

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 39, Vol. 1

Friday, October 17, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

UVA Program is designed to help victims of sexual assault

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Victims of sexual assault are often too afraid or embarrassed to seek help. They fear that by reporting their predicament they may invite further abuse and victimization.

The Marine Corps has developed a program to address this trend in sexual assault victims by giving them the option to seek help through a uniformed victim advocate.

"Each UVA is trained to provide the victim with comfort and support, while maintaining the confidentiality of restricted reporting," said Capt. Gerard V. Fontenot, station inspector. "Sometimes the victim prefers not to report the sexual assault to their command, PMO, or any other authority."

The role of the UVA is to provide quality support and assurance to sexual assault victims by making sure they receive the full range of medical and emotional support, while maintaining confidentiality.

"A UVA is not a counselor but will connect the victim with a counselor," said Fontenot. "Their job is to accompany the victim through each step of the way, whether it's going with them to see their doctor, counselor or legal representative."

Restrictive reporting is intended to give the victim additional recovery time as well as the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding their case. The details of his or her abuse will only be shared with their UVA and professional healthcare providers. These details will be kept confidential and will not be provided to the authorities. It is during this type of reporting that the victim will turn to a uniformed victim advocate for a great deal of support.

At any point in time, victims making restricted reports can change those

SEE UVA ON PAGE 3



6 P.M. - 8 P.M.
STATION CHAPEL

TOWNHALL MEETING | OCT. 22

* Open to all air station residents

Col. Michael O'Halloran, station commanding officer, will host a Town Hall meeting Oct. 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Station Chapel. This meeting is designed to update station residents on the current state of affairs and to respond to community questions.

Please submit questions in advance by dropping them off at the Town Hall drop box at the Commissary, sending them via e-mail at iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil, by calling the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551, or by using the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Web site.



The Iwakuni Coast Guard combines air and sea maneuvers to peruse a suspicious waterborne craft harboring possible terrorists at an annual bilateral anti-terrorism training exercise in the Iwakuni Port, Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

ATFP officials oversee training at Iwakuni port

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Iwakuni Customs, Coast Guard and Police conducted their annual bilateral anti-terrorism training exercise in the Iwakuni Port Oct. 10.

Andrew R. Samuels, the station anti-terrorism officer, and Master Sgt. John D. Wade, the Provost Marshal's Office operations officer here, were there to observe the exercise.

"Our bilateral counterparts respond to and assist MCAS Iwakuni with any incidents or suspicious activity within (the station's) restricted area of waters or within our immediate vicinity," said Samuels. "Observing the exercise gives the base confidence that our Japanese counterparts are apt to provide security response to our restricted areas."

Accompanying Samuels and Wade was Yumico Higuchi, a Japanese interpreter with PMO. Higuchi ensured Samuels and Wade understood the different training scenarios showcased throughout the training exercise. She was also there to coordinate interviews and help Samuels and Wade communicate with members of the Iwakuni Coast Guard, Customs and Police.

It's good for our American counterparts to understand our capabilities, said Chitoshi Harada, Iwakuni Coast Guard rescue specialist. That way in the case of

SEE PORT ON PAGE 3

INSIDE IWAKUNI



Former grunt offers advice

4



Iwakuni sailors celebrate 233 years

6-7



Samurai win with home advantage, 8-1

11



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

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Guillermo A. Canedo

Public Affairs Chief
Master Gunnery Sgt.
John A. Cordero

Operations Chief
Sgt. Andrew Miller

Editors
Sgt. Josh Cox, Managing
Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Combat Correspondents
Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli
Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete
Pvt. Ashley M. Howard

Webmaster
Yukie Wada

Community/Media Relations
Hiroko Soriki
Hiromi M. Kawamoto

Administration
Hiro Sumida

"This weekly newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed overseas and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps, and does not imply endorsement thereof."

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'A most dangerous state of affairs'

CHAPLAIN NORBERT KARAVA
DEPUTY GROUP CHAPLAIN MAG-12

Enters "Robot" from, "Lost in Space," appendages flailing, crying out in a synthetic but nonetheless urgent tonality: "Danger! Danger, Will Smith! Marines on liberty! Danger!" And, of course, for the most part, the danger they occasion threatens themselves, and not others.

The episodes and antics of which main gate Iwakuni is witness, ranging from the comical to the catastrophic, seem to be an instance of a much larger, more mysterious tale: Of all the animals populating our planet, this one, the

rational animal, seems to be the only one with nearly irresistible self-destructive desires. Even on the biological level, we seem to have a death-wish in our irrepressible cravings for what is lethal to us; other animals do not seem to have addictions to fat, salt, nicotine, alcohol, stimulants and other mood-altering and/or hallucinogenic substances, with perhaps the exception of the occasional cow getting into the clover patch. Their desires for sexual pleasure nearly always are conformed to the good of the species.

