

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

FESTIVAL BRINGS COLOR TO IWAKUNI



Japanese snake dancers emulate the natural movement of the white snake, a creature unique to the Iwakuni area long told to possess the soul of a god, at the 52nd annual Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. The dancers paraded down the street as done every second Sunday of October, giving locals a chance to join in the festivities. Read the full story on page 6. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Jane Wayne suits up for day like a devil dog

Spouses get a taste of life in camouflage

SGT. JOSH COX

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

They fly simulators, fire weapons, practice close combat and eat chow at the mess hall – Marine spouses – and of course, Marines too.

Marine spouses suited up in digital camouflage and set out for an adventure in their own backyard during Jane Wayne Days here Oct. 15-17.

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Oct. 15, the spouses were jolted by a former drill instructor who exercised a few willing Marines to demonstrate the Corps' intensive training program utilized during recruit training.

"I couldn't imagine getting yelled at like that," said Essence Robinson-Laboy, an H&HS Marine spouse. "I don't think I would have made it through boot camp for that reason alone."

Soon after, The Provost Marshal's Office dispatched a military working dog and handler for a demonstration.

After the handler and working dog performed a few tricks in obedience training, padded safety equipment was brought forward for an exhibition the spouses would not soon forget.

One-by-one, the spouses battled the disciplined K-9 and learned exactly what the handler and his companion contribute to crime prevention – the use of obedience,

SEE JANE ON PAGE 3

PMO outlines Halloween safety

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With Halloween just around the corner, the Provost Marshal's Office here has made plans to make this year's Halloween safe and fun for children and adults.

As a first safety precaution, the Freedom Bridge will be closed off to all vehicular traffic from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 31. Only on-foot crossing is permitted. Monzen residents should use the Monzen gate for entry and exit from the station. Parking is available in all public parking areas.

Also, checkpoints will be established throughout the housing areas. At these checkpoints, military policemen will be handing out candy and ensuring the

streets are safe for children.

McGruff, the crime dog and Officer Friendly will also be roaming the housing areas and distributing candy to all the children they encounter.

"Trick-or-treating will be restricted to housing areas only," said Sgt. Carrie M. Morse, physical security and crime prevention specialist. "Ultimately, PMO wants to ensure everyone has a fun and safe evening."

Morse advises parents to purchase for their children some kind of reflective gear that can hook onto their costumes.

"The Marine Corps Exchange carries a variety of reflective gear and child-friendly flashlights," said Morse. "Even though we've (PMO) cut down on vehicular traf-

fic, parents should still be cautious and observant of their kids when walking the roadways or crossing the streets."

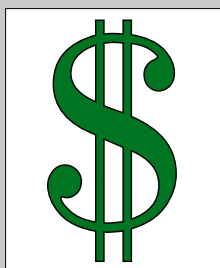
As always, parents and their children should be cautious of the candy they receive, added Morse. They must avoid opened or homemade items such as caramel apples, cookies and brownies.

All station orders and regulations will still be in effect during Halloween.

"No guns or replica guns are authorized on base or during Halloween," said Morse. "Also, kids riding their bikes must still wear their helmets regardless of whether or not they're wearing a costume."

As a final note, Morse advises the bigger kids on base, 20 and above, to drink responsibly during Halloween.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

'You can't miss the last deadline.'

CHAPLAIN DENIS COX
MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

Every now and then, I miss a deadline that comes and goes. Sometimes it was an important deadline and sometimes it didn't mean much, but I missed it none the less. I usually feel bad about it, but sometimes, every now and then, I take a few seconds and look around and fight the urge to shrug my shoulders and move on. It's hard to keep doing the right thing, even when nobody is looking. Keeping deadlines is very important, no matter how minor they may be.

Some of my deadlines are work related, some of those are self-imposed and some are imposed by my superiors.

Guess which ones are more important to me? If I miss one of those, I can get in trouble. I make sure I am organized and prepared to meet every one of them even before they are due. Some of my deadlines are family related. If I miss a birthday or an anniversary, I can get in even more trouble because I have to live with my family for much longer than I will answer to the military.

When it comes down to it, we can either make excuses for our failure to meet a deadline or we can better prepare ourselves for the future. Taking responsibility is a great place to start.

Not allowing someone else to be blamed for my failure is an integrity issue. The next step is to get organized. There are

things I can prioritize and not allow the tyranny of the present to dictate our decisions. Someone once said, "A lack of planning on your part does not require a crisis on my part."

