

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Former UFC fighter Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski poses with a fan during a meet-and-greet in the Marine Corps Exchange Sound Shop Aug. 9. Arlovski spent time at various locations aboard the station during his tour of Japan. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

Former UFC fighter greets, grapples with station locals

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Ultimate Fighting Champion fighter and former heavyweight champion Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski paid a visit to the Marines and sailors aboard the station Aug. 9.

United Service Organizations funded the trip that sent Arlovski, his manager Keith Gelman and USO tour manager Dana DePaul to Iwakuni during a tour of Japan.

During Arlovski's stay aboard the station he participated in an instructional clinic at the IronWorks Gym, meet-and-greets and photo opportunities at the Marine Corps Exchange and Hornets Nest, as well as dinner at Club Iwakuni and Crossroads Mall.

"It's a pleasure to meet with the Marines," Arlovski said. "I respect what they're doing for their country."

Arlovski spent time at the IronWorks gym teaching Marines and sailors new tricks involving grappling, striking and Jiu-Jitsu.

"I saw Andrei at the gym, and with the training I have, you know, I thought that I could at least put up a

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IWAKUNI OBON FESTIVAL



Members of Monie-Fu Boom Boom give a traditional taiko drum performance for an audience of station residents during the Obon festival on the parade deck here Aug. 9. Read the full story on p.6. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

MWSS-171 gathers for family day

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Long deployments and separations can make raising a family in the military a challenge.

That's why it's important for military families to turn to each other for support through rough times, said Gunnery Sgt. Armando Hernandez, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 utilities chief.

MWSS-171 organized a family day Aug. 15 to encourage its families to socialize with each other in a relaxed and social setting.

Hernandez said the timing could not have been any better for the event.

"Right now, all (MWSS-171) Marines are back from deployment, which makes it a perfect time for their families to get together," he said.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. Davis pointed out that an event like this helps spouses get acquainted with their husbands'



A captivated young audience watches "Mr. Frog" construct balloonistic works of art at Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Family Day on Aug. 15. The event was held at the north-side track as a way for families to get together and bond in a relaxed, social setting. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

co-workers and their families. His wife listens to him talk about work when he comes home at the end of the day. After an event such as this, Mindee L. Davis can put a face with the name of all the people her husband talks about.

These contacts can become a real safety net when a husband is out on deployment or separated from his family.

Such was the case when Hernandez was in Korea, and his wife Jennifer

received news about a family emergency in the United States.

"With me out of the house and on deployment, the only people she could turn to for support were the other families she had met though events like this one," Hernandez said. "Even though I was far away from my family, I knew my wife had the support she needed as she

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CORPS SAFETY

101 Critical Days of Summer

Back to School Safety

SUBMITTED BY THE STATION SAFETY OFFICE
AND M.C. PERRY SCHOOL

School will soon be starting again. The station will once again be seeing students walking, riding bicycles and scooters, running, playing, being driven and riding busses to and from school each weekday morning and repeating the cycle in the afternoon. The beginning and ending of each school day affects the entire station and requires increased attention to driving and road conditions. This information is directed to all motorists, parents, and students both returning and those new to the station.

Tips for the motorists:

- Never pass a school bus. Children are at greatest risk when they are getting on or off the school bus. Children expect vehicles to stop for them at the school bus stop.
- Slow down around school zones and pay attention for children who may run out in the road without looking.
- During inclement weather, such as rain or snow, pay close attention to stopping distances, and realize that children's outfits may blend in more with the background.

Tips for parents:

- Familiarize yourself with school or provider drop-off and pick-up practices and then be sure you always follow them. If the curb says, "No stopping, standing or parking at any time," that means everyone. If children are required to use designated cross walks, do not walk your child across the middle of a street just because you are holding her hand.

- Discuss the rules and practice with your children. Have your child wear his/her backpack (if required) and walk him/her through what to look for, what to do, and what not to do. If crossing guards are utilized, explain their purpose and how they must wait for approval to cross.
- Resist the urge to speed or make any traffic rules exception because you are running late. You would rather your child receive a tardy notice than to be in an accident.

Tips about backpacks

- Backpacks are a great way to keep all school supplies together and kids love to pick out "cool" designs that exhibit their individual tastes. Unfortunately, many are either too heavy, improperly sized, or being worn incorrectly;
- Make sure your child's backpack weights less than 10 percent of his or her body weight.
 - The backpack should never hang more than 4 inches below the waistline.
 - A backpack with individualized compartments helps position the contents most effectively. Make sure that pointy or bulky objects are packed away from the area that will rest on your child's back.
 - Bigger is not necessarily better. The more room there is in the backpack, the more your child will carry and the heavier the backpack will be.
 - Urge your child to wear both shoulder straps. Lugging the backpack around by one strap can cause a disproportionate shift of weight to one side, leading to neck and muscle spasms, as well as low-back pain.
 - If you decide on a wheeled backpack, the handle should extend long enough so that the child does not have to bend and twist to use it. The wheels should be large enough to keep the pack balanced when pulling it.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'Content of their character'

CHAPLAIN A. R. KUSS
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Let us break with convention and actually comment on the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a month besides his birth month of January or African American History month, which is February.