What seems to save many of us from ourselves, at least for long periods of our lives, is a lack of liberty imposed

on us by external structures. When these structures are suddenly held in abeyance, and a man finds himself unrestricted, he quickly finds that he can scarcely restrict himself, and self-destructive desires and behaviors inevitably emerge. Thus, not only individuals but empires author their own demise: Diplomatic, military, economic and strategic success occasions freedom which cannot be long survived!

"Freedom from" is obviously not sufficient for a man, and ultimately is both moribund and lethal. It is in "freedom to" that liberty finds its purpose. Show me whom you love and I will show you why you are free. But freedom? Without love? A most dangerous state of affairs!



Sgt. Maj. Evan McBride, Marine Forces Pacific Sergeant Major, addresses Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, at the H&HS conference room at Building One here Oct. 7. McBride visited to inform Marines on current events and policies that are ongoing throughout the Asian Pacific area of responsibility. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz

M.C. Perry schools announce Educator's Day

BILLIE DYSINGER
MATTHEW C. PERRY SCHOOLS

On Oct. 24, the Matthew C. Perry Schools will host their annual Educator's Day. Educator's Day is a time to reflect, celebrate, and share in the wisdom of those around you and from afar. This is an opportunity for the teachers and the community to participate in mini-trainings on a variety of topics.

The day begins with an opening ceremony (8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. ES

gym) with keynote speakers Col. Michael A. O'Halloran and former Japanese pilot, Matsumora-San, who at the end of World War II was trained as a Kamikaze pilot. From here, we go into break out sessions where you can participate in everything from a question-and-answer session with Matsumora-San, visit a Japanese school, strategies for autistic children, Excel computer games, available college programs, coping strategies for deployment, health topics, yoga, and much, more.

The sessions are free and open to everyone in the community. You can come for a portion of the day or stay for the entire event! We are even having a breakfast and lunch fundraiser hosted by the Culinary Club at M.C. Perry High School, featuring a buffet of assorted muffins and casseroles for breakfast and a soup-salad extravaganza for lunch! For more detailed information please log onto the school website at www.mcperryhs.pac.dodea.edu. We hope to see everyone there!



Members of the Iwakuni Coast Guard board the suspicious vessel and subdue the acting terrorists at an annual bilateral anti-terrorism training exercise in the Iwakuni Port, Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

Bilateral training conducted at Iwakuni port

PORT FROM PAGE 1

an emergency, Americans could turn to us for support and work with us bilaterally. "If we felt they weren't providing the level of security that we needed, then we have joint talks to try and come up with solutions or recommendations to enhance their training," said Samuels. "But

this is not the case; they have been very beneficial and have provided proactive response when needed."

Samuels and other station personnel train together with the Japanese in bomb mitigation and detection throughout the year. Also, the station participates in joint boat patrols with the Iwakuni Coast Guard and makes sure both parties are on the

same page as far as rules of engagement and following standard procedure.

"We have a close-knit relationship with Japanese Coast Guard and Police," said Wade. "We've called on them many times, and they have helped us a lot in the past. Of course they have different trends, but they get their job done in the end (and) are very capable at it."

TOP TEN TIPS FOR HOME MORTGAGE CONCERNS

BONNIE LEWIS

STATION FINANCIAL FITNESS COUNSELOR

1. DON'T IGNORE THE PROBLEM! Mortgage issues only become harder to resolve the further you get behind. Waiting until "later" is never a positive step to a better financial situation.

2. CONTACT YOUR LENDER - TELL THEM YOU ARE ACTIVE DUTY AND THAT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM. Options may be available that you have not considered. No reputable lender wants you to default on your loan, or to foreclose on your property. Ask to speak to the Loss Mitigation Department.

3. ORGANIZE AND RETAIN ALL RECORDS. Open all mail concerning your mortgage and read it. Keep accurate notes. Include who you talk to and when, even for phone calls and e-mails. Failing to read legal notices does not give you an "out" from future legal action. Always ask for any agreements, commitments or promises by a financial institution to be provided in writing.

4. KNOW, UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS. Find your original loan documents and read them. Take notes on questions and then make an appointment to see a lawyer at the Marine Legal Assistance Office (LAO) 253-5591. Bring your organized records, notes and questions to all meetings. Learn about your rights under the Service Member's Civil Relief Act and other foreclosure prevention options. A good place to start is www.fha.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm.

5. GET AN EXPERT ON YOUR SIDE. Visit a financial counselor at the Marine and Family Service Center (M&FSC). They will help you find a counselor and provide valuable financial advice to preserve your pay and build a budget. You may also contact U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for an approved housing counselor at www.hud.gov/counseling or (800) 569-4287. Or find a local non-profit Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) office at www.gotdeb.org and ask for Avoiding Foreclosure Counseling. A good 24/7 resource is the National Foreclosure Hotline, which may be reached at www.995hope.org or (888) 995-4673.

