

Thrift Savings Plan Kicks Off Open Season

RUDI WILLIAMS

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The federal government's Thrift Savings Plan kicked off its 2004 "open season" with slogans to remind members of the uniformed services and civilian government employees that they can increase their retirement coffers substantially by investing in TSP.

Open season — the period when people can enroll in the program or change their options — runs through Dec. 31. "Let It Flow" is this open season's slogan aimed at federal civilian employees, while "Save For Later. Start Now" targets military personnel and other members of the uniformed services. Brochures are being distributed to eligible participants.

More than 85 percent of workers covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System, or FERS, and about 67 percent of employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System contribute to TSP, a 401K-type savings program.

"As of the end of September, we have more than 1.8 million FERS participants, 475,000 CSRS contributors

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Navy celebrates birthday

Station Sailors enjoy 229 years of Naval heritage. **Pages 6-7**

Christmas mailing dates posted

The Station post office releases cut off dates to ensure holiday greetings arrive on time. **Page 5**

IWAKUNI WEATHER

	Today Partly Cloudy High: 70
	Saturday Partly Cloudy High: 69
	Sunday Partly Cloudy High: 72

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Warhawks soar to Thailand

CR. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Navy Strike Fighters Squadron 97 and supporting Marines departed, Tuesday, for the 2005 Thailand Incremental Training Program in Khorat, Thailand.

The primary purpose of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing exercise is to provide Marine and Navy squadrons the opportunity to conduct combined air-to-air and air-to-ground core competency training with Royal Thai Air Force units.

"We're going over there to do joint operations with the Thai," said Lt. Cmdr. Andrew McFarlane, VFA-97 administrative officer. "We'll be doing dissimilar aircraft combat training. We'll have large-scale exercises with some aircraft simulating an enemy."

In addition to the simulated combat exercises, Navy airmen will conduct close air support training.

"Troops on the ground will be directing aircraft where to drop their bombs," said McFarlane. "We're going to be working with the Thai air force throughout - learning how to communicate and integrate."

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey L. Norris, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Explosive Ordnance Disposal staff noncom-

missioned officer-in-charge, said the annual exercise has already established a lasting, positive relationship with the Thai air force.

"Over the past two years, (MWSS-171) has worked with RTAF for the TITP and Cope Tiger exercises," said Norris. "We've established a phenomenal report in the past and we look forward to continuing to work with them in future."

Norris said the deployment also offers Marines an outstanding cultural experience.

"For a lot of the Marines, this is not only their first trip to Thailand, but it's also their first TAD (Temporary Assigned Duty) trip in the Marine Corps," he said.

"It's always exciting to be introduced to a new culture, no matter where you're going," affirmed Staff Sgt. Lonnie P. Boyd, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, expeditionary airfield staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "It's a great chance to see how other people do business and show them how we do business."

Through planned sight-seeing tours and daily interaction with Thai service members, Marines and Sailors are sure to benefit from a positive cultural experience.

"All these troops will get a chance to experience a new culture and work with a foreign service," said McFarlane.



Station gas prices to increase

MASTER SGT. LESLIE J. COAKLEY
Public Affairs Chief

Station Residents might feel a little pinch at the pump come Oct. 29th, but once the change in fuel prices takes effect there will be no more price increases for the rest of the fiscal year.

Every fiscal year, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service negotiates fuel prices in Japan. This is due to the fact that AAFES provides a much larger consumer base than the Navy Exchange or Marine Corps Community Services, according to Dale Smith, MCCA Director.

In previous years, once a fuel vendor is selected, prices are set beginning 1 Oct. Contracted fuel prices for this fiscal year have increased by approximately 26 percent.

This year, AAFES will maintain its fuel prices consistent with fuel prices in the United States. Each month, AAFES will increase its fuel prices by 10 cents until it reaches the Department of Energy's previous four-week average. What that means to the consumer is fluctuating fuel prices based on the DOE average every month. According to a recent CNN report, fuel prices in the United States have topped \$2 a gallon.

However, at Iwakuni, MCCA has decided to maintain the same fuel pricing policy as in previous years. That is, once a base price is established; MCCA will add a minimal overhead charge and fuel prices will not change for the remainder of the fiscal year. In previous years our overhead charge was approximately 35 percent," said Smith. "But this year, due to the increasing cost of fuel, we have lowered that to 28 percent in order to lessen the impact on consumers."

Last year, fuel was priced at \$1.63 for unleaded and \$1.50 for diesel. This year fuel will be priced at \$1.94 for unleaded and \$2.05 for diesel. At Iwakuni pumps, that equates to roughly 51 and 54 cents per liter respectively.

"As with all MCCA activities, the fuel profit allows MCCA to provide free entertainment to Iwakuni residents such as the Summer Concert Series, the Halloween Pizza Party and subsidize other Quality of Life events. According to Smith, all funds generated at MCCA Iwakuni are to benefit the Iwakuni community.

"The average consumer buys roughly \$30 of fuel monthly," said Smith. "With the new fuel prices in effect, that



Master Sgt. Leslie J. Coakley

Marines fill up at the only gas station in town where fuel still sells for under \$2 a gallon. Gas prices in the local community are upwards of 118 Yen per liter, more than double what station residents will be paying.

will increase the monthly fuel bill by approximately \$5.89. That's about the same cost of a value meal at Burger King."



Torii Teller

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

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

The *Torii Teller* welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to bonidw@iwakuni.usmc.mil or coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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Does the dress code discriminate?

LANCE Cpl. JOSEPH HANSON
Letter to the Editor

I just got done reading the 'Letter to the Editor' section of the *Torii Teller* and I'm a little bit irked. In this section a Sergeant stated that he had been approached many times regarding the way he dressed. With all due respect, shouldn't a sergeant of Marines be the one correcting Marines and not the other way around?

As a lance corporal, I look to my sergeants for guidance and as an example of how I should behave. Now what kind of an example is that setting for his Marines when they see him breaking the civilian attire rules? By disregarding the rules set forth, he is blatantly disrespecting every Marine in the chain of command and ultimately the III (Marine Expeditionary Force) Commanding General, who set these rules forth.

