

Torii Teller

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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, JAPAN

APRIL 9, 2004

Combat Access Card mandated by April 30

LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

According to Marine Administrative message 75/04, all Station personnel will be required to have the combat access card by April 30.

The green identification cards are now obsolete making it necessary to have the new CAC card, which is valid for three years.

"One of the important reasons for the CAC cards is the public key infrastructure certificates," said Sgt. Roger Pratt, ID card verifier. "The PKI is used to access military Web sites and to send digitalized signature e-mails."

Those with the CAC card may still want to stop by to make sure their card is completely up to date.

Military personnel are encouraged to get a new card before the deadline to avoid the hassle of being corrected constantly, said Pratt.

Those who have CAC cards that are unserviceable may also stop by to be issued new ones.

New IDs are issued at Building One in room 223. The hours of op-

see CAC Page 4

Angels spread wings, fly back to Hawaii

LANCE CPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 departed back home, Wednesday, after a 6-month unit deployment program here.

The squadron, comprised of more than 120 Marines and Sailors, participated in exercises and operations in the Republic of Philippines, Korea, and throughout Japan.

The helicopter squadron, known as the Ugly Angels, is led by Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Raymond F. L'Heureux. With his leadership, HMH-362 has stood out from any other helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps, according to Cpl. Vincent C. Lucario, HMH-362 air frames technician.

"In the last six months, we have accomplished so much. I know for a fact that no other squadron can get (CH-53 helicopters) up in the air faster than we can," added Lucario.

It does not matter where the helicopter squadron is deployed or what their objective is, they always do their job right and do it fast, according to L'Heureux.

"The Angels always leave a good track record behind wherever we go. I think the reason for that is the unit cohesion we have," said L'Heureux.

The men and women of HMH-362 are



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Two CH-53D helicopters from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 362 fly over the Pacific Ocean en route from their last deployment in the Philippines back to Iwakuni, Japan.

a tight-knit group who have experienced a lot together in different landscapes, different cultures and "different worlds," said Lucario.

The Hawaiian squadron deployed to Osan, Korea, twice, and to the Republic of Philippines, twice as well, for Exercise Talon Vision and Exercise Balikatan 2004.

"The deployment that stands out the most to me is Balikatan 2004. It was a good working experience and that is where I got promoted, too," Lucario said.

"Six months is a long time to be away from home, especially for the Marines who have families," said Sgt. Marben Aquino, HMH-362 career retention specialist. "But being able to travel to these different places and experiencing different cultures is amazing.

"And being here in Iwakuni was an experience as well. It's different from any base that I have been to," he said.

The Ugly Angels will be replaced by Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 from Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

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Marine, Sailors rescue fishermen
Station service members rescue two Japanese fishermen after storm.

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Station visits orphanage
Sailors, Marines visit orphanage to spread Easter meaning.

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IWAKUNI WEATHER



Today
Mostly Sunny
High: 68



Saturday
Rain
High: 68



Sunday
Rain
High: 65

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Station discusses, supports energy program

LANCE CPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

Station department heads conducted their quarterly meeting and discussed the Station's Energy Program, at Building One, March 31.

One of the growing problems of the Station is energy conservation. In the cold season of winter, heaters are being overused. In the hot season of summer, air conditioners are being overused, according to Chief Petty Officer Richard Robinson, Station energy conservation manager.

To remedy the problem, Station officials have set up future plans, which will help alleviate and bring awareness toward conserving energy into the community.

Future endeavors that will be brought forth to Iwakuni are water audits and surveys, energy awareness weeks, summer-time preparations and energy commercials.

The water audits and surveys began in February. Funded by Headquarters Marine Corps, the project is surveyed by contractors who check fixtures; pump stations, fire hydrant flow rates and general water distribution systems.

A follow up will be made one year later by a different team and actually test for leaks, said Robinson.

"The last time a water audit took place was in 2001. Only

two large leaks were found on the Station."

An Energy Conservation Week is set for May 24-29. This will be the second annual Energy Conservation Week.

According to Robinson, many events are slated for the noted week. This will include activities for the children in the Matthew C. Perry Schools such as poster contests, presentations, field trips, runs and bike races.

"All Iwakuni residents should know that the heat will be turned off when the outside temperature stays above 50 degrees for five consecutive days. But, April 30 will be the final day of heating," said Robinson.

Robinson, along with other staff members involved in the Station's energy conservation, plan to target the residents by using the media. American Forces Network is a valuable tool to reach a wider range of audiences, said Robinson.

In the past year, there have been a lot of energy violation notices on the Station. According to Robinson, energy violation notices are common occurrences, except during February. The main problems last year were residents leaving the lights on and leaving open windows. But the biggest problem was insufficient awareness.

The Station's Energy Program plans to remedy some of the problems with the many events which will occur throughout the year.



Torii Teller

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

Orders are made to follow

SGT. MAJ. DAVID M. ALLISON
Station sergeant major

MCAS Iwakuni is by far the best Marine Corps installation I have ever been assigned.

It's a small station made up of the right amount of tenant commands and unit deployment program squadrons, all of which are focused on the mission at hand. The main mission never really changes, but all of the units here have to be flexible and ready to deploy forward at any given time.

That part is easy to handle and we adapt well to what Marines and Sailors call "Mission Creep".

That means someone above us keeps loading more and more on our plate. The point is, the units accomplish the mission.

With all of the commands here, we also have families that accompany their Marines and Sailors. We also have American and Japanese civilian employees that help us accomplish our mission.

All put together, a community is formed. It is exactly just like a small town.

The Air Station commanding officer is just like a mayor in some respects. The community here is fantastic.

That said, what makes this place and its community so good? The answer is policies, orders and regulations.

Without them we would be in mass chaos. I understand not everyone who lives and works here has the ability to have access to all these documents at their fingertips, but everyone has the ability to ask or research them themselves.

Every question has an answer and every answer is backed by an order or regulation.

We need to stop all of the foolish acts on liberty on Station and off.

We need to follow the rules of the Station and the laws of Japan.

We ask the family members and civilian employees to follow the same rules and laws!

There cannot be two standards in a community.

We all need to follow the dress codes, traffic regulations, pay our bills on time and not bounce checks.

We all need to ride our bikes on the correct side of the road with the flow of traffic; make our kids do the same.

Don't ride bikes, roller blade or skate board in areas that are clearly not safe to do so, make our kids do the same.

Walk on the sidewalks when there is one available, if not, walk facing traffic.

Use the crosswalks especially at night.