By now most of us should be familiar with this memorable line from Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream speech: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where

they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

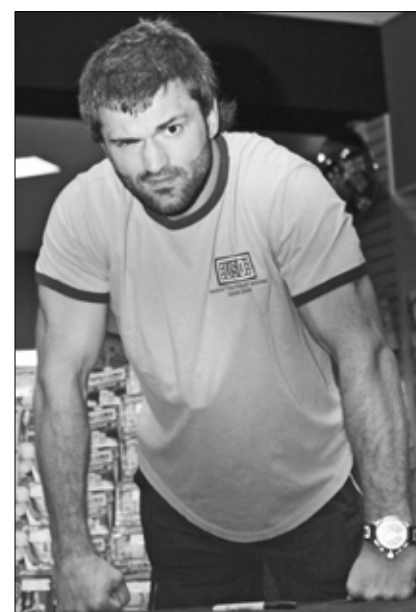
How are we doing so far seeing this dream turn into a reality? Do we still judge people by the color of their skin? Sadly I would say we do, although perhaps not nearly as much as we did forty years ago when this "dream" was first spoken.

But what concerns me is not the progress we're making on removing racial and cultural bias from society. What makes me sad is our inability to fulfill

the second part of Dr. King's dream. We're suffering from an epidemic shortage of personal character.

What do we have in place that will guarantee "the content of (our) character"? If we're to carry on like Dr. King, we can't neglect our efforts for internal change too. Dr. King's fight against injustice is a worthy social cause but he also was a man of faith. His relationship with God is what gave him his strength of character.

If we only change society's practices without changing the character of society's members, then we've failed in our efforts to see Dr. King's dream become reality.



Former UFC heavyweight champion Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski poses during his first meet-and-greet at the Marine Corps Exchange Sound Shop Aug. 9. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

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decent fight," said Lance Cpl. Richard B. Peacock a drafting survey specialist with Marine wing Support Squadron 171. "I was wrong."

After the gym, Arlovski, Gelman and DePaul had lunch at Crossroads Mall and made their way to the Marine Corps Exchange Sound Shop for a meet-and-greet with Marines, sailors and their families.

DePaul took pictures of Arlovski with fans as they filled the room.

"I come from a military family," Arlovski said. "So I was very excited to meet with other military families."

Children and adults posed with Arlovski and received an autographed photograph after their picture was taken with him.

Following the sound shop meet-and-greet, Arlovski made his way to the Hornets Nest for a final get-together with the Marines and sailors.

Arlovski then took in some Japanese culture as he visited the Obon festival on the parade deck before having dinner at Club Iwakuni.

"I really like learning about Japanese culture," said Arlovski. "I hope I get to return to Japan again."

Arlovski will continue his tour meeting service members and taking in more Japanese courtesy among the bases in Okinawa.



Warrant Officer Cerraio K. Villarouel explains to his son, Kevin, the proper technique of climbing a rock wall at Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Family Day Aug. 15 at the north-side track here. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

America's squadron meets families outside of work

FAMILY FROM PAGE 1

waited for me to get back."

Apart from serving the families, MWSS-171 Family Day is also an opportunity for junior service members to get to know their superiors.

In the words of Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Lundt, "You meet your boss' family which makes them more approachable on a personal level. You learn that there is another side to them that is not nose-in-the-dirt working all the time."

As a support squadron, MWSS-171 organized the event on its own, bringing in its own refrigeration unit and power-generators using MWSS-171's heavy equipment team and motor

transportation operators.

"It wasn't hard for us to use our resources to make this event happen," said Pfc. Paul J. Holder, a MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. Holder was tasked with fork-lift operations, bringing power-generators, portable refrigeration, crates, and canopies.

"When other squadrons have a family day, they call on MWSS-171 for support. But to organize our own family day, we hardly needed anyone else's support since we are a self-supporting squadron," said Hernandez. "Using our own resources helps build camaraderie and provides a sense of pride in what we do, and it gives our families a chance to see what we do in our jobs."

UDP Marine aids local woman after she faints

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

"I believe God put me there for a reason," said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Morgan, a power line maintenance controller with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 located in Beaufort, S.C., while speaking about how he came to a Japanese woman's aid Aug. 3 at the four-corners intersection off base.

Morgan is on a six-month Unit Deployment Program to Iwakuni from Beaufort, S.C., and was on his second trip out in town since his arrival in March.

On that particular Sunday morning, Morgan was riding his bike back to the station after shopping for his two oldest sons when he witnessed a woman collapse without warning or apparent reason.

"She went down hard," said Morgan. "I thought she fell down, but there was no movement to get back up."

Noticing the lack of response from

the surrounding crowd, Morgan dropped his bike and ran across four lanes of traffic and across the hood of a car to assist the Japanese woman.

First, Morgan ensured the woman's airway was clear and proceeded to provide stimulus in attempt to awaken the woman.

For five minutes Morgan worked to revive the senseless woman until he was aided by a Japanese nurse who contacted the police and the hospital.

Morgan was a drill instructor for three years and has never had one of his recruits remain unconscious when he was with them, he said.

Morgan then carried the woman to the Japanese nurse's air-conditioned vehicle where she would remain cool.

Twenty minutes later the ambulance arrived and took the woman to the hospital for immediate treatment.

Military police have stated that the 21-year-old woman lost consciousness due to severe heat stroke in the 93-degree weather.

After the situation was over, Morgan



Former drill instructor, Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Morgan, a power line maintenance controller with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, is referred to by his peers as a "hero" for his life-saving reaction to an heat-injured woman Aug. 3. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

gave police his information and continued back to the station.

"A Marine did a Marine thing," said Morgan. "If a Marine gunnery sergeant who's been in the Corps 17 years wouldn't have done what I did, I think he should be court-martialed."

