

## General of Japan bases visits Station

LANCE CPT. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

Brig. Gen. James F. Flock, commanding general of Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan and Deputy Commander of Marine Corps Bases Japan, paid a visit to service members here Jan 20-22.

During his stay, Flock toured unit facilities, received command briefs, and interacted with Marines and Sailors throughout the Station.

One of the highlights of the trip was a breakfast meeting with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marines Wednesday. After the meal, Flock addressed concerns of individual Marines and personally expressed appreciation for their service.

"I want to thank you all," said Flock. "This is a really unique time to be in the service."

Flock emphasized that those serving during a time like the present should be proud of their commitment.

"We're at war with terrorism, and we're in it for the long haul," said Flock. "Your decision to join is greatly appreciated."

Flock's attention to personal interaction did not go unnoticed by

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## Moonlighters land in outback

LANCE CPT. GIOVANNI LOBELLO  
Combat Correspondent

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE, TOWNSVILLE, Australia** — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 332 and Iwakuni Marines from several supporting units recently deployed to Australia for Operation Southern Frontier 2004.

For the month-long deployment, Marines from each of the units in Iwakuni will have the opportunity to perform their military occupation specialties in yet another environment.

After approximately two weeks into the deployment, the Marines have progressed quickly in adapting to the environment in Australia, said Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Bourikas, sergeant major for the Moonlighters of 332.

"The squadron's primary mission while in Australia will be to increase the pilots' normally scheduled exercises," said Lt. Col. Sam Grove, executive officer for VMFA-332.

Cpl. Ruben Macias, Marine Aviation Group 12 embarkation clerk, said he is excited to be given the opportunity to be in Australia supporting a Marine fighter attack squadron in any logistical issues that may be encountered.



Lance Cpt. Giovanni Lobello

After a thorough inspection Sgt. Danny Bumgarner guides a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 332 F/A-18 jet toward the runway before takeoff.

During their stay in Australia, the squadron will have a good opportunity to perform an ample amount of air-to-ground exercises.

"The reason for us coming here is because of the availability of a bombing range that we do not have in Japan," commented Grove.

"This deployment will be very good for the Marines that are a part of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, especially for the ordnance Marines," said Lt. Col. Patrick O'Donnell, operations officer.

For the next month most of the Ma-

rine will have their hands full in preparing and viewing exercises involving rockets and bombs.

"Since pilots have different qualifications, this is a good chance to give them time in the hot seat," said Bourikas. "This way they are able to drop ordnance on actual targets and hone their skills."

"The chance to deploy to a different place and to get the chance to operate out of it as well is a great opportunity for everyone involved," said O'Donnell.

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www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

## Tax Center open, offers free filings

LANCE CPT. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

The Office of the Station Judge Advocate will be coordinating the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program training to facilitate Electronic Tax Filing (ELF) for all Marines, Sailors, Department of Defense Civilians, and SOFA-status employees Feb. 2 at the Tax Center (Building 608) at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

"This has historically been a high visibility quality of life program in the Marine Corps, particularly in remote locations overseas," said Lt. Col. Charles W. Stubbs, Station judge advocate officer in charge.

"This is an excellent opportunity to have ... taxes prepared and filed free of charge. The Station Tax Center saved its clients \$144,000 last year in tax preparation fees and facilitated refunds of almost \$2 million," said Capt. Jeff Munoz, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron tax center officer in charge.

The VITA program is both special and significant because not only are the taxes done for free but they are done by Marines and civilian volunteers aboard the Station, said Munoz.

Marines and other volunteers for the program are all from different units and go through a 4-day training course in taxes by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agent Janice Foulk. The course deals with all different aspects of taxes: documents, software and tax laws, said Munoz.

The beauty of the program, according to Munoz, is that it's free, expedient, and reliable.

"Within approximately two weeks (people) should get their refund. This service is fast and the volunteers are very competent. All of the volunteers go through high quality training. They know what they are doing," Munoz said.

Munoz strongly encourages all that are eligible to utilize the free service. He also boasts about its track record.

Records from the calendar year of 2002 indicate that approximately \$1.9 million was the total refund amount for all who filed their taxes with VITA here, it saved the users of the free program a total of \$144,000. This amount is based on a comparison of commercial tax return agents.

Things that all should know before they file their taxes are: "... make sure to bring your W-2 form, bank statements, Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contribution statements,

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# Youth coaches needed Back talk not a requirement

Laura Cox  
Letter to the Editor

Recently my husband and I signed our two children (ages 7 and 5) up for basketball. Two days later, we received a call from Youth Sports asking if we would be interested in coaching as they have no one to coach the team that our daughter would be on.

My husband said that he would do it as long as it doesn't interfere with our son's basketball schedule. So, she looked up our son's team and low and behold, his team did not have a coach either.

She asked if he would coach both teams and he agreed. So now, my husband is coaching BOTH teams in two separate divisions (and both he and our children are having fun and enjoying it).

But last week, when he picked up the uniforms and rosters to start calling parents to inform them of the practice schedule he got lip service from one parent. They said that they did NOT want my husband to be their kid's coach and that they had REQUESTED someone else and even went as far as to go to Youth Sports and demand to have it changed. When that didn't go their way, they threatened that their child would not play at all.

This is so OUTRAGEOUS! What is this telling the kids? Stomp your feet until you get your way and if you don't, just quit? How is that fair to a child that

may REALLY want to play basketball? What happened to this being about the KIDS? We have lost focus on that.

It should be about teaching them the sport, showing them how to be part of a team, how to handle the times they win and lose and how to have FUN. It should be a time to watch them make their first basket, home run, goal or whatever, and seeing the pride that washes all over them.

Oh, and then there is the idea of "fair teams." If you put all the players on the teams that THEY requested, where does the blind draw and competition come from?

I can understand requesting someone because of carpooling or a similar situation, but to do it just to have the kids with their favorite coach or to play with

**Where is the appreciation for the people who take time out to coach? The people that do it just to make sure the kids have a chance to play the sport all deserve a huge thank you.**

Laura Cox

only "good" players is bull.

Where is the appreciation for the people who take time out to coach? The people that do it just to make sure the kids have a chance to play the sport all deserve a huge thank you. Now obviously if you deploy or have some other reason that prevents you from coaching, trust me I understand.

But to run your mouth about what YOU want and how you want it done when you are quite capable of coaching but CHOOSE not to is just plain crap.

Instead of giving slack to a coach about how much better YOU could do it, thank them for even volunteering to do it. YOU didn't; so next time put up or shut up.

# Youth Sports all about volunteers

**Editors note: The commentary below is in direct response to the article above.**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
Bob Johnston

First of all I would like to express my thanks to you and your husband for your support of the youth sports program. You have given freely of your time and efforts and we appreciate it. I am sorry the child who was originally put on your team got transferred to another team; the switch was a mistake and it has been corrected. It is a policy to never switch a child's team once the teams have been decided.

Please realize there are many

different things to consider when preparing for a Youth Sports Season.

First, the coaches need to pick teams, and balanced teams at that. In order to assure the teams are as even as possible, the coaches pick teams using a blind draft policy. A blind draft policy entails dividing the children by age groups, gender, and experience and then turning over their informative papers so the coaches do not know which child is which.

When making these teams, we instill a policy that no parent can request specific coaches or teammates. The reason for this policy is to prevent teams from being "stacked." It is a much better learning experience and so much more fun for children to play on teams that are similar in ability and experience.

Once the teams have been put together, the next step is finding coaches, which is not an easy job. So when parents volunteer to coach, we're very appreciative. The majority of

coaches are parents, but single Marines as well as other members of the community are starting to get involved and we encourage them to do so. The youth sports program needs more volunteers so as not to deprive the children living here in our community of any sporting opportunities.

Therefore, members of the community, if you enjoy working with children, are a sports enthusiast, or just want to help, please volunteer your time. We need you.

Coaching children is a very important job, but extremely difficult. Coaches impact children by teaching them life skills and sports skills. We give coaches plaques and trophies at the end of every sports season, but that alone does not express the amount of gratitude we have for them.

Therefore, let me use this opportunity to say thank you for all the past, present, and future youth sports coaches. There is no youth sports without you the VOLUNTEERS.

# Thunderbolts arrive in Iwakuni for WESTPAC

LANCE Cpl. CHARLES HERRON  
VMFA-251 Combat Correspondent

Over 150 Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 arrived aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Jan. 21.

The Thunderbolts are replacing the Bengals of Marine (All-Weather) Fighter Attack Squadron 224 for the biannual rotation in support of the Unit Deployment Program. The T-bolts are an F/A-18 squadron out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S. C., and this is the first time in over 10 years they have participated in a Western Pacific Deployment.

"We have either been on the boat or in the desert," said Lt. Col. Thomas "T.C." Clark, commanding officer of VMFA-251. "We have a lot of Marines who have been on a WESTPAC with other squadrons, so it's not like we don't know what's going on."

Although not a usual deployment for '251, the T-bolts know what to expect on this deployment.

"The flying hasn't changed," Clark said. "The only major difference is the logistics of how we support the flying. If we're carrier-based or land-based, it's all pretty much the same when it comes to the actual training."

For many of the Thunderbolts, this will be their first major deployment and they are excited about the different opportunities for work and play.

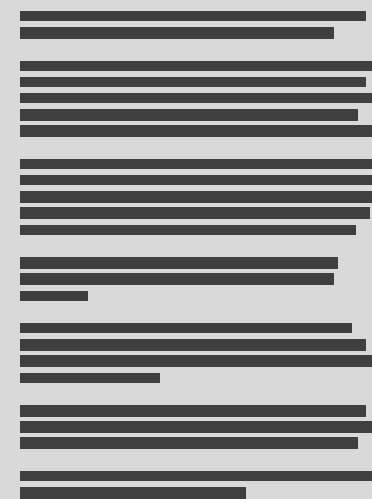
"I am interested in seeing how our military forces interact with other militaries from this side of the globe," said Lance Cpl. Jason Monnin, VMFA-251 administration clerk. "For our liberty I can't wait to snowboard and see what other outdoor activities Japan has to offer."

Overall, this should be a good experience for the Marines of '251, said Clark.

"Our Marines will have an opportunity for some good training and good liberty time on this deployment," Clark said. "It will give them a chance to see how other cultures exist around the world."



The Thunderbolts made a few pit stops before landing at the point where they are today.



# Bengals blare out of Iwakuni

LANCE Cpl. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

On a six-month deployment here, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 224 returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina on Monday.

The VMFA-224 Bengals came with an armada of 187 Marines and 12 F/A-18 jets from Beaufort to support operations in Australia, Okinawa, Guam and here.

Southern Frontier in Darwin, Australia, was the first appearance the Bengals made on their deployment. There they stood for six weeks and supported Marine Aircraft Group 12 with dropping live ordnance.

"We dropped 340,000 pounds of live ordnance, which is a significant amount," said 1st Lt. John Q. Dinh, VMFA-224 public affairs officer.

In October, VMFA-224 aided the Air Force in operations at Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa. They supported the Air Force in Operation Readiness Inspection. It was a successful inspection and it made sure that the unit's supplies were good to go for future operations, said Dinh.

Four weeks later the Bengals found themselves in Guam, in support of Operation Cope North. There they joined forces with the Japanese military. This was a monumental event for the Japanese because it was the first deployment they participated in.

After all the deployments to different locations, VMFA-224 returned to Iwakuni.

While they were here, a small detachment comprised of two crews from the unit went back to Kadena



An F/A-18D, two-seater, is parked at VMFA-224 hanger minutes before it taxis to the runway.



VMFA-224 leaves the Station with 187 personnel and 12 F/A-18 jets brought with them from MCAS Beaufort, S.C. The Bengals supported MAG-12 while deployed here.

to get certified to be instructors. Captains Shannon M. Brown, Jonathan H. Skipper, Mark J. Muratore and Matthew A. Brown trained for

see BENGALS Page 5

# NEWS BRIEFS

## LIFEGUARD CLASS

The American Red Cross and MCCA are looking for new lifeguards and are now accepting registration for the Lifeguard Class. Class is scheduled Feb. 9-20, 5-9 p.m. at the IronWorks Gym indoor pool. Sign up at IronWorks Gym front desk. Classes are limited. For more information, contact Kari Hemund at 253-4966 or stop by the IronWorks Gym front desk.

## TRICARE INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

The TRICARE Pacific Marketing Representative will be available Feb. 9 and 10 for Captain's calls or family Captain's calls to provide information for traveling both in Japan and back to CONUS. To schedule a 20-30 minute brief, e-mail: charronw@nhyoko.med.navy.mil or call 243-8740.

## MISUSE OF GME

There has been an increase in the use of government vehicles to pick up single Marines/Sailors from the local airports. Using a GME as a cost avoidance measure and as a convenience instead of using the local bus, or train system is a violation of Marine Corps Order P11240.106B and MCASO P11240.5L. The only exception to this policy is for sponsors of inbound families.

# New fire truck ready for action

LANCE CL. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

"Musashi!" Raging fires shudder at the name. The Pierce Quantum 85-foot Aerial platform truck, named for Japan's greatest swordsman, is the new flagship of the Station fire department's fire truck fleet.

The 75,000-pound rig comes equipped with a 700 cubic-inch diesel engine, an automatic transmission, and all-wheel steering.

According to Station Fire Chief Devin Johnston-Lee, the ladder platform accommodates three people and is used for rescue operations.

"The 85 feet allows us to gain access to every one of our midrises to the very top level," said Johnston-Lee. "The ladder extends to the top of a seven story building and every one of our hangars."

The rig boasts a hose nozzle capable of pouring out 1500 gallons per minute. According to Johnston-Lee, the ladder extends to throwing the volume of a compact car every minute on the blaze.

Additionally, it holds a 15-kilowatt on-board generator, pre-plumbed hydraulics for the rescue tools, all the complements of ground ladders, plus



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Going head to head with the older Morita Super Gyro rig (right), the new truck easily wins, weighing in at 75,000 pounds.

an assortment of tools, saws and forceful entry equipment that a normal truck company should have under the guidelines of the National Fire Protection Agency.

"We've expanded the capabilities of the truck," said Johnston-Lee. "It can power all of our on-scene equipment for just about any incident. The truck's capability is such that it will provide a better level of protection to all the residents on base."

The enhancements also represent an increase in efficiency and effectiveness in modern fire fighting methods.

"The Fire Department is switching from the old fire fighting-only capabilities to multi-dimensions," said

Johnston-Lee. "We're carrying medical aid on this truck, we're carrying (counter chemical warfare) equipment on the truck, rescue equipment on the truck and even monitoring equipment. Before we had to manufacture attachments, this truck comes with everything we need."

The rig is the largest the Fire Department has owned to date. Manufactured late last year, it arrived at the station on Christmas day.

Drivers are currently training with the vehicle and becoming familiar with it's maneuverability.

"Although the rig is 45 feet in length, with its all-wheel steering system, it has the same turning radius

as a Toyota Surf and can also maneuver sideways to access optimum placement at the scene of the emergency," said Johnston-Lee. "Driving the rig is a very different feeling. It's a very large rig and you're sitting up so high, you actually feel like the road isn't big enough. You feel that way in a normal car in Japan. It's multiplied a hundred times in this ladder truck."

The drivers have had no problem adapting to the truck, however. Each has logged in over an hour of training according to Johnston-Lee.

"We've had no problems, everybody has been able to maneuver it and situate it," he said.

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the Marines.

"I was surprised that the general actually came up and talked to us," said Lance Cpl. Larissa Karlina, H & HS administration clerk. "He came and addressed our concerns. I thought it was a great opportunity for us. He showed interest in the issues that affect us."

"I think it's good that he came to talk to the regular troops," said Sgt. Rebekah Raner, H & HS administration clerk.

"It's always nice to see a general that doesn't just visit the officers, but visits the lower ranks."

Pfc. Dennis Lee, H & HS correspondence clerk, felt especially encouraged by the brigadier general's attention. "He motivated me when he said he was glad that we joined the Marine Corps," said Lee. "He understood that we didn't have to, but we chose to."

Flock also addressed officers and senior noncommissioned officers later in the day, noting the overall improvement of the Station.

"This is a great duty station to be at," Flock said. "Things look great here, and they are only getting better."

Overall, Flock's visit was positive and morale-boosting.

"I always just think of the generals as far away, making decisions for us," said Karlina. "He actually showed his concern for us."



Official USMC Photo

**Brig. Gen. Flock visited the Station Jan. 20-22 to interact with Marines and Sailors here.**



# Red Cross of Iwakuni in Iraq

LANCE CL. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

Steam rises from a cup of coffee that is stirred in circles. An ivory hair colored woman is holding the cup and continues stirring and starts staring at posters hanging on the walls in her place of business; Posters displaying the correct way to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and other lifesaving techniques and a red cross surrounded by the pallid color of white.

Lynne S. Hammonds, American Red Cross station manager, is currently stationed here. But the 61-year-old Red Cross employee will soon be relocated to Balad, Iraq.

On a six-month deployment, Hammonds along with two other Red Cross employees, will be doing emergency communications work at an Iraqi military base that was taken over by the coalition during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their duty primarily consists of notifying troops in Iraq if health problems from family back home erupts or any births occur.

Working with the Red Cross for 27 years, Hammonds has been stationed in Texas, Maryland, California, and other parts of the world including Puerto Rico, Bosnia and Kosovo.

In preparation for her next assignment, Hammonds must first stop at Washington, D.C., and Fort Bliss, Texas, for two weeks. There, she will undergo nuclear,

biological, and chemical training, and other exercises including low-crawling and learning how to sweep for mines.

"I've done this type of training before when I went to Kosovo. I remember I was low crawling, along with other people, and there was a 'sniper' shooting at us. When we finished the exercise he pointed to me and said, 'You would have been dead.' I just screamed and said, 'I'm too old,'" said a laughing Hammonds.

Very optimistic and dedicated to her occupation, Hammonds uses three words to explain why she would want to go to the chaotic aftermath of the war and put herself in harm's way: "It's my job."

"It's fun! It's fun for the troops when we go out there. We give birthday parties and loan out videos from our video library. We're out to improve morale," said the benevolent Hammonds.

Being married for 43 years and having a close family, Hammonds says that there are mixed feelings for her upcoming venture.

"My family is not very happy, but they are very supportive. They understand that this is my job."

"My 19-year-old grandson is not happy about her 61-year-old grandmother traveling all over the world in B.D.U. But my husband, being retired army, wishes it were he."

Hammonds will return from her deployment and be back at the Air Station July.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

**A front view of one of VMFA-224's F/A-18 at their hanger at the Northside of the Station.**

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over two months for the Air-to-Air Certification. They are now certified to train pilots, said Muratore, VMFA-224 airframes officer in charge.

"Overall our deployment was a success with providing support," said Dinh.

Sgt. James B. Shelton, VMFA-224 career planner, agrees that the deployment made by the Bengals was triumphant, and their tour in Iwakuni was delightful.

"Our operations were successful. We put forth a lot of effort, both on planes and taking care of each other."

"We had good times here in Iwakuni. I was actually very surprised of the many things that the Single Marine program offered," said Shelton.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 from Beaufort will be replacing the Bengals.

"We'll make quick stops at Guam, Hawaii and Miramar. Then we'll go back home," said Dinh.

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statements reflecting dividends, interest, capital gains and losses from the sale of stocks, bonds or property. Social security numbers (also for dependents if applicable), and real estate or property documents (if applicable)," said Munoz.

Marines and Department of Defense personnel can now print out their W-2 forms from the Defense Finance Website, [www.mypay.dfas.mil](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil).

Hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturdays during the month of February.

The general deadline for filing tax year 2003 federal income tax returns is Apr. 15. Individuals filing at the last minute can expect a delay in the IRS processing their return. To ensure a prompt refund of money, taxes should be filed as early as possible, Munoz said.

For more information, visit the VITA intranet site at [intranet.iwakuni.usmc.mil/SJA/VITA.htm](http://intranet.iwakuni.usmc.mil/SJA/VITA.htm).

# Marine Corps gets bright mind

STAFF SGT. RONNA M. WEYLAND  
8th Marine Corps District

**Marine Corps Recruiting Station San Antonio** - While most 18-year-olds are preparing for college, a high-school aged Texan has already graduated from one.

Billy Joe McCulloch received his Bachelor of Science from Texas Lutheran University in December.

Now what? Graduate school? No. Civilian job market? No. McCulloch decided to enlist in the Marine Corps.

"I am tired of doing school-work," said the Seguin, Texas native. "I am ready to go out and get dirty."

McCulloch skipped the sixth grade and scored in top one percent of the nation on the Stanford Achievement Test in the seventh grade.

Despite being able to skip the sixth grade and start college a quarter of the way through his freshman year, McCulloch felt unchallenged.

"I don't really like school much," he said. "I like to do work with my hands." So, why the Marine Corps and a civilian job?

"My friends from college are getting jobs starting out at 50,000 a year," he said smiling. "But,

I'm not in it for the money." He said he is looking for the intangibles in life.

"I joined the Corps looking for a challenge, camaraderie and the pride of belonging," he added with a serious tone in voice.

However, before he could enlist, the then-17-year-old college graduate had to get permission from his parents.

"It isn't everyday you have to get a PC (parent consent) from a college grad," said Gunnery Sgt. Samuel R. Ybarra, RSS Walzem recruiter.

"The family was very cooperative though, and asked a lot of questions about what their son was going to be doing," Ybarra added.

McCulloch said, "My parents would rather I go to graduate school, but they support my decision."

He is currently preparing to ship to recruit training at the end of January.

"He comes into the office Monday through Thursday to PT," said Ybarra. "He knew his time was limited and he wanted to be ready. He is motivated and very dedicated to what he wants to do."

McCulloch has been thinking about joining the Corps since he was 12-years-old. "I have always liked what I have seen from the Marines," he said with pride.



Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

**Billy Joe McCulloch, far left, counts pull-ups with his recruiter GySgt. Samuel Ybarra during the San Antonio Spurs basketball game Jan. 3.**





Dynasty's Winfred Murphy leaps to the basket during practice Sunday.

Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop



Lamont Wilson shoots a lay-up during Dynasty's regular season intramural basketball game Friday.

Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon



Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

Dynasty's Darius Griffin drives to the basket during a Sunday morning pickup game at the IronWorks Gym here. Sunday practices give the team members an extra edge, they say. Griffin has played with the team for four months.



Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

The IronWorks Gym score board lets spectators know Dynasty is on the court. Dynasty lead 39-0 at halftime versus Motor Transportation's Road Warriors recently.



Cpl. Robert W. Wynkoop

Winfred Murphy slam-dunks the basketball during Dynasty's 95-7 victory versus Motor Transportation's Road Warriors at the IronWorks Gym here.



Randy Blanche shoots a lay-up with an open court all around.

Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Headquarters and Headquarters "Dynasty" intramural basketball players congratulate each other at halftime during their match-up with the Combat Service Support Detachment 36 Dragons. Dynasty is currently undefeated in regular season play.

# Dynasty: unstoppable?

CPL. ROBERT W. WYNKOOP  
Combat Correspondent

What's in a name? With thousands of sports teams in every variety and locale, team names can range from ferocious animals to laughable insects like the Banana Slugs. Some teams, regardless of how fierce their name sounds, never crawl out of the losers bracket. Others, however, never leave the top.

One intramural basketball team here lives up to its name. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's Team Dynasty is reigning supreme among their competitors.

Under the direction of head coach, Roderick Haynes, Dynasty has maintained an undefeated record, winning 10 regular season games.

"They're the most feared team in the league," said Keith Carr, IronWorks Gym, sports coordinator. "Most teams say (before they play Dynasty) 'let's try to keep them from beating us by 20-points.'"

A 20-point lead is enough for any team to be happy with, but not

Dynasty. Recently, they trampled Station Motor Transportation's Road Warriors, 95-7. Nearly 100 points ahead of the other team, Dynasty refused to let up and played with maximum effort for the entire game.

One of the biggest factors in the team's success is their experience together.

"We're used to each other's game," said Todd Lester, Dynasty guard. "We play together as a team. Nobody's selfish."

Carr credits Dynasty's coach for their continued winning streak.

"Their coach plays a huge part in their victories," said Carr, who has spent six years participating in Marine Corps sports. "He doesn't take subpar performance. Dynasty is also one of the most organized teams. They know their positions and they practice."

While many people are still sleeping, Dynasty players hit the court around 7:30 a.m., Sundays, for pickup games.

"Anyone can play on Sundays," said Lee Woodbridge, Dynasty. "It's an opportunity to come out and play

with some real competition."

The Sunday morning games are when the "high quality" players come out. Generally the most diehard players from the intramural teams show up to play, Carr said.

Winning the intramural championship is the immediate goal of the team; it is also something that Carr feels is definitely possible.

Aside from taking the top trophy, many Dynasty players plan to make the Station's varsity team. This team will represent Iwakuni and travel to games around the pacific theater, Carr said.

"Some of their players can definitely take it to a higher level," he said. Carr said that he believes Dynasty has at least one player talented enough to possibly make the All-Marine Basketball Team.

For now, the team will concentrate on the remainder of the season, but many are wondering can they be beat?

"No," Carr quickly answered. "I definitely don't see that happening this season."





# Samurai ken: a warrior's sword

COMPILED BY TORII TELLER STAFF

The samurai sword has been a mystical weapon to foreigners for many years. The power and beauty of this weapon has been captured in recent Hollywood movies such as "The Last Samurai" and "Kill Bill", but the history that surrounds this instrument of death is still very hazy.

According to Japanese legend, the reason the samurai sword was developed was because samurai warriors proved to be too aggressive in combat. The swords they adopted from Korea and China couldn't withstand the punishment it withstood.

Because of this, a master swordsman was tasked to design a durable sword that could better serve the warriors.

As legend goes, a man named Amakuni was tasked with fabricating the first samurai sword. Unfortunately, his first attempts proved futile and drew anger from the emperor. With his reputation and family namesake on the line, Amakuni and his son prayed to the Shinto gods for seven days and nights for guidance in making a sword worthy of the samurai warriors.

Amakuni and his son shut themselves in their shop for 30 days without a jug of water and the determination to please their emperor. When they emerged weary and hungry they had a single-edged curved sword, which they proceeded to grind and polish.

When completed, the blade was tested by driving it through a piece of metal without damaging the edge. Amakuni and his son had finally made a sword even the most ferocious samurai could not break.

The technique for making a samurai sword has been fanatically guarded since the day Amakuni and his emerged from their shop. Because of this secrecy very little is known of the specific techniques used, but the basics are readily available.

The first step for a swordsmith is to select iron from the highest quality. The iron is then heated, flattened and then broken in to pieces of equal size.

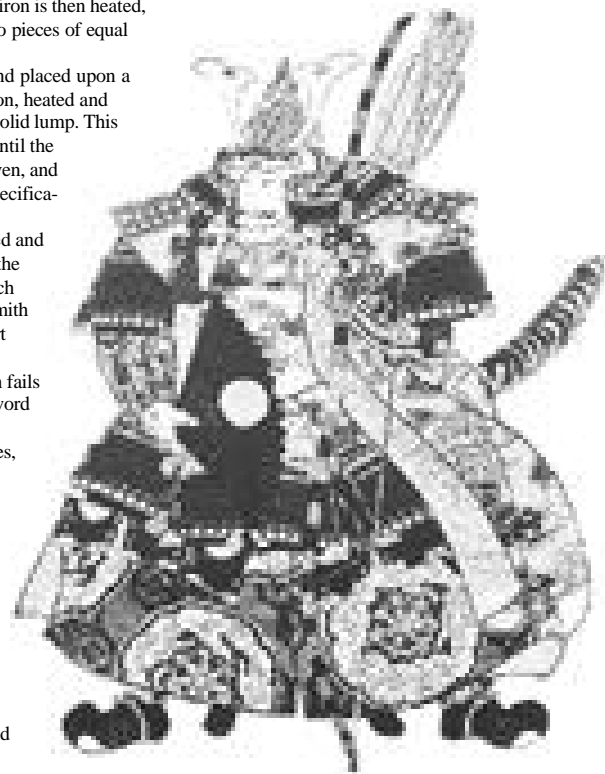
The pieces are gathered and placed upon a spatula of the same quality iron, heated and hammered until they are one solid lump. This lump is repeatedly pounded until the smith is certain the metal is even, and the quality of steel is to his specifications.

The metal is again pounded and then folded lengthwise, thus the curve shape of the sword. Each time the metal is folded, the smith ensures all air bubbles and dirt particles are eliminated from between the folds. If the smith fails to remove each particle the sword may break in combat.

The blade is folded 15 times, making 32,768 layers of steel. After each folding a coat of clay is put on the sword and the scraped off. By heating and cooling the metal this way, the smith is able to give each sword unique strength, or temper. The entire blade is again heated, and plunged into water for its final tempering.

The blade is sharpened and polished by a specialist who often takes weeks to complete the task. Finally the sword is taken to an engraver, who carves intricate patterns and designs on the blade.

The finished product is considered to be one of the finest swords in the world and sits in many



museums and collectors shelves.

Prices vary for an authentic samurai sword, but those interested in obtaining one can expect to pay thousands of dollars with a long waiting period.



## OUT THE GATE

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

### Yanai Flower Festival

This festival will take place Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Yanai Cruise Hotel, Yanai Nishigura and Bellze Hotel. There will be displays of flower decorations, gardening samples and more. They will also hold flower arrangement classes at the Bellze Hotel, Saturday, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3

p.m. Tuition fee is required. Call 0820-22-2111 for more information.

### Flower Design Exhibition

They display approximately 40 pieces of contemporary flower arrangement Saturday until Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum in the Hiroshima Botanical Garden. Admission fee is required. For more information call 082-922-3600.

### Setsubun Festival

There will be a festival, celebrating the beginning of spring, held Tuesday at the Daishoin Temple on Miyajima island. The service starts

at 11 a.m., and the bean scattering for good luck will be performed 1-1:30 p.m. It will not be cancelled in case of rain. The admission fee is free. Call 0829-44-0111 for details.

### Toyota Lake Wakasagi Fishing Tournament

This tournament will be held at Koyagawa River Dam at Toyotako Lake in Toyota cho, Feb. 8, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants compete in the numbers of Wakasagi, smelt, they catch. Admission fee is required. It will not be cancelled or postponed in case of rain. Call 0837-66-1163 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

**Nissan Wingroad**, 1996, station wagon, blue with silver trim, P/W, P/L, Kenwood AM/FM stereo with cassette player, driver-side air bag, alloy wheels, JCI until March 2004, \$1,800. Call Phillip Grant at 253-3510 dwh or 09016810866awh.

**Toyota Saloon**, 1990, van, automatic, rear A/C, P/W, P/L, new tires, runs great, JCI until Oct. 2004, \$1,300 obo. Call SSgt Eldridge at 253-3838dwh or 253-2812awh.

**Toyota Surf**, 1992, excellent condition, extra set of off road tires, well maintained, JCI until March 2004. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awh.

**Mazda MX6 Sedan**, 1994, silver 5-speed V-6 engine, excellent condition, clean, fast. Call Doriann Geller at 253-6373 dwh or (99)-38-3568awh or 090-7592-1302 weekends.

**Nissan Cedric**, 1992, excellent condition, JCI until April 2004, \$1,500 or \$2,000. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awh.

**Harley Davidson Tour Glide Classic**, 1988, in mint condition, well maintained and cared for 2nd owner private ride, JCI until March 2004, \$8,500. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awh.

**Honda Mini Bike 50cc**, 1991, excellent condition 1st owner, great for 5-12

years of age to learn how to ride, \$500 obo. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awh.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, Ashley couch/love seat, matching Lazy Boy, excellent condition, comfortable, \$1,000 obo. Call Sean at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 awh.

**Misc.**, Denon DCM-350, 5 disc CD changer, \$40. Call Mark Parsons at 253-5487 dwh or 09052662270.

### WANTED

English teacher, experience preferred, teaching 20-30 students Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 23-1510 for more information.

### JOB OPENINGS

**CHRO (253-6828)**

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

**DeCA:**  
-Sales Store Checker (Student Temporary Employment Program)  
-Materials Handler

**Clinic:**  
-Social Worker

**BPO:**  
-Management and Program Analysis Officer

**MCCS (253-3030)**  
(The following jobs are

open at MCCS Personnel)

**MCCS Job Listing:**

-Head of Retail  
-Retail Area Supervisor, civilian only  
-Audit Clerk, civilian only

-Inventory Control Specialist, civilian only  
-Procurement Assist., civilian only

-Basic Replenishment Clerk, civilian only  
-Material Handler  
-Leisure Travel Assist., civilian only

-Catering Mgr.

-Club Operations Assist., civilian only

-Food Court Assist. Mgr. (Go to <http://www.mccs.iwakuni.com> for a complete job listing.)

### Wanted: Valentine's Day surprise!

Have a picture of you and your sweetheart? Send it to the *Torii Teller* with a brief message and it will run in the special Valentine's Day edition Feb. 13th.

Deadlines for submissions will be Feb 6. All submissions must be tasteful in nature. Send your sweetheart a valentine to remember.

## SAKURA THEATER



### HONEY

This is the story of Honey, a tough sexy dancer from the inner city, who becomes a successful music video choreographer, a career which is threatened when her mentor makes her either sleep with him... or get blacklisted within the industry. She ultimately decides to pursue her lifelong dream of opening her own dance studio for inner-city youths (104 minutes).



### CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

When Tom Baker gets a job offer to coach football at Northwestern University in Chicago, he and his wife, Mary, move to the big city, which is a big change for them and their 12 children, who range from preschool-age all the way up to 22-year-old. Mary feels demands outside the home taking away as much time as Tom's new job does, so the two are forced to try to find new ways of parenting their massive tribe (115 minutes).



### TIMELINE

A mystery suspense thriller based on Michael Crichton's best-selling novel about a team of student archaeologists on a dig at a medieval site in France. When Professor Johnston disappears, they suddenly find themselves in 14th century feudal France on a perilous journey. Now, to find their missing professor and avoid a potentially catastrophic event, they won't be excavating the past, they'll be living it (116 minutes).

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. Honey (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Gothika (R)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. Looney Tunes: Back in Action (PG)  
4 p.m. Cheaper By The Dozen (PG)  
7 p.m. Honey (PG-13)  
10 p.m. The Missing (R)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Cheaper By The Dozen (PG)  
7 p.m. Timeline (PG-13)

### MONDAY

7 p.m. Timeline (PG-13)

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. The Human Stain (R)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Veronica Guerin (R)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. Honey (PG-13)

## MOVIE SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Whatever It Takes (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Freaky Friday (PG)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Peacemaker (R)  
2 a.m. Scary Movie 2 (R)

### SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Medallion (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Same River Twice (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Two Can Play That Game (R)  
2 a.m. The Talented Mr. Ripley (R)

### SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Love And Basketball (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Sixth Day (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Others (PG-13)  
2 a.m. Wishful Thinking (R)

### MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Scooby-Doo (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Snatch (R)  
2 a.m. About Schmidt (R)

### TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Where The Heart Is (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Johnny English (PG)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Order (R)  
2 a.m. Time Cop (R)

### WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Like Mike (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Second Hand Lions (PG)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Old School (R)  
2 a.m. Trapped (R)

### THURSDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Two Of Hearts (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Zoolander (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Bad Boys 2 (R)  
2 a.m. Women On Top (R)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

**Test Schedule**  
 Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST  
**February 18- ACT**  
**February 19- SAT**  
**February 23- EDPT, DLAB**  
**February 25- DLPT, AFCT**  
 For more information call 253-3855.

10:30 a.m.  
**Outbound Family Member Priority Placement Program Brief:** Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 12 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 Building 1, Room 102, CHRO training room except EBIS/MyPay/TSP.

## CHRO

**CHRO Training**  
**Introduction To Supervision:** Feb. 9-12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Mentoring Skills:** Feb. 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**EBIS/My Pay/TSP:** Feb. 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (This training will be provided at Building 360, the Distance Learning Center.)  
**Survival Skills For Military/Civilian Supervisors:** Feb. 4, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Family Member Local Employment Orientation:** Feb. 25, 8-9 a.m.  
**RESUMIX:** Feb. 25, 9:30-

## MCCS

**CRMC Classes (253-6439)**  
**Local Employment Overview:** Feb. 3, 9-10:30 a.m.  
**DoD Federal Employment:** Feb. 5 and 26, 1-3 p.m.  
**Club Iwakuni (253-4143)**  
**All Ranks Hip-Hop Dance Party:** Today, 10 p.m. in the ballroom.  
**All Ranks Latin Dance Party:** Saturday, 8 p.m. in the ballroom.  
**All Ranks Country Western Dance Party:** Saturday, 8 p.m. in the ballroom.

**Super Bowl Drawings:** Saturday. Drawings are available in all lounges for armchair seating at the Monday Super Bowl Party in the ballroom.  
**Play Station Super Bowl Tournament Finals:** Sunday, 2 p.m. in the Landing Zone. For E-5 and below only.

**MCX (253-5641)**  
**Super Bowl Promotion:** Stop by the MCX for your Super Bowl Party needs.  
**Valentine's Bouquet Deadline:** Order your flower arrangements before Feb. 7 at the MCX Customer Service for Valentine's Day pickup. Teleflora orders may also be placed through us.  
**Valentine's Sale:** Today through Feb. 14. Browse our selection of sweets available at discount prices.  
**Most Kissable Lips Contest:** Enter today at the MCX. Winning entries will be randomly selected in a drawing at noon, Feb. 13. Presence is required to win. Prizes include a \$100 gift certificate and gift sets.  
**Super Bowl Party:** Feb. 2, 6 a.m. Free to all ranks in the ballroom. Enjoy free breakfast snacks and submarine sandwiches during half time.

**Hour Information Line 253-3143)**  
**P.R.E.P. Workshop for Couples:** Feb. 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Yujo Hall.  
**MCFTB Annual Art Contest Deadline:** Feb. 13.

**Pizza Hut Super Bowl Monday**  
 Pizza Hut will open for delivery and pickup orders Monday, 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 253-3943 for delivery or 253-4915 for pickup orders.

**Clogging Dance Classes**  
 Every Sunday, 5-6 p.m. in the IronWorks Gym Aerobics Room. Open to the Station personnel and family members for \$7 per person. Call 253-3696 for details.

## COMMUNITY

**National Children's Dental Health Month**  
 Come join the celebration at the Dental Clinic Feb. 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be fun games and prizes, gifts for children and helpful information for the parents. Children's exams will be performed as well. For more information call Lt. Gelder at 253-3331 or Chief Petty Officer Olaes at 253-5252

**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.

**Iwakuni Toastmasters**  
 Join Toastmasters Club, which provides Communication and Leadership training. For more information contact Ms. Regan at 253-4557 or Ms. Donahue at 253-5328 or visit http://iwakunitmc.at.infoseek.co.jp

**MCPHS Yearbook**  
 Yearbook Prices Increase to \$55 this week. If you want to take advantage of the low \$55 cost you need to place your order NLT close of business today. If you need an order form, stop by the high school office.

If you already have an order form, make sure you turn it in to the high school office by the end of this week if you want to take advantage of the \$55 offer. After this week prices increase by \$5 a week, until March 1. No orders will be taken after March 1.

We are making an exact order, all books must be preordered. Visit the high school office or call Mr. Williams at 253-9719 after 2:30 p.m. for more information.

**PTO Silent Auction**  
 Matthew C. Perry Elementary School PTO's 4th Annual Silent Auction will be held Feb. 20 at Club Iwakuni ballroom. Preview is at 5 p.m. Bidding is 5:30-6:30 p.m. All donations will be paid after awarding bids are announced. To submit a donation, contact Terrie Stintzman at 253-2402 or Jen Stewart at 253-2490.

**Marine Corps Family Team Building (253-3754 or 24-**



Lance Cpl. Ruben Calderon

### New Landing Zone opens for business

A new and improved Landing Zone complete with a trendy sports theme opened for business Jan. 23. The grand opening kicked off at 3 p.m. with all Station personnel cordially invited. At 5 p.m. anyone under the rank of E-5 had to leave as the new E-club played privy to its regular customers.

# Station team gets kick out of Japanese visit

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

The Station soccer team braved wintry playing conditions, Jan. 22, when they defeated a visiting team of Japanese soldiers at the Penny Lake Soccer Fields, 4-2.

The Japanese team, comprised of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Sergeants, visited the Station as part of the 2nd Training Brigade, 4th Sergeant Training Unit's Middle Army Basic Enlisted English Course in Shiga Prefecture near Osaka.

The match-up gave the Station soccer team a chance to play in the off-season as well as allowing the two teams to enjoy some friendly competition.

"They were pretty good this year," said Josh Melvin, Station soccer player. "We just go out to have fun, but they were still challenging. We weren't doing so well at first. But once they scored, we got into our passing game and started playing as a team."

Despite the cutting winds and freezing temperatures, the teams played two 15-minute halves.

JGSDf played hard throughout the game and Datsuke Yoshimatsu made two goals for his team. Station's Jose DonJuan Velazquez answered scoring two goals during the game. Melvin and Koichi Ishijima also scored one goal apiece for the Station team to claim the victory.

Station Goalkeeper John Idland halted his opponents in the goalie's box throughout the game.

"I think our defense is what won the game for us," Melvin said.

JGSDf player Takashi Ohtani said, "I really enjoy playing with (the American team)."

Later in the evening, the teams met at the Eagle's Nest for a social and got to know their competitors.

The visiting soldiers returned to Shiga Prefec-



Takashi Ohtani, 19, slide tackles Station soccer player Dustin Brenneman at the Penny Lake Soccer Fields here.



Koichi Ishijima sets up for a pass during a soccer match versus a group of visiting Japanese soldiers.



ABOVE: Dustin Brenneman dribbles the ball past Japanese defender, Kiyomasa Kato during a recent soccer match here. LEFT: Jose DonJuan Velazquez leaves his opponents in the dust as he prepares to kick one of his two goals.



## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### RUN FOR YOUR HEART

Feb. 6, 11 a.m., the Station personnel and family members run 5 kilometers on the seawall. Sign up for free before Feb. 4 at the IronWorks Gym front desk. Call 253-5051 for more information.

### MAKE REAL THE DREAM BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Feb. 10, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. The tournament takes place Feb. 14, 10 a.m. in the sports courts. Call 253-5777 to sign up.

### SKI TRIPS TO MIZUHO HIGHLANDS

Feb. 7 and 16, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Station personnel and family members sign up at the IT&T office. Patrons can borrow their ski and snowboard equipment from Gear Issue at no cost, but must bring 5,500 yen for a lift ticket. Children under 18 years old must be accompanied

by an adult. No alcohol is allowed on the bus. Call 253-4377 for details.

### OVER 30 SWIM LESSONS

Feb. 9-13, 5-5:45 p.m. The Station personnel and family members age 30 and up learn the basics of swimming. Sign up for \$30 at the IronWorks Gym front desk. Call 253-4966 for more information.

### ALL-MARINE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Submit your resume to the Athletics Office before Feb. 15. For resume format and more information call Jennifer Jones at 253-4605.

### CLIMB THE WALL TREADWALL ORIENTATION

Feb. 7, 9-10:30 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Cardio Room. The Station personnel and family members age 16 and older sign up for free at the IronWorks front desk before Feb. 5. Call 253-5051 for details.





Higashi's Murakami Shinichiro takes it to the hole to score a lay-up against the 76ers Saturday at the IronWorks gym.

# Higashi Jr. High welcomed by 'Sixers'

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CL. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

Technical and fundamental playing was in full effect Saturday at the IronWorks Gym as the Iwakuni 76ers 13-15-year-olds, battled it out against the Higashi Middle School basketball team Jan. 24.

The doubleheader game kicked-off with a

traditional drum beating ceremony to celebrate the start of the cultural exchange game.

Five players from each team met at the center of the basketball court, faced each other and bowed, and then the action began.

The first game finished with the 76ers overpowering Higashi and easily winning 31-18. The second game was more of the same as the 76ers racked up 42 points while Higashi struggled from the field finishing with 13 points.

Although the scores weren't close, both teams showed good sportsmanship and a deep understanding of the game, said Tanaka Shingi, Higashi basketball team coach.

76ers' coach Ricky Brooks, a first-year coach, enjoyed watching his players play in the cultural exchange game. "This was a really good experience playing against each other. Although we are at a higher level of playing, it gives us a better understanding of how other teams play



Higashi Jr. High School Basketball team was invited to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to be part of the cultural exchange game Saturday at the IronWorks gym against the 76ers.

and it's great practice."

Shingi felt his guys gave their best effort, but still have a lot to learn about basketball. "The difference between us right now is that we are very new to the sport," he said. "The 76ers play a really different style than we do. They are faster than us, jump higher and are taller," said Shingi with a smile. "But this is definitely good practice."

According to Tracy Buning, Marine Corps Community Services youth sports coordinator, the cultural exchange between both teams is more important than the outcome of the game.

"These games give everyone a chance to integrate with each others cultures and lifestyles," said Buning. "That is how friendships blossom."

More games are slated for March 13 and 14 at the IronWorks Gym. On March 27, Station teams will play outside the Station.



Seventy-sixers' Jacob Williams defends Higashi' Kobaishi Rutaro as he tries to pass to an open fellow teammate.



The 76ers pay their respects to their opponents, Higashi, by bowing, concluding the game.