot," Madison said. "It wasn't just me and my family praying, it was the whole church."

Madison's friendly support was enhanced by her father Tim Butler's determination to do whatever was necessary for his "little girl" to make it.

"If the tumors did come back, we just decided that we were going to move forward and do whatever we have to do to fight this," said Tim after Madison's second surgery.

After the tumors were removed for the second time, they relentlessly resurfaced when Madison was 8 years old.

The treatment was then chemotherapy, causing Madison to loose her hair.

Madison wore a wig but she was aware that people knew her hair was fake.

"Losing her hair was the hardest thing for her," said Sharon. "But one day she came back from school without her wig on, and she was so happy because all of the other kids called her brave and didn't make fun of her."

After several months of chemotherapy, Madison's hair grew back and she went on with her life as if nothing had happened.

Following chemotherapy, the Children's Dream Fund heard of Madison's story and granted her dream of visiting her family here in Iwakuni.

Madison chose to see her aunt and uncle along with cousins currently living on the station.

"They used to live with us in Florida," Madison said. "We were together all the time. I missed them and wanted to come and spend time with them."

Utilizing inner strength, determination and support from family, friends and few good Marines and Sailors aboard the station, Madison's battle in her life will never be a lonely journey.

IN FLIGHT



Capt. Wesley J. Deaver pilots an AV-8B Harrier beside a Kuwaiti F/A-18 during bilateral training with the Kuwait Air Force. Deaver is serving with a Harrier detachment from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element of the Camp Pendleton, Calif., based 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The MEU is currently conducting sustainment training in Kuwait. Capt. Wesley J. Deaver

WHITE KNIGHTS SPREAD GOOD WILL THROUGH BILATERAL TRAINING

STAFF SGT. T.G. KESSLER
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

AL JABER AIR BASE, Kuwait (July 7, 2008) — The AV-8B Harrier detachment for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (Reinforced), 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is currently conducting a series of bilateral training exercises with their Kuwaiti counterparts as part of exercise Eager Mace 2008.

The bilateral training here is expected to last until mid-July. During that time the Marine pilots and the Kuwaiti Air Force hope to increase their proficiency and expertise by sharing valuable flying experience and knowledge.

According to Capt. James Vallario, the weapons and tactics instructor for the detachment, the Harriers are conducting training with three different F/A-18 Hornet squadrons of the Kuwaiti Air Force and have had the opportunity to fly against very dissimilar aircraft and experience the difference in tactics and flying skills.

"The training has been very successful when the weather is cooperating. When we are able to get out and fly with them it has been phenomenal training," explained Vallario.

"(The Kuwaitis) are very receptive to what we have to say and want to learn — they were an occupied

country once (during the first Gulf War) so they take us very seriously."

Of the fundamentals being taught to the Kuwaiti Air Force pilots, the focus of the training weighs heavily on close air support, a Marine aviation specialty. Vallario, a 31-year-old native of San Francisco, explained throughout the training evolution, the Marines are running the Kuwaitis through the ins and outs of close air support supporting training missions currently underway by the 15th MEU.

"We're trying to share our tactics, techniques and procedures for how we conduct close air support — something they're not as experienced with — so we are spending time with them showing how difficult and how challenging it can be to put ordnance in close proximity to friendly troops," explained Vallario.

"It's something that a lot of people claim to do very well, but few people actually can. The (Marine Corps) is very good at conducting close air support so we're trying to teach (the Kuwaitis) as much as we can."

For Maj. Fahad Al Douseri, operations officer with Squadron 9 of the Kuwaiti Air Force, flying with the Marines has been a pleasure not only for the shared camaraderie but also for the chance to fly with experienced pilots.

A pilot since 1989 and flying the F/A Hornet since 1994, this is the third time he has had the opportunity to work with his American counterparts, sharing the

knowledge and experience each force has to offer.

"I think these exercises standardize things and build a really close relationship with each other," said Al Douseri. "I think we can accomplish any mission (together)."

Having worked with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy pilots, Fahad and his pilots share a kindred spirit with the Marines, he said.