News Briefs

Outbound gate closes

The outbound traffic lane at the main gate will be closed from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5. This closure will not affect inbound traffic. Detour and closure signs will be present during times of closure. Alternate routes will be Monzen and North gates. The closure is due to routine maintenance around the gate area. Normal traffic will continue after maintenance completion. For more information, call the Provost Marshal's Office at 253-3303.

PMO asks residents to abide by station orders

The Provost Marshal's Office highly encourages residents aboard the station to abide by all air station regulations. Please take note of the following so you can do your part to ensure this installation is a safe home for all residents. Please be sure you do not use a cell phone while driving a vehicle on or off the installation. Every passenger of a motor vehicle — personal or government — must wear a seatbelt. Also, be sure that when you are riding a bicycle you have a proper bicycle

helmet, properly fitted and secured on your head. Earphones are not permitted to be worn outside, except on the seawall. When leaving your vehicle unattended, even for a brief stop, leaving the keys in the ignition and the engine running is prohibited. For our motorcyclists, bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders, be sure you are wearing mandatory personal protective equipment per MCASO P5560.8A. The MCAS Iwakuni orders can be found on the Station intranet.

"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.

Corporals Course 2-08 graduates



Cpl. Rene L. Munoz, class leader for Corporals Course 2-08, leads the class in the noncommissioned officer creed during the classes graduation at the station chapel here Aug. 15. Class 2-08 graduated with an overall grade point average of 87.9 and a physical fitness test average of 240. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

After roughly three weeks of drill, field operations, physical training, uniform inspections and leadership training, Corporals Course class 2-08 graduated at the station chapel here Aug. 15.

Of the 30 corporals who began the course July 15, 29 made it through to the end.

Class 2-08 had a course grade point average of 87.9 percent and physical fitness test average of 240.

"It's not easy, but it's worth it," Cpl. Justin R. Ellis, the honor graduate from Marine Air Control Squadron 4 said. "It forges camaraderie around the base."

Being selected as honor graduate represents the best overall performance; however, four other Marines were able to distinguish themselves from their course peers.

Cpl.s Raymond E. Vanwey and Marc A. Thompson of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 were the first and second distinguished graduates respectively.

Cpl. Andrew E. Lund of Combat Logistics Company 36 was selected as Ironman with a 300 PFT.

Cpl. Quinteen J. Santana of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 was selected by his peers as the gung ho Marine. The gung ho award is awarded to the Marine who embodies the spirit of teamwork.

Overall, the course is intended to transform the corporals by maximizing their effectiveness as leaders and more.

"You're no longer a lemming, you have to think and make decisions," Staff Sgt. Cashmore, the chief instructor and 1st squad advisor for 2-08, said. "But it's so much more than just a leadership course."

The course presented a variety of challenges to the Marines, including some particularly demanding physical fitness.

With the addition of crew-served weapons to the hike, the field operations were modified slightly for this iteration of the course.

"We went about 10 miles carrying crew-served weapons," said Lund. I didn't want to jump in the van if the other corporals were still out there."

The course isn't just physical training though and there are a few tips to prepare prior to taking the course.

Time management and uniforms were both mentioned as important keys for success by Cashmore.

Hailing back to the warrior's breakfast of boot camp, the instructors also added a warrior's dinner where sergeants major and staff noncommissioned officers served the Marines dinner to help them stay focused.

Even though the course may sound like a rehashed piece of boot camp, that isn't necessarily true according to Lund.

"It's a short, sweet and beneficial course," said Lund. "It's not boot camp. It's not as bad as most people think."

For those considering the course, there are more changes planned for the next iteration as Cashmore takes over as the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"I'm planning to make the course a week longer to focus on the field operations," said Cashmore.

500-lb explosives: some assembly required

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Bombs don't come in a crate. Some bombs are rather simple while others might be laser-guided with technological bells and whistles. Someone has to add components based on mission requirements. Once assembled, they are all harbingers of destruction.

During Exercise Southern Frontier 2008, a four-week air training exercise, ordnance Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have assembled various bombs to support the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 242 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94.

During the exercise, air-to-ground attacks were the focus, and behind every dropped piece of ordnance was the MALS-12 ordnance Marines.

"We just build the bombs up, assemble them however the squadron requests them, deliver them to the squadron and load them on the birds," Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Carrier, the MALS-12 Ordnance

assistant staff noncommissioned officer in charge here, said.

Weight, fuse delay, arming delay, laser-guided, even a detonation delay after impact — ordnance Marines can customize the bombs in a cornucopia of combinations based on mission parameters.

The operations sections of the squadrons can change their order at any time based on what the mission may dictate, Staff Sgt. Daniel Flick, MALS-12 Ordnance staff noncommissioned officer in charge here, said.

In order to minimize lost time and get ahead of the game, ordnance Marines will attempt to predict what the squadrons will request based on what exercises are planned.

Besides the strain caused by changes in operations, ordnance Marines also must operate safely; after all, they are dealing with explosives.

To perform an ordnance evolution, there are certain roles that must be filled so not everyone is assembling ordnance.

The teams consist of a quality assurance/

safety observer, a team leader, and team members.

As the name implies, the QASO, being the most experienced member, generally doesn't build but instead watches the team perform to ensure everyone is following procedure safely and correctly.

The team leader will assign jobs and function as additional eyes for safety purposes.

In order to maintain their qualifications, ordnance Marines must be certified every 180 days on every weapons system, said Carrier.

Qualifications aren't just about assembling but also include storage and delivery.

When something can't be assembled properly, is dropped further than specification allows or is unfit for use, ordnance will pass it off to explosive ordnance disposal here for it to be destroyed.

"We have 180 high-explosive bombs, and of those ten have been unusable," said Carrier. "It's a small percentage, but you're always going to have a handful."