6. ESTABLISH AND LIVE WITHIN A BUDGET. Building up short term debt can only degrade your financial health and will not resolve your mortgage problems. If you come up short and require emergency assistance, visit the many organizations tasked to help you when in financial difficulty; Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront, your on-base banks and credit unions. You can also get 24/7 emergency financial advice at www.militaryonesource.com or 800-342-9647. Each unit is required to have a Command Financial Specialist representative to assist service members with financial concerns and budgets as well. If you need help finding out who the CFS is within your unit is, please contact Bonnie Lewis the base Financial Counselor at 253-6250 for the listing.

7. LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS AND SEEK HELP IF YOU EXPERIENCE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. Because you wear the uniform, you have access to many unique resources. Never pay for help

UVAs can point victims in right direction for help

UVA FROM PAGE 1

reports to unrestricted reports. The UVA is also trained to guide the victims through unrestrictive reporting. Unrestrictive reporting is for victims who wish to notify an assailant's command, PMO or other investigative personnel regarding an assault case.

Once this type of notification occurs, victim advocacy services and clinical services will be offered to the victims. The UVA will accompany the victim throughout the resolution of the victim's case including doctor visits and legal proceedings.

"It's entirely up to the victim to opt for restricted or unrestricted reporting," said Fontenot. "However, there are exceptions to restricted reporting and sometimes UVAs are required to go unrestricted."

These exceptions occur when a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of the victim or another person arises.

"Either way, the UVA is also there to help make that decision," said Fontenot.

If you need the assistance of a UVA or wish to become one, contact the Station Inspector's Office at 253-3033.

A UVA must be a staff noncommissioned officer or higher.

In the case of an emergency, call PMO at 119.

by commercial foreclosure prevention companies without first seeking confidential assistance and advice from Legal Assistance and Marine & Family Services. You can also find free and confidential advice from your local on-base bank or credit union.

8. AVOID FORECLOSURE RECOVERY SCAMS. There are many who seek to profit from your financial difficulty. Some shamelessly even portray themselves on the web and in mailings as supporting or affiliated with the military. These predatory organizations can force you to lose your home and your savings. Always get legal advice before signing an agreement that concerns your mortgage or financial health.

9. TALK TO YOUR COMMAND ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL CONCERNS. Your financial health is important to your quality of life and military readiness. Discuss your situation with your Base or Station Personal Financial Management (PFM) Specialist - he or she may be able to help you find resources. You will not be penalized or lose security clearances if you are seeking to better your financial situation. If you are an active duty spouse, start with www.militaryonesource.com (800-342-9647) or your Marine and Family Service Center.

10. RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE. Everyone, at one point or another, faces financial difficulty. You are only financially irresponsible if you don't seek help or attempt to better your situation. But you must first take the steps to help yourself - and allow others to help you.

A new view on things: Former grunt tells story, offers advice

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF



Cpl. James M. Almanza sits cross-legged with Japanese schoolchildren while on a community relations visit to a local schoolhouse with his new unit, Combat Logistics Company 36. Photo courtesy of Cpl. James M. Almanza.

Cpl. James M. Almanza served as an infantry assaultman (0351) with kilo company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, on two Iraq deployments.

His first deployment was from August 2005 to March 2006 when major city clearing was happening in northwestern Iraq. His second was from January 2007 to August 2007 when insurgents had shifted to more asymmetric methods of war fighting, primarily through the use of improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks.

"I've been on the receiving end of bullets, mortars, rockets and IEDs," said Almanza. "Everything that happened over there affected each person differently, but we all came back with the same kind of scars."

After completing his four-year stint with the infantry, Almanza decided to reenlist and change occupational fields. He felt that by getting out of the infantry he'd have a better chance to recharge and overcome the scars of war.

Almanza now serves as a supply administration clerk with Combat Logistics Company 36 here.

"A lot of the things you see over there stick with you even though you try hard to brush them off," said Almanza. "Like last year, for instance, insurgents started

mortaring us and all their rounds were falling short, hurting women and children. As soon as the mortars stopped, we sent out a squad to grab the civilian wounded. We'd hear their screams and gathered up as many of them as we could. Corpsmen started treating them, and we helped to get them stabilized and onto amtracs. While we did this, some of the kids died on us. Watching those kids die (is) the type of thing that sticks to you."

Initially, Almanza had mixed feelings about leaving the infantry and switching over to supply, even though he suffered from severe combat stress. He didn't want to let those he served with down, just like he never wanted to let them down in combat.

"Everyone has the same feeling of apprehension before clearing a room in Iraq," he said. "When your stack is waiting by the side of the door, ready to go in, no one really wants to go in because you never know who or what is in there. At the same time, however, if the Marine in front of you goes in and you don't, you just let him down."

