

Torii Teller

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, JAPAN

JANUARY 9, 2004

Freedom rings against terrorism

JEFFREY C. DOEPP
COMNAVFOR Japan
Public Affairs

Yokosuka, Japan — Who protects the protectors? The U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service provides direct, worldwide support to Navy and Marine Corps commanders confronting a broad spectrum of threats to our sailors and Marines, their families, and the Navy's infrastructure and assets. But, they can't do it alone.

NCIS has launched an innovative program titled "Let Freedom Ring" to emphasize the need for vigilance by every member of the Japan Navy team and encourage active participation in the campaign against terrorism.

"Let Freedom Ring" is a force protection/antiterrorism program initiative aimed to encourage and enable the Navy community in Japan to report terrorist planning activities it might observe.

The program also offers opportunities for individuals to submit their perspective on law enforcement, and welcomes ideas and suggestions on how it can better serve the Naval community in Japan.

see **FREEDOM** Page 5

Meeting informs, awards

LANCE CPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

The Station Chapel was the information hub to residents of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Dec. 18 for the quarterly town hall meeting.

Col. Dave Darrah, Station commanding officer, addressed changes going on in the Station and many questions or concerns that Station residents had.

The meeting began with a surprise for family member Mel Pena who was decorated with the commanding officer's outstanding volunteer service award. Awarded by Darrah, Pena was in tears as she received the award.

According to Darrah, Pena's volunteering is "way above and beyond the call of duty."

Gunnery Sgt. Jose L. Pena, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 electrical shop staff noncommissioned officer in charge and husband of Pena, was extremely proud of his philanthropic wife. "She does do a lot of volunteer work for 212 and the community. She gives 110 percent in what she does but she feels as though it's not enough."

Still, Pena is very humble of her actions. "I'm not the only one volunteering." She feels as though it is natural to help in the community you reside in.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Tears of joy run down Mel Pena's cheek as she accepts an award given to her by Col. Dave Darrah at the start of the town hall meeting.

Pena is heavily involved in the boy scouts, VMFA-212 functions and parties and is an avid helper in the community.

Several briefs regarding on-Station living went on after the award reception.

The first issue discussed was Internet services. There are many complaints regarding the speed of connection. The only resolution was the Station is on the verge of going wireless. The Station is a "victim" of the infrastructure but it is currently in negotiations on getting faster service.

One of the last discussions was the need of employees for Marine Corps

Community Services establishments. There are a lot of positions available for family members and service members. The lack of on-Station employees means less money for activities sponsored by MCCA, according to Dale D. Smith, MCCA director.

Before the evening began, the attendants of the town hall meeting wrote and submitted questions that were answered by Darrah concluding the meeting. Darrah opened the floor for suggestions and questions that he would answer then and there for all.

Emotions ran high while topics such as health and the allowance of children at the child development center were discussed. They were all matters that, if not then, would later find a resolution. A complete list of questions and answers can be found under the feedback link at www.iwakuni.usmc.mil.

The town hall meeting answered several questions for Station residents, discussed new developments, and acknowledged a volunteer's unselfish acts.

INSIDE

Service members given say in pay Survey will help determine housing allowances for those living off the Air Station. **Page 3**

Stars shining in Iwakuni

Television and movie stars leave glitz of Hollywood to spend time with Iwakuni's Sailors and Marines. **Page 8**

IWAKUNI WEATHER



Today
Showers
High: 52



Saturday
Showers
High: 52



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High: 48

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Avengers return to Iwakuni community

LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Marine Attack Squadron 211 (VMA-211) arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Wednesday for their six-month tour under the Unit Deployment Program.

The Wake Island Avengers are coming here from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and come prepared with six aircraft and approximately 120 Marines from the squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13. This marks the second time in two years that they have been deployed to Iwakuni.

The Avengers replaced Marine Attack Squadron 231 Ace of Spades and hope to pick up where they left off.

The Marine Attack Squadron's primary mission while on Station will be to provide support for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

During their six-month deployment, VMA-211 will be training with the 31st MEU and interacting with the USS Essex, said Lt. Col. Robert Kuckuk, operations officer.

"This is an exciting opportunity to be able to come to Japan and support the MEU," added Kuckuk. "There is valu-



File photo

Avengers return to Iwakuni with six AV-8B Harriers and approximately 120 Marines.

able training to be done for the squadron here in Japan." Besides training and supporting the 31st MEU, the UDP provides opportunities to explore a country with a different culture and customs.

"This is my second time being to Iwakuni and I am excited to be here again," said Cpl. David A. Baker, avionics technician with VMA-211. "This is the first time with this unit and I'm looking forward to new experiences. While here I am looking forward to going out in town and visiting different tourist attractions," added Baker.

In addition to those that have been here before VMA-211 also comes equipped with first timers to the Western Pacific Region. Cpl. Jesse Gleason, S-6 computer technician added that Hiroshima and the Hiroshima Peace Park have been highly recommended by many on Station. He is looking forward to witnessing the unique experience.



Torii Teller

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The *Torii Teller* welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to mclaren np@iwakuni.usmc.mil or dillardcs@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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Machines OK; look to parenting

LISA GARBER
Letter to the Editor

In response to the article concerning Japanese cigarette machines such as those out by the Soba Shop (Vending machines aid lawbreakers, Nov. 21, 2003) and the effect they have on base-resident minors, I must ask Ms. Gibbs, as a fellow teenager, to allow me to paraphrase the article in just one simple statement: "as responsible citizens of MCAS Iwakuni, we must sabotage the rights of others to make up for the failures of parents to properly mind their children."

Indeed, as Ms. Gibbs has pointed out, the machines stand unattended by authorities, making them painfully open to teenage use. However prone young adults are to performing illicit acts, the machines were put there for adult use, and teenagers have the responsibility of not being tempted by their existence, which brings up the parental issue. Parents, in turn, have the responsibility of raising their

children and to continue raising them through the difficult teen years to have that sort of sense of responsibility. If a young adult goes about doing unlawful things under the very noses of their parents, and nothing is done about it, then the problem does not lie in base regulations but within the family.

It has also come to my attention that several parents on this base complain to the authoritative figures that the base policy allows the "bad kids" to remain the "bad kids." Of course, such parents don't take the initiative of taking upon their own set of rules for the family to abide by instead of demanding that the base commander baby-sit their children. Exactly who are the parents here: them or Col. Darrah? Since when are blood relations exempt from their parental duties just because they have a job or other commitments? Do people just not think about these things before they have kids, anymore?

Certainly, raising children is no picnic; I myself have yet to have a go

at it. But my parents have apparently succeeded in my case; they care about what I do, where I go, whether I smell like alcohol or tobacco when I come home, and all without being overwhelming or my shadow. Moreover, a certain amount of trust should lie between parent and child, and if a family cannot handle a safe, healthy, legal life on this tiny little base through some reliance and responsibility, the quandary is in the home and not the cigarette machines.