Park cars in marked parking spaces and don't leave them running unattended or with children inside. Follow the posted speed limits. Just because your speedometer is broke, doesn't give you the right to drive like there is no tomorrow.

Don't use foul language in public, especially with children around.

Don't be unruly on the bus.

Don't steal stuff from the Exchange or Fuji Grand, or anywhere for that matter.

Don't throw your trash on the ground. If you see trash laying around, pick it up and dispose of it properly.

Don't walk around the Station drinking alcohol.

Quit tearing up the gym equipment, bus stops, golf course and the clubs.

I could go on and on, but this is common sense stuff.

We have to constantly add or change regulations due to people's bad behavior.

Stop being a "knucklehead" and use some common sense. When one person breaks the rule, we all pay the piper. **KNOCK IT OFF!**

**"When one person
breaks the rule, we all
pay the piper. KNOCK
IT OFF!"**

SGT. MAJ. ALLISON
STATION SGTMAJ

Station becomes assignment of choice

LT. STEPHEN M. COATES
Chaplain

MCAS Iwakuni will be the assignment of choice in the Marine Corps.

It's a great vision statement. It paints a picture of individuals and families longing for the privilege of serving at this command.

But why would anyone draw such a conclusion?

It would depend heavily on the quality of people, the character of those who live and work on the Air Station.

Imagine someone responding to the question, "How would you summarize your time in Iwakuni?"

"Oh, it was great. I loved the sea wall, parking seemed more than adequate and the Exchange was to die for. Yes, it's true my peers (I refuse to call them friends) stabbed me in the back when I least expected it. I personally wasted more time and money than I thought possible. My superiors were the most wretched people I have ever encountered and ruined my career. I was daily subjected to gross injustices but, overall, Iwakuni was great!"

No one would give such an answer because the quality of life is ultimately about relationships and the choices you and I make within those relationships.

Think about the matters in life over which you have had no choice, no control.

You had no vote in what century you were born or on what continent you first lived.

You did not choose your parents and had no influence

on whether you were male or female.

You did not formulate the system of government under whose authority you were raised. When you arrived in Iwakuni, I doubt you had a hand in selecting your superiors.

Have any of those factors influenced your life even marginally? You bet they have.

Their impact is so profound as to defy calculation. However, they still pale in comparison to your power to make choices in any and every situation of life.

Choice. If MCAS Iwakuni is to become the assignment of choice, it will be due primarily to individuals making good life choices while stationed here.

This column is dedicated to exploring the choices we make – the stuff of character. Over a period of time, I will present a number of approaches people have used to determine what is the right behavior in life. Some of it will be heavy and some of it will just be fun. I will always try to make it practical.

Our ability to choose our responses and actions is the single, greatest determining factor in our lives. It is the essence of freedom.

You may not agree with that statement, that's okay. I respect your right to choose. I chose to write this series of articles. You may choose not to read them. It's your choice.

Our choices will influence the mission of this command and our personal experiences here – here, in the assignment of choice.

Marines, Sailors rescue fishermen

Pfc. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Through the coordinated efforts of Station Marines and Sailors, two Japanese fishermen were rescued from their floundering vessel on the morning of April 2.

Military Policeman Lance Cpl. Brian Cahill was patrolling the seawall near Penny Lake when he observed the fishermen signaling for help from their small aluminum fishing boat.

Cahill coordinated the dispatch of the Port Security Boat Patrol. However, before the patrol could reach the fishermen, they began to drift out to sea.

The fishermen used a flashlight to send distress signals, and were approximately 150 meters from the seawall when the patrol boat reached them 20 minutes later, said Maj. Jonathan Foster.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Louis M. Chilson Jr., and Lance Cpl. Dwayne T. Philbert pulled the two Japanese nationals, Kewji Marda and Katjuhiko Sugimoto, to safety and attempted to tow the fishing boat back to the Station.

The attempt was abandoned after heavy seas threatened to capsize both vessels.

The fishermen were released to the Japanese police, and were escorted to their vehicle, which was parked near the Monzen Marina area.

Immediately after releasing the fishermen, a patrol returned to the last known site of the fishing boat to attempt a recovery. However, they were unable to locate the boat.

The Japanese Coast Guard recovered the boat later that day.

The fishermen were not in a restricted area.



Sgt. Jedidiah Mullis

Kewji Marda and Katjuhiko Sugimoto stand in front of their recovered fishing boat. The Japanese nationals were pulled from their floundering vessel during a rescue effort coordinated by the Provost Marshal's Office and the Port Security Boat Patrol. The fishermen's boat was swamped by heavy seas during the early morning hours of April 2.

Prepositioning Force sets table for war

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY C. HODGE
Combat Correspondent

SHUAIBA PORT, Kuwait—The overall concept of the Maritime Prepositioning Force revolves around one thing - the rapid deployment of equipment and supplies to decrease the time it takes to insert Marines into a contingency or combat environment.

The Marines, Sailors, government workers, and civilian contractors that comprise Blount Island Command have teamed up with I Marine Expeditionary Force to do exactly that.

Earlier this month, the Technical Assistance and Advisory Team from BICmd deployed here to Kuwait to assist with the off-load and distribution of gear and necessary equipment that will support the 25,000 Marines headed back to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The contingent is in place to provide assistance in support of I MEF's efforts during throughput operations.

Simply stated, throughput is the process of getting equipment from the ship, through a port and in the hands of combat forces. These operations will help to facilitate a rapid force stand-up that will allow the Marine Corps to seamlessly replace designated Army units that have been deployed since last spring.

"The BICmd mission is to assist and advise the MEF with the off-load of the MPF ships. The MEF does have MPF experts, but BICmd is left with a fairly large role and responsibility in assisting operations surrounding MPF," said Col. Carl D. Matter, commanding officer, BICmd.

The MPF is the capability that makes this possible. The MPF consists of 16 ships divided into three Maritime Prepositioning Squadrons (MPSRON).

Each squadron provides a Marine air ground task force of approximately 14,000 Marines and Sailors with 30 days of combat equipment and supplies.



Marines from Blount Island Command confer on the best staging of equipment waiting to be off-loaded at Shuaiba, Kuwait.

Five of these ships, from two of the three MPSRONs, have been off-loaded for OIF II.

The deployed Marine units will provide organic assets. Global sourcing from the Geographic Prepositioning Force, formerly the Norway Air-Landed Marine Expeditionary Brigade located in Norway, is filling additional equipment needs.

"With a major conflict (OIF) having occurred so recently, the Marine Corps would not be nearly as prepared for another contingency of this size were it not for the MPF and GPF," Col. Matter said.