Finally, there is a deadline that we are all guaranteed to meet. I've often said that the Marine Corps can do anything it wants, except stop time. One of these days, we will all have a date with eternity. We have to make sure that we are prepared to make that deadline. Even if we aren't ready to make that deadline, we aren't going to miss it because it will find us. We won't miss it, and worse yet, we can fail to be ready for it. I suggest we all get spiritually fit in order to make the last deadline of our lives.

Call your chaplain or friend who can help you get ready, because you can't miss the last deadline.



More than 200 station residents and their guests participate in the annual Beer Fest here Oct. 18. The event, held in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom, was sold out. Beer enthusiasts circled the ballroom tasting hundreds of various beverages. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox

Corps Question

Q: What is the date, time and location of my unit's Marine Corps Ball?

A: According to MCASBUL 5060, the Marine Corps Ball schedule in Iwakuni will range from Nov. 12-14 at Ironworks Gym and will all begin at 4:30 p.m. MAG-12 and MALS-12 will share one Nov. 12. MWSS-171 and CLC-36 will share one Nov. 13. H&HS and station will have one Nov. 14.

Jane Wayne does it all

Spouses leatherneck-up, walk one day in shoes of their devil dogs

JANE FROM PAGE 1

unique intimidation and brutal force to conquer any assailant.

Laboy was one of many spouses who volunteered to participate in the military working dog display.

"I was terrified a little because I was bit by a dog when I was younger," she said. "I know the (military working) dog was well trained, so I felt safe."

A Marine Corps martial arts class concentrated in bayonet techniques followed the K-9 demonstration.

Again, one-by-one, spouses battled a new challenge - American Forces Network correspondent Cpl. Bryan McDonnell.

McDonnell was ultimately brought to his knees by a release of Jane Wayne aggression in a series of pugil stick matches.

"I was so shocked to see my husband run out and teach the pugil sticks," Laboy said. "I had no clue he would be there."

"The ladies did an outstanding job beating up Cpl. McDonnell, but my favorite part was the fight between my husband and Lt. Col. Ardese," she said.

Laboy said she was nervous about her husband, MCMAP instructor Staff Sgt.

Dominique Laboy, facing the H&HS commanding officer, Lt. Col. Trey Ardese, in a full-speed pugil stick match.

"I was scared the lieutenant colonel was going to beat him up, but my husband handled him," Laboy exclaimed.

The group also visited Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, where they tried on firefighting equipment and sprayed high pressured water hoses.

"It was just fun to put on the suit," Laboy said. "I enjoyed spraying the water hose the most."

Marines from Explosive Ordnance Disposal were on hand to demonstrate the team's robotic capabilities. Spouses were allowed to navigate and control the robots, and try on EOD protective suits.

The tour also included lunch at the Northside Mess Hall and a trip to the flight simulator and indoor firing range here.

"The tour gave me a deeper respect for the Marines," Laboy explained. "I am a strong woman, but I don't know if I would be strong enough to be a Marine ... Although we think we know what our husbands do and how hard their job really is, we would never really know until we spend a day in their shoes. This event gave us just a little taste of what it's like to be a Marine."



A military working dog and dog handler demonstrate crime-preventing measures on a curious spouse during Jane Wayne Day here Oct. 15. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox



Essence Robinson-Laboy tries on firefighter equipment during a Jane Wayne Day here Oct. 15. Marine spouses suited up in digital camouflage and set out for an adventure in their own backyard during tours here Oct. 15-17. Photo by Sgt. Josh Cox

Overseas GIs aren't out of luck with credit scores

BONNIE LEWIS
STATION FINANCIAL
FITNESS COUNSELOR

With all the financial problems facing us these days, it is even more important than ever for people to be concerned about their credit scores. In the past, your credit score was pulled routinely only if you applied for a loan. Now your credit report is pulled for a variety of different reasons such as applying for a job, applying to rent or lease an apartment or house or for car insurance. Your insurance company will pull your credit report and if your score is high, you will pay less for your car insurance month-to-month.

Your credit score is a direct reflection of how responsible you are with your finances. With the rise of foreclosures and bankruptcies, banking institutions are only extending loans to those with a "high" credit score. In this type of economy a high credit score is considered to be at least 700 or above.

Being stationed in Japan can make it a little more difficult to pull your credit score from the normal places. Annual Credit Report for instance is a widely used resource for people to pull their credit reports. However, if you try to use their

online service or telephone service, the first thing they ask you for is your stateside address. Since we have the FPO/AP address, many people stop right there and never pull a credit report the whole time they are over here. I definitely encourage you to pull a credit report at least once a year.

