

Leave, earnings statement updated

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE PRESS RELEASE

Effective Jan. 18, 2005, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is scheduling significant changes and upgrades to the Marine Corps Total Force System.

Traditionally, a Marine's Leave and Earnings Statement is available on myPay around the 5th of the following month. Effective with the upgrade, and immediately following the January 18, 2005 update and extract, Marines can expect to view their current month LES by the 21st.

Additionally, in January 2005, most Marines will receive two LES(s). One for the month of December which will be produced in the traditional manner and available via myPay on or about the 5th of January, and one for the month of January which will be available on or about the 21st of January. Marines can then expect their LES to be available on myPay monthly, on or about the 21st of the current month.

Another area of change for the Marines will be the amount of money they are paid each payday. In the past, Marines have been paid in

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Marines, Japanese secure Station

PFC LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

Active Shield, a joint combined exercise involving the Station Security Reaction Team, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians and Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces was held here Nov. 28 through Dec. 2.

Active Shield is an annual training exercise designed to ensure local security forces operate smoothly together in the event of an enemy threat to the Station. The units participated in explosive and chemical threat response drills, and armed spy occupation exercises.

"What makes this so significant is this is the first time that something like this has happened as far as bilateral training," said Andrew Samuels, Station Antiterrorism Force Protection officer. "Last year was just a unilateral exercise. We were just

building up - starting to learn and prepare to move to each others AOR (Area of Responsibility). That was the starting point so we would know what we had to do when we did have to pull together. Marines are only allowed to secure our area inside the fence line. What happens when there is a situation outside the fence line?"

The 46th regiment of the JGSDF is tasked with the security of the Station when a contingency happens outside the gate.

"We are tasked with providing security to (Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni)," said JGSDF Capt. Kentaro Nagayoshi, operations officer, 46th Regiment. "That's a big responsibility. This is a major air station in this region, so this is very important for us. That's why we are putting 100 percent of our attention and energy into this mission."

Throughout the week, JMSDF soldiers and Marines studied each other's response to a variety of contingencies.

Simulated threats of explosives were called in Nov. 30. The response included EOD disposing of the simulated explosive and the Provost Marshal's Office securing traffic and handling all other safety issues. JGSDF Rangers were present to observe the Marines' response.

"Both units are very strong in certain fields," said Nagayoshi. "What we are doing is combining those strengths. We can learn from each other and develop our own tactical skills. In contingencies, we now have two quick response teams that communicate with each other and support each other. That's a great unit."



Sgt. Anthony Adamson

Special Reaction Team members move in to deliver supplies during a hostage situation exercise, Dec. 1. The training was part of this year's Active Shield exercise which took place here Nov. 28 through Dec. 2.

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www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Volunteer income tax assistance program saves residents time, money

PFC LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

As the time to file income taxes approaches, the Office of the Station Judge Advocate is preparing the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for Station residents.

The program is designed to facilitate electronic tax filing for all Marines, Sailors, Department of Defense civilians and Status Of Forces Agreement employees.

"This program continues to be a major quality of life benefit enjoyed by our military community," said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "Through this program last year, more than 64,000 federal returns were prepared and

electronically filed, saving Marines and their families over \$9.9 million in tax preparation and filing fees, an average saving of nearly \$120 per Marine."

Station residents are asked to bring proof of a valid social security number or individual taxpayer identification numbers for both the tax filer and all dependents claimed on this year's tax return, as well as their W-2s (wage and tax statement), according to the OSJA. Other documents may be needed on a case-to-case basis.

Furthermore, if residents prefer direct deposit to a paper check, the tax center will also need a copy of their checking or savings account numbers.

"Refunds should be in your savings or checking account within

two weeks if you choose direct deposit, and in about three weeks if you choose a paper check," according to 1st Lt. Randy W. Stone, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron tax and legal assistance officer.

The appointments, which last 30-45 minutes on average, will be held at the Station tax center.

The tax center is scheduled to open Jan. 31, 2005 and will be located on the first deck of Building 608, the Provost Marshal Office/Joint Law Center.

The center will be staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays in February from 8 a.m. to noon.

For more information about the VITA program contact Stone at 253-4398 or the OSJA at 253-5591.



Torii Teller

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The Torii Teller welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. 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 daveylm@iwakuni.usmc.mil or coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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Keep hold of a wonderful life

CMDR. DONALD R. FIX
Station Command Chaplain

It's that time of year for everyone to get another look at the movie where Jimmy Stewart plays battered George Bailey in the holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." Every time I see this movie it makes me realize this film is shown every year because it never outgrows its audience.

The cars, clothing styles and homes in the movie may be outdated, but the way stress and depression can overwhelm us remains on target. George is convinced that he has never had a lucky break in life and his depression leads him to where he is standing on a bridge looking into the

icy waters while the city sleeps.

What makes a difference in his life and is an inspiration to the viewers is the chance for him to take a step back and look at what the world would have been like without his contributions. George begins to see that the choices he made during his life were the right ones, and, through that, he realizes his wealth.

He is indeed a rich man. He has a loving and supportive wife, healthy children, a job where he makes a difference and more friends than his house can even hold. He sees that it is a wonderful life that he was about to throw away.

Often in our life we also get to the point of wondering why we have all

the bad luck, and we become fixated on our losses to the point that we cannot see anything else. Perhaps the lesson from the movie needs to speak to each of us at those times. What would the world be like if we were never born? The smiles we shared; the jokes we told; the hands we shook would never have brightened the lives of others. Those that we helped might have never found a helping hand without us.

Simply put, we touch far more people than we will ever realize. During this holiday season, let's take that step back and consider how rich we truly are as we think about our family and friends who make up our wonderful life!

