

## Summer air travel for pets

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER  
JILL E. SMITH

*Traffic Management Officer*

For many families, summer marks an exciting time full of adventure, family vacations, and well-deserved relaxation for all. However, for service members and Department of Defense employees stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, it also heralds the stresses of preparing for peak season permanent change of station moves.

Planning for a change in assignment can be quite daunting, especially where pet travel is involved. For this article, the term "pet" refers to domesticated dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and other warm-blooded mammals (excluding primates) considered to be personal pets, show animals, or exhibition animals. The challenge for summer movers lies in how to accompany animals from Japan to their new home.

As with all successful PCS moves, anticipating options for pet travel can make an easier transition between duty stations. Many official travelers mistakenly believe that

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## Cobra Gold '04 kicks off

COBRA GOLD 2004 COMBINED INFORMATION BUREAU

**KORAT, Thailand (May 13, 2004)** — With a display of international military drill, members of the armed forces of The Kingdom of Thailand, Singapore, Mongolia, Philippines and the United States commenced Exercise Cobra Gold 2004 during opening ceremonies here this morning.

More than 18,500 service members from the five countries will spend the next two weeks conducting training and drills

designed to strengthen bonds between the regional allies. Mongolia and the Philippines will participate in the Command Post Exercise for the first time.

"(Cobra Gold) is the best exercise in the South East of Asia," said CG '04 Supreme Commander Lt. Gen. Hern Wannaprasert, Royal Thai Army 2nd Corps Commander. "All of our nations' militaries are coming together to find a common virtue of compassion, cooperation and goodwill."

But there is more on the exercise agenda than military maneuvers. A United Nations-sponsored peace enforcement mission in conjunction with humanitarian operations and disaster relief will be a major focus of CG '04.

"This year's exercise is designed to provide relevant training to meet the most likely contingency operations," Marine Maj. Gen. Emerson N. Gardner, CG '04 U.S. Commander told ceremony attendees at the headquarters building. "To the service members of Thailand, United States, Mongolia, Singapore and the Philippines, your critical efforts during the execution phase of this exercise culminates a year of planning and development and is evidence of the importance and abilities of our multilateral relationships. It will shape the future to come in the greater region and global arena."

Since the first Cobra Gold exercise in 1982, training has varied from year to year, and U.S. Ambassador to Thai-

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Air Force Master Sgt. James E. Lotz

**Combined-joint forces present colors during the opening ceremony for Cobra Gold 2004 at Wing 1 in Korat, Thailand May 13.**

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Marines and Sailors clean up the Station in celebration of Earth Day.




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### IWAKUNI WEATHER

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## Station drown-free for 3 years

LANCE CPT. GIOVANNI LOBELLO  
*Combat Correspondent*

With the many water-based recreational activities Japan offers, Station residents must be aware of the dangers that exist before diving in.

For the past three years, the Station has been fortunate enough to proclaim zero deaths from drowning incidents.

"The last time anyone from the Station has died from drowning was 2000," said Patrick Brown, safety program administrator.

There are several preventative measures that can be taken in order to prevent any incidents involving water activities.

"It is important before going anywhere that you check the weather," said Brown. "It is dangerous to go after rain and typhoons. The water is unsafe to swim in because of the water currents. If

going swimming, pick a spot where there are lifeguards."

"Sometimes currents are strong enough that they will take you away from the shore. If you're ever caught in that situation, just swim sideways and then swim back instead of against the current. This is the way people get tired and can drown."

The Station Safety Center, in conjunction with Semper Fit, have a control measure in place to prevent any unnecessary accidents.

Gear will not be issued before any bad weather, said Brown. This is for the safety of Station members.

Yoneda advised if going somewhere to take any form of communication possible.

People should bring their cell phones in order to contact the base in case of an emergency said Yoneda.

Do not drink alcohol before going

into the water or eat too much, said Chris Yoneda, safety trainer.

Japan's beaches often have signs displaying whether or not the water is safe to swim in.

"The beach may have warning signs out," said Yoneda. "Even though the writing is in Japanese, the signs have pictures indicating what the danger is."

Despite the preventative measures swimmers should also remain cautious about sharks.

"There have been from three to four hammer heads spotted at one time on a beach," said Yoneda. "Ever since the spotting of the sharks, it has been determined that they are moving in closer to the shoreline."

Regardless of sharks and any other dangers, swimming is in no way discouraged to Station residents.

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## Be safe, but only out in town

CH. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

Sitting through safety stand downs can be extremely monotonous. They are held twice a year, and most of the information is the same. Minds tend to wander and eyes grow weary during them and often you hear senior Marines yelling at younger Marines to stand up in the back if they are tired.

The importance of the message never changes.

Of all the statistics shown, not too many people on this Station can say they weren't almost a statistic themselves. I will say that we are lucky, because Iwakuni does not have the accidents and deaths many other Stations and bases endure.

Despite the warnings and factual information presented, many will still jump off cliffs into water with unknown depth, they will still swim into strong currents and drive their cars as fast as they can.

Why will they do this? The same reason they became Marines. They are thrill seekers. Life without danger is not very exciting to someone who is ultimately trained for dangerous situations. When you train or work hard, it makes sense to play hard too right?

With a little bit of alcohol and goading from friends, the testosterone levels soar and we become invincible. Supermen, if you will.

But, that is not the only subject.

In one of the briefs, heat stroke was the topic of discussion. Some of the symptoms were dizziness, nausea and headaches.

Now, how many Marines on this base do you think feel that way every day during physical training? I would say more than a few. If you drop out of your run, you're in for a talking to by your staff noncommissioned officer.

This goes on unnoticed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or whatever your physical training schedule may be.

But when we have a safety standdown, service members are told to "stay within your abilities" when they are working out, or "seek medical attention when your body is overheating."

Obviously none of these "experts" have seen a motivated gunnery sergeant during a regular PT session or gone on a conditioning hike for 25 miles.