"It is a very nice exercise especially working with the Marines. Not that the U.S. Air Force or Navy are different but the Marines are similar to us and share the same thoughts as we do," said Al Douseri.

Ultimately, Al Douseri hopes the opportunity to work with the Marines standardizes tactics between the two forces, further enhancing their ability to work together; and if the need arises, ensures success if the two nations ever work together in a real world situation.

"One day we might at any time perform missions together and we will be more than able to communicate, interact and really know each other," he said.

"To work with the Americans, it's a really great opportunity for us to lift up our spirits. Since the Marines are really experienced, we are more than happy to work with them."

The Camp Pendleton, Calif., based 15th MEU is currently in Kuwait conducting sustainment training.

TREK INTO THREE FALLS

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

For those anxious to get their feet wet in the local flora and fauna, the Iwakuni Approach has scouted out one of the many on-foot expeditions within arm's reach of the air station.

What brings service members to knowingly throw themselves into what could be hazardous waters, whether for thrills or out of sheer folly, is another story. This week, we've staked out to find what's really offered at the Futashika Yagai Katsudo Center — or the location more widely known as Three Falls.

The trip started out like most do in the year 2008 — on Google.com. After a short stint of research, it was found that the name, Futashika, is directly translated to "two deer." Now, it's been told in the local community that more than 1,000 years ago, a barbarous two-headed deer terrorized the region and was eventually slain by Samurai Lieutenant General Umezu. Some natives still refer to the place as "Umezu's Fall" to this day.

Without much more than obtaining a special liberty chit and purchasing what could be a year's supply of s'more-making materials, I set out with a few liberty buddies and with adventure in mind.

I was expecting something nasty as far as "getting there" was concerned. Our group was provided a loosely detailed map with foolproof driving directions by the Information Tour and Travel Office here. We made the mistake of leaving late in the evening. As if being kanji-illiterate wasn't bad enough, our convoy was faced with navigating through the darkness and solitude of a somewhat-rural Japanese region.

One tool that's always a good idea to bring along is a friend who has been to Three Falls before. Preferably, said friend should have a near-photographic memory of the site and can finger-point his way to the creek bed with confidence. In our crew, that friend was Cpl. Andrew C. Milner, a Marine broadcaster who works at American Forces Network.

"Turn there!" he'd yell as we swerved our vehicles onto yet another unlit path common to the area that evening.

Eventually, we were able to find a decently equipped camping area located approximately two miles away from the waterfalls. Blessed with light from our motor vehicles, we set up camp for the night,

made fire and prepared for the next day of exploring what the region had to offer.

The night brought strange noises, interesting bugs and typical campfire ghost stories. The area gave off a half-rural-half-suburb feel with homes scattered every couple of acres. We knew this wasn't the place to make noise and call any attention to ourselves. The Marine Corps taught us better than to leave any clues to our existence. Not even a two-headed deer would have known we arrived. Besides, we were there to escape from the hustle and bustle of daily air station life and were successful in doing so. A few fire-logs and chuckles into the night, we realized we were sincerely in our element.

At daybreak, the crew woke up to find our former mountain man, Milner, had already started at the river, casting out his fishing line in hopes of catching our breakfast. Thrifty man, I thought. Although we appreciated his effort, we realized because of the time of year and the number of humanoid visitors wading in the water, fish were scarce.

"I got a few nibbles," he would admit in his defense.

We settled for sandwiches and suited up to be amphibious at the falls. What we found upon arrival was clear and beautiful

freshwater flowing at our feet while a very audible and very promising whooshing sound, one a city-boy like me has only heard on his fancy alarm-clock and radio with nature noises, came from a 30-foot waterfall we could see from behind the gorge.

As picturesque and inviting as the cascade appeared, the rumors we'd heard were correct. The fall itself was no place for diving or even well-executed belly flops. One safe place we did find to take a plunge was just near the walking path. The water was calm with an almost non-existent current and was about 10 feet from surface to sandy bottom.

Leaving the real-life Ozarka commercial was more of a task than getting there, we realized. Each of us contemplated making Three Falls his permanent residence, but thought better to spread the word of its enchantment. Perhaps if the legend behind Umezu's Fall is in fact common folklore, the place was named after one of many people who fell for its beauty.



A short hike off the walking trail reveals light rapids and photogenic sight of the gorge. Travelers should be wary of the strength of the rapids as it increases at dangerous speeds after even a light shower. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



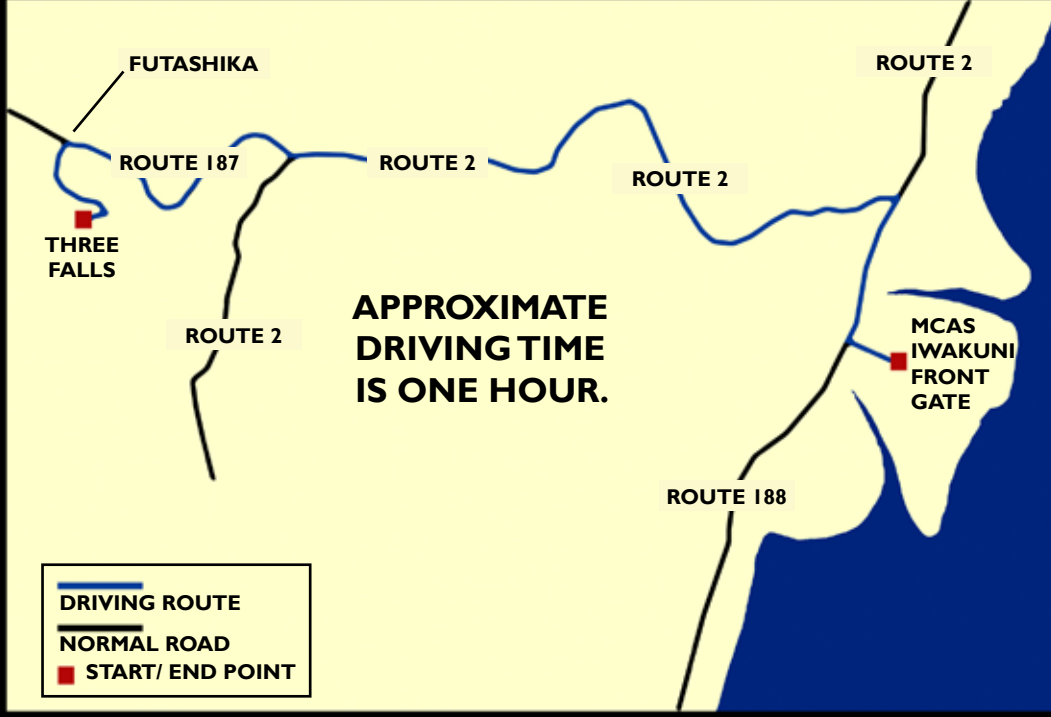
Taking it easy next to the campfire for a few hours makes an entire work week more agreeable. It's a well known fact that Marines are good at camping and starting fires, but keeping up with one in the wilderness is something else again. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Cpl. Andrew C. Milner, a Marine broadcaster with American Forces Network, casts a line into seemingly hopeless waters near the Three Falls area. Due to the amount of visitors this time of year, few of the finned delicacies were spotted. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

1. Exit the main gate and make a right at Rt. 188 or "four corners."
2. Continue north until coming to Rt. 2, and make a left, heading west.
3. Continue west for a distance until coming to Rt. 187, and make a right at the stop light.
4. Continue while searching for a sign that says "Futashika Bridge," and make a left. This road will wrap up a mountain.
5. The road stops at a log cabin. Turning right will take visitors to the Three Falls parking lot.



APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME IS ONE HOUR.

DRIVING ROUTE
NORMAL ROAD
START/ END POINT



The author explores the laws of gravity at a clearing just after the Three Falls area. Most visitors should spot the plunging spot from the walking trail that leads to the falls. Much caution and inspecting should be taken before attempting a jump. Shallow or fast-moving water should be the first sign to stay away. Photo by Cpl. Andrew C. Milner

AROUND THE CORPS

24th MEU flips to COIN; Civil Military Operations Center opens in Gamsir

CPL. RANDALL A. CLINTON
24TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

At a forward outpost in Gamsir, a line of Afghans wait to talk with Marines at the newly opened Civil Military Operations Center; they have come to voice their claims and receive cash payments for losses incurred while Marines battled insurgents.

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan (July 4, 2008) — Flown over a sparsely decorated tent, three flags representing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan flap in the wind, showing the people that this is not just a Marine Corps or American program.

This is their government responding.

The cash payments are in Afghan currency — the people see the difference and welcome the Marine presence.

"You guys are different," the locals tell Master Gunnery Sgt. John Garth, civil affairs chief, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is operating with NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

"(The Afghans) know we come in with overwhelming force and might, but we also come in with compassion," he said.

Despite deterrents, an abundance of local residents, some 340 since the operations center opened June 22, have traveled to meet with the same Marines who swept through the district and pushed the insurgents out.

Almost overnight, the Marines transitioned from aggressive combat patrols to a friendlier neighborhood watch of sorts. They verify damage claims and help map the area, bringing a sense of order to the once lawless district.

Where once they traded gunfire with insurgents, now there are daily meetings with locals.

Marines and British soldiers dole out payments for the incidental cost of waging war and in the process they encourage progress.

Heading the efforts in the district is battery commander Maj. Mark McCarroll, Alpha Battery, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th MEU.

At a table, McCarroll listens as an Afghan man discusses his claim.

The Marine already has an intimate knowledge of the man's damaged house.

Acting as the battalion's fire-support coordinator, he processed each request to fire artillery, drop bombs and launch mortars at insurgent targets.



A Marine with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, pays a local resident for damages his property incurred while Marines battled insurgents in Gamsir. The MEU recently opened a Civil Military Operations Center in the region to begin the reconstruction phase in Gamsir. The MEU entered Gamsir in late April and quickly dispatched insurgents from an area that had not been under NATO-ISAF control previously. The MEU remains in Gamsir conducting classic COIN operations. Cpl. Randall A. Clinton

His men pulled the cord sending shells downrange that destroyed the very same property that is now being paid for, property the insurgents had commandeered from the local citizens to use as fighting positions.

"It's uncomfortable and strange," McCarroll said of the unique situation.

When the man showed a drawing of his house, McCarroll recognized it instantly. "Yep, that's the spot," he said to himself. "We dropped a couple of bombs on it, we did a helicopter run on it and we shot artillery on it."

Regardless of McCarroll's reservations about meeting the locals, the average Afghan seems glad to sit and exchange stories with the Marines.

As they sit and talk, the Marines begin to see why the homeowners are less angered by destroyed property than one would imagine.

McCarroll said he has heard different stories. One Afghan said, "The Taliban kicked me out of my house and the next day you blew it up. At least you killed the guy that kicked me out of my house."

Even with the debris, the way the locals explain it, they have more of a home now than they did just a week ago.

"A lot of people told me they lived in the desert for 18 months," said Garth. "On the edge of the desert, the adult males, at least the working males, came back to their house every day to work their fields, harvest their poppy or wheat, then they went back to the desert. Why? Because the Taliban didn't want them living in their houses, but they would let them come back and farm their fields every day. Part of that was so the Taliban would have a food source."

Garth equates the current situation to the healing

process after invasive surgery:

"You have to get rid of the cancer first. Hopefully it is common sense; you do what you have to do to achieve success. Success isn't determined by what is and is not damaged. It's a measure of 'Did we get rid of the Taliban? Did we make it safer for them to live their lives? Is there greater opportunity for them now than there was before?' Is their house destroyed? Yeah, but is there greater opportunity for them? Absolutely."

Splitting time between inspecting homes while out on patrol and evaluating claims from the tent center, Garth sees the district coming around.

"Had we not come, their houses wouldn't have been destroyed, but they still would have been living on the edge of the desert under Taliban control," said Garth. "They were forced to grow poppy and not grow wheat or vegetables, which they could eat and sell at the market. They had to travel from the desert to farm their fields; the Taliban would take what they wanted from them. So when you look at it from that perspective, they didn't have a home to begin with. We are now giving them a chance to move back home and rebuild."