The gear and equipment being off-loaded is tailored for the MEF and the mission that lies ahead. BICmd has teamed with Brigade Service Support Group-1, serving as the Landing Force Support Party, to complete throughput operations with the bulk of the actual work being completed by MEF personnel.

The throughput of rolling stock takes about a day to go from the ship to the final staging areas where the operating forces will take possession. Throughput of containers will take longer, depending on host nation support to move containers forward.

see OIF Page 5

NEWS BRIEFS

RELIGIOUS SERVICE TIMES

- ☼ Good Friday, Service of the Lord's Passion, Today, 5:30 p.m.
- ☼ Easter Holy Saturday night mass of the Easter Vigil, Saturday, 8 p.m. (Call 253-5218 for more information.)
- ☼ Easter Sunday, mass of the Resurrection of the Lord, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION

University Maryland presents "Images Of Japan" by Paul Lattimore Saturday, 6:30-8 p.m. at Club Iwakuni 2nd floor. Refreshments will be served.

MARINE LOUNGE REOPENS

The newly renovated Marine Lounge is now open Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

SHADES OF GREEN OPENS

Shades of Green at the Walt Disney World Resort is newly refurbished and open. It provides affordable resort option for eligible guests and their families. Eligible guests include active and retired military personnel, members of the National Guard and Reserves, Department of Defense civilians and their families. For general information, Call 1-888-593-2242 or visit www.shadesofgreen.org.

Orient experience, crafts for Station residents

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCECPL RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

Station residents indulged themselves with a taste of Far East cultures April 2 through Sunday at the MacDome.

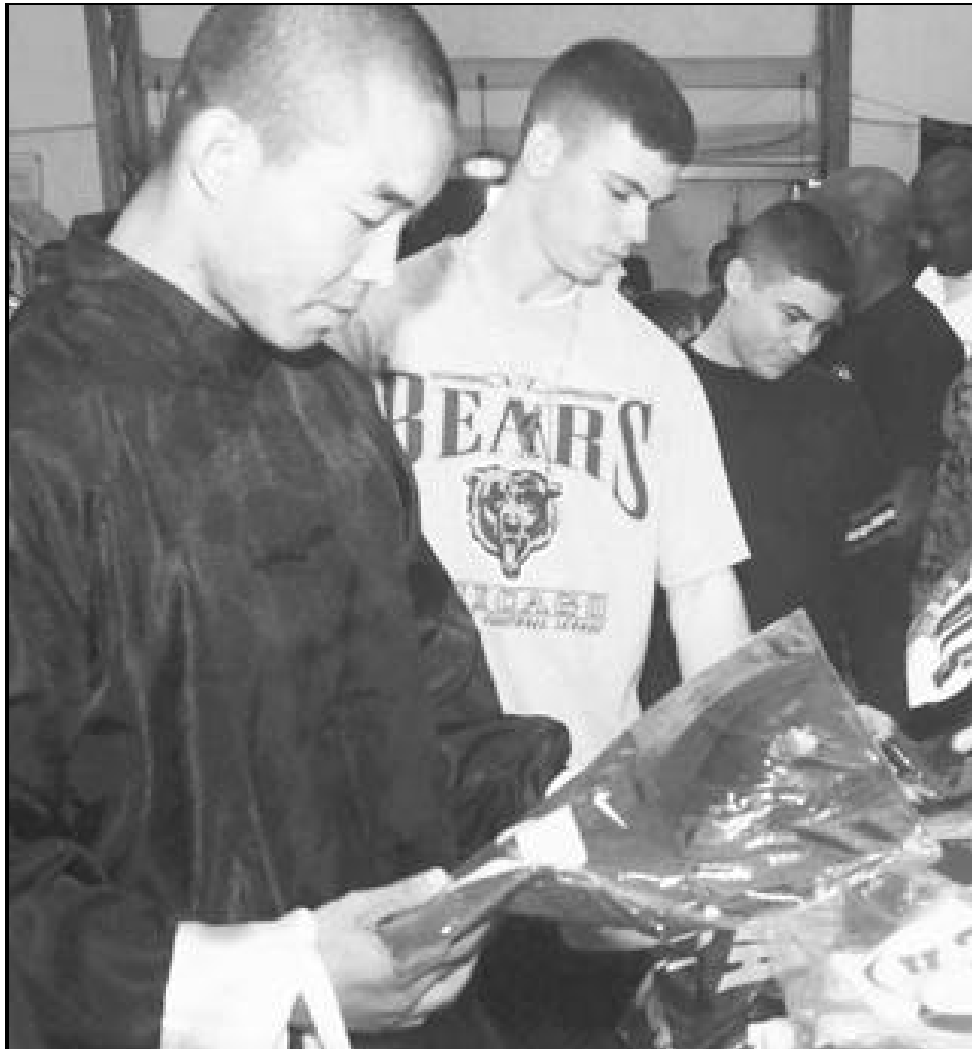
The annual Spring Bazaar, brought to the Station by Marine Corps Community Services, exhibited an array of crafts that could be found throughout Southeast Asia.

Items from Japan, Thailand, Korea, China, Philippines and other Asian countries could be found at the Spring Bazaar for low prices. It is an event that changes the way of purchasing and experiencing different cultures at not only cheap prices, but in a location aboard the Station.

"This is my chance to actually capture a piece of Asia, and catch it at a cheap price," said Michael A. Koehler, bazaar shopper. "I didn't come to the last bazaar, but I wanted to. Now I'm here, and I'm buying all sorts of different things from different countries."

Station residents were treated with paintings; traditional, water-colored, and etched, carpets and rugs, statues, wines, furniture, handcrafted goods and many other exotic items related to Asian culture.

The Spring Bazaar revolutionized, for all service members and family



Tseten D. Lama, Michael A. Koehler and Dewey J. Smith look at athletic jerseys from Korea during the Spring Bazaar Saturday.

members, the experience of shopping for Asian goods. With the bazaar, residents don't even have to leave the Station to get a taste of it.

"It's a good thing to have all of these items available here. You don't

have to go far to find them," said Danilo Pamlima, Filipino-American vendor volunteer.

For the three-day sale at the MacDome, consumers enjoyed the lavish items. Kimonos, blankets, swords and



Dong Baik Kim, professional painter, paints names in calligraphy writing on a silk canvas. The technique is one that he has mastered and adds more color to its painting landscapes.

other items that represent the art and beauty of the Asian culture were favorite pieces to buy.

"It was my mom's birthday not so long ago and I got her these amazing things that could only be found here. I want to give and show her a piece of my experience here in Japan," said Koehler.

The Fall Bazaar is slated for October.

Marines bring spunk to nighttime radio

PFC. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

"Beauty is brought by judgment of the eye," said William Shakespeare. And for each of the thousands of pairs of eyes on Station, Japan holds different sorts of beauty.

For some Marines, Japan means a chance to spend quality time with their video games. For others, it is a place to see unique sights, to meet new people and to take advantage of the myriad of opportunities available to them.

Staff Sgt. Andrew James and Sgt. Andre Smith greatly enjoy exploring Japan. However, being deployed here holds additional allure.

James and Smith, who are more widely known by the names of their radio personalities "Big Papa" and "Young Dre," host a five-hour radio show Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

"It's fun," said Smith, flashing a brilliant grin. James, valiantly struggling to maintain a straight face, nods his agreement.

The pair plays "R&B and rap music," said James, an aviation electronics supervisor. Although they make an effort to satisfy the diverse needs of their audience, they're not afraid to say no to music outside the genre. "During our show, we've received requests for country music," said James.

The twosome feed off of each other's energy and humor to develop a variety of characters for the

show. "We created helicopter pilot Capt. Tagfield, to be our 'eye in the sky,'" said Smith, a radar technician. "Capt. Tagfield handles the weather reports directly from his chopper."

"Dr. Love gives relationship advice," said James, adding, "Some people don't realize the characters are fictional. We've actually received a serious call requesting relationship advice!"

The show's roots developed in 2002, during James' first overseas tour. "I called in to request a song," the Buffalo, N.Y., native explained. "The disc jockey invited me to stop by the station, and before I knew it, I was on the air."

James quickly learned how to manipulate the control board, and two weeks later was running the show single-handedly. James was joined by Smith, his buddy of eight years, during his second and most recent tour.

Although neither Marine had experience as a radio personality during their civilian years, both feel comfortable running the show.

"We haven't really had any embarrassing moments," said James. "If we say we're going to play the newest song by Nelly, and end up with something from Aerosmith, we're generally able to cover it up."

"We're prepared for anything," agreed Smith.

The pair's enthusiasm is catching, and their listening audience is rapidly increasing. "We had someone call in the other day to tell us that he turns

off his TV just to listen to our show," noted a very pleased James.

When James joined the Marine Corps 13 years ago, he didn't imagine he would get the chance to adopt a radio show. "I'm just taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves," he said.

Such a statement is characteristic of James, who will complete 20 years in the Corps before opening a restaurant. Plans for the restaurant, which "will serve soul-food," are ongoing.

Food is important to 'Young Dre,' too. Smith, a Detroit native, recalls "shoveling my way to the grill so my mamma could make some steaks or ribs," and has plans to work at James' restaurant.

However, until the restaurant opens, the pair will keep their day jobs with the Marine Corps, and continue to troll the airwaves at night.

CAC from Page 1

eration are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., said Pratt. However, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. IDs will not be able to be issued because the server will be down due to updates.

Pratt advises those in need of a CAC that the best hours to stop by are early in the morning or around 4 p.m. For further information, view MARADMIN 75/04 at www.usmc.mil.

Nursing students wrap up tour

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

When Toshihiro Takayama's grandmother was hospitalized during an illness, Takayama was so impressed by the facilities and personnel he decided to pursue a career in the medical field.

Today, Takayama is the only male in Iwakuni National Hospital's second-year nursing class. The course is difficult but rewarding, said the Fukuoka native.

Recently, Takayama, along with 55 other students, visited the Station's Branch Medical Clinic. "We want to see the differences between the American and Japanese hospitals," he said.

The group ate lunch at the Club Iwakuni ballroom before their tour of the Station's medical facilities.

"I'm happy for the opportunity for us to spend time together," said BMC's senior nursing officer, Cmdr. Rachel Cruiz, in a welcoming statement.

Cruiz emphasized the idea that medical caregivers around the globe share the same purpose, "In that respect, we are the same," she said. "Our goal is the same. We all want to continue learning, and to give our patients the best possible care."

Excitement among the group was almost palpable as they made their way to BMC.

Navy Lt. James Mickey, division officer for the urgent care clinic, met the students, and gave them an overview of what to expect during their tour.

"The purpose of your time here today is so you can see what we do, and how we do it, and will leave with a unique perspective of services provided," he said.

The nursing students toured the immunization center, the urgent care center and triage room, the X-ray lab, a patient's room, exam rooms, preventative



During a recent tour of the Station's Branch Medical Clinic, nursing students from Iwakuni National Hospital had the opportunity to observe American medical facilities and procedures.

medicine, the vision center and family services.

In addition to the tour, the group also had an opportunity to meet Navy corpsmen. "Our corpsmen are our backbone," the students were told by Mickey. "Without them, we couldn't function."

Two nurses from Iwakuni are employed by BMC, and the group broke into spontaneous applause upon meeting them.

"Perhaps someday one of you will have the chance to work here," Cruiz told the pupils.

Although many would relish such an opportunity, most students are already sure of their career paths after graduation.

Yoko Shudo, a 20-year-old student, said about 20 percent of the graduating class will stay to work at INH.

A small percentage will move to bigger hospitals for further education, and some will stay in Iwakuni and work from home.

Mickey shared with the students the invaluable



Noriko Abe, one of two Japanese nurses at the Station's Branch Medical Clinic, speaks to students about opportunities in their career field during a recent tour.

services that INH provides by helping the Station with emergency situations, surgeries and the provision of lab facilities.

The third annual visit ended with a question-and-answer period.

OIF from Page 3

Prior to deployment, BICmd assisted I MEF with the development of a plan for the throughput operation.

Upon arriving in Kuwait, BICmd further assisted the MEF by ensuring that the framework established within that plan was utilized.

"The MEF staff is stretched thin which makes a throughput operation of this size more difficult. BICmd is able to bring our intimate knowledge of MPF throughput operations to bear on the current situation and facilitate force stand-up," said LtCol. Jim Hooks, director of operations, BICmd and TAAT officer in charge.

BICmd combined with I MEF to plan for an operation of this type even before the requirement arose.

Together, the two commands began planning for this operation in early December 2003.

A joint pre-deployment site survey was conducted in early January, which was followed by development of a plan "playbook."

Training and rehearsals prior to the beginning of the off-load validated the plan.



Sgt. Marlon Morris, port operations, Blount Island Command, directs a forklift operator at Schuaiba Port, Kuwait.

"It literally provided a working road map for the LFSP to conduct throughput operations. The playbook was tailor-made so that it would be easy to understand and follow, but still flexible enough to adjust to the ever-changing needs of a selective off-load," LtCol. Hooks explained.

In addition to the harsh weather and desert environment, there were several other hurdles to clear before the operating forces could begin to receive their gear from the MPF.

Even the port, the starting point for the entire evolution, was a source of concern. Due to the number of Army black-bottom ships, MPF shipping was forced to compete for limited berthing

space in a very constrained port facility. This was compounded by time constraints in port and because Army divisions were both entering and exiting the country during the same time as Marine Corps forces were flowing into theatre.

From an operational standpoint, the equipment required by I MEF has changed due to evolving mission requirements in Iraq, so the Marines conducting the throughput operations have had to remain flexible to keep up with changing requirements.

The fact that some of this gear was reconstituted in theatre following OIF, the equipment was not as pristine as what typically rolls off the MPF vessels. However, the readiness level will rival that of the gear used during OIF.

Even though the environment is not expected to be as demanding during OIF II, the assets used are not likely to be driven or pushed as hard due to the absence of continuous periods of combat.

Use of MPSRON-2 for OIF II will leave the Marine Corps with two remaining squadrons, roughly two-thirds of its normal strength.

The dedication of such a substantial part of the MPF will affect the flexibility of the MPF and GPF programs in

the near future. The scope of the MPF and GPF mission will not change with the reduction of assets.

"Replacing this considerable portion of the MPF will require a huge effort by BICmd. A premium will be put on the reconstitution of existing assets but due to the high level of operational expenditures of equipment, some new acquisition will be needed to return the program to its previous state," Col. Matter said.

The close coordination between BSSG-1 and BICmd TAAT, and the way that the contractors and the military personnel from BICmd have come together to perform this difficult MPF operation of selectively off-loading gear and equipment are just a couple of the positives that have come from the operation thus far.

"The members of this TAAT were handpicked, and they are performing like it," LtCol. Hooks said. "I could not have asked for a better team effort. I have been equally impressed with the Marines from BSSG-1."

"They have done one of the best jobs I have witnessed on an operation of this type and complexity," he pointed out.



American Forces Network broadcaster Cpl. Randy Bernard enjoys the view from atop a smaller version of Mt. Fuji, Japan on the March 23 during Exercise Foal Eagle 2004.



A Marine provides security with a .50 caliber machine gun



Photos by Lance C

A Marine from Marine Wings Support Squadron 171 fires his M-16 on burst at the firing range during Exercise Foal Eagle at Camp

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 aim in down range from atop the Light Armored Vehicles during the final days of training at Camp Fuji, Japan during Exercise Foal Eagle.





ise Foal Eagle at Camp Fuji, Japan.



Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 are transported in Light Armored Vehicles during their last week of training at Camp Fuji, Japan.



CPL. RANDY BERNARD
Combat Correspondent

CAMP FUJI, Japan — Communication between units is a mandatory asset in peacetime as well as combat, but when the radios do not work other means of communication must be established for mission accomplishment.

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, training in Camp Fuji, Japan, found out first hand what it was like to lose the ability to coordinate with other MWSS-171 detachments during Exercise Foal Eagle Fuji.

“Our role was to set up communications with the ‘171 Marines in Korea as well as the remaining Marines in Iwakuni,” said Staff Sgt. Ariel Harper, MWSS-171 motor transportation gunnery sergeant and acting first sergeant during the exercise. “We wanted to transmit data and information back to both detachments, but we ran into problems.”

The problems Harper was referring to was the high frequency gear, which has been a big problem for quite a few years, said Sgt. Timothy Barrett, a ‘171 field wireman.

“The problem with the high frequency gear is a combination of being old and poorly maintained,” said Barret.

Although this setback caused an array of problems for the unit, the Marines put their collective heads together and implemented a counter strike to their communication quarrels.

The term commonly used in this sort of situation is called “jury-rigging” and Lance Cpl. Justin Schenck, MWSS-171 organizational communications repairman, was the man for the job.

Schenck constructed a field expedient antenna out of a 90-foot piece of wire suspended between two antennae masts and a coaxial cable hooked up to a PRC-104 radio.

The equipment in Korea had already been set up so once the Fuji detachment arrived, all they had to do was push into the field and start doing radio checks and troubleshooting any problems they may have had.

“Where we were [in the field], it made it hard to troubleshoot, because there was no communication to the Marines in Korea,” said Barrett.

The only way to check and see what was happening with the Marines in Korea, was to call from a cellular phone back at Camp Fuji.

The reason that worked, and the high frequency radio did not, was because cellular phones use satellites to direct signals, whereas the radio signals travel along the ground, and encounter obstructions along the way.

Taking into account the distance between Camp Fuji and Yechon Air Base, Korea, problems could be expected.

However, the training must go on.

“While we did land navigation, a couple of platoons took out radios, and we established communication from the base camp to the individual platoons,” said Sgt. Asa Betancourt, MWSS-171 radio operator. “That went well because it was in the two to three mile radius. I am sure some of the Marines got a bit of communication knowledge just being around the equipment.”

The feeling of failure arose in some of the Marines, but according to their acting first sergeant, there is nothing to be ashamed about.

“The Marines did an awesome job out there. The communication problem wasn’t expected, but we were very happy it happened because it’s better to happen out here in training rather than in the real thing. Now they know how to handle problems like this if they arise and that’s why we do the training evolution,” said Harper.

Easter hatches bond between Station, orphanage

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Solemn faces lit up as a bus carrying Station members pulled into the orphanage courtyard. A small girl scrambled aboard, and her eyes widened at the piles of gifts and stacks of colorful Easter baskets. "Presents?" she queried with a toothy grin. "Yep. Presents," replied a Marine.

A group of 42 Marines, Sailors and family members accompanied the Marine Aircraft Group-12 Chaplain to the Garden of Light Orphanage Saturday.

"The purpose of the visit is to show our thanks to our hosts here in Japan," said MAG-12 Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Shaun Brown. "It's also a great opportunity for Marines and Sailors to be involved in meaningful service."

The quiet group of visitors and children who began a lunch of pizza, chicken-on-a-stick and fruit juice, bore no resemblance to the rowdy crowd who finished it. Shyness evaporated as quickly as the food disappeared. The children were soon begging to be given shoulder rides, and giggling at the new sounds of



A child from Hiroshima's Garden of Light Orphanage examines one of the Easter eggs he received from a group of Station Marines, Sailors, and family members. The group visited the Orphanage Saturday to distribute Easter baskets and gifts.

the English language. Arm wrestling bouts were arranged at the dining hall tables, and the children shrieked with laughter as strong men grimaced and winced in an exaggerated effort not to lose.

"The kids were absolutely awesome," said Religious Programmer Seaman Josh Sirek.

After lunch, the group went outside to participate in an impromptu pull-up competition, and to make use of the playground. Their fun was not inhibited by the fact that the service members knew very little Japanese.

"There is no such thing as a language barrier with these kids," said Sirek. "And even though they loved the gifts, we could show up empty-handed, and they'd still be glad to see us."

The children received colorful baskets filled with Easter eggs and candy, and gifts of toys.

Before departing, the Marines helped the children open, assemble and play

and Sailors donated their resources toward assembling the gift baskets, and Marines from the Single Marine Program donated toys, said Sirek.

"Visiting the children's home was a gratifying experience all around," said Brown. "We got to thank our host country, and the Marines and Sailors got a chance to live out true service to God and country."



Lance Cpl. Chad Wilson helps a child identify different shapes and colors on his toy. Wilson spent a day at Hiroshima's Garden of Light Orphanage with other Station residents.



Cpl. Jonathan Rowe struggles during an arm wrestling bout with a child from the Garden of Light Orphanage.

OUT THE GATE

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

Ceremony of Walking Over Fire

This ceremony is scheduled at Daishoin Temple on Miyajima island Thursday. The service begins at 11 a.m., and people start walking across live coals praying for health around 2 p.m. Admission is free. Participants can join this walk. It will not be cancelled in case of rain. For more information, call 0829-44-0111.

Katsura Funakoshi Works Exhibition

This exhibition with 40 pieces of figurative sculptures and 19 drawings by Katsura Funakoshi is held now through May 30, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art. The museum is closed May 6 and every Monday except May 3. Admission fee is required. For more information, call 082-264-1121.

Tsuwano Town Yabusame Shinto Ritual

Yabusame, a ceremony in which archers in medieval warriors' outfit

shoot at targets while racing on horseback, will take place at Washibara Hachiman Shrine in Tsuwano Town Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This event may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call 0856-72-0650 for details.

Daimyo Costume Parade

The Kintai Bridge Festival Committee is looking for Americans to participate in the time-honored Daimyo Costume Parade. The event is part of the 27th Annual Kintai Bridge Festival scheduled for April 29. Call 253-5551 for more information.



TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

AUTOMOBILES

Honda Civic Ferio, 1993, black, auto transmission, runs great, excellent condition, available after April 20, JCI until Dec. 2004, \$1,100. Call Nancy at 253-4557 dwh or 21-7932 aw.

Suzuki Nomade, 1992, 4 door, dark green, cloth interior, excellent condition, A/C, heater, radio, CD player, must sell, JCI until Jan. 2005, \$1,200. Call Tonya at 253-4562 dwh or 253-2485 aw.

Nissan Serena, 1992, van, diesel full time all wheel drive, CD/MP 3 player, P/W, PDL, red with tan interior, perfect condition inside and out, runs great,

JCI until Nov. 2005, \$2,700. Call 253-6276 or 090-8606-6211.

Mazda Sentia, 1992, 4 door, new tires, chrome rims, new CD player, good A/C, JCI until Nov. 2005, \$2,000. Call Mike at 253-6356.

Honda Ascot, 1990, sun roof, P/W, 4 door, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$1,350 obo. Call Jim Sweeney at 253-3501 dwh or 31-8451 aw.

Nissan Vanette, 1991, 8 passenger, great for families and outdoors, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$995 obo. Call Jim Sweeney at 253-3501 dwh or 31-8451 aw.

Honda Prelude, 1991, sun roof, power everything,

new tires, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$2,000. Call Alice Hosley at 253-2621.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., two large portable oil filled radiators, great for small rooms, \$25 each; kerosene heater, \$25; red ski outfit, girls bib style, worn once, size S, suitable for teens or more petite female, \$5; tan plaid wool lined woman's trench coat, med, looks great, \$10. Call Nancy at 253-4557 dwh or 21-7932 aw.

Misc., Dinette set, brown, table and four chairs, a bit beat up but does the job, free; bedroom dresser, beat up but works, available for pick up anytime, free. Call Nancy at 253-

4557 dwh or 21-7932 aw.

Misc., Japanese kokeshi dolls with or without case, flower vases, helmets, masks, nicknacks and many more. Call Tony Ramos at 253-4108 dwh or 253-2022 aw or 090-7595-9324.

JOB OPENINGS

CHRO (253-6828)

Clinic:

-Social Worker

BPO:

-Management and Program Analysis

MCCS:

-Office Automation Assistant

DECA:

-Secretary (OA)

MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)
MCCS Job Listing:

- Head of Retail
- Procurement Assistant, civilian only
- Basic Replenishment, civilian only
- Senior Sales Associate, civilian only
- Leisure Travel Assistant, civilian only
- Sup. Vending Specialist, civilian only
- Food Service Worker, civilian only
- Mechanic Leader, civilian only
- Program Assistant, civilian only
- Recreation Specialist, civilian only
- Library Technician, civilian only
- Recreation Attendant, civilian only
- Recreation Assistant, civilian only
- Outdoor Recreation Manager
- Accounting Technician, civilian only
- Marketing Research Specialist

- Support Director,
 - Office Automation Clerk
 - Broadcast Supervisor
 - Continuously Open Jobs**
 - Retail Branch:**
 - Senior Sales Associate
 - Retail Operations Assistant
 - Sales Clerk
 - Store Worker
 - Laborer
 - Food Service Worker
 - Food & Hospitality:**
 - Club Operations Assistant
 - ID Checker
 - Waiter/Waitress
 - Food Service Worker
 - Services Branch:**
 - Retail Operations Assistant
 - Car Rental/Service Station Attendant
 - Car/Washer/Laborer
 - Recreation Attendant
 - Athletics Branch:**
 - Recreation Operations Assistant
 - Recreation Assistant
 - Recreation Attendant
 - Lifeguard
- Go to <http://www.mccs iwakuni.com> for a complete job listing.



MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Dungeons And Dragons (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Client (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Gigli (R)
2 a.m. The Crew (R)

SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Radio (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Bruce Almighty (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Legend Of Drunken Master (R)
2 a.m. American Wedding (R)

SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Hunchback Of Notre Dame (G)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Alex And Emma (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Ghostworld (R)
2 a.m. Blackheart (R)

MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Divine Secrets Of YaYa Sisterhood (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Out Of Time (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Order (R)
2 a.m. Beetlejuice (PG)

TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Hardball (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Hot Shots (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Freddy Vs Jason (R)
2 a.m. Charlotte Gray (PG-13)


WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Held Up (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Battlefield Earth (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Dead Pool (R)
2 a.m. City By The Sea (R)

THURSDAY


11 a.m./5 p.m. Chocolat (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Cat's Meow (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Amistad (R)
2 a.m. The Shrink Is In (R)

SAKURA THEATER



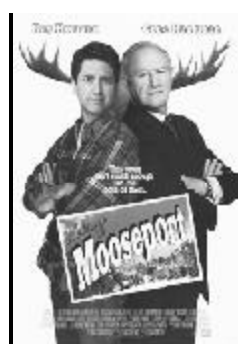
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

This film tells the story of the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus, on the day of his crucifixion in Jerusalem. This film's script is based upon several sources, including the diaries of St. Anne Catherine Emmerich as collected in the book, and "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" (126 minutes)



BARBERSHOP 2: BACK IN BUSINESS

Gina is trying to cut in on his business. Calvin is again struggling to keep his father's shop and traditions alive. The world changes, but some things never go out of style—from current events and politics to relationships and love, you can still say anything you want at the barbershop. (116 minutes)



WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT

A former president settles down in a small New England town to write his memoirs and enjoy his retirement. He's soon asked to run for the office of mayor of the town however, with the local hardware store owner running against him. The president's lifelong experience of political campaigns leads him, however, to accelerate the competitive nature of the race. (110 minutes)

FRIDAY

12p.m. The Tigger Movie (G)
3 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R)
7 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R)
10p.m. Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Catch That Kid (PG)
4 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R)
7 p.m. Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. The Perfect Score (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R)

MONDAY

7 p.m. Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Starsky And Hutch (PG-13)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. Big Fish (PG-13)

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule

Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST

Wednesday - EDPT

Thursday - AFCT

April 28 - DLPT

April 29 - DLAB

For more information, call 253-3855.

HEALTHCARE

Stress Management Seminar

Tuesday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 253-4526.

CHRO

CHRO Training

■ **New Employees Orientation:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Family Member Local**

Employment Orientation: April 21, 8-9 a.m.

■ **RESUMIX:** April 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

■ **Outbound Family Member Priority Placement Program Brief:** April 21, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

■ **Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training:** April 26-28, 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

Career Resource Management Center (253-6439)

■ **Monthly Transition Assistance Seminar:** Monday to April 16, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Teaching English for Profit:** Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.

■ **Veteran's Affairs Representative Visits Iwakuni:** Tuesday, 1 p.m. Join us for a benefits brief in Building 411, Room 201. Individual appointments will be Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ **DoD Federal Employment:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

Club Iwakuni (253-3119)

■ **Latin Fiesta:** Today, 8 p.m. in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. Enjoy drawing for prizes, free salsa, chips and more. Limited tickets available at Club Cash Cages.

■ **Easter Egg Hunt, Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, and Brunch:** Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All ranks in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom and on the verandah. Bring your own camera. The egg hunt is for children age 1-6. Free candy for all.

MCX (253-5641)

■ **Spring Sale:** Now through April 18.

Single Marine Program (253-4656)

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

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

Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Pool & Ping Pong Challenge:** Friday, 1-4 p.m.

Grocery Shopping Tour

Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. Call 253-6165 for details.

COMMUNITY

Air Strike Quilters

The next meeting is April 24, 11 a.m. at Midrise 655. For more information, call Pat at 21-7933.

Officers' and Spouses' Club Golf Scramble

April 17, 7:30 a.m. Shogun start. Free lunch and prizes. \$20 registration fee and greens fees. Profits used in support of scholarships and community activities.

Healthy Eating On A Budget

Come learn how to choose inexpensive healthy foods at CDC training room April 28, 12-1 p.m. Call 253-4928 for details.

Breast Feeding Basics

Learn about breast-feeding April 20, 2-3:30 p.m. at CDC training room. Call 253-4928 to register.

Feeding Picky Eaters

Come learn tips to make meal times a more pleasant for your family, Tuesday, 12-1 p.m. at CDC training room. Call 253-4928 for more information.

WIC Overseas

WIC Overseas is a supplement

tal food and nutrition education program. Eligible participants are pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding women, infants and children up to their 5th birthday. Financial eligibility is based upon total family income and size. Call 253-4928 for details.

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.

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 Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

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

Protestant

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

Church of Christ

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

Latter Day Saints

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

Muslim

Friday	Noon	Prayer
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Jewish

Friday	6 p.m.	Shabbat
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Liturgical

1st Sunday	7 p.m.	Service
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For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity, call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Family Members Volunteer For Exercise

The Noncombatant Evacuation Operation night started at 6 p.m. Monday when approximately 90 family members began arriving at the Landing Zone. Once doors opened, family members were manifested into the group of 85 that would be flying to Osan, Korea for the NEO this month. For the full story on the NEO, see the April 16 Torii Teller.

Youth season ends in grand fashion

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Famous teams such as the Los Angeles Lakers and Chicago Bulls were present at the gym on Saturday for the closing ceremonies. The gym was overflowing with cameras and camcorders documenting the events that took place early that morning.

No, Iwakuni residents didn't see Kobe Bryant or Shaquille O'Neal. They saw there the role models of the future. The children from ages 5 through 15 who made up the children's basketball league this season.

The season started late January and ended late March. The season is an annual event that allows children to learn and develop the fundamentals of basketball.

After a successful season, all the children's efforts were honored with presentation of trophies to the players and the coaches.

"I believe this season was a success," said Jamie Buning, youth sports coordinator. "The most improvement is noticeable is in the players themselves. The children have really improved."

For some, personal rewards come from helping others and volunteering to help make a change in someone's life.

"First you go out here and focus more on teaching the basics of the game first," said Joe Harris volunteer coach for the 5-6 year old Chicago Bulls. "It is very hard trying to teach children because of their short attention span. At first, everyone started out doing their own thing. But later on, they turn into a team and playing together. What helps teach the children is making it a game, like keeping the ball away, try to take the



Hannah Johnson, 5, Sydney Bourg, 6, and Hailey Hunt, 5, members of the Little Angels perform one of their cheers during the closing ceremony for the youth basketball season at the IronWorks Gym here.

ball away or see who can dribble the ball the most."