Treat them the way you want to be treated

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS PATRICK L. WHITE
Facilities Operations Chief

It has come to my attention since being stationed here for just over a year, how much the majority of Air Station residents take for granted, specifically the Master Labor Contract (MLC) workforce.

They come to work day in and day out with very little complaints, if any at all. They come to work during the day and nighttime hours. They even come in during natural disasters. Typhoon Songda proved to me the loyalty and dedication of our Facilities Department Maintenance Division MLC employees.

For example, one MLC employee came into work for two days immediately after TCCOR-Recovery was given to help restore power to the base. This was an essential task since the base wouldn't have been able to continue its mission without electrical power to some of its vital facilities. And lets not forget that due to his diligent work efforts, he also restored the electrical service to the family housing area that was effected by the storm so you could run your air

conditioning, lights and all the other electrical devices. This also allowed everyone to have hot food for their families. While he and other MLC employees were working on the Air Station taking care of emergencies, he postponed making repairs to his own home. Only after repairs had been made to get the Air Station back to operational condition did he ask the maintenance chief if he could leave and take care of his own home.

I found this type of personal loyalty to the Air Station and its residents utterly amazing. He came in during the recovery phase while most everyone else was at home, nice and dry.

Could you imagine if this had happened to some of the people that live on this Air Station? First of all, if you needed certain people to come in, you would have probably gotten their answering machines since far too many people screen their calls nowadays. Secondly, a lot of people would have put their personal needs ahead of the Station's mission. Finally, you would have heard more complaining

see RESPECT Page 5

CHATTERBOX

"Where is your favorite place to visit in Japan?"



"Hiroshima; the culture there is great and I enjoy all the history of the Peace Park and museums."

Lance Cpl. Erik A. Hamilton
Military Police
Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron



"I liked Okinawa, the weather was very warm and the water was extremely clear. The culture is also a lot different from mainland Japan."

Lance Cpl. Ronald G. Swann
Aviation Supply
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12



"The Chicken Shack was really nice. The food was great and the atmosphere seemed to be a very authentic traditional Japanese setting."

Gunnery Sgt. Luis A. Morales
Assistant Maintenance Chief
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363



"The Kintai Bridge; it's a nice escape and a very peaceful place. There's a lot of good places to go shopping also."

Lance Cpl. David G. Furnace
Bulk Fuel Specialist
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171

Leader of America's Squadron receives Bronze Star

LANCE Cpl. CRISTIN K. BARTTER
Combat Correspondent

Lt. Col. Yori R. Escalante, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was awarded the Bronze Star, Nov. 29, for his actions during Operations "Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom."

Brig. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presented the award.

"I was speechless," said Escalante, a Houston, Texas native, upon receiving his award. "I was totally surprised."

The Bronze Star Medal is presented to any person who, while serving in or with the military, distinguishes himself by valiant or meritorious service while engaged in a conflict against a hostile foreign force. Awards may also be given for acts of heroism, or to recognize acts of merit.

Escalante, who has served in the Marine Corps for 18 years, received the

Bronze Star for his service as plans officer, future operations officer and current operations officer for 1st Force Service Support Group in Tirkrit, Iraq. With these billets, Escalante was responsible for the planning of logistics from June 2002 to April 2004.

"He assisted with the planning to help Marines establish themselves in Tirkrit during a difficult time," said Gunnery Sgt. Aaron B. Green, operations chief, MWSS-171.

According to the official Bronze Star citation, Escalante prepared frequent operations plan refinements to ensure that 1st Force Service Support Group



Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Bartter
Brig. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, pins the Bronze Star on Lt. Col. Yori R. Escalante, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171.

demonstrating his total effectiveness, forceful leadership and devotion to duty, states the citation.

"It's just a matter of having the right plan put together and having the right people to execute it," said Escalante. "Anybody can put a plan on a piece of paper, but if you don't have the right people to execute that plan, it will never get done."

"Lt. Col. Escalante has done a fantastic job," said Brig. Gen. Thiessen. "He did what all Marines would do; he rose to the occasion and did an outstanding job in very difficult circumstances."

According to Green, "Lt. Col. Escalante remained calm and collected, and performed remarkably in spite of everything going on during that time. His 'can do' attitude, continuous striving for perfection, desire for success and constant display of devotion to duty earned him this award."

units were always in position to support developing combat scenarios. Faced with combative environments, Escalante maintained his composure,

Naval aviator takes last flight in Prowler

LANCE Cpl. CRISTIN K. BARTTER
Combat Correspondent

Soaring through the skies for a final flight, a veteran and respected aviator of Operation Enduring Freedom said good-bye to the EA-6B Prowler, a long-range, all-weather aircraft, Nov. 16.

With 2,200 hours of flight in the Prowler, Lt. Cmdr. Alan "Newt" Bradford, maintenance officer for Navy Electronic Attack Squadron 142, is leaving imprints of his abilities with his fellow aviators and service members as he departs for test pilot school in Patuxent River, Md.

"Our loss is their gain," said Cmdr. James D. Haugen, executive officer. "I know that he is going to excel and be an outstanding test pilot for the Navy."

According to Lt. Cmdr. David A. Norley, safety officer, Bradford is a notable aviator and an asset to pilots everywhere because of his skills and abilities.

"He made a lot of big decisions and had a lot of influence in the direction the squadron went," said Norley.

During his career, Bradford was assigned to operations that deployed him to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

"He is an effective combat aviator who raised the bar of excellence for the squadron and mentored younger aviators to do the same," said Lt. Timothy J. Powers, assistant logistics officer. "He was a leader

during Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom, both personally and professionally."

Flying for operations with fellow aviators, Bradford has a witty, yet polished manner while on the job, said Powers. He is an exceptional pilot and can still maintain a good sense of humor.