Cpl. Fernando Banda, a MALS-12 ordnance technician, attaches a dexter clip to a BSU-86 fin on a high-explosive 500-pound bomb. The release, if used by the squadron, will allow the fins to open up during free fall and create drag, allowing the aircraft to escape bomb fragmentation. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Voters Week to encourage absentee voting

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Department of Defense has organized a campaign to encourage service members and overseas citizens to obtain absentee ballots and vote in this year's election.

The DOD-wide campaign, Voters Week, is coming to the station Aug. 29 and will last until Sep. 7.

"We're not trying to force anyone to vote," said David M. Naseer, station deputy inspector. "We just want people to

understand that they can still vote while they're stationed overseas."

The campaign is designed to make absentee ballots available to anyone on the station who wishes to vote in this year's election.

The aim is to make 100-percent contact with station residents and to ensure everyone has the chance to vote, Naseer said.

To achieve this, flyers will be placed inside shopping bags at the Marine Corps Exchange and Commissary, informing residents on how they can obtain an ab-

sentee ballot.

Also, radio and television advertisements have been airing and will continue to air as part of the effort to achieve maximum exposure.

"We're the only military installation that's gone as far as producing a TV commercial that encourages residents to vote," said Naseer.

Voters Week is the last safe week prior to the November election where service members and overseas citizens can send in a Federal Post Card Application to register as an absentee voter.

Submitting now will ensure sufficient transit time for voters to receive a ballot, fill it out and mail it back to their local election official before the November election.

Although the campaign doesn't officially begin until Aug. 29, there will be an Information Fair Saturday at Club Iwakuni from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to inform residents about voting.

Other information regarding registration and obtaining an absentee ballot is available at www.fvap.gov. At left-below is a contact roster of station UVAOs.

UNIT VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS

MCAS Iwakuni
Mr. David Naseer
253-3428

H&HS
Chief Warrant Officer Mary Gaddis
253-6217

Branch Medical
Petty Officer Second Class
Jay Henderson
253-6354

Branch Dental
Navy Lt. David Hwang
253-6909

CHRO
Stephen Brumfield
253-4800

MWSS-171
1st Lt. Tanzania Jaysura
253-5424

CLC-36
Master Sgt. Scott Mueller
253-4165

MAG-12
1st Lt. Lindsay Johnson
253-8758

MALS-12
2nd Lt. Oscar Martinez
253-3258

MACS 4 Det B
1st Lt. David LaCharite
253-4988

VMFA(AW)-242
Staff Sgt. Patrick Darling
253-3096



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Michael Molesta, an infantryman assigned to 1st Platoon, Company F, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, climbs to the top of a destroyed building in a Taliban headquarters to post security for his platoon. The Marines' major accomplishments of the raid were the destruction of several enemy buildings, fighting positions, IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and the capture of a Taliban fighter. Photo by Cpl. James M. Mercure

LSS Green Belt class graduates

SUBMITTED BY THE
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
OFFICE

Aug. 1, eleven more Lean Six Sigma Green Belts received their Course Completion Certificates in a ceremony at the Continuous Process Improvement Office (CPIO) here.

Green Belts are able to return to their work areas and commence projects on their own, or with small teams of colleagues who understand their work issues and who are committed to making Iwakuni processes better. The CPIO monitors all Green Belt Projects and assists all areas as needed.

Like the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, Lean Six Sigma process improvement training is denoted by belt color. There are Lean Six Sigma White

Belts, Green Belts, Black Belts, and Master Black Belts. Here in Iwakuni, the CPIO trains people at the White Belt level, which is a four-hour introductory-level class designed to provide general process improvement understanding, and also at the Green Belt level, which is a 40 hour class that culminates in a 50-answer examination that ensures the new Green Belts have a thorough understanding of the tools and techniques of Lean Six Sigma.

There have been many processes that have already been improved here on the station. Each month, one of these station process improvements will be highlighted at the "CPI Corner" at the Crossroads Mall (across from Community Bank).

Green Belts are the backbone of functional process improvement, and the CPIO will continue to offer classes in both English and Japanese to develop our own local Station cadre of process improvement practitioners. At this time, CPIO offers two Green Belt Classes per year, but we are hoping to offer these more frequently during fiscal year 2009. If you are interested in being trained at the Green belt level, you will need to take the White Belt Class first, and these classes are offered quarterly. Those interested in learning the tools of process improvement should start by checking out the Station Training Calendar for the next scheduled White Belt Class.



The lucky white snake parades around the parade deck during the Obon festival Aug. 9. It is believed that touching the snake will bring good luck and wealth. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

OBON FESTIVAL

Spirits rise in revel of Japan's age-old festival

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military members and their families flocked the parade deck Aug. 9 to witness and participate in the annual Obon festival.

The smell of fried soba and yakitori filled the air during the festival and the sounds of laughter and music combated against each other.

Obon is an annual Buddhist event held to celebrate a person's ancestors. It is believed that during Obon the spirits return to visit their relatives. The holiday began Aug. 13 and ended on Aug. 16.

The festival consisted of traditional Japanese drum playing, dance, song and flavorful Japanese cuisine.

"It was a neat experience," said Lance Cpl. Joseph Donovan an analyst with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 here. "I will definitely be here again next year."

Also incorporated in the festival was the parade of the white snake. It is thought that if a person touches the snake as it goes by it will bring him good fortune for the following year.

Children, Marines, sailors and their

families scrambled to touch the lucky white snake as it made its rounds throughout the audience.

