

## POW/MIA Recognition Day

RUDI WILLIAMS  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14, 2004 — “When one of our own becomes a POW or is missing, their immediate family and the larger military family endure the tragic pain of not knowing where they are or if they will ever return,” Air Force Gen. B. Richard Myers told attendees today during the Pentagon’s National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony.

That, Myers said, is why the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony carries so much meaning for immediate and military families. “We gather to formally remember our loved ones and their service and to renew our pledge that we shall never, never forget them,” Myers said.

The character of the nation is reflected in the character of those who serve, Myers said. “And those we remember today,” he added, “reflect the very best of our nation.”

“The recovery and return of our missing Americans can mean years of painstaking effort,” noted Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who also spoke. “And some 600 men

see POW Page 5

## Lancer aircraft crashes in Outback

Pilot ejects safely  
with no injuries

CH. DAVE BONI  
*Combat Correspondent*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
BASE TINDAL, Australia — An F/A-18C attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 crashed here Sept. 14, during a routine training mission.

The Marines of VMFA-212 are participating in Exercise Southern Frontier, an annual exercise conducted at the Royal Australian Air Force Base in Tindal, Australia.

The pilot, Maj. George L. Pavey, safely ejected from the aircraft, and was extracted from the crash site by a RAAF helicopter. Pavey was later released with no reported injuries. The incident occurred approximately 10 miles southwest of RAAF Tindal.

According to Lt. Col. Mark Hall, VMFA-212 commanding officer, the incident occurred in a remote, unpopulated area.

“Southern Frontier is an annual exercise which gives Marine aviators the opportunity to support and fly multiple air support missions while expending live ordnance,” said Hall.

Although this incident is the only mishap on this deployment,



Cpl. Dave Boni

The wreckage lies in a deserted area 10 miles southwest of Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal.

ment, Hall believes the exercise has been successful and the relationship between the Australians strengthened.

“We are very thankful for the assistance provided by the RAAF,” said Hall. “From the pick up point, to helping us secure the crash site, their help has been invaluable. We are extremely impressed with their professionalism.”

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

## Navy Warhawks come to prey in Iwakuni

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
*Combat Correspondent*

Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 arrived here Sept. 12, to participate in a six-month deployment through the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program.

“Our main mission while we’re here is to be available in support of the defense of South Korea or Taiwan,” said Navy Lt. Aaron Walker, VFA-97 aircraft division officer and pilot.

“Our biggest challenge as a Navy squadron here will be integrating with the established command and learning the Marine Corps way of doing things,” said Walker.

“We hope to have a positive influence with the Navy/Marine Corps Tactical Air Integration,” said Chief Petty Officer Frank Peters, VFA-97, aircraft division chief. “We’re looking forward to seeing how the Marine Corps operates. We hope to learn from them, and hopefully we can teach [the Marines] something while we’re here.”

According to Walker, the squadron is

looking forward to the chance to experience Japanese culture, and participate in a variety of Pacific deployments.

“We’re looking forward to traveling to places we don’t normally get to see when we’re aboard ship,” he said.

The squadron, based out of Lemoore, Calif., made history as the first Navy UDP squadron to replace a Marine Corps (Marine Fighter Attack Squadron

225) UDP squadron here, added Walker.

As part of the Navy-Marine Corps Tactical Air Integration, the Department of the Navy plans to manage the Navy’s strike fighters and the Marine Corps’ strike fighters more like a common pool of strike fighters. This allows the DoN to perform its stated missions with a smaller total number of operational strike fighters, thereby saving the DoN billions of dollars in aircraft procurement costs, according to a congressional report.

The Warhawks have received numerous awards for their proficiency and performance.

Most recently, the Warhawks were recognized with the Battle “E” for being the most tactically proficient Hornet squadron on the West Coast (including Japan).

They also received the Capt. Michael J. Estocin Award, and the Safety “S,” resulting in a ‘triple-crown’ achievement for the squadron.

The Warhawks will remain in Iwakuni until March 2005.



## INSIDE

### Station sees one new chief

The Branch Medical Clinic is home to Iwakuni’s only new Navy chief on Station. *Page 4*

### All aboard, local transportation

Getting around Japan can be easy when using one of the best public transportation systems. *Page 8*

### IWAKUNI WEATHER

Today  
T-Storms  
High: 83

Saturday  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 84

Sunday  
Scattered Showers  
High: 82

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



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## A day to remember the warriors who left and never came home

CHL. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
Combat Correspondent

Sept. 14 was set aside as a day to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of prisoners of war, and the service members who were and remain missing in action. With the War on Terror raging strong in Iraq and Afghanistan, we should remember our brothers and sisters in arms who are serving on the front lines.

Although the risk is not as prevalent today as in past wars, our Marines in forward locations still face the possibility of being captured. As recently as June, our forces serving in Iraq have had a Marine taken hostage.

I am sure we all remember the tragic incidents of An Nasiriyah, when an Army unit came under attack taking heavy casualties; those who lived were held by Iraqi insurgents before being rescued by U.S. Marines.

Just recently returned from a six-month tour of duty in Iraq where I served as a link between Coalition



forces and media from around the world. I was stationed in Baghdad, but had the opportunity to do some traveling. In April, when the Marines of I MEF began moving in on Fallujah, convoys were taking more and more casualties.

I, along with two other Marines, was sent to Fallujah to help assist with the media embed program that was

implemented to allow journalists to cover military units from the front lines. We couldn't take a direct route to Fallujah; instead, we detoured north to Balad. Our trip was delayed en route due to an improvised explosive device placed along the road.

That same day, April 9, an Army sergeant and specialist went missing in action. The sergeant remains were later recovered. The specialist, Keith Maupin, was allegedly shot in the back of the head. The Department of Defense has not been able to verify his whereabouts.

As we remember our fellow service members still in harm's way, let us not forget those who have gone before and not returned. It could have been me and the other two Marines. The IED that delayed my trip to Balad also prevented me from joining up with Maupin's convoy.

As we go about our lives and enjoy our freedoms and luxuries, let us also take time to remember, honor and commit our country to unite in an effort to make sure every man and woman who has served their country in a far off land, is brought home to a hero's welcome.

## Smoke breaks - killing work time

CHL. THOMAS SLOAN  
Combat Correspondent

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa, Japan** — I don't smoke, and I have nothing against others who do as long as it doesn't affect their performance. But when smoking hinders mission accomplishment, this devil dog starts growling. Not all smokers abuse the time they take for smoke breaks, and this viewpoint isn't directed toward those who do not abuse the system.

I'm fed up with the amount of time some Marines waste each workday with taking frequent smoke breaks. The saying of, "give someone an inch, and they'll take a mile," holds true for this issue, and I'll use the smokers in my shop as an example.

They take an average of 7-10 smoke breaks throughout the day, not to include lunch. Each break lasts approximately ten minutes. That calculates to be more than an hour of smoking and joking, which is lost time that could have been better spent on completing tasks.

While they're at the designated smoking area sucking cigarettes, the nonsmokers continue right on working. We are left to pick up the slack in their absence, and almost everyone secures at the same time, which is not fair. Can I just save up the amount of time they take for smoke breaks and use it all at once to secure an hour early? No, I can't.