It would be nice to pick and choose which rules we will follow, but the rules are there for a reason. And about looking in your closet and not being able to wear half of what is inside, why were those clothing items purchased if

you knew that you wouldn't be able to wear them?

These rules weren't put in place overnight. And although these regulations aren't enforced in the states, it doesn't negate the fact that they exist.

I don't believe that the dress code discriminates. Civilian clothing is supposed to resemble the service 'C' uniform, and unless I'm mistaken, I've never seen a Marine with their Charlie trousers sagging down to their knees, or their blouse hanging past their crotch. I'm sorry if some don't like it, but Wranglers that are snug still are neat in appearance and reflects the service 'C' uniform.

You also stated that sometimes you want to go off base to be comfortable. I'm honestly sorry, but that's really lame. You can't wear what you want so you want to go off base to be comfortable. We are Marines 24 hours a day, it doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing, it's our responsibility to upkeep a positive image of the Corps. Going around in pants that sag around your ankles, a jersey that hangs to your knees and some big goofy silver chains doesn't quite paint a picture of a good Marine. It makes me think of one who needs to grow up or get out.

Stupid Marine Tricks or lessons of a lifetime

MSGT. LESLI J. COAKLEY
Public Affairs Chief

I was recently asked what is the stupidest thing I've done in the Marine Corps. Since I've been in almost 18 years, there is probably a long list that wouldn't fit in the space of this entire paper. However, here's a brief list of things I've learned not to do.

1. If you ever get the chance to operate a Marine Corps radio in a deployed environment, it's probably not a good idea to refer your fellow Marines by their rank and name. See, the enemy is listening too. That's why we refer to individuals as simple things like Echo Eight Charlie.

2. If you ever speak to someone on

speaker phone, it's probably not a good idea to whisper to your fellow Marine about what an idiot the speaker is. Speaker phones pick up a lot more than I thought.

3. If you ever get deployed and don't know where you're supposed to go, it's not a good idea to just tag along with the nearest Army Reserve unit just because they're the same MOS as you. However, they did have better accommodations.

4. If you're ever walking down a street, say warehouse road on Camp Kinser in Okinawa, and you see a government vehicle coming toward you with a red placard and flags, it's probably a good idea to salute it. Better safe than sorry.

5. If you ever decide to tell a fellow

Marine how much you dislike someone in the Marine Corps, you better make sure that person isn't married to the Marine you dislike so much.

6. If you ever tell your Marines to tell someone on the phone that you are not available, don't talk or laugh so loud the person on the phone can hear you.

7. When you are in the field the roach coach doesn't deliver; the sun is not a good directional tool, same goes for the moon; scorpions love dark spaces, like boots; and boot polish can be highly flammable.

Most of all, I've learned that whenever I did something stupid, I just had to laugh, dust myself off and start over. Because as Marines, we've all been there, done that.

MAN ON THE STREET

"What is the stupidest thing you have done in the Marine Corps?"



"I accidentally wiped my whole hard drive. I had to send my computer to MALS to reconfigure it, that happened last week."

Cpl. Evans, Jamie,
VMAQ-1
Technical Publications clerk



"While on leave, me and some Marine buddies shot up an abandoned house on my buddy's land with a legal version AK and AR-15s."

LCpl. Bradford, Charles
HHS
Classified Material Control
Center custodian



"During Desert Storm as a corporal, my buddies and I tipped over some outhouses."

Gunnery Sgt. Prunty, Mathis
VMFA-212
Ordnance SNCOIC

DoD officials experience Osprey capabilities

LANCE Cpl. MICHAEL ANGELO
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C. — An official party consisting of high-ranking members of the Department of Defense, visited Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 here October 8 to fly in an Osprey and personally evaluate the aircraft.

The Secretary of the Air Force, Honorable James G. Roche; the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper; and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, Thomas W. O'Connell, all flew in and spoke of the Osprey.

Jumper arrived here and after being briefed went to Marine Aircrew Training Systems Squadron to fly an Osprey simulator.

"I've been trying to do this for about three years now so I've finally had a chance to do it," he said. "Everything I've read about the airplane has been outstanding. For a fighter pilot to be able to fly this, it is amazing. When it is in its

fixed-wing mode it handles just like any airplane."

Jumper, originally from Paris, Texas, went to the VMX-22 hangar and shortly after piloted an Osprey. He flew with other members of his official party and, upon landing, shared his thoughts of the aircraft.

"This gives us capability, speed and access in ways we did not have before. We're looking forward to the continuing development of the airplane. It's doing superbly so far," he said.

O'Connell said the V-22 program is similar to the C-17 program.

"The C-17 was a troubled program, they thought it would never get off the ground and today it is the gold standard in the work force of our transports. I think the evolution of the V-22 program will be much the same. It will advance rapidly, new capabilities will be added and there'll be new tactics, techniques and procedures. It will be used at sea so it opens a whole new horizon for special operations."

Roche spoke of the positive aspects the Osprey can bring to the military.

"The software stability demonstrates that this plane can do things we haven't been able to do before that give advantages to our special operations. You'll also want to take a look at this plane as a long-range combat search and rescue asset. This plane will be able to advance on enemies without the sound you get from a regular helicopter. It will allow us to get down and get off the ground faster."

The day came to a conclusion and Roche closed with a brief statement regarding the unity demonstrated by the Marines and Airmen from VMX-

22. "I'm really glad we participated in this program for the last two and half years and I'm very pleased with the un-



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

The Honorable James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, exits the rear of an Osprey from Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22.

believable cooperation between the Marines and Airmen. As they work together, they start to learn from each other."

The officer-in-charge of the squadron's flight line division, Capt. John E. Sarno, from Williamsburg, Va., said having VIPs take the time to visit MCAS New River is very important, not only to VMX-22, but to the Marine Corps, as this project is going to transcend all services.

"The squadron is always more than happy to show everybody the Osprey and dispel those rumors and misconceptions that might still be out there from years past," said Sarno.

Civilian companies welcome Marines as employees

CL. TREVOR M. CARLEE
Combat Correspondent

CAMP HANSEN — "Once a Marine, always a Marine," is a common phrase in the Marine Corps but can have little effect on the individual Marine's life in corporate America if he has no guidance and is ill prepared.