"I felt a little awkward when I decided to get up and dance," said Benjamin Johnson a logs and records clerk with MALS 12. "But when other people got up, I was glad to be part of the experience."

Children were encouraged to try playing the traditional Japanese drums after a performance by Monie-Fu Boom Boom during the festival.

"I like the drums," said eight-year-old Shawn Barriball. "They're really loud."

During the festival the mood changed slightly when the performances were temporarily stopped for the playing of colors.

"It was really neat to see the Japanese civilians and their children standing at attention," Johnson said. "Some of the kids were even saluting."

Despite the heat and on-coming darkness, guests stayed out on the parade deck until the festival ended. Guests spent their time eating, laughing and dancing throughout the evening.

"My favorite part was the food," said Donovan. "Why they didn't have to-go plates, I'll never know."



Members of Monie-Fu Boom Boom play a Japanese song during the Obon festival on the parade deck Aug. 9. Food, drinks were available from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Eight-year-old Shawn Barriball plays the traditional Japanese drums during the Obon festival held on the parade deck Aug. 9. Performers encouraged participation from the audience during and after their performances. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Lanterns are hung around the Obon festival Aug. 9 on the parade deck. It is believed that when the ancestors visit their families, they are guided by the lanterns. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard



Marines, sailors and their families came to witness the Obon festival on the parade deck Aug. 9. Guests were urged to participate in the traditional dances and events associated with the holiday. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

AROUND THE CORPS

Garmsir's resurrection

District center secure, focus shifts to improving infrastructure

COMPILED BY

24TH MEU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — With Garmsir's streets clear of insurgents the next steps in the counterinsurgency campaign, reconstruction and renovation, can begin with the district governor's priorities including repairs to the irrigation system, and refurbishment of the hospital and schools.

After years of damages caused by strife and neglect, a canal system built by USAID in the 1950's is in desperate need of repair. USAID engineers, finally able to evaluate the irrigation system, identified 11 problem areas, including damage from ongoing conflicts and overgrowth of vegetation.

Garmsir is a rich, agricultural area with farming as the basis of the local economy. Shortly after securing the area, the citizens and District Governor Abdullah Jan came to the Marines and asked for help in getting the canals repaired.

"In places, bombing had damaged sluice gates and in others the system was simply in disrepair because the government had not been able to do projects there," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rene Cote, civil affairs officer, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, NATO-ISAF. "So we worked with USAID and sought their help in funding and providing technical assistance to repair the system. We believe that the improved security and repaired



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit help Garmsir citizens make bricks to rebuild their homes. The MEU has focused efforts on Garmsir's infrastructure since kinetic operations slowed in June. Cpl. Randall Clinton



HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Master Gunnery Sgt. John R. Garth, civil affairs chief, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, ISAF, surveys work being completed at one of the nine impact project sites. Cpl. Randall Clinton

canal and irrigation system will set the conditions for alternative crop programs to be introduced by the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."

A district hospital is now providing some basic health care for the local population from unrefurbished premises. One doctor sees 80 to 100 patients daily and British forces plan to revamp the structure and décor.

"This should enable the hospital to attract more staff and to provide a more comprehensive service. People are delighted to have any healthcare in the district," said Louise Perrotta, stabilization advisor, Task Force Helmand, ISAF.

With an eye on the future, residents have expressed repeatedly the need for

a school; the one in the city district was severely damaged by insurgent fighting.

The Amir Agha School is one of nine quick impact projects planned for the region. The school will receive new windows, doors, a new well, furniture, paint and undergo a thorough cleaning. Additional impact projects include building three irrigation wells, eight replacement wells in Jugroom Fort area villages, repairing the Amir Agha Mosque and shrine, replacing another mosque's speaker system, and clearing overgrowth from the canal system.

These projects are designed to provide immediate benefits, such as the wells and canal cleanup, as well as to demonstrate the Marines' respect for the populace's religious beliefs by providing

funds for their cultural institutions.

In all these projects the Marines have worked with local elders to identify needs and then provide funding. The work is performed by local Afghan contractors and workers.

"We sought to provide assistance based on local community needs. In some villages there was an urgent need to provide drinking water and irrigation so we quickly responded by getting funding and contractors to start on those. We've also funded repairs to a couple of village cultural buildings. These efforts will be completed before we leave," said Cote.

In total, \$20,000 will be spent improving and renovating needed facilities in the region. Ultimately this investment is intended to help the people of Garmsir help themselves.

Garmsir has a self-reliant and resilient population who regularly reply to "what do you need?" with "just security, we can do the rest," according to Perrotta.

The local Afghan governance is conducting meetings, coordinating projects, hearing local grievances, and organizing economic and social events in Garmsir, said Cote.

"I consider this significant because it re-emphasizes that they are capable of self-sufficient management and action to conduct reconstruction and development within their means," said Lieutenant Col. Anthony Henderson, battalion commander, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, ISAF.

Community Briefs

Child Development Screenings

From Sept. 8 to 9, Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) will be doing free child development screenings for children under five years of age at Mathew C. Perry Elementary School. Upon screening, child specialists will evaluate major areas of your child's growth and answer any questions you may have. Call EDIS at 253-4562 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Club Volunteer leader seminar

Club Beyond (CB) is a faith-based program that reaches out to Christian and non-Christian teens aboard the station. CB has seen 70 percent of the 200-plus high school and junior high students participate in youth

group meetings throughout the past two years. Each year, we need six-to-eight volunteer leaders for the upcoming school year. The local CB director will have a training seminar Aug. 23, at 2 p.m. in Yujo Hall. To register or for more information, contact the CB director at 253-5183 (work), 080-3474-8856 (cell), or e-mail: IwakuniCB@gmail.com.