We as Marines are safe, safe in combat when we are taking care of our fellow Marines and Sailors. Of course, if getting the mission accomplished means not stretching before we run across the battlefield, then so be it.

If the matter of safety is being shoved down Marines' throats, then let's be consistent. Because, how are Marines suppose to take care of themselves when they're having fun, when nobody is taking care of them when they are training.

They say Marines are the Corps most valuable assets, but maybe if the Marines knew that, jumping off a cliff wouldn't seem so worthwhile.

**"If the matter of safety is being shoved down Marines' throats, then let's be consistent."**

Cpl. Dave Boni  
Combat Correspondent

## Assignment of choice: Results

CHAPLAIN STEPHEN COTES  
The fourth in a series of 10 articles on character.

Do you remember the scene in *Crimson Tide* when the acting commanding officer makes the call to 'close the hatch' in order to save the boat? It seems an easy call to make. An engineering space is taking on water. You either seal the hatch or lose the boat.

The problem lies in the fact that the CO still has men in that compartment. In order to serve a greater good, he has to sacrifice the lives of some of his men.

This is an example of yet another grid for making choices. It is known by a number of names (utilitarianism, consequentialism) but I prefer to call it "results-based thinking."

The chief determinant for whether an action is right or wrong is nothing more than what result the action will bring.

A lot of people like this one. They are comfortable with whatever produces the greatest good for the greatest number. If you have to let an employee go for the good of the company - so be it.

It is the moral equivalent of cost-benefit analysis. You examine the possible results and pick the one that

produces the most good over the broadest range.

Sometimes we apply this method in every day situations. Should I get out of my rack and go to work today? Many people answer "yes" not because they are internally convinced it is the right thing to do. They simply weigh the possible consequences and decide to comply.

Should I stay in the Marine Corps after my obligation? What will I gain by staying in? What is the cost of continuing to serve? Beyond myself, what is the benefit to my country and to my world by continuing to serve? Am I even willing to sacrifice myself for the greater good of humanity?

Those are good questions and it sounds noble simply to ask them.

But are there any downsides to this basis of ethical decision-making? I will let you decide but I do have a couple questions.

First, *how do you know what consequences your actions will bring?* You may have some success in predicting possibilities but you do not have exhaustive knowledge of what the future holds. Letting that one employee go may have greater ramifications than simply freeing up a few payroll dollars.

Second, *can you be sure the ends you desire justify the means to get*

*there?* How will you decide? Last century, some leaders thought everyone would be served better if private property and personal rights were abolished.

They justified the systematic murder of millions in an attempt to achieve a greater good. What safeguards will you put in place to make sure the end you desire justifies the actions you take to get there.

What about dropping an atomic bomb on a city of military strategic significance that is also home to thousands of innocents? I can't speak with absolute certainty but I presume the decision to drop that bomb was made primarily on utilitarian grounds.

Only terrorists would argue that it is always right and proper to drop atomic bombs on large cities.

Whether or not you support the decision is not my focus. I am simply suggesting that those who made the gut-wrenching decision did so because of results-based thinking.

Perhaps they were attempting to hasten the end of the war or to save thousands of lives in the long term.

The consequences of that decision, both good and bad, still endure. The same can be said of the choices you make here in Iwakuni, the assignment of choice.

## Cleaning up Station one piece at a time

LANCE Cpl. GIOVANNI LOBELLO  
Combat Correspondent

Every May 22 marks the celebration throughout the world in which people take a day to take a little extra time aside and do something positive for the Earth. Station Marines and Sailors performed the annual sea wall clean up in celebration of Earth Day May 14. They collectively helped pick up trash which accumulated throughout the year.

Once a year, citizens throughout the world schedule certain events to help maintain the Earth cleanliness.

This year Marines and Sailors faced an uphill battle with the amount of trash found on the sea wall.

"If trash was thrown away properly, then there would not have been as much trash accumulated on the sea wall," said Paul Hudson environmental protection specialist.

Even though the annual event took place May 14, a couple days before Earth Day, that did not stop Marines and Sailors from being good Samaritans.

"We usually do this on Earth Day but because of scheduling problems we had to do it a couple days before," said Hudson. "Cleaning up is something we do once a year, but it really should be something that we do every day of the year."



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello  
**Station Marines and Sailors performed the annual sea wall clean up in celebration of Earth Day May 14.**

Pvt. Clarissa Rowley, food service specialist, said, "I am very happy to be here today. Cleaning up is something that helps out the environment."

again. It's great to be doing something positive and volunteering time and making the Earth look better."

## Bishop confirms Iwakuni

LANCE Cpl. RUBEN D. CALDERON  
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni was graced with the presence of a Roman Catholic Church bishop, April 28 through the 30.

Bishop Joseph Madera, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese (the area for which an archbishop has clerical responsibility) for the Military Services, toured different bases to give confirmations to devout Catholics.

Bishop Madera made visits to 18 different military bases in Hawaii, Singapore, Korea, Guam and Japan from April 12 to May 13.

"The bishops in the Military Archbishop's office also travel throughout the U.S. and Europe," said Navy Lt. Shaun S. Brown, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain. They also visit Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Veterans Administration facilities.

"The Pacific is Bishop Madera's territory this year.

When the bishops are back at home, they also help out the 'civilian' bishops in Washington D.C., and Arlington, Va., with confirmations," stated Brown.

The last time Bishop Madera was here was three years ago. "Actually, a father of one of the youths Confirmed by Bishop Madera here this year was also confirmed by Bishop Madera several years ago! Small world!" exclaimed Brown.

At the end of Bishop Madera's confirmation tour, more than 100 people will be administered the sacrament, Brown said.

"Bishop Madera is the only bishop in the Military Archdiocese's office not to have served as a military

chaplain, but he takes to the people of the military community like a duck to water," Brown mentioned.

This is the second time that Brown and the bishop have met and the respect and love is as fresh as it was the first time. "He is genuinely a pastoral man. The people love him and he loves them. It's almost like having your grandfather visit: It's always special. And, even when he's not here, he's an advocate for the men and women of the military, and our families back at home. He knows this is a family vocation."