Almanza wanted to stay in the Corps but felt he needed a break from the infantry. He left his comrades for a chance to recover from his inner wounds.

"I could tell my mind and body were breaking down," he said. "I chose this new MOS and requested Iwakuni as my next duty station because I knew it would be a perfect place to relax and feel at peace again."

Almanza has found that peace since he arrived here at the end of May 2008.

He's always willing to share his experience with those interested in hearing it and offers a bit of advice to service members aboard the air station who are supporting the fight and eager to deploy.

"Don't be in a hurry to deploy -- your chance will come sooner or later," said Almanza. "This (MCAS Iwakuni) is the perfect place to go to school, save money, learn a foreign language, request special liberty and explore places like Tokyo, Kyoto and Fukuoka. After all, how often can you go to Japan for two years and get paid to do it?"

Despite his readjustment to a non-infantry side of the Marine Corps, Almanza still yearns to return to his unit and former occupation.

"I have an infantry lat move package sitting on my desk," says Almanza. "I take it one day at a time, but it shouldn't be long before I turn it in."

Counseling services available

If you feel that you are experiencing the signs of reoccurring combat stress, help is available through Marine and Family Services.

Counseling services: Building 411 room 219. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information, call:
253-4526



Cpl. James M. Almanza and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Madrono pose for snapshot after returning from a five-hour patrol in Habbaniya, Iraq. This photograph was taken during Almanza's second Iraq deployment. Photo courtesy of Cpl. James M. Almanza.

US, ROK Marines strengthen bond during Korean Interoperability Training Program

LANCE CPL. JEFFREY CORDERO
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, Republic of Korea (Oct. 10, 2008) — Elements of 3rd Marine Logistics Group united with Republic of Korea Marines to exchange knowledge and combat techniques Sept. 1 – Oct. 1 during the Korean Interoperability Training Program.

The program is a biannual event where Okinawa-based Marine units train in South Korea in preparation for operational deployments. During the program, Marines typically conduct basic urban skills training, helicopter support team training, convoy operations and marksmanship training.

The program also allows ROK and U.S. Marines to share their knowledge on different combat techniques.

"The training allows U.S. and ROK Marines to build teamwork," said U.S. Marine Sgt. Mark D. Coon, a military policeman with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4.

The U.S. Marines shared their knowledge with ROK Marines of military operations on urbanized terrain, traffic control points and helicopter resupply missions conducted by helicopter support teams.

During the MOUT training, the ROK Marines were highly responsive and attentive to the commands of all Marine leaders, despite the language barriers.

"Their cooperation is great," said U.S. Marine Sgt. James C. Young, the platoon sergeant of Security Platoon, Support Co., CLB-4. For the ROK and U.S. Marines, the training provided an opportunity to train with different equipment and observe other ways to conduct training and understand different styles.

"Even though the helicopter support team mission is the same, we can see the difference in equipment the U.S. Marines use and can learn their way of training," said ROK Marine Staff Sgt. Boo Yong Tae, helicopter support team leader of Landing Support Team, ROK Marine Corps Amphibious Assault Group. "This can help to build a stronger relationship with the U.S. Marines."



U.S. Army and Republic of Korea soldiers fly a U.S. Marine Corps humvee by CH-47 Chinook helicopter during helicopter support team interoperability training at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, Republic of Korea. Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 3 and Combat Logistics Battalion 4, participated in the Korean Interoperability Training Program in preparation for operational deployments. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cordero

The training also prepared Marines to work with a foreign military group. This was a good benefit since the MLG Marines may be involved in training other foreign services in the future, Young said. Near the conclusion of training, the ROK and U.S. Marines presented a demonstration of their martial arts programs.

U.S. Marine 1st Sgt. Jason N. Perry, the company first sergeant of Headquarters and Service Company, CLB-4, and ROK Marine Gunnery Sgt. Moon Jong-Sung, the instructor of the ROK Marines Tae-Kwon-Do team, gathered a group of their martial artists to present some of the techniques of their program. "Many ROK Marines have learned so much from the U.S. Marines. I look forward to training the Marines in the future as well," Tae said. "One team, one fight."



Republic of Korea Marine Lance Cpl. Kim Tae Ho prepares to break a wooden board during a ROK Marine martial arts demonstration Sept. 24 at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in the Republic of Korea. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cordero

HAUNTED HOUSE

Oct. 30 at the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 headquarters building (#128)

From 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Open to all air station residents

For more information, contact
Master Sgt. Albert A. Asuncion
by calling
253-6501

'Deckplate leadership and the strategic sailor'



From left to right, Lt. Cmdr. Lupo V. DeLaCruz, oldest sailor and senior nurse at the Branch Health Clinic here, Command Master Chief Petty Officer Kevin P. Brannigan, command master chief petty officer of Marine Forces Pacific and guest speaker, and Seaman Recruit Alex Ortiz, youngest sailor and observing corpsman at the BHC, make the first cut into the birthday cake at the 233rd Navy Ball at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Iwakuni sailors celebrate 233 years of history, naval service

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

More than 200 service members and family gathered at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here for the 233rd Navy Ball Oct. 10.