Marine for Life is a program that offers the necessary guidance for Marines who are looking for a job when they get out of the Corps, according to Capt. Kelly M. Brown, the Okinawa regional coordinator for Marine for Life.

"The Marine for Life program started in 2001 to help make the transition from active duty to civilian life a little easier," the Rockland, Mass., native said. "The previous commandant (Gen. James L. Jones) realized there were a lot of companies that wanted Marines to work for them, but (the companies) couldn't contact any Marines.

(Jones) made it easier for companies and Marines to communicate with one another."

There are currently 180 national network resources, or nationally known companies, and thousands of local companies throughout the United States available through Marine for Life, according to Brown.

More companies are contacted each year to be included in the Marine for Life program by hometown "links," former Marines who act as liaisons between Marines and the companies, according to Brown. There are about 80 hometown links in the United States.

"The hometown links go out to recruit companies to participate in the Marine for Life program," Brown explained. "After signing up with Marine for Life, Marines can contact their hometown link and ask for information about available job openings."

Marines can visit www.m4l.usmc.mil to sign up for the program. Once a Marine signs up, he will receive the e-mail address and phone number to his hometown link, according to Brown. He will also be able to search for available jobs and post a profile, or resume,

on the Web site for thousands of companies to view.

Briefings are held throughout the year to show Marines how this program works, according to Brown. While the target audience is Marines nearing their end of active service date, commissioned and enlisted leaders can also get the briefs so they can better lead their Marines.

"Staff NCOs need to know this information because junior Marines might ask them what Marine for Life is or how they can find a job when they get out, and with this information, (the SNCOs) can help," Brown said. Career retention specialists also receive briefs, helping specialists understand that the Marine for Life program is not trying to compete with them, according to Brown.

"We don't try to convince Marines to get out, but not every Marine can reenlist," Brown said.

Despite constant briefs, a lot of Marines still misunderstand what Marine for Life is, according to Brown.

"I was in a brief, and a Marine walked up and saw the Marine for Life brochure on his desk. He said, 'Marine for life? They already have me for life,'" Brown said. "There are a lot of Marines out there that think this is a retention program, but it's not. We want to make sure people understand that."

Brown explained that she likes to use examples to demonstrate the success of the program, such as an article recently released by www.foxnews.com. The article was about Corey Getsinger, a former sergeant who left the Marine Corps after returning from Iraq and had a hard time finding a job in America.

Getsinger then discovered Marine for Life, and it linked him with a company where the manager was a former Marine himself and more than happy to hire him, according to Fox News.

While there still may be a lot to deal with when transitioning from the military to the civilian life, Brown wants Marines to know that finding a job doesn't have to be one of the problems because companies respect the concept of, "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

NEWS BRIEFS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Matthew C. Perry High School JROTC is looking for volunteers to help with the 2004/2005 Commander's Cup intra-school competition Nov. 13. Volunteers are needed for judges and monitors. Interested Marines and Sailors should contact Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Crone at 253-3558.

FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TEST

The semiannual fire hydrant flow test will be conducted on the dates listed below. Normally, after the test, tap water will appear discolored. If this does happen, the water is safe, but keep faucets on and let the water run until it clears. This should only take a minute. It is recommended to not wash any white clothes until pipes are clear of any sediment.

- Today - Buildings 589, 655, 656, 657, 658 and SOQ Area
- Monday - 1112 and 1113
- Tuesday - Buildings 906, 955, 1200, 1209, 1210, all of Monzen housing and 1200 Townhouse area.

RESPIRATOR CARTRIDGE CHANGE-OUT

The Station Safety Center will be conducting a noncombatant respirator cartridge change-out Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The location will be the Station Safety Center, Building 130B. Respirator cartridges have a shelf-life and should be changed if they were issued prior to November 2003. For any questions, call 253-6381.

Jogging group tours Japan

CL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Residents interested in experiencing Japan off the beaten path need look no further than the Iwakuni White Snake Hash House Harriers.

Founded in 1999, this jogging club coordinates fun runs twice a month throughout the Iwakuni area and beyond, and is a part of the Hash House Harriers global network.

"The idea behind it is there are a couple of people that are the hares and everyone else chases after them as the hounds," said Sgt. Timothy E. Halvorsen, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 utilities platoon sergeant and Hash group member. "It's basically cross-country running. We go up in the mountains and through deep woods."

According to Morgan Jones, a school teacher at Seiko High School and Hash group member, the hares

scout out a course, usually through a mountain area, and with a ten-minute head start, lay a trail of flour for the pack to follow.

Jones said he enjoyed the adventure and exploration aspects of the group.

"This allows me to see parts of Japan I would never see," he said. "We're going through small little

neighborhoods. We're going into remote areas. It's all in the spirit of adventure."

According to the official Hash House Harriers Web site, there are over 1,700 groups in every major city of the world.

"All are welcome, young and old,

fast or slow. The only prerequisite to hashing is a sense of humor," states the Web site. "Afterward everyone



gathers together for a social activity."

Halvorsen said the group has a large mix of Japanese nationals and Station residents.

Among the locations the group has run are Hamada beach, Yoshima Island, Yanai and Otake.

"Within the past 10 months, I've probably learned more about Japan and the culture than I ever could have just going on a trip," Halvorsen said. "By running the town, you actually learn more about what's around."

Halvorsen said the group, which takes their name from the endangered

Japanese white snake, also provides a chance to promote good will and relationship building.

"There's always beverages and snacks afterwards," he said. "It's a chance to get out of the barracks, get off base and see what's available around town."

In the spirit of goodwill, the group is organizing a Charity Halloween costume run, Oct. 30, at the Kintai Bridge in order to raise money for the Hikari no Sono Orphanage in Hiroshima.

Halvorsen said it's the perfect opportunity for residents to be introduced to the group. For a \$10 registration fee, anyone may participate in a four-kilometer run or walk with snacks following. The event begins at 1:30 p.m.

For more information on the run or the Iwakuni White Snake Hash House Harriers, contact Halvorsen at iwakuniwsh3@yahoo.com.

Survivor's Sailor visits Station for Navy Ball

MASTER SGT. LESLI J. COAKLEY
Public Affairs Chief

Rudy Boesch has encountered many islands in his life and Oct. 15, he sampled the island of Japan with a visit to the Air Station to be a featured speaker at the Navy Ball.

Many might recall his stint on the television series "Survivor" where he survived all the way until the end when he dozed off during one of the final challenges. Boesch and the other two survivors, Richard and Kelly, had to stand next to a pole and hold on. After hour four, Rudy dozed and his hand slipped off.

Boesch was one of the favorites on the show that has garnered a cult following in the United States. He was also favored to win that first series.

"I was the most popular," Boesch recalls.

Today, he reflected on the television show that catapulted the 76-year-old to star status and his career in the U.S. Navy that prepared him for the show and many of life's challenges in the ensuing years.

Like many Americans during World War II, Boesch couldn't wait to join the service. As a young 17-year-old in 1945, he went to see the Navy recruiter.

"I was in boot camp when the war in Germany ended," he said. "After boot camp, I went to Florida for Scouts and Raiders school and then they dropped the bomb."

That was the end of World War II.

After school, Boesch headed to California, then on to China.

"There were three million (people) coming back and 300 going over," he said. "We went over there to watch the equipment until they could get it back."

In 1951, Boesch trained for underwater demoli-



Official USMC photo

Sgt. Maj. Grant VanOostrom, at left, and Sgt. Maj. Roland Daniel, center, enjoy a chat and beverage with Rudy Boesch. Here they admire his chest full of ribbons and medals.

tion. He was a member of the Underwater Demolition Team until 1962 when he was picked for a new special unit the Navy was starting.

Boesch was one of 50 selected to become Navy SEALs. He found his niche with the Navy as a SEAL and stayed with the special operations unit until 1988. While assigned to the SEALs, he participated in two tours to Vietnam earning a Bronze Star for his actions.

He then received the call to join another special program, U.S. Special Operations Command. He became the Command Master Chief for USSOCOM and worked directly for a four-star Army general who commanded approximately 45,000 men in three different services.

He retired from the Navy in 1990 after almost 45 years of active-duty service.

He conducted his first interview for Survivor in 1999.

"I read an article and it had the word challenge,"

he said. "I didn't know anything about the money, but I was going to do it anyway."

After several interviews in Baltimore, Md. he was sent to Hollywood, Calif. for several more.

"I figure they had 15 fouled-up people and they needed one normal one," he said. "That was me."

After being selected for the show, Boesch and his fellow first-time survivalists embarked on a boat to the South China Sea off the coast of Borneo. They were marooned on the tiny island of Tiga. The only provisions provided were a small amount of rice and drinking water.

"There were snakes and lizards, but we couldn't touch them for environmental reasons."

The first day on the island, Boesch circumnavigated the 2 by 3 mile island to search for natural resources.

"There were no bananas, no coconuts, nothing," he recalled.

The only food available was rats and fish. "After a couple of days you get used to the hunger," he said. "I would jog and do push-ups every morning, but after a while, I got weak and I had to quit doing that."

39 days later and 23 pounds lighter, Boesch was one of the last three.

His popularity gained him a spot on Survivor all stars. However, he was voted off in Episode two.

That won't keep this energetic retiree from doing it all and trying again.

"I'll keep doing this until I win," he declared.

Through it all, the Navy, the Survivors, the notoriety, has stood his wife of 42 years, Marge.

Now in retirement, the Boeschs are extensive volunteers with various community service organiza-

2004 Christmas Mailing Dates

USA:

To ensure delivery of Christmas cards and packages to your family and friends, we suggest that mail be entered into the postal system here at MCAS Iwakuni by the recommended mailing dates listed below.

Mail Addressed to USA All ZIP Codes	Express Mail Military Dec 18	First Class Mail Letters/Cards Dec 10	Priority Mail Dec 10	Parcel Airlift (PAL) Dec 1	Space Available (SAM) Dec 8	Parcel Post Nov 10
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USA AND OTHER OVERSEAS LOCATIONS:

To ensure delivery of Christmas cards and packages, we suggest that mail be entered into the postal system by the recommended mailing dates listed below.

Military Mail Addressed To FPO AP 96310/96311 APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092 APO/FPO AE ZIP 093 APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098 APO/FPO AA ZIP 340 APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Express Mail Military Dec 20 Dec 20 N/A Dec 20 Dec 20 Dec 20	First Class Mail Letters/Cards Dec 11 Dec 11 Dec 6 Dec 11 Dec 11 Dec 11	Priority Mail Dec 11 Dec 11 Dec 6 Dec 11 Dec 11 Dec 11	Parcel Airlift (PAL) Dec 4 Dec 4 Dec 4 Dec 4 Dec 4 Dec 4	Space Available (SAM) Nov 27 Nov 27 Nov 27 Nov 27 Nov 27 Nov 27	Parcel Post Nov 13 Nov 13 Nov 13 Nov 13 Nov 13 Nov 13
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From MCAS Iwakuni to international addresses

International Mail Addressed to	Air Mail Letters and Cards	Air Mail Parcel Post	Surface Mail Economy
Africa	Dec 6	Dec 6	Oct 14
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 28
Australia/ New Zealand	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 28
Canada	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 19
Caribbean	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 5
Central and South America	Dec 6	Dec 6	Oct 29
Mexico	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 5
Europe	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 5
Middle East	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 21

Main Post Office Building 405 Nov 29 – Dec 10

For your convenience our Finance (mailing packages, stamp sales and money orders) hours will be extended to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

North Side Post Office Building 1460 Nov 29 – Dec 10

For your convenience our Finance (mailing packages, stamp sales and money orders) hours will be extended to 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

PLAN from Page 1

and 435,000 military participants," said Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for TSP's overseer, the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. "All of the money goes into the common fund and is invested by fund, which is more than \$141 billion for military and civilian investors."

Most contributions are invested in five different funds. As of Sept. 30, the Government Securities Investment, or "G" Fund had \$58.8 billion in it; the Common Stock Index Investment, or "C" Fund had \$59.6 billion; the Fixed Income Index Investment, or "F" Fund had \$10.3 billion; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment, or "S" Fund had \$7.6 billion; and the International Stock Index Investment, or "I" Fund had \$4.5 billion.

"This brings the total up to \$141 billion," Trabucco said.

"Open season is a good time to make the initial decision on whether or not you will contribute to TSP if you're not currently contributing," Trabucco noted. "It's also the time to increase your contributions to take advantage of the increased amounts that you're allowed to contribute this year. If you're not con-

tributing the maximum, now is your time to take a look and see if you can or should."

The primary difference between the 2003 and 2004 TSP open season is "you can contribute more this open season," Trabucco noted.

He pointed out that servicemembers can contribute from special pay as well as basic pay. Civilians can contribute only from basic pay.

"In the 2003 open season, which was really for calendar year 2004, the contribution limits were 9 percent of pay, up to a maximum of \$14,000 a year," Trabucco explained. "For the current open season, which will cover 2005, eligible employees who are members of the uniformed services may contribute up to 10 percent of pay, to a maximum of \$15,000. Those numbers apply to uniformed services and CSRS employees."

"FERS people may contribute up to 15 percent of basic pay each pay period, but only up to the elective deferral limit of \$15,000 that's set by the Internal Revenue Service," he said.

As soon as an employee is covered by FERS is eligible for agency contributions, the agency will automatically contribute an amount equal to 1 percent of the employee's basic pay each pay pe-

riod, whether or not he or she contributes. If employees contribute their own money, the agency will match the employee's contributions dollar-for-dollar on the first 3 percent the employee contributes each pay period and 50 cents on the dollar for the next 2 percent the employee contributes.

Trabucco pointed out that this may be the last TSP open season, because legislation has passed the U.S. Senate and is in the House of Representatives that would eliminate open seasons in the future. The congressional measure would allow people to make their contribution elections at any time.

"So it's an improvement, and one that we and the participants will welcome," he said.

Trabucco said the board is looking into creating "Lifecycle Funds" beginning next year. These funds provide the benefits of professional asset management to participants who choose them.

"For instance, there will be a fund that is established for the year 2015, a second fund for the year 2025, a third fund for the year 2035," he said. "What you would do is pick the year in which you plan on beginning to draw down your funds and you simply invest in that. The allocation of those invest-

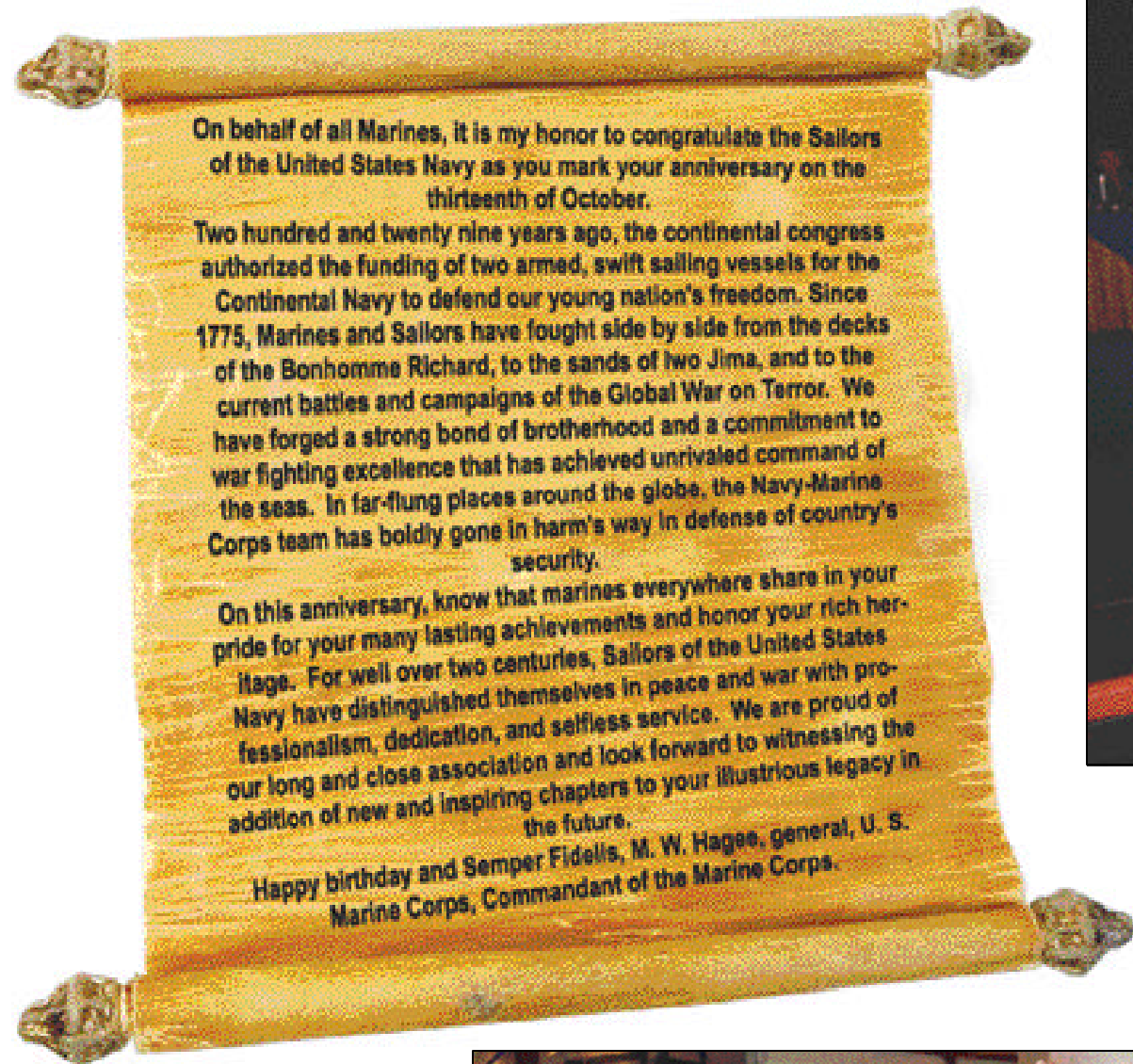
ments would be automatically adjusted over time based on the structure of that life cycle fund — in essence, going from a heavier weighting in stocks in the early years and more toward an investment in bonds and government securities — the more stable investments — as you get closer to the year when you're going to begin drawing those funds down."

TSP participants age 50 or older who are contributing the maximum amount of regular contributions may also elect to make additional "catch-up" contributions up to \$3,000 for 2004, and \$4,000 for 2005, Trabucco noted.

"Those contributions allow those age 50 and over to put in additional funds. It will rise to \$5,000 in 2006, where it will remain stable."

Those who choose to make catch-up contributions can do so at any time, but they must make a new election for each calendar year. For more information, they should check with their agency or service TSP representative for guidance about when to submit their election. Civilian employees should use Form TSP-1-C. The form for members of the uniformed services is Form TSP-U-1-C.

Iwakuni residents celebrate 229 years of Naval Heritage



From left to right is the oldest Sailor, Cmdr. Don Fix, the youngest Sailor, Seaman Apprentice Gorge Camacho, and the guests of honor, retired Master Chief Petty Officer Rudy Boesch and Brigadier Gen. Frank Panter.

Lance Cpl. Brian Henner



Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronnie Nix and Sgt. Rebekah Raner Visit during the Navy Ball which was held at Club Iwakuni.



Station residents were served their meals by officers and staff noncommissioned officers on Oct. 13. Here, Petty Officer 1st Class Maria Rivera and her husband, Thomas A. Rivera, receive lunch from Gunnery Sgt. Sal Cardella.



Brigadier Gen. Frank Panter and guest of honor, retired Master Chief Petty Officer Rudy Boesch had lunch with Sailors from the Station on the Navy's 229th birthday.

Photos by Cpl. Anthony D. Pike



Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl Smith rings the ceremonial bell during the Navy Ball.



Annette and Paul Healy let loose on the dance floor after the ceremony portion of the ball ended.

Iwakuni dances away with annual festival

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CL. DAVE BONI
Combat Correspondent

Thousands filled the streets Sunday as Iwakuni celebrated the 48th anniversary of the metropolis' municipality with a festival commemorating the event.

Like years passed, the festival lived up to its billing as vibrant costumes, traditional dances and parades captivated crowds during the sunny afternoon.

The festival began with the "white snakes," one of the most popular attractions of the festival, slithering in the air supported by poles held by over 20 men and women. Following the serpents were various dance performances demonstrating Iwakuni's past and culture, as well as dances to more contemporary hits.

"The Iwakuni festival has something for everyone," said Sugita Hisushi, Iwakuni native and six-time festival veteran. "The dances are exciting to watch and the food is great."

The food Hisushi mentioned was provided by various vendors supplying piping hot Japanese cuisine to hungry spectators. Along with the food and entertainment, event goers

also got the chance to do a little shopping for souvenirs, clothes and other specialty items commonly found at Japanese festivals.

"Going to these festivals is always fun for the family," said Murakami Kyoko, Iwakuni native and mother of two. "Aside from the entertainment, I bought a few jars of honey straight from the honey combs they had here. I can't get fresher honey than that anywhere else."

The festival ended much the way it began with a dancing performance by colorfully decorated performers. As the crowd began to dissipate, Kyoko said the festival seems to get better and better each

year, and hopes to see more American's coming out to see the show.

"We are proud of our festival and I would like to see more Americans

come out to enjoy our culture," she said.

This festival is held every year on the third weekend in October.



Performers electrify the crowd with flying kicks as they mix in traditional dance moves with martial arts during the 48th annual Iwakuni City Festival.



Japanese dancers applaud their counterparts after a dance performance during the festival.



Dancers with Japanese instruments in their hands, parade along the main street during the festival.



A bear gives out balloons to awaiting children at the festival.



OUT THE GATE

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

Sannou Shrine Festival

A festival will be held at Itsukushima Shrine and Sannou Shrine on Miyajima Island Saturday, starting at 10 a.m. A ceremony and Bugaku (court dance and music) performance are scheduled. Visitors can view the festival outside the shrines for free. Call 0829-44-2020 for more details.

Chrysanthemum Display

Visitors can enjoy nearly 1,600 pots of chrysanthemums at Fukuyama Castle Park in Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture now through Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. There also will be bonsai trees display Oct. 30 through Nov. 3, and Koto performance and tea ceremony on Nov. 3. Admission is free. For further information, call 084-928-1043.

Iwakuni City Bus Tour

There will be a bus tour visiting Joei Temple and Furukuma Shrine in Yamaguchi City, and Tokusa for

apple picking Nov. 14, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. An admission is required. Call Public Affairs Office, Yukie Wada at 253-5344 for more information.

Recycled Cloths Craft Display

There is a display of crafts made from recycled old kimono material at Hikari Furusato Museum in Hikari City now through Oct. 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 31.) The museum is closed on Monday. More than 100 pieces of crafts, such as bags, Japanese battle-dresses, dolls and tapestries. An admission is required. Call 0833-78-2323 for details.

TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

AUTOMOBILES

Toyota Carib Sprinter, 1994, 5 door, automatic, very clean, power everything, good A/C and heat, AM/FM radio, cassette player, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$1,900. Call Jeff at 253-3404 dwh or 253-2275 awb.

BMW 320i, 1989, 4 door, power everything, cold A/C, Pioneer CD, JCI until July 2006, \$2,500 obo. Call Lt. Hayes at 253-2202 or e-mail andymhayes@yahoo.com

Nissan Skyline, 1991, 2 door, black, automatic, sports exhaust, HKS blow off valve, Apexi air intake air filter, engine mount bar, Hicas 4 wheel steering,

Momo sports steering wheel, A/C, P/W, engine timer, Kenwood CD/stereo, JCI until July 2006, \$2,800 obo. Call Leroy at 253-5509 dwh or 090-6438-0685.

Toyota Master Ace, 1988, van, automatic, P/W, P/D, 5 1/2" color TV, hot/cold ice box, AM/FM, CD player, PCSing soon, JCI until Aug. 2006, \$1,500 obo. Call GySgt. Wood at 253-4737 dwh or 253-2866 ahw.

Nissan Largo, 1989, 8 passenger van, maroon, A/C, AM/cassette, power sunroof, electric cool box, JCI until July 2006, \$1,500. Call Lt. Hayes at 253-2202 or e-mail andymhayes@yahoo.com

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., black futon with cover & frame, \$100 obo, Murray 6.0 HP lawn mower with bag, \$100 obo. Call Jerome at 253-6367 or 090-6861-5498.

Misc., Bassett brand sectional couch, 2 recliners, full size fold out bed, 8 years old, good condition, \$300 obo. Call 253-2001 to leave a message.

Misc., MCAS Iwakuni blanket displaying the F/A-18 Hornet surrounded by patches of various units. A perfect keepsake of your stay in Japan or a great gift for your relatives back home. \$55 cash or check. Call Lucia at 253-2122 or Kelly at 253-

2745 to view and purchase.

Misc., \$1,000 Bow-flex Power Pro with sliding seat, 210 lbs. of resistance, easily upgradeable to 310 lbs. or 410 lbs., capable of up to 60 exercises, \$449. Call Amy at 253-3610 dwh or 31-8617 awb.

Misc., uniquely designed Korean desk, curved shape and intricate hardware, solid wood desk breaks down into three pieces for easy transport, foot rest to match desk included, \$1,200 obo. Call Kelly at 253-2745.

WANTED

Misc., a twin mattress and box spring in good condi-

tion. Call 253-2001 to leave a message.

MISSING

Wedding ring set. A 14k gold wedding ring set is missing. If found or if have any idea where it might be, call Sherry at 253-2607. No questions will be asked.

JOB OPENINGS

Chaplains Office (253-6460)
-Gospel Choir Director
-Non-Denominational Music Director

CHRO (253-6828)
MCCS:
-Supervisory Education Services Specialist

Logistics:
-Supply Management Officer
-Transportation Clerk
Facilities:
-Interdisciplinary Engineer

S-6:
-Information Technology

Specialist
-Electronic Technician
DECA:
-Secretary (OA)
-Sales Store Checker (Intermittent)

MCCS (253-3030)
(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

MCCS Job Listing:
-Merchandise Manager, civilian only
-Sales Associate/Cashier, civilian only
-Senior Sales Associate/Cashier, civilian only
-Retail Area Supervisor, civilian only
-Security Guard
-Beautician
-Recreation Assistant
-Desk Clerk Leader, civilian only
-School Lunch Supervisor
-Operations Assistant
-Library Technician, civilian only
-Program Assistant
Go to www.mccsiwakuni.com for a complete job listing.

SAKURA THEATER



THE COOKOUT

When Todd Anderson is chosen as the #1 professional basketball draft pick and signs to play for his home team, the New Jersey Nets, for \$30 million, he finds that his newfound wealth means his relationships with the people in his life are bound to change. This becomes evident when he decides to throw the sort of family/neighborhood cookout his family has always had during the summer. (85 minutes)



SHARK TALE

Oscar is a little fish who dreams big. His big dreams land him in hot water when a great white lie turns him into an unlikely hero. His fellow fish swallow Oscar's story hook, line and sinker and he is showered with fame and fortune. It's all going along swimmingly, until it starts to become clear that Oscar's tale about being the defender of the Reef is all wet. (90 minutes)



ANACONDAS

A scientific expedition is sent to the jungles of Borneo to search for a rare black orchid by a powerful pharmaceutical company that hopes the orchid can be used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality. What they discover is that the orchid is already being used by a powerful group. (93 minutes)

FRIDAY

12 p.m. Princess Diaries 2 (G)
7 p.m. The Cookout (PG-13)
10 p.m. Open Water (R)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2 (PG)
4 p.m. Shark Tale (PG)
7 p.m. The Cookout (PG-13)
10 p.m. Without A Paddle (PG-13)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. Anacondas (PG-13)
7 p.m. Suspect Zero (R)

MONDAY

7 p.m. Without A Paddle (PG-13)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Suspect Zero (R)

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Exorcist: The Beginning (R)

THURSDAY

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule
Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
Wednesday - ASVAB
Thursday - EDPT
November 22 - SAT
November 29 - ACT
November 10 - DLAB
 For more information call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training
 ■ **Family Member Local Employment Orientation:** Nov. 10, 8-9 a.m.
 ■ **RESUMIX:** Nov. 10, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 ■ **Outbound Family Member Priority Placement Program:** Nov. 10, 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)
 ■ **Hello U.S.A.:** Every Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This workshop is designed to assist foreign-born spouses who are making a transition to American culture and military lifestyle.
 ■ **Ten Steps To Federal Employment:** Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Learn effective writing and formatting tips for federal job applications.

Club Iwakuni
 ■ **Band SR71 & Plunge:** Rock band SR71 & Plunge performs Saturday at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom. Free for the Station

residents and their guests. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m. For details, call 253-3727.

MCX (253-5641)
 ■ **Intimate Apparel Sale:** Thursday through Oct. 31. On select items, buy one and receive 50 percent off a second item of equal or lesser value.

School Age Center (253-4769)
 ■ **Monthly Birthday Party:** Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. Members born this month receive a coupon redeemable at Iwakuni's Route 2 McDonald's.

Youth & Teen Center (253-6454)
 ■ **Fukuoka Canal City Trip:** Nov. 6, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sign-up before Nov. 4.

Children's Halloween Pizza Party
 Oct. 30, 12-4 p.m. at the MAC Dome. Free for all the Station residents and their guests. Carnival food is available for a small fee. Entertainment includes a balloon artist, face painting, costume contest, giant air bouncers and more.

Building 411 Closed Wednesday
 Marine & Family Services Center will have in-service training

during working hours Wednesday. All programs in Building 411, except the library, will be closed. The Child Development Center, School Age Center, and Youth & Teen Center will remain open. Call 253-4197 for details.

Senior Class Parent Meeting
 This meeting, originally scheduled for Nov. 10, has been rescheduled for Nov. 4, 6 p.m. in Mr. Williams' room. Graduation packets, that were handed out at the first Senior Parent meeting on Oct. 13, are due at this meeting. All graduation packets are due at the parent meeting on Nov. 4.