"I've flown with him for two combat deployments," said Lt. Andrew W. Osborne, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Officer. "He has taught me a lot about flying. He knows how to get the job done and still make it fun while you're doing it. When you have a question about the airplane or about flying, he's the guy to ask."

"He was a good mentor," said Powers. "He passed on invaluable pearls of wisdom to the young junior officers in the squadron. He put his people first, and trusted his subordinates. He allowed people to grow through mistakes."

While with the squadron for the past three years, Bradford assumed responsibilities in many different fields. The diverse positions he acquired were Assistant Operations Officer, Safety Officer, Electronic Warfare Officer, Operations Officer and the Maintenance Officer.

"Losing Lt. Cmdr. Newt Bradford is really going to be a tough one for us," said Haugen. "He has been critical through two combat deployments, and a leader in the sky and in the squadron. We will miss him when he is gone."



Lance Cpl. Cristin K. Bartter
Lt. Cmdr. Alan "Newt" Bradford, maintenance officer for Navy Electronic Attack Squadron 142, is nothing but smiles as he completes his final flight on the EA-6B Prowler.

NEWS BRIEFS

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The Department of Defense Education Activity announces more students are now eligible for free or reduced price meals due to a change in eligibility for participation in the National School Lunch Program. For more information on the National School Lunch Program, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

PARCEL TAMPERING

If you receive a parcel from the U.S. which appears to have been tampered with, please contact the Criminal Investigation Division at 253-3139.

BICYCLE REGISTRATION

It is now mandatory that Station residents register all bicycles at the Provost Marshall Office Pass and Registration by Jan. 1. Bring a copy of your receipt or proof of shipment. If these items are not available, bring a signed affidavit (available at PMO).

BRANCH MEDICAL CLINIC HOURS

Monday: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:30-11:30 a.m.
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hometown Saturday ushers in holiday season

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC LUKAS J. BLOM
Combat Correspondent

Stomachs were still stretched from the Thanksgiving feast as the sounds of Christmas carols floated in the chilled breeze. The sweet smell of roasting chestnuts filled the air as families huddled together enjoying the holiday spirit, and the Iwakuni Hometown Saturday Festival at the Cherry Blossom Triangle here Nov. 28.

"This annual event is a chance for the community to come out and enjoy the holiday season," said Alex Perkins, Marine Corps Community Services special event director. "It's a great way to bring a piece of home to Japan for Marines and Sailors."



The holiday train only rolls around once a year and it was one of Hometown Saturday's most popular activities. The train took residents on a cheerful ride around the base.



James O. Hashman, Matthew C. Perry music director conducts the middle school band in rousing renditions of holiday classics throughout the day's festivities.

The event began with choirs from the Matthew C. Perry middle and high school taking the stage and singing holiday classics. The M.C. Perry band followed, providing the crowd with soothing holiday sounds.

"They're showing a lot of enthusiasm and Christmas spirit," said James O. Hashman, M.C. Perry middle and high school director of music.

This is the first time that the students have had a chance to perform holiday music in front of a crowd, said Hashman. They've been preparing for about two months.

Along with the music, there were many more activities for event-goers to enjoy.

"The holiday train ride is a big favorite here," said Perkins. "Everybody is jumping on board and just enjoying the holiday spirit with each other."

The Station tree lighting was the highlight of the day, according to Perkins. A crowd of more than 100



The M.C. Perry middle school choir prepares to serenade the crowd during the Iwakuni Hometown Saturday Nov. 27 at the cherry blossom triangle.

people gathered around the tree and counted down together in anticipation of the colorful lights, which can be seen until Jan. 3.

"This is for Marines and Sailors, so we can give thanks back to them," said Perkins. "They are always required to be thinking about combat or other stressful situations. We're just trying to provide a break for them."

"It's a lot of fun, especially when the tree is lit up," said Kristina L. Hudson, 14, M.C. Perry choir member. "It's a good chance for everyone to get together and start thinking about Christmas."

Col. Michael A. Dyer, Station commanding officer, was on hand to close the day's festivities and lead everyone in a cheerful rendition of "Jingle Bells."

"I wish everyone aboard the Station a safe and happy holiday season," said Dyer. "Merry Christmas!"

Iwakuni Marine competes in 50-mile ultra-marathon

LANCE CL. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Does running 50 miles in eight hours through drizzling rain and over rocky, uneven terrain sound like fun? It did to Gunnery Sgt. William J. Schmidt, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 flight equipment chief.

Schmidt, who has been a competitive runner since his high school days, participated in his fourth John F. Kennedy 50-mile race Nov. 20, in Hagerstown, Md.

The JFK 50-miler was the brainchild of President John F. Kennedy, who, in 1962, suggested that well-trained Marines should be able to hike 50 miles in 14 hours - a benchmark set by President Theodore Roosevelt, according to the official race Web site, www.jfk50mile.org. That year, William "Buzz" Sawyer, a civilian, and 10 of his friends set out on the course. Four, including Sawyer, finished in 13 hours, 10 minutes. The race has been run every year since.

Schmidt, who placed 31 out of 876 finishers, completed the course in 7:33:53. In preparation for the race, he trained daily in Iwakuni; running 10 to



Photo courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. William J. Schmidt
Gunnery Sgt. William J. Schmidt runs along a rugged trail during the 42nd annual John F. Kennedy 50-mile race. Schmidt finished the run 31 out of 876 finishers.

12 miles each weekday, and 25 to 30 miles during weekends.

"I was very pleased with my race,"

said Schmidt. "The time I was looking to finish in was seven-and-a-half to eight hours. My main goal was to finish the race, but meeting the time goal made it even better."

Schmidt competed in the event for the third time as a member of the All Marine Ultra-Running Team.