"Even though he belongs to a particular faith group, he has a special place in his heart for all who wear a U.S. military uniform. Even though he is out of our sight, and we his, we're never out of his mind. He holds us, our families, and the sacrifices we make near and dear to his heart," said Brown.

"Bishop Madera's visits are pretty incredible, actually. He is usually in and out of an installation in less than 48 hours. He accomplishes so much and visits so many people. One of his favorite times is when he can visit the commanding officers of a base, especially when the CO's are supportive of their chaplains, as Col. Darrah and Col. Pomeroy are. Few things instill as much gratitude in the Bishop's heart as when the people and the Commands support their chaplains."

"I've been to a lot of bases and I must say that I have never been to one where the commanders cared so much for their troops," said the bishop. "I am happy to be here."

Bishop Madera administered more than 20 confirmations here, April 29, at the Station chapel.



Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon  
**Bishop Joseph Madera, Auxiliary Bishop for the military services, made an appearance in Iwakuni, April 28-30.**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### TOKYO EMBASSY

The Immigrant Visa Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo will be closed during the month of July. A new computer software system is being installed. Accordingly, there will be no immigrant visa interviews or issues conducted at the Tokyo Embassy in July. For more information, call the office of the Station Judge Advocate at 253-5591 or 253-5594.

### HORNET'S NEST

Hornet's Nest is looking for a few good men/women to work. This is a great opportunity to help your fellow Marines here, be a tour guide on our trips around Japan, work with many community action projects and get a few extra dollars to put in your bank account. Fill out an application at MCCS personnel, second deck at the Crossroads Mall. Do not call the Hornet's Nest.

### AUTOMATED TIME/TEMPERATURE ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM

Dial 112 to hear the current time and temperature in English, and dial 115 to hear them in Japanese. Call the Telephone Office at 253-5555 if you have any questions.

# Camaraderie served at mess night

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPT. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

"Mr. Vice! Gunnery Sgt. Bogan requests permission to address the president," screamed the gunny. "Whisper in my ear too, Gunnery Sgt. Bogan," replied Mr. Vice. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12's field mess night was the only time Sgt. Victor M. Sandoval, MALS-12 Avionics noncommissioned officer in charge, otherwise known as Mr. Vice, had the pleasure of putting a staff NCO in his place.

"I was a bit power happy," admitted Sandoval. "It was kind of nice being able to tell anybody exactly what you wanted to say."

Sandoval's role as facilitator between the troops and the president of the mess was just one of the time-honored traditions observed May 12.

According to the Department of the Navy's Mess Night Manual, the mess night is a military custom steeped in tradition. These special dinners honor military heroes, customs and courtesies, and other special occasions with strict formality.



Lance Cpt. David Revere

Marines enjoy a meal catered by Club Iwakuni for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12's mess night May 13.

"It is a military formation, as old and as rich in tradition as the quarter-deck or the mounting of the guard, and as essential to a close-knit, smooth-performing unit as are drills, inspections and military ceremonies," the manual states.

According to Lt. Col. James P. VanEiten, MALS-12 commanding officer and president of the mess, the squadron hosted the event in order to

provide camaraderie and instill a sense of tradition in all the Marauders.

"We went the whole week preparing for it," said Sandoval. "I think the experience as a whole brought camaraderie to the squadron."

The event, attended by 520 service members, was specifically qualified as a field mess. Marines came out with boonie covers, 782 gear, and camouflage paint.

"I had an awesome time," said Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bennett, MALS-12 electronic counter measures systems technician. "The camaraderie of being out there together in the field made it special. We had a lot of good laughs and enjoyed some good times and traditions."

The service members also enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Club Iwakuni, with a beef roast as the main course.

In keeping with tradition, the president of the mess first asked for the beef to be presented. After tasting, he declared it fit for consumption by the members of the mess.

The dinner was highlighted by the presence of special guests, including Sgt. Maj. Ralph J. Guerrero, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing sergeant major, as well as an appearance by comedian Colin Quinn, expressing his appreciation of the service member's service.

"It was an outstanding experience," said Sgt. Anthony R. Merchant, MALS-12 electronic countermeasures technician. "It's something we don't get to do that often. It was a chance to get in touch with our inner warrior."

# A testimony that nothing ever lands on your lap

LANCE CPT. GIOVANNI LOBELLO  
Combat Correspondent

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage month and a time for those who have overcome obstacles to be honored for the progress that has been made over the years. This year's theme is "Freedom for all. A nation we call our own."

Overcoming the odds and bettering his life would be something that Filipino native, Cmdr. Don Cenon B. Albia, officer in charge of the Branch Medical Clinic, would know first hand about.

Albia was born in Iriga City, Philippines, July 9, 1954. For Albia, the Philippines offered rice fields and poverty, and he took the opportunity to leave the tough lifestyle. In his third year as a mechanical engineer in the Philippines at Bicol University, he decided to enlist in the United States Navy.

"To enlist in the Navy, I had to submit a 2 by 3 picture with my name, address and date of birth," said Albia. "At the time of processing we had to pass a written and oral exam. Out of the 300 people that took the written exam, only 25 passed. Then from the 25 that passed the written portion, only 12 were able to pass the oral exam."

Volunteers were only referred to by their identification number throughout the process. The factor that differentiated Albia from the rest of the volunteers was his number, 13441.

Albia vowed to serve faithfully in 1974 when he officially enlisted in the Navy and was sent off to boot camp in May to San Diego.

"This was my way out of poverty. There was no way I would mess up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help support me and my family," said Albia.

After completing boot camp, Albia no longer had to worry about receiving a paycheck, as he was paid

regularly for the first time in his life.

After eight years in the service, in 1984 while serving at Fleet Marine Force at Camp Pendleton, Albia picked up the rank of chief petty officer.

"Making chief was not because I was Filipino. It wasn't just handed to me to fill minority quotas; I worked very hard and I was grateful for the opportunity," said Albia.