I'll admit the issue might be subdued were the machines taken inside where the buyers would have to present ID, but to take them away completely would be ridiculous (the Japanese wouldn't be too pleased, either). The flaws of a few shouldn't have to ruin things for others.

It is a liberal, generous, thought to save the teenagers from self-inflicted harm, but however noble the intent, this is far from solving the problem, and we all know where the problem lies now.

Suicide prevention a concern for every leader

MCB QUANTICO VA. — A popular misconception held by many Marines is that more suicides happen during the holiday season than at any other time of year. Statistically, over the past twenty years, the Marine Corps has seen the highest rates of suicide in January. January can bring serious financial burden and feelings of isolation.

As of the beginning of December, there were 19 suicides in the year 2003. This is a decrease from 20 at the same time in 2002 and 27 at the same time in 2001. Although the trend is down due to diligence in prevention efforts, Marines and sailors still need to be aware of the warning signs of suicide. The life of every service member is critical and we must take the issue of suicide seriously.

"Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the Corps" according to Cmdr. Tom Gaskin, Headquarters Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Manager. Although the U.S. Military has a lower rate of suicides than the civilian population, the Marine Corps has a rate somewhat higher than the other armed forces. One contributing factor to the Marine Corps' rate may be the Corps population demographics. The Corps has greatest numbers of unmarried males in the 19-24 age range, one of the most at-risk groups for suicide.

"In the Marine Corps, the biggest risk factors for those that ended their life was a relationship problem, typically the loss of an important relationship. Other significant risk factors were work, financial, and legal problems," said Gaskin.

Most suicides occur among junior enlisted Caucasian males. However, there has been a slight increase in suicides among females and African-American males. In the first 11 months of 2003, five of the 19 completed suicides occurred among the ranks of E-7 and above. Ultimately, there isn't one military occupational specialty, racial group, or age group that is less at risk than another, Gaskin said.

He explained, "suicide is something that can happen to anybody. The most important issue we try to stress to commands is to create a climate where Marines feel that it is OK to get help for their problems. We want to see the number of suicides in the Marine Corps decline, but for this

to happen, commands need to take all comments about suicide seriously and get the person in for a mental health evaluation. A mental health professional can assess the seriousness/and risk associated with the suicidal statements or behavior."

Gaskin continued, "It's not unusual for most people to have occasional vague suicidal thoughts, but they don't see it as even a remotely serious option. The difference with suicidal people is that although they may desperately want to live at some level, they are temporarily unable to see ways to escape their problems other than by suicide. Once the person is evaluated by a professional, he or she can be referred for help through the crisis. These services might include continuing mental health counseling, talking to the chaplain, financial counseling, substance abuse counseling, etc. Suicide is preventable."

Suicide prevention is the concern of every leader, every Marine, every day. If you know of someone who is struggling, bring it to the attention of someone who can help. There are many resources available to Marines including the Mental Health Department of Naval hospitals and clinics, the counselors at the Marine Corps Personal Services Programs, and chaplains.

Some of the warning signs of suicide are extreme hopelessness, increased anxiety, talking about suicide or prior suicide attempts, irritability or anger, and withdrawing from friends and family. Nearly 80 percent of all suicide victims show some or all of the warning signs before attempting suicide.

"It is very hard for someone who is experiencing difficult times to reach out and ask for help. This is especially true in the military culture, where there may be fear of retribution or a perception of weakness," Gaskin explained.

He added, "if you see or hear suicidal behavior or comments, take them seriously. If a Marine makes suicidal statements or attempts to harm him/herself, they need to be seen by a medical professional immediately. Sometimes

Service members given say in pay

STAFF SGT. NICHOLAS MCLAREN
Press Chief

Service members who reside off Station in privately leased quarters are being asked to participate in the Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Move in Housing Allowance survey.

The survey is available online until Jan. 31, and the results will help determine future OHA and MIHA entitlements for the area.

Traditionally, the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee survey has been delivered by mail to solicit responses from just a sample of service members living in overseas communities. Because many service members felt that their utility and move-in expenses were not considered when the rates were calculated, this year, through the Internet, the survey is being made available to all service members who live in privately leased housing and receive OHA. The survey is not applicable to DoD civilians.

"In the past they would send a hard copy and many times the folks would not fill it out. The Internet has made it a lot faster and a lot more accurate," said David Naseer, assistant Station inspector.

The questionnaire will be similar to previous years. To properly complete the surveys, the service members should compile their actual bills or records of utility expenses and maintenance expenses for the past 12 months.

"The survey will take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour depending on how detailed they get. We are recommending they fill it out with their spouse," Naseer said. "We are asking for 100 percent participation. Folks also need to know they do not have to be computer savvy. It is real simple."

The service members will be expected to compute a monthly average for these expenses. For the MIHA portion of the survey, actual move in expenses should be reported. "Sometimes you want to change the tatami mats or the door locks," said Naseer citing some examples of move-in expenses. "We've had cases in the past where people move in with their own washing machines. Switching to our three prong outlet is a pretty big expense, but they can list that."

"The survey will ask you to provide your Social Security number. This is voluntary, but without your SSN the cost data you provide may not be considered," said William J. Carr, acting chairman of the Per

Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee, in a memo to all survey participants. "Once you have completed the survey, your responses will be held in strictest confidence."

"DoD is giving service members an opportunity to affect the OHA and I really think they should take advantage of the opportunity. They should really take their time with this because it will directly impact their OHA allowance," Naseer said.

"Remember that valid utility and move-in allowances depend on your participation in this survey. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation."

Items included in the MIHA portion of the survey that should be reported:

Major appliances; utility hookup charges; security/safety items; initial services and fees; miscellaneous items (cabinets and shelves; sinks or tub or toilet seats; curtain or shower rods; floor coverings, permanent light fixtures, wardrobes, screens, futons); transformers and voltage regulators.

Fight against tyranny earns honor, praise

DONALD H. RUMSFELD
Secretary of Defense

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate each man and woman in America's armed forces for the honor of being named this year's "Person of the Year" by "Time" magazine. It is an honor you have earned not only this day, or this year, but throughout your volunteer service.

Ever since the minutemen first mustered to America's defense in the early days of our nation, America's fighting forces have stood ready, at a moment's notice, to defend the lives and liberties of our citizens whenever and however they were threatened.

Through two world wars, and dozens of smaller conflicts, the American soldier has never foundered and has carried the light of liberty to millions who suffered under countless tyrants and dictators.

During the long, cold struggle against communism, U.S. Forces, with our stalwart allies, were the watchmen who stood sentry on the frontiers of freedom — until freedom prevailed, and communism collapsed under the weight of its tyranny.