The seven-man team battled poor weather conditions, rough trails and physical and mental fatigue to finish second in the military team division with a combined total time of 39:11:08.

Throughout the race, Schmidt kept an average pace of nine minutes and five seconds per mile. This was no small feat, considering the rough terrain present along one leg of the trail - a 16-mile stretch winding through the Appalachian Mountains.

"I had to make up for my slower pace along the trail, so I was pushing hard the last 30 miles," said Schmidt.

Perhaps the most difficult portion

of the race was between miles 30 and 35, when Schmidt said he "hit a wall," and had to continue running when his body felt like giving up.

"Just about every runner hits a wall," he said. "Typically it happens anywhere from 18 to 20 miles into a race. You feel like quitting, and begin to question why you're running. But after two or three miles you start to feel better; you know you're going to make it."

Schmidt credited a portion of his success to his six teammates.

"We ran most of the trail together," Schmidt said. "Running as a team didn't give us the opportunity to quit on each other."

The tenacity Schmidt displayed during the race is in keeping with his life philosophy.

"If you're going to be in the Marine Corps, you have to be consistent and work hard in order to succeed," said Schmidt. "I live by that motto whether I'm running, working or at home."

Schmidt's ethos will carry him much farther than next year's JFK 50-miler. He has plans to compete in a 140-kilometer race in Japan this spring.

Station students immortalize themselves

LANCE CL. CRISTIN K. BARTTER
Combat Correspondent

2004 Almanac? "Check."
Lego's? "Check."
What up homie-g-funk? "Check."
Toys, a modern-day slang book, a journal of an elementary school student's daily life and other important items were placed into a metal box and buried three feet deep under a plaque, Nov. 10, behind the Zero Hanger Museum. The capsule will not be resurrected until 2104.

The 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School prepared a variety of items to be sealed inside the time capsule. They wrote autobiographies, answered questions about their world viewpoints and what they hope to accomplish in their lifetimes, and made predictions for what the world might be like in the year 2104.

"I gave the students a list of many possible unit options, and they

overwhelmingly chose to create a time capsule," said Amy D. Jecheva, gifted education teacher. "The students seemed to enjoy the idea of creating something that other students in the future will see and discuss."

After the class decided to make a time capsule, the next step was to think about what to store inside of it.

"The students used some creativity and critical thinking to generate a list of things they thought would represent our lives and be important to preserve so that people of the future will understand this moment in time," said Jecheva. "It was interesting for the students to determine what aspect of their lives and culture may change in one hundred years."

The classes researched time capsules and how to build one so that it could survive a century.

There were also a lot of factors that had to be determined when it came to where they would bury the time capsule. Jecheva said a spot behind the Zero Hanger was chosen because it was the least likely location for construction work in the next 100 years.

Once the blueprints

were settled, four service members went out with the students, and assisted them in the process of building the time capsule and burying it.

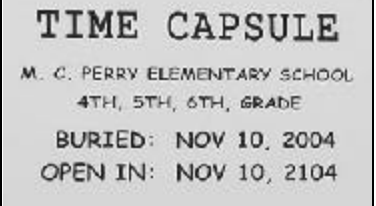
"I think that it's a great idea," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua R. Quitmeyer, utilities man, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, volunteer for the project. "I know that I would like to dig one up from a hundred years ago and see what the world was like then. It would be like finding a piece of history."

The classes plan to register their time capsule with the International



Photos courtesy of Matthew C. Perry Elementary School

Each student takes their turn in packing down the dirt above the time capsule making sure it won't be uncovered by wind and rain.



The plaque above the time capsule states the day that it was buried and the day it is to be unearthed.

Time Capsule Society at Oglethorpe University. ITCS, an organization founded in 1990, keeps records of time capsules around the world.

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whole dollar amounts. At the end of each month, any residual amount was carried forward to their next LES. With the January system upgrade, Marines will now be paid to the penny each payday. This initiative was necessary to modernize military pay support and processes that serve all the Marines, both active and reserve.

LES forecasting will work much as it does today. The Monthly Pay Reconciliation Process on or about the 20th will generate payment for the following first payday and display that amount in the first forecast area on the LES. Then EOM U&E will compute a forecast amount for the next payday and display that amount in the second forecast area on the LES. Additionally, the Marine's actual number of years of service will be displayed instead of the number of years for pay.

RESPECT from Page 2

about having to work in the rain than what would have actually been accomplished. Our MLC employees have once again proven their dedication to the Station.

So let me ask you a couple of questions. Why do some people treat the MLC employees as their personal servants? Why do some people treat them as second-class citizens? Would you want to be yelled at or pushed around? Then don't scream and yell at them! If a worker shows up at your house late, it's probably because you were not home when he came by the first time. A lot of the Station residents should stop and think before they speak. Nearly every time there is a problem; it's not the MLC that's at fault but the residents themselves, especially dependents.

When you place an emergency trouble call, plan on being home! Don't call in a trouble call and then leave your house for the day because you want to go shopping in Hiroshima. Facilities Employees have a standard operating procedure for entering your residence. The workers will not just enter your houses whenever they want to. They get the proper authorization before entering, be it from you or the housing office.

Another sore subject is when people talk down to the MLC workforce! How many languages do you speak? Quite a lot of them speak enough English to get their point across to you when it comes to repairs. We are the

visitors in this country, remember. In my opinion, the reason some of you speak down or berate the MLC workforce is because you know the majority of workers will not say anything back to you. It's not in his or her nature to show disrespect to anyone even if you are being a jerk.