Before completing his bachelor's degree, Albia was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade. At this time he now had the power to have more of an impact on the Sailors he was in charge of.

"I would consider him the best boss I have ever had, and a good mentor to both officers and enlisted members," said Chief Petty Officer Gilbert Ramos. "He is very open to everybody. Only officer in charge I've seen that walks around and is open to suggestions."

"Since I was enlisted I know what it's like, and as an officer I have been given the opportunity to have an impact on the people I am taking care of," said Albia.

Now, Albia is in charge of the Branch Medical Clinic, where his positive influence can be felt by many Sailors and Marines.

"It's best to take advantage and embrace every



Lance Cpt. Giovanni Lobello

"Making chief was not because I was Filipino. It wasn't just handed to me to fill minority quotas; I worked very hard and I was grateful for the opportunity," said Cmdr. Don Cennon B. Albia, Branch Medical Clinic officer in charge.

situation and try to be a part of as much as possible to continue moving on."

Ramos added, "Cmdr. Albia always tries to make sure that everyone is happy and in good spirits. Sailors were not entirely happy with his presence before. Now Sailors are extending more than before because of his good leadership style."

The Station will celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month today with performances at the Sakura Theater at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend, as well those Asian/Pacific Americans with special talents who would like to perform.

# Preschools, Station develop friendship

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPT. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

In an effort to assist local schools with basic needs, Station chaplains have designed a partnership program for service members involving 16 preschools in the Iwakuni area.

"Earlier this year, the (chaplains) put out a feeler around the Iwakuni area to see if any schools would have an interest in partnering with individuals at (Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni), to have an ongoing relationship with people on base," said Lt. Stephen Coates, Station protestant chaplain.

"About 16 preschools responded. These schools are primarily for children whose parents both work. We've asked them what we can do, and they have responded according to their needs."

According to Cmdr. Donald P. Fix, MCAS Iwakuni command chaplain, the chaplain's office will



Children like these from Iwakuni's Mangyoji Hoikuen Preschool love attention from Station service members.

set up a date to meet with an area school for those interested and determine what they can do over the course of a year. Throughout the year, a Japanese liaison at the office will notify the responsible command element of any special issues that arise.

"Our hope is to find a department or work center that would like to adopt a particular school," said Fix. "These 16 schools have been divided between (Marine Aircraft Group 12) and the sister squadrons."

Coates said that visiting the children is a rewarding experience for all involved.

"I've had a chance to visit three of the schools myself," he added. "It's been a pleasure. The children are very friendly and very fun."

According to Coates, the needs vary depending on the school. Some schools want a few people to come in and teach basic English. A few are looking for a little physical labor. Others are looking for special appearances at school functions.

"This is a great way to reach out in a thoroughly positive manner," said Coates. "It's never a negative consequence to do good to other people. This is an opportunity afforded us by the Iwakuni school district to reach out with genuine American generosity to young children."

For more information or to arrange



Gunnery Sgt. Jason E. Vinson, food services manager, entertains a child from Mangyoji Hoikuen Preschool in Iwakuni.

a visitation with a local school, call Noriko Yamada at the Station chaplain's office at 253-3371.

PET from Page 1

PCS transfers include pet transportation at government expense. Pets are solely the member's responsibility - not the government's - so verifying all reservations, shipping costs, and health requirements before traveling is critical. Whether the service member is scheduled to leave Iwakuni via commercial or government air, the Traffic Management Office is here to help.

Usually, commercial airlines will not accept pet shipments between June and mid-September. While some airlines have announced their refusal to impose embargoes this year, all carriers can refuse pet shipments due to forecasted high temperatures, type of pet (snub-nosed dog and cat breeds), or travel through any transfer or stopover location exceeding 85 degrees.

These annual pet embargoes take many animal owners by surprise, and cause planning pitfalls when arranging air movement for their four-legged family members.

The government does not consider pet embargoes or non-availability of government air pet spaces when scheduling official travel, which makes planning a PCS with your pet more complex.

A viable option for moving those beloved pets during summer is by using Air Mobility Command's Patriot Express. Each month, duty

passengers can expect two or three government air missions bound for Seattle and Los Angeles.

Pet spaces are very limited on each mission, so it helps tremendously to plan far in advance. Passengers in a PCS status can request two pet spaces per family and additional "space available" pet slots as needed. All pet spaces must be included in the port call request. For more information on the AMC Space Available Pet Program, contact the Air Terminal Division at 253-5509/3818 or TMO Passenger Travel Office at 253-3985/3986.

There are many benefits in using government air for summer pet transportation. AMC does not impose seasonal embargoes on pet shipments, so dogs and cats can fly with owners year-round to Seattle or Los Angeles. AMC charges \$90 for pets in kennels weighing up to 70 pounds, \$180 for 71 to 140 pounds, and \$270 for pets in kennels up to the 150-pound maximum.

Commercial carriers have varied pet acceptance criteria, fares, and policies, so it's best to research each one before confirming animals.

For booking pets domestically throughout the United States (reptiles, amphibians, and fish may be categorized as pets on some carriers), contact the individual airline for any restrictions and shipping costs.

COBRA from Page 1

land Darryl N. Johnson said the exercise is continuously changes to reflect current events.

"Each year, Cobra Gold renews the United States' commitment to our friends and allies in the Asia-Pacific region" Johnson said. "Cobra Gold is constantly evolving to meet the national security needs of all of our countries. What started as a small naval task force exercise in the early '80s has evolved into a multinational, multifaceted event promoting regional stability and security."

None of the nations are new to working with the U.S. Thailand, Mongolia and the Philippines currently have contingents participating in the U.S. led coalition in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A full slate of military and community relations events are planned until the exercise's closing ceremonies May 27. An array of combined medical and dental civil action programs (MEDCAPS) will take place throughout Thailand. Myriad civil engineering and public works projects are scheduled throughout the nation during CG '04.