There are two free resources that are available to you to help you obtain your credit report and both methods can be

suppose to be reported to all three credit divisions, but sometimes consumers find out it was not updated with one or more of the credit-reporting agencies. They may find this out by applying for a loan and being turned down. Once they are turned down and contact the credit division it can take 30 days or more to fix any errors on your credit report, so you do not want any surprises when you apply for a loan.

The next resource available to active-

"Visit www.saveandinvest.org/pfm and enter promotional code, "SAIMIL1." This will allow you to pull up a free credit report instantly..."

used while you are stationed here.

The first resource is to come to my office in Building 411, Room 201, and pick up a mail-in form for Annual Credit Report. You just fill out the short form and mail it in and they will send you a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit divisions (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion). It is important when you get these reports to compare them and make sure they are all the same. Anytime you do anything with your credit, it is

duty service members and their spouses stationed here is BrightScore Free Credit Report. Go to www.saveandinvest.org/pfm and enter promotional code, "SAIMIL1." This will allow you to pull up a free credit report instantly on your computer here. BrightScore has been around for years, but a company named FINRA started paying for it for all active-duty and their spouses in October 2007. BrightScore only pulls from Experian but it will list all your credit history with

them and give you your credit score. It also grades you on an A-B-C-D scale so you have a better idea as to what your score really means. It will also give you information on what you had points taken away for and what you had points added on for - so basically, what you are doing right and what you are doing wrong. If your score is below 620, it will enroll you in a program that will give you a credit report and give you tips on how to bring up your credit score, it will send you another credit report in 60 days, give you additional tips and another credit report. Their hope is that you are acting on these tips and taking action and that you are seeing a rise in your credit score. This service is a one time only offer and is good for 60 days. If you ever want to utilize their services again after the 60 days, you will have to pay the \$24.95, which is their normal fee. So please make use of your time and print it out, look over it. There is also an e-mail tap to ask questions from a representative at BrightScore, so utilize this opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your score.

If you have any questions or concerns about either of these methods just give me a call at 253-6250, or contact any of your CFS personnel within your commands.

Halloween Happenings

MALS-12 haunted house

- Open from Oct. 29 - Oct. 31
- 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 29 & 30
- 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 31
- Price for ages 11 and under is \$2.50 or 300 yen. Price for ages 12 and up is \$3 or 300 yen.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 will be hosting a haunted house open to all air station residents at the MALS-12 IMRL building from Oct. 29 through Oct. 31.

On Oct. 29 and Oct. 30, the haunted house will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Oct. 31, the event will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The cost for adults \$3 or 350 yen for ages 12 and up. For children ages 11 and under, the cost is \$2.50 or 300 yen.

The MALS-12 IMRL building is located next to the MALS-12 headquarters building on the north side

of the air station.

Adults can bring children at their own discretion. There is no age limit for the haunted house. Participants can expect explicit role-playing, loud noises and limited visibility.

There will be a separate haunted house designed for children at the event. An escort is still required.

Each section from MALS-12 is going to contribute to the event.

Concessions will be available throughout the event provided by the MALS-12 spouses club. There will be candy available as well.



Monica L. Groomes, her friend Kotomi Yamashiki and daughter Norkeshia Y. Groomes creep through the spooky passageways of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 haunted house last year. The event, involving each section of MALS-12, took approximately two weeks to set up, according to squadron members. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

MWSS-171 haunted house

- **FREE OF CHARGE** Headquarters Building
- **Open Oct. 30 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**
- **Location: MWSS-171**
- **Candy Available**
- **Separate trail for kids**
- **Children Welcome**

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 will be hosting a haunted house open to all station residents at the MWSS-171 headquarters building Oct. 30.

The haunted house will be open from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is free of charge.

The MWSS-171 Headquarters Building 128 is located across the

street from Ironworks Gym.

The event is open to all ages. However, parental discretion is advised.

Each section from MALS-12 is going to contribute to the event.

There will be an area set up to accommodate children. There will be candy available as well.



Children's off-base Halloween festival to take place Nov. 1

Halloween is just around the corner, and a great event is planned for all the kids who need a second night in order to get their fill of costumes, pumpkins and ghouls.

The 2nd Annual Iwakuni Children's Halloween Party will be held Saturday, Nov. 1st, 3:30-6:30 p.m. in Marifu Park, downtown Iwakuni.

According to the event coordinator, Jackie Allen, the event is on the Saturday following Halloween because it is a holiday weekend for the Japanese and it will

work better for any service members who volunteer.



Japanese children show their excitement during last year's Iwakuni Children's Halloween Party at Marifu Park, Iwakuni. Photo courtesy of Jackie Allen

Costumes, bringing friends and a camera are encouraged for the event.

The event is free for everyone, and this year will offer more new games, pumpkin carving, crafts, baked goods and lots of candy.

"The goal is simple," said Allen. "To make the event bigger and better for all cultures to enjoy."

For more information, contact Jackie Allen at 090-1012-2289 or email at jackie@allenintl.com.

Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle makes waves



One of the 10 Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles in existence with Amphibious Vehicle Testing Branch, Marine Corps Systems Command, executes testing maneuvers seven miles off the coast of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo by Pvt. Daniel Boothe

PVT. DANIEL BOOTHE
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Amphibious assault has come a long way from a 1930s hurricane relief concept to the Corps' latest Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle of today.

The EFV bridges naval warfare and ground combat with armor that can withstand everything except a direct hit from a main-battle tank and three times the speed of the previous Amphibious Assault Vehicle, said Capt. Paul M. Rivera, Developmental Test Officer, Amphibious Vehicle Testing Branch, Marine Corps Systems Command. The Corps prides itself with the ability to fight virtually anywhere and the EFV is another chapter in that legacy.

The vehicle is armed with a MK44 Bushmaster capable of firing both .30- and .40-caliber rounds. It also is armed with a 7.62 mm machine gun, firing the same rounds as an M14 service rifle, and 32 smoke and gas dispensers for concealment.

"This matching is the future of amphibious assault," said Sgt. Randy A. Marshall, EFV crew chief and technician, AVTB, MARCORSYSCOM. "This vehicle is great in the water and even better on land with triple the speed taking less than a minute to transform for each environment."

Traveling capabilities include 325 miles on land and 65 nautical miles in the water with a full payload of 17 combat-loaded Marines and three crewman. The amphibious carrier's versatility is also apparent with the ability to climb and cross trenches with 100 percent roll recovery.

The development of the EFV was initiated by the Marine Corps in the late 1980s

in conjunction with the MV-22 Osprey and the Landing Craft Air Cushion hovercraft taking an "Over the Horizon" strategy, according to a Marine Corps Executive Summary.

Pendleton is home to four of the 10 EFVs in existence and hosts the only test branch in the Corps dedicated to amphibious vehicle development, AVTB, said Rivera. AVTB was established more than 60 years ago to conduct tests and evaluate procedures on amphibious vehicles.

The amphibious warfare program began in the 1930s with a vehicle design by Donald Roebling, originally intended for hurricane relief rescue efforts, and was later adopted by the Marine Corps during the island hopping campaigns of WWII.

Roebling originally named his concept the "Alligator," but in 1937 the Corps renamed the vehicle "Landing Vehicle Tracked" after being armed with three .30 caliber machine guns and a 37 mm tank turret.

The LVT saw its first practical use during the Tarawa Invasion and was accredited with being the deciding factor in victory, said Theodore L. Gatchel, retired colonel and professor at the Naval War College, R.I.

The LVT was renamed the AAV in 1982 with upgrades in armor, engine size and fire power. AAVs are still used in combat today by the Corps, with hopes of being replaced with the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle. The AAV's name was officially changed to EFV in September 2003.

"The EFV is a keystone for both the Marine Corps Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Ship-to-Objective warfighting concepts," said Rivera.

The Corps intends to purchase 573 EFVs and start large-scale production of the vehicle by 2015.



Left: One of only 10 Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles in existence, with the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, Marine Corps Systems Command, enters the water to execute test exercises off the coast of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo by Pvt. Daniel Boothe

Right: One of only 10 Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles in existence, with the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, Marine Corps Systems Command, waits on the ramp to enter the water to execute test exercises off the coast of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo by Pvt. Daniel Boothe

{GUIDELINES FOR OCT. 31}

Trick-or-treating is only authorized from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in housing areas.

Off-base guests may be picked up at Contractor's Gate.

Freedom Bridge closes to vehicular traffic Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Freedom bridge may only be crossed on foot.

Monzen residents can use the Monzen gate for entrance and exit.

Vehicles may be parked at any public location, including the Crossroads Mall, Commissary and PX.

THE IWAKUNI FESTIVAL

岩国祭



School marching bands parade down Iwakuni City's main road during the annual Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. The groups that perform during the event aren't just from Iwakuni. Surrounding prefectures make the commute just to strut their stuff. The festival features more than 50 different schools from the region. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

Community welcomes 95,000, celebrates 52nd annual festival

LANCE CPL. KYLE T. RAMIREZ
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

If there's one thing the Japanese are known for, it's their unique festivals. Sometimes it may seem they'll have a festival for just about anything. What is perhaps the youngest one in the region is a must-do for service members — think Friendship Day with giant flying snakes in lieu of aircraft.