Can you use a plunger? Then use it first before picking up the phone to call in a trouble call for a clogged toilet. Can you push a reset button? Then do it. It's the little button on the side of your garbage disposal located under your kitchen sink. Residents on their own can handle a lot of repairs. Really, you can. Repairs or trouble calls completed at your house are not charged to you, but maybe they should be. If you lived out in town or back in the states, how much do you think you would have to pay for similar trouble calls? Plumbers usually charge around \$60 an hour with a one-hour minimum fee! Not bad pay for two minutes of work using a wooden stick with a rubber cup on the end.

I guess the point I'm trying to make is, "treat them the way you want to be treated." The MLC employee has a major, major part in keeping this Station running. I'd hate to see how the Station would function if they all didn't come to work someday! This is not all encompassing. There are some station residents that try and do things themselves, but it's the few that give the majority a bad name.

Ebisuko Festival rakes in big bucks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
C.L. DAVE BONI
Combat Correspondent

Japanese residents flocked to the Ebisuko Festival Nov. 18-20 with hopes of putting a few extra bucks in their pockets.

Known among locals as "Ebessan," after the Ebisu, the god of commerce, the three-day-long festival was held in downtown Hiroshima everyday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Ebisu Shrine. More

than 300,000 people attended.

During the festival, participants bought rakes made from bamboo and decorated with lucky charms, koban (a Japanese oval coin from the Edo period) and the seven gods.

These rakes were then given to Buddhist monks who blessed and returned them to their owners.

"We go to the shrine and pray for our business to prosper. We also give money to the shrine," said Miho Watanabe, a Hiroshima native and festival attendee.

The Ebisu Shrine was built in 1603 after an elder resident asked Governor Masanori Fukushima to bring a shrine of Ebisu from Yoshida-cho, another town in Hiroshima.

"Once they brought the shrine, they also opened a market in the town. Since then, people started to celebrate the festival for good business," said Watanabe.

Watanabe also stated that, like many other festivals in Japan, the Ebisu Festival carries many traditions for Japanese business

owners and is an anticipated event every year.

"I come to this festival every year and I am afraid if I don't go I won't have a good year in business," said Hiroyuki Higashi, used-car dealership owner.

The festival also marks the start of winter for Japanese residents.

For more information regarding future events or festivals, contact Information Tours and Travel at 253-4377.



BOTTOM LEFT: During the Ebisuko festival, Nov. 18-20, business owners bring their rakes to a table of officials who assign numbers to the rakes before giving them to Buddhist monks to be blessed for financial gain during the year. TOP LEFT: Japanese business owners bow to the god of Ebisu at the shrine dedicated to the god of commerce. TOP CENTER: Vendors sell rakes made from bamboo and decorated with lucky charms, koban (a Japanese oval coin from the Edo period) and pictures of the seven gods to business owners hoping for a successful year. TOP RIGHT: The Ebisu Shrine located in downtown Hiroshima was built in 1603. Each year during the festival, more than 300,000 people visit the shrine. CENTER: A shrine maiden, or miko, watches the crowd from her post in front of the shrine. The shrine maiden is an unmarried woman who performs dances and recites incantations to the gods. ABOVE: A big rake stands ready for purchase during the festival. The rakes are hung on the walls of businesses to "rake in" money during the year.

Hanukkah: 'festival of lights' celebrates religious freedom

GUNNERYSGT. M.A. ZEID
Combat Correspondent

This season of bright lights also shines for those who don't celebrate Christmas as Jewish people around the world honor and rededicate themselves with the festival of Hanukkah.

Often called the "Festival of Lights," Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the temple in ancient Jerusalem in the second century B.C. In fact, the word Hanukkah means "rededication." The festival lasts eight days, and candles are lit each night after saying a special blessing. This year, Hanukkah begins at sunset, Dec. 7, and ends at sundown Dec. 15.

The story of Hanukkah began more than two thousand years ago when the Syrian-Greek king Antiochus IV prohibited Jewish people from practicing their faith. Furthermore, he required them to worship the Greek gods. A small band of rebels led by Matityahu, and later his son Judah Maccabee (also known as the Hammer) fought a guerrilla war for three years. Even though Antiochus sent thousands of well-armed troops to destroy the rebels, the Maccabees won and drove their enemies out of Israel.

When the Jewish fighters entered their temple, they found it in shambles and desecrated by the Syrians. The Jewish people cleaned the temple and rededicated it. When it came time to light the eternal flame, a lamp that is never extinguished, they found only a small jar of oil, just enough to last one day. Miraculously, the small jar lasted the eight days it took to obtain more oil.

Today, Hanukkah is celebrated by families lighting candles in a menorah (a special nine-branch candle holder) to commemorate this miracle. On the first night, one candle is lit. On the second night, two candles are lit and so on until the last night when all eight candles are lit. There is an extra candle called the shamash, or helper candle. This candle is lit first each night and used to light all the others.

The most popular tradition, especially for children, is playing dreidel, a game with a four-sided

top with the Hebrew letters: nun, gimmel, hay and shin. Children place a chocolate coin or some other candy in the middle and spin the dreidel. Depending on which letter the dreidel lands on, the child either gets all of the candy, half of it, or nothing and must put in more candy.

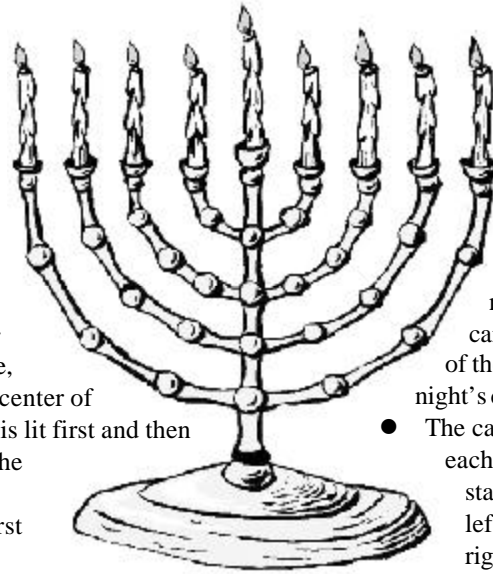
Popular foods for this festival are latkes (potato pancakes fried in oil) and jelly doughnuts. Almost every Jewish family has its own recipe for latkes, all

of which vary from the basic recipe which includes lots of grated potatoes, some flour, and extras such as onions, carrots, garlic and spices.