In addition to the Thai-Singapore-U.S. participation, 10 other countries will observe the daily events. Delegates from Australia, France, India, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and Vietnam fill out the list of observers.

DROWNING from Page 1

"We just want to make sure that everyone has fun, we're not trying to scare people off. We just ask people to take the right steps and enjoy the beach safely."

Weather information can be found at <http://weather.iwz.usmc.mil>. In case of an emergency, the Emergency Control Center can be contacted in Japan at 0827217700.



# Training ignites friendship between Japanese, American firemen

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PIC. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Propped up in a shimmering pool of highly combustible fuels, the blackened mock cockpit waits for another encounter with blistering heat and towering flames. Off to the side, a small test fire is lit. A cloud of thick smoke rolls toward the flight line, and the crew chief shakes his head. Until the wind changes, the main fire won't be ignited. Rules forbid training from taking place if smoke will obscure a pilot's view of the runway.

Minutes later, another small fire is lit. This time, the results are good; the wind has shifted. A firefighter touches a flame to the main fuel pool, and within seconds, a tower of dark smoke and orange

flames is reaching to the sky.

Seventeen firefighters from the Yamaguchi Fire Department joined forces with Station firefighters during a recent training exercise here. The day's exercise was part of a six-day training cycle that the Japanese nationals conduct jointly with Marines each year, said Toru Miyoshi, Yamaguchi Fire Chief.

Yamaguchi firefighters look forward to the annual training as an opportunity to test new equipment and hone their skills, said Miyoshi. This year, they tested a new air foam nozzle.

Joint training between local fire departments and Station Marines was birthed during an event that occurred more than 40 years ago, Miyoshi said. A fire began directly outside of the main gate, and Japanese and U.S. firefighters rushed to put out the blaze together.

"There are no borders for firemen," said Miyoshi. "Japanese and American firemen are brothers." Crash Fire Rescue Marines agree.

Although Japanese and Marine firefighters use varying techniques and a variety of different equipment, "They're certified firefighters just like us," said Lance Cpl. Jesus Sosa, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron CFR training clerk.

"I love training," said Lance Cpl. Morgan Humdon, H&HS aircraft rescue firefighter. "If something bad happens, we're ready for it."

Firefighters worldwide face challenging situations daily, and Station Marines are no different. But a unique test faces Marines here in Japan—the language barrier.

"That's the biggest challenge," said Sgt. Brian Dunkley, H&HS CFR training noncommissioned

officer. During training exercises, the Iwakuni City Fire Department Chief translates. However, in the case of a major joint operation, other translators would be supplied, stated the New York native.

Marine Corps CFR crews complete a three-month training cycle at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, said Humdon.

"The school is awesome," she stated. "With the certifications I received during training, I plan to get a job as a structural firefighter once I separate from the Marine Corps."

Lance Cpl. Zachary Briscoe, H&HS aircraft rescue firefighter, is appreciative not only of his schooling, but also the training CFR is involved in.

"I'm completely confident in my abilities, and the abilities of everyone else here," said the Cullman, Ala., native.



As a final measure of safety, crash crew members drench the training cockpit in water for a second time.



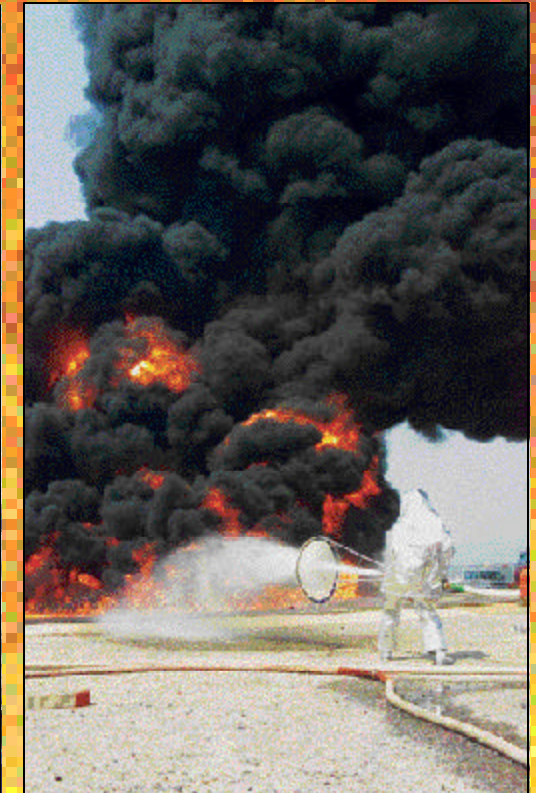
Lance Cpl. Zachary A. Briscoe, fire crewman, secures a hatch on a Station firefighting vehicle after the training fire has been extinguished.



With the exercise complete, a set of firefighting gear rests on the soaked ground surrounding the training pit.



A fireman spreads foam over a mixture of fuels surrounding the blackened mock cockpit that crash crew trains with. The fireman was involved in the joint training exercise here between Japanese fire departments and Marine Corps crash crews.



A firefighter battles a blaze at the Station's fire training pit. Flames reaching more than 40 feet challenged Station and local Japanese firefighters.



# America goes way of Samurai

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CL. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

Thousands of Japanese gathered at the Kintai Bridge April 29 to celebrate the 26th Annual Kintai Bridge Festival.

Among the locals, service members and family members from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni attended the festival to not only experience the culture, but participate as well.

The Daimyo and Young Warriors Procession Parade, the main attraction of the festival, featured hundreds of Japanese locals clad in traditional Japanese costumes and weaponry alongside 10 Americans from the Station adorned in the same fashion.

Side by side during the parade, the Japanese and Americans marched across the bridge and through the streets around the Kintai bridge.

"We dressed up like samurai guards," said Lance Cpl. John Inabinet, visiting aircraft line aircraft handler. "It's the equivalent to a private through lance corporal in the Marine Corps."

The sight of Americans dressed in feudal Japanese costumes was quite a hit, according to Inabinet.

"The people were a blast," he enthused. "They were waving at us, hooting and hollering and laughing."