"Tonight, the sailors of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni will reflect on 233 years of naval service and their role in its history," said guest speaker and Command Master Chief Petty Officer of Marine Forces Pacific Kevin P. Brannigan.

The ball kicked off with the traditional ringing of the bell as the official party and color guard with the American and Japanese flags arrived.

"Tonight we are honoring all those who are serving around the globe and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, including HM3 Eichmann Strickland," he added.

Strickland, who was a hospital corpsman with Combat Logistics Company 36, would have left the Navy during June 2008. He instead decided to extend his service time so that he could deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following dinner and words from Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, the station's commanding officer, Brannigan was introduced and delivered a speech in which he commended the leadership capabilities of the station sailors and verbally illustrated the concept of the "strategic sailor."

Themed from 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak's idea of the strategic corporal, Brannigan noted the complex array of challenges overcome on a daily basis by sailors at the lowest level — deckplate leadership — and the concept of the Three Block War, the idea that militants might conduct full-scale combat, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief all in the same three city blocks.

Adhering to naval traditions, sailors carried in a massive birthday cake and recognized their youngest and oldest after Brannigan's speech. Lt. Cmdr. Lupo V. DeLaCruz and Seaman Recruit Alex Ortiz humbly accepted the first slices before the singing of the Navy and Marine Corps hymns. After a series of toasts, the evening of dancing and celebration began.



The official party proposes toasts following the cake-cutting ceremony at the 233rd Navy Ball held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



A sailor rings the bell at the 233rd Navy Ball held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 10, signifying the arrival of the official party and the color guard. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz



Ball attendees stand as United States, Japanese and U.S. Navy colors are posted at the 233rd Navy ball held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Diaz



Command Master Chief Petty Officer Kevin P. Brannigan, guest speaker and command master chief petty officer of Marine Forces Pacific, gives a speech on deckplate leadership and the "strategic sailor" during the 233rd Navy Ball held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here Oct. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Lance Cpl. Jeffery Evans, a TOW gunner with Mobile Assault Platoon, Weapon Battalion, 6th Marines, fires an M220 Tube-Launched, Optically Tracked Wire-G Sept. 21. Photo by Cpl. Chris Lyttle

Marines hone combat skills during rare training exercise

CPL. CHRIS LYTTLE

3RD BATTALION, 6TH MARINES

FALLUJAH, Iraq (Sept. 21, 2008) – In an area of Iraq where coalition forces have successfully tapered down the combat-kinetic environment, Marines of Mobile Assault Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, continued honing their combat-readiness skills with an M220 Tube-Launched, Optically Tracked Wire-Guided (TOW) missile firing exercise here, Sept. 21.

“We’re doing a little anti-armor training with TOW missiles and our heavy guns,” said 1st Lt. Luke R. Barnes, platoon commander, Mobile Assault Platoon, Weapons Company. “We’re getting back to the fundamentals like at CAX (the Combined-Arms Training Exercise, Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.) and practicing our fundamentals with anti-armor employment.”

The TOW is a launcher that fires five types of TOW missiles that can penetrate tanks and armored vehicles at long distances. The Marine Corps mounts the TOW launcher to High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), helicopters and the Corps’ own Light Armored Vehicle. Before attaching to infantry combat units, select junior Marines are trained on the weapon system as TOW gunners, a primary military occupational specialty (MOS).

Barnes’ designated TOW gunners had the opportunity to fire several missiles

in conjunction with medium and heavy machine guns. He said the exercise is focused around the TOW gunners, who generally do not spend much time on the weapon in this stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“The main purpose of this range was to give our TOW gunners some training on the system—to let them engage deep targets with live TOW missiles with fire suppression,” Barnes said. “It’s an anti-armor weapons system that was used largely at the beginning of OIF. We have strayed away from using them in combat but we still bring them here for training.”

Although the Marines fired at unmanned targets, the platoon still conducted this exercise with a heightened sense of awareness in a combat zone.



FALLUJAH, Iraq (Sept. 21, 2008) – Sgt. John Powell (above) feeds rounds to his M240 medium machine gunner before laying heavy suppressive fire down range here, Sept. 21. Marines from Mobile Assault Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines participated in an M220 Tube-Launched, Optically Tracked Wire-Guided (TOW) missile firing exercise to retrain the platoon’s designated TOW gunners. Photo by Cpl. Chris Lyttle

Barnes said the platoon maintained security measures to ensure a safe training evolution.