The primary goal of Marine Corps leadership is mission

accomplishment, according to the Marine Corps University. Mission accomplishment requires a team effort and, all Marines should contribute 100 percent to the unit's mission. Anything less passes the buck to someone else. In my opinion, the smokers in my shop are passing the buck to me and other nonsmokers.

Aside from wasting valuable time, how the smokers go about taking their breaks affects the shop also. When one smoker decides to go burn one, others follow. Like cattle going to a watering hole, they all herd out of the shop to the smoke pit. This leaves few of us in the shop to answer busy phones.

Taking a few short breaks throughout the day, not to include an hour and a half for lunch, is a privilege granted to Marines by their respective leaders. There is nothing wrong with taking five minutes here and another five there. Doing so can give hardworking motivators time to gather their thoughts and become more focused on the task at hand, which can ultimately benefit their productivity.

I hope the smokers who abuse their time by taking frequent smoke breaks will read this viewpoint and realize they are wrong. I hope they will have more consideration for their fellow Marines who don't smoke, and take the corrective action by limiting their breaks. Doing so will ensure mission accomplishment. Smokers have plenty of time to get a nicotine fix before work, during lunch and after they have secured.

Editor's Note: In the Sept. 3 issue of the *Torii Teller*, we published an article entitled "The Stability of your Life," written by Chaplain Carla Barry. It was inadvertently

omitted that excerpts from this article were taken from "15 Minute Devotions for Couples," by Bob and Emilie Barnes. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

## Seawall closed from typhoon damage

LANCE CPL. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Due to damage sustained during Typhoon Songda, the seawall here has been closed to all Station residents until further notice.

"During the weekend after the typhoon, a sinkhole developed in the wall near the M.C. Perry schools," said Lt. Cmdr. George Suter, Station facilities officer. "Since then, we've discovered several other areas that sustained damages."

"We have closed down the seawall in order to survey and repair the damage."

According to Suter, the Japanese government is responsible for maintaining the seawall, and has yet to complete its assessment of the damage.

"We do not yet have an estimated date for reopening the seawall," he stated.



Lance Cpl. David Revere

**Due to typhoon damage, the sea wall has been closed to all foot and vehicle traffic until further notice.**

The seawall is closed to all traffic, said Suter.

"Barricades and signs in English and Kanji have been posted to prevent people from using the seawall," said

Master Sgt. Eric Drummond, Provost Marshal's Office operations chief.

"If Station resident's are found using the seawall, corrective action will be taken," said Drummond. "A Minor Of-

fense Report will be sent to a Marine's sergeant major, and to a dependent's sponsor's parent command."

Closure of the popular running spot has resulted in an increased use of streets for physical training, and Station residents should be mindful of safety precautions, stated Drummond.

"Both runners and bikers alike need to wear reflective gear during hours of darkness," he noted. "And just because it's going to be light when you're finished running or biking doesn't mean you can go without a vest or belt."

According to Drummond, enforcing safety rules can be difficult because of the constant presence of the Unit Deployments Program Squads.

"We're always getting new people in, and sometimes word about Station rules doesn't get passed," he noted. "However, we need everyone here to help enforce the safety standards."

## Scars, experience tell tales

CHL. RANDY BERNARD  
Combat Correspondent

**AL QAIM, Iraq (Sept. 15, 2004)**

— Getting hit by an Improvised Explosive Device or mine is a fear every Marine carries with him to the battlefield. Getting hit twice is almost unthinkable.

Cpl. James E. Hammock Jr., a driver with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, has faced these hidden dangers on two separate occasions and lived to talk about it.

Before heading to Iraq, Hammock was stationed in Rota, Spain as a Marine security guard. The 21-year-old native of Woodstock, Ga., provided ship security and augmented base security. Arriving in Iraq was an extreme change of surrounding for Hammock.

"It was a culture shock, I traveled all over Europe and then I came to Iraq. I went from the beautiful landscapes of Europe to the deserts of Iraq," said Hammock.

Hammock arrived in Iraq Feb 15, working with the Marines of Combined Anti-Armor Team Red. The Marines perform road security, vehicle checkpoints and patrols through the cities around Al Qaim. It was on one such patrol he earned his first battle scar.

"We were patrolling out to a city to go check out some broken pipes," said Hammock, recounting his first encounter with an IED. "We had slowed down to cross a bridge over the Euphrates and they set it off. When it went off, I couldn't feel my arm. The blast blew my arm back inside the vehicle. My arm was numb and it was swollen so I thought I had broken it."

Hammock said that once the smoke had settled, they saw a boat speeding off down the river, leading them to believe that the IED had been remotely deto-



Cpl. Randy Bernard

**Cpl. James E. Hammock Jr., a driver with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, shows off the scar on his arm.**

nated from the water. Once the corpsman began to work on his arm, thoughts began to race through Hammock's mind.

"I wasn't worried about losing my life at the time, I was more worried about losing my arm," Hammock said.

Once he was sufficiently bandaged, Hammock was sent back to a hospital in Germany for further treatment and given time to recuperate. From there, he was sent back to 29 Palms, Calif.

Hammock soon grew restless back in the rear.

"I volunteered to come back out here," Hammock said. "It was worse being home, I worried about the guys out here doing patrols."

Hammock was concerned about his friends more than his own personal safety.

"As far as coming back, I wasn't worried, I knew where I was going and who I was coming back to," Hammock added.

"We thought we wouldn't see him again, and five months later, he came stumbling in all sweaty and asked if someone could help him with his pack," said Lance Cpl. Seth E. Williams, a machine gunner with CAAT Red. "He is a good guy. If there was a mission, he would always be motivated and want to go."

Williams added that although Hammock was always willing to go, he now carried twice as much medical gear with him.

After coming back to Iraq for only a matter of weeks, Hammock was again the victim of an IED attack.

"We were patrolling through Ubaydi and we turned

see SCARS Page 4

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NAVY BALL

The Navy Ball will be held Oct. 15. The special guest speakers will be Rudy, retired Navy Seal and reality television star, along with Brig. Gen. Frank Panter, Commanding General, 3d FSSG, Okinawa. The tickets are on sale now. Call Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Wimbush at 253-4393 for more information.

### PTO GOLF TOURNAMENT

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School is holding Parent Teacher Organization golf tournament Oct. 9 at Torii Pines golf course. Show time is 7:30 a.m. and Shotgun Start is at 8 a.m. Format is Four-Man Scramble. Call Bob Keating at 253-6839 or John Stroup at 253-3447 for further information. Deadline to enter is Oct. 6.

### MAMMO VAN VISIT

A mobile test facility for mammograms will be aboard the Station Oct. 20-23. Women more than 40 are encouraged to have an annual mammogram. Patient appointments will start at 9 a.m. Oct. 21 and 22. Oct. 23 will be used for follow up appointments. To schedule an appointment, contact Branch Medical Clinic at 253-5571.



# Station hails new Navy chief

LANCE Cpl. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Station service members hailed the only chief petty officer to be promoted here this year, during a ceremony at the Branch Medical Clinic Sept. 16.

"It's a great honor to be selected for chief," said Chief Petty Officer Darryl E. Malone, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Branch Medical Clinic surgical technician and corpsman. "It's a great feeling."