"I often imagine myself on the red carpet at Hollywood," added Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Gerow, VAL aircraft handler. "Once you leave Japan, you're probably never coming back, so do whatever you can to experience Japanese culture."



American Samurai guards parade down the street en route to the Kintai bridge.



As the final piece of the Daimyo costume parade, the "Lord of Iwakuni Castle" walks across the Kintai bridge with other participating Station residents, who acted as his maids, April 29.

"I was really lucky and fortunate to have that opportunity to interact with the local community," Inabinet affirmed. "It was a great experience to get out of the work environment and see the surrounding culture. It was a chance to see what they have to offer and show them we're interested too."

Yoko Seo, Station culture specialist, said that the expressed American interest was appreciated by the Japanese.

"I think it's great that the community asks for volunteers from the base and invites them as a guest to share their traditions," said Seo. "It's nice that the Americans show they appreciate the Japanese enough to be in the parade. Not only did they wear the costumes, but they communicated with people throughout the day."

Inabinet agreed the day's focus was about fostering friendships with the host country.



Lance Cpl. John P. Inabinet, Headquarters & Headquarters squadron visiting aircraft line mechanic, dons the uniform of a samurai guard in preparation for the Kintai Bridge Festival parade.

"Basically it was all about walking and smiling and connecting with the people," said Inabinet.



## OUT THE GATE

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

### Hachigamine Rose Festival

This festival will take place at the Hachigamine Sogo Park in Waki town, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be stage performances, including band concerts and jazz dances. All rides will be free. Five pairs of couples will conduct wedding. A flea market and booths are scheduled. The admission is free. It may be

postponed to the following Sunday in case of inclement weather. Call 53-2066 for details.

### Recycle Plaza Festival

There will be a festival, including flea market, recycled items auction and toy hospital, held in the parking lot of the Iwakuni City Recycle Plaza, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Toy hospital's reception starts 9:30 a.m. It will not be cancelled due to rain. Call 32-5371 for detail.

### Patchwork Display

This display will be held at Shunan Cultural Hall's Exhibition

Room #2, Wednesday to May 28, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Approximately 150 pieces of patchwork arts, such as tapestries, bags, and coasters, are displayed. The admission is free. For more information call 0834-32-6474.

### 2004 Summer Meeting In Oshima

Tournaments of paragliding and hanggliding are scheduled Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tachibana Wind Park on the Oshima Island. Nearly 80 people will compete. They may be cancelled due to rain or heavy wind. The admission fee is not required to watch. Call 0820-77-5501 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 Ascot**, 1991, CD/mini disk/cassette/TV, JCI until Jan. 2005, \$1,000 obo. Call Brenda at 253-4601 dwh or 253-7963 aw.

**Toyota Windom**, 1992, sedan, CD player, V-6 engine, tinted window, power everything. JCI until March 2005, \$1,700 obo. Call 253-6313 dwh or 253-2057 aw.

**Toyota Surf**, 1992, CD player, custom rims & tires, well maintained SUV, JCI until March 2006, \$3,500. Call Sean or Jolyn at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 aw.

**Nissan Cedric**, 1992, JCI until June 2006, \$2,500

obo. Call Sean or Jolyn at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 aw.

**Honda Ascot**, 1991, 4 door, sedan, JCI until July 2005, \$950 obo. Call Rey or Cora at 253-6527 dwh or 253-2262 or e-mail espinor@nhyoko.med.navy.mil or corajun86@yahoo.com.

**Toyota Town Ace**, 1990, 4 door, van, must sell, JCI until Nov. 2004, \$550 obo. Call Rey or Cora at 253-6527 dwh or 253-2262 or e-mail espinor@nhyoko.med.navy.mil or corajun86@yahoo.com.

**Subaru Legacy**, 1992, all wheel drive, CD/mini disc player, \$2,000. Call Capt. Jolliff at 253-4528 dwh or 090-4108-5147.

**Mazda Lantis**, 1995, 4 door, tinted windows, A/C works great, 6 disc CD changer, sunroof, automatic, JCI until Feb. 2005, \$2,500. Call Max or Nancy at 253-2455.

**Toyota Marino**, 1997, 4 door, sedan, 82k kilometers, dark red, CD/cassette player, new tires, JCI until June 2005, \$1,500. Call Parlene at 253-2044.

**Suzuki Escudo**, 1991, JCI until Sept. 2004, \$1,500 obo. Call Thomas at 253-2384.

**Nissan Vanette**, 1989, fully loaded, JCI until Dec. 2004, \$2,000 obo. Call Thomas at 253-2384.

**Toyota Land Crusier**, 1991, 6 passenger, A/C,

4WD, new batteries/tires, 6 CD changer, JCI for 24 months, \$3,600. Call MSgt. Darby at 253-4120 dwh or 253-2180 aw.

**Toyota MPV**, 1994, 4 door, JCI until Aug. 2004, \$1,500. Call 38-0289.

**Nissan Serena**, 1993 7 passenger van, new brakes Feb. 2004, runs great, good air conditioner, JCI until Feb. 2006, \$2,500 obo. Call Jan or Jim 253-2996

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, green, three-wheel infant jogger, used twice on seawall, \$50 obo. Call Jon at 253-2511.

**Misc.**, girls Schwinn hybrid/mountain bike, \$65

obo; vintage 4 poster pineapple bed, rock maple, double 52, \$175 without mattress or \$250 with nice Serta mattress & box spring. Call Stacey at 253-2374.

**Misc.**, Coleman Jon boat, trolling motor, livewell and dolly, \$500. Call John Waters at 253-6772 dwh or 253-2544 aw.

**Misc.**, two Japanese style heaters, \$100 for both; dining table with butterfly leaf & six chairs, \$200; oak roll top computer desk, \$600. Call Ruth Sweeney at 41-2173.

**Misc.**, Ashley furniture set, couch/loveseat, \$800 obo; bench craft recliner, \$150 obo. Call Sean or Jolyn at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 aw.

**Misc.**, three kerosene heaters with cans and guard gates, \$250 for all or also sold individually; 27" JVC color TV with

stand, mint condition, \$150. Call 38-0289.

### WANTED

**Wanted.**, double or queen size bedroom set, mattress, box spring and frame in good condition. Call Sean or Jolyn at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 aw.

### JOB OPENINGS

**Matthew C. Perry High School**  
Part time/Licensed Registered Nurse is needed. Apply online at <http://www.odedodea.edu/pers/employment/application/>. Call 253-5449 for details.

**Torii Tunes/Torii Video**  
Full and part-time job openings. Stop by Video Store or MCX for application.

**Navy Federal Credit Union**  
Teller positions are open. Call 253-4794 or 253-4797 for more information.

# SAKURA THEATER



### NEVER DIE ALONE

A film noir centering around a hard-boiled, stylish kingpin drug dealer, called King David, who returns to his hometown seeking redemption—but ends up only finding violent death. King David's final moments are spent with Paul, an aspiring journalist who knew him for just a few minutes; yet King David would forever more have an impact on Paul's life. (82 minutes)



### THE LADYKILLERS

The plot of an eccentric professor-turned-criminal-mastermind to commit the massive heist of a New Orleans riverboat casino appears to be thwarted by the actions of Mrs. Munson, the seemingly-innocent little old landlady of the house that he and his three accomplices are staying in, and which is integral to their scheme. They want to dig a tunnel from it to where the casino's money is kept. (104 minutes)



### DIRTY DANCING

Katey brings a curiosity to her new life in Cuba's capital, where her father has taken an executive posting at Chrysler. Schooled by her parents in the art of ballroom dancing, Katey is expected to join the smart set of American teenagers who are her neighbors. But Katey finds herself drawn instead to the proud, purposeful Javier—a waiter who also happens to be brilliant dancer. (86 minutes)

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. Never Die Alone (R)  
10 p.m. The Ladykillers (R)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. Agent Cody Banks 2 (PG)  
4 p.m. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (R)  
7 p.m. Never Die Alone (R)  
10 p.m. Taking Lives (R)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Hidalgo (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Dawn of The Dead (R)

### MONDAY

7 p.m. The Alamo (PG-13)

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (R)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Never Die Alone (R)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. Secret Window (PG-13)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

**Test Schedule**  
**Tuesdays/Fridays** - CLEP, DSST  
**Monday** - EDPT  
**Wednesday** - DLPT  
**Thursday** - AFCT  
 For more information, call 253-3855.

## CHRO

**CHRO Training**  
 ■ **Effective Communication Skills:** June 21-23, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 ■ **Privacy Act:** June 24, 1-2 p.m.  
 ■ **Human Resources 101:** July 6-9, 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.

## MCCS

**Career Resource Management Center (253-6439)**  
 ■ **Transition Assistance Program:** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 ■ **Job Interview Skills:** June 3, 1-3 p.m.  
**Club Iwakuni (253-3727)**  
 ■ **A Touch Of Class:** Enjoy jazz under the stars with the band Just As Nice, May 30, 8 p.m. on the Club Iwakuni Veran-

dah. Tickets cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. All ranks.

**Single Marine Program (253-3891)**  
 ■ **Yakiniku Dinner,** Sunday, 6 p.m. \$10 transportation. Bring lots of yen for dinner.  
 ■ **Fukuoka Sea Hawks Town,** May 29, 7 a.m. \$20 transportation. Bring at least ¥10,000 for lunch, shopping and souvenirs.  
 ■ **Universal Studios Trip,** May 30, 5 a.m. \$20 transportation fee. Bring at least ¥10,000 for souvenirs and lunch.

**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 coupon redeemable at Iwakuni's Route 2 McDonald's.

**Teen Center (253-6454)**  
 ■ **Monthly Birthday Party:** Saturday, 3-5 p.m. Help us celebrate members born this month with cake and games.  
 ■ **Passport To Manhood Meeting:** Sunday, 3-5 p.m.

**University of Maryland**  
 Registration for Term 5 is until May 28. Term dates are May 31 through July 24. First-time students enrolling in college math or English are required to take a

placement exam prior to registration. Course offerings include System Analysis & Design, Technical Writing and Business Finance. For a complete list of courses, pick up a schedule in Building 411 or call 253-3494 for more information.

**Mini Health Fair**  
 Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. Talk to a personal trainer and receive free body fat, blood pressure and cholesterol testing, and information. Call 253-6359 for details.

**PCS With Success Workshop**  
 Thursday, 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 253-3311.

**Craft Fair & Flea Market**  
 Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Open to the Station and local residents. U.S. and Japanese currency is accepted.

**On-Base Taxi Service**  
 The taxi operates on the Station Friday & Saturday, 7 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Rides cost \$1 per person (minimum \$3.) Call 253-5954 or (98)090-8248-0856 for dispatch.

## COMMUNITY

**Iwakuni City International Youth Program**  
 Japanese students, 13-17 years old, are looking for several American families, living on base, to help them experience the American lifestyle in the afternoon on June 19. Contact the

Public Affairs Office at 253-5344/5551 for more information.

**Air Strike Quilters**  
 There will be a meeting Saturday, 11 a.m. in Building 655. Call Pat at 253-5647 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.

## Wednesday Night Live For The Station Residents

Station residents packed into the Club Iwakuni Ballroom to witness first hand the Comedy showcase with Colin Quinn. Quinn who can be recognized mostly for his hilarious performances on Saturday Night Live came with Robert Kelly and Nick Dipaolo. The three comedians had the Club in tears with laughter as they dazzled the crowd with their unique humor. Quinn, pictured left, entertained the crowd with his sarcastic humor.



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

# 3 Ballers defy odds, take championship

CHL DAVE BONI  
 Combat Correspondent

After 28 weeks of Winter Bowling League action, 3 Ballers, led by Eric Krieves, emerged from roll-off competition defeating the vaunted Pin Bashers twice in the double elimination tournament.