It's how Iwakuni stays on the map and makes new friends in the harvest season. It's the Iwakuni Festival, and it's only 52 years old.

Food vendors, bartenders and yen spenders — high heels and the constant sound of taiko drums too — bring the usual Japanese festive atmosphere to a few cleared blocks of downtown Iwakuni on the third Sunday of October. The day starts out with a morning parade followed by song-and-dance routines at the festival's main ground. After a certain amount of shopping and eating has taken place at the festival's own bazaar, another parade

marches down the city's main road.

"It gets bigger and bigger every year," said Tetsuya Inoue, an event coordinator for the festival.

School marching bands and local dance companies make up the bulk of the live entertainment. But gaining popularity is a booth set up just to take pictures with service members. Marines and sailors show up wearing their best, whether it's their finest dress uniform or most elaborate battle fatigues.

"It's fun to play Marine every once in a while," said Sgt. Jennytza Montemayor of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12. "A lot of them look at us with wide eyes, but I think they're just interested for the most part."

Montemayor came dressed for combat Oct. 19. With a friend's camera at the ready, many tried on her pack and Kevlar helmet, a popular contest among event goers.

Adding to the charm of the region's year-round celebration suite, the Iwakuni festival offers a colorful transition from the summer months — free of charge.



Donning mini model aircraft suits, sailors from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 111 of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force showed United States military weren't the only uniformed station members at the Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian B. Phillips, a structural mechanic attached to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, enjoys the company of his newest friend at the Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. Phillips volunteered to stand in uniform at the station's booth during the event, giving Japanese natives a chance to take photos — or just hang out for a while. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Sgt. Jennytza Montemayor of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 adjusts straps on a playful Japanese visitor's pack as the visitor struggles to compensate for the extra pounds of gear placed on her during the annual Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



A Japanese lyrical dancer is caught up in the moment as music rumbles the earth on the Iwakuni Festival's main ground Oct. 19. Her dance company traveled here from Shimane Prefecture to perform five dance routines at the event. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



With intricate and brilliant design, a yukata-wearing, umbrella-twirling Japanese dancer parades down the main road of Iwakuni City with precision to the standards of the Silent Drill Platoon during the Iwakuni Festival Oct. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez



Touching the white snake is a Japanese tradition said to bring good luck. The snake is always a welcomed guest to Iwakuni festivals. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



Two CH-53E Super Stallions fly through the skies of Afghanistan as part of the aviation combat element augmenting the Marines and sailors of Task Force 2/7 currently serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Capt. Andrew S. Roberson

TF 2/7 fights with 'Ace in hole'

SGT. STEVE CUSHMAN
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

CAMP BARBER, Afghanistan — A Marine company engaged in battle against insurgent forces approach a fortified position. Minutes after a radio call is made for more fire support, the Marines hear the sound of rotors. An attack helicopter bursts through the clouds and swoops in to destroy the enemy.

This air support has given the Marines more firepower to seek out and destroy the insurgent threat they face here in Afghanistan.

Until now, rotary wing air support was sporadic at best for the Marines of Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan, which deployed to Afghanistan in April to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

The task force was recently augmented by four CH-53E "Super Stallion" and AH-1W "Super Cobra" helicopters. The aviation combat element, which deployed here from Iraq's Al Anbar Province to provide direct support for TF 2/7, reinforces the battalion with reliable re-supply and close air support that the battalion didn't have throughout the first half of their deployment.

"Before these helicopter assets were supporting the battalion, there was no direct rotary wing support... we were using joint support from the British," said Capt. James R. Meyer, air officer and Clarksville, Va., native. "We were competing with all of the other units in the area of operations (AO). There were not enough helicopter assets in the AO, but now we have the air support we need to complete our mission."

A vital asset to mission success, the aviation combat element proved to be the only thing missing. To assist the Marines in their mission to conduct counterinsurgency operations with a focus on training and mentoring of the Afghan National Police, the task force is supported by various attachments that include such reinforcements as a combat engineers platoon, a shock trauma platoon, a radio battalion unit, reconnaissance Marines, DynCorp civilian contractors, and personnel who specialize in civil military operations.

In addition to providing the Marines close air support to wreak havoc upon the enemy, aviation support is needed to replenish the food and ammunition the Marines expend in combat.

The Super Stallions, which are attached to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, Calif., provide transportation for the Marines and transport supplies that allow TF 2/7 to carry out its mission to conduct full spectrum operations. Outside of transporting the heaviest of Marine equipment, like the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles the Marines have relied upon for protection against IEDs (improvised explosive devices), these are heavy-lift helicopters that primarily deliver such items as food, water, mail and combat gear.