Malone, along with 251 other petty officers 1st class corpsman, was selected from among more than 900 eligible HMIs Navy-wide to receive a promotion to chief, said Station Command Senior Chief Petty Officer Abel Dizon.

"Because of his training, [Malone] is now part of a select group of personnel — one of the most exclusive fellowships in the armed services," said Dizon. "His promotion means he now carries the weight of bigger responsibility on his shoulders." Malone, a Halifax, Va., native and 17-year Navy veteran, joined the service to be involved in the



Sgt. Anthony J. Adamson

**Senior Chief Petty Officer Romeo Celestino, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, pins a chief's insignia on Chief Petty Officer Darryl Malone, H&HS, during his promotion ceremony here Sept. 16.**

medical field.

"When I joined, I saw myself down the road as a chief or master chief," said Malone, who plans to spend "Twenty-plus years" with the Navy.

Aside from his promotion to chief petty officer, Malone views the completion of his Fleet Marine Force training as one of the highpoints of his career.

"That was definitely a highlight," Malone said. "It was a good chance to see how another service truly works."

The selection process for chief petty officer is a difficult one, said Dizon.

Eligible sailors Navy-wide must pass a chief petty officer examination and score high enough to be looked at by a board of master chiefs. Once they are selected, they must submit a promotion package to the board. If the board approves the package, the CPO selectees will face an eight-week transformation period from petty officer 1st class to chief petty officer.

"The purpose of the training is to give them the tools they need to become a successful chief petty officer in the Navy," said Dizon. "The training focuses on the core values of the Navy in order to reinforce the unity and strength of the CPO community, in particular, and the Navy in general."

According to Malone, the training period includes physical training, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps history and lessons on leadership.

Malone's promotion reflects his inherent quality of tenacity, said Dizon.

"Once he puts his mind to something, he'll pursue it to its successful completion," Dizon stated.

# Supply Marine shows multi talents during Southern Frontier

Cpl. DAVE BONI  
Combat Correspondent

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia

— Like all Marine Corps exercises, Marines from various military occupations come together in order to make the exercise a success. And like many deployments, it's the support Marines behind the scenes that become the pivotal assets of a successful deployment.

A perfect example of this behind-the-scenes support is the case of Cpl. Francisco Hernandez from Marine Aircraft Group 12. A supply clerk by trade, Hernandez also performed S-4 work (logistics and embark) during the entire exercise.

Arriving here nearly two months before the exercise began, Hernandez quickly began making liaison with the Royal Australian Air Force in order to make the transition easier for the Marines arriving. Hernandez also arranged for all of the billeting and



Cpl. Dave Boni

**Cpl. Francisco Hernandez, Marine Aircraft Group 12 supply clerk, goes through room keys while deployed to Southern Frontier.**

messing during the entire exercise.

"When I first arrived here, I wanted to make good contacts with all of the different offices Marines would be working in so when they got here I could just make the introductions and the Marines would take it from there," said the Delano, Calif. native.

office supplies, a room or gear out in town, Hernandez was the man everyone went to see.

"Hernandez was Mr. Dependable for everyone here," said Gunnery Sgt. Samuel Perez, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 detachment officer in charge. "If you needed it done you

When the Marines arrived Aug. 8, Hernandez's job became a lot more stressful with more tasks being placed on him. On top of billeting and messing responsibilities, Hernandez was now in charge of allocating rental vehicles and cell phones. Hernandez would also have to inspect the vehicles every day and fill out any accident reports.

When the exercise was in full swing, Hernandez became the go-to guy for the various units participating. Whether it was

would go to him and he would find a way to get it done. He was a very important asset for the command during the exercise."

Hernandez, making his deployment with the wing, brushes off the praise and believes his experience here has been beneficial in learning how to multi-task.

"This exercise was a lot of hard work, but it was well worth it. It was my first time in Australia and getting to know the Aussies was the best part of my experience," said Hernandez.

The hard work is not over yet for Hernandez, as he needs to close down all of the contracts he started before the exercise ever began.

"I have to bring back all the rental vehicles, collect the cell phones and also help rearrange the budget to make sure all of the contracts are paid in full," he said.

The go-to guy will be the last Marine to leave Southern Frontier after doing a job he had never done before.

was coherent. But I cussed up a storm because they blew me up again."

As soon as the dust had settled, Hammock remanned his position on the gun, as the team resumed the mission.

Looking back on his experiences Hammock said that his time in Iraq was certainly unlike any other.

"It really wasn't that bad. We are doing more with our lives than any other civilian could," said Hammock. "It's a beautiful place out here, you just

have to know where to look for it."

Although he now bears large scars across his right arm from his first injury, and the Purple Heart to go with it, Hammock is still glad he got a chance to serve in Iraq.

"The scars add character, shows you've been somewhere and done something," said Hammock. "I don't regret anything I've ever done, and I never will." Hammock is scheduled to fly back to California by the end of September.

# Blow stuff up, get paid

*Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines save the world for a living*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE Cpl. DAVID REVERE  
Combat Correspondent

"Fire in the hole!"

The earth-shaking explosion thunders through your chest like a spiritual force, gushing adrenaline through your veins.

A 155 mm Howitzer round with three blocks of C-4 attached has just exploded about 100 meters away. Even from the safety of a concrete shelter, the reverberation is deafening, and chunks of debris can be seen falling to the ground for a good minute afterwards.

"Hear that spinner?" Gunnery Sgt. Charles B. Yannizzi, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Explosive Ordnance technician, inquires casually



**Cpl. Shane S. Bailey, Marine Aircraft Group 12 fiscal clerk, preps a block of C4 for fuse insertion.**

as a large metal chunk whirls overhead with a noise like the sharp wine of a helicopter propeller.

For Yannizzi and the rest of the EOD leathernecks here, what many would consider a real-life action movie is all in a day's work.

"When you get paid to do what you're trained to do, what more can you ask for?" said Yannizzi.

"There's no other job in the Marine Corps I'd rather do."

Yannizzi said his job presents new challenges every day.

"There's not a day you come to work and you don't learn something new," he said. "It's always changing. You could even end up finding an unknown kind of ordnance."

One responsibility that makes EOD unique, according to Yannizzi, is Marines are the only branch of the military authorized to disassemble ordnance for research and intelligence purposes.

"We can take all the explosives out from the inside," he said. "We find out what kind of explosives it contains and how much. We learn the characteristics of it, so the next time somebody finds it, we'll have a publication ready because we've already disassembled it."

In forward operations like those in Iraq and Afghanistan, improvised explosive devices are the primary



**Electric blasting caps are carefully inserted into a block of C-4 in order to explode a 155 mm Howitzer round.**

issue EOD technicians deal with. IED's are advancing with technology, said Yannizzi, and as a result, the Marines' skill-level and nerves are constantly being put to the test.

"The job is always changing," said Sgt. Hoskie Attson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 EOD technician. "Every day is a new experience. Even our senior guys here are always going to school and picking up new stuff."

"Now, instead of somebody having to go up and set an item off, someone can transmit electric signals from somewhere else and set it off," he said.

Attson noted his favorite aspect was the constant travel opportunities from working with the United States

Secret Service to taking part in Force Reconnaissance missions.

"The operations are more frequent and the locations a lot more varied than other jobs," Warrant Officer Gregory E. Wrubalski, MWSS-171 EOD officer in charge, affirmed. "Here we support (Joint Prisoner of War and Missing In Action) accounting commands in addition to scheduled (Marine Aircraft Group 12) exercises. My guys deploy to places like Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and North Korea."

Exotic travel, big explosions and the certainty of danger; what more could a Marine ask for?

"I get paid to blow stuff up," summed Yannizzi.

SCARS from Page 3

a corner when they set off a daisy chain of IED's," said Hammock. "The first and second blasts went off, and nobody was hurt. We turned around and the third went off. The blast peppered my face and my side."

Hammock received only small scratches and wounds from the blast but he didn't panic. He was more frustrated than anything about the incident.

"I knew I wasn't hurt bad, I could still talk and I

POW from Page 1

and women, both military and civilians, around the world take part in everything from diplomatic negotiations and field operations to forensic analysis. They are tireless and dedicated. And through their latest efforts, the remains of fallen Americans have just been recovered in North Korea and are now headed home."

Wolfowitz assured American troops fighting terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the globe that they can be fully confident that if they're captured, become missing or fall in battle, this nation will spare no effort to bring them home.

"That," the deputy secretary said, "is our solemn pledge. However long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost."

Myers called the event's keynote speaker, World War II Medal of Honor recipient Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, "a true American hero." Inouye fought with the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. With the motto "Go for Broke,"

the 442nd had more than 18,000 awards bestowed upon it, including 9,500 Purple Hearts, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, Seven Distinguished Unit Citations, but only one Medal of Honor.

Calling the 80-year-old senator a friend of the military, Wolfowitz said no one who understands better what the men and women of the armed forces want for the country and what they are prepared to give.

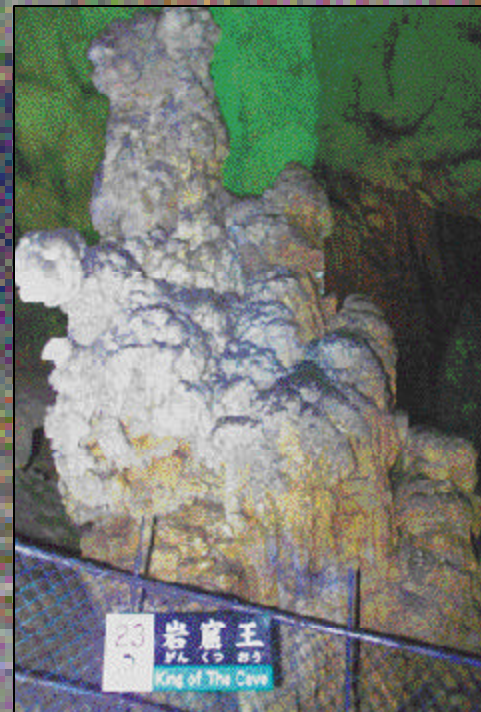
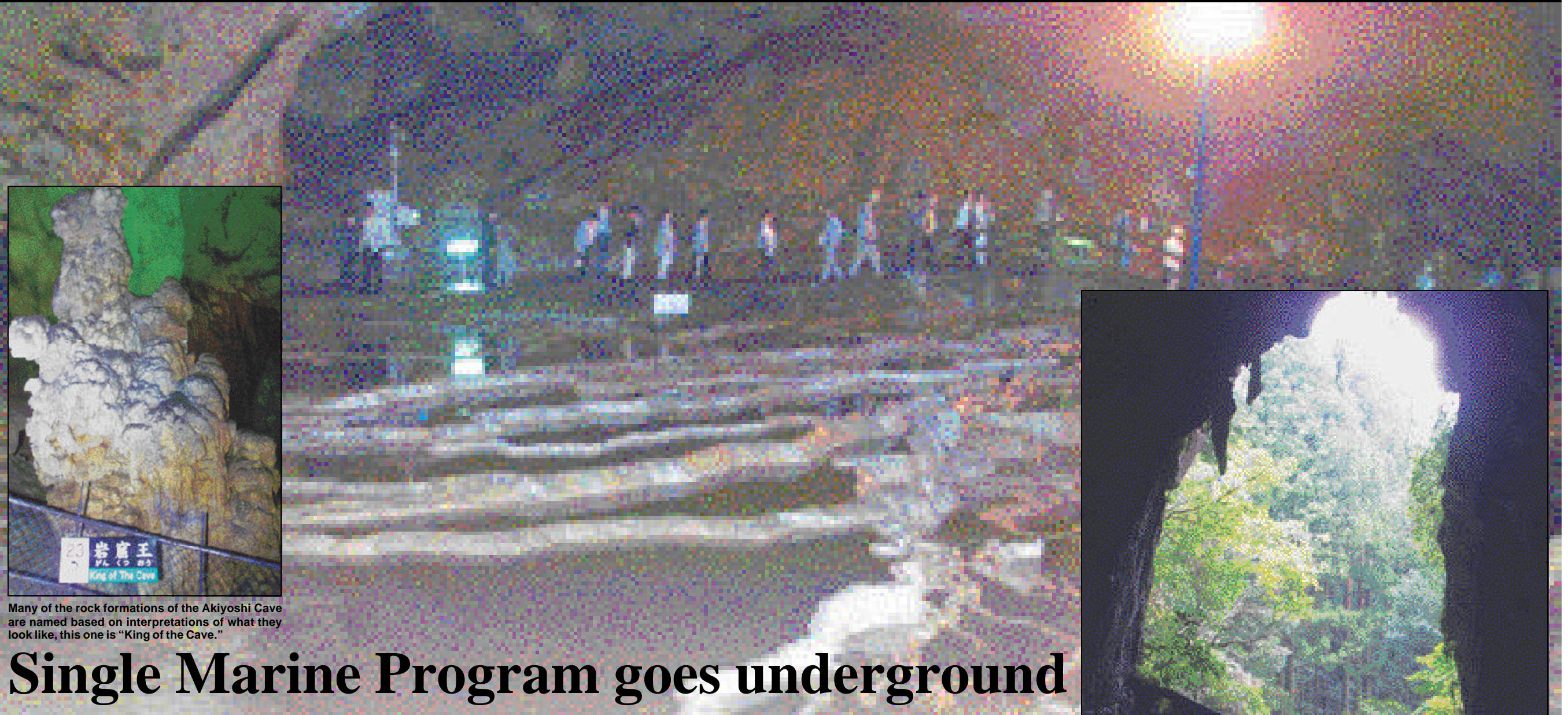
"No one understands better how important the unstinting support of the American people is for our troops as they undertake their difficult and dangerous work," Wolfowitz noted. "No one understands better than Dan Inouye the kind of devotion to our nation the American soldier takes to war ... and how important is the pledge we make to them that we will leave no man or woman behind."

Inouye said today's military members stand for the same principles as the POWs and MIAs before them. "American POWs and MIAs have honored their nation through their service and their sacrifice, much like the magnificent young men and women standing so proudly on the parade field today," he said. "Those

who wear the uniform today and those who went before them know, better than most, why bringing home our missing Americans is a sacred commitment. That mission rests squarely on the shoulders of those of us to whom you have entrusted some measure of leadership. Your support and encouragement will continue to hold us accountable."

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations and ships at sea and in state capitals, schools and veterans facilities.

This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is flown at major military installations; national cemeteries; post offices; Veterans Affairs medical facilities; the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials on the national mall; the offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs and director of the selective service system; and the White House.



Many of the rock formations of the Akiyoshi Cave are named based on interpretations of what they look like, this one is "King of the Cave."

# Single Marine Program goes underground

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
 CPT. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
 Combat Correspondent

The Single Marine Program took 24 unaccompanied and single Marines and Sailors from the Station to the Akiyoshi Cave Saturday, giving the service members the chance to explore some of Japan's natural beauty.

The service members began at the Hornet's Nest, where accountability was checked before they boarded a waiting bus on their journey to the caves.

The Akiyoshi Cave are located at the foot of Akiyoshi Plateau in Yamaguchi Prefecture, which is roughly 10 kilometers north of Ogori.

Once the service members arrived at the entrance of the cave, a short walk and admission fee allowed them to explore the cave on a walking tour taken at each Marine's pace.

For some, this was a truly unique experience, for others it was another opportunity to see the natural world.

"I've been to caves before," said Long Beach, Calif., native Lance Cpl. Jessica Peterson, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, avionics technician. "I thought there would be more to it. Some of the places were just beautiful. It was nice to just get away and relax for a little while. It helps me to clear my mind and is very relaxing. I came with a friend but I ended up walking at my own pace and going on my own."

This time exploring the caves allowed Peterson some time for personal reflection.

"The sense of peace I had was great," she said. "Now that I am older I can appreciate it more and take it all in. It wasn't even the structures and water that made it so relaxing for me. It was getting lost in the dark and

having a certain path to take. It gave me some 'me time.' It gave me a chance to think about personal things and it made me realize that things will be OK. It also was a good way for me to get closure as my tour in Iwakuni ends."

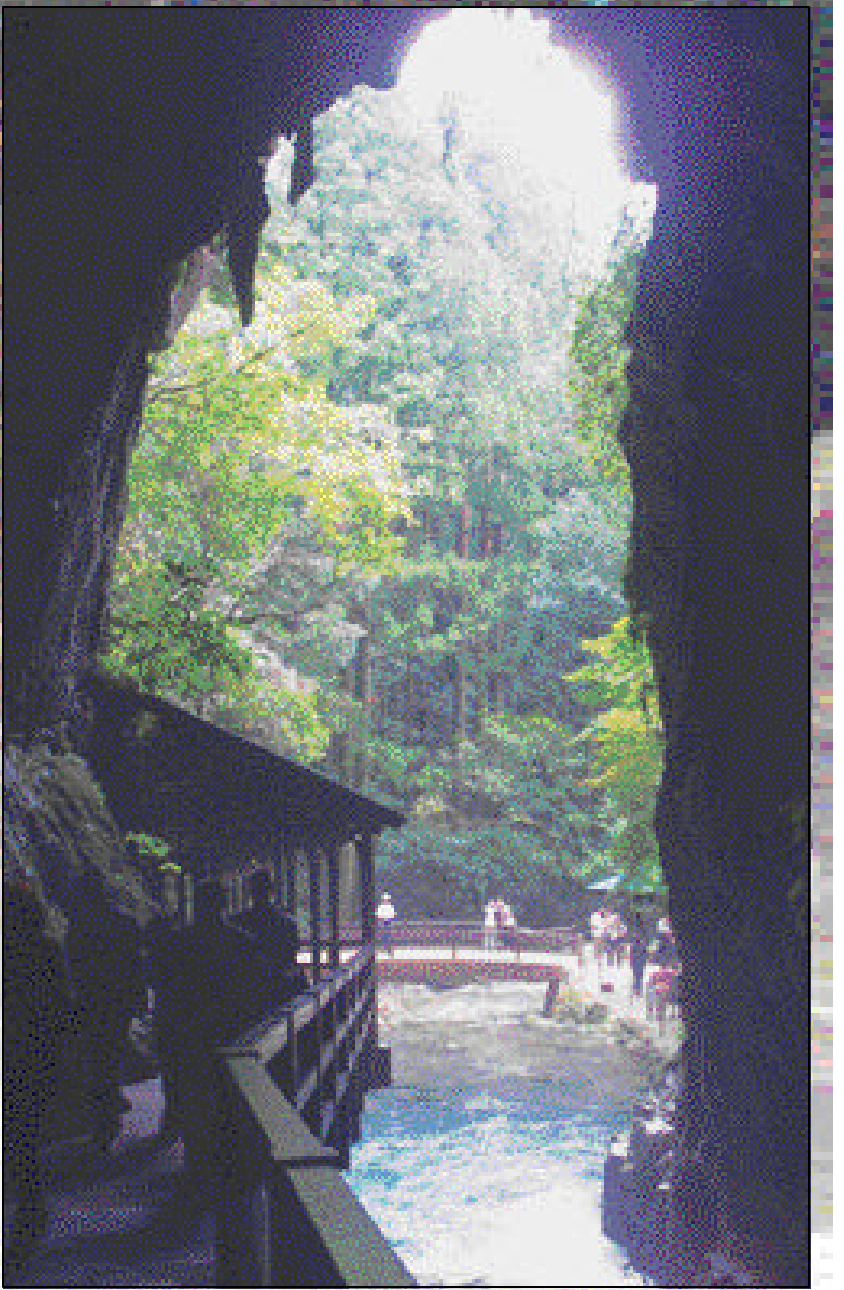
Joining the SMP on outings like this allows Marines to get out of the barracks and see Japan.

"I just like to stay busy and try new things," said Peterson. "SMP is great to have at our disposal. You just pay for the trip and don't have to worry about anything else, like driving."

The SMP offers events every weekend for single and unaccompanied officers and enlisted service members. The SMP also offers career progression such as financial management classes, first aid courses and career planning. For more information, contact the SMP at 253-3585.



Service members visiting the cave have plenty of opportunities to shop for souvenirs.



Visitors are greeted by sunlight and fresh air at the end of the cave.



# Getting places in Japan is not mission impossible

GUNNERY SGT. M.A. ZEID  
Combat Correspondent

Don't panic. It's not as confusing or difficult as it looks. Getting around in Japan is actually very easy once you get the hang of it.

Japan has one of the best public transportation systems in the world, especially the trains. They are fast, economical and dependable.

Reading Japanese isn't really a problem. Most stations, including the ones in Iwakuni, have necessary information posted in both English and Japanese. The first thing is to find your destination on the list of train stations above the automatic ticket machines. The cost of a ticket from Iwakuni is listed below the train stations. If you can't find your destination, go to the ticket window and ask for a ticket to your destination. The station employee will tell you the cost. You pay for the ticket and you're ready to go.

One thing to remember is tickets are good only for the day they are purchased. If you need a ticket for tomorrow, buy it tomorrow. There are discount tickets for people who often travel to the same location. One good deal is called "kaisuken" tickets. You get 11 tickets for the price of 10, and the tickets are good for going to your destination or coming back from it for three months (one ticket - one way).



Internet photo

**Iwakuni residents can easily get around Japan after learning how to use the local transportation system.**

Once you get the ticket, go to the turnstile and get the ticket stamped before boarding the train. Keep the ticket, because you will need it when you get to your destination. If there isn't anyone at the turnstile, use the small tan machine on the turnstile to stamp your ticket.

One major source of confusion is finding the proper train to board and which track to go to. The Sanyo Line is the main train line that goes all the way from Tokyo to Fukuoka, although the trains themselves only travel specific sections of the line. For example, trains going through Iwakuni will travel anywhere from Yamaguchi Station to Okayama Station. The important thing is to know whether the station you want to go to is between Iwakuni and the final destination of the train. For example, if you want to go to Saijo, a town about 40 kilometers east of

Hiroshima, then you need to take a train that goes to Shiraichi. Shiraichi is beyond Saijo, while Hiroshima is not. Taking this train means you will change trains in Hiroshima. Also be careful; in Hiroshima, many trains leave the Sanyo Line and go to the Kure Line, which goes south from Hiroshima.

To find your train and track number, you can look at the timetable above the turnstiles. The station listed is the final destination for that train. The track number is listed in the circle next to the station. If you don't know which track or train to take, ask the station personnel. Tell them your destination and ask where. It is recommended that you do not ask yes-no questions

such as "Does this train go to Hiroshima?" Many times the station personnel will misunderstand and say yes because they think that is what you want to hear. (It's a Japanese cultural trait, not a case of being mean.)

One important thing to remember is the trains here are very punctual. If the schedule says it leaves at 12:25, then it leaves at 12:25. If you are late, you missed the train. Another thing to remember is that when it rains a lot, such as during a typhoon, the trains will stop running. This is for safety reasons. You can call the Iwakuni Station at (0827) 21-3931 and ask them if the trains are running, but you need to be able to speak and understand Japanese. There is an information telephone in English at 03-3423-0111, but since it's in Tokyo, the information may not be accurate. There are English Web sites that have a lot of useful information about using the trains in Japan. These are: [www.japanrail.com](http://www.japanrail.com) and [www.westjr.co.jp/english/english/index](http://www.westjr.co.jp/english/english/index).

A recommendation for those who wish to use the shinkansen - it may be better to take a local train to Hiroshima and then take a shinkansen train from Hiroshima. Only kodama shinkansen trains stop at Shin-Iwakuni Station. Since these trains stop at every train station, they are the slowest and take the longest time. From Hiroshima, people can take hikari and nozomi shinkansen trains, which stop at only the major cities and are much faster.

## Otake Sunday Market

A market is scheduled Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harumi Daiichi Park, next to You Me Town Otake. Approximately 100 booths will be set up to sell fresh vegetables, fish and more. A flea market will be held at the same time. Call 53-7175 for details.

## Tole Painting Exhibition

This exhibition, displaying frames, bags and more, is held at the exhibition hall in the Iwakuni City Central (Chuo) Library until Oct. 17. The library is closed Mondays and Oct. 12. Admission is free. For further in-

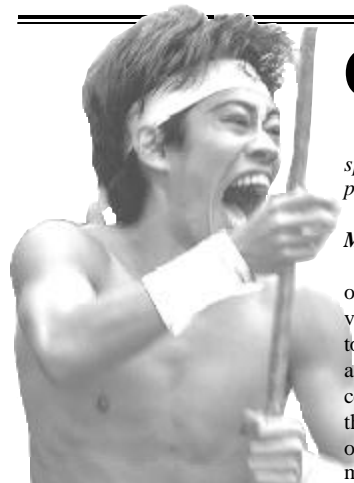
formation, call 31-0046.

## Dried Flowers Display

A display of 320 pieces of dried flowers' art will be held at the exhibition hall in Sinfonia Iwakuni today through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

## Yukata Festival

Visitors can view a parade of people in Yukata (summer kimono) with lanterns around the Kintai Bridge Saturday, 6-8 p.m. It costs ¥1,000 to participate unless bringing a lantern. Call 41-2776 to sign-up. It will be cancelled in case of rain.



## OUT THE GATE

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

## Moon Viewing On Mt. Shiroyama

The Iwakuni castle ropeway will operate until 10 p.m. on Sept. 28 for visitors to view the moon from the top of Mt. Shiroyama. There will be astronomical observation and tea ceremony by the ropeway station on the top. It will be cancelled in case of rain. Call 41-1477 for more information.

## Some useful Japanese phrases for traveling

*Hiroshima made no kaisuken o onegaishimasu.*  
May I please have some kaisuken discount tickets to Hiroshima?

*Hiroshima e ikitai no desuga, densha noriba wa doko desuka?*  
I want to go to Hiroshima. Where should I go to board the train?

*Kono densha wa dokoiki desuka?*  
Where does this train go to?

*Ikura desuka?*  
How much?

*Domo arigato gozaimasu.*  
thank you (very important)

## 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

**Toyota Carib Sprinter**, 1994, 5 door, automatic, on demand 4 wheel drive, 5 passenger station wagon, very clean, power everything, good A/C and heater, AM/FM radio with cassette player, great condition, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$2,200 obo. Call CWO3 Stocker at 253-3404 dwh or 253-2275 aw.

**Nissan Serena**, 1993, 8 seater, JCI until Feb. 2006, \$3,000. \$5,500 only if purchased with the following truck. Call Gerlie Reyes at 253-3504 dwh or 253-2083 aw.

**Toyota Hi-Lux**, 1989, red, truck, JCI until Dec. 2004, \$2,800. \$5,500 only if pur-

chased with the above Nissan Serena. Call Gerlie Reyes at 253-3504 dwh or 253-2083 aw.

**Nissan Skyline**, 1994, 2 door, black, 5 speed, turbo, cold A/C, AM/FM/cassette/CD player, blow off valve, new battery, P/W, P/D, excellent condition, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$3,000 obo. Call SSgt. Aburto at 253-4079 dwh or 253-2811 aw.

**Nissan Largo**, 1988, van, 8 passenger, great family car, JCI until April 2006, \$2,500. Call Andrew or Heidi Hayes at 253-2202 or e-mail [andyhmh@yahoo.com](mailto:andyhmh@yahoo.com)

**Honda Civic**, 1991, 4 door, JCI until Aug. 2006,

\$1,200. Call 253-2712.

**BMW**, 4 door, excellent condition, \$3,200. Call Andrew Hayes at 253-2202 or e-mail [andyhmh@yahoo.com](mailto:andyhmh@yahoo.com)

**Nissan Homy**, 1989, 9 passenger, 4 new tires, newly charged air, fresh oil change, runs great, 2 sunroofs, blue, 6 disc CD player, automatic, P/W, JCI until Nov. 2005, \$2,000 obo. Call Amy O'Brien at 253-2305.

**Mazda MPV**, 1993, excellent condition, cold A/C, auto transmission, P/S, P/L, P/W, tinted windows, 3-OL gas, V-6 engine, green and gold trim, JCI until Oct. 2006, \$3,000. Call Tirso Sison at 253-

6647 dwh or 253-2650 aw.

**Kawasaki ZX9R**, 1994, 900cc, spare windscreens, extra set of wheels, rough looking but lots of fun, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$3,000. Call Maj. Braund at 253-4584 dwh or 253-5705 aw.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, Japanese washer, \$50 obo. Call R. Coryer at 253-5829.

**Misc.**, Gibson Les Paul Special, guitar, \$700. Call Jef Nash at 253-2712.

**Misc.**, brand new Ikea shelves and brackets, still in original packaging, various sizes, half-price shown in online catalog;

solid oak crib & mattress with matching combination dresser/changing table, medium wood color, good condition, \$250. Call Brian at 32-3382.

### JOB OPENINGS

#### Chaplains Office (253-6460)

(The following jobs are open at the Marine Memorial Chapel)  
-Gospel Choir Director  
-Non-Denominational Music Director

#### 11th Dental Company Det

A Dental Assistant position is open. Call DTC Olaes at 253-5252 for further information.

#### CHRO (253-6828)

**MCCS:**  
-Financial Fitness Counselor  
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist  
**Logistics:**  
-Supply Management Officer

**Facilities:**  
-Interdisciplinary Engineer

**S-6:**  
-Information Technology Specialist

**DECA:**

-Customer Service Manager  
-Sales Store Checker (Intermittent)  
-Store Worker (Part-time)  
-Materials Handler Leader

#### MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

**MCCS Job Listing:**  
-Program Assistant, Child Development Center  
-Food Service Worker, School Cafeteria  
-Accounting Technician, Accounting  
-Head Of Retail, Main Complex  
-Duty Manager, Bachelor Housing  
Go to [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) for a complete job listing.

# SAKURA THEATER



## LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Stacy Holt, an associate producer for daytime talk show hostess Kippie Kann, is frustrated when her boyfriend Derek refuses to discuss his past relationships. With the encouragement of her coworker Barb, she delves into his Palm to learn about his ex-girlfriends. Using the show as a ruse and Barb as her guide, Stacy interviews and befriends them, only to discover that the past, in a few instances, is rather present. (105 minutes)



## I, ROBOT

In the year 2035, robots are an everyday household item and everyone trusts them, except one slightly paranoid detective investigating what he alone believes is a crime perpetrated by a robot. The case leads him to discover a far more frightening threat to the human race. (115 minutes)



## CATWOMAN

Patience Philips is a woman who can't seem to stop apologizing for her own existence. She works as a graphic designer for Hedare Beauty, a mammoth cosmetics company on the verge of releasing a revolutionary anti-aging product. When Patience inadvertently happens upon a dark secret her employer is hiding, she finds herself in the middle of a corporate conspiracy. (104 minutes)

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. Little Black Book (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Aliens vs. Predator (PG-13)

### SATURDAY

1 p.m. Thunderbirds (PG)  
4 p.m. Catwoman (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Little Black Book (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Dodge Ball (PG-13)

### SUNDAY

4 p.m. Thunderbirds (PG)  
7 p.m. I, Robot (PG-13)

### MONDAY

7 p.m. Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle (R)

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. Catwoman (PG-13)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Van Helsing (PG-13)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. Little Black Book (PG-13)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

**Test Schedule**  
**Tuesdays/Fridays** - CLEP, DSST  
**October 13** - SAT  
**October 14** - ACT  
**October 20** - DLAB  
**October 21** - DLPT  
**October 27** - ASVAB  
**October 28** - EDPT  
 For more information call 253-3855.

## CHRO

**CHRO Training**  
**EEO Update For EEO Counselors**: Tuesday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Family Member Local Employment Orientation**: Oct. 6, 8-9 a.m.  
**RESUMIX**: Oct. 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
**Outbound Family Member**

**Priority Placement Program**: Oct. 6, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at CHRO training room, Building one, Room 102.

## MCCS

**CRMC Classes (253-6439)**  
**Teaching English Tips**: Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.  
**Hello USA**: Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Quarterly Military Pre-retirement Seminar**: Monday through Oct. 1, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Club Iwakuni (253-3727)**  
**All Ranks Hip-Hop And Rhythm & Blues Dance Party**: Today, 8 p.m. in the Ballroom.  
**All Ranks Latin Dance**

**Party**: Saturday, 9 p.m. in the Ballroom.  
**All Ranks Country Western Dance Party**: Saturday, 9 p.m. in the Club Iwakuni Ballroom.

## MCX (253-5641)

**Military Clothing Sales Closing Inventory**: The store, located on the second floor of Crossroads Mall, will be closed for required annual inventory Thursday.  
**Marine Corps Ball Tickets**: MCX patrons can enter a drawing for two tickets to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball with every individual purchase of three or more Hallmark cards now through Sunday. Visit the Hallmark section on the second floor of the MCX to browse its selection of cards and enter to win.

## School Age 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.  
**Cultural Exchange Program Home Visit In Iwakuni**: Oct. 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you want to meet a Japanese family and spend time with them, here is the chance. Space is limited. Call 253-5900 to sign-up.

## Teen Center (253-6454)

**Passport To Manhood Meeting**: Today, 3-5 p.m.  
**Monthly Birthday Party**: Saturday, 3-5 p.m. Help us celebrate members born this month with cake and games.  
**Sasebo Trip**: Oct. 2, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sign-up before Wednesday. Open to all members age 10 to 18-years-old. The Teen Center will travel to the Sasebo Teen Center to check it out and meet new friends. Bring money for food and shopping.

## Single Marine Program (253-3891)

**Hiroshima Baseball Versus Swallows**: Saturday, 10 a.m. \$10 transportation. Bring at least ¥2,000 for admission.  
**Yanai Go Carts**: Sunday, 12 p.m. \$10 transportation. Seven laps cost ¥2,100.  
**Hiroshima Peace Park & Shopping**: Oct. 3, 10 a.m. \$10 transportation.

## Troops/Spouse To Teachers Briefing

A general brief about teaching opportunities will be given at the Sakura Theater Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. An afternoon session devoted to meetings with the representatives will be given Oct. 8, 1 p.m. in the Marine & Family Services Building. All SOFA status individuals are invited. Call 253-3855 for more information or to sign-up.

## New Oil Painting Classes

Every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3-4:30 p.m.

and 4:30-6 p.m. Call 253-6621 for details.

## Survival Japanese

Monday through Oct. 1, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Call 253-6165 for more details.

## COMMUNITY

### 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 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-7 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.

# Summer bowling league rolls a strike

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. LESLI J. COAKLEY

**Public Affairs Chief**  
 The Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 had a double victory Tuesday as their teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Summer Recreation Leagues.

Beginning their season in May, the 14 teams of the League bowled for 16 weeks to place eight teams into the tournament. Finishing at the top of those teams was So There I Was and finishing at number eight was Strike This. Both teams were comprised of Marines from MALS-12.

While So There I Was enjoyed an almost undefeated trip through the roll-offs, Strike This had to fight their way out of the loser's bracket. Strike This had to beat So There I Was not once, but twice to have a chance at the trophy. While Strike This rolled out of the loser's bracket to contend for first place, their season ended 15 pins behind So There I Was and

seated at second place.

With the summer leagues now in official hibernation, the winter leagues are currently taking on teams.

The recreation league teams consist of up to six bowlers, with three bowlers playing during each session. Play is during the lunch break to accommodate the team member's busy schedules.

League play costs an initial \$16 sign up for the American Bowling Conference and \$4 per person per week.

Sign ups will continue until Sept. 29 with the first day of bowling Oct. 5 and only the first 30 teams to submit a roster will be accepted. But, each team can have up to two weeks to make changes to their roster, provided they get approval from the league team captains.

"We try to be very accommodating to unforeseen circumstances," said Joe Boland, vice president of the Iwakuni Inter Service Bowling Association.

In fact, anyone can start a league, according to Boland. Ideally, leagues should contain at least 14 teams, but the bowling alley can accommodate up to 30.

For the younger set, there are plans in the works for a junior bowling league. More information will be provided in future editions of the Torii Teller or contact the bowling alley. In addition, there is 50 cent bowling and free shoe rental for M.C. Perry



From left to right, Damon Wilson, Zorina Wilson, Chad George and Joshua Bell relax after taking 1st place in the Summer Recreation League at the Iwakuni Bowling Center.



Joe Boland of Strike This demonstrates perfect form while throwing a few extra balls after competition play.



Bill Stintsman rolls one down the lane in preparation for the roll-offs for the summer recreation leagues. Stintsman is part of Strike This who placed second.

## 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

Sunday	8 a.m.	Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowships
	11 a.m.	Gospel Worship Service

### Cooperative Chapel Ministries

3rd Saturday 8 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast

## LAY LED SERVICES

### Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

### Seventh-Day Adventist

2nd & 4th Saturdays  
 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School/Worship

### Jewish

Every other Friday  
 6:30 p.m. Shabbat

### Latter Day Saints

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

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



Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes

### One deployment, one unit, one award, 88 times

Eighty-eight Purple Hearts were awarded to Marines in 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, during their time in Iraq. The Purple Heart is one of the oldest military medals, established by Gen. George Washington in 1782. The medal bears his likeness.

## IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### SPRING TROPHY LEAGUE ROLL-OFFS

Today, 11:30 a.m. at the Bowling Center. For more information, call 253-3402.

### GLADIATORS ULTIMATE PT CHALLENGE

Oct. 15 at the IronWorks Gym Indoor Pool and Penny Lake Field. This all-day event is open to one team per unit, 10 competitors per team (two females), plus one coach. Sign-up before Oct. 8 and earn 25 points towards the President's Challenge Competition. Winners receive money for their unit party fund. For more information, call 253-6359.

### FALL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Coaches meet Oct. 5, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. For further information, call 253-5777.

### SUMMER OUTDOOR POOL SEASON ENDS

Due to adverse weather conditions, the Club Pool has closed early the season. The heated indoor pool at the IronWorks Gym remains open year-round. Call 253-4966 for further information.

### 17TH ANNUAL JAPANESE & AMERICAN GOODWILL SPRINT TRIATHLON

Sunday, 9 a.m. The Station and local residents compete in a 1.2K open water swim, 36K bike race, and 10K run at the Slipway Picnic Pavilion. Call 253-5654 for more details.

### FALL FOOTBALL CLASSIC

Oct. 8, 1 p.m. MAG-12, H&HS and MWSS-171 compete at the north side football field. No coaches meeting. Call 253-5777 for more details.

# Gaining mental, physical strength one punch at a time

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
 CL. ANTHONY D. PIKE  
 Combat Correspondent

There's a national kickboxing contender on base, and when he isn't helping take care of the telephone system he is offering his time helping Station personnel to learn kickboxing.

For the last three years, Akinori "Kick" Hamada has been using his talents in kickboxing to help others move up in the sport.

"People who were interested in martial arts started gathering around and asking if I would teach them," said Hamada. "That's how and why I got started teaching. I use my skills to teach, and my skills come from my experience."

Hamada has the experience; he has been kickboxing for 10 years and has competed in the Chugoku Amateur Kickboxing Tournament, which includes fighters from Osaka to Okinawa. In the tournament, Hamada made it to the finals before being stopped by medical reasons, he was cut above the eye.

His students reflect the Station's population; they're a diverse crowd; a Marine, a young woman, some Japanese nationals and even a couple of kids. This doesn't bother Hamada though.

"It is really about the sport," he said. "We make an effort to learn the skills of kickboxing and boxing. We're not here to show off strength."

There is a certain amount of discipline that goes into any form of martial art, but Hamada has a lighter



8-year-old Justice Lasyone prepares to throw a punch during class.



Triston Carter, 8, joined the class for the opportunity to compete in matches.

side with some of his lighter students.

"He is funny," said 8-year-old Justice Lasyone of his instructor. "He'll pick us up and throw us when we fight."

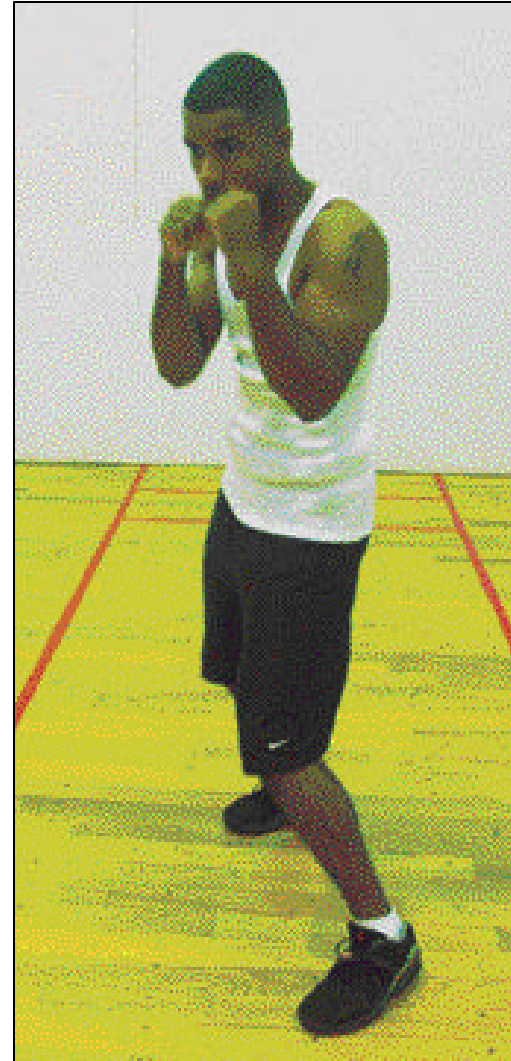
Lasyone started working with Hamada a year and a half ago after his father told him about the class. Having participated in other sports and activities, Lasyone wanted to try something new.

For others in the class, working out with Hamada at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays offers a good work out and a chance to brush up on old skills.

"I saw he was boxing," said former boxer, Sgt. Gregory Ashton-Kenny, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, chief cook. "I found out he was doing free classes and I started to come to them. I started getting a good workout, just warming up you break a sweat. It's an outstanding workout."

Ashton-Kenny believes that without the class his next goal would be even harder to reach.

"I am supposed to be going to Camp Lejeune and I want to try out for the All-Marine boxing team," he said. "He most definitely improved my chances of making the team."



Sgt. Gregory Ashton-Kenny, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, chief cook, joined the class to improve his chances of making the All-Marine boxing team.



Akinori Hamada teaches the free course and uses his experience as a guide.



A motivated Japanese female student, who asked not to be identified, enjoys the benefits of the kickboxing course.