According to Lalozzo Chambers, coach of the 5-6 year old New York Knicks, "This is a good opportunity to give back to the community. I have been coaching for the past three years and it's great to look at the different skill level and abilities that they hone. Most coaches do it because they love kids and want to give something back."

However, the basketball season would not be possible without the eager players who participated in the season.

"This season I learned the fundamentals of the game better after playing a season of basketball," said Ryan Marshall, 15, forward for the Philadelphia 76ers.

Even though the season is not completely based on competition,



The Station color guard here presents the colors during a Youth basketball ceremony Saturday.

those 10 years or older had the opportunity to taste competition.

Iwakuni's own Philadelphia 76ers played against different schools in the community, as well as teams from Yokota and other Pacific Rim teams. When it was all said and done the Sixers walked away with the title of tournament champions.

With the varying results of both competitive and noncompetitive

aspects of the season, nothing would have been possible without the volunteers.

"One thing we really focused on this year was to try and make all the teams fair," said Buning. "But before the season started, we really had problems finding volunteer coaches. So we ask anyone who is interested, or that can offer any help, to let us know for the next season next year."



Juwana Stanley, player for the children's Miami Heat, performs a unique dance involving a basketball to stun the crowd with his amazing moves, Saturday at the IronWorks Gym here.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD TRACK & FIELD

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northside track, across the street from the Kids' Fest. Food and drinks will be provided. Children compete for prizes in the following events:

- Shot put and javelin competition (for 7 to 15-year-olds)
- Softball throw and standing long jump (for 5 to 9-year-olds)
- 1600-meter run, running long jump, discus throw and 400-meter dash (for 10 to 15-year olds)
- 200-meter dash (for 7 to 9-year-olds)
- 800-meter run (for 10 to 12-year-olds)

Children can compete in a maximum of three events.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Begin April 19 in IronWorks Gym. Call 253-5777 for more information.

THREE PEAKS HIKING TRIP

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up for \$5 at IT&T in Crossroads Mall. Dependents under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Call 253-3842 for details.

PRE-MOTHER'S DAY OSHIMA ISLAND MONJUYAMA RIDGE HIKE

May 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a very scenic hike with spectacular views of the sea and islands. Sign-up at IT&T for \$15. Hikers 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Call 253-3822 for details.

NORTHSIDE FOOTBALL FIELD TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Northside Football Field is off-limits until further notice for required maintenance. The Athletics Department requests the cooperation of everyone to ensure improvement of the field. For more information, call 253-6035.

Marauders celebrate Spring Meet

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

All Marines and Sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 were present at Penny Lake Athletic Field for the unit's Spring Field Meet April 2.

More than 720 Marauders, comprised of Marines and Sailors, swarmed the athletic field for a daylong, fun-filled event, according to Lt. Col. J. P. VanEtten, MALS-12 commanding officer.

"The purpose of the Spring Field Meet was to have a day with various sporting events designed to test their skills and have competitions among themselves and between MSQ-31 (Japan Maritime Self Defense Force's Maintenance and Supply Squadron 31)," added VanEtten.

The day started at 10 a.m. with flag football, softball, soccer, and volleyball games, all running simultaneously for four hours.

In between the games, the Marauders got their physical training with pull-ups, sit-ups, fireman carries and relay runs.

"Having everyone here and having all these fun activities represents what type of unit MALS-12 is," said VanEtten. "We try to have as many functions like this as much as we can. The last time it was MSQ-31 that invited us to one of their functions. This time we've invited them."

One of the commanding officer's intentions for the Spring Meet was to build camaraderie, not only between MALS-12 as a unit but also with MSQ-31.

"I think this is a good thing, having all these games between each other and against MSQ-31," said Lance Cpl. Robert F. Sosa, MALS-12 aviation technician. "Being away from the states and being here in Japan can get a bit boorish, especially for young and single Marines. But the Marauders are a great bunch of Marines, and it seems that everyone glows when we do these types of unit gatherings."

The highlight of the day was when the entire unit gathered around a mud pit in the field and com-



Lt. Col. J. P. VanEtten, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer, leads officers from MALS-12 in a tug-of-war between the enlisted and officers during their Field Meet here.

menced with a tug-of-war battle. All the Marauders were cheering each other on with laughter and excitement.

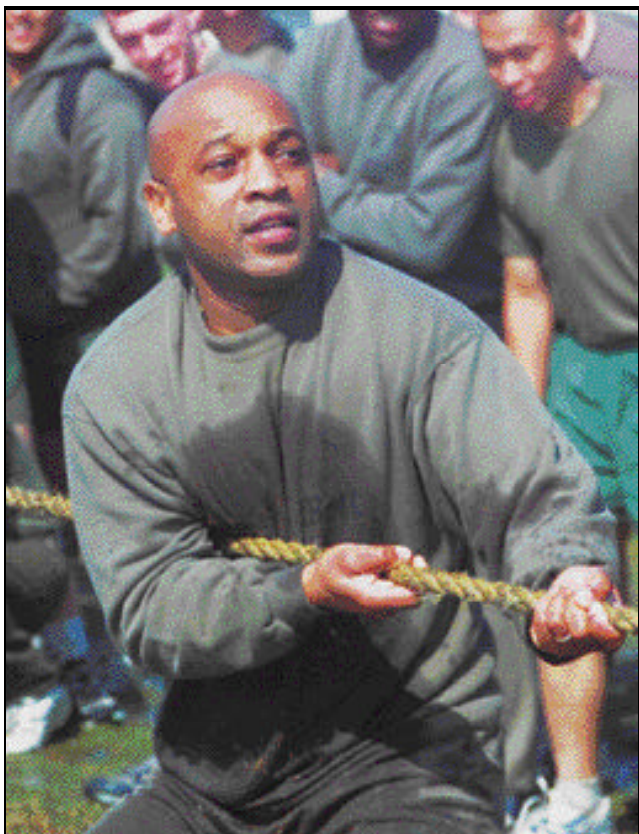
It was a good way to end the day, according to VanEtten. Everyone got involved, from the enlisted to officers to the Japanese military.

"It's these types of functions that really make me appreciate and remember what being a Marine is all about. There's unit cohesion and camaraderie. I like this," said Sosa.

This was the first gathering of what MALS-12 hopes to make a semiannual meet.



Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 compete in a tug-of-war battle amongst each other. The tug-of-war game was the last sport played at the Spring Field Meet April 2.



Sgt. Maj. Devell Durham, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 sergeant major, leads the enlisted side in a tug-of-war battle.



Daishin Nishimura belts a ball to left-center field in a softball game April 2 at Penny Lake Athletic Field during the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Spring Field Meet.