With this new century have come new battles in a new kind of war — the global war against terrorism. And again, America's fighting forces are at the front — taking the war to the terrorists and bringing freedom to millions who, for decades, had lived in fear. What remarkable feats you have accomplished since this war began: two nations liberated from brutality and oppression; 50 million people freed to live out their futures without fear; many senior Al Qaeda operatives captured or killed; and terrorist cells discovered and dismantled.

Last holiday season, the Iraqi people suffered under the boot of a brutal dictator who murdered innocent citizens.

Today, thanks to you, that same dictator — found cowering in a hole of his own making — now awaits justice for his heinous crimes.

Each of you helped make that possible. And in so doing, you have made every American proud of who you are and what you do for all of us every day.

Time magazine called you the "face of America, its

might and good will," — and that you are. You are also the face of America's determination to stop the new tyranny of terrorism. And that you will do, because in addition to all that is new — new threats and challenges, a new mission, a new way of fighting, new technologies, and a new kind of war — you bring to the fight the oldest of virtues: honor, integrity, courage, dignity, and discipline.

September 11, 2001 ushered in a new era, but the world still looks to America for leadership and strength. As our commander-in-chief, President Bush, said when this war began, "If America wavers, the world will lose heart. If America leads, the world will show courage."

I know that America will not waver. I know this because you represent America's heart and America's courage.

You stand, as you have always done, on the front line between freedom and fear. And you are doing a magnificent job. The American people are properly proud of you.

There will likely come a day when terrorists can little threaten the world; when nations no longer harbor or support them, because the price for doing so has become too high; when terrorism as a method of waging war or oppressing a people has been as thoroughly discredited as we have seen slavery and piracy discredited.

And while we are not there yet, and we may never be there completely and finally, we are making giant steps forward — thanks to your determination and your courage.

Each of you has paid a personal price. Some of your comrades have made the ultimate sacrifice. For all you are and for all you do, you have the thanks of a nation, which is proud of your service and grateful for your sacrifice.

To all of you stationed far from home and loved ones this holiday season; know that our hearts and prayers are with each of you and with your families, who also sacrifice.

Congratulations on the well-deserved honor of being named person of the year! You deserve it. May God bless you and keep you safe, and God bless America.

NEWS BRIEFS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

A Martin Luther King Jr. celebration luncheon will be at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom, Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The guest speaker is Jacquelynn Lewis. The luncheon is served buffet style, and costs \$5.50. Call Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Wimbush at 253-3371 for details.

BABY SITTERS COURSE

The American Red Cross will hold a new baby sitters course. Participants should be 11 years old and up. Course cost is \$25, which includes manual, bag and basic CPR instruction. Class is scheduled Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the American Red Cross at 253-4525 for more information. Space is limited.

MONITORS VISIT

Headquarters Marine Corps assignment monitors will visit the Air Station Wednesday and Thursday in the social hall room of the Station Chapel. The monitors will be available after 1 p.m. on Wednesday and between 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday.

STATION COMPUTER USE

All Station personnel are reminded to turn off computer monitors at night and leave the computers running.

Stars shining in Iwakuni

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. DAVE BONI
Combat Correspondent

The Station rolled out the red carpet for some Hollywood stars wishing to spread a little holiday cheer to service members serving overseas during a United Service Organizations tour Dec. 29.

During the two-day visit, television and movie stars Dennis Farina, Sherri Saum, Bill Brochtrup and Kamar De Los Reyes made their way around the Station to meet and greet some of their starstruck fans.

"We saved Iwakuni as our last stop on the USO tour because we wanted to save the best for last and the Marines here have shown their reputation precedes them," said Farina who has been in such box office hits as "Snatch", "Midnight Run" and "Saving Private Ryan".

While visiting Marines and Sailors here, Farina and his Hollywood pals were given a tour of the American Forces Network, where they told those listening over the airwaves what their plans for the day would be.

"After we left AFN we went over to the Crossroads to have a meet and greet session and take pictures and sign autographs with everyone over there," said Saum. Saum has been most recently seen on TV's "One Life To Live" soap opera, which also



Movie star Dennis Farina shakes hands with local fans during a visit to the Station Dec. 29.

stars Reyes.

After the visit to the Crossroads the USO tour ventured out to the flight line to meet Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 and learn a few of the purposes the Station serves. The Hollywood stars finished their tour with a stop at the South Side Chow Hall where they would once again take pictures and sign autographs.

"Just being around the Marines here I know America is in very good hands and my heart just goes out to everyone who makes the sacrifice to join the military," said Brochtrup who stars on "NYPD Blue."

The USO guest's warm wishes were not fallen on deaf ears as service members here appreciated the effort

made their way.

"We all know how long of a trip it is to come here, and to think they took the time out of their busy schedules just to wish us happy holidays is a very heart warming," said Master Sgt. Eric Krieves. "It's like an extra Christmas gift for me and my family."



The USO tour brought Station residents an extra gift for Christmas as they got to hang out with some of their favorite movie and television stars.



Sherri Saum and Kamar De Los Reyes spend their afternoon here signing autographs and taking pictures with fans.

SUICIDE from Page 2

sending a Marine to see a chaplain isn't enough. Leaders should escort the Marine to the base, branch medical, or Naval hospital. A mental health professional will evaluate the seriousness of the situation and get them the immediate help they need."

In 1999 the Navy and Marine Corps began tracking suicides using the Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report (DONSIR) in an effort to understand the trends in suicide. Based on information from the DONSIR, a training program was developed to educate Marines and Sailors on suicide prevention techniques. The training kit, "Suicide Prevention: Taking Action, Saving Lives," is designed so that any leader can give the presentation. The kit includes an 18-minute video with real life scenarios on a wide variety of issues including a Marine in distress after being passed over for promotion and another whose relationship has recently ended. It also includes a suggested lecture, transparencies, and answers to frequently asked questions about suicide.

The kits were originally distributed in

October 2000, but additional kits can be ordered at http://www.usmc-mccs.org/perssvc/prevent/suicide_howto.asp. Follow the links and request PIN #806377. A second Navy video is now available, and may be helpful for Marines as well. The video, "Suicide Awareness: Making the Critical Decision" can be ordered free of charge through the Defense Visual Information Website at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil> through the DAVIS/DITIS search option, using PIN #806677.

Gaskin said, "training resources give us important information regarding suicide awareness, but there is no substitute for the role of the individual Marine or commander in preventing suicide. Listening, watching for "red flags", offering help, and knowing your resources will help your fellow Marines in their time of need."

Cmdr. Gaskin is the Suicide Prevention Program Manager at Headquarters Marine Corps. He can be contacted for further information regarding suicide prevention in the Marine Corps at (703)784-9435 or via e-mail at gaskinta@manpower.usmc.mil.

Nonjudicial Punishment

A lance corporal with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 was found guilty of violating the following articles of Uniformed Code of Military Justice:

Article 92, failure to obey order or regulation, by knowingly and willfully escorting an unauthorized guest on base.

Article 92, failure to obey order and regulation, by knowingly and willfully leaving the Air Station while on restriction.

Article 134, false or unauthorized pass offenses, by producing a false identification card for the unauthorized guest to gain access to MCAS Iwakuni.

Article 134, impersonating a noncommissioned officer, in that the Marine did wrongfully and willfully impersonate a NCO so as to escort a female off base without a liberty buddy.

Article 134, soliciting another to commit an offense, by wrongfully soliciting another Marine to sign on and escort an unauthorized guest, knowing that the guest is banned and restricted from entering MCAS Iwakuni.

The Marine was reduced to the rank of private first class, awarded forfeiture of 1/2 month's pay for 2 months and assigned to 29 days in the Correction Custody Unit.

Water purification Marines put to test

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

The Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 utilities platoon could one day hold the lives of everyone aboard the Station in their hands. Water management is their area of expertise, the substance most vital to human survival. That expertise was put to the test during a water purification exercise.

The exercise involved pulling mass quantities of water from Penny Lake and purifying it. The purpose was not only to test the equipment, but also the Marines operating it.

"We're here to get some training; some hands-on experience," said Lance Cpl. Daniel A. SantosJavier, hygiene equipment operator. "We need to maintain this equipment in preparation for the worst."

"We are tasked with providing water support to the station in the event of a major disaster," said 2nd Lt. Taylor Buff, utilities platoon commander. "Our Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPUs) are capable of purifying salt water or even water that has been contaminated with nuclear biological chemical agents. My Marines would set up a water distribution point and would also be able to provide showers."

For the exercise, the water was pulled from the lake into three thousand-gallon holding tanks, said Lance Cpl. Matthew Travis, hygiene equipment operator. The water is put through the wringer, processing through at a continuous rate of about 12 gallons. All the air and dirt is pushed out, and the water is filtered through a series of pumps. The end result is clean water.

A total dissolved solids meter determines how clean the water is.

"The water we pump through the ROWPU is more purified than the bottled water you buy at the store," said Travis.

"Each ROWPU can produce about 600 gallons per hour and can run for 20 hours before stopping for a four-hour maintenance period," said Buff. "In the event of an emergency, we would have to



Pfc. Ryan Murphy drains water from a depleted holding tank. The holding tank is capable of retaining 3,000 gallons of water.



Pfc. Tseten D. Lama uses the total dissolved solids meter to determine the purity of the water.

produce about 75,000 gallons for people that reside aboard the air base."

"We've taken out individual units, but we've never taken all the units out here," said Travis. "We've learned a lot from this exercise. We know

the little things we have to do to the ROWPUs to keep them in tip-top condition."

"In a real-life combat situation, we are more prepared," said SantosJavier. "We learn how to run it in school, but not how to maintain it."

The expertise of these Marines could mean the difference between life and death in many situations.

"Other than our responsibility to the Station, these Marines deploy several times a year to provide water support at numerous locations," said Buff. "In March, some of the Marines will deploy to Foal Eagle and provide potable water, showers, and laundry for nearly one thousand Marines. Training events, such as what we have done this week, provide an opportunity to exercise and improve their technical skills and proficiency."

The Hygiene equipment Marines take pride in their knowledge and expertise.

"When we're in the field, we're the man," quipped SantosJavier. "There's no mission without my water. We've got a lot of people to support."

FREEDOM from Page 1

"Just because we are stationed overseas in one of the safest countries in the world doesn't mean we don't need to be aware and on the look out for unusual or suspicious activities," said Mary Caul, assistant special agent in charge, NCIS Far East Field Office in Yokosuka.

NCIS special agents work closely with local law enforcement agencies around the world.

They collect and analyze information about potential threats posed by terror-

ists and advise military commanders on how to protect the military community against such threats.

In addition, they investigate acts of espionage, sabotage, and other select security violations.

As part of the Force Protection team, everyone on the Japan Navy team — active duty, civilians, family members — plays a vital role in the anti-terror campaign by staying aware and alert to your surroundings and keeping Security Personnel informed of suspicious and unusual incidents.

NCIS points to a few examples of

suspicious behavior to be aware of are: People monitoring activities to include the flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic on our bases; People inquiring about base access, security procedures and ship deployments and schedules; People who gain access to base by illegal means.

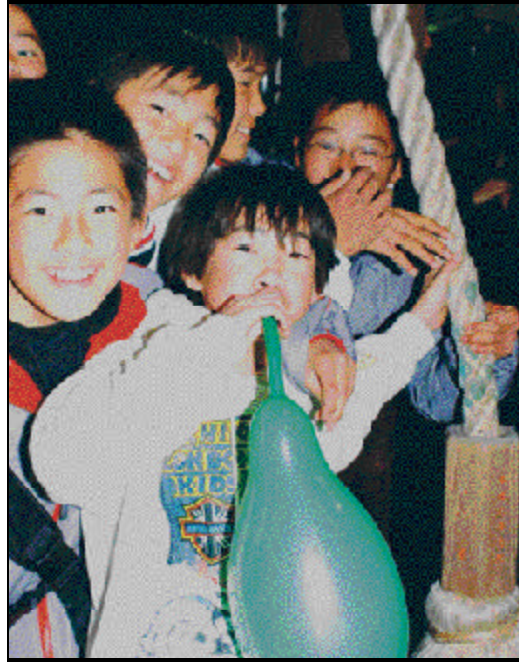
The "Let Freedom Ring" program encourages reporting of suspicious behavior. Report any criminal, unusual or suspicious activity to your local NCIS field office or to your base security department.

Besides investigating each report,

NCIS will share the information with other security and intelligence community platforms for a better perspective on what more can be done.

"Both local base security forces and the Naval Intelligence community are actively involved with this program," Caul explained. "Their participation is crucial to making this work at the installation level."

For more information about the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, please check out the website at: www.ncis.navy.mil



Visiting the shrine is a festive as well as a reverent event.



Despite the long line of visitors, everyone gets a chance to make their presence known.



At the stroke of midnight, hundreds of balloons fill the Iwakuni sky. Re



Ringling the bell in front of the shrine gets the attention of the gods as petitioners make their request.



At individual shrines, petitioners offer money, ring a small bell, clap their hands and bow. Showing proper respect, they make their wish.

Shogatsu

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Dec. 31, 2003, 11:59 p.m. — over a thousand Iwakuni residents gather in the chill, winter night at the Shirasaki Hachiman gu shrine. Bells from a nearby Buddhist temple infuse the air with ceremony and anticipation. The crowd won't be watching a ball drop, nor are they gathered for fireworks. They are assembled to offer prayers and make wishes during their most important holiday of the year.

According to Yoko Seo, the Station culture instructor, gatherings like this occur throughout Japan every "Shogatsu" (New Year). The holiday actually began Dec. 31 and ended Jan. 3. Typically, most businesses shut down and families and friends gather together. Each year in Japan is traditionally viewed as completely separate, with Shogatsu providing a fresh start. All duties are ideally completed before the end of the year, and "bonenkai" parties (year forget-

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For the visit, many friends and families enjoy ringing the bell together.



Shrines throughout the Shirasaki Hachiman gu courtyard such as the Genghis gu (sword shrine) offer a chance to pray to various deities.

ringin' in new year

with the theme of worries and

s are eaten evening to ensure ity. The noodles "soba" (buck-sing the year). represents living on, said Seo.

es on, families the local Shinto ie New Year. At t temples toll bells, summon-

t a temple on uddhist tradi- are rung 108 g to Buddhism, me desires, r, and suspi- ie bells toll 108 themselves of l of the year."

cast the centers us major shrines d show the

ringing of the massive bells at famous temples.

At the local shrines where people can get close to the entrance, people toss their offering into the offertory box, pull the cord attached to the bell hanging from the rafter in front of the box, then clap their hands and pray, making petition for their New Year.

"The bell ringing and the clapping are actions to let Kami (God) know the presence of a worshipper," said Seo. "After presenting offerings or throwing coins into an offering box placed in front of the alter, one bows twice deeply, then claps the hands twice. To make a sound is considered in Shinto tradition one way of communication with Kami. After that, one more bow should be followed, and the ritual of showing reverence to Kami is over. Repetition of bowing and clapping is an expression of deep reverence and a sincere mind of the worshipper."

Before going home, the visitor to the shrine might buy an amulet for good luck or other charm such as an

arrow, which symbolizes hitting the mark, said Seo. The charms are usually good for a year and there are places in the shrine compound to deposit the old charms from the year past, which are ceremoniously burned after the New Year's season.

The Japanese people really appreciate ceremony, said Seo, especially the beginning and the ending of something. Awakening before sunrise on Jan. 1 is considered important, as viewing the first sunrise of the year is thought to be a good and proper start for the New Year. Again, the T.V. networks which have been broadcasting continuously throughout the night, show pictures of the first sunrise breaking at various locations in Japan.

"Shogatsu is very important for Japanese people," said Seo. "There is a Japanese saying, 'Plan the year ahead on New Year's Day.' It is the time to make new year resolutions and enjoy family reunions because Shogatsu serves to punctuate life with an annual beginning and end."



A Shinto priest uses the oonusa to bless those given homage at the Shirasaki Hachiman gu shrine. The priest waves the ceremonial device over the heads of worshippers as a purification ritual.

Hanging out in Hiroshima

GUNNERY SGT. M.A. ZEID
USMC Reserves

For those who have limited budgets, finding things to do in Japan is becoming a real challenge. Well, here are some ideas to make that yen stretch further, especially for those who wish to spend time in Hiroshima.

The first way to save money is by taking the train. Parking in Hiroshima quite expensive and unless many of you are traveling together, the train will be cheaper in the long run. Also, getting off at Nishi Hiroshima Station instead of Hiroshima Station will save a bit of money. The cost of a ticket to Nishi Hiroshima is 650 yen instead of 740 yen for a ticket to Hiroshima. Since the streetcars go from Nishi Hiroshima (it's called Koi Station for the streetcars) to downtown, there is no problem with getting around. This is a round-trip savings of 180 yen. Not much, but every little bit helps.

Unless you are very familiar with Hiroshima City, your first stop should be the International Lounge in Peace Memorial Park. It's on the first floor of the convention center, the building just west of the Peace Memorial Museum. There are free maps of the city and lots of information on events taking place in the Hiroshima area. They have this information in English and free to the public.

Most people fail to realize is there are lots of free things to do in Hiroshima City. One place to check out is Hiroshima Castle and Chuo Park. Almost every weekend there is something happening which is free and open to the public. Also, Gokoku Shrine is on the castle grounds, and it's a wonderful place to see Japanese people enjoying many of the annual events such as New Year's. In addition, behind the baseball stadium is another venue for many festivals and events. Again, these events take place several times each month.

During the holiday season, a walk down Peace Boulevard (heading east from Peace Park) treated visitors to a spectacular light show. While Christmas is not celebrated by many in this country, the season's decorations from the ANA Hotel to Ekimae Street were a big attraction to residents.

Another free spot is Fukuro Machi Elementary School Peace Museum. This small museum is a monument to the children and residents of Hiroshima City after the atomic bombing on August 6th, 1945. The school served as an aid station and many people would leave messages on the walls



Lance Cpl. David Revere

The "A-Bomb Dome" stands in the Peace Memorial Park as a solemn reminder of history's first atomic bombing.

trying to contact their families. The history of the school and what role it served after the bombing is well illustrated. The best part is everything is in Japanese and English.

To find this place, the easiest way is to walk down Hondori Shopping Arcade (going east - away from Peace Park) until you reach Anderson's Bakery. Turn right there and go past Daiei and the Starbucks on the left. About 50 meters after Starbucks, you will see a small building with a copper marker in front of it. This is the museum.



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Immense shopping centers abound throughout Hiroshima, like this one in the downtown vicinity.

As you can see, there are ways to see Japan with spending very much. So you just ran out of excuses for staying in the barracks. Get and enjoy Japan.

OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

"Couple & Twins" Art Exhibition

Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art holds a special exhibition of its collection until Jan. 25. Artworks are displayed in pairs in order to be compared and contrasted each other by the visitors. Admission fee is required. For details call 082-264-1121.

Ochamori Hatsugama Tea Ceremony

This green tea ceremony will be held at Tokujuji Temple on Miyajima island, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At this "hatsugama", the first tea ceremony of the year, they serve green tea using bowls whose diameter is almost one foot long. Admission fee is required. Call 0829-44-2061 for more information.

New Year Orchid Exhibition

This exhibition will take a place Sunday to Monday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sinfonia Iwakuni exhibition hall.

Nearly 300 plants consist of approximately 10 kinds of orchids will be displayed. The admission is free. Call 32-2823 for more information.

Dolls And Lacquer Works Display

There will be a display of 46 pieces of Japanese dolls, including Hina dolls, and lacquer works such as a screen and makeup equipment at Kikkawa Museum near the Kintai bridge until March 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It closes every Wednesday. Most dolls are 50-80 years old. Admission fee is required. Call 41-1010 for details.



TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-priority

basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

AUTOMOBILES

Honda Legend, 1991, coupe, red 3 liter V6, non-smoker, new spark plug, air cleaner, tune-up, leather, low km, excellent, JCI until July 2005, \$2,700. Call Cpl. Metzler at 09064355734.

Honda Ascot, 1997, sedan, must sell, A/C, auto, new Pioneer speakers, new Kenwood head unit, new paint job, red, 53,000 km, JCI until July 2004, \$3,500 obo. Call Frederick Johns at 253-4367 dwh or 30-5877 awh.

Mitsubishi RVR, 1994, mid size, must sell, A/C, auto, new CD player, blue, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$2,400 obo. Call Frederick Johns

at 253-4367 dwh or 30-5877 awh.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., wood entertainment center, \$80 obo, Sony 300 disc DVD player, \$230 obo, coffee table and 2 end tables, \$50 obo. Call Melissa at 253-2056.

Misc., wooden rocking chair with cushion and step stool, excellent condition, \$65; Peg Perego single stroller, used for one year, \$50, baby bassinet and other misc. baby items. Call Heidi Hayes at 253-2202.

Misc., Barebones PC, Pentium 4 processor at 2.4 GHz, MSI motherboard, 512 MB Corsair DDR

SDRAM, 128 MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce4 AGP video card, 40GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive 7200 RPM, Toshiba DVD-ROM/CR-RM combo drive, keyboard and mouse included, no monitor, no operating system, \$550. Call Phillip Grant at 09016810866.

Misc., Japanese style washer with spin basket, works great, not fully automatic, \$50 obo; Japanese kerosene heaters, two each, \$45 obo each. Call Beth Davis at 253-4526 dwh or 31-8459 awh.

Misc., new off-road motorcycle tire, size 110/100-18, \$65; new weight lifting straps, \$5 per pair; Denon DCM-350 5-disk

CD player, \$40; Boston acoustics T-1000 speakers, \$500 per pair. Call Mark Parsons at 253-5487 dwh or 09052662270.

Misc., 7-month-old female, pure bred chocolate lab, has papers, good hips and up to date on shots, \$500. Call Jan at 253-2996.

WANTED

Looking to buy a twin size bed frame, and a baby exersaucer or walker. Call Katie at 253-2577.

JOB OPENINGS

Troop 77, for boys aged 11-18-years-old, needs a new Troop Committee Chairman for annual re-chartering in Jan. The term

of office starts March 1. If you are interested in this position or in serving as a Merit Badge Counselor, call Mary Jane Johnson at 253-2557 or Don Albia at 253-4561.

CHRO (253-6828)

MCCS:
-Child Development Program Administrator
-Supervisory Librarian
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist
-Career Resource Program Manager

Facilities:

-Interdisciplinary Engineer
-Environmental Protection Specialist

DECA:

-Sales Store Checker (Student Temporary Employment Program)
-Store Worker (Intermittent)

MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

MCCS Job Listing:

-Store Worker Leader
-Procurement Assistant
-Basic Replenishment Clerk
-Material Handler
-Material Handler Sup.
-Catering Manager
-Food Court Assit. Manager
-Library Technician
-Program Leader
-Operation Assistant
-Personnel Officer
-Accounting Technician
Continuously Open Jobs

Retail Branch:


-Senior Sales Associate
-Retail Operations Assistant
-Sales Clerk
-Store Worker
-Laborer

Food & Hospitality:

-Food Service Worker
-Club OPS Assistant
-ID Checker
-Waiter/Waitress
-Food Service Worker

Services Branch:

-Retail OPS Assistant
-Car Rental/Serv. Station Attd
-Car/Washer/Laborer
-Rec. Attendant



MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. All For Love (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Crazy In Alabama (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Future Sport (R)
2 a.m. The Beach (R)

SATURDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. Little Mermaid (G)
2 p.m./8 p.m. A.I. (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Jeepers Creepers (R)
2 a.m. 15 Minutes (R)

SUNDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. The Nephew (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Down Periscope (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Beautiful Joe (R)
2 a.m. 28 Days (R)


MONDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. Return To Me (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Stealing Harvard (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Clear And Present Danger (PG-13)
2 a.m. Being John Malkovich (R)

TUESDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. Signs (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Pay It Forward (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Happy Gilmore (R)
2 a.m. Amistad (R)

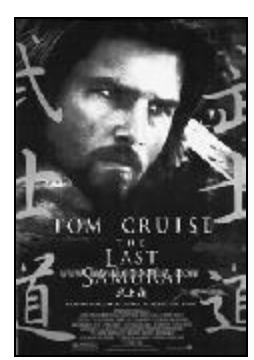
WEDNESDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. Dinosaur (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Johnny English (PG)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Midnight Run (R)
2 a.m. Bone Collector (R)

THURSDAY
11 a.m./5 p.m. Charlotte Gray (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. About A Boy (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Wild Things (R)
2 a.m. The Best Man (R)


SAKURA THEATER



KILL BILL
Uma Thurman is going to KILL BILL, in Quentin Tarantino's latest film about a former assassin betrayed by her boss, Bill (David Carradine). Four years after surviving a bullet in the head, the bride (Thurman) emerges from a coma and swears revenge on her former master and his deadly squad of international assassins, played by Lucy Liu, Daryl Hannah, Vivica A. Fox and Michael Madsen (110 minutes).



THE LAST SAMURAI
This film depicts the beginnings of the modernization of Japan, as the island nation evolved past a feudal society, as symbolized by the eradication of the samurai way of life. We see all this happen from the point of view of an alcoholic Civil War veteran turned Winchester guns spokesman, Captain Woodrow Algren, who arrives in Japan to train the troops of the emperor, Meiji, as part of a break away from the long-held tradition of relying on employed samurai warriors to protect territories (144 minutes).



RADIO
This is the decades-long story of the relationship between a prominent high school football coach in a small South Carolina town and the illiterate, mentally-challenged man nicknamed Radio whom he mentors. Although their friendship raises some eyebrows at first, Radio's growth under the coach's guidance ultimately inspires the local townsfolk (109 minutes).

FRIDAY
7 p.m. Radio (PG)
10 p.m. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)

SATURDAY
1 p.m. The Haunted Mansion (PG)
4 p.m. Good Boy (PG)
7 p.m. Kill Bill (R)
10 p.m. The Last Samurai (R)

SUNDAY
4 p.m. Haunted Mansion (PG)
7 p.m. The Last Samurai (R)

MONDAY
7 p.m. Beyond Borders (R)

TUESDAY
7 p.m. Kill Bill (R)

WEDNESDAY
7 p.m. Radio (PG)

THURSDAY
7 p.m. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. For show times call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule

Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST

January 21 - ACT

January 22 - SAT

January 26 - EDPT, DLAB

January 28 - DLPT

January 29 - AFCT

For more information call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training

■ **Position Classification/Management Training for Managers and Supervisors:** Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Family Member Local Employment Orientation:** Jan. 20, 8-9 a.m.

■ **RESUMIX Training:** Jan. 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

■ **Outbound Family Member Priority Placement Program Brief:** Jan. 20, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

■ **New Employees Orientation:** Jan. 21-22, 8 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp. @iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at the Building 1, Room 102.

MCCS

CRMC Classes (253-6439)

■ **Monthly Transition Assistance Program:** Monday to Jan. 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ **Marine Corps Reserve Program Briefing:** Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m.

Club Iwakuni (253-4143)

■ **Comedy Night:** Wednesday, 8 p.m. all ranks in the ballroom. Featuring Caroline Picard and Mo Amer.

■ **The Band Chase County:** Thursday and Jan. 16, 8 p.m. to midnight, all ranks in the ballroom.

■ **Long Weekend Dance Party:** Jan. 18, 8 p.m. all ranks in the ballroom.

■ **Leaders Night:** Jan. 20, 5-8

p.m. in the Landing Zone.

Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Job Ready Sessions - Every Wednesday this month, 3-5 p.m.**

◆ Wednesday - Unit 2: Using Labor Marketing Information
◆ Jan. 21 - Unit 3: Preparing Resumes

◆ Jan. 28 - Unit 4: Filling Out A Job Application

■ **S.M.A.R.T. Girls' Party:** Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **70's Dance Party:** Jan. 17, 6-11:30 p.m. Wear your disco clothes and get this party started. Only middle school students dance 6-8:30 p.m. Both high school and middle school students dance 9-11:30 p.m.

Single Marine Program (253-4656)

■ **Fukuoka Sea Hawks Town Shopping:** Saturday, 7 a.m. \$10 transportation and extra yen for shopping.

■ **Kenko Park Ice Skating:** Sunday, 10 a.m. \$5 transportation and 400 yen for rental skates.

■ **Pizza Night:** Tuesday, 6 p.m. Free pizza, soda, games and prizes.

■ **Hiroshima Peace Park:** Jan. 18, 10 a.m. \$5 transportation and extra yen for the museum, lunch and shopping.

Marine Corps Family Team Building (253-3754 or 24-Hour Information Line 253-3143)

■ **Spouses' Leadership Seminar:** Feb. 2-3.

Japanese Calligraphy Class

Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Learn to paint special Japanese new year calligraphy. Supplies are provided at no cost. Call 253-6165 for more information.

Family Day Information Brief

Jan. 29, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 253-3311 for details.

Money Management 101

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 253-6352 for information.

COMMUNITY

Womens Wellness Forum

First Thursday every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. Call 253-4038 for details. Topics change every month.

BMC Meeting

All active duty pregnant females welcome to attend meeting second Tuesday every month, 4-5 p.m. at BMC front lobby. Meet with Dr. Ford to hear information and to ask questions. Call 253-4038 for more information.

BMC Playgroup

All are welcomed to BMC Infant/Toddler playgroup at EDIS playroom, Building 553, 9:30-

10:30 a.m. infants, 10:30-11:30 a.m. toddlers. Call LCDR Lukehart 253-4038 for more information.

Air Strike Quilters

There will be a meeting Saturday, 11 a.m. at midrise 655. Call Carol 253-2166 for more information and for supply list.

Thrift Store

The Thrift Store is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel.

Toastmasters

Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. TM meets every 2nd Thursday evening of the month and 4th Friday at lunch. For more information contact Ms. Regan at 253-4557 or Ms. Donahue at 253-5328.

Marine Corps Training and Marinenet

Challenging online courses, official Marine Corps training and Marinenet, your official gateway to online MCI courses, are available to you through the Iwakuni Marine Corps Distance Learning Program Learning Resource Centers. The Iwakuni centers are located in Bldg 360, Room 31A and Bldg 1400 Room 104. They are open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 253-3510 for details.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:45 a.m.	CCD

Protestant

Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Seventh Day Adventist (second and fourth)
Sunday	8 a.m.	Traditional
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	11 a.m.	Contemporary
	12:30 p.m.	Jesus Christ Apostolic Service
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Jesus Christ Apostolic Bible Study

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Church of Christ
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

Latter Day Saints

Sunday	1 p.m.	Priesthood/RS Meeting
	2 p.m.	Sunday School
	3 p.m.	Sacrament

Muslim

Friday	Noon	Prayer
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Jewish

Friday	6 p.m.	Shabbat
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For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.



Lance Cpl. Rohan M. Crawley

Santa Arrives In Style

Santa Claus arrived in style at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Christmas party on Dec. 14. He was dropped off by an SH-60 from the USS Essex at the Northside football field. MALS-12 hosted Japanese children from the Shinse Gakuen, an orphanage in Hiroshima. Each Japanese child was paired up with a sponsor during the party so that he or she could see how Americans celebrate Christmas.

Basketball camp: a score for local youths

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. ROBERT W. WYNKOOP
Combat Correspondent

Local elementary aged children received a free introduction to the fundamentals of basketball during Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit Division's holiday basketball camp, Tuesday, at the IronWorks Gym here.

The camp's focus was to give the children something fun to do while school was not in session, according to Jamie Buning, youth sports coordinator.

"We want to get (children) out of the house. Get them some good exercise and have fun," Buning explained.

The participants were divided into age groups and the types of basketball training were tailored to fit each group's level of experience.

"I like throwing it," said 5-year-old Conner Doherty, holiday camp participant. Doherty and other children his age dribbled a basketball around a set of orange cones during the first part of the camp.

All participants started the day with proper stretching led by Matthew C. Perry High School



Danom Wilson, 6, catches a basketball during passing drills at the holiday basketball camp held in IronWorks Gym here.

athletes and Marine volunteers.

"I did this because I love kids," said Jose DeJesus, camp volunteer. "My family is full of kids, and I have a son back home. I think volunteering is important."

From free throws and three-pointers to lay-ups and ball handling, volunteers showed participants proper techniques and fundamentals of basketball, said Eugene Clark, M.C. Perry High School basketball coach and camp instructor.

"We're just out here for the kids," Clark said. "Everyone's having fun and learning at the same time."

Parents said having a program like this is great while children are on vacation.

"This (program) is great. This is our second year (participating in the camp). It helps to give children something to do when they're away from school," said Toni Keating, who watched her son, Spencer Keating, 7, practice passing drills with other local children.

Following the dribbling, passing and shooting drills each group split into teams during the scrimmage portion of the camp. Following, the games an awards ceremony was held. Camp volunteers and



Layups were one aspect of basketball fundamentals that volunteers taught the elementary school-aged children at the basketball camp.

Instructors had a variety of trophies and awards to hand out ensuring that every participant received some type of award.

Once the participants left the court, hotdogs and refreshments were available in the Gym's courtyard.



Eugene Clark, camp instructor and M.C. Perry High School's boys basketball coach, hands the ball off to, Charlie Robinson, a participant in the 7 to 9-year-old group.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

YOUTH CHEERLEADING

Boys and girls age 5-15. Sign up now through Saturday at the IronWorks Gym front desk. Opening ceremonies for basketball is Jan. 24, 9 a.m. in the Sports Courts.

GUTT BUSTER CLASS

Jan. 23, 6-6:30 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts. This event kicks off the President's Challenge Unit PT Competition. Units should register now to start earning points for the competition, which culminates with the Gladiators Ultimate PT Challenge in Oct. Call 253-5051 to sign up.