Harvest Festival
 This festival is scheduled to be held Oct. 31, 4-7 p.m. at Penny Lake. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, fun games and a lot of treats. Dress in fun costumes but not scary. Call Carol Nash at 253-5218 for further information.

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.

COMMUNITY

Halloween Costume Party
 A Halloween Costume party will be held on Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m. in the Matthew C. Perry School cafeteria. It is for all sixth through eighth grade students. Prizes will be awarded for the best Halloween costume. Enjoy games, food, and good music

all in a safe environment.

Wing flies by Base in regional soccer tourney

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 LANCE CL. MARTIN R. HARRIS
 Combat Correspondent

First Marine Aircraft Wing forwards Alioune Diop, Samuel Ofosuene and Evangelos Chimonas led their soccer team to a 4-1 victory over Marine Corps Base Camp Butler during the Far East Regional Soccer Tournament championship game here Oct. 1.

Both the Wing and Camp Butler teams fought their way through the weeklong tournament, competing against teams from 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa.

Wing entered the final game ranked second against the top-ranked Camp Butler team, which beat Wing 2-1 in round robin play Sept. 27.

"We lost the first game, so this was our revenge," Diop said. "Our team was extremely motivated tonight, and the key was we played like a team. We tried to get everyone at least two touches on every possession."

Wing took the momentum early when Diop broke through Butler's defense to beat the keeper for the first goal in the game at the 10-minute mark, explained Camp Butler coach Wilson Rodriguez.

"After the first goal, everything started to snowball," Rodriguez said. "They (Wing) got



1st Marine Aircraft Wing's player/coach Peter Burchenson drives the ball past a Marine Corps Base Camp Butler defender during the Far East Regional Soccer Tournament championship game Oct. 1. Burchenson helped his team win their first regional tournament championship.

motivated and came at us even harder. We got down a little, which motivated them (Wing) even more."

Shortly after the first goal, Ofosuene, a Chester, N.Y., native, snuck to the far post during a corner kick and headed the ball into the back of the net 14 minutes into the game, putting Wing ahead 2-0.

Wing played a physical game resulting in yellow cards in minutes 35 and 42.

The first half of play was ended when Ofosuene snuck another ball past Camp Butler's goalkeeper in the 45th minute, making the score 3-0.

"Even after 'Doc' (Ofosuene) scored his second goal, we didn't feel like we had the game in control," said Diop, a Pawtucket, R.I., native. "We still needed

to play the full 90 minutes. They (Camp Butler) beat us the first game, so we couldn't lie back and take it easy on them."

The second half of play was marked by intense defense by both teams until Christopher Blake scored Base's only goal of the night, in the 68th minute, when he broke through the defense to receive a long through-ball from Randall Martinez. With a sliding kick, he stunned the near-perfect Wing goalie Michael Mulronev with a streaking cross into the net that put the match at 1-3.

Mulronev broke up several close calls before Chimonas, the tournament's most valuable player with 10 goals in the tournament, sealed the 4-1 Wing victory with a rocket goal in the 81st minute.

The tournament culminated by the Wing capturing its first tournament championship and Peter Burchenson, Wing's player/coach, taking home the all-tourney coaching honors.



The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing soccer team, champions of the Far East Regional Soccer Tournament, poses with family members after defeating Marine Corps Base Camp Butler 4-1.

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.

Ready, Set, Shop!



Cpl. Anthony D. Pike

Cassandra Ashcraft fills her grocery cart during a two-minute shopping spree at the commissary. The shopping spree was paid for by Exchange New Car Sales and three people were given the opportunity to fill their carts for three, two and one minute runs.

Futenma highlights bad food and bad bikes

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
COL. JONATHAN K. TESLEVICH
Combat Correspondent

**MARINE CORPS AIRSTATION
 FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan** — Korean dog brains.

Yummy.

Obviously, none of the three finalists in a Fear Factor-style eating contest here begged for seconds after biting into their final meal Oct. 3.

The contest was part of the 2nd Annual Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Block Party, which was open to the public.

The party brought together motorcycle enthusiasts, dancers, and the daringly hungry to participate in competitions including salsa dancing, a motorcycle slow roll, best bike and the finale eating contest.

"The big thing out here was the bikes, but everybody had the most fun participating in or watching the Fear Factor-style eating contest," said Gunnery Sgt. Stephanie Thomas, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron chief coordinator for the block party and the air station's logistics chief.

More than 20 contestants lined up for the chance to win the \$300 first prize. But Rick Luna, contest coordinator and a salesman with Futenma New Car Sales, provided a putrid challenge with his concoction of strange foods.

"In the contest, each person drew a card from a deck," Luna said. "The number on that card determined how many of the four toppings (fermented plums, rotten soy beans, whole minnows and sea weed) would be added to a rotten vegetable shake. Of the three contestants, the one who drank the shake the fastest moved on to the final round."

The finalists were Calvin Hough-Black, Daniel Roque and Bill Townley.

In the final round the dish of choice was Korean dog brains, which the contestants tried to stuff down their throats as fast as possible.

"The key to contests like this is not thinking about what's in the glass or bowl," said contestant Ryan Eckerman. "You just slam it."

After 10 torturous minutes of pushing the pungent delicacy down his throat, Roque narrowly beat Townley for the top prize.

"That was the nastiest thing I have ever tasted," Roque said. "My buddy got me through it though with a constant supply of water."

The proceeds from the party went to support junior Marines with H&HS for the Marine Corps Ball.

"This year we raised a lot more money than last," Luna said. "The \$700 donation from Harley Davidson was a big help. It was a good event to raise money and to open the gates and promote community relations with local Okinawans."



Darryl Sisneros stands on the finish line for the motorcycle slow roll competition.



Fear Factor-style eating contest finalist Calvin Hough-Black has trouble keeping down Korean dog brains.



Dustin Breitinger sits on his father's Harley Davidson during the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Block Party.



The three fear factor-style eating contest finalists (from left to right), Daniel Roque, Bill Townley and Calvin Hough-Black, dig into bowls of Korean dog brains.