The most important part of Hanukkah is its reflection of Judaism and the freedom to practice the religion. As the candles of the menorah are lit, the sacrifice the Maccabees and others made through-out history are remembered.

How to light a menorah

- Lighting the menorah takes place soon after nightfall, or as soon as the household is together.
- The "shamash" or serving candle, placed in the center of the menorah, is lit first and then used to light the others.
- On the first night of the holiday, the first candle is placed on the far right side of the menorah as the lighter stands facing it.
- Each candle should reflect the number of nights of the holiday thus far. On each night following the first night, add a candle to the left of the previous night's candle.
- The candles are lit each evening, starting from the left side to the right, always lighting the current night's candle first.
- After lighting the other candles, replace the shamash in its holder.



OUT THE GATE

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

Toys and Picture Books Display

This display is scheduled for the Exhibition Hall at the Iwakuni City Auditorium, Saturday, starting at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. For details, call 41-1710.

Yanai Flea Market

A flea market is scheduled to be held on the south side of Yanai City

Hall, Dec. 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In case of inclement weather, it will be cancelled. Call 0820-26-6666 for more information.

Flower Arrangement Display

A display of Ikenobo school flower arrangements will be held at the Hikari Culture Center in Hikari City Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more details, call 0833-72-5800.

Paintings Exhibition

42 paintings, drawn by local artists and owned by the Yamaguchi

Prefectural Museum, are on display at the exhibition hall in Sinfonia Iwakuni now through Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday. Admission is free. Call 29-1600 for further information.

"2004 Hiroshima Dreamination" Illuminations

An electric light exhibition will take place in downtown Hiroshima including Peace Blvd., Namiki street, Hondori street, Chuo street, Alice garden and the Kamiya cho area now through Jan. 3, 2005, 5-11 p.m. Call 082-247-6738 for further information.

TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

AUTOMOBILES

Jaguar XJ Sovereign. 1990, full size, JCI until Nov. 2005, \$3,500. Call Sgt. Nash at 253-5123 dwh or 090-6439-7524 awh.

Toyota Lite. 1989, 8 passenger van, runs good, indestructible van, JCI until May 2006, \$700 obo. Call Joseph Boland at 253-4170 dwh or 253-7608 awh.

Toyota Carina. 1991, 4 door, dependable car, JCI until June 2006, \$750 obo. Call Joseph Boland at 253-4170 dwh or 253-7608 awh.

Nissan Laurel. 1993, 4 door, sedan, excellent condition, 6 disc CD player/changer, automatic, P/W, P/L, JCI until

Aug. 2006, \$2,000 obo. Call SSgt. Eldridge at 253-3838 dwh or 253-2812 awh.

Kawasaki ZX9R. 1994, 900cc, a great deal, helmet, leathers, gloves, boots, extra wheels and tires, extra windshield, JCI until Oct. 2005, \$2,500. Call Maj. Braund at 253-4584 dwh or 253-5705 awh.

Misc., free cat, 7 years old, black, male, very gentle with kids, moving Wednesday. Call Jen at 253-2490.

Misc., free adorable calico kitten, female, about 3 months old, fully house trained. Call Jim Davis at 253-3705 dwh or

0834-88-2551 awh.

Misc., solid wood dining room table with 2 leaves and 4 chairs, \$110. Call GySgt. Lupton at 253-6904 dwh or 253-7365 awh.

Misc., blue basset sectional couch, \$300 obo; primary colored baby crib, \$10; white crib mattress size bed frame, \$10; solid wood twin size bunk bed, \$20. Call 253-2001 to leave a message.

Misc., Sealy twin mattress and box spring, \$55. Call Jana at 253-2272.

Misc., "Huge Yard/Moving Sale", provided by 7 families, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community

room, Building 658, Yuri Tower. Items for sale include assorted pieces of furniture, home decor, household goods, electronics, craft and stamping supplies, camping gear, and name brand clothing and shoes.

WANTED

Instructor, looking for someone to take over Japanese classes, held off base in Mikawa and Waki. Call Nina at 253-2390.

JOB OPENINGS

Chaplains Office (253-6460)

—Non-Denominational Music Director

CHRO (253-6828)

MCCS:
—Supervisory Education Services Specialist

Facilities:
—Interdisciplinary Engineer

—Architect

S-6:
—Electronic Technician

Clinic:
—Occupational Health Nurse

Commissary:
—Teller

—Store Worker NTE 1 Year (Student Temporary Employment Program)

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

MCCS Job Listing:
—Administrative Support Assistant, Executive Administration Office

—Purchasing Agent/Assoc. Buyer, Merchandising, In-house only

—Store Worker, Main Complex, civilian only

—Beautician, Beauty Shop

—Receptionist, Beauty Shop

—Wood Hobby/Crafts Supervisor, Wood Hobby Shop/Arts & Crafts, civilian only

—Auto Hobby Shop Supervisor, Auto Hobby Shop, civilian only

—Recreation Attendant, Auto Hobby Shop

—Club Operations Assistant, Club Iwakuni, civilian only

—Food Court Operations Assistant, Food court

—Food Service Worker, School Cafeteria, civilian only

—Program Assistant, Child Development Center

—Operations Assistant, Marine Lounge

—Recreation Assistant, Athletics

—Public Relations Specialist, Marketing

—Lifeguard, Aquatics

—Bartender, Club Iwakuni
Go to www.mccsiwakuni.com for a complete job listing.