7TH ANNUAL SEMPER FIT GOODWILL AEROBATHON

Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts. 20-minute exercise segments led by Semper Fit instructors, Hi/Lo, cardio

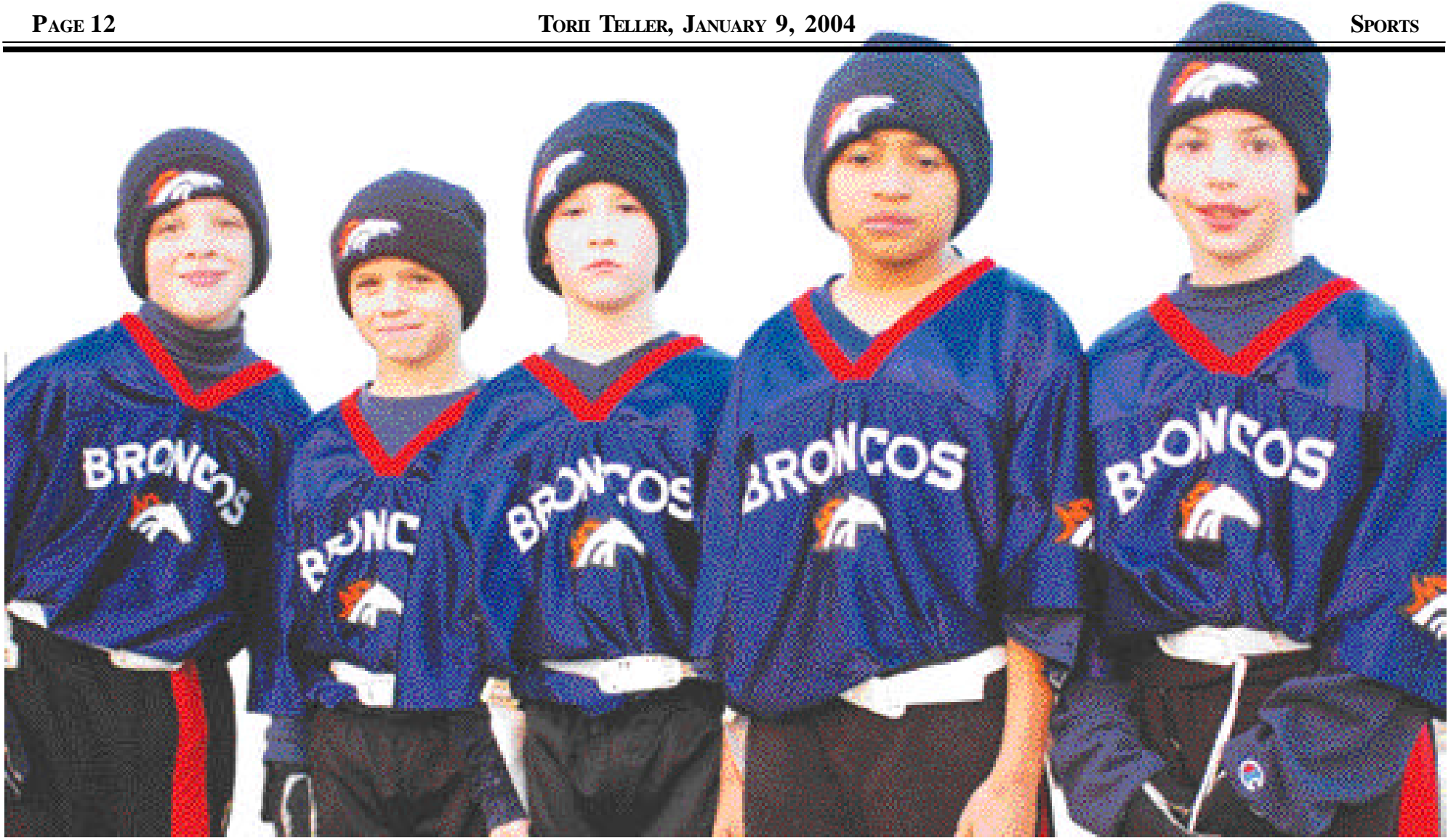
kickboxing, step/cycling, agility circuit, muscle conditioning and yoga. Sign up before Jan. 28 at the IronWorks Gym front desk for \$5. Call 253-6359 for more information.

PRESEASON VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Tuesday, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. The tournament starts Jan. 17, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts. Intramural volleyball coaches meet Jan. 20, 10 a.m. in the Wellness Room.

WOMEN'S STRENGTH TRAINING WORKSHOP

Jan. 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. SOFA status females, age 16 and older, are invited to a special workshop led by a certified female personal trainer. Sign up costs \$10 and includes a fitness and nutrition journal. Call 253-5051 for details.



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Broncos teammates take a moment to look tough for the camera prior to their battle with the Dolphins. The Broncos' defense was relentless throughout the game.

Pigskin warriors duke it out

LANCECPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Inspired by several National Football League teams children have taken the gridiron field bearing replica jerseys of popular teams in hope of one day living the dream of a football player.

Children from the age groups of 7-10 and 11-14 have taken the role of different teams and showcased their talents on the field since Dec. 6.



Cpl. Dave Boni

Steelers quarterback, 13-year-old Nathan Houck, scrambles to make a play during a blowout game against the Raiders.

Youth flag football is one of four sports held each year to give the children an opportunity to meet new kids and have fun at the same time, said Jamie Buning, sports coordinator.

In addition to the children receiving the chance to gain knowledge of a new sport, they also learn valuable life lessons.

"Working with the 11-14 age group, they are able to grasp what I'm trying to teach them easier", said Benjamin Akins, Redskins head coach. "I try to teach the children about hard work and the fundamentals of the game. Helping them develop in sports is something that I push for, especially since they are here in Japan. That shouldn't be reason for them not to better their athletic abilities."

"With the help of my coach I have advanced to a different level of the game as a wide receiver," commented Troy Vann Jr., wide receiver for the Redskins. "With the help of my coach I have learned discipline, new routes and the fundamentals of football. Without volunteers like him we would not be able to have a season or learn as much as we have about the game."

After a month of games, there will be a closing ceremony Saturday at 9 a.m. to thank all children and parents who participated.

The season could have been better if more kids had signed up to play, said Akins. This way we could have had more teams involved. Playing the



Lance Cpl. David Revere

The Dolphins express pre-game motivation with their coach, Freddy J. Jones. The Dolphins tore up the field during a twilight match up with the Broncos.

same teams can be repetitive and unmotivating even for the kids.

"The reason I decided to play football this year was to have fun with friends and to improve," concluded Vann. "I am looking forward to coming back next year and doing this all over again and hopefully having more teams to play against to make the season longer."



Cpl. Dave Boni

The Steelers and Raiders await the coin toss before the flag football action Dec. 30. The game was held at the Penny Lake field.