

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 45, Vol. 1

Friday, November 28, 2008

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Smokeout tests smokers, runners

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

In 1976 the American Cancer Society inaugurated the first Great American Smokeout, and the tradition continued with smokers and non-smokers alike running along the sea wall together in a five and 10-kilometer fun-run here Nov. 20.

In preparation for the main event, Marine Corps Community Services and the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic set up information tables during lunch hours Nov. 17 — 19 to provide information about tobacco cessation, awareness on the dangers of tobacco and to hand out quitting kits for those trying to kick the habit.

“The whole idea of the Great American

Smokeout is that smokers will quit for a day to hopefully make a lifetime commitment,” Alma Dickinson, Marine Corps Community Services’ Health Promotions director, said.

Prior to the run, MCCA volunteers were ready to exchange cold turkey sandwiches for tobacco products in addition to providing information about cessation.

Col. Michael A. O’Halloran, station

commanding officer, gave a brief speech in support of the event and highlighted his own struggle with tobacco before joining the 5K runners.

Despite the wind tearing across the sea wall on an already chilly day, 34 5-kilometer runners and 11 10-kilometer runners took-off from the steps behind

SEE RUN ON PAGE 3



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Sgt. Jeffery Velazquez and Lance Cpl. Bandy O. Boggs, members of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aircraft rescue firefighting, are flown aboard an S-76 rescue helicopter Nov. 20 to observe the terrain surrounding Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia. As first responders to an aircraft mishap, the Marines need to be aware of all the possible trails, roads and paths that can lead them to a downed pilot. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete

Firefighters get bird’s-eye view of outback

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines and Royal Australian Air Force firefighters have continued to work together during Exercise Aces North 2008.

On Nov. 20, two members of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron’s

ARFF team went on a familiarization flight above RAAF Base Tindal and the surrounding Katherine area in Northern Territory, Australia.

“As first responders, it’s important for us to have an aerial perspective of the base and the surrounding area,” said Sgt. Jeffery Velazquez, H&HS Aircraft Rescue Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Technician. “If a plane goes down, we need to know every alley, road and trail

that can get us to the downed pilot as quick as possible.”

A downed pilot in the outback would face a variety of dangers. Fourteen of the world’s 20 most venomous snakes reside in the Northern Territory.

The temperature in the summer exceeds 100 degrees and water is scarce throughout the region, making dehydra-

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More subsidized meals means more cafeteria money

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Matthew C. Perry school liaison and school lunch program manager are encouraging families to apply for free or reduced price meals.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and uses taxpayer money to subsidize school lunches.

“What it’s (the program) designed to do is ease the burden of those families that do not necessarily need assistance, but can always use it,” Chris Clark, the school liaison, said.

Every year the department allocates tax money that is used to pay schools back the money lost in providing free and reduced price meals.

“A lot of people associate it with a welfare type deal, but the money sits there every year,” Katie Miller, school lunch program manager, said.

“It’s a use it or lose it deal,” said Miller.

In the long-run, the more subsidized lunches the school provides, the more money the school gets on top of the reimbursement funding.

More funding means the variety and healthiness of school lunches can improve.

“I’m trying to incorporate more fresh foods and get away from the pre-processed stuff,” said Miller. “It’s a healthy lunch

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER 'To Be Thankful'

CHAPLAIN NORBERT KARAVA
DEPUTY MAG-12 CHAPLAIN

Even though there is a holiday named after it, even though we have been taught the lesson an innumerable amount of times, as we review the remnants of frustrated ambitions, unsuccessful plans, lost hopes, failed relationships, and see ourselves in a mirror of truth as the cranky, ever-always missing something, never quite satisfied with anything, minor deities that we have attempted to be — it occurs to us that the state of "joy" is as relatively infrequent for us as

the state of "gratitude."

Consider: It is impossible to be both angry and grateful at the same moment. It is impossible for the soul to be in the state of jealousy, malevolence or even be about the act of telling a lie in the same moment in which it experiences gratitude. Even though we can dutifully elicit reasons for which we should be grateful and express words and sentiments thereof, this is not gratitude in the proper sense of the word.

Gratitude is something that happens to us. The clue is in the etymology of the word: "Gratia" or "grace" signifies

the bestowing of an unmerited and unnecessary good, which thereby is "gratuitous." It is our ability to realize that our person has somehow become the addressee of a gratuitous good that allows us to experience gratitude, which is shocking in the most wonderfully pleasant sense of the word: "Who, me? This? What did I do to deserve this?" And the answer: "Precisely nothing."

Yet, most of us, it seems, at least much of the time, are incapable of undergoing this revolutionary experience. And the reason for this is simple: Whatever life is about, it can't be about either my agenda or me. To the extent that I try to make it be so, I render myself incapable of experiencing life as it really is, a gratuitous, undeserved act of generosity.



Station Filipino-American Society members clean a mountain stream adjacent to a highway in Iwakuni City Nov. 1. At least two hours of work was spent removing hewn logs in the riverbank and the brush that dammed up the flow. Photo and report courtesy of Tomoko Owaki for the Yomiuri Shimbun, Nov. 2, 2008

Corps Question

Q. Can residents of the air station lose their license for driving while talking on their cell phones?

A. Yes. Per Marine Corps order 5100.19E, driving while talking on a cell phone distracts the driver, can lead to an accident and is strictly prohibited. Violating this order on or off the station can result in suspension of the driver's license, and multiple violations can result in the loss of the driver's license.

Smokeout gives runners' lungs a rest, sort of

RUN FROM PAGE 1

Ironworks Gym and hit the turn-around point near the port. The 10-kilometer racers made this trip twice.

Decimating the competition was Teran Robinson who finished the 10-kilometer run in 37 minutes 4 seconds. His closest competition crossed at 38 minutes 52 seconds.

"Mostly to run, but a good day to quit," said Robinson of his participation.

"Today's that day — I'm going through

tobacco cessation classes right now," he added.

The first tobacco cessation class began Tuesday and will serve as a model for future classes offered by the health promotions department of MCCS in conjunction with the branch health clinic.

"If they're interested in quitting the branch health clinic and MCCS health promotions are here to help," said Dickinson.

The classes will explain the health benefits of tobacco cessation, but more

importantly will go over strategies for quitting as well as nutritional information to help with weight management — a common issue encountered by individuals beginning recovery.

Perhaps most importantly, the class provides the support structure that, according to the American Cancer Society, has proven to be the most successful way to help smokers quit.

But the run wasn't just about tobacco for some.

"My husband is deployed right now and

he's the runner in the family," Heather Mitchell, who quit smoking two years ago, said.

Mitchell and her supportive counterpart Nieves Harold said the most challenging part was running against the wind, but they managed to combat the cold with warm clothing.

For more information about tobacco cessation, contact MCCS health promotions at 253-3696 or the branch health clinic at 253-5571 and select the health promotions option when

CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS TOURS STATION



Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt, chief of Navy chaplains and chaplain of the Marine Corps, scans the waters of the harbor here at the Anti-terrorism Force Protection section's watchtower. Ending his tour in the coming months, Burt is traveling to where chaplains are ministering around the world, learning what has been accomplished in recent times. During his visit here Nov. 19, station chaplains took Burt to different units within their jurisdiction. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez

TRICARE details overseas program

SUBMITTED BY THE
BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC

TRICARE for Life is available for dual-eligible beneficiaries residing overseas. By statute to be eligible for TFL, Medicare-entitled beneficiaries must be enrolled in Medicare Part B. There are no enrollment fees for TFL; however, eligible Medicare-TRICARE beneficiaries must pay Medicare Part B monthly premiums. The Part B requirement applies whether you live in the United States or abroad. Beneficiaries must retain enrollment in Medicare Part B in order to be eligible for TRICARE benefits. For more information about enrolling in Medicare Part B, please visit the Social Security Administration online at www.ssa.gov/foreign.

Because Medicare typically does not provide benefits for medical care received overseas, TRICARE is the primary source

of health benefits. Beneficiaries may seek care from any host nation provider without a referral or prior authorization. TFL provides the same coverage as Standard with the same cost shares and deductibles.

The deductible is based on a fiscal year. For more information on costs, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/tfl/tflcostmatrix.html>.

When seeking reimbursement for care provided by a qualified host nation provider, a claim must be submitted by using DD Form 2642 along with medical receipts and itemized bills to the TRICARE overseas claims processor. After the deductible has been satisfied, a reimbursement minus a 25 percent out patient cost share or appropriate inpatient cost share will be issued. Submit TFL overseas claims to: TRICARE Overseas, P.O. Box 7985, Madison, WI 53707-7985.

ARFF Marines embark on familiarization flight

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surrounding area.

Members of the flight crew pointed out to them certain landmarks, roads, trails and key points such as hospitals and landing zones.

"It gave us a good perspective of the base and its surroundings," said Lance Cpl. Bandy O. Boggs, an aircraft rescue firefighter. "I now know what type of frontier I'd be facing while rescuing a downed pilot or fighting a fire."

The four ARFF Marines deployed to Australia in support of Exercise Aces North 2008 are working alongside RAAF firefighters throughout night and day operations.

When not responding to an emergency situation or training to respond for one, the Marines and Australian firefighters find time to talk shop and exchange firefighting know-how and expertise.

Taxpayers' money funds school's lunch program

MONEY FROM PAGE 1

now, but it's average."

"I want to make it above average," she added.

The stigma associated with the program seems to be the biggest concern, but the program can only be beneficial. "Sometimes we're afraid to ask and afraid to be told no," said Clark. "What does it hurt to come down and fill out an application?"

Even those that have applied for the program stateside and were rejected should consider re-applying.

"People are hesitant to apply because they have applied in the states and didn't qualify, but we have different income brackets here," said Miller.

In order to qualify for the program, the key information taken into account are the base pay, basic allowance for subsis-

tence and spousal income.

In order to verify accuracy, the Department of Agriculture requires a copy of a leave and earnings statement, a copy of the spouses most recent pay stub and the social security numbers for verification of who lives in the household.

All of the information is kept secured by Clark and only he or an inspector can see social security numbers, he said, emphasizing that privacy was a priority.

"I'm cognizant in this day and age that people don't want to give out social security numbers," Clark said.

Applications for the program can be found at the elementary and high school offices, as well as the school liaison office in building 411, room 107.

For more information about the school lunch program, call Chris Clark at 253-4189 or visit his office for an application.



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Salvador F. Hernandez (right) stands with Leading Aircraftsman Sharee G. McKnoulty, animal caregiver, and Staff Sgt. Hugh A. McClenney, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Nov. 14 at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia. Hernandez has teamed up with members of the Katherine Wildlife Rescue Organization to give Marines the opportunity to see and pet rescued wallabies. Photos by Lance Cpl. Dan Negrete.

171 Corpsman educates RAAF medics on combat wounds, lends experience

LANCE CPL. DAN NEGRETE
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia (Nov. 28, 2008) — Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Salvador F. Hernandez served on three Iraq deployments.

Hernandez is part of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and is currently deployed to Australia in support of Aces North, a bilateral training exercise between the Royal Australian Air Force and the United States Marine Corps.

Aside from performing his day-to-day duties as a corpsman, Hernandez is working bilaterally with Australian medics at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Australia and sharing with them his own knowledge and experience of treating combat wounds.

"A lot of these (Australian) medics haven't deployed before," said Hernandez. "They were all very curious to learn more about my experiences in Iraq and the types of wounds I treated while I was over there."

Eager to share his knowledge with the Australian medics, Hernandez put together a Powerpoint presentation with photographs depicting the different types of combat related wounds he witnessed and treated while deployed to Iraq.

"As corpsmen our mission is virtually the same as RAAF medics," said Hernandez. "The only exception is their limited combat experience."

On Nov. 12, Hernandez gathered up as many medics as he could at the medical clinic at RAAF Base Tindal and showed them the photos he took while deployed to Iraq.

The photos he showed were gruesome yet effective in depicting real-world combat injuries.

"It's nothing we really haven't seen before as medics, but (the photos) were different to what we normally see as they were combat oriented," said Leading Aircraftsman Fletcher C. Jackson, a RAAF medic.

"Although I'm not in a combat role, I can be utilized in one at any given moment. You can always admire someone like Hernandez, who after treating patients in combat, comes back to teach others about it."

"I've always enjoyed educating people on the things I've learned throughout my medical career," explained Hernandez.

"Although the Australian medics are very capable and professional in their jobs, they have very limited experience deployment-wise. That's why I'm doing my best to bring whatever I can to the table and offer them my knowledge,



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Salvador F. Hernandez gives a presentation over the types of combat wounds he witnessed while deployed to Iraq. On Nov. 12, Hernandez gathered up as many medics as he could at the medical clinic at RAAF Base Tindal, Australia to give them an idea of what they can expect if ever deployed to a combat zone.

while at the same time learning how they operate their clinic and treat patients."

Aside from working with Australian medics and exchanging medical knowledge and expertise, Hernandez has been very active during his Australian deployment to bring smiles to the Marines in his squadron.

He has teamed up with members of the Katherine Wildlife Rescue Organization to give Marines the chance to interact with and provide care to rescued wallabies.

Caregivers like Leading Aircraftsman

Sharee G. McKnoulty take great pleasure in bringing the wallabies into the base for Americans to see.

"It's always good to bring in the wallabies as it opens awareness to a lot of people's eyes," said McKnoulty. "It's especially nice to see how Americans react to the wallabies when they have never seen or touched one before."

"My mentality is to look after Marines in every possible way, said Hernandez. "Sometimes it's treating wound, but other times it's making sure they're being taken care of and lifting their spirit and morale."

Marines' heroic actions at Shewan leave more than 50 insurgents dead, several wounded

CPL. JAMES MERCURE
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan — In the city of Shewan, approximately 250 insurgents ambushed 30 Marines and paid a heavy price for it.

Shewan has historically been a safe haven for insurgents, who used to plan and stage attacks against Coalition Forces in the Bala Baluk district.

The city is home to several major insurgent leaders. Reports indicate that more than 250 full time fighters reside in the city and in the surrounding villages.

Shewan had been a thorn in the side of Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan throughout the Marines' deployment here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, because it controls an important supply route into the Bala Baluk district. Opening the route was key to continuing combat operations in the area.

"The day started out with a 10-kilometer patrol with elements mounted and dismounted, so by the time we got to Shewan, we were pretty beat," said a designated marksman who requested to remain unidentified. "Our vehicles came under a barrage of enemy RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) and machine gun fire. One of our 'humvees' was disabled from RPG fire, and the Marines inside dismounted and laid down suppression fire so they could evacuate a Marine who was knocked unconscious from the blast."

The vicious attack that left the humvee destroyed and several of the Marines pinned down in the kill zone sparked an intense eight-hour battle as the platoon desperately fought to recover their

comrades. After recovering the Marines trapped in the kill zone, another platoon sergeant personally led numerous attacks on enemy fortified positions while the platoon fought house to house and trench to trench in order to clear through the enemy ambush site.

"The biggest thing to take from that day is what Marines can accomplish when they're given the opportunity to fight," the sniper said. "A small group of Marines met a numerically superior force and embarrassed them in their own backyard. The insurgents told the townspeople that they were stronger than the Americans, and that day we showed them they were wrong."

During the battle, the designated marksman single handedly thwarted a company-sized enemy RPG and machinegun ambush by reportedly killing 20 enemy fighters with his devastatingly accurate precision fire. He selflessly exposed himself time and again to intense enemy fire during a critical point in the eight-hour battle for Shewan in order to kill any enemy combatants who attempted to engage or maneuver on the Marines in the kill zone. What made his actions even more impressive was the fact that he didn't miss any shots, despite the enemies' rounds impacting within a foot of his fighting position.

"I was in my own little world," the young corporal said. "I wasn't even aware of a lot of the rounds impacting near my position,

because I was concentrating so hard on making sure my rounds were on target."

After calling for close-air support, the small group of Marines pushed forward and broke the enemies' spirit as many of them dropped their weapons and fled the battlefield. At the end of the battle, the Marines had reduced an enemy stronghold, killed more than 50 insurgents and

wounded several more.

"I didn't realize how many bad guys there were until we had broken through the enemies' lines and forced them to retreat. It was roughly 250 insurgents against 30 of us," the corporal said. "It was a good day for the Marine Corps. We killed a lot of bad guys, and none of our guys were seriously injured."

Bush proclaims Native American Heritage Month

THE WHITE HOUSE
CONTRIBUTED

WASHINGTON — During National American Indian Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich ancestry of American Indians and Alaska Natives and recognize their many contributions to our national story.

Native Americans have enriched our heritage and added to all aspects of our society. Our country is blessed to have their character and strength, and we are especially grateful for the generations of Native Americans who have answered the call to defend our country. During World War II, these brave patriots used their native languages to create an unbreakable oral code. Today, that legacy continues as Native Americans work to advance freedom's cause.

My Administration remains committed to protecting tribal sovereignty and the right to self-determination and to working with tribes on a government-to-government basis. To help more Native Americans realize the dream of home ownership, I signed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008. For nearly eight years, we have also worked to strengthen educational opportunities for all Americans. In 2004, I issued

an executive order to help Native American students fulfill the challenging standards of the No Child Left Behind Act. This order established the Interagency Working Group on American Indian and Alaska Native Education to improve educational programs consistent with tribal traditions, languages, and cultures. By setting high standards for academic achievement, we are enabling more Americans throughout our country to pursue their dreams.

During this month, we honor our native peoples and recognize them for strengthening the diversity of our society.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2008 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

Signed,
— *The Honorable Mr. George W. Bush*

Flash media gets flicked from gov't networks

LANCE CPL. COREY A. BLODGETT
MAGTF TRAINING
COMMAND 29 PALMS

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — By direction of the Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Center, Marine Corps Enterprise Network Operational Directive 293-08, all MCEN users must immediately suspend the use of Removable Secondary Storage Media Devices, such as memory sticks, thumb drives and camera flash memory cards on all classified and unclassified Marine Corps networks.

"What has happened is that there is a virus that has been spread through these types of

mediums — the small ones that you move from machine to machine and share from person to person — and because of the virus, these have been a cause of concern on the MCEN," said Shirley Russell, the information assurance manager for the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command's G-6. "So for the time being, until they can come up with a fix for this virus, they just don't want to take any chances and they want all that media pulled off immediately."

According to the reference, RSSMDs are storage media devices that can be connected to a workstation or other computing devices via cable, Universal Serial Bus [USB], Thumb Drives, Firewire [IEEE 1394] or Personal Computer

Memory Card International Association devices. Examples include, but are not limited to: pen drives, flash media, memory cards, smart media devices, memory sticks and jump drives.

This direction will remain in effect until further notice and is applicable to all Marine Corps networks, according to Rey Espinoza, a network administrator with MAGTF's G-6.

As for the use of external hard drives, if the system was plugged in prior to the directive it may remain connected to the computer, and must not be disconnected and reconnected or used to transfer any data from another source.

Russell said that every user agrees to be monitored and therefore consents to being checked for use of such devices.

"The Marine Corps Networks Operations Security Center have the capability to scan the network and can take a look at each and every machine, this is why when you log on, that warning screen says that you can be monitored."

If a user is found to be using a RSSMD, appropriate action will be taken, according to Espinoza.

"If that USB device or flash drive is connected to any computer on a Marine Corps network at the time that a scan is performed, it will be identified," he explained. "If it's caught during a scan, that user's machine will be confiscated and their account will be disabled."

Any questions about the directive should be directed to local command Information Assurance Manager or G-6.

good times



Yoko Seo writes a name in Japanese calligraphy during the Station's inaugural Craft Fair here Nov. 22. The fair gave American and Japanese crafters an opportunity to showcase and sell their products and creations. Photos by Sgt. Josh Cox

Art

Craft Fair

Inaugural fair attracts Japanese, American crafters and large crowds



fun

The Japanese-American Society crafted and sold origami holiday tree decorations during the Craft Fair in an effort to raise money for the organization.

Sgt. Josh Cox
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Crossroads Mall was crowded with Japanese and American crafters, curious area residents, and plenty of crafty goodies during the inaugural station Craft Fair, Nov. 22.

The fair was organized in an effort to give crafters, home businesses and fund-raising organizations a forum to showcase their trendy items.

The idea to coordinate the event was created by craft enthusiasts Valérie Saunders and Candice O'Halloran.

After the Artizen Shop closed here, local crafters no longer had a venue to create or showcase their products on the air station.

"I heard that Valérie was going to have a little craft fair at her house, and I said, 'no, I've been thinking about having a craft fair,'" O'Halloran said.

O'Halloran and Saunders infused their ideas to ultimately synchronize a large fair supporting all interested crafters on the base and in the local community.

During the fair, a silent auction was held along with several

raffles. Various vendors included scrapbooking experts, Tupperware consultants, local artists and jewelers. The event also included 13 Japanese vendors and a total of 35 booths all together.

For vendors like Eiko Saiki, who creates artistic items like greeting cards, the event was a great opportunity to exchange and showcase different ideas.

"I think it's great — I like it," said Saiki, a native of Otake, Japan. "This is a very good chance for us to show my idea and my cards, and I'm very happy."

O'Halloran and Saunders said the Craft Fair couldn't have been a success without help from volunteers representing various units and agencies on the station.

"Everybody really wanted to help," Saunders explained.

The hard work produced a constant flow of visitors throughout the day, and proved to be a popular event.

"It has been great — the turn out is just unbelievable," O'Halloran said during the busy fair.

"People are happy, the vendors are making money — they are enjoying their time," Saunders added.

"Everyone has been asking me, 'when are we doing this again?'"



Billie and Richard Dysinger, both educators with M.C. Perry, market baked goods during the station's inaugural Craft Fair Nov. 22 at the Crossroads Mall. Several agencies and organizations like M.C. Perry schools used the event to fund raise.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Utility Marines light up TCPs, gain knowledge

CPL. SHAWN COOLMAN
REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM 5

RUTBAH, Iraq — And then there was light.

Utility Marines with Support Platoon, Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5 routinely aid the platoon in construction efforts throughout the al-Anbar province.

The utility Marines with the platoon consist of two generator mechanics and two electricians who are currently supporting the platoon in the construction of two traffic control points near Rutbah, Iraq.

The Marines are providing the TCP with electricity for the future Marines and Iraqi Police who will be checking vehicles and personnel as they pass through the TCP.

"We are providing power to the (buildings) at the TCPs and the electrical wiring, including outlets, lights and air conditioning units at the TCPs," said Sgt. Alejandro R. Castellano, 37, maintenance chief, Support Platoon. "Our utilities goal out here is to provide better living conditions at the TCPs."

"The TCPs are a great addition to the city of Rutbah to help the Coalition forces and improve the safety and security of the citizens throughout the city with Marines and Iraqi Police working together," said Lance Cpl. Dmitri R. Murray, 19, an electrician with Support Platoon, from Chester, Penn., who is on his first deployment.

Including their utility duties within the platoon, the utility Marines have also helped with electrical problems at Combat Outpost Rutbah, and aided in other platoon functions.

"While here with Tango Battery 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, we have been helping with tasks and troubleshooting problems they have. We're taking advantage of our presence here," said Castellano, who is on his third deployment.

"I didn't only do my job at the TCP, but also helped out building other parts of the TCP as well," said Lance Cpl. Steven G. Aguirre, 20, electrician with Support Platoon, from Newark, N.J., who is on his first deployment. "When any section needs help, we are there to support



Lance Cpl. Dmitri R. Murray, 19, an electrician with Support Platoon, Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, fastens an electrical wire in a newly constructed building Nov. 18 near Rutbah, Iraq. Murray, along with three other utility Marines within the platoon, provides electrical and generator maintenance for the platoon as well as for RCT-5. Photo by Cpl. Shawn Coolman

them in any way we can from providing security to putting up (barriers)."

Apart from their responsibilities with the platoon, the utility Marines also support RCT-5 with electrical and generator troubleshooting at Camp Ripper.

"We support RCT-5 with all generator maintenance and electrical missions that are tasked to us. We go from wiring (buildings) to troubleshooting all types of electrical malfunctions," said Castellano, who is from Fairfax, Va. "We provide power to RCT-5's Combat Operations Center, and we have generator mechanics with our

line platoons who are doing various missions throughout the area of operations."

Castellano, who initially opted to leave the Marine Corps earlier this year, decided to re-enter active duty in order to pass on his knowledge to his junior Marines who haven't deployed before.

"All my Marines have never deployed before and that's one of the reasons I came back on active duty," said Castellano. "(I) wanted to pass on the experience I have been able to gain in the Marine Corps so they can become more proficient in the utilities field and are able to lead Marines on future deployments and become future mentors themselves."

One such Marine who volunteered for this deployment one week after completing his Military Occupational Specialty school greatly appreciates Castellano's decision to return to the utilities field.

"I have learned a lot since I have been here," said Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Kackos, 20, generator mechanic with Support Platoon, from New Franklin, Mo.

"I have had the chance to cross train as an electrician while wiring up the (buildings) and have been fortunate enough to have a great mentor, which I think has set me up to be a better leader."

The utility Marines have their hands full with responsibilities on many different fronts, but will continue to provide service that is essential to the mission of RCT-5 for the duration of their deployment.



Lance Cpl. Dmitri R. Murray, 19, an electrician with Support Platoon, Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, connects the final wire on an electrical outlet while Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Kackos, 20, a generator mechanic with Support Platoon installs a wire fastener to hold the electrical wires in place Nov. 18 near Rutbah, Iraq. The two utility Marines are wiring a newly built building inside a recently built traffic-control point built by the platoon. Photo by Cpl. Shawn Coolman



Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Kackos, 20, a generator mechanic with Support Platoon, Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, installs a wire fastener Nov. 18 in a newly constructed building built by the platoon near Rutbah, Iraq. Kackos is one of four utility Marines within the platoon who provides electrical and generator maintenance support for the platoon as well as for RCT-5. Photo by Cpl. Shawn Coolman

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Comfort and Care Packages

Marine Corps Family & Team Building will be hosting Operation Comfort and Care Packages in front of the Commissary and Crossroads. MCFTB will be providing the boxes, packing items and mailing off the packages to those deployed in the Operation Iraqi Freedom-Operation Enduring Freedom areas. Call 253-3754 for more information.

Operation Letters to Santa 2008

Bring letters with return addresses to either the Main Post Office bldg. 405 or Northside Post Office bldg. 1460. and Santa will reply to the requests.

Thanksgiving Post Office Hours

Both post offices will be closed today. Business will resume

Saturday with the normal hours.

Become a Volunteer Victim Advocate

Volunteers are specially trained men and women who provide immediate assistance to victims of spouse abuse and sexual assault. Preregistration is required by Dec. 12. Training is Dec. 15-19, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please call the Victim Advocate Coordinator at 253-4526 to register.

Community Holiday Party

Event starts Dec. 20 at the Club Iwakuni ball room at 6 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with Filipino-American Society. Attire is semi-formal/ evening dress. A four-course dinner will be served by Club Iwakuni. Activities include games, prizes and dancing. Ticket

price is \$35. The last day to buy tickets is Dec. 11. Call 253-6084 for more information.

Iwakuni Children's Holiday Party

Event runs Dec. 21st. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Marifu Park in downtown Iwakuni. Join us and spread a good dose of holiday cheer! The event is free and is open to all community members. Holiday crafts, games, yummy sweets, caroling, and so much more! Make a positive impact on lives of our host nation, be a holiday "cheer" leader! For more information or to be a volunteer, contact at 090-1012-2289 or email jackie@allenintl.com.

Breastfeeding Basics Class

Class runs 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Dec. 10. Building 411, room 222. The best start in life begins with the perfect food. This class will cover the benefits of breastfeeding and address some common questions and concerns. Learn information that will help you have a successful breastfeeding experience. Call to sign up 253-4928.

American Red Cross CPR Instructor Course

Course will be held on Dec. 2, 3 and 4 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Cost is \$100 for certification and materials. Please contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525 to sign up.

Commissary Hours

The Commissary will have a change of schedule for this coming Thanksgiving Week in order to help our Iwakuni families prepare their

holiday meals.

For the week of Nov. 23 - 29 we are open on Monday and closed on Thursday and Friday. The hours for the week are as follows: Nov. 28 closed, Nov. 29 open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For further information, please contact the commissary at 253-5586 or 253-6450.

Volunteers needed

Iwakuni Girls Scouts wants you! We offer several exciting, flexible pathways through which adults can participate in Girl Scouting. Work directly or indirectly with girls on a short-term or long-term basis, you will get all the instruction, guidance, and support that you will need to fulfill the responsibilities of your volunteer role successfully as you guide girls through the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girls Scout Hut e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com or call 253-6037/3035.

Become an American Red Cross Babysitting Instructor

Course will be held on December 9. From 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Cost is \$75 for certification and materials. Please contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525.

American Red Cross Babysitting Course

Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$40 for ages 11 and up. Call 253-4525 for more information.

"Hometown Extravaganza"

The Holiday Cheer-Leading Committee is sponsoring the 4th annual "Hometown Extravaganza." The show will kick off Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Sakura Theater. A cash prize will go to the 1st place unit. For specific details, call 253-6745.

Family Housing Office

The Family Housing Division is changing its customer service hours. Starting Nov. 10, the hours will be from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Self Help will maintain its current hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Lost and Found

Provost Marshal's Office, Lost and Found section receives many unclaimed items. If you lose something, please contact PMO at 253-5105.

Boy Scouts — 50 years of service

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.

Fine Arts Exhibit Program

As a participant in the National Fine Arts Exhibit program, the Youth & Teens Center may submit artwork in four age divisions and 10 categories, including watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylic and collage. Selected artwork will be screened at the local level and a limited number will be sent to the regional and national levels. For more information about submissions and criteria, call the Youth and Teen Center 253-5549.

Testing of the Emergency Alerting System

The Emergency Communications section at the Provost Marshal's Office will be conducting a test of the Emergency Alerting System to include the Mass Notification System Dec. 4. Areas to be affected include the Monzen housing area and Penny Lake.

Sakura Theater

Friday, Nov. 28, 2008

1 p.m. Flash of Genius (PG-13)
Premier
4 p.m. Ghost Town (PG-13)
7 p.m. Eagle Eye (PG-13)
10 p.m. Nick & Norah's (PG-13)
Premier

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008

1 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG)
4 p.m. Nick & Norah's (PG-13)
7 p.m. Quantum of Solace (PG-13)
10 p.m. Flash of Genius (PG-13)

Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008

1 p.m. Madagascar Escape 2 Africa (PG)

4 p.m. Flash of Genius (PG-13)
7 p.m. Nick & Norah's (PG-13)

Monday, Dec. 1, 2008

7 p.m. Quantum of Solace (PG-13)

Tuesday, Dec 2 2008

7 p.m. Quantum of Solace (PG-13)

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

7 p.m. Righteous Kill (R)
Last Showing

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008

7 p.m. Burn After Reading (R)
Last Showing

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

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

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

1992 Toyota Lucida

Great Family Vehicle. Seats eight, AM/FM stereo w/ CD player, tinted windows, AC works well. JCI good until May 2009. Asking \$1500, OBO. If interested or to see vehicle, please call 253-2489

1998 Nissan March

2-door teal. JCI until Feb. 2010. 85,000 kilometers, great AC/heater, CD player, non-smoker. \$2200. Call 090-6479-0317 or 080-3500-8001.

1989 Mitsubishi Pajero

Power windows, sunroof, seats seven. Heater works great, runs well. JCI due Jan. 6, 2009. \$500. For more information please call 253-2141.

Mess Hall Menu

MONDAY

Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chicken and Rice Soup, Sauerbraten, Jerk Style Chicken, Steamed Rice, Oven Browned Potatoes, French Fried Okra, Calico Cabbage, Brown Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Coconut Raisin Cookies, Double Layer Almond Cake, Chocolate Cream Pie, SPECIALTY BAR: PASTA BAR

TUESDAY

Beef Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Swiss Steak w/ Gravy, Szechwan Chicken, O'Brian Potatoes, Noodles Jefferson, French Fried Cauliflower, Broccoli, arnesan, Brown Gravy, Cheese Biscuit, Butterscotch Brownies, Apple Pie, Spice Cake w/ Butter cream Frosting, SPECIALTY BAR: TACO BAR

WEDNESDAY

Tomato Noodle Soup, Chicken and Mushroom Soup, Sweet and Sour Pork, Yakisoba (Hamburger), Fried Rice, Brussels Sprouts, Simmered Corn, Hot Dinner Rolls, Peanut Butter Cookies, Sweet Potato Pie, Whipped Topping, Coconut Cake, SPECIALTY BAR: BBQ

THURSDAY

Minestrone Soup, Cream of Broccoli Soup, Fried Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Pasta, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Okra and Tomato Gumbo, Southern Style Green Beans, Chicken Gravy, Cheese Biscuits, Devils Food Cake w/ Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pumpkin Pie, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, SPECIALTY BAR: DELI BAR

FRIDAY

Beef Barley, Spanish Soup, Lemon Baked Fish, El Rancho Stew, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Cauliflower Combo, Black Eyed Peas, Hot Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy, Fruit turnovers, Bread Pudding, Crisp Toffee Bars, Chocolate Pudding w/ Whipped Topping, SPECIALTY BARS: Southside: MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE Northside: HOTDOGS/POLISH SAUSAGE

Miscellaneous

Beaufort House for Sale

Call (home) 253-2920 or (work) 253-3993 for more information

Baby Items & Maternity Clothes for Sale

*Evenflo Aura Elite Stroller (have matching car-seat if want) - Oh So Big Design \$65.00

*Graco Snug Ride Infant Car-seat Frame \$30.00

*New Pink/White Snuzzler \$15.00

*Bobby Pillow w/ Sweet Pea Slipcover \$10.00

*AVENT Electronic Steam Sterilizer \$35.00

*The 1st Years Baby Sleep Positioner \$5.00

*Baby's Cozy World Fleece Car Seat Cover Pink \$5.00

*Safety First Back Seat Mirror with Light \$5.00

*Like-new Size M Mimi Maternity Secret Fit Belly Jean Dress Pants \$25.00

*Motherhood Black Tummy Sleeve \$10.00

*New Postpartum Support Tummy Belt \$15.00

*Gap Maternity Jeans Size 10 Roll Panel \$25.00

*Size M Motherhood Stretch Boot Cut Secret Belly Fit Jeans \$10.00

*Size M Motherhood Stretch Black Dress Pants (Secret Belly) \$10.00

*Size M Motherhood Stretch Full Belly Jeans \$5.00

*Size L Motherhood Stretch Full Belly Jeans \$5.00

E-mail maltosb@mac.com for pictures or call 080-3714-8108 for more information

PCS Sale

*Gas grill with tank - \$20

*Aquarium with turtle - \$20

*Two children's recliners - \$25 each or \$40 together

*Step 2 playhouse - \$50

*Couch & Loveseat Set - \$500

For more details, call 253-2489

Baby Items for Sale

*Must see cute Baby girl clothes. Old Navy, Gap, Osh Kosh, Carters. Size from six months to nine months

winter. 12 months to 18 months spring/summer.

Also have shoes, socks/tights, bibs, sweaters, coats.

Excellent shape, lightly worn and free of stains. Will sell individually \$5 per outfit, shoes \$3 per pair of shoes, or will negotiate a price for all.

*Pack-n-play with changing table, vibrations, music and bassinet in excellent shape, \$75. Email for pics of the pack-n-play. Contact dawn_larrabee@yahoo.com or call 253-2611

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

///Upcoming events and programs///

///Pool Tournament///

Runs from Sunday, Nov. 30 2 p.m. to Sunday, Nov. 30 6 p.m. Every Saturday, Sunday, and Holiday at 2 p.m., the Marine Lounge hosts it's weekend Pool Tournament. Saturday's are Nine Ball tournaments and Sunday's are Eight Ball tournaments. There is a five dollar entry fee. Cash prizes are awarded to First and Second places.

///Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally///

Dec. 7 at 12 p.m. — The rally is one of the most anticipated community events hosted by the Single Marine Program. This year is the 11th annual rally, in conjunction with the 11th anniversary year anniversary of the SMP. There will be a motorcycle show with trophies to the best cruiser, sport bike, paint job, Christmas decorations, etc. For more information, call 253-3585



Lieutenant Col. Matthew McCormack, station executive officer, presents Ellie Brock, a management analyst with the Continuous Process Improvement Office, with a Federal Length of Service Award at the CPIO here Nov. 19. Brock began working as an aircraft engine apprentice in 1982 in Norfolk to begin her government service and has stayed in aviation since. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Marianelli

Iwakuni youth flag football teams



Ready for action

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MARIANELLI
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Cowboys prepare for battle at the conclusion of the youth flag football season opening ceremony at Penny Lake field here Nov. 22. More than

80 children from station and Iwakuni communities are participating in the sport this season. The youth football season will run until Dec. 20.

To learn more information about becoming a youth sports coach, contact 253-3239.

BRIEFS

Basketball Camp Registration

The sign-up period is from Dec. 1 at 8 a.m. to Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. Sign up for the 2008 Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Youth Basketball Camp. The camp will be conducted inside the Ironworks Gym Sports Courts

from Dec. 27 to Dec. 31. Registration is from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15. The camp fee is \$25 per participant. The camp is for youth ages seven to 15 and is limited to the first 100 participants to sign up.

Youth Basketball Sign-up

The sign-up period is from Dec. 1 at 8 a.m. to Dec. 24 at 8 a.m. Age divisions are: 4-year-olds, 5-to-6-year-olds, 7-to-9-year-olds, 10-to-12-year-olds, 13-to-15-year-olds. The fee is \$30 per child. Cheerleaders may sign up at \$30 per child. The sign-up period remains the

same. If registering three or more children, the third child is \$25. After Dec. 24, the registration fee will be \$40. Coaches' Training will be conducted Dec. 17 and Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. in the Wellness Room at Ironworks Gym. Evaluations for 10-to-12-year-old division will be conducted Jan. 5, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sports Courts at Ironworks Gym. The season's opening ceremony will be held Jan. 19, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sports Courts at Ironworks Gym. The season's closing ceremony will be held Mar. 15, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sports Courts at Ironworks Gym.

WARRIOR CARE

SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN MILITARY WELL-BEING



OUR GREATEST ASSET: YOU

IF YOU ARE WOUNDED, ILL, OR INJURED,
WE WILL GET THROUGH IT TOGETHER.

"THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
AFTER THE WAR ITSELF, THAN CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS."

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES



THE WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE WOUNDED WARRIOR CALL CENTER: (877) 487-6299

VISIT THE WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT WEB SITE: WWW.WOUNDEDWARRIORREGIMENT.ORG

WE STAND TOGETHER

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH