

## New sexual assault hot line launched

SPECIAL RELEASE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense announced March 4 that an additional toll-free telephone number has been established for people who want to contact or provide information to the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

The number, (800) 497-6261, is staffed 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld recently ordered a senior-level inquiry into the reported sexual assaults in Iraq and Kuwait, and how the armed services treat victims of sexual assault.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said the findings of the 90-day review are due by April 30.

"Every service member deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity," Chu said. "Sexual assault is criminal conduct and will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense."

Chu said he believes the information from the call center will help the task force and defense officials in developing policies and programs to improve assistance for victims of assaults and enhance efforts at prevention.

## Marines bunker down for Korea

LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

YECHON AIRBASE, Republic of Korea — Debarking from a United States Army high speed vehicle, 131 Marines and Sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived here, March 6.

The squadron will remain until April 5, participating in the 2004 Foal Eagle training exercise.

The Marines and Sailors will provide aviation ground support to Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Air Control Squadron 18 in order to facilitate combined fixed wing operations from a forward operating base.

"This week we're setting up tent spaces and utilities for all the units coming in," said Capt. Pat Vongsavanh, MWSS-171 Foal Eagle airfield operations commanding officer.

During the course of the week, the squadron's mission has been to prepare everything necessary for sustaining over 800 Marines arriving next week.

"MWSS-171's job is to have it all ready for them so when they get here they can set their sea bags and alic packs on a cot and go straight to work," said Vongsavanh.

"After they arrive, our job will just be maintaining and



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Marines slip and slide to erect a chow hall tent at the Yechon Air Base. During the course of the week, tents were set up to facilitate the influx of 734 service members coming here as part of the 2004 Foal Eagle training exercise.

helping out with support as best we can."

Although still 115 miles from the demilitarized zone, the squadron had hostile conditions to deal with upon their arrival. Winter bit deep with 17 inches of snow and temperatures as low as -7 degrees Fahrenheit at night.

"You just have to take it one day at a time," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Cuva, MWSS-171 mobile facilities specialist. "There's nothing we can really do about it."

Cuva, along with dozens of Marines from different platoons within 171, worked 14 to 16 hours a day in the cold, setting up tents and facilities in preparation for the influx of Marines.

As temperatures rose slightly during the course of the week, so did the amount of mud, transforming camps and roads into vast fields of sludge.

"The modules we're setting up out here took six to eight hours when we set them up back at the shop," said Cuva. "The conditions here make it take 12-14 hours."

"It's like trying to build a city on big swamp of mud and water," added Lance Cpl. Marvin Weaver, MWSS-171 supply clerk.

see KOREA Page 5

## INSIDE




### Vikings invade Iwakuni

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 returns to the Pacific Region Page 3

### Kintai Bridge reopens

Historic bridge celebrates reopening with festival Page 8

### IWAKUNI WEATHER

	Today Rain High: 58
	Saturday Mostly Sunny High: 60
	Sunday Scattered Showers High: 61

[www.iwakuni.usmc.mil](http://www.iwakuni.usmc.mil)

## Thrift Savings Plan opens again

CHL. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

Individuals looking for another investment opportunity for their future financial security can sign-up April 15th thru June 30th to take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan.

If service members do not sign-up now they will have to wait until the next open season, which is Oct. 15.

The TSP program is similar to other retirement saving plans in that money invested is tax deferred and will possibly earn you more money in the long run.

"The TSP is a defined contribution plan," said Teri Lovely, Marine Corps Community Service financial fitness counselor. "What that means is that participation is optional and the member must sign-up to participate. The member makes contributions directly out of

their paycheck. So the maximum amount you can contribute is one to nine percent of your base pay, and that comes out before federal and state taxes are taken."

This allows individuals to lose much less on taxes once they use the money for retirement.

"If your base pay is \$1,000 and you want to contribute 9 percent, they take out that \$90 and you only pay taxes on \$910 a month," said Lovely. "Then at the end of the year you're not going to pay income taxes on that as well. The implications are you saving on taxes now, and when you get older and in a lower tax bracket you pay fewer taxes."

Once someone enrolls in the program, there are varieties of places their money can go. The TSP has five different funds that an individual can invest in. The first is the Government Securities Investment Fund, or G fund.

"The G fund is basically like a savings account," Lovely said. "It invests in special, non-traded U.S. Treasury securities and is federally insured, but offers a lower return."

The next is the Fixed Income Index Investment Fund, which invests in government and corporate bonds and is not federally insured so the risk is slightly higher, she added.

"The C fund, Common Stock Index Investment Fund, invests in the big stocks you see on Wall Street," Lovely said. "The Small Capitalization Stock Index Fund is a riskier type of fund, that invests in small to medium-size companies."

The final fund TSP offers is the International Stock Index Investment Fund. It invests in foreign markets, which can be volatile, Lovely noted.

see SAVING Page 5



Torii Teller

**Commanding Officer/  
Publisher**

Col. Dave Darrah

**Public Affairs Officer**

Capt. Stewart T. Upton

**Public Affairs Chief**

Master Gunnery Sgt.

Constance Dillard

**Press Chief**

Staff Sgt. Nicholas P. McLaren

**Operations Chief**

Staff Sgt. Brenda L. Varnadore

**Combat Correspondents**

Cpl. Dave Boni

Cpl. Robert Wynkoop

Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Lance Cpl. David P. Revere

Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Pfc. Lydia Davey

**Information/Editorial**

**Specialist**

Yukiko Mitsui

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

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

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.

PSC 561 Box 1868  
FPO AP 96310-0029  
Phone 253-5551  
Fax 253-5554

## 1st Marine Division returns to Iraq

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Letter to All Hands

We are going back in to the brawl. We will be relieving the magnificent soldiers fighting under the 82nd Airborne Division, whose hard won successes in the Sunni Triangle have opened opportunities for us to exploit.

For the last year, the 82nd Airborne has been operating against the heart of the enemy's resistance. It's appropriate that we relieve them: When it's time to move a piano, Marines don't pick up the piano bench - we move the piano.

So this is the right place for Marines in this fight, where we can carry on the legacy of Chesty Puller in the Banana Wars in the same sort of complex environment that he knew in his early years. Shoulder to shoulder with our comrades in the Army, Coalition Forces and maturing Iraqi Security Forces, we are going to destroy the enemy with precise firepower while diminishing the conditions that create adversarial relationships between us and the Iraqi people.

This is going to be hard, dangerous work. It is going to require patient, persistent presence. Using our individual initiative, courage, moral judgment and battle skills, we will build on the 82nd Airborne's victories. Our country is counting on us even as our enemies watch and calculate, hoping that America does not have warriors strong enough to withstand discomfort and danger. You, my fine young men, are going to prove the enemy wrong - dead wrong. You will demonstrate the same uncompromising spirit that has always caused the enemy to fear America's Marines.

The enemy will try to manipulate you into hating all Iraqis. Do not allow the enemy that victory. With strong discipline, solid faith, unwavering alertness, and undiminished chivalry to the innocent, we will carry out this mission. Remember, I have added, "First, do no harm" to our passwords of "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy." Keep your honor clean as we gain information about the enemy from the Iraqi people. Then, armed with that information and working in conjunction with fledgling Iraqi Security Forces, we will move precisely against the enemy elements and crush them without harming the innocent. This is our test -- our Guadalcanal, our Chosin Reservoir, our Hue City.

Fight with a happy heart and keep faith in your comrades and your unit. We must be under no illusions about the nature of the enemy and the dangers that lie ahead. Stay alert, take it all in stride, remain sturdy, and share your courage with each other and the world. You are going to write history, my fine young Sailors and Marines, so write it well.

Semper Fidelis,

J.N. MATTIS

Major General, U. S. Marines

## A message from your lousy military policeman

COL. RANDY BOCCHI

Letter to the Editor

Well Mr. or Ms. Marine, I guess you've got me figured out. I seem to fit neatly into the category you portray me in. I'm your typed, characterized, classified, grouped and always typical, lousy military policeman.

Unfortunately, the reverse isn't always true. I never seem to figure you out. You teach your children from infancy that I'm the boogymen. They are shocked when they identify me with my traditional enemy, the criminal.

You raise havoc about the person who cuts you off in traffic, but let me catch you doing the same thing and I'm picking on you. You seem to know all about the laws but never get one single traffic ticket you deserve.

You accuse me of pampering juveniles until I catch your kid doing something, then I'm badge happy. You take an hour for lunch and several coffee breaks each day, but point me out as a sandbagger if you see me having a cup during my 16-hour shift.

You shout 'foul' if you observe me driving fast in response to a call, but raise hell if I take more than 20 seconds to respond to your call.

You pride yourself on your polished manners, but think nothing of interrupting my meals in messhalls or clubs with your problems. You're a witty conversationalist but bore me to death at social functions with your vast knowledge of "my job."

You call it part of my job if someone strikes me, but let me strike back and it's police brutality.

You wouldn't think of telling a dentist how to pull teeth or a carpenter

how to build a structure, but you are always willing to give me a few pointers on law enforcement.

You talk to me in a manner and with language that would assure you a bloody nose from anyone else.

You cry that something should be done about this crime but of course you don't want to be involved.

You have no use for me what so ever, but of course it's okay if I change a tire for your wife, deliver your child in the seat of a patrol vehicle, revive your son with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, work many hours overtime searching for your lost daughter or chase the neighbor's dog out of your yard.

You stand up on your little soapbox and rant and rave and call me names but never seem to realize that your life may some day depend on one thing, we lousy MP's.

# Town hall stirs emotions

STAFF SGT. NICHOLAS MCLAREN  
Press Chief

Col. David Darrah, Station commanding officer, went before members of the Iwakuni community to host a town hall meeting March 18 at the Marine Memorial Chapel.

The quarterly get-together was the last for the outgoing Station commander.

Station residents filed into the chapel in order to hear the latest news about the state of the Station, upcoming events and for an opportunity to pose questions directly to the boss.

Runway relocation, road construction and an upcoming noncombatant evacuation operation training exercise were all topics discussed to give the attendees an idea of what to expect in the near future.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

**The Iwakuni community used the town hall meeting to present questions and concerns.**

Marine Corps Community Services director, Dale Smith, took advantage of the town hall setting to demonstrate how supporting MCCA programs ultimately benefits the Station.

Smith's fiscal year 2003 review of funds detailed funds generated, source



**Dale Smith, Marine Corps Community Services director, discussed MCCA's financial status.**

of revenue, expenses and their sources, operating expenses, major capital projects and improvements in the community.

The MCCA presentation prompted questions concerning the food costs and the club. The commanding officer,

along with Smith, fielded the questions by stating a requirement to make a profit. Also, the colonel added, the new prices are comparable, and in most cases, better than those at other club systems throughout Japan.

"We are doing right by business and by the community," Darrah explained. Customers are getting their money's worth and the price increases as the quality increases, he added.

A staple of the town hall forum is the opportunity to ask questions directly to those with the ability to make changes. Armed with questions provided by the attendees, the colonel began what he calls "stump the dummy."

The bike shop, Marine Corps Exchange layout, high-speed Internet access, barbershop hours and the Child Development Center were all hot topics

see TOWN Page 5

## Fighting Vikings invade Iwakuni

COL. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 returned to Iwakuni after a two-year hiatus March 10.

The Vikings are taking part in the unit deployment program for six months while they conduct training exercises in the Pacific Region, as well as other areas of the world.

The Vikings were first commissioned Jan. 1, 1943, and were designated as Marine Attack Squadron 225. The squadron was founded at Marine Corps Air Station Mojave, Calif.

The unit has earned numerous Command Post Exercise awards and other distinctions such as being the first Marine Attack Squadron to fly Trans-Atlantic to Spain. The squadron was redesignated as Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, July 1, 1991, at MCAS El Toro, Calif.

VMFA(AW)-225 brings approximately 190 Marines to the Station, to include the 12 F/A-18D Hornets they will be buzzing the skies with. Along with the Vikings

comes a detachment of Marines from Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 11, who will be working alongside MALS-12.

"The Marines of VMFA(AW)-225 are extremely excited to be in Japan," said Lt. Col. John Rupp, VMFA(AW)-225 commanding officer. "As a whole, about 60 percent of the squadron is making their first trip here, so they are anxious to see Japan and the other countries we will be deploying to. We deployed to Iwakuni in 2002 and just returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom last year almost nine months ago, but the Marines are eager to deploy again and do the job they have been trained to do."

The Vikings are currently slated for training exercises in Korea, Thailand, Australia and Alaska.

According to some of the first-timers to this region, the experiences awaiting them outside the gates will suffice for the moment.

"I have been with the Vikings for nine months now and this is my first time to Japan," said Lance Cpl. Erika Godinez, VMFA(AW)-225 avionics technician. "I think I am most looking forward to training in Australia. I

hear that country is so beautiful. But while we are here in Iwakuni, I want to go to Hiroshima, and I really want to go to Iwo Jima."

Godinez and the rest of the Vikings will get their chance to explore, and according to the commanding officer, they will start right away.

"Marines came into the Marine Corps to travel and see the world. Japan and the other countries we will be going to offer so many sights to see, so I want all of my Marines to have fun and enjoy their time here. We have a job to do, but we can have fun doing it," said Rupp.



Photo courtesy of VMFA(AW)-225

**The Vikings arrived in Iwakuni with 12 F/A-18D's. They will be flying all over the Pacific Region during their six-month deployment.**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### THEFT AT ATM

Theft is on the rise at automated teller machines worldwide. Warnings have recently been released about covert methods being used to record credit and debit card numbers and pin information in order to steal cash from someone's account. Experts say to use caution and carefully examine items located on or adjacent to any ATM. If an item look suspicious, don't insert your card or pin. Report any suspicious activities to your banking facility.

### SCHOOL REREGISTER

Matthew C. Perry school students who are returning for the 2004-2005 school year must reregister. Both the elementary and the high schools will hold registration sessions April 5-9. Call the elementary school at 253-3447 or the high school at 253-5448 for times.

### JAPANESE AMERICAN SOCIETY

Bridge new friendships with the Japanese American society, a nonprofit organization created to formulate positive friendships between Japanese and American citizens. The society gets together for cultural events, holidays and many other occasions. Call 253-4771 for more information or to join.

# Station shows talents at Sakura

LANCE CH. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

It was a night of entertainment and laughs at the Sakura Theater, March 19, as 17 contestants battled it out at the URA Star Talent Show to see who could claim bragging rights as Iwakuni's top entertainer.

The contestants sang, danced and performed to three judges and over a hundred spectators, comprised of family and friends.

The show was emceed by three characters named "Big Daddy," "Sasha," and "Mr. Clean." They provided the comedic relief in between the changeover of contestants.

The contestants were judged on talent, originality, technique, showmanship and overall impression. The contest was divided into two categories: children and adults. The children performed first.

The first performance was a trio by Jasmine Benton, Destiny and Dasmier Chambers. They lip-synched "I Know" by Destiny's Child. The performance included an act that went along with the song's message of loneliness.

The second performance was by Mercedes Martinez singing her rendition of Britney Spears' "I'm Not a Girl." The performance by the San Diego native received a good response from the audience.

The third performance was something different from all the performances that night. "Gumboot dancing" originated from workers in the African diamond mines. The dance was considered a way to relieve the anxieties felt by the workers and was

something that they could call their own, said hostess "Sasha." "African-American Greek affiliated fraternities and sororities brought back the ancient dance during the brink of the civil rights movement and it was performed for the same reason in which it was created: to unite as a people and to possess something which they call their own."

Dominique West, Amina Brown, Sharrell Bellows and Akira Hunter, collectively known as the "Military Brats," performed the dance and it was an immediate hit with the crowd and judges. The dance is mainly comprised of stepping and clapping in unison while making a distinguishable beat.

Another crowd-pleasing performance was by Jawaun Stanley. The child came center stage with a basketball in hand and began to dance and dribble the ball on beat with Lil' Bow Wow's "Basketball."

Other performances for the children's category included Maggie Redmond singing "All That Jazz," Dirk Parker singing the Beatles' "Let It Be," Kristina Hudson singing the "Titanic" of a song "My Heart Will Go On."

The last performance from the children's category was a hula dance by Honolulu native Catherine Joan Espino.

The adult performances followed immediately after a 15-minute intermission. Angelica "Gelica" Claudi got the



Photos by Sgt. Anthony J. Adamson

**Shelvie Edmonds took first place at the talent show with his rendition of "Back at One."**

second part of the talent show started with her version of "I Believe In You." Next was Rob Wynkoop with his rendition of Incubus's "Drive."

One of the next performances was by Rebekah Raner playing the violin. The unique performance seemed to have stood out the most because of an instrument being used.

After the fiddler performed, Iwakuni local Nozomu Morita took to the stage with an electric guitar and sang "In My Place."

Karl "Ozzy" Oswald followed the trend of instruments and performed "Angels' Son" with guitar in hand.

Cathleen "Catie" Kogairen, singing "Anytime," was hitting the highest notes at the talent show. As well as being a crowd favorite, she appealed to the judges as they sat with smiles and cheers.

The final performance of the night was by Shelvie Edmonds singing the crowd-participated Brian McKnight ballad "Back at One."

The winners of the children's category was the "Military Brats"



**Catherine Espino "hula-danced" her way into second place in the children's category for the talent show March 19.**

stepping away with third place, Jawaun Stanley taking second, and Catherine Espino hula dancing victoriously with first place.

In the adult categories, Fiddler Rebekah Raner took third place, Cathleen Kogairen finished at second and Edmonds, "Back at One" singer, took number one.

All winners took home a \$50 gift certificate courtesy of the show's sponsors, NTT Communications.

# Four-legged Marines provide protection

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PIC. L. YDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

"Halt! Halt!" cries the authoritative voice. "Halt! -Or I'll release my dog!" Seconds later the lean, muscular form of a Marine working dog is freed to race after a suspect. Powerful jaws and aggressive force pins the struggling figure to the ground. The dog handler, full of praise for his charge, approaches cautiously and handcuffs the delinquent.

Military working dogs play an integral role in the safety and security of Marines on Station. The canines are cross-trained for patrol work and narcotics or bomb-detection, said Sgt. Robert Bowker, Station kennel master.

Bowker oversees the training and maintenance of the Station's five dogs and their handlers. The dogs, bred in Germany, are handpicked before being sent to Lackland Air Force Base for a rigorous training program, said Bowker. Once they arrive to their duty station, the dogs continue their training.

"You have to keep teaching the dogs and the handlers new things. The dogs are like Marines - if you don't keep training, you're failing them," Bowker said.

The dogs and their handlers exercise together, run an obstacle course specifically designed for the canines and practice obedience and aggression training, said Bowker. During aggression training, the handlers use a variety of techniques to



**Lance Cpl. Andre Brooks, military working dog handler, takes a dog through an obstacle course during a training workout recently.**

irritate the animals and encourage them to attack. At Lackland, the dogs are trained only to bite a subject's arms, but their handlers on Station continue the dogs' education by teaching them to attack a person's chest, back and legs.

Aggression training is an involved and sometimes dangerous task.

"Every handler in the Marine Corps will get bitten at least once during their career. If they don't, they're not doing their job. We've got to push the dogs, and push ourselves," said Bowker.

Four male German Shepards, and one male Belgium Malinois compose the Station's K-9 unit. Although some of the dogs seem to enjoy fighting and will try to prove that they are the "Alpha male," some are friendly, Bowker said.

"A lot of the aggression training is playtime for the dogs," he said.

"Sometimes you'll find a naturally aggressive dog, but most of these are aggressive because they know there are rewards involved. If they do their job, they get a reward. If they gaff us off, they get punished."



**Sgt. Robert Bowker, Station kennel master, plays the bad guy as two K-9's try to take him down.**

Trying to understand the dogs can be a major challenge, said Station dog handler Lance Cpl. Lindsey A. Warfield. "Dogs and humans both have bad days," Warfield said. "If you're having a bad day, you can talk to someone about it and try to fix it. But if a dog has a rough day, you can't figure out why."

Yet, good day or bad, the dogs and handlers remain hard at work training, patrolling and providing security. The teams have been used effectively as an added measure of security for VIPs, as a deterrent to drug use and as crowd control, said Bowker. One team is currently serving with security forces in Iraq, added Warfield.

"Hard work and pain are part of the job, but I wouldn't trade working with the dogs for anything," said Warfield.

"I love being a dog handler," Bowker agreed. "I don't think there's a better job in the Marine Corps."

# Vet clinic assists family companions

PIC. L. YDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Brown eyes glistening, Nestle, an 8-year-old Labrador mix, takes in her surroundings at the Station's Veterinary Clinic. Cream-colored walls and a quiet atmosphere calm her as she waits for her checkup.

Nestle is one of the 50 to 60 animals who visit the clinic weekly. Dogs, cats and "pocket pets (hamsters, rabbits, turtles, birds, etc.)" are all welcome for checkups and treatment, said Army Capt. Sandi K. Perriot, Station veterinarian.

Since before World War I, military veterinarians have been hard at work, said Perriot. They are tasked with three main missions: public health and food safety for the troops, support for military working dogs and health care for pets belonging to members of the military, their family and retired military.

According to www2.okstate.edu, "All active duty Veterinary Corps officers have graduate degrees and are board-certified specialists in

pathology, toxicology, lab animal medicine or microbiology. Their public health responsibility requires them to make sure that food and water for the troops, both inside and outside of the country, meets governmental requirements."

The responsibility doesn't faze Perriot, "I always wanted to be a vet," she said. "Ever since I was seven or eight."

However, military veterinarians face unique challenges - especially when stationed overseas.

Although the clinic offers a full range of treatment for the 400 pets at the Station here, as well as nearly 400 pets at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, services such as blood testing and surgeries are dependant on the availability of supplies and equipment, said Perriot. And that availability is often limited.

Items such as food, drugs, anesthetic gas and other special order items make their way very slowly from the United States to Iwakuni, Perriot said. Additionally, unique equipment may have to be shipped in for nonstandard operations.

"Slow mail - trying to get supplies, that is the

biggest challenge we face," said Perriot.

Caring for the pets on Station is a less-trying experience due to the healthy animal population, Perriot said. With all the hoops that pet owners have to jump through in order to bring Fido to Japan, the animals are generally very healthy.

The biggest health problem that animals on Station face are skin and ear allergies, said Perriot. And, although the environment that causes such allergies cannot be changed, other factors affecting a pet's health can be altered.

"Preventative maintenance is important," Perriot said. "Most animals require a yearly visit to the veterinarian for their checkup and vaccinations." Perriot recommended that pet owners use a heartworm medicine and check their animal regularly for fleas and ticks.

The clinic is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The first and third Tuesday of every month, the clinic is open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment for your pet, please call 253-3588.

KOREA from Page 1

Meanwhile, construction platoon Marines worked late into the winter night to provide decking for the tents and strong back frames for the operations center facilities.

"I'm looking forward to some cold weather training," said Sgt. Adam Lauritzen, '171 construction platoon sergeant. "It's more real world than back at the shop."

Long hours and adverse conditions will pay off when the camp becomes fully operational next week, complete with showers, a mobile exchange, and a chow hall.

"I'll be bringing them hot chow," said Pfc. Kathleen

Baker, mess hall cook. "I'm looking forward to the appreciation from the troops."

Baker said it's the least these Marines deserve for the hard work in adverse conditions they have and will be providing.

"The way we train is the way we fight," said Pfc. Kyle A. Melancon. "We're what America is depending on, so we need to come out here and give it one hundred percent."

"It's not just a mundane thing they're doing here," summed up Vongsavanh. "It's critical to the entire operation."

SAVING from Page 1

Once the member is signed up and the money is invested, individuals can manage and move their money using the web site, www.tsp.gov.

"It goes into a plan you can watch grow online," she said. "Since savings accounts at most banks aren't offering good rates right now, the TSP funds' current rates are now offering better returns for long-term investing. Put your dollars to work just as hard as you are working for them."

Although the program may seem like a good idea to many, it is only

open to certain groups of individuals.

"The program is only for military members and general schedule government employees," Lovely explained. "A military member that is separating can still sign up, but once they separate they can no longer contribute to the program."

However, if someone separates from the military and takes a federal civilian job, they can still maintain their account and continue to contribute. They also have the option to move or rollover the TSP money to another qualified plan such as an

Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a 401K-retirement plan.

All it takes is one form submitted to the Installation Personnel and Administration Center or an online application.

"It's very easy," said Cpl. Shannon Jackson, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Pay and Legal noncommissioned officer in charge. "The paperwork will only take about five minutes to fill out."

For more information on the TSP, contact the Personal Financial Management Office at 253-6352 or IPAC at 253-2323.

TOWN from Page 3

addressed to MCCA.

Some answers were easy. The bike shop merchandise is now located in the Exchange, the layout will be evaluated, high-speed Internet is still in the works and the barbershop hours will be readdressed.

Questions concerning the CDC took a little longer to answer. In regards to salary-based pricing levels, the colonel stated the Secretary of Defense directs the rates. In addition, the CDC does not make a profit, he explained. It may not seem fair, he told the concerned community member, but concerns over the issue should be directed toward the Secretary of Defense and not the local commanders.

The shortage of CDC personnel and possible program cuts in both CDC programs and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools' Sure Start program were also discussed at length during the forum.

A BMX dirt track, that is currently still in the planning phases, force protection issues concerning running on the seawall after dark and unruly teenage behavior also generated conversation between the Station commander and the Iwakuni community.

Before calling the evening to a close, Darrah thanked the community for the support he has received during his tour here.



# Standing shoulder to shoulder in Philippines

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

Building good relations with different countries around the globe seems to be part of what being a U.S. service member is about. "It comes with the territory," said Lt. Col. Raymond L'Heureux, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 commanding officer.

Currently there are service members deployed in different countries throughout the world. Their daily routine is dealing with people who speak a different tongue than they do. They eat food they cannot pronounce. They may see landscapes they would not see back in the states. They experience something new, exotic.

The most pivotal element in these deployments is the building of a good relationship with the host country.

In the month of February, nine U.S. military units deployed to the Republic of Philippines as part of Exercise Balikatan 2004. It is a bilateral exercise comprised of both American and Philippine Armed Forces.

In the language of Tagalog, the native tongue of the Philippines, the word Balikatan means "shoulder to shoulder." And that is what the two military forces did for Exercise Balikatan 2004.

"Balikatan 2004, as we all know, reflects the long standing, close relationship between the Philippines and the United States," said Mr. Joesph Mussomeli, U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires.

"The events we have planned for this year's Balikatan will go a long way in deepening our security ties and the friendships between two people," said Republican of Philippine Army General Narciso L. Abaya, armed forces chief of staff.

Approximately 2,500 U.S. personnel and 2,300 AFP personnel participated in Exercise Balikatan 2004.

The exercises began Feb. 23 and ended March 1, and were broken up into three different phases that ran simultaneously.

The first phase was a combined task force seminar and command post exercise. It included scenarios of evaluations and tests on crisis action planning and course-of-action executions.

The second phase was carried out in various training areas, which included Clark Air Base, Ft. Magsaysay, and Marine Base Ternate. The phase was comprised of both cross-training and field-training exercises. It's main objective was to improve interoperability.

The third phase was a combination of medical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic action projects where the service members went into the communities of Puerto Princesa, Palawan and of Basco, Batanes to provide assistance.

The final phase dealt with actual people who were not involved with the military. The phase's

primary focus was civic assistance.

Additional elements of the exercise included assistance with comprehensive defense development, according to the Exercise Balikatan 2004 Central Combined Information Bureau. "Some of the developments included security assistance modules for counter terrorism training, helicopter night capability training, intelligence fusion, subject matter expert exchanges, international military education and training programs, advice and support for logistics, engineering, equipment, maintenance and civil military operations.

The exercise is designed to improve combined planning, combat readiness and interoperability of the U.S. and Philippine military forces.

"It is a genuine pleasure to see all this hard work come to fruition with the kick of this annual exercise," Mussomeli stated. "Two peoples' deeply-rooted and shared history and values with the shared commitment to global peace, security and prosperity."



After arriving in the Philippines from Iwakuni, a CH-53D is looked over for any maintenance problems that may have occurred while en route to Exercise Balikatan 2004.



The Ugly Angels hand carry extra propeller blades off a CH-53D for the training exercise in the Philippines.



Part of the daily routine for the Ugly Angels was to make sure that the CH-53 helicopters would be able to fly everyday during Exercise Balikatan 2004.



The trio of CH-53D stand ready for action after arriving from Iwakuni. The helicopters are part of Exercise Balikatan in the Philippine Islands.



Convoys of service members participating in Exercise Balikatan 2004, drew curious looks from the residents of Angeles City, Republic of Philippines.



Rain came and went in Clark Air Base, Republic of Philippines, throughout the exercise. Rain or shine, participants in Exercise Balikatan carried on with their missions.



# Renovation completed, celebrations begin

LANCE CH. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

For over 300 years, the Kintai Bridge has stood, fallen and been rebuilt again and again. Located in Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, the five-arched bridge stands at 22 feet high, 16 feet wide and is approximately 230 yards in length.

It is one of the three most famous bridges on the island of Japan, which was completed in 1673 over the Nishiki River.

But due to high water that runs through the river, the wooden bridge was always washed away. Since it's conception, the Kintai Bridge has undergone extensive rebuilding.

The longest the bridge has stayed the same was for 276 years, which then fell in 1950 due to a typhoon. It was rebuilt three years later.

Forty-nine years later, the Kintai Bridge underwent another cosmetic construction.

The city of Iwakuni, along with the Iwakuni Tourist Association and the Iwakuni Chamber of Commerce, hosted a festival inviting all residents to celebrate the completion of the recent renovation to the bridge, March 19 through Sunday at the Kintai Bridge.

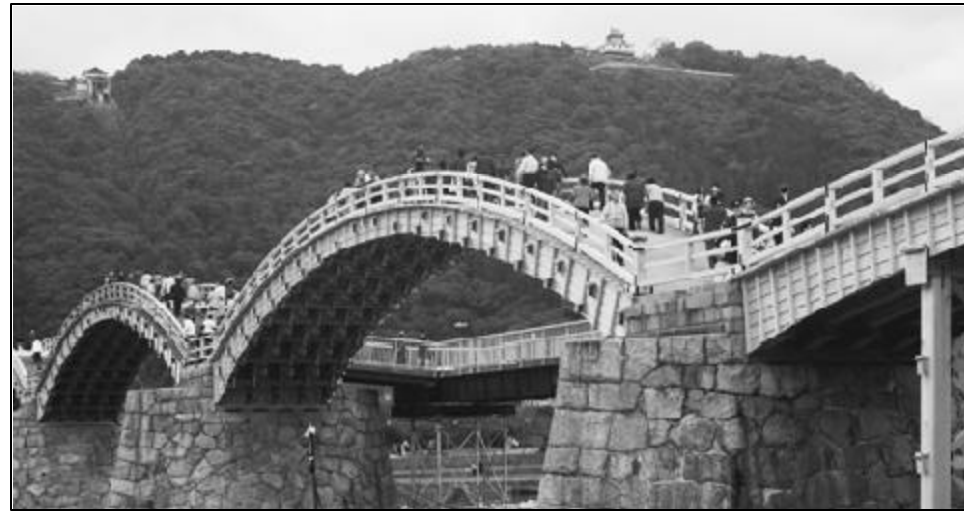
Thousands of visitors, of all races and colors, attended the Kintai Bridge Dream Fiesta '04. The event was over two years in the making.

The remodeling of the bridge began November 2001. Construction



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

**Shops and vendors were in full service for the thousands of visitors to the bridge festival.**



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

**The Kintai Bridge recently finished its renovations, which started back in November 2001.**

began with the center of the bridge, the third arch. It was completed April 2002. On November 2002, work began on the fourth and fifth arch. The work was completed April 2003. Finally, work on the first and second arch began November 2003 and was completed in March.

The three-day long event began March 19 at 4 p.m. with a symposium on the bridges and why the Kintai Bridge stands out as playing a pivotal role in the popularity of Iwakuni.

At 6:30 p.m., the dusky evening was set on fire with the Kintai Bridge Light Up ceremony. Lights surrounded the historical bridge and emitted throughout the river.

On Saturday morning, the day began with the Commemorative Tree Planting ceremony. It symbolized a rebirth of a new beginning, according to Hideo Tetsumoto, Iwakuni local.

The opening of the bridge immediately followed the tree planting ceremony. Thousands of people formed into a line to cross the famed

bridge. Before anyone could cross the bridge, the myriad of people first signed a logbook to document the historical venture.

Throughout the day, performances took place as part of the celebration. The shows included a musket performance, a drum beating ceremony, folk performances and the Yosakoi Dance Festival.

The following day, Sunday, festivities began at 10 a.m. with the Taketonbo Contest. It is a contest of flying, traditional Japanese toys.

A concert took place at the very end of the three-day festival, which included opera vocalist Ken Nishikiori, composer and synthesizer performer Naoki Nishimura, and special guest Japanese drum player Kensaku Sato.

American born Dave Koike, 34, visiting family in Iwakuni, enjoyed the sights that the Kintai had to offer.

"The last time I was here, I was in my late teens and I vaguely remember the Kintai Bridge being this popular,"



Lance Cpl. Kellen C. Chumley

**One of the many performances and displays at the Kintai Bridge was a drum beating ceremony.**

admitted Koike. "But now, seeing everything and everyone here and it being a big part of Iwakuni, I am happy and proud to say this is my home."

is part of the 27th Annual Kintai Bridge Festival scheduled for April 29. Call 253-5551 for more information.

### Asa Zoo Flea Market

There will be a flea market held at Asa Zoo, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be cancelled in case of rain. Admission fee is required to enter the zoo. Call 082-838-1111 for more information.

### Recycle Plaza Flea Market

The flea market will be held in the parking lot of the Iwakuni City Recycle Plaza Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 32-5371 for details.

## OUT THE GATE

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

### Nishiki River Houseboat Tour

This tour, going down the Nishiki river around the Kintai Bridge by houseboat, is held Saturday through May 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. everyday. It may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Reservation and admission fee are required. Lunch is included in the tour. Call 41-0470 to reserve or for more information.

### Miyajima Children Kagura Festival

This festival is scheduled Sunday, 10 a.m. to the early evening at Senjokaku near Itsukushima shrine on the Miyajima island. Eight groups of the local children perform Kagura, sacred music and dance. It will not be cancelled in case of rain. Admission fee is required to enter Senjokaku.

### Daimyo Costume Parade

The Kintai Bridge Festival Committee is looking for Americans to participate in the time-honored Daimyo Costume Parade. The event



## 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

**Mitsubishi Emeraude**, 1993, 4-door-sedan, JCI until June 2004, \$1,500 obo. Call Kris Gerber at 253-3989 dwh or 253-2030 awh.

**Mitsubishi Mirage**, 1989, 2 door, hatchback, JCI until Oct. 2004, \$600 obo. Call Kris Gerber at 253-3989 dwh or 253-2030 awh.

**Nissan Skyline GT**, 1994, 2 door, new JVC AM/FM/CD player new front/back speakers, good condition, auto transmission, cold A/C, auto climate control, a in-line V-6 engine, well maintained, power everything, must sell, JCI until Dec. 2005, \$3,400 obo. Call Chad Boblett at 253-6101 dwh or 253-7240 awh or

090-4109-6830.  
**Honda Civic**, 1995, 4-door-sedan, black, A/C, P/W, CD player, JCI until Feb. 2005, \$1,700 obo. Call 253-5260 dwh or 253-2010 awh or 090-3747-1228.

**Mazda MPV**, 1993, excellent condition, cold A/C, auto transmission, P/S, P/L, auto climate control front and rear, P/W, tinted window, AM/FM cassette player, 3 L gas V-6 engine, green and gold trim, JCI until Aug. 2004, \$1,950. Call 253-2650.

**Toyota Hilux**, 1989, 4x4, 6 disc CD changer, P/W, P/D, new A/C, new starter/battery, looks and runs great, UCI until July 2004, \$2,000 obo. Call Jodi or

Doug at 253-2088 or 253-6528.

**Nissan Terrano**, 1991, 4 door, JCI until June 2005, \$3,000 obo. Call GySgt. Forbes at 253-5468 dwh or 253-2716 awh.

**Subaru SVX**, 1991, 2 door, nice sport/luxury, all options, leather interior, power everything, all wheel driver, 12 disc CD changer, 230 HD boxer engine, JCI until Sep. 2004, \$2,500 obo. Call Sgt. Campos at 253-3609 dwh or 080-3050-1216.

**Toyota Vista**, 1990, 4 door, white with maroon interior, runs good, good A/C, heater, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$1,200 obo. Call John or Tonya at 253-5304 or 253-2485.

**Toyota Sprinter SE**, 1995, 63,000 km, good mechanical condition, AM/FM/cassette, JCI until Feb. 2006, \$1,700. Call 253-6300 dwh or 253-2563 awh.

**Suzuki Jeep Nomade**, 1992, dark green, 4 door, cloth interior, A/C, heater, excellent condition, JCI until Jan. 2005, \$2,500 obo. Call Tonya at 253-4562 dwh or 253-2485 awh.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, Sony MVC-FD85 Mavica digital camera with carrying case, \$300 obo; Panasonic VCR \$75; JVC 3 disc DVD Player, \$100; large Pooh Bear, 9,500 yen or \$90. Call Linda Kostelny at 253-3278 dwh or 090-8608-3799.

**Misc.**, Flat 7" TV monitor for car with head rest mount, new, \$120; black bedroom set, used, \$90. Call Sgt. Campos at 253-3609 dwh or 080-3050-1216.

**Misc.**, Ashley living room set, comfortable, navy blue, queen sleeper sofa, love seat, chair, ottoman, pillows, excellent condition, \$750 obo. Call Tonya at 253-4562 dwh or 253-2485 awh.

Epson Stylus color 600 printer, ink-jet, old but works great, with original packaging, \$20 obo. Call Jon at 253-2511.

MCAS Iwakuni throw blanket in full color featuring the F/A-18 Hornet surrounded by various unit patches. A must have keepsake of Iwakuni or a great gift for the family. \$55 check or cash. All payments must be made up-front. Call Karen at 253-2122 or Kelly at 253-2745 to order.

### WANTED

Looking for someone who desires to take a trip to Thailand for 5 to 10 days between the dates of May 15 and June 30, and do the buddy rule with me. The cheapest value for these dates to fly is \$537 and train round trip is \$160. Contact Chad at 090-4109-6830.

### JOB OPENINGS

#### CHRO (253-6828)

**Clinic:**  
-Social Worker  
**BPO:**  
-Management and Program Analysis Officer  
-Management and Program Analysis

**CHRO:**  
-Supervisory Human Resources Specialist

#### DECA:

-Materials Handler

#### MCCS (253-3030)

Go to <http://www.mccs-iwakuni.com> for a complete job listing.

# SAKURA THEATER



### THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

A young man struggling with the psychological effects of sublimated childhood memories devises a technique of traveling back in time to inhabit his childhood body, but he finds that every trip back has unintended results on his present self, leading him to travel back again and again, trying to repair the damage that he's only making worse and worse (113 minutes).



### ALONG CAME POLLY

Reuben Feffer, whose best-laid plans for life and love careen wildly off track when his bride dumps him on their honeymoon for a scuba instructor. Stunned, humiliated and in the grip of acute indigestion, Reuben plans to play it safer than ever. But a chance encounter with an adventure-craving, childhood friend named Polly shoots him into a whirlwind of extreme sports, spicy foods, ferrets, salsa dancing and living in the moment (90 minutes).



### COLD MOUNTAIN

Cold Mountain tells the story of Inman, a wounded confederate soldier who is on a perilous journey home to his mountain community, hoping to reunite with his prewar sweetheart, Ada. In his absence, Ada struggles to survive, and revive her father's farm with the help of intrepid young drifter Ruby (155 minutes).

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. MyBaby'sDaddy (PG-13)  
10 p.m. The Butterfly Effect (R)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. PeterPan (PG)  
4 p.m. Big Fish (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)  
10 p.m. The Butterfly Effect (R)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Along Came Polly (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)

### MONDAY

7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R)

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. MonaLisaSmile (PG-13)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. 50FirstDates (PG-13)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. MyBaby'sDaddy (PG-13)

## MCTV MOVIE SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Crocodile Hunter (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Frequency (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Master And Commander (PG-13)  
2 a.m. Blair Witch 2 (R)

### SAURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. M.A.S.H. (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Matchstick Men (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Veronica Guerin (R)  
2 a.m. Broken Arrow (R)

### SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Looney Tunes: Back In Action (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Antwone Fisher (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Beyond Borders (R)  
2 a.m. Knockaround Guys (R)

### MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Good Boy! (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Crazy/Beautiful (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Lost In Translation (R)  
2 a.m. Down To Earth (PG-13)

### TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Toy Story 2 (G)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. My Boss's Daughter (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Cold Creek Manor (R)  
2 a.m. Loser (PG-13)

### WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Legally Blonde 2 (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Rundown (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Cabin Fever (R)  
2 a.m. Basic Instinct (R)

### THURSDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. I Spy (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Duplex (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Missing (R)  
2 a.m. Analyze That (PG-13)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

**Test Schedule**  
 Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST  
**April 7** -ACT  
**April 8** -SAT  
**April 14** -EDPT  
**April 15** -DLAB  
**April 28** -DLPT  
**April 29** -AFCT  
 For more information, call 253-3855.

**Conflict & Adverse Actions Training:** April 22-24, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 ■ **Alternative Disputes Resolution Training:** April 25-26, 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 Building one, Room 102, CHRO training room.

## MCCS

**Club Iwakuni (253-3119)**  
 ■ **All Ranks Latin Party:** Saturday, 8 p.m.  
 ■ **All Ranks Country Western Party:** Saturday, 8 p.m.  
**IT&T (253-4377)**  
 ■ **Shuttle Bus Services:** Sign up at IT&T.  
 ☑ April 9: Daytime Hiroshima Downtown

## CHRO

**CHRO Training**  
 ■ **Family Member Local Employment Orientation:** April 7, 8-9 a.m.  
 ■ **RESUMIX:** April 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
 ■ **Outbound Family Member Priority Placement Program Brief:** April 7, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
 ■ **Preventing Workplace**

☑ April 16: Chicken Shack Dinner Shuttle

**Single Marine Program (253-4656)**

■ **Chicken Shack Dinner,** Sunday, 6 p.m.

■ **Chess Tournament,** April 4, 6 p.m. Prizes for first, second and third place winners.

■ **Hiroshima Carp Baseball versus Yokohama Bay Stars,** April 10, 10 a.m. Admission costs 2,000 yen. Bring extra yen for snacks and souvenirs.

■ **Tsuwano Archery Festival,** April 11, 8 a.m. \$20 transportation fee. Bring extra yen for souvenirs and food.

**Teen Center (253-6454)**

■ **Preteen Torch Club Meeting:** Thursday, 3-4 p.m. Youths age 10 to 12-years-old plan activities for fifth and sixth graders at the Teen Center.  
 ■ **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens:** April 2, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The seminar is led by D. J. Duarte or Jackie Allen in the Innovation and Improvement Office Classroom. Sign up in advance.

**Youth Center (253-4769)**

■ **Monthly Birthday Party:** Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. Help us celebrate members born this month with cake and games. Birthday boys and girls receive a cou-

pon redeemable at Iwakuni's Route 2 McDonald's.  
 ■ **Torch Club Meeting:** Thursday, 3-4 p.m. Preteens plan activities for their age group at the Teen Center.

**Survival Japanese Language Class**

April 5-9, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Learn basic Japanese and key phrases for shopping, ordering food and asking for directions. Call 253-6165 to sign up.

**Salute To Our Military Children Celebration**

Saturday, 12 to 4 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Music, rides, games, free food for the first 300 people, and the 3rd annual Marine Corps Family Team Building Art Contest "Drawing on the Strengths of the Military Family" Awards Ceremony.

**Family Day Information Brief**  
 April 8 and 22, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 253-3311 for details.

## COMMUNITY

**Request for Funds**

The Officers Spouses Club is accepting requests for funds. Send a letter telling of your organization and what the funds will be used for. Requests should be sent to Margaret Ann Erwin, PSC 561 Box 804 FPO AP 96310. For more information, call 253-2401.

**Crime Stoppers**

If you have any information

pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

**1st Class Association Cook-out**

This cookout is held Saturday, 10 a.m. until sold out in front of the commissary. Menu includes homemade lumpia, hot wings, bake beans, fried rice and soft drinks. Call ABF1 Becker at 253-6994 for details.

**Thrift Store**

The Thrift Store is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call 253-4721 for more information.

**Iwakuni Toastmasters**

Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Nancy Regan at 253-4557 or Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.



Lance Cpl. Brian Henner

### America's Squadron trains at Mt. Fuji

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 marches along near Mt. Fuji recently in support of Exercise Foal Eagle. MWSS-171 split into three groups for Foal Eagle, with one group going to Korea, Mt. Fuji and the third group staying in Iwakuni. Check next week's edition for the full story on training in Mt. Fuji.

# Classes offer discipline and self control

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
 PIC.L YDIA DAVEY  
 Combat Correspondent



Students learn throws and other moves during martial art classes at the IronWorks Gym.

With a solid "Thwack!" another body hits the rubber mat. Sato Sensei concealed a small smile, and bowed graciously to his opponent. After studying aikido for 42 years, he was invariably precise and effective.

Aikido, a relatively new development in the martial arts field, teaches more than just efficient self-defense. A tremendous emphasis is also placed on self-improvement through training, and on finding peaceful resolutions to conflict.

The art of aikido is known as one of the few in which self-defense does not employ defensive force.

"The idea is to use your

opponent's strength and momentum against him," said Vincent Midgley, aikido coordinator for IronWorks Gym. "You can channel your opponent's force to where you need it."

Although it is primarily a peaceful art, students may be exposed to a variety of weapons in order to better prepare them for effective self-defense.

"All of our weapons techniques are derived from techniques the Samurai used when they fought with swords," Midgley said.

Individuals who participate in aikido will find themselves moving with greater confidence, becoming more aware of their movements and reacting differently to stressful situations, said Midgley.

"The way I breathe in a stressful situation is different now," Midgley said. "I'm more calm."

People of all ages can participate in aikido because it is generally a low-impact practice, said Midgley.

Although the practice of aikido



Sato Sensei, aikido instructor, brings a student to the mat with a calculated arm bar during class. Sensei has been studying aikido for 42 years.



Gerome Guansino, martial arts student, takes his sparring partner to the deck with flawless execution to ensure her safety.

carries with it many specific benefits, other martial art forms can prove just as profitable, said Billie Scott, the Station's Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Health Promotions director.

The IronWorks Gym offers five martial arts classes: judo, aikido, Ashihara karate, tae kwon do and USA Tetsubukan.

Participation in the classes will provide an increase in muscular conditioning, increased flexibility and an emphasis on discipline and self-control, Scott stated.

The classes, averaging 30 students each, have been popular since they started here, she added.

For information on the courses, please call the Ironworks Gym at 253-6578.



Daniel Hasbrouck looks on as students fend each other off during class. Martial arts trains the mind as well as the body, making the complete warrior.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD TRACK & FIELD MEET

April 10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northside track, across the street from the Kids' Fest. Sign up before April 3 at the Youth Sports Office in IronWorks Gym. Food and drinks will be provided. Children compete for prizes in their choice of three of the following events; shot and javelin competitions, standing long jump, softball throw, discus throw, and various races. Call 253-3239 for more information.

### MARTIAL ARTS SEMINAR

Today, 5-9 p.m. at IronWorks Gym, taught by World Champion Howard Jackson. Participants should wear fitness attire or a martial arts uniform. Call 253-6359 for details.

### PUBLIC POOL HOURS SUSPENDED

IronWorks Gym Indoor Pool will temporarily close Saturday, 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. for a swim meet. Public hours resume at 1 p.m. For more information, call 253-4966.

### INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

Season begins April 5. Call Keith Carr at 253-5777 for details.

### YOUTH BASEBALL

Registration is open through April 7 at IronWorks Gym front desk for \$30. Sign up after April 7 costs \$40. Call 253-3239 for more information.

### WOMEN'S ALL-MARINE SOCCER

Deadline has been extended to April 5 for resumes. Trial dates are April 17 to May 7 in Quantico, Va. Call Jennifer Jones at 253-4605 for details.

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



# B-ball battle soaked in H<sub>2</sub>O

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CH., RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

Marines duked it out March 19 at the IronWorks Gym for the Madness H<sub>2</sub>O Unit PT 5-on-5 Water Basketball Challenge here.

This was the first water basketball game to take place here, according to Joshua Roman, IronWorks Gym lifeguard.

"Any member of a unit or organization, whether civilian or in the armed forces is an eligible player," said Kari Hemund, IronWorks Gym aquatic director. "There must be five players to a team plus one substitute and one player in the water must be of the opposite sex."

There are many rules that apply to the sport; the same rules from the National College Athletics Association Basketball league apply to the marine sport.

Other rules include that each game be played for seven minutes each. No goaltending is allowed and teams shall shoot the ball within 25 seconds of possession.

A player will be called a foul on if he holds, kicks, dunks or tackles a player that has or does not have possession of the ball. Players will also be called foul upon if they use unnecessary roughness or intentionally splash water at the opponent with the intent to hinder the opponent's vision, said Hemund.

The most points scored in the game determine the winning team. If a tie were to occur, the two teams will play a 5-minute game to determine the winner.

Four teams, comprised of different units aboard the Station, took to the immense pool at Ironworks Gym to be



Travaris T. Holmes, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 player, feels the heavy defense that Provost Marshal's Office player Lindsey A. Warfield brings to the aquatic basketball battle.

part of the basketball challenge.

The first bout was between Marine Air Control Squadron 4 versus Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron S-6. MACS-4 defeated the S-6 shop, advancing them to the championship.

The second game was the Provost Marshal's Office versus Detachment B. PMO came out as the victors making them go head-to-head against MACS-4 in the championship game.

After a grueling seven minutes, MACS-4 was the champions of the Madness H<sub>2</sub>O Unit PT 5-on-5 Water

Basketball Challenge, 28-26.

"This is a lot of fun. It's also positive and healthy sport. It's a good cardiovascular workout all while enjoying unit cohesion," said Quan Smith, PMO criminal investigator.

Bringing the sport here was the conception of Hemund. The aquatics director is eager to start a tournament if more residents of the Station show an interest.



The IronWorks pool hosted four teams for Iwakuni's first Madness H<sub>2</sub>O Unit PT 5-on-5 Water Basketball Challenge.



Provost Marshal's Office player Quan T. Smith dunks against Marine Air Control Squadron 4, but is called on a foul for dunking.



Travaris T. Holmes, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 player, scores two points against PMO.