"The most important cargo the 53's carry are the Marines. With these helicopters, we're able to move the Marines between FOBs (forward operating bases) while keeping them off the roads," Capt. Meyer said. "We also have insert and extract capabilities to areas that are inaccessible by road."

As the "Heavy Haulers" deliver destructive payloads of bullets, grenades and Marines, the Super Cobras provide direct security. They also serve as an "ACE in the hole" for the Marines, when needed.

"It's well known among the enemy, with good reason, to never fire at the skinny grey helicopters," said Maj. Mike M. Richman, Detachment B officer-in-charge of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 (HML/A-269) and North Lake, Wis., native. "By being on station, we impede the enemy's sanctuary and freedom of movement. They can't move into position to fire at the Marines on the ground, because they know if we can see them, we'll kill them."

The "Gunrunners," which are attached to HMLA-269 at MCAS New River, N.C., focus on providing three areas of

support for the battalion. In addition to providing close air support for the Marines on the ground, they also escort the Super Stallions into possible or known hostile areas. Because of danger on the roads, the Super Cobras escort convoys on the dangerous treks throughout Afghanistan's rugged terrain.

"There's one thing our helicopters are built for, and it's not to carry things," Maj. Richman said. "In addition to flying scheduled missions, we wait for 2/7 Marines to get into contact with the enemy; then we take off to destroy the enemy. Even though our squadron name has the word 'light' in it, there is nothing light about our attack capabilities."

The Heavy Haulers and Gunrunners provide 24-hour-a-day support. Maintaining a high level of readiness, the helicopters can be launched in a moment's notice.

"We have a customer service relationship with the Marines on the deck," Maj. Richman said. Any Marine should be able to call us on the radio and let us know what kind of support they need. We tailor the services we provide to fit the needs of the situation as best as possible."



An AH-1W Super Cobra assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 waits on the Camp Bastion flight line to provide support to Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan, Sept. 30. Photo by Sgt. Steve Cushman

Community Briefs

Road Closure for Halloween

The Freedom Bridge will be closed Oct. 31 to vehicular traffic during Halloween. The "trick-or-treating" hours are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Monzen housing area only. Trick-or-treating is only authorized during these times. Parking will be permitted at public parking areas to include the Crossroads Mall, Commissary and PX.

Married Couples PREP Seminar

Tomorrow, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Capodanno Hall, Marine Memorial Chapel. Childcare and lunch provided. PREP Marriage Communication Seminar is a training course that enhances couples communication. This class includes knowledge on handling conflict, solving problems and making decisions. It might also

include help in developing the knowledge, attitudes, expectations and characteristics that are important to creating a satisfying relationship. For more information, contact the Station Chaplains' Office at 253-3371.

Girl Scout Dance Party

Join local Iwakuni Girl Scouts on Monday from 2:30 – 5 p.m. at M.C. Perry Elementary School's gym to learn some new dance moves or show off some of your skills! Girls will earn a dance badge. Snacks, beverages and cake will be served. All girls are welcome to join the dance party but space is limited, so please RSVP to Iwakunigs@gmail.com or 253-2159.

Mammograms

Mammograms will be conducted via onsite van at branch health clinic Iwakuni from Monday to Oct. 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.

Hours of operation at Post Office

There will be a change in hours of operation Wednesday at the main post office (Bldg. 405) and the north-side post office (Bldg. 1460).

- Parcel pick up window (personal and official mail pick up): 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (early closure)
- Finance window (money orders, stamps, and parcel mail out): 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (normal hours)

DV Awareness Information Table

Wednesday, 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 Victim Advocate, MCCS Marine & Family Services Division at 253-4526.

MWSS-171 Haunted House

Thursday, 3:30 – 8 p.m. at MWSS-171, Headquarters (Bldg. 128). Trick-or-treating for the young,

and scary fun for those who dare! All station residents are welcome, and it is free. For more information, contact MWSS-171 at 253-6758 or 6501.

Registering guests for Halloween

- SOFIA personnel may sponsor guests (up to 10 per family, not per person in family). All guests must be escorted by the sponsor.
- MLC/IHA employees may sponsor their immediate family members (e.g., spouse, children, children's spouse(s), brother(s), sister(s), parents, and spouse's parents up to 10 per family).
- Sponsors must meet their guests at the Contractors' Gate between the hours of 4 – 6:30 p.m., Oct. 31. All guests may exit the station via the Main Gate after the event.
- Guests are prohibited from parking vehicles in the housing areas.
- Sponsors may pre-register their guests at the PMO administrative section (Bldg. 608) prior to noon, Wednesday.
- "Trick or Treating" will be limited to the housing areas ONLY. BOQ's, BEQ's, and office spaces will be off limits. "Trick or Treating" hours are Oct. 31, 5 – 7 p.m. For more information, contact the Provost Marshal's Office Administrative section at 253-4843 or Physical Security section at 253-4929.