The irony in the surprising win by the 3 Ballers was the fact the team was not supposed to be in postseason action in the first place.

"The top eight teams make the playoffs, and when the eighth place team didn't show up we opened their spot to the next seed who was in attendance at the roll-offs," said Joseph Boland, league secretary. "We finally got down to the 10th place team and Eric Krieves, who happened to come by the bowling alley for a cheeseburger, said he would like to be in the playoffs."

Krieves, bowling by himself, proceeded to blow the competition away solely on his scores and the averages of two absent bowlers. After a few short weeks, 3 Ballers, with a full team, found themselves competing for the championship.

"We were a little nervous at first, but I just told the guys to give everything you got," said Krieves, who entered the playoffs with a 164 average during the season.

Due to one loss in the playoffs, 3 Ballers had little room for error as they prepared for the first of the three-game set against the Pin Bashers who had no losses, and were led by anchor bowler Travis Walker.



Cpl. Dave Boni  
 A bowler checks his grip before throwing their ball during the roll-offs.

"We're not worried," uttered Walker just before the start of the game. "They have to beat us twice."

Like many last words uttered in sports, those words would come back to haunt Pin Bashers. In the 10th frame of the final game, with 3 Ballers down by 41 pins, the championship rested in the hands of two final bowlers. After Pin Basher Daniel Salinas failed to close out all three frames, Krieves had his chance for a miraculous



Cpl. Dave Boni  
 From left to right, Mike Roybal, Eric Krieves and Russell Blattner, the Pin Bashers, show their championship trophy, after becoming the 2003-2004 Winter Bowling League champions.

comeback. Already bowling a strike in the ninth frame, Krieves needed three more strikes to win.

"I know what I have to do. I live for this stuff," Krieves declared before bowling three perfect pocket shots, all resulting in strikes, and the 3 Ballers winning by one pin.

The dramatic victory seemed to turn all the momentum toward the 3 Ballers as the second meeting was not nearly as close with the 3 Ballers defeating the Pin Bashers by a total of 102 pins. Although 3 Ballers were the new champs, they noted the enjoyment they had throughout the whole league.

"The whole league was a blast," said Krieves. "It was great to win, but the sportsmanship was really something. Even during the championship, Walker was giving my guys tips. Everyone was just out here having fun."



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello  
 Daniel Wagner, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Follow Me bowler, throws a couple warm-up balls before one of the semi-final games at the Southside Bowling Center.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### FITNESS WEEK

- Saturday, 9-11 a.m. Free yoga workshop in the Aerobics Room. Sign-up by today.
- Sunday, receive 20 percent off all personal training on this day.
- Monday, 8-9 a.m. Receive free Mini Fitness Assessments in the Wellness Room. First come, first served. 5:30-7 p.m. Enjoy a Master Blast Fitness Class with multiple instructors, variety, fun and challenge.
- Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mini Health Fair, talk to a personal trainer and receive free cholesterol, body fat, and blood pressure testing at Crossroads Mall, 5-6 p.m. Express Circuit Class in the New Circuit Training Room. Limited space available.
- Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free lunch time Fitness Challenge at the IronWorks Gym. Men and women's divisions apply. Prizes for top competitors. Also 20 percent off all personal training.
- Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Express Circuit class in the New Circuit Room.

5-7 p.m. Free mini fitness assessments in the Wellness Room. First come first served.  
 • May 28, 11 a.m. Free Memorial Day 5K Fun Run on the seawall behind the IronWorks Gym.

### SPRING INVITATIONAL SKATEBOARD COMPETITION

Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Free and open to the Station residents and their guests. Skaters compete in beginner and advance categories at the Skate Park. In the event of rain, the competition will take place Sunday. Call 253-3727 for details.

### SUMMER BASKETBALL

Coaches meet June 1, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. The season begins June 7. Sign-up at the IronWorks Gym. For more information, call 253-5777.

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



# Crew crashes on First Pitch

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CL. GIOVANNI LOBELLO  
*Combat Correspondent*

Joe Rutherford went 4-4, giving new definition to the "hot corner," (third base.) As Crash Crew overpowered Marine Corps Community Services First Pitch 17-8 in intramural softball action May 12.

Under the lights at the Main softball field, Crew started at a blistering pace as Rutherford Crew center fielder connected for a triple to clear the bases and bring in two runs. After the dust cleared, Crew had a five-run lead to open the game.

The second inning Crew continued their onslaught with four more runs.

Marine Corps Community Services First Pitch stormed right back in the bottom half of the inning scoring seven runs, while batting around in the order.

"We got a little worried (about the rally) but the biggest thing was to not worry too much," said Michael Jones, Crew right fielder.

In the third inning the Crash Crew kept their cool and momentum going by answering MCCA's rally with an impressive five-run show of their own.

After Crash Crew left fielder Daniel F. Wagner's double drove in a run, the score was First Pitch 7 and Crew 16 through four and a half innings.

"Even though we were down, we weren't about to quit," said Juanita Hunter, catcher, MCCA.

The game would end in a lopsided victory for Crew 17-8.

"We usually do not have a lot of runs. The eight we got today is something to be excited about," said Hunter. "As the season progresses,



Mary Braun, Marine Corps Community Services First Pitch pitcher, swings with all her strength in an attempt to get on base and motivate her team during an Intramural Softball game May 12 at the Main softball field.

we are all doing much better."

Despite the victory, the Crew expected a little more out of their performance coming into the game.

"Our strategy coming into the game was to pour it on MCCA by hitting the ball hard," said Jones. "We didn't hit the ball hard like we usually do, but we still had a good game coming out with a win."



Kenneth Snook, First Pitch left fielder, lasers the ball to third base for the out.



Daren Monroe, who played with First Pitch because of a shortage of players, misjudges a ball hit deep into center field as it slid off his glove and body for a Crash Crew base hit.



Michael Jones, Crash Crew right fielder, swings with all his might contributing to his teams blowout win over First Pitch in softball action May 12 at the Main softball field.