“Out here we take a lot more safety precautions,” Barnes said. “It is very ‘by the book.’ We set our heavy guns outside of the TOW with our medium machine guns. In training, we stop the fire suppression while the missile is fired so no bullets hit the missile and make it go haywire. We probably wouldn’t do that in combat, but just like any other range, all of the safety precautions are taken here.”

“Everyone is here training to do what they learned in their MOS,” Barnes said. “It’s awesome for us to come out here and do what we initially trained to do.”

Lance Cpl. Jeffery Evans, a TOW

gunner with the platoon, was one of the Marines who sharpened his skills with the weapon system. As a junior Marine, he said his last opportunity to train on the launcher was during training at the School of Infantry (SOI). He described his role as a TOW gunner in an infantry battalion.

“In case we ever go somewhere where the enemy is using armor, we practice using the TOW system so we can take out threats,” Evans said. “The experience is unbelievable. As soon as you pull that trigger and hear it kick, it’s like going 140 (miles-per-hour) on the interstate. Your adrenaline starts kicking because you know what’s about to happen.”

Evans said that without training, it can be difficult to keep a missile on target. The TOW operators prepare the launcher with a high-explosive round and sight in on their target. “Your first time can be pretty difficult,” Evans said. “But it just takes practice. As far as the safety precautions, we do it all the same as in SOI. But we still have to load the missile quickly and execute everything on time.”

Evans summed up the training day as a break away from the platoon’s regular business, to come out and do what TOW gunners do best.

“Just being out here with your buddies, who are the same guys you go on patrol with every day—they normally don’t get to see what the TOW gunners are trained to do,” Evans said. “But we got to shoot some missiles today and it felt pretty good.”

Community Briefs

Volunteers needed

Iwakuni Festival is scheduled for Sunday. American volunteers are needed to participate in the festival. Interested parties wishing to volunteer or for more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551 or via e-mail: iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil.

Base air-conditioning turned off

All air-conditioning (A/C) systems on base, including the window type units, with the exception of buildings with A/C waivers, were turned off Oct. 2. If you have any questions, contact the energy conservation manager at 253-6148.

Boy Scout

Troop 77 would like to welcome and invite anyone interested in

joining to attend one of their weekly meetings. The meetings are every Monday, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bldg. 1111 (one block down from the Chapel). For more information, call Hut at 253-3505.

Central Texas registration

Oct. 13 - 24. Early registration is accepted. Class dates are Oct. 27 to Dec. 21. Distance learning and traditional classes are available. For more information, contact the Iwakuni office of Central Texas College via e-mail: iwakuni.jpn.pfec@ctcd.edu, or stop by Room 109, Bldg. 411.

Military Outreach Days

Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. As Marines return home from war zones, many struggle with processing their

exposure to violence. As a result, domestic violence among families of veterans is on the rise. Marine and Family Counseling Services hopes to raise awareness about this silent problem, and enlist the help of military personnel in aiding victims and their abusers. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

CHOICES

Today, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Station Chapel. Lunch is provided. Marine and Family Counseling Services is dedicated to raising awareness of domestic violence and encourages you to do the same. Through community education we are able to transform the social response to domestic violence. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526 or 253-5032.

Candlelight Vigil

Today, 7 p.m. at the Station Chapel. Marine and Family Counseling Services will hold a candlelight vigil for victims and survivors of domestic violence, and a U.S. military tribute to victims of domestic violence. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

Smart Dating

Monday, 5 p.m. at Teen Center. The Youth and Teen Center’s Smart Girls and Torch Club members will receive Teen Dating

Violence and Prevention Training. The focus of this program is to teach teenagers how to recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

Workshop: Responding to DV

Tuesday, noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Station Chapel. Victims of domestic violence often turn first to spiritual leaders when confronting abuse and violence in the home. It is crucial that clergy and other spiritual leaders are equipped with the knowledge and resources to guide parishioners through this life-changing experience. The Station Chapel is pleased to offer training for clergy and lay leaders. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

DV Awareness Information table

Oct. 22 and 29, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. Come and learn what you can do to prevent domestic violence. Marine and Family Counseling Services staff will have informational handouts, books and videos available on display regarding domestic violence. For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

Married Couples PREP

Oct. 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Capodanno Hall, the Station Chapel. Childcare and lunch provided. PREP seminar is a training course that enhances couples communication. This class includes knowledge on handling conflict, solving problems and making decisions. Register by calling the Station Chapel at 253-3371. Deadline is COB Oct. 22.

Girl Scout Dance Party

Join Iwakuni Girl Scouts on Oct. 27 from 2:30 - 5 p.m. at MC Perry Elementary School’s gym to learn some new dance moves or show off some of your skills! Snacks, beverages and cake will be served. All girls are welcome to join the dance party but space is limited so please RSVP via e-mail: Iwakunigs@gmail.com or 253-2159.