Open Play Volleyball

The event is for all personnel and skill level. Come out to IronWorks Gym every Thursday and Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 253-6084 (work) or 253-2839 (home).

Youth Soccer season

Youth soccer season (three-year-olds to 15-year-olds) is starting

Sept. 13. Registration for \$40-per-child ends today. Registration after today is \$45. For more information, contact Youth Sports Division, Semper Fit at 253-5777 or 253-3239.

Post Office Hours of Operations

The Main Post Office (Bldg 405) and North-Side Post Office (Bldg 1460) will be closed Sept. 1, and will resume normal hours of operation Sept. 2.

Update DEERS Information

If your family status changes, from a marriage, divorce, new child, adoption, address change, or new telephone number, you need to update your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information. DEERS is the key to receiving TRICARE

benefits such as medical appointments, prescriptions, and claims for civilian care. To update or verify DEERS information, visit your uniformed services ID card facility or make address changes online by following the information at <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS> or fax your changes to DEERS at 1-831-655-8317. If you need assistance or have questions about maintaining TRICARE eligibility and DEERS, contact your local TRICARE Service Center at 253-3072.

Volunteers needed

Marine and Family Services is excited to announce the advent of an advisory committee. The board will consist of members representing the full spectrum of our military community, including active duty, military spouses and civilian employees aboard the air station. Quarterly meetings will provide a forum to facilitate improvements and expansion of programs currently offered through Marine and

Family Services. We are searching for eight volunteers willing to contribute time and big ideas. Please contact Marine and Family Services, at 253-6439 if you are interested in this unique volunteer opportunity.

Monthly retreat for spouses

Marine and Family Services will be offering a renewal retreat in support of spouses of deployed Iwakuni service members. The daylong getaway will be offered monthly at popular tourist locations in-and-around Iwakuni. All expenses will be paid, including childcare. Please contact Marine and Family Services, at 253-6439 to learn more.

PTO needs volunteers

Mathew C. Perry Elementary School Parents and Teachers Organization needs volunteers to help plan summer events and fundraisers for the fall season. Please call 253-2180 or 253-3327 for more information.

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
1 p.m. Church of United Christians (Iglesia Cristiana Unida)
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 253-3371.

M.C. Perry schools back in business

SUBMITTED BY M.C. PERRY SCHOOLS

Elementary school information

Class lists will be posted outside the school's office by 1:30 p.m. Aug. 22. A meet-and-greet will be held in the school gym on Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Teachers will be introduced and then dismissed to continue with their classroom preparation.

The first day of school for students in grades first through sixth is Aug. 25. Students are requested to meet their teacher in the school gym on the first day of school. Reporting time for students is no earlier than 7:30 a.m. with class beginning promptly at 7:50 a.m. Dismissal for all students is at 2:30 p.m.

If you have not registered your child for the

school year 2008-09, drop by the school office to complete the necessary paperwork.

High school information

School begins at 7:45 a.m. on Aug. 25. Students will have a modified schedule that day, going to all seven of their classes for shortened classes. Our normal four block schedule will go into effect the next day.

The Parent Open House is scheduled for Aug. 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend and receive a brief from the principal concerning school policies and procedures and then meet the teachers in their rooms.

A new policy this year requires students to dress out in the school physical education uniform. The uniform is available at the MCX and costs \$23.

Sakura Theater

Friday, August 22, 2008

7 p.m. Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)
Premier
10 p.m. Meet Dave (PG)
Premier

Saturday, August 23, 2008

1 p.m. Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G)
4 p.m. Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)
7 p.m. Meet Dave (PG)
10 p.m. Tropic Thunder (R)

Sunday, August 24, 2008

1 p.m. Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)
4 p.m. Meet Dave (PG)

7 p.m. Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G)

Monday, August 25, 2008

7 p.m. Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

7 p.m. The Mummy (PG-13)

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

2 p.m. Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G)
7:00 PM The Dark Knight (PG-13)

Thursday, July 28, 2008

2 p.m. Meet Dave (PG)
7 p.m. The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

1995 Mazda MPV

Asking \$2,500. New JCI Insurance, no repairs, excellent condition! Cold AC, rear seat controls, seats seven, low mileage - 68,000km, tinted windows. Call 253-2034 (home).

Nissan Gloria Brougham

\$2,200 OBO. Excellent condition, well maintained. Lots of space, comfortable ride. Keyless entry, power window, auto-lock, AC/heater, GPS and iPod-enabled with video input. Extra set of tail lights included JCI until Sept. 2009. Touch-screen control for TV, radio and air system with voice-controlled neon light. Remote-start engine up to 300 meters. For more information, call at 253-5252 (work), 253-2139 (home), or 090-6518-4174 (cell phone).

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Minestrone Soup, Tomato Soup, Pork Ham Roast, Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes Au Gratin, Steamed Rice, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Combo, Cheese Biscuits, Brownies, Spice Cake w/ Butter cream Frosting, Coconut Cream Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: TACO BAR

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Beef Rice Soup, Oven Roast Beef, Honey Glazed Cornish Game Hens, Mashed Potatoes, Savory Bread Dressing, Brown Gravy, Simmered Corn O'Brien, Simmered Broccoli, Cherry Pie, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Strawberry Shortcake, Whipped Topping

1995 Subaru Domingo

Low fuel and low maintenance. Perfect for Iwakuni. Seats six and great for driving and parking off-base. Needs JCI renewed. \$2,500 OBO. Call 253-5301 (work) or 253-2265 (home) for more information.