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 or any question, e-mail jessarroyo2002@yahoo.com.

Reminders to motorcycle riders

- With the camouflage uniforms going from desert to green digital, motorcycle riders are reminded to wear proper personal protective equipment. Reflective equipment is required for wear over the green digital camouflage uniform when riding a motorcycle.
- Toy motor scooters are not authorized for use aboard MCAS Iwakuni. For more information, contact PMO at 253-5105.

Lost and Found

PMO, Lost and Found section receives many unclaimed items. If you lose something, contact PMO at 253-5105.

Halloween Golf Scramble

The Golf Tournament for VMFA(AW)-242 will be Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. It is a two-man scramble and the best ball wins. Entry price is \$25 per person, food and drinks included. Prizes go to the longest drive and the closest-to-the-pin. Sign up at the Torii Pines golf course here from today until the day of the tournament. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Donato at 253-6589 or 253-2759

Seatbelt Convincer

The seatbelt convincer is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Fall Bazaar. The authorized age group to get in is any person who does not use a car seat. Children still in car seats will not be allowed on the convincer.

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. 24, 2008

7 p.m. Babylon A.D. (PG-13)
Premier
10 p.m. Body of Lies (R)
Premier

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008

1 p.m. The Express (PG)
4 p.m. Body of Lies (R)
7 p.m. Death Race (R)
10 p.m. Babylon A.D. (PG-13)

Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008

1 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG)
4 p.m. Babylon A.D. (PG-13)

7 p.m. Body of Lies (R)

Monday, Oct. 27, 2008

7 p.m. Babylon A.D. (PG-13)

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008

THEATER CLOSED

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008

7 p.m. The House of Dracula
Civic Theater

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008

7 p.m. The House of Dracula
Civic Theater

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.

1629-697
253-5291

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH Classifieds

Automobiles

1997 Nissan Laurel Club S

Silver, cloth interior w/ wood grain trim, power everything. Brand new tires and rims. Strong and reliable in-line v6. All maintenance up to date. Great gas mileage. JCI till Sept. 2010. Price negotiable - \$2,500. Call 080-3872-0877 (cell).

Dirt bikes for sale

- Kawasaki KX-85, one owner, paid \$3,500. Asking \$1,250 OBO.
- KC-110, one owner, paid \$800. Asking \$400 OBO. Buy both for \$1,550. Call 253-2221 (home) or 080-3519-7273 (cell).

1997 Honda Odyssey

Asking for \$3,200 OBO. Great gas mileage. Excellent

condition and runs well. JCI until May 2010. Road Tax until Apr. 2009. Call 253-2203 (home) or 253-6170 (work).

1995 Nissan Skyline

2-door. Manual transmission. Recent oil change and JCI. Has CD player with subwoofer and amp. Low miles. Heat and A/C works great! Asking \$3,200 OBO. Call 253-2119 (home).

1997 Toyota Spacio

Runs great. Good heat and A/C. Less than 53,000 km. JCI good until Jul. 2010. Asking \$3,500. Call 253-7992 (home).

1994 Honda Vigor

JCI good until Nov. 2009. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call 253-4270 (work) or 080-3894-0233 (cell).

2000 Mazda Premacy

4 door. New brakes, new battery, JCI till Mar. 2009. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call 253-5308 (work) or 0827-38-2323 (home).

Miscellaneous

Kitchen Aid 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. Originally bought a year and a half ago. Upgraded to a professional model. Paid \$270 new and asking \$200. Call 253-2308 (home), 080-3367-3722 (cell), or e-mail to erchilson@gmail.com.

Bed for sale

Twin loft style bed with computer station and shelving unit underneath. Bought at MCX for \$249, asking \$175. Call 253-2221 (home) or 080-3519-7275 (cell).

Proactive Solution for sale

Two boxes of Proactive Solution. 3-piece kits. They are still in the original packages. Call 253-2327 (home) for details.

Items for sale

- Digital camera - \$150.
 - Grey leather recliner - \$80.
 - Bags - \$7.
 - Women's shoes, size 10-11 - \$5 and \$10.
 - Cordless phone with answering machine - \$7.
 - Dishes - 50 cents to \$1.
 - Belkin wireless connector - \$10.
 - Silver coasters - \$5.
- Call 253-7992 (home).