Mammograms

Mammograms will be conducted via onsite van at Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni from Oct. 27 to 31. Contact central appointments at 253-3445 to set up a mammogram through your primary care doctor. Once the order is requested by your primary care doctor, appointments will be made by radiology.

Children’s Halloween Party!

Nov. 1, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Marifu Children’s Park, downtown Iwakuni. Come and enjoy a fun filled intercultural Halloween event! The event is open to anyone who loves to play games, carve pumpkins and eat the sweet stuff! For more information or if you wish to volunteer during this event, contact via e-mail: jackie@allenintl.com.

IESC Elections

Nov. 3, 6 - 7 p.m. at the Station Chapel. The Iwakuni Enlisted Spouse’s Club (IESC) will be electing the 2008-09 advisory board, committee chairs and forming interest groups. If you would like to participate, share comments/concerns/interests, learn about the group or ease your curiosity please join us. For more information, contact via e-mail: jessarroyo2002@yahoo.com.

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 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 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
6 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 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.

Sakura Theater

Friday, Oct. 17, 2008

7 p.m. Death Race (R)

Premier

10 p.m. Traitor (PG-13)

Premier

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

1 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG)

4 p.m. The Express (PG)

Premier

7 p.m. Traitor (PG-13)

10 p.m. Death Race (R)

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008

1 p.m. The Express (PG)

4 p.m. Traitor (PG-13)

7 p.m. Death Race (R)

Monday, Oct. 20, 2008

7 p.m. Death Race (R)

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008

7 p.m. Pineapple Express (R)

Last Showing

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008

7 p.m. Mirrors (R)

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008

7 p.m. The Longshots (PG)

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

253-5291

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

1997 Honda Odyssey

Asking \$3,200 OBO. Great gas mileage. Excellent condition and runs well. JCI until May 2010. Road Tax until April 2009. For more information, call 253-2203 (home) or 253-6170 (work).

1994 Nissan March

Great on Gas, JCI until May 2009. 99,000 km, in good condition, and good A/C and heat. Asking \$1,500 OBO. For more information, call 253-5328 (work) or 253-2492 (home).

1997 Mazda Demio

The color is red, the car is in good condition, JCI until September 2010. I owned the car for six months but rarely drove the car. Asking \$2,400. The car seats 4

comfortably, has good A/C, heat, and CD player. Good trunk space and ideal to drive in town. For more information, call 253-2482 (home) and leave a message.

1998 Honda Accord Wagon

Black in color, power locks and windows, CD player in dash and changer in back, JCI until July 2009, recent oil change, back seats fold down for large loads, great A/C and heat. Must sell by Nov. 6. Asking \$2,500. For more information, call 253-2213 (home).

Dirt Bikes

- Kawasaki KX-85, 7 yrs old. Bought new, orig. \$3,500. Asking \$1,300 OBO.
- KC-110, 3yrs old. Bought new, orig. \$800. Asking \$500 OBO.

Helmets and other gear available w/ bike purchase. Call 253-2221 (home) or 080-3519-7273 (cell).

1997 Toyota Spacio

Runs Great Good Heat/AC, Less than 53,000 Kilometers, JCI is good until July 2010. The price is \$3500.00. Please call Jocelyn Townsend at 253-7992 if interested.

1994 Toyota Emina

The price is \$1,000 or best offer. JCI expires February 2009. The car is in good condition and has been well maintained. Seven seats with folding rear and it fits three mountain bikes. Great for outdoor recreational activities. Call Max at (W)253-3227 (H) 253-7437 or e-mail at maximo.corpuz@usmc.mil

Jobs

WIC Overseas Job Announcement

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has opportunities available for a full-time Nutritionist, Dietitian and nurse in the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program in Iwakuni. The position requires a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered Dietitian preferred. Experience in WIC desirable. Must have a driver's license.

Must be a U.S. citizen. For consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to Denise.Williams@med.navy.mil or fax to Denise Williams at 243-2614.

Miscellaneous

Items for sale

Dyson DC 15 vacuum cleaner - It is used but cleaned regularly and it is in good shape \$389 New - Make offer above \$150. Transcend 8GB SDHC card. Brand new, never used. Asking \$25. One 802.11G wireless router. Asking \$10 Please call 080-3474-8856 (cell) or e-mail potwic@gmail.com for pictures. Call Scott Schesser (W) 253-5183 (H) 24-1291

Kitchen and Artisan Mixer

Black 325 Watt, This Artisan Series model features a tilt-head mixer design to give you easy access to the bowl and beaters. I originally bought it a year and a half ago. I upgraded to a professional model because I needed something larger. There is nothing wrong with it and is in great condition. I paid \$270 new and am asking for \$200. For info or to come look at it, please call or email me. Emily - 253-2308, 08033673722, erchilson@gmail.com

Beautiful red ball gown for sale

Fits size 16-18. Adjustable lace up back. Comes with sheer wrap. Asking \$125. Call at 253-2611 (home) or e-mail dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com.