1997 Mitsubishi Galant

\$2,500 OBO. JCI is good until June 2010. Must sell, PCS on Aug. 30. AM/FM, tape, CD changer, navigation system. Five-speed transmission. Power windows and locks. AC/heater. For more information, call 253-4147 (work) or 253-2970 (home).

1998 Nissan Skyline R34

Asking \$13,000 OBO. JCI until April 2009. Car is immaculate and all maintenance records have been kept. It is truly a must-see for skyline lovers. Must sell, PCS on August 30. Specifications: 60,000km (36,000 miles), RB25DET NEO Engine, A/C, P/W, P/L, Security System, JVC 7" DVD/TV Monitor, Turbo Timer, JVC 12 Disc CD Changer, GReddy ProFec "B" Boost Controller, Blitz SUS Cold Air Intake, Blitz Nur-Spec full Exhaust, VOLK Racing 17" Rims, TEIN Adjustable

Suspension, HID Light Kit - For more information, call 253-4147 (work) or 253-2970 (home).

Job openings

Job available at Station Chapel

Protestant Pianist, Protestant Organist, Christian Non-denominational Music Director, Protestant Director of Religious Education, Catholic Director of Religious Education, Catholic Organist, Catholic Choir Director. For more information, call Contract office, Logistics Department at 253-4233.

Part-time agent position at SatoTravel

This position is responsible for booking air, car and hotel reservation for military travelers in official duty status using the Sabre CRS. It is desirable for the candidates to have travel agency or airline experience, and Sabre CRS experience. Send resumes to Matsumi Kenat via e-mail mkenat@cwtsatotravel.com. No phone inquiring accepted.

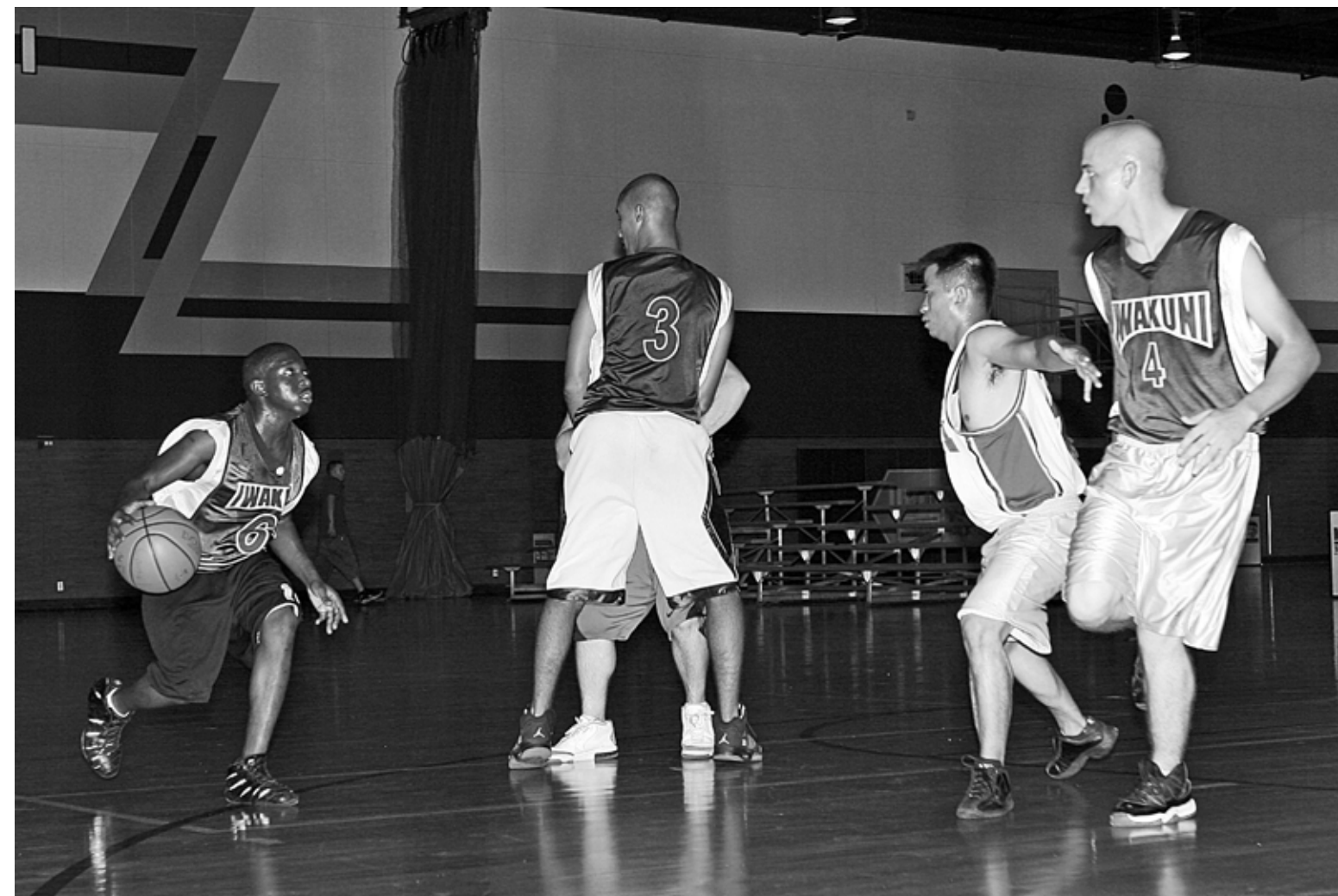
Miscellaneous

Jam Band Auditions

A local vocalist/acoustic guitarist is compiling a jam band to play covers in the local area. A keyboardist, bassist, drummer, percussionist and saxophone player are desired. Influences - Dave Matthews Band, Coldplay, City and Colour, and Rufus Wainwright. Please call 253-2356 and leave a detailed message, or e-mail inner.vision@yahoo.com.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Engineers triumph over FIL-AM 49-29



Engineers point guard Michael Lowe assesses Fil-Am's defense before making a strategic decision during an intramural basketball game Aug. 12 in the IronWorks gym. The Engineers' unit camaraderie helped them defeat Fil-Am 49-29. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley M. Howard

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The gym was stifling as medical's team, Fil-Am, battled it out on the courts against Marine Wing Support Squadron 171's Engineers during an intramural basketball game in the Ironworks Gym Aug. 12.

After two intense 20-minute halves, the Engineers proved that they were a team to be reckoned with when they beat Fil-Am 49-29.

The game started off with vicious sprints up and down the court and with baskets being made from both teams.

However, Fil-Am could not have anticipated the fight they would have to put out in order to beat the aggressive Engineers.

"The other team had good coordination," said Fil-Am point guard Michael Patacsil. "They are a tough team.

Finishing up the first half, Engineers center Jake "D.T.F." House sank a three-point shot that ended the half in favor of the Engineers, 25-13.

"We're down by 12," Patacsil said during the half. "We need to tighten up our defense so we can come back in

the second half."

Engineers celebrated their lead during the second half without insulting the other players.

"We've got this," said Engineers forward Chris "Bebo" Hayden to his teammates during half-time. "Keep moving and keep up with the next guy and this will be our game."

Both teams went into the second half of the game with full force as Fil-Am center Vic Dumaslan shot a two-pointer off the backboard in less than a minute.

"We needed to work on getting the rebounds," Dumaslan said. "The other team had really bold movements."

The chemistry between each team's players escalated as the Engineers lead increased, causing Fil-Am to step up their game.

"Everybody stepped up their game in the second half," House said. "We have good camaraderie from working together and the love of the game, so that helps."

Engineers point guard Michael Lowe missed two foul shots with seven seconds left. He immediately caught the rebound and sank a two-pointer ending the game.

Mess Hall announcements

Labor Day closure

The Southside Messhall will be closed Sept. 8 in observance of Labor Day. It will reopen the following day with weekend hours (9 p.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). The Northside Messhall will be open Sept. 8, serving meals on weekend hours (9 p.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.) from Sept. 8 to Sept. 9.

Labor Day meal Aug. 29

There will be a Special Labor Day Lunch Meal served Aug. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at both North and Southside Messhalls. Mongolian barbeque will not be served. Everyone aboard the station is invited. Those on commuted rations (COMRATS), family members and civilian employees must pay \$3.85. Family members of those ranking E4 and below must pay \$3.30.



A Tigers pitcher winds up for the delivery of a 7-5 win against Yamaguchi Minor at Friendship Field here Aug. 10. The team experienced their last win of the post-season All-Star league during the tournament. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services



Going out in style, a member of Iwakuni's 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team, the Tigers, smacks away the one of the last pitches in their final game against Saeki Minor at the Friendship Field here Aug. 10. Although their post-season record has been better, the Tigers walked away from with an experience they can take with them when they leave Japan. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services

2008 YOUTH ALL-STAR BASEBALL 'Tigers' end season

LANCE CPL. ASHLEY M. HOWARD
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team ended its season Aug. 10 at Friendship Field here after beating Saeki Minor, 11-2.

Playing on the team was a chance for the children to meet new people and gain an experience they can take with them when they leave Japan, said Beth Pelletier, one of the parent volunteers.

The team is made up of children from regular-season baseball teams including the Phillies, Astros and Yankees. At the end of the season, coaches chose

children from their teams to go up against Japanese All-Star teams.

The Tigers are lead by three coaches — Coach Cory Yerger, Coach Jim Mocarski and Coach John Patterson.

This season's lineup consists of 11 male athletes and Emily Pelletier, the team's only female player.

The season kicked off with a bumpy start with the Tigers losing their first two games without scoring a single run on the Friendship Field here July 13.

Following their initial losses, The All-Star team headed to their first away game in Hiroshima, where they lost another match to Rijyo Tournament, 18-

12. After Hiroshima's loss, the All-Star team headed to their next away game in Kasaoka, Japan. The All-Star Tigers got another disappointing loss to Kasaoka City Mayor Cup, 0-27.

"These were our very first games so the kids were nervous," said Pelletier. "The team has very good spirit and the players kept a great attitude after every game, win or lose. Most have only been playing for a few months and the Japanese have been playing for years."

Emily has been playing baseball since she was five years old when her usual opponent was her father, she said. When he's deployed, it makes her feel good to

play baseball.

"It feels good to be the only girl player," Emily said. "During the regular season there are a lot of girls and I was the only one who got picked."

Following the previous losses, the Tigers got their first taste of victory on their home field when they squeaked by Kasaoka City Mayor Cup, 9-7.

Prior to the defeat of Saeki Minor, the All-Stars prevented a loss to Yamaguchi Minor, beating them 7-5 at Friendship Field here Aug. 10.

The 10- through 12-year-old children on team won three games against their Japanese opponents this year.

Iwakuni's 2008 Youth All-Star baseball team, the Tigers, poses for a group following their victorious final game of post-season competition. The All-Star team was able to tour through Hiroshima and Kasaoka after regular-season games. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services