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rene Cote, civil affairs officer, 24th MEU, \$300,000 has been given to the Marines on the ground handling claims, so McCarroll and his men have the tools necessary to help this district make a full recovery.

"The Taliban kicked them out of their homes, and the Taliban occupied the compounds and turned them into something these compounds weren't intended to do," said McCarroll. "Our function now is to make reparations for what we did to their homes. It's not necessarily feeling bad about it. It is doing the right thing after the Taliban are no longer there. These people have to live there. It's their right."

Community Briefs

Upcoming Marine Corps Family Team Building events

July 24, 10 a.m. – noon. Learn how to Space-A. Representatives from the terminal will discuss and answer questions about how to fly Space-A from Iwakuni. July 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Adult and Child CPR by certified Red Cross Instructor. 10 participants maximum. For both upcoming classes, call Marine Corps Family Team Building for more information and childcare availability at 253-3754.

Operation Homefront Military Spouse Scholarship

Operation Homefront is proud to announce the CinCHouse.com Scholarship for spouses

of uniformed services members to attend a post-secondary university, college, accredited trade school, certificate program, vocational school or community college.

Deadline for submission is extended to August 15. The scholarships will be awarded to recipients on August 30. Visit <http://www.operationhomefront.net/spousescholarship.asp> for details.

Become a Volunteer Victim Advocate

Volunteers are specially trained men and women who provide immediate assistance to victims of spouse abuse and sexual assault. Pre-registration is required. Training is August 25-29, 6 - 9 p.m. Please call the Victim

Advocate Coordinator at 253-4526 to register.

Mammograms

The Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni will be conducting mammograms through an on-site van from Aug. 4 to 8. To schedule this service, please call central appointments at 253-3445 so that it can be arranged through your primary care doctor. Once the order is requested by your primary care doctor, appointments will be made by Radiology.

Vacation Bible School Friendship Trek 2008

August 4 – 8, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. The trek is open to ages 3 years (potty trained) to 8th grade. Come join the adventure with games, crafts, music and God's Word.

For more information on registering or volunteering, contact Station Chapel at 253-3371.

"Robin Hood" Audition - MCCS, Youth and Teen Programs

July 28, 10 a.m. – noon, at Sakura Theater. Those auditioning should arrive at 9:30 a.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition. Approximately 50 roles are available for local students. All students (grades entering 1st grade through 12th grade) are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is

necessary. Most students rehearse approximately 4.5 hours each day, Monday through Friday. Performances are scheduled for Aug. 2, 3 p.m. (matinee show) and 7 p.m. (evening show) at the Sakura Theater.

For more information, call MCCS, Youth / Teen Programs at 253-5549 or Resource and Referral at 253-4141.

"Robin Hood" is part of the Missoula Children's Theatre's unique international touring project and is presented at MCAS Iwakuni by Children, Youth and Teens Branch.

Gospel Choir Members

Recruiting for Gospel Choir Members to sing at a Christmas concert at the Sinfonia Iwakuni Concert Hall (1,200 seats) is now taking place. Please call 090-4104-1541 (cell) for additional information.

Suicide Risk Workshop

Marine & Family Counseling is offering an Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk workshop. This training is very timely as overall military suicide numbers are up and receiving a significant amount of attention from Congress and USMC leadership. This training has been mentioned by CMC and other leaders during testimony and while Marine suicides are not showing an upward trend over the last few years, it is very timely training for our counselors, leaders and other professionals to assist in their professional development and support their continued outstanding service to our Marines. Dr. Werbel is a Behavioral Health Affairs Officer at MR, very well-versed in this subject matter, and

an engaging presenter. The Assessing & Managing Suicide Risk Training will be held Monday at Club Iwakuni Talbot's dining room from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please register before July 2, by calling Counseling Services at 253-4526.

Workshop participants must register prior to the event. On-site registration is not allowed.

Girl Scout Summer Clubs 2008 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.

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.

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.

Local artist wanted

The indoor range is currently searching for a local artist to draw and paint walls at the indoor range. For more information, call the indoor range at 253-5753.