SAKURA THEATER



SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

A rich record executive stuck with spending Christmas alone (after his girlfriend dumps him) decides to return to the one place where he was once happiest, his childhood home, asking the family that lives there now to take him in for their holiday celebrations, but he discovers that his new "family" is even more psychopathic than his real kin. (91 minutes)



TEAM AMERICA

This politically-minded comedy action adventure tells the story of Team America, a group of superhero-style adventurers who travel the world fighting terrorism and other evils. Specifically, the story focuses on a typical "action hero" who is recruited to join Team America for a special mission, as a satire of the typical Hollywood action movie, using a combination of wood marionette-driven action sequences and stirring tongue-in-cheek musical numbers. (105 minutes)



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Following the death of her brother in a car accident, a teenage girl from a small town spends the summer in Los Angeles studying at a performing arts school which exposes her to a whole new world and way of life outside the sheltered existence and social circles she's always known. (103 minutes)

FRIDAY 7 p.m. Surviving Christmas (PG-13) 10 p.m. Team America (R)
SATURDAY 1 p.m. Sponge Bob Squarepants The Movie (PG) 4 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m. Taxi (PG-13) 10 p.m. Team America (R)
SUNDAY 4 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m. Surviving Christmas (PG-13)
MONDAY 7 p.m. Taxi (PG-13)
TUESDAY 7 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG)
WEDNESDAY 7 p.m. National Treasure (PG)
THURSDAY 7 p.m. Surviving Christmas (PG-13)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule

Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
 Wednesday - ASVAB
 Thursday - EDPT
 December 22 - SAT
 December 23 - ACT

For more information call 253-3855.

HEALTHCARE

Stress Management For The Holidays

Dec. 21, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
 Call 253-4526 for details.

CHRO

CHRO Training

■ **New Employee Orientation**
 Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.

usmc.mil. Class 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.

■ **Quarterly Military Retirement Seminar:** Monday through Dec. 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 ■ **Local Employment Overview:** Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.
 ■ **Job Interview Skills:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

Club Iwakuni

■ **Christmas Day Meals To Go:** Purchase a 12-14 pound whole roasted turkey or entire turkey meals to go. Meals in-

clude the turkey, 1 quart giblet gravy, 2 quarts of fresh mashed potatoes, 2 quarts of corn bread stuffing, 1 quart of candied yams, 8 ounces of fresh cranberry sauce, and the customer's choice of apple or pumpkin pie, are also sold. Orders must be placed before Dec. 22, noon, and paid for prior to pickup. The pickup time will be arranged at the time of payment. Call 253-3382 or 253-5416 for details.

MCX (253-5641)

■ **Holiday Values Sale:** Now through Dec. 19. Stop by for great savings on your favorite brands.
 ■ **Family Night:** Today. Finish your holiday shopping. MCX hot specials will be featured every hour, 7-11 p.m.

MCFTB (253-3754)

■ **Volunteer Enrichment** Tuesday, 7 p.m. Call to verify.
 ■ **L.I.N.K.S. Session** Dec. 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Yujo Hall.

Single Marine Program (253-3585)

■ **Alpark Mall And Toys R Us Shopping Trip:** Sunday, 10 a.m. Pay \$10 transportation fee at sign-up.
 ■ **Toys For Tots Wrapping Party:** Thursday and Dec. 17, 6 p.m. Help us wrap all of the toys to be delivered to different or-

phanages. Free soda and snacks are provided.

Youth & Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Youth & Teen Fine Art Exhibit:** Now through Sunday. Come to Club Iwakuni Ballroom A to view works of art by the Station youth and teens. Artwork will be judged in 10 categories.

Brown Bag Book Bunch

Thursday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. in the library multipurpose room. The group is reviewing *Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. January's book will be *Sky Writing* by Jane Pauley. Call 253-3078 for more details.

Counseling & Advocacy Program

The Marine & Family Services Counseling Branch has a highly qualified, licensed clinical staff experienced in providing education and counseling services to individuals, couples and families. Services are available by phone or in person. For further information, call 253-4526.

Drug, Alcohol & Holiday Stress Awareness Mini Health Fair

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. Call 253-6359 for details.

COMMUNITY

Christmas Play

There will be a soccer team mu-

sical for the whole family to enjoy Sunday, 6 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel. Call Carol Nash at 253-6470 for further information.

Australia Travel Club Yard Sale

This club will sponsor a yard sale Jan. 29, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the triangle. Club members will pick up all donated items. The last day for donations is Jan. 27. Contact numbers for donated items are 253-2417 and 253-5029. The club consists of some of the seniors graduating with the 2004-2005 class. The Travel Club is in no way associated with any school.

Crime Stoppers

If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering SAservice 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.

O Christmas Tree!



Lance Cpl. Lydia Davey

Lance Cpl. Ruth Cutright, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron flight clearance clerk, puts the finishing touches on her Christmas tree, Dec. 7. Cutright is one of many Marines participating in this year's barrack's room decorating contest, and has hopes of carrying away a prize. Cutright, who has been decorating for two weeks, said the contest has helped her gain some Christmas spirit. "Decorating for the holidays has always been a big thing for my family, so the contest has helped me feel more at home here," she said.

Dem Boyz shuts down Pryme Tyme for flag football championship, 25-13

LANCE CL. CRISTIN K. BARTTER
 Combat Correspondent

Dem Boyz survived a slow first half against Pryme Tyme to take the flag football championship, 25-13, Dec. 3.

Pryme Tyme started off strong as quarterback Stanley Murphy threw a bomb to receiver Frank Davis while being pressured by Dem Boyz defensive back Gabriel Maldonado. Davis juggled the football before catching it for a touchdown and an early 7-0 lead.

"If I am going to be here for my team, I am going to make every effort to win," said Davis.

"I got burned. That's it," said Maldonado.

On the ensuing kick off, Pryme Tyme continued their early dominance, forcing Dem Boyz into a long fourth down.

Quarterback Freddie Jones threw a 30 yd pass into the hands of wide receiver Lee Woodbridge, scoring a

touchdown for Dem Boyz. The score stood at 7-6.

"[Woodbridge] is an outstanding player - one of the best," said teammate Christopher Remble, linebacker.

Pryme Tyme answered the quick score with a pass to offensive center Ryan Thomas for their own touchdown.

"I didn't know whether I was being covered or not, so I closed my eyes and caught it," said Thomas.

Pryme Tyme, on fire the first half, shutdown Dem Boyz for the rest of the half and went into halftime leading 13-6.

During half time, Dem Boyz focused on a strategy for getting back into the game with a 7-point setback. "We were surprised after the first half of the game; we



Photos by Cpl. Amber Castro

Dem Boyz and Pryme Tyme congratulate each other for a game well played at the end of the championship tournament, Dec 3.

have never been behind at halftime the whole season," said offensive lineman Keith Carr from Dem Boyz.

The lead wouldn't last for long, as Dem Boyz moved into the end zone for a touchdown.

Pryme Tyme's

quarterback, determined to get back into the lead, was picked off by Maldonado from Dem Boyz.

"I took their cookies," said Maldonado. "I redeemed myself, and that is all that I have to say."

Now with the ball, Jones threw another touchdown pass to Woodbridge. The score stood at 18-13.

Pryme Tyme, unable to shrug off the previous play, was unable to make a much-needed touchdown on the 40-yard line, and handed the football over to Dem Boyz.

Jones charged into enemy territory to make it in for the last touchdown of

the night, ending the game with a score of 25-13, and a perfect season.

"It was a done deal," said Dem Boyz, offensive center, Shelvie Edmonds.

"They played a good game, but we were untouched all season. We didn't come here to lose," added receiver, Gerald Baker.

Once the championship trophies were handed out, Jones gave a few remarks on behalf of Dem Boyz.

"In order to be the best, you've got to beat the best, and right now we are the best thing going. Dem Boyz! 18-0, perfect season!" said Jones.

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

YAMAGUCHI ICE HOCKEY TEAM

This team is looking for any Station residents interested in playing ice hockey at Kudamatsu Kenko Park Skate Link, Wednesday and Sunday, 9-10:30 p.m. For further information, call Norio Ooba at 24-3357 or 080-5059-2171, or e-mail to norio.ooba@pfizer.com

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

The tournament takes place Saturday, 9 a.m. at the Sports Courts. For more details, call 253-5777.

UNIT AQUATIC PT

Units may reserve space in the pool for group PT during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday. They may swim laps or play water basketball or water polo. Reservations may be made at the Aquatics office with 48 hours advance notice. Reservations are

made on a first-come-first-served basis. Without reservations, we a room cannot be guaranteed. Call 253-4966 for further information.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration is open now through Dec. 24 for children ages 4-15. Sign-up for \$30 at the IronWorks Gym front desk. To register after Dec. 24, see Jamie at the Youth Sports Office. The cost of late registration is \$40.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GOLF HAM SHOOT

Dec. 18, 7:30 a.m. showtime and 8 a.m. shotgun start. The Station residents and family members sign-up for \$10 (users' fees not included) before Thursday at the Pro Shop. Enjoy special contests in this point tournament. For more information, call 253-3402.

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
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LAY LED SERVICES

Church of Christ

Sunday	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
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Jewish

Friday	6:30 p.m.	Shabbat
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The Church of Jesus Christ of 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.



Only the strong survive... or those who have the most endurance at the Marine Corps Community Services 16th Annual Goodwill Japanese and American Super Duathlon. The event began and ended with a five-kilometer run.

Two societies, one competition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CH. CRISTIN K. BARTTER
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Health Promotions Department held the 16th Annual Goodwill Japanese & American Super

Duathlon, Nov. 28, at the IronWorks Gym.

The event, which consisted of a five-kilometer run, a 28-kilometer bike ride and a final five-kilometer run, attracted 120 competitors.

"This was the first time that I've done anything like this," said Capt.

Joshua M. Pieczonka, weapons and tactics officer, Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533. "There were a lot of fast riders and runners. I'll be hurtin' in the next couple of days."

Yasuo Takahash was among Pieczonka's competition, blazing through the finish line with a time of

1:18:21, taking the title for the overall male division.

"[Takahash] is a very famous athlete in Japan," said Tadamasa Uemura, recreation specialist for the IronWorks Gym.

"There was very good competition, much better than last year," said competitor Jennifer Medillin. "The [Japanese competitors] are tough. They're not here just to have a good time; they're here to win."

Medillin faced Misako Iwamoto, who finished first in the overall women's division with a time of 1:45:25.

According to Uemura, the Duathlon is not just for the competitors; it is also a family event. Many of

the athletes' families cheered their loved ones as they raced.

For many Japanese and American families, it is very important to support loved ones who compete, said Uemura.

Along with family togetherness, the Duathlon encourages Japanese and Americans to build friendly relationships.

"I am always proud of the fact that Japanese and Americans can come together for a day of healthy competition," said Tadamasa. "What I like about the competition is that it is nondiscriminatory. The young, the old, males and females can all come out and participate."



Most competitors were striving for a trophy but others simply enjoyed the experience of physical training with friends.



After the event, everyone relaxed with family and friends and ate some not-so-healthy food.