Items for sale

- Exersaucer for baby - \$20.
 - Baby girl crib set - \$30.
 - Corner TV stand - \$30.
 - Papasan swing for baby - \$60.
 - 15" TV - \$20.
 - Pub table and 4 chairs/stools - \$100 OBO.
 - Pink and brown quilted diaper bag - \$5.
 - Graco stroller neutral color - \$60.
 - Double stroller - \$80.
- Call 253-2505 (home).

Coach Gallery Watch

Polished stainless steel w/5 interchangeable bezels. Excellent condition worn only 3 times. Complete w/box, book, and certificate. Originally \$389, asking \$225. Call 080-3519-7275 (cell) or 253-2221 (home).

Items for sale

- Call 080-3474-8856 (cell) or e-mail to potwic@gmail.com for pictures.
- Dyson DC 15 (The Ball) vacuum cleaner. Used but in good shape. \$389 New - make offer above \$150.
 - Transcend 8GB SDHC card. Brand new, never used. Asking \$25.
 - One 802.11G wireless routers. Asking \$10.

Jobs

WIC Overseas Job Announcement

A full-time Nutritionist/Dietitian/Nurse in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Overseas Program in Iwakuni is available. Position requires;

- BS in Nutrition, Nursing or Home Economics.
- Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required.
- Registered Dietitian preferred.
- Must have driver's license.
- Must be a U.S. citizen.

For consideration, e-mail your resume and cover letter to Denise.Williams@med.navy.mil or fax at 243-2614.



The Samurai pose for a team photo after defeating E. J. King 12 to one in their final game of the end-of-season baseball tournament held at the main softball field here October 17 through 18. Photo by Lance Cpl Dan Negrete

Samurai end season strong, take third in final tourney

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Four schools competed in a two-day baseball tournament here Oct. 17 and 18. The Mathew C. Perry High School Samurais competed on their own turf against Ernest J. King High School (Sasebo), Nagoya International School and Osaka International School.

"This is the first time we've had an end of season tournament here at Perry," said Bob Funk, M.C. Perry's assistant principal. "The Samurai are bringing the heat, and whether or not they win, we've got some promising minor leaguers that will be brought up to the majors next year."

Alex Reed, a 10th grader and right outfielder, is the first girl to have ever played on the Samurai team.

"I'm proud to be the first girl to play on this team and excited to be part of this tournament," said Reed. "There's a lot adrenaline and it's nerve-racking because it's the last tournament of the season and we're up against some tough schools."

Samurai parents crowded the stands in support of their players. One mother was especially pleased with the coaches and all the efforts they've put in building up the team and encouraging good teamwork.

"The coaches have done an excellent job of giving all the players opportunities to shine on the field," said Gesenia Betancourt, mother of Danilo Garcia (number five on the Samurai team). "They've played against some really good schools, but have always come through in the end in displaying good teamwork and positive game spirit."

The Samurai played three games on the first day of the tournament. They won their first game against E.J. King 5-4, but then lost against Osaka and Nagoya. The Samurais competed for third place against E.J. King on the second day of the tournament, which they took valiantly with a 12-1 win against the Sasebo team.

"Overall they did very well, and I'm very proud of them," said Richard K. Peterson, Samurai coach. "They've come a long way as a team and have showed great sportsmanship throughout the season."

The Samurai finished third overall in the tournament. Nagoya took second and Osaka first.

"Third place isn't bad," said Peterson.



(Above) The M.C. Perry Samurai and E.J. King Cobras shake hands after playing their final game at the end-of-season baseball tournament held at the main softball field here Oct. 18. (Left) Ryan Schmidt, a Samurai pitcher, throws a fastball against the Ernest J. King Cobras at a round-robin match on the first day of the two-day tournament. The Samurai defeated the Cobras 5-4 on their first match, and then again in their final match 12-1, putting the Samurai in third place overall. Photos by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

Mess Hall Schedule

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Creole Macaroni, Fried Shrimp, Fettuccini W/ Alfredo Sauce, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tempura Vegetables, Peas and Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Sugar Cookies, Strawberry Shortcake, Whipped Topping, Vanilla Cream Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: DELI BAR

FRIDAY

Clam Chowder Soup, Minestrone Soup, Braised Beef and Noodles, Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Fried Cabbage, Mix Vegetables, Chicken Gravy, Dinner rolls, Banana Bread, Dutch Apple Pie, Shortbread Cookies, SPECIALTY BAR: NORTHSIDE: MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE SOUTHSIDE: HOT DOGS/POLISH SAUSAGE

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