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
11 a.m. Children's Church
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

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, July 18, 2008

7 p.m. Hancock (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Wanted (R)
Premier

Saturday, July 19, 2008

1 p.m. Wall-E (G)
4 p.m. Wanted (R)
7 p.m. You Don't Mess With The Zohan (PG-13)
10 p.m. Hancock (PG-13)

Sunday, July 20, 2008

1 p.m. Wall-E (G)
4 p.m. Hancock (PG-13)
7 p.m. Wanted (R)

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.

WALL-E Pixar
In the distant future, a small waste collecting robot inadvertently embarks on a space journey that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind.

253-5291

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

1994 Mitsubishi Chariot

JCI until Aug. 2010. Good tires, cold A/C, seats 7. \$2,500 OBO. Call 253-2886 (home) for more information.

1996 Nissan Prairie Joy

Low mileage with only 50,000 km. Features an AM/FM CD player, excellent shape, great family car. Car gets great gas mileage. JCI through Dec. 08, Recycle and Road Taxes paid. \$2,500 OBO. Please call 253-4719 (work) or 253-2719 (home) if interested.

Toyota Corsa

\$1,700. JCI until February 2010. Great car, cold A/C, 6-CD changer, automatic transmission, hatchback.

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

Very clean and reliable. Call 253-4503 (work), 253-2616 (home), or 090-9100-7601 (cell).

1992 Mitsubishi Emerald

Four door. Cold air conditioning with automatic temperature control. Automatic transmission, CD and cassette player, PW, PL and much more. JCI good until June 2009. \$1,400 OBO. For more information, call 253-2114 (home).

1997 Mitsubishi RVR

JCI good until May 2010. Runs great, 4-wheel drive, A/C & heat, AM/FM stereo/CD, power windows/door locks, keyless entry, three door, four passenger hatchback car. Non-smoking owners. Asking \$2,700 OBO. Call 253-2124, 253-4606, or 080-6612-9195 (cell).

1995 Subaru Domingo

Low fuel/low maintenance. Perfect for Iwakuni. Seats six and great for driving/parking off-base.

Needs JCI. \$2,500 OBO.

Call 253-5301 (work) or 253-2265 (home) for more information.

Job openings

Become a Crew Chief

If you want to explore the world and venture in the skies, become a crew chief with H&HS C-12 Ops. Must have a 1st class or better swim qualification. For more information, call 253-4022.

Miscellaneous

Transformer for sale

\$10. Runs U.S. appliances in your Japanese house. Call 253-5171 (work) for more information.

Items for sale

JVC Digital Camcorder \$150, Leather Recliner \$80, several shoes used and new size 10 and 11 different prices, Different carrying bags \$7 each. Picture frame set \$5. If interested please call 253-7992 (home).

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classifieds link on the station Web site and open an advertisement request form. Submit the form via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216.

CFC fundraiser boosts local programs

Contributed

The mission of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management website, is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout

the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year.

Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

We are fortunate at MCAS Iwakuni, Marine Corps Community Services, Marine and Family Services, Children Youth and Teen Branch to have received such funds, over \$7500 from the

last campaign to use locally for our Family Support and Youth Programs.

These funds recently enabled us to upgrade the children's waiting rooms at the Commissary and the Branch Health Medical Clinic. Items purchased included the following: child's sized furniture (tables and chairs), TV/DVD, movies, artificial trees, small bookcases/cubbies, and age appropriate books and movies for the children to use.

We thank all of our local donors for their monetary support.



For more information, contact the station inspector's office by calling 253-3428.

Softball Playoffs Show Stoppers

Season ends for Da Sluggers, Longballz look to the road ahead



Longballz shortstop Nick Rickert swings during the intramural softball playoffs at the main field here July 11. Strong hitting proved to be the Longballz's biggest asset in their 14-8 victory over the Da Sluggers. Photo by Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

LANCE CPL. NOAH S. LEFFLER IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Air Traffic Control Longballz handed Da Sluggers a 14-8 defeat, ending any hopes of advancing in the intramural softball playoffs at the main field here July 11.

Solid hitting and the desire to redeem themselves after a previous loss were the main factors in the Longballz' win, according to the team's coach and left center fielder Phillip Rogers.