Eddie Bauer stroller car seat combo for sale

Includes base and infant head rest. Asking \$140. Purchased at MCX for \$200, only used for 7 months. Call 253-2611 (home) or e-mail dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com.

BOWFLEX TREADCLIMBER TC5000

Purchased for \$2,600 w/ shipping 2 years ago. Slightly used. Asking \$1,800 firm. Call 253-2611 (home) or e-mail dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com. For more information on the machine, visit <http://www.bowflex.com>.

Items for sale

- Please call 080-3474-8856 (cell) or e-mail potwic@gmail.com for pictures.
- Dyson DC 15 (the ball) vacuum cleaner. It is used but in good shape. Cleaned regularly. \$389 new, make offer above \$150.
 - Transcend 8GB SDHC card. Brand new, never used. Asking \$25.
 - Three 802.11G wireless routers. Asking \$10 each.

M.C. PERRY BASEBALL



A Matthew C. Perry Samurai digs in to rip a fastball for a single against the Ernest J. King Cobras during the regular high school baseball season at the main softball field here Saturday. Although the Samurai didn't get an overwhelming number of hits during the game, they were able to maximize the hits they did get by stealing one if not multiple bases each time they got on base. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli



Levi Purdy, Ernest J. King Cobras' pitcher, let's loose a fastball against the Matthew C. Perry Samurai during high school baseball action at the main softball field here Saturday. Despite solid pitching for the entire six-inning game, Purdy was unable to shut down the Samurai's hitting completely and eventually gave up too many hits in the final three innings. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

SAMURAI EVISCERATE COBRAS 8-1

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Matthew C. Perry High School Samurais dominated the Ernest J. King High School Cobras 8-1 in high school baseball at the main softball field here Saturday. Overall the Samurais were able to hit and steal bases more effectively than the Cobras.

"Staying (mentally) away from the mistakes we were making," senior Justin Clement, the Samurai's pitcher, said of their ability to claim victory. The game went relatively slow for the first three innings with both teams making a solid showing defensively by making sound decisions to minimize scoring.

After three innings, the Samurais were leading the ball game with only one run. In the top of the fourth, the Samurais appeared to be on track for another three and out when a rapid succession of base hits and steals put them up 4-0.

In the fifth and sixth innings the Samurais maintained their assault and chalked up two more runs in both innings to push their lead to eight.

The Cobras were unable to do much but prevent the shutout by scoring one run in the bottom of the sixth.

Shortly thereafter the Samurai retired the inning putting the final score at 8-1. With this victory, the Samurai push their record to a solid 6-3.

Clement attributes the few losses this year to he and his teammate's handicapping themselves by falling down a slippery slope of mistakes during the three games they have lost.

Even though a loss is a loss, the Samurai were only defeated by one point in all three of those games and have demonstrated a savage-like improvement from last year.

"They've done really well this year," Carrie Baltazar, team mom, said. "Last year they didn't win one game."

And the field isn't the only place the team has improved.

"They've done 100 percent better this year to last," Richard Peterson, one of the Samurai's coaches, said. "Their grades are up, discipline-wise the kids have been wonderful and their overall performance has improved."

Even though the team has improved, they still have work to do in preparation for the upcoming Western Japan Athletic Association's round-robin tournament scheduled to be held at the main softball field here Friday and Saturday.

The tournament this year is made all the more significant because for the first time in 12 years a Japanese high school team will be participating. Being a senior, the tournament represents Clement's last chance to see the Samurai win.

"I think we'll be ready after this weeks practice," said Clement.

Fielding and batting are a struggle for the team, but mostly batting due to limited time with a pitching machine, he added.

As with any sport though, the key factor is sticking to the fundamentals and staying away from the slippery slope that has caused their previous losses.

"We're worried about committing errors," said coach Peterson. "When we play error free we're competitive with everybody."

"Hopefully, everybody will come out," added Peterson. "They aren't just representing M.C. Perry, but Iwakuni."

With only a few home games remaining, the Samurai are still accepting donations of \$20, which confers box seating and refreshments, to support the team.

The Samurais are scheduled to play Friday at 10:15 a.m., 2:45 p.m. and 5 p.m. with the playoffs scheduled to run Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. when the final game is scheduled to begin.

It's Your FUTURE



... how hard is that?

Red Ribbon Run

United As One To Make A Difference

*3.5k Drug & Alcohol
Awareness Fun Run*


*Friday, October 31st
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the Parade Deck*



*We welcome all service members, civilians, and families to
participate in annual fun run/walk to support community
efforts to increase drug & alcohol awareness.*

Giveaways At The End Of Run.

M&FS Counseling Services

 253-4526