"I think we were just determined," Rogers said. "We lost in the first game of the tournament and we were third

overall going in. It kind of gave us a wake up call."

The first inning began with both teams failing to put any significant points on the board. There was no lack of smack-talking on either side, however, which seemed to rally the Longballz.

With the score 4-1 at the bottom of the second, ATC was ready to prove they were going to live up to their name.

"We're gonna get runs in the end," said Tyrone Edwards, Longballz right fielder. "The only thing we've got to do is stop them from scoring. Our defense needs to hold it down. Other than that, we're gonna score every time."

Da Sluggers proved they had the defensive chops to stop a Longballz onslaught and served up a quick three outs in the top of the third. This would only fuel the Longballz though, and a big push in the fourth would seal their victory.

The score stood at 14-4 in the last inning, but Da Sluggers were undeterred in their quest to make up the runs.

"We just have to wait for our pitches," said right fielder Andrew Bedekovic. "We made a couple mistakes here and there, (but) that's the softball gods - you make an error and you'll have to pay for it."

The gods showed a little mercy when, moments after Bedekovic's comment, Kara "Lady" Huerta nailed a deep hit to left field scoring two runs.

But Da Sluggers were unable to capitalize on this momentum and the rest of the inning would only yield another two runs, putting them well under the victorious Longballz.

Rogers said that though the win was encouraging, it was not the time for his team to get over-confident.

"Right now we're in the loser bracket," he said. "We have another five games to go before the championship game, so we've got a long road."



Lance Cpl. Matt J. Sonickson, aircraft rescue firefighter with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, serves the ball during a racquetball game at the IronWorks Gym here. Sonickson frequently visits the gym to play racquetball with friends.
Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

Racquetball: fun, physically demanding



Lance Cpl. Casey G. White, an aircraft rescue firefighter with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, swats at an oncoming ball during a game of racquetball at the Ironworks Gym here. The game requires the players to be light on their feet in order to win the game. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Lance Cpls. Matt J. Sonickson, James M. Frame and Casey G. White, aircraft rescue firefighters with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, warm up for their racquetball games at the IronWorks Gym here. The game gave all three Marines their daily dose of physical training for the day. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

When people think about the gym, they might think about running, swimming, lifting weights or swimming. However, racquetball is one of the best-kept secrets of the exercise world.

The sport was invented in 1949 by a rubber manufacturer by the name of Joseph G. Sobek and was initially called paddle rackets. The game requires a shorter-styled tennis racket and rubber ball for easier play.

The game is played with two to four players with a serve given from a box on either the left or right side of the court, which consists of three walls and a glass door located in the rear. The ball must bounce off of the wall and land behind a designated broken line. The other player must hit the ball before it bounces more than once. If the player misses the ball, the point goes to the server.

Racquetball is a game of agility, speed, anticipation and precision and is usually accommodated by gyms with numerous courts.

Ironworks Gym houses four racquetball courts available Mondays through Fridays- 4 a.m. until 11 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays- 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Rackets, balls and eye protection are also provided by the gym.

Although racquetball is not a common sport, military members look to it as a

different approach to physical training and fun. The game improves agility through sprints and the constant stopping and going.

"I am absolutely addicted to the game," said Lance Cpl. James M. Frame, an aircraft rescue firefighter with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Frame and his friends discovered the sport when another Marine invited them to the gym for a few games.

"When I heard about racquetball, I thought it was a really relaxed sport no one really played," said Lance Cpl. Matt J. Sonickson, an aircraft rescue firefighter with HHS. "But after playing I found the game to be a physically demanding game."

Frame and Sonickson often play games until one player accumulates 10 points.

"I've only played the game twice now, but I'm positive I'll be back," said Lance Cpl. Casey G. White, an aircraft rescue firefighter with HHS.

Marines aboard the station who visit the courts on their free time have found it to be convenient, reliable and a good source of exercising aside from running.

"I would recommend the racquetball courts to anyone who's looking for a fun time and a little physical exertion," Sonickson said.

With a little more knowledge about the game, racquetball may soon be in the exercise ranks with running and other popular cardio workouts, at least